

June 13, 1963

Mr. James A. Farmer  
Executive Director  
Congress Of Racial Equality  
38 Park Row  
New York 38, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Farmer:

First let me congratulate you on the fine job that you and the National staff are doing. Next, I would like to offer a suggestion.

It would seem to me that the time has come when we must fight to dispel the image that Negroes want equality of opportunity as a "charitable and moral" concession of White people. There seems to me a danger of over emphasis of the "moral" obligation of Whites. There are million of Whites and Negroes who do not know the extent to which Negroes have earned the rights which they seek. Therefore, may I humbly suggest the following for the demonstration leaders who may appear in Washington the next week and elsewhere. Let the posters which they carry present such statements as:

"Two and a half million Negroes fought in the Civil War to earn their own emancipation."

"Black Crispus Attucks was the first to die in the Boston massacre for American freedom."

"Negroes earned the right of first class citizenship with their blood in all American wars."

"Five thousand Negroes fought with George Washington for American freedom."

"Our blood, sweat and tears are in five centuries of American soil."

"Who are Americans? Black men came to America with the earliest of explorers."

"Teach all children the whole truth of American history; the rights of all would be respected."

Such posters would be photographed and have wide distribution through all the news media. I trust that you get the thought of what I am trying to express and that you will see fit to implement this approach. With very best wishes, I am,

Very truly yours,

LHB:tm

Leonidas H. Berry, M. D.