

A. Philip Randolph to Harry S. Truman, with attached White House memos, December 13, 1947. Official File, Truman Papers.

January 7, 1948.

①
93-13

Dear Mr. Randolph:

I have your note of December 28th, addressed to the President.

While I appreciate your desire to talk over this matter with the President in person, it is not going to be possible to arrange an interview in the near future. //

Mr. Niles is available at any time that is mutually convenient, but you may wish to take up the matter of Negroes in the Armed Forces with the Secretary of Defense. //

Sincerely yours,

MATTHEW J. CONNELLY
Secretary to the President

Mr. A. Philip Randolph,
National Treasurer,
Committee Against Jimcrow in
Military Service and Training,
New York, New York.

file

COMMITTEE AGAINST JIMCROW IN MILITARY SERVICE AND TRAINING

SUITE 301

217 WEST 125th STREET

NEW YORK 27, NEW YORK

Telephone: WAdsworth 6-4949

January 12, 1948

OFFICERS

Grant Reynolds
Chairman
A. Philip Randolph
Treasurer
Charles J. Patterson
Executive Secretary

LEGAL COMMITTEE

Raymond Pace Alexander
Sadie T. M. Alexander
Matthew W. Bullock, Jr.
Robert L. Carter
Earl B. Dickerson
Charles H. Houston
Belford V. Lawson, Jr.
James M. Nabrit

President Harry S. Truman
White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President:

On December 10, 1947, Mr. Grant Reynolds and I wrote you requesting that you receive representative Negro leaders to discuss your proposed UMT bill, which if adopted as drawn would subject American youth, Negro and white, to compulsory jimcrow. Mr. David K. Niles replied on December 17, 1947, that he stood ready to receive a delegation.

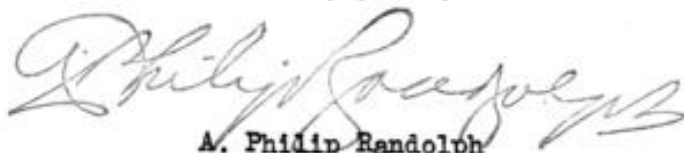
On December 28, 1947, I wrote you again pointing out that our emergency committee of 225 Negro leaders feels that the matter is of such extreme concern as to require an interview with the President himself.

On January 7, 1948, your secretary, Mr. Matthew J. Connelly, wrote that an interview with you is not "possible to arrange in the near future." It is difficult to believe that there can be matters before you at this time which in urgency exceed the just concern and long-accumulated grievances of one-tenth of our population.

One might reason that consideration of the European Recovery Program and other matters require such time as to make a meeting of Negro leaders impossible. Might I remind you, on the other hand, that the success of many internal and foreign programs finally depends on a healthy state of the body politic. Such a state requires the elimination of, rather than the extension of, segregation and discrimination in military training and the armed forces.

May I ask when it will be possible for you to receive us?

Sincerely yours,



A. Philip Randolph
National Treasurer

apr/t

93-B

December 13, 1947

MEMORANDUM FOR

HONORABLE DAVID NILES

Dear Dave:

The attached letter, addressed to the President by Messrs. Grant Reynolds and A. Philip Randolph is self-explanatory. Will you be good enough to handle as you think best.

Thank you.

MJC

rlk
Encl.

let. Dec. 10 to Pres. from Grant Reynolds, Chrmn., and A. Philip Randolph, Treas., Committee against Jimcrow in Military Service and training, 217 W. 125th St., NYC asks for delegation from committee to see President to discuss racial discrimination and segregation in Armed forces and prospect of jimcrow in pending legislation for universal military training.

x1285-murphy

x109-murphy

x190-7

x93

1230

COMMITTEE AGAINST JIMCROW IN MILITARY SERVICE AND TRAINING

SUITE 301

217 WEST 125th STREET

NEW YORK 27, NEW YORK

Telephone: WAdsworth 6-4949

OFFICERS

Grant Reynolds
Chairman

A. Philip Randolph
Treasurer

Charles J. Patterson
Executive Secretary

LEGAL COMMITTEE

Raymond Pace Alexander
Sadie T. M. Alexander
Matthew W. Bullock, Jr.
Robert L. Carter
Earl B. Dickerson
Charles H. Houston
Belford V. Lawson, Jr.
James M. Nabrit

December 28, 1947

Mr. Harry S. Truman
White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

On December 10, Grant Reynolds and I wrote you requesting an appointment.

On December 17, we received a reply from Mr. David K. Niles, one of your administrative assistants, indicating that he would "be glad to talk to a delegation at any time that is mutually convenient."

There may be several matters which we would be happy to talk over with Mr. Niles. However, the two hundred Negro leaders who comprise our Committee feel that the matter of discrimination and segregation in the Armed Forces and in particular in prospective U. M. T. legislation is a grave threat to Negro youth and to the internal stability of our nation. Segregation becomes all the more important at a time when the United States should be assuming moral leadership in the world.

We consider the matter so serious and urgent as to require a personal conference with the President.

Representative Negro leaders have indicated that they stand ready to come to Washington at any time. I trust that you will find time to see us at your earliest convenience.

Cordially,

A. Philip Randolph

A. Philip Randolph
National Treasurer

AR:dk

10

December 30, 1947

MEMORANDUM FOR: HONORABLE DAVID K. NILES

Dear Dave:

I would like to have your
recommendation on the attached letter

A. Philip Randolph.

Thanks.

MJC

smg

ltr Dec 28, New York, New York, requesting appointment with Pres
for negro leaders of Committee Against Jim Crow in Military Service
and Training

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 30, 1947

COPY
(B)

MEMORANDUM FOR: HONORABLE DAVID K. NILES

Dear Dave:

I would like to have your
recommendation on the attached letter
A. Philip Randolph.

Thanks.

MJC
MJC

January 15, 1948

Q
93-B

MEMORANDUM FOR

HONORABLE DAVID K. NILES

Dear Dave:

We have just received another letter from Philip Randolph and I would like your advice.

Thank you.

M.J.C.

Letter dated 1-12-48 to President from A.Philip Randolph Treas. Committee against Jimcrow in Military Service and training, 217 W. 125th St. NYC re. previous request that President receive representative Negro leaders to discuss President's proposed UMT bill.

x all previous

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

January 15, 1948

*Mac
copy EB*

MEMORANDUM FOR

HONORABLE DAVID K. NILES

Dear Dave:

We have just received another letter from Philip Randolph and I would like your advice.

Thank you.


M.J.C.

MJC: I HELD THIS FOR DAVID'S
RETURN. IF DAVE IS HERE MONDAY
SHALL WE HAVE HIM SET IT UP?

RB

Feb. 9 1948

We set up but Raudsepka
leaving on speaking tour R

Call Mr. Niles about this Monday when he returns to the City.

Time has been set but Niles is to notify.

Jan 11. - Tues. - Feb 3

Q. 11.45
Friday

after message goes up
let Niles know
he'll give 11. - Tues. - Feb 3
Dandoep
whatever
determine
set

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

January 20, 1948.

MEMO FOR HONORABLE MATT CONNELLY:

Dear Matt:

Phil Randolph, the signer of this letter, is an important Negro. He is the head of the Negro Pullman Porters Union, and is not a left-winger. The names of the officers are all known to me and they are pretty conservative Negroes.

I think it might be well if the President could see Phil Randolph, and I would suggest that it be done sometime in the first week of February. By that time, Clark Clifford assures me, the President's civil rights message will be completed and sent up to the Hill. In that message there will be some mention of Jimcrow in military service, and these people will not be able to say that the message is a result of their visit.



DAVID K. NILES

11.00 Tues., Feb. 3