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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

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June 14, 1940

My dear Mr. Spingarn:

I am glad to avail myself of the opportunity which your meeting affords to express the interest of the government of the United States in the problems you meet to consider.

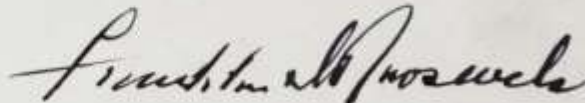
Organizations like yours are necessary safeguards in a democracy. You remind us constantly of our principles by calling our attention to our weaknesses and our deficiencies. Therefore, I have followed the activities of your organization over a period of years with much interest and gratification. In strictly an American way you have courageously fought for an increasing participation by Negroes in the benefits and responsibilities of the American democracy.

This service of your organization in helping to strengthen democracy is needed now, more than ever. Democracy as a way of life faces today its most severe challenge. It is challenged by powerful adversaries — men and governments that deny full liberty to the individual. In the face of this challenge, the American democracy must marshal all the strength of all its people in a unity of conviction and of purpose. Such organizations as yours bear a full measure of responsibility in helping to make this unity and this internal strength invulnerable.

Negroes and all other Americans have a special stake in this struggle. The adversaries we oppose deny every common right held by the man in the street in America. Here you have the right to organize, to protest and to vote for the protection of your lives and civil liberties, and, to make democracy ever more responsive to the needs of all its people. In this way you can help your government, in the midst of our preparations for defense, to maintain the great social gains of recent years through which your government has reflected the needs of the common man.

Your government has supreme confidence in the unflinching loyalty that the Negro race has shown from Boston Common to Flanders Field. Inspired by such traditions I know our Negro citizens will not hesitate to pledge their allegiance anew, in these ominous days, to the cause of human liberty.

Very sincerely yours,



Mr. Arthur B. Spingarn,
President,
National Association for the
Advancement of Colored People,
69 Fifth Avenue,
New York, N. Y.