



JACKSON STATE UNIVERSITY

JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI 39217

INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY OF HISTORY
LIFE AND CULTURE OF BLACK PEOPLE

November 29, 1982

Mr. Robert Clark, Representative
P. O. Box 1018
New Capitol Building
Jackson, MS 39205

Dear Representative Clark:

We in the Institute for the Study of History, Life and Culture of Black People are very happy that you are still one of our Black Representatives. Further, we hope that you are now preparing to win the next U. S. Congressional election in the 2nd District during the 1984 race.

I know that you are always busy, however, as an oral historian and Director of the Institute for the Study of History, Life and Culture of Black People, I hope you will grant me the opportunity to begin a series of life history interviews with you during your next visit to Jackson.

Documenting the history of Black Mississippians is one of the goals of our Institute. A series of interviews with you would be a significant step toward the accomplishment of this goal.

If you look favorably on this proposal, please let me know by phone or letter. Perhaps a convenient time to begin is while you are in Jackson for the Special Legislative Session. My duties at Jackson State University are such that I can free myself to begin the interview process at this time. My office number is 968-2055.

Enclosed are some brochures that describe our Institute and one of our community projects.

Sincerely yours,

Alferdteen Harrison

Alferdteen Harrison
Director

AH/g

Enclosures

refile with Clark interview



JACKSON STATE UNIVERSITY

JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI 39217

**INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY OF HISTORY
LIFE AND CULTURE OF BLACK PEOPLE**

January 21, 1983

President John A. Peoples
Jackson State University
Campus

Dear Dr. Peoples:

The Institute for the Study of the History, Life and Culture of Black People is making plans for Representative Clark to be its featured speaker for Black History Month, February 17, 1983. Representative Clark has consented to come. If you will be in town, we would like for you to introduce Representative Clark at the 10:00 A. M. Program.

Further, we would like for your officetoo pay for a luncheon for twenty-five (25) persons. The luncheon is tentative planned for 11:30 A. M. in the President's Dinning Room.

May we hear from you soon.

Sincerely yours,

Dr. Alferdteen Harrison, Director

AH/heg

January 27, 1983

Representative Robert G. Clark
District 49
Box 179
Lexington, MS 39095

Dear Representative Clark:

We are very happy that you have accepted the Institute's invitation to be our featured Black History Month speaker on February 17, 1983 at 10:00 a.m. We look forward to presenting you to our 1983 spring semester students. Many of them are from your district.

A special Institute Committee is planning your visit. They have requested that you speak for about twenty minutes on "Public Education-Black Education!" Their concern in this topic choice was that you would have the opportunity to speak about your concern as a Legislative Committee Chairperson, but also address our particular concerns as Blacks. Following your address and a musical selection there will be a time for questions and answers.

The format program will end before 11:30 a.m. A luncheon is tentatively being planned for 11:30 - 12:30. Will you be able to stay? Please call me at 968-2055 if you can stay for the luncheon.

Sincerely yours,

Alferdteen Harrison
Director

AH:dr



JACKSON STATE UNIVERSITY

JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI 39217

DEPARTMENT OF SECONDARY EDUCATION

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Dr. Dennis Holloway
Dr. Estus Smith
Dr. George Johnson
Dr. Mildred Allen
Dr. Lelia Rhodes
Mr. Marvel Turner

Dr. Beatrice Mosley
Dr. Robert Smith
Dr. Oscar Rogers
Dr. Jay T. Smith
Dr. Forrest Thompson
Mr. Melvin Miller

FROM: William Rush - Office SEB 217A - 968-2351

RE: The Black Studies Institute Series

DATE: 28 January 1983

Please accept this as a formal invitation to you to attend The Black Studies Institute Series "Black Education-Public Education", Thursday, February 17, at 10:00 a.m., General Purpose Room, Jacob L. Reddix Campus Union. The quest speaker will be Representative Robert Clark.

A dutch luncheon has been planned in honor of the quest speaker 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., Tigers Den. We would appreciate your joining us. However, since it is a dutch treat and due to budgetary constraints, it is essential that we collect the price of the luncheon (\$3.50) in advance. Please forward same to me on or before Thursday, February 10, 1983, 3:00 p.m., to allow us to finalize plans and arrangements for the luncheon.

Thank you for your consideration.



JACKSON STATE UNIVERSITY
JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI 39217

**INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY OF HISTORY
LIFE AND CULTURE OF BLACK PEOPLE**

 M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Friends of the Institute
FROM: Alferdteen Harrison *AH*
DATE: February 14, 1983
RE: Invitation to hear Robert Clark Speak

You are cordially invited to attend "Black Education-Public Education", Thursday, February 17, 1983 at 10:00 a.m. in the General Purpose Room of the Jacob L. Reddix Campus Union. The guest speaker will be Representative Robert Clark. This program is sponsored by the Institute for the Study of History, Life and Culture of Black People.

