

93-B

February 10, 1951

Respectfully referred for
the attention of Honorable David
K. Niles.

W. D. H.

elb

Ltr of 2/7/51 to the President from Charles E. Spring, x
Chairman, Mayor's Council on Human Relations, Minneapolis,
Minn.; urging action to eliminate segregation in the Army.

X 12-95-B
mm

#

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

February 10, 1951

Handwritten signature

Respectfully referred for
the attention of Honorable David
K. Niles.

W. D. H.

Chas Spring

February 15, 1951

7 by
m. Niles
7-2-51

Dear Mr. Spring:

Many thanks for your cordial and helpful letter of February 7th. I am sure you are thoroughly familiar with the recent substantial progress that has been made in the Armed Services, following the President's Executive Order and the report and recommendations of his Committee on Equality of Treatment and Opportunity in the Armed Services.

The President is always glad to hear from representative groups which are familiar with this basic problem of human rights.

Cordially,

DAVID K. NILES
Administrative Assistant
to the President

Mr. Charles E. Spring
Chairman
Mayor's Council on Human Relations
City of Minneapolis
Minnesota

DN



City of Minneapolis
MAYOR'S COUNCIL ON HUMAN RELATIONS

ERIC G. HOYER
MAYOR

February 7, 1951

The Honorable Harry S. Truman
The White House
Washington, D. C.

My dear President Truman:

The Minneapolis Mayor's Council on Human Relations has alternately noted with pride the splendid record on the integration of Negro citizens into the United States Air Force and the United States Navy and with deep concern the hesitancy on the part of the United States Army to implement its announced policy of eliminating segregation.

In as much as you, Mr. President, are commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces of the United States and as such are charged with the responsibility for maintaining and developing the armed forces, we are appealing to you to see to it that the United States Army develops a straightforward practice of non-segregation in its efforts to implement its announced policy.

It has seemed to us that the matter of eliminating segregation from the defense forces of the United States was one which demanded the immediate and intensive attention of those who are in charge of our armed forces. We have been impressed that our citizens throughout the length and breadth of our land consider segregation in the armed forces as a national disgrace, a force which corrodes the morale of our troops, as well as the consciences of right-thinking men, and a fruitful source of propaganda fodder for our enemies.

In consideration of our own national interest it is well, we think, to use all of the resources at our command to eliminate segregation in our armed forces. Just as the military establishment has numerous scientific resources on which to rely for the

COUNCIL MEMBERS

- CHARLES E. SPRING
Chairman
The Spring Co.
 - RAYMOND CANNON
Vice-Chairman
Attorney
 - HYMAN EDELMAN
Vice-Chairman
Attorney
 - DOUGLAS HALL
Secretary
Attorney
 - JUDGE E. F. WAITE
Treasurer
Retired Judge District Court
 - STANLEY BALLARD
Minneapolis Musicians Assn.
 - MELVIN BISSON
Intertribal Chippewa Band, Inc.
 - DR. BERNHARD CHRISTENSEN
Augsburg College
 - NEIL M. CRONIN
Attorney
 - JOHN G. ERICKSON
Erickson-Erickson, Inc.
 - WALTER H. FELDMANN
Electric Machinery Corp.
 - MICHAEL FINKELSTEIN
ILGWU-AFL
 - LOUIS GROSS
Rohatsek-Schneider Co.
 - MRS. KYLE HASELDEN
1815 Colfax Ave. So.
 - MRS. F. PEAVEY HEFFELFINGER
Waxata, Minn.
 - LAWRENCE A. HENNINGER
Strutwear, Inc.
 - MARVIN C. JOHNSON
Minneapolis Public Schools
 - REV. DAISUKE KITAGAWA
Minneapolis Church Federation
 - CHRIST LEGEROS
Rainbow Cafe
 - LESTER J. LEVOIR
IUE-CIO
 - BRADLEY L. MORISON
Minneapolis Tribune
 - CECIL E. NEWMAN
Minneapolis Spokesman
 - DR. ARNOLD M. ROSE
University of Minnesota
 - MRS. ANDREW B. SHEA
University of Minnesota
 - MRS. LAWRENCE D. STEEFEL
2894 West River Road
 - W. GLEN WALLACE
Minneapolis City Council
 - REV. REUBEN K. YOUNGDAHL
Mt. Olivet Lutheran Church
- EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
FRANK W. FAGER
- COUNCIL OFFICE
607 Third Ave. So.
MA. 8111, EXT. 130-140

-2-
The Honorable Harry S. Truman

improvement of old weapons and the development of new ones, so has the armed forces available to it an abundance of scientific resources, which can be drawn upon to assist it in the task of moving from a segregated pattern of army life to an integrated one.

Due to these considerations we respectfully suggest that there are social scientists of great competence available at the universities throughout the country, whom we feel confident would be willing to make available to the United States Army, in the interest of our national welfare, scientific data, professional insights, and a multitude of skills, which would be helpful to the armed forces in implementing their policy of non-segregation. It may well be that out of these conferences can come material which can be shaped into an effective indoctrination course in human relations.

We are impressed that the type of understanding which may be advanced by your thoughtful attention to this subject will stand our men and our nation in good stead in other lands as well as our own.

Yours very respectfully,

Charles E. Spring
Charles E. Spring, Chairman
Mayor's Council on Human Relations