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Papers of Harry S. Truman Official File

> Elder Lightfoot Solomon Michaux 1712 R Street, Northwest Washington 9, D. C.

> > Dupont 1471

21 April, 1952

THE WHITE HOUSE APR 23 8 28 AM '52 RECEIVED 9

The Honorable Harry S. Truman President of the United States THE WHITE HOUSE Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Truman:

Under the direction of the National Memorial to the Progress of the Colored Race in America, an organization incorporated, having the following objectives -- HISTORICAL giving the chronicle of the Colored Race in America; MEMORIAL in public recognization of the names of Colored men and women "not born to die." HUMANTARIAN - in cooperation for every phase of advancement of the Colored people; CULTURAL - in the progress of the Colored Race in education, arts and sciences; PATRIOTIC but non-political, in teaching the Colored people the ideals of the Constitution of the United States and the Declaration of Independence; SPIRITUAL - but non-sectarian in promulgating the ideals of theism and in opposition to atheism, because of your fearless and sacrificing stand for Civil Rights that embodies every principle mentioned above, as president of this organization, I am authorized to write you this letter, commending you for the contribution that you have made in the past 7 years that you have been President of the United States.

Your name is written in the minds of the Colored Race in America as the greatest President that ever occupied the White House; for you have stood out boldly for a Democratic form of government, as no president has before you. Having dodged no issues, having no fear and asking no favors of your Party or the representatives of the Republican Party, this has made you great in the sight of God and men that believe that God created all men EQUAL.

No President, refusing to accept the nomination of his Party for a second term, ever affected the Nation as you did. It astonished the people of this Country and the world, as the death of our late President Franklin D. Roosevelt did, for no one expected the announcement at this time.

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Your rise to fulfill the unexpired term of President Roosevelt; your election to the Presidency in 1948, and your refusing to run again, have all been directed by God. All who opposed you may not have died, but they have truly "faded away." By your refusal to run again, God suffered you to lick them with their club in their hands, ready to strike.

You have not defiled your name, though others have tried to slander it. TRUMAN or TRU-(E)-MAN, in name and nature; and as such, it will go down in the History of the World.

The people of my race will never forget your stand for Civil Rights.

For you and yours our prayer is -- GOD BLESS YOU, Mrs. Truman and Margaret...AMEN:

Yours truly,

Maria Lightfoot Solomon Michaux

PRESIDENT National Memorial to the Progress of the Colored Race in America

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My deer Mr. Michaux:

The President has asked me to thank you for your letter of April twenty-first on behalf of the members of your organization concerning his announcement for March twenty-ninth. The kind sentiments expressed touched him deeply and he wants you and your associates to know that he is especially grateful for the prayerful wishes extended to him and to the members of his family.

Very sincerely yours,

WILLIAM D. HASSETT Secretary to the President

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May 9, 1952

Elder Lightfoot Solomon Michaux, x 2538 President, <u>National Memorial to the Progress</u> X of the Colored Race in America, X 93 Mire 1712 R Street, N.W., Washington 9, D.C.

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