We hope to see you there.

dr



JACKSON STATE UNIVERSITY

JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI 39217

**INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY OF HISTORY
LIFE AND CULTURE OF BLACK PEOPLE**

February 21, 1983

Rep. Robert Clark
c/o New Capitol Building
P. O. Box 1018
Jackson, MS 39205

Dear Rep. Clark:

On behalf of the Institute for the Study of History, Life and Culture of Black People and the Jackson State University Family this letter is written to say "thanks." Thanks for the masterful way you delivered your prepared speech for our Black History Month celebration. You did exactly what we wanted.

We also appreciated the relaxed manner in which you participated in the luncheon. We gained a greater appreciation for your insight and wisdom as a black politician.

Though we are unable to pay you for your presentation we hope you will accept as a token of our appreciation, an honorarium of \$150 which will be forthcoming.

In the interest of history and the documentation of modern black thought, I hope that you are carefully saving all of your written speeches and important papers. They will be valuable to our young scholars today and in the future. If our Institute can be of assistance to you in this endeavor, please call upon us.

Further, we clearly understand the demands for you as one of the House chairmen and the need to get your campaign staff organized. Though I wanted to have the interview process completed by now, I don't mind waiting for a more convenient time. You have a significant start and hopefully that you will want to complete the process in the near future.

file copy

ROBERT G. CLARK, JR.
Holmes County, District 49

Personal Information

Date of Birth: October 3, 1929

Marital Status: Widower

Children: Two

Education

Jackson State University, B.A. 1953

Michigan State University, M.A. 1959

Additional Study - Florida A & M
Mississippi Valley State University
West Michigan

Citations

Honorary Doctorate, Mary Holmes College
Honorary Doctorate, Prentiss Institute
Alumnus of the Year, Jackson State University
Sports Hall of Fame, Jackson State University
Outstanding Legislator of the Year

Community Activities

Young Democrats Advisor
State Legislator
Chairman, Education Committee of the House of Representatives
Member, Appropriations Committee of the House
Secretary, Rules Committee of the House
President, Children's Center Board
Chairman, Democratic Party of Holmes County

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Builder
- Farmer
- Headmaster, Saints Academy
- Owner-Operator, House of Clark Fine Furniture
- Fellow, Institute of Politics, John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University
- Member, Mississippi House of Representatives
1967 - present
- Member, Policy & Steering Committee, Education Commission of the States
- Member, Executive Committee, Education Committee of the National Conference of State Legislators

INTRODUCTION OF THE HONORABLE ROBERT G. CLARK
FEBRUARY 17, 1983

I CONSIDER IT A PRIVILEGE AND HONOR TO HAVE BEEN INVITED TO INTRODUCE OUR SPEAKER FOR TODAY. I DARE SAY THAT THERE IS ONE AMONG US WHO DOES NOT KNOW THE HONORABLE ROBERT G. CLARK.

CONGRESSMAN CLARK, A GRADUATE OF JACKSON STATE UNIVERSITY, HAS BEEN A MEMBER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FOR 15 YEARS. FOR MORE THAN 6 YEARS, HE HAS BEEN CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE. CERTAINLY, WE AT JACKSON STATE UNIVERSITY RECOGNIZE THE TREMENDOUS IMPORTANCE OF THIS COMMITTEE WHICH, ALONG WITH THE SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE, IS MAKING GREAT STRIDES TOWARDS CHANGING THE EDUCATIONAL CLIMATE IN MISSISSIPPI.

IN ADDITION TO HIS ROLE OF CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE, MR. CLARK IS A MEMBER OF THE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE, ONE OF THE MOST POWERFUL COMMITTEES IN THE LEGISLATURE. HE ALSO SERVICES AS SECRETARY OF THE RULES COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE.

IN 1982, CONGRESSMAN CLARK WON THE PRIMARY ELECTION IN THE NEWLY DRAWN SECOND CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT FOR THE SEAT VACATED BY UNITED STATES CONGRESSMAN DAVID BOWEN. ALTHOUGH HE WAS UNSUCCESSFUL IN GAINING THAT SEAT IN THE FINAL ELECTION, HIS CAMPAIGN PLATFORM WON HIM THE SUPPORT OF BOTH THE STATE AND NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC PARTIES.

THE HOLMES COUNTY NATIVE, WHO HAS EARNED A MASTER OF ARTS DEGREE FROM MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY, IS NOTED FOR HIS VERSATILITY AND LEADERSHIP. HE IS AN ORDAINED BAPTIST MINISTER, AN ADVISER FOR FOR YOUNG DEMOCRATS,

PRESIDENT OF FIVE HOUSING ENTERPRISES, DIRECTOR OF SELF-HELP HOUSING,
AND CHAIRMAN OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HOLMES COUNTY.

