

B/B

EXECUTIVE

RM  
PR 7-1

(5)

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

August 11, 1972

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN.....

*[Handwritten mark]*

MEMORANDUM FOR:

THE PRESIDENT

FROM:

HARRY S. DENT

SUBJECT:

Meeting with Oral<sup>x</sup> Roberts  
Monday, August 14, 1972  
12:20 p.m. (10 minutes)  
The Oval Office

I. PURPOSE

To follow-up on recommendations from Billy<sup>x</sup> Graham, Dewey<sup>x</sup> Bartlett and Cong.<sup>x</sup> Belcher that contact be established between you and Roberts.

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II. BACKGROUND, PARTICIPANTS & PRESS PLAN

A. Background: Graham, Bartlett and Belcher felt identification with Roberts would be good because of his visibility to middle America via the tube. Roberts has a national television series which has scored unusually high ratings for a religious program.

Roberts was once a faith healer, but has now changed his approach, and, several years ago, was ordained in the Methodist Church. Page Belcher urged he be invited to preach at a worship service, but that was turned down.

Roberts' most distinctive achievement has been the development of Oral Roberts University. He started it from scratch in 1965, and it has now grown to one of the nation's best known private institutions. It's basketball team achieved an outstanding record this year, and a group of ORU singers have high visibility in concerts across the country. Consequently, Roberts has close identification with clean-cut youth, as well as conservative folk in general.

RECEIVED  
AUG 15 1972  
CENTRAL FILES