

BLACKS IN HOUSE GET NIXON PLEDGE

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President Names Five From
Staff to Study Pleas—
Both Sides Hail Parley

By PAUL DELANEY
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WASHINGTON, March 25—President Nixon appointed a committee of White House staff members today to work on a list of recommendations from black members of the House of Representatives, with whom he met earlier in the day.

The meeting, described as fruitful and worthwhile by the President and the Representatives was the culmination of a year's attempt by the black Democrats to meet with Mr. Nixon to discuss problems of blacks and other minorities.

Following the conference, the Representatives expressed satisfaction with the President's immediate response.

MacGregor Heads Panel

The leader of the group, Charles C. Diggs Jr. of Michigan, said that Mr. Nixon had made a personal commitment to follow up on more than 60 recommendations presented to him. The President promised that if necessary he would meet again with the group, which calls itself the Congressional Black Caucus.

Mr. Nixon named Clark MacGregor, Counsel to the President, to head a White House panel to study the recommendations and seek ways to implement them. Also named were Robert H. Finch, a counselor, Donald Rumsfeld, an assistant, Leonard Garment, special consultant, and Robert J. Brown, a special assistant.

Following the meeting, the black officials refused to go

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into detail about their reactions. Mr. Diggs said that the tone had been good and that the President had been sympathetic to the recommendations.

"Of course, implementation will be the important factor, in our judgment," Mr. Diggs added.

The group gave guarded support to the President's revenue-sharing proposal but recommended against considering nationalization of welfare as an alternative to revenue sharing.

The caucus recommended eradication of racism; a guarantee of the right to "a decent living or the means to survive in dignity when work is not available"; fair, impartial justice; protection against drug abuse and crime and a fair share of public funds for minorities.

Mr. Diggs said the country was better off because of the meeting in that Mr. Nixon had recognized "that there is a group in the Congress that is uniquely sensitive to a very large section of this country."

However, in their strongly worded, 32-page booklet containing the recommendations, the black congressmen questioned the Administration's commitment to civil rights. They said:

"We would be less than honest, Mr. President, if we did not reflect a view widely shared among a majority of the citizens we represent.

"That view is that the representatives of this Administration, by word and deed, have at crucial points retreated from

the national commitment to make Americans of all races and cultures equal in the eyes of their Government—to make equal the poor as well as the rich, urban and rural dwellers as well as those who live in the suburbs.

"Our people are no longer asking for equality as a rhetorical promise. They are demanding from the national Administration, and from elected officials without regard to party affiliation, the only kind of equality that ultimately has any real meaning, equality of results."

The meeting, held in the Oval Room of the White House, came exactly one year after the request was made. Mr. Nixon originally refused the request because of scheduling difficulties, White House aides reported, and a year-long controversy developed.

The high point came when all 12 black Representatives boycotted the President's State of the Union Message in January. Announcement that Mr. Nixon was willing to meet with blacks came shortly after then.

The black Representatives are Charles C. Diggs Jr. and John Conyers Jr., Michigan; Augustus F. Hawkins and Ronald V. Dellums, California; Charles B. Rangel, Manhattan; Shirley Chisholm, Brooklyn; William L. Clay, Missouri; Louis Stokes, Ohio; George W. Collins and

Ralph H. Metcalfe, Illinois; Paul Ren Mitchell, Maryland, and Robert N. C. Nix, Pennsylvania.

The group also included Rev. Walter E. Fauntroy, who was elected Tuesday as a voting Representative from District of Columbia.

The group's statement, referring to Mr. Nixon, said:

"Since you assumed office, we have spent billions on welfare while over two million Americans have been added to the ranks of the unemployed, a 2.5 million more are now ever-mounting relief rolls. Inflation is reducing our standard of living and most cities are facing bankruptcy.

"The racist policies of public and private U.S. institutions insure that blacks and other oppressed peoples suffer more than others, whether in good times or bad. Economic recovery, not now in sight, cannot possibly secure rights and opportunities that million citizens never had."

Major recommendations included the following:

• Establishment of a comprehensive manpower planning program, with the Federal Government creating 600,000 jobs

• Employment of one million youths in the Neighborhood Youth Corps during the summer.

• Replacement of welfare system with guaranteed adequate