

May 31, 1956

James C. Hagerty, Press Secretary to the President

THE WHITE HOUSE

The President has invited a group of Americans representing many fields of activity to meet with him at the White House on June twelfth to explore the possibilities of a program for better people-to-people contacts and partnerships throughout the world. A list of these leaders is attached.

The President will seek their ideas and help on the whole subject of people-to-people contacts (as distinct from Government contacts) -- contacts designed to create understanding among peoples and build a common effort to advance world peace. The group will also confer that day with the Secretary of State and other Government officials with responsibilities in the foreign relations field.

In his letter of invitation mailed from the White House yesterday the President said:

"Our Government, as you know, has a relatively modest apparatus for trying to make the United States' objectives and principles better understood throughout the world. I have asked Congress for additional funds to strengthen this activity during fiscal '57.

"But, clearly, there will never be enough diplomats and information officers at work in the world to get the job done without help from the rest of us. Indeed, if our American ideology is eventually to win out in the great struggle being waged between the two opposing ways of life, it must have the active support of thousands of independent private groups and institutions and of millions of individual Americans acting through person-to-person communication in foreign lands.

"Secretary Dulles and Mr. Theodore C. Streibert, Director of the U. S. Information Agency, join me in this conviction that there is something important which every U. S. citizen -- man, woman and child -- can do to help make the truth of our peaceful goals and of our respect for the rights of others known to more people overseas.

"It is my intention to call upon U. S. citizens to help their Government in this task; but before doing so I would like to bring together at the White House a group of distinguished American leaders to assist with the organization of various phases of the work. I earnestly hope, therefore, that it will be possible for you to participate in our meeting here on Tuesday, June 12."

(more)

WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE
ON
PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE PARTNERSHIP
June 12, 1956

Advertising Organizations

Theodore S. Repplier, President
The Advertising Council
New York City

Armed Services

Carter Burgess, Assistant
Secretary of Defense
(Manpower and Personnel)
Washington, D. C.

Books

George Brett, President
The Macmillan Company
New York City

Business Organizations

Harry Bullis, Chairman of Board
General Mills, Inc.
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Business Council for Inter-
national Understanding

(Made up of U.S. firms with
overseas operations.)

Sigurd S. Larmon, President and
Chairman of Board, Young and
Rubicam, Inc.,
New York City

Cartoonists

Al Capp, Creator of "Li'l Abner";
President, Capp Enterprises
Boston, Massachusetts

Education Groups

Dr. A. C. Jacobs, President
Trinity College
Hartford, Connecticut

Miss Corma Mowrey, former Pres.
National Education Association
Charleston, West Virginia

Farm Groups

Allan B. Kline, former President
Farm Bureau Federation
Chicago, Illinois

Fine Arts Groups

Dr. David Finley, former Director
National Art Gallery
Washington, D. C.

Foreign Affairs Groups

Paul G. Hoffman, President
Studebaker Corporation
Los Angeles, California

Fraternal Organizations

Honorable William J. Donovan
Former U.S. Ambassador to
Thailand; lawyer
New York City

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T. A. Erickson, Rural Youth
Leader; Author
St. Paul, Minnesota

Hotel Industry

Robert K. Christenberry,
President, Ambassador Hotel
New York City

Labor George Meany, President, AFL-CIO
Washington, D. C.

Letter Writing Groups Miss Anna Lord Strauss,
Former President, League of Women Voters
New York City

Magazines Paul C. Smith, President
Crowell-Collier Publishing Company
New York City

Motion Pictures Y. Frank Freeman, Chairman
Association of Motion Picture Producers
Los Angeles, California

Music Eugene Ormandy, Director
Philadelphia Orchestra

Physically Handicapped Groups Melvin Maas, former Congressman;
Chairman of the President's
Committee on Employment of the
Physically Handicapped
Washington, D. C.

Professional Societies Robert G. Simmons, Chief Justice
of Nebraska Supreme Court
Lincoln, Nebraska

Public Relations Groups Edward L. Lipscomb
Director of Public Relations
National Cotton Council
Memphis, Tennessee

Radio-Television Frank Stanton, President,
Columbia Broadcasting System
New York City

Religious Groups Dr. Eugene Blake, President,
National Council of Churches
New York City

Dr. A. J. Feldman, President
Synagogue Council of America
New York City

Monsignor H. J. Carroll,
General Secretary
National Catholic Welfare Conference
Washington, D. C.

Service Organizations Charles E. Wilson
Former President, General Electric Corp.;
Director, Office of Defense Mobilization;
Most recently Chairman of the Board,
W. R. Grace & Company, New York City

Speakers Cyrus Ching, Labor Management Council;
former Chairman, Wage Stabilization Board
Washington, D. C.

Sports Edward Patrick Francis Eagan
Former New York Boxing Commissioner;
Olympic Champion;
New York City

Talent Groups of the
Entertainment Industry

George Murphy, Actor
Hollywood, California

Transportation Agencies

John W. Hanes
Chairman of Finance Committee
Olin Mathieson Chemical Corporation
New York City

Travelers

Ralph T. Reed, President
American Express Company
New York City

Veterans Organizations

Lewis K. Gough
Former National Commander
American Legion
Pasadena, California

Women's Groups

Mrs. William Barclay Parsons
Vice President,
National Council of Women
New York City