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HEPP, Mrs. Rose H.  
× 909 Washington Avenue  
Evansville, Indiana

Letter to the President, dated 11/12/50 (received in file room 11/30/50).

Writer comments on segregation in the Armed Forces. She is the wife of an Army Officer (white), who danced with a negro at the Officer's Club, Camp Breckinridge, Kentucky, and was told if she did this again, she would be barred from the Club. States this negro was also an Officer, Lt. Dunnings, and she was insulted by the Army for practicing what they preach - non-segregation. Claims publication of this letter might be detrimental to her husband and Lt. Dunnings.

Respectfully referred to Mr. Niles, 11/30/50.

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Mr. Files

Filed by Mr. Files  
11/4/51

909 Washington Ave.  
Evansville, Indiana  
November 12, 1950

Dear Mr. Truman:

Last evening, Saturday, November 11th, I attended a dance at the Officers Club, Camp Breckinridge, Kentucky. The dance was sponsored by my husband's regiment, the 502nd Airborne Infantry.

The party at our table numbered about ten and included was a 2nd Lieutenant, George Jennings, and his wife. Lt. Jennings is, in my opinion, one of the finest examples the Army has of an officer and a gentleman. Lt. Jennings is a negro officer.

During the course of the evening another white officer and my husband danced with Mrs. Jennings. Nothing was said. Then Lt. Jennings and I danced. When we returned to the table a full Colonel came over and tapped my husband on the shoulder. My husband had to go out and stand on the dance floor while the Colonel told him if I danced with a colored man again I would be barred from the Officers' Club. My husband tactfully re- file

informed the Colonel that the gentleman in question was an Army officer. The Colonel replied by saying, "We don't allow colored and white to dance together."

I feel that I was insulted for practicing what the Army preaches - non-segregation. I've never crusaded for the NAACP, FEPC or any similar organization, but I will fight for my rights as an individual.

I realize, of course, that publication of this letter may result in the "railroading" of my husband and Lt. Hunsinger to some isolated outpost, but I feel that the American public should know that although negroes may die in Korea fighting for our country, they are still second class citizens even in the Army's Officers' Club.

Sincerely,

Rose H. Hays