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AMERICANS FOR DEMOCRATIC ACTION 7/29/48
 1740 K Street, N. W., Washington 6, D. C., EXecutive 8160 *Not answered*

93-13 July 22, 1948

Honorable Harry S. Truman
 President of the United States
 The White House
 Washington 25, D. C.

My dear Mr. President:

Americans for Democratic Action respectfully urges you to issue an Executive Order providing for the abolition of segregation and discrimination in the armed forces of the United States. x161

The platform adopted by the Republican Party in Philadelphia last month stated that "we are opposed to the idea of racial segregation in the armed services of the United States." x190-7

The platform adopted by the Democratic Party in Philadelphia last week reads in part as follows:

"We highly commend President Harry Truman for his courageous stand on the issue of civil rights."

"We call upon the Congress to support our President in guaranteeing these basic and fundamental rights:

* * * *

"(4) And the right of equal treatment in the services in defense of our Nation."

These constructive actions of both major parties are a call upon the Chief Executive for leadership at this crucial time in our history. We recognize that segregation and discrimination in the armed forces cannot be wiped out over night. But we also recognize that they will never be wiped out unless constructive steps are taken at this very hour when the demand and the need for action stand out with unmistakable clarity.

Today the Nation is about to undertake a new draft of its young men. We must assure the young Negroes conscripted into the armed services that they will receive fair treatment

*Filed by
 Miss Conway
 7-30-48*

- Leon Henderson
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- Don S. Willner
- Samuel Wolchok
- Wilson W. Wyatt
- Max Zaritsky

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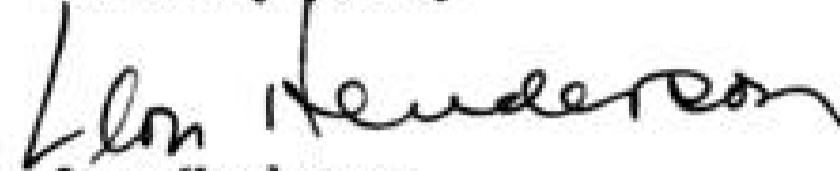
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from the Nation they are undertaking to defend. Only action by you at this time can give them that assurance. We urge you to issue an Executive Order declaring it our national policy that there shall be no segregation or discrimination in the armed forces and creating a Commission of outstanding Americans respected by white and Negro alike whose task it will be to advise the services with respect to the experimentation, training and educational programs necessary to wipe out all segregation and discrimination in the shortest time possible.

In the world battle of ideas, the weaknesses in our own way of life can no longer be afforded. The armed forces are completely under your control as Commander-in-Chief. We urge you to lead the way so that the armed forces of the world's greatest democracy may become in truth the world's most democratic armed forces.

Sincerely yours,


Leon Henderson
National Chairman

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