June 24, 1949

Honorable Harry S. Truman
President of the United States
Washington, D.C.

Sir: The writer wishes you to have a copy of an impromptu letter directed to Mr. Louis A. Johnson, Secretary of Defense. As Commander-in-Chief of the United States forces, you no doubt approved the issuance of the order directing non-segregation in our armed units where heretofore the time-honored policy of segregation was employed.

Yours respectfully,

[Signature]
Joseph Seabourn
812 North Wells Street,
Chicago 10, Illinois.
Mr. Louis A. Johnson, Secretary of Defense
Washington, D. C.

June 24, 1949

Dear Mr. Johnson:

I pridefully state that I am a normal white man and I feel deeply within me an instinct of racial pride. By cross-examining hundreds of white men and women whom I know personally, I find that they also, without exception, are distinctly aware of the same instinct of racial pride. Therefore, you will not be surprised to learn that we are all schooled and disgusted to learn from the press reports that you are an advocate of non-segregation in the armed forces of the United States, which in plain blunt language means that because of your military authority and high-ranking power, you feel that you can change or enforce long-standing social customs and customs by issuing directives to white men who are in the majority in the armed forces that they must eat, sleep and work with negroes, without their consent and against their wills. I think your decree is outrageous and I would never voluntarily enlist now in any branch of the armed forces under any circumstances, in my opinion, and I am sure that this is the consensus of opinion of 99% of the white men in America, the white man does not desire to live intimately with negroes, and we feel that he should not be forced to do so against his will. The very object to it with the negroes, and maintain all-white organizations for those who prefer it. The white men who object to it should not be forced into it. To quote an example — I may desire to associate intimately with Mr. Louis A. Johnson, Secretary of Defense, but if Mr. Johnson does not want my association, he should not be forced to live with it, just because I want it.

There is an awareness in every normal human being that he has within him a God-given right to select or reject the people whom he wishes to associate with. It is part of natural law that every one of us chooses these associations in whose company we are happy, and in like manner we avoid those who bore us and who are unorthy of our interests. There is no law that can transcend this natural right to determine and select our companions. This is primary and should be easily understood by anyone who is called upon to deal in the realm of human relations.

I maintain your decree issued to the armed forces to abolish all segregation by June 30, 1949 will be much regretted and will cause many racial tensions and antagonisms resulting in shootings, stabbings, clubbings and many murders that otherwise would not have occurred. These clashes are inevitable because it is a violation and a perversion of natural law to regiment the two races together and expect harmony to ensue. Experiments in Chicago for the past thirty years have proven beyond any doubt that when negroes are mixed with whites in schools, factories, offices or any mixed social basis that there are a hundred times more racial incidents and hatreds than if the two races were kept strictly
segregated. In my opinion, it is essential that we maintain the status quo and resist any attempts to change it.

I believe that the continued presence of segregation is in the best interest of both races. It is a clear and obvious fact that the only way to ensure the safety and security of all citizens is to maintain a segregated society. The restoration of the status quo is the only way to prevent the kind of violence and unrest that has plagued our society in the past.

I would like to offer some practical suggestions on how we can work towards this goal. First, we need to educate our young people about the value of segregation. We need to teach them that segregation is not a bad thing, but rather a necessary part of our society. Second, we need to support and encourage the continued use of segregation in our schools and workplaces. Finally, we need to work towards the creation of a segregated society that is fair and just for all.

In conclusion, I would like to emphasize the importance of maintaining the status quo. It is in the best interest of all citizens to do so. We owe it to ourselves and our children to ensure that our society is a safe and secure place to live. Thank you.
Why cannot the negro organise for commercial and industrial advancement by building factories to manufacture clothing, hats, shoes, furniture, household furnishings, office equipment, rugs, books, lumber, medicines, jewelry, cameras, etc? Must this goal be attained through the involuntary labor of negroes who can be employed in these endeavors, why cannot the negro obtain hundreds of wholesale and jobbing businesses staffed with negro personnel? It is logical that they have their own wholesale drug and grocery establishments, also harbor and domestic supply houses and their own retail stores to supply hundreds of varieties of foods and services, it is logical to expect that the negro, he not himself and his descendants, will never experience the path of progress.

If you are not aware of it you do not pay attention to the fact that there is a growing consciousness of race feeling in Chicago. Particularly among the white people which is not the case in the South. The white people in the north are not hostile and do not show any race feeling. The pictures and photographs of the whites and the Negroes are not used in the newspapers and do not appear on the covers of the magazines. The Negroes in the north are not treated as inferior and are not subjected to the same restrictions and treatment as in the south.

The subject of desegregation in the armed forces is very personal to each individual, serving his country, and should not be interfered with by any outside agency. I will not tolerate interference with the rights of the Negro in the armed forces. The armed forces is a place where negroes can serve their country and contribute to the war effort. The armed forces is a place where negroes can show their mental and physical capacities and prove their worth.

I repeat that this influence of white racial pride is very strong and will not be overcome by laws, writings, lectures, preachers or military commands. White hatred and culture in all areas of culture in the film, song, and literature must be denounced by a dictatorship of the government, education, and church organizations, to keep humiliation and insult upon the white race.

I submit these reasons for your consideration, as a student, citizen and human being. Remember, we shall nevermeaning to conserve the white man's dignity and rights in America.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

[Title]

[Company]

[City, State, Zip]