

THE PRESIDENT'S COMMITTEE ON EQUALITY
OF TREATMENT AND OPPORTUNITY
IN THE ARMED SERVICES

Pentagon: Room 2E 646

22 March 1949

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I am anxious to have circulated to the members of the President's Committee on Equality of Treatment and Opportunity in the Armed Services copies of the original Gillem Board report, with all the attached documents and studies which were the result of the Board's researches. As you are aware, the materials assembled by the Board represent the most comprehensive collection on the military employment of Negro manpower that has been made either by the Department of the Army or the National War College.

Unfortunately the "secret" classification which has been attached to the original Gillem Board report raises some practical difficulties. Most of the members of the Committee do not have facilities for handling highly classified documents. This means that the Committee must immediately read and return by registered mail all secret material forwarded to them by the Executive Secretary. This is a most unsatisfactory and impractical arrangement.

I can well understand that matters under current discussion must be classified highly. But virtually all of the material in the tabs of the Gillem Board report is historical, without any security value at all. Furthermore, large portions of this material already exist in unclassified form in the files of the National War College and in the Historical Records Section of the Department of the Army.

It would take considerable time to have the Gillem Board report declassified at the request of the Committee if resort were made to the usual declassification procedure. Would it not be possible, through the authorization of your office, to have the Gillem Board Report of 17 November, 1945, and the Supplemental Report of 26 January, 1946, completely declassified?



The Committee would greatly appreciate your favorable consideration in this matter.

Sincerely yours,

E. W. Kenworthy
Executive Secretary

The Honorable
The Secretary of the Army
Department of the Army
Washington 25, D. C.

