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[Handwritten signature]

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.

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Miscel

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Yours respectfully

Joseph Beauharnais
Joseph Beauharnais,
812 North Wells Street,
Chicago 10, Illinois.

BEAU HARNAIS

COPY

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~~312 SOUTH WABASH AVENUE CHICAGO 40, TEL. WEBSTER 3321 3363~~
812 N. Wells Street
Wells

June 24, 1949

Mr. Louis A. Johnson, Secretary of Defense
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Johnson:

I proudly 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 this same instinct of racial pride. Therefore, you will not be surprised to learn that we were all sickened 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 edicts 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 best the armed forces should do would be to mix those whites who do not object to it with the negroes, and maintain all-white organizations for those who prefer it. The white man who objects 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 wanted 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 those associations in whose company we are happy, and in like manner we avoid those who bore us and who are unworthy of our interests. There is no law that can transcend this natural right to determine and select mans 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 desecration 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. I am positive that your action in abolishing segregation in the armed forces will cut down and reduce voluntary enlistments to the point that the armed forces will be so weakened that you will be forced to revert back to the old tried and proven system of separate organizations for both races. Two of the six purposes of government mentioned in the preamble of the Constitution of the United States of America are - 1. To promote the general welfare. 2. To insure domestic tranquility. The present trend of government is working directly against these two recognized and approved purposes. I maintain that the government is committing a grave error in legislating and compelling the intermingling of the black and white races. It is an effort on the part of government to thwart the unerring law of human nature. It will only result in creating strained race relations, racial tensions and a degeneracy of the white race. He believes that self-preservation of the white race demands total separation of the two races.

You will not contradict me when I remind you that this country was founded by white men and women and that we built up a white government and civilization and that our rights as white men are clearly apparent in civil law and in natural law. We hear so much these past few years about negro rights that we are wondering what has happened to the white man's rights.

As far as I can determine in conversation with hundreds of white people, the white man feels no bias, hate, intolerance, prejudice or discrimination toward the negro, rather, on the contrary, the white man feels very kindly and sympathetic toward the negro and would like to see him prosperous, contented and happy. He would like to see the negro owning his own home, having his own church affiliation and engaged in self-supporting enterprise, to the end that they would be economically independent. All these goals are possible in the field of accomplishment if both races will bend their efforts toward remaining in their own spheres, particularly their own well-defined social spheres.

The negro minority today under the stimulus of their various organizations are driving hard for what they describe as civil rights, but too often they cannot distinguish a difference between civil rights and social rights. The negro believes that his civil rights are so expansive and unlimited that they include social intermingling, interracial courtship and intermarriage. Not one white man in one million subscribes to this unnatural thought. Every white man wishes the negro to have equal civil rights under our laws, but the same white man will never approve of intermarriage and to him the very thought of such a thing is abhorrent and repugnant. The self-preservation of the white race depends upon marriage only between whites.

I believe it is wrong, harmful and dangerous thinking to propagate the idea throughout the country that it is the white man's responsibility to provide employment for the negro. With 14,000,000 negroes in America, I believe it is high time to encourage enterprise among the negroes to the end that they can establish themselves with their own capital in all forms of business, finance, industry and commerce, so that they can be self-supporting and provide jobs for millions of their race.

BEAU HARNAIS

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Why cannot the negro organize for commercial and industrial advancement by building factories to manufacture clothing, hats, shoes, furniture, household furnishings, office equipment, rugs, books, lumber, handbags, jewelry, cameras, etc? When this goal is attained think of the enormous number of negroes who could be employed in these endeavors. Why cannot the negro establish hundreds of wholesale and jobbing businesses staffed with negro personnel? It is logical that they have their own wholesale drug and grocery establishments, also barber and cosmetic supply houses and their own retail stores to supply hundreds of varieties of foods and services, it is logical to encourage the negro to help himself along the path of progress.

If you are not aware of it I now call your attention to the fact that there is a growing consciousness of race feeling in Chicago, particularly among the white people which in the sense that I see it, is revolutionary in spirit. From the surface it is not noticeable, but I warn you that it is only repressed for the reason that our government in the past two decades has placed levers of control on the rights of the white people. The religionists, educators and politicians are doing the same thing and it has resulted in a state of bewilderment and resentment on the part of the white people to the point that if some restraints are not forthcoming and imposed upon the infiltrations of the negro into the neighborhoods and into the places of recreation and into the churches, hotels and eating places located exclusively in white neighborhoods, it all will result in a very fast and sudden race controversy that will, because of its serious consequences, compel our leaders in all walks of life to sit down calmly and with determination face this problem and settle it sensibly and fairly once and for all.

The subject of non-segregation in the armed forces is so personally vital to each individual serving his country that it should not have been promulgated by arbitrary decision which robbed each service man of his personal right to express his convictions. I would not hesitate to gamble that if the negro himself were given the opportunity to decide between segregation and non-segregation, his free choice would be a preference for segregation because he knows his presence, in close proximity to the white man, is odious and very objectionable. It is not fair to usurp the white man's right to free association with his own kind by forcing the negro by decree among him.

I repeat, that this insidious of white racial pride is very strong and will not be conquered by laws, writings, lectures, preachments or military commands. White dignity and culture is too fine, strong, eternal and Godlike to be defiled by a dictatorial program fostered by government, education, or church organizations, to heap humiliation and insult upon the white race.

I submit these remarks for your consideration, as a student, citizen and humanitarian. Henceforth, I shall work unceasingly to conserve the white man's dignity and rights in America.

Very truly yours,
Joseph Beauharnais
Joseph Beauharnais

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