

Congressman Harold R. Collier (R-Ill.) personally called Bill Timmons at the White House to explore the possibility of President or Mrs. Nixon receiving the College Singers. Congressman Collier, Senator Charles H. Percy (R-Ill.) and Senator Mark O. Hatfield (R-Ore.) sent personal letters to the President commending the College Singers to his attention. Congressman John Anderson (R-Ill.) also notified the White House of his interest in the group and inquired about the possibility of Tricia Nixon visiting with the Singers when it became apparent that President and Mrs. Nixon's social calendar was completely filled for this period of time. State Department officials Herman Cohen and Miss Marianne Cook as well as Dr. Robert S. Denny, Executive Secretary of the Baptist World Alliance, provided valuable assistance and advice. Mrs. Denny volunteered to serve as the College Singers' hostess and Beth Hayworth assisted in making contacts with broadcast media and the press.

Percy Arranges Rotunda Concert

As plans developed, Senator Percy obtained permission for the College Singers to sing in the Rotunda of the Old Senate Office Building. Senator Percy and Congressman Collier offered to treat the College Singers to lunch on Capitol Hill. The group was invited to appear on "Harambee", a daily variety show of WTOP-TV (CBS affiliate in Washington, D.C.), on November 25. An exciting Washington visit began to take shape.

The College Singers arrived in Washington on November 24. After brief greetings at National Baptist Memorial Church by Mrs. Denny and NAB officials, the group was transported directly to the home of Ambassador and Mrs. Owono. Mrs. Owono informed them that her husband had been called suddenly to Cameroon for consultation. But she was a most gracious hostess and the evening proved to be a lovely occasion for the College Singers. Dr. W. R. Tolbert, Vice