

May 1, 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR

HONORABLE MAURICE H. STANS
SECRETARY OF COMMERCE

The President has indicated his interest in the possibility of changing the present practice of classifying the American population as "White" or "Nonwhite" in our standard national statistics. At very least this would seem to infer that nonwhites were somehow lacking something -- i. e. whiteness. I have suggested the possibility of classifying the population into four categories, by continent of origin. E. g. American (i. e. Indians), European, African, Oriental. Some other scheme might prove more attractive if we were to think harder, and the President has asked that we do so.

I would, therefore, like to ask if you would send a representative to a meeting in my office on Tuesday, May 6, at 4 o'clock, to discuss this possibility. I shall be asking representatives from Labor, Health, Education & Welfare, and the Office of Statistical Standards, Bureau of the Budget, as well.

Daniel P. Moynihan
Assistant to the President

DPM/crm