MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT'S COMMITTEE

SUBJECT: Successor Policy to HD Circular 130 (Gillen Board Policy)

Enclosed is a copy of new regulations on "Utilization of Negro manpower in the Army," which the Army proposes shall replace HD Circular 130, and which will probably be issued as a "special regulation."

This special regulation will not be promulgated without the approval of the White House, and the White House will not approve it without first getting the reactions of the President's Committee.

My own comment on the document is this:

1. The Committee's recommendations on HD and schools can be realized only in two ways:

   a. By creating enough new Negro units, or converting enough white units to Negro units, so that Negro units have the same spread of NES, and require the same schooling, as white units.

   b. By gradually integrating qualified Negroes into white units.

2. If either one of the above two courses is not followed, it is meaningless for the Army to say it is going to open all HD and schools, for the plain fact is that Negroes will get the NES and the schooling required by present Negro units, and by overhead. That is, the racial quota for schools will still require an effect whether or not those quotas are put down on paper.
3. But the Committee has very definitely stated to the President in its Interim Report of 13 October that it opposes the further creation of Negro units and that its objective is "the beginning of integration by a slow and practical process."

4. The attached paper does not provide for gradual integration. In paragraph 10, dealing with utilization and assignment, the Army states that normally Negroes will be assigned to the present Negro NCO units or overseas, but that Negro specialists may be assigned to white units to fill vacancies requiring special skills. The key word is "specialists", which to the Army is quite different from "specialist". "Specialist" is a term usually reserved for a critically needed job, for which there is often special recruitment. This would bring about the gradual integration which the Committee seeks, not only the placement of a Negro specialist in a white unit. The Army does not intend to take qualified school-trained Negroes and fill out the NCO in white units which are understrength, as the Committee has proposed.

5. Further evidence that the Army intends to keep its Negro units undermanned is provided by Paragraph 12, providing that Negro units will continue to be formed in regiments, battalions, companies; by paragraph 11, assigning Negro officers to Negro units to replace white officers; by the last paragraph of Grey's memo to Johnson of September 13 (copy of which I enclosed), stating that "the foreseeable future Negro units must be watered"; and finally by Grey's letter to Judge Faby (copy also enclosed) in which he states that his memo to the press on September 13, declaring that Negroes would be used in some white units did not constitute an advance over the policy announced by Johnson on September 13.

6. The officer detailed to write the enclosed special regulation has conceded that the regulation does not affect appreciably the Army's present policy on assignment and does not reflect the Committee's recommendations to the Army.

S. W. Kimball
E. V. Snavely
Executive Secretary