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

Jun 24, 1948

Sir: The writer wishes you to have a copy of an
improvised 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,

Joseph Beauharnais,
612 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 feel deeply within me an instinct of racial pride. By correctly examining hundreds of white men and women whom I know personally, I find that they also, without exception, are distinctly aware of their own instinct of racial pride. Therefore, you will not be surprised to learn that we are all shocked and disgusted to learn from the press reports that you are an advocate of non-segregation in the armed forces of the United States, when 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 habits 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 95% 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 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 in part of natural law that everyone of us choose those associations in whose company we are happy, and in the 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 24, 1949 will be such 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 separation 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 hundreds times more racial incidents and hatred than if the two races were kept strictly
The legal status of the negro is an open issue.

The negro is fighting for the right to be treated as a human being, not as a below human being.

The negro is fighting for the right to be judged by the standard of his own conscience, not by the standard of his race.

The negro is fighting for the right to be treated as an equal citizen, not as a second-class citizen.

The negro is fighting for the right to be treated as a person, not as a property.
My constant argument for commercial and industrial advancement by building factories to manufacture clothing, hats, shoes, furniture, household furnishings, office equipment, rugs, wool, lumber, hardware, jewelry, cameras, etc. Meet this goal in attendance and the highest reach of Negroes who would be employed in these endeavors, can the Negro maintain himself as a whole and only business staffed with Negro personnel? It is logical that they have their own wholesale drug and grocery establishments, also harbor an exclusive supply house and their own retail stores and supply numbers of various foods and services, it is logical to operate in the Negro to set himself among the path of progress.

If you are not aware of it, I note your attention in the fact that there is a growing consciousness in race feeling in Chicago, particularly among the white people which in some sense that I see it is revolutionarily. It is not only that the Negro istransformed, but the white man, it is only the Negro that our government in the past few decades has placed lower on the scale of control on the rights of the white people.

The religious, educators and politicians are doing the same thing and it has resulted in a state of confrontation and resentment on the part of the white people to the point that if some restrictions are not forthcoming and issued upon the institutions 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 will all result in a very fast and rapid move of segregation that will be by the Negroes themselves and with determination free this problem and settle it scientifically 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 authority without which rooted each service man of his personal right to express his convictions, I would not hesitate to express this, if the Negro himself were given the opportunity to express his position and non-segregation, his free speech would be a freer

I repeat, that I am not against the idea of the white race and culture, I am not against it, it is the manner in which we live and the way we live as a Negro.

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