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**Title:** Letter from Roy Wilkins to Ray Bliss

**Date:** May 16, 1968

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**May 16, 1968**

**Mr. Ray C. Bliss, Chairman**  
**Republican National Committee**  
1625 I St., N. W.  
Washington, D. C. 20006

**Dear Mr. Chairman:**

Over the years little attention has been paid to the integrated or segregated nature of the delegations to Republican National Conventions coming from the states of the South. In part at least this flowed from the absence of a strong Republican Party in many Southern states and a resultant lack of interest in what the Republican Party did in states that almost automatically voted Democratic. It is therefore not surprising that most of the interest in past delegate battles along racial lines have occurred in the Democratic Party. In this connection, I enclose a copy of my letter to Chairman Bailey dealing with this same problem of integrated delegations.

But now the situation is different. There is a serious Republican Party in the South and there is a very real need for these Southern Republican State parties to present integrated delegations to the 1968 Republican National Convention.

We call upon you, as Chairman of the Republican Party, to take the necessary steps to insure that lily-white delegations from these Southern Republican State parties will not be seated at your forthcoming convention this August. If the Republican Party is to develop and maintain the respect and confidence of the minorities of this nation, it must take firm steps to see that delegations to its convention are broadly representative of the Republicans of the state from which they come.

I would appreciate hearing from you promptly as to your plans in this regard.

**Respectfully yours,**

**Roy Wilkins, Chairman**  
**Leadership Conference on Civil Rights**

"Cooperation in the Common Cause of Civil Rights for All"