President Dwight D. Eisenhower

The White House

1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW

Washington, DC XXXXX

Respectfully yours,

CC:

My Dear Mr. President:

May 13, 1958

Jackie Robinson

Chock Full O’ Nuts

425 Lexington Avenue

New York 17, NY XXXXX

I was sitting in the audience at tile Summit Meeting of Negro Leaders yesterday when you said we must have patience. On hearing you say this, I felt like standing up and saying "Oh no! Not again."

I respectfully remind you sir, that we have been the most patient of all people. When you said we must have self-respect, I pondered how we could have self-respect and remain patient considering the treatment accorded us through the years.

17 million Negroes can’t do as you suggest and wiat for the hearts of men to change. We want to enjoy now the rights that we feel we are entitled to as Americans. This we can’t do unless we pursu aggressively goals which all other Americans achieved over 150 years ago.

As the chief executive of our nation, I respeactfully suggest that you unwittingly crush the spirit of freedom in Negroes by constantly urging forbearance and give hope to those pro-segregation leaders like Gov. Faubus who would take from us even those freedoms we now enjoy. Your own experience with Gov. Faubus is proof enough that forbearance and not eventual integration is the goal the pro-segregation leaders seek.

In my view, an uneqivocal statement backed up by action such as you demonstrated you could take last fall in dealing with Gov. Faubus if it became necessary, would let it be known that America is determined to provide—in the near future—or Negroes—the freedoms we are entitled to under the constitution.