

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

W

June 16, 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT'S FILE

FROM: CHARLES COLSON *CC*

SUBJECT: Color Report, June 16, 1971

During the meeting with John O'Neill and Mel Stephens, the President said, "one story I would like to tell you, one point I would like to make". He buzzed Rose Woods for a copy of the Witness; he wanted to read to O'Neill and Stephens a portion from it. A copy couldn't be obtained fast enough and the President decided to tell the story concluding with the point. The President was pacing behind his desk looking out the window while Stephens and O'Neill were standing in front of his desk. The President talked about the importance of being right and being on the right side. He said most people, particularly many in the media today, want to be on the winning side. "The important thing is not to be on the winning side but to be on the right side. Many people will think it is fashionable to always be with the wave of the future, the side they think will win."

"What is really important is to be on the side that is right." He said to O'Neill and Stephens, "Always fight to win, do everything you can to win, but don't worry about being on the winning side, only worry about doing what is right."

It was the analogy obviously to the President's stand in the Chambers - Hiss case. What appeared to be the winning side was not the right side. In the end the right side prevailed.