AS ONE WHO KNOWS THE IMPORTANCE OF KEEPING BUSY, MR. CLARK IS HEADMASTER
OF SAINTS ACADEMY IN LEXINGTON, MISSISSIPPI, OWNER AND OPERATOR OF THE
HOUSE OF CLARK'S FINE FURNITURE, A FARMER, A BUILDER, AND THE FATHER OF
TWO CHILDREN.

HIS ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS HAVE BROUGHT HIM NUMEROUS CITATIONS.
AMONG THEM ARE OUTSTANDING LEGISLATOR OF THE YEAR, JACKSON STATE ALUMNUS
OF THE YEAR, MEMBERSHIP IN THE JACKSON STATE UNIVERSITY SPORTS HALL OF
FAME, AND TWO HONORARY DOCTORATE DEGREES FROM MARY HOLMES COLLEGE AND
PRENTISS INSTITUTE.

HE HAS BEEN A FELLOW OF THE INSTITUTE OF POLITICS IN THE JOHN F. KENNEDY
SCHOOL OF GOVERNMENT AT HOWARD UNIVERSITY; A MEMBER OF THE POLICY AND
STEERING COMMITTEE OF THE EDUCATION COMMISSION OF THE STATES; AND AN
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE OF THE NATIONAL
CONFERENCE OF STATE LEGISLATORS.

HERE, WITH US TODAY WE HAVE A MAN WHO ILLUSTRIOUS CAREER HAS BEEN
ONE DEDICATED TO THE BETTERMENT OF THE LIVES OF THE PEOPLE OF MISSISSIPPI,
CONGRESSMAN ROBERT G. CLARK, JR., OF HOLMES COUNTY, DISTRICT 49.

CONGRESSMAN CLARK.

JACKSON STATE UNIVERSITY

***Institute for the Study of History, Life
and Culture of Black People***



ROBERT G. CLARK

Member

Mississippi House of Representatives
Chairman, House Education Committee

AFRO-AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH CELEBRATION

The U. S. Constitution and the Black American

10:00 a.m.

February 17, 1983

General Purpose Room
Jacob L. Reddix Campus Union
Jackson State University
Jackson, Mississippi

Lift Every Voice And Sing

ANTHEM

James Weldon Johnson

*Life every voice and sing, Till earth and heaven ring,
Ring with the harmonies of Liberty;
Let our rejoicing rise High as the listening skies,
Let it resound Loud as the rolling sea
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us,
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
Let us march on till victory is won.*

*Stony the road we trod, Bitter the chastening rod;
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died;
Yet with a steady beat, Have not our weary feet
Come to the place for which our fathers sighed?
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered,
We have come treading our path thro' the blood of the slaughtered
Out from the gloomy past, Till now we stand at last
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.*

*God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,
Thou who has brought us thus far on the way;
Thou who hast by Thy might Led us into the light,
Keep us forever in the path, we pray.
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met Thee,
Lest our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget Thee,
Shadowed beneath Thy hand May we forever stand,
True to our God, true to our Native land.*

PROGRAM

*Alferdteen Harrison, Director
Institute for the Study of History, Life, and Culture of Black People
Presiding*

PRELUDE *Prelude and Fugue* Robert King
Jackson State University Brass Ensemble
Johnny Anthony, Director

ANTHEM *Lift Every Voice and Sing* James W. Johnson

OCCASION Will Dent, '84
Political Science Major

MUSIC *Battle Hymn of the Republic* Wilhousky
University Singers Men's Glee Club
Larry Robinson, Director

INTRODUCTION OF SPEAKER Dennis Holloway
Associate Vice President for Administration

ADDRESS "Public Education/Black Education" Robert G. Clark
Member, Mississippi House of Representatives

MUSIC *Ain't-A-That Good News* William Dawson
University Singers
Larry Robinson, Director

QUESTION AND ANSWERS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

POSTLUDE *Sweet Miniature* Robert Dale Miller
Jackson State University Brass Ensemble

Program Committee

Dennis Holloway
Melvin Miller
Barbara Dease
Roy Deberry
Rubye Hughes Neely

Ally Mack
Melvin I. Evans
William Rush
Dorothy Smith
Lelia G. Rhodes

COMMITTEE on the HISTORY, LIFE and CULTURE of BLACK PEOPLE

Alferdteen Harrison
Johnny Anthony
Willie Daniel
Malena W. Dow
Tekie Fessehazion
Gwendolyn Jones
Janice M. Neal
Ivory P. Phillips
Estus Smith

Garrett Weaver
A. W. Crump
Barbara C. Dease
Melvin I. Evans
Walter Hurns
Iely B. Mohamed
Bobbie N. Oatis
Ruth Shirley
Rubye Sullivan