

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

September 20, 1946

MEMORANDUM FOR: David K. Niles  
Administrative Assistant  
to the President

FROM: The President



I am attaching copy of a letter I  
have just sent to Tom Clark.

I am very much in earnest on this  
thing and I'd like very much to have you push  
it with everything you have.

*HSV*

Enclosure

N5.188

September 20, 1946

Dear Tom:

I had as callers yesterday some members of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and they told me about an incident which happened in South Carolina where a negro Sergeant, who had been discharged from the Army just three hours, was taken off the bus and not only seriously beaten but his eyes deliberately put out, and that the Mayor of the town had bragged about committing this outrage.

I have been very much alarmed at the increased racial feeling all over the country and I am wondering if it wouldn't be well to appoint a commission to analyze the situation and have a remedy to present to the next Congress - something similar to the Wickersham Commission on Prohibition.

I know you have been looking into the Tennessee and Georgia lynchings, and also been investigating the one in Louisiana, but I think it is going to take something more than the handling of each individual case after it happens - it is going to require the inauguration of some sort of policy to prevent such happenings.

I'll appreciate very much having your views on the subject.

Sincerely yours,

Honorable Tom C. Clark  
Attorney General  
Washington, D. C.

cc x David K. Niles  
Administrative Assistant to the President

