MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT'S COMMITTEE

SUBJECT: Successor Policy to HD Circular 134 (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 134, 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 unless first getting the reaction of the President's Committee.

My own comment on the document is this:

1. The Committee's recommendation on HD and schools cannot 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 HD, 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 HD and the schooling required by present Negro units and by overhead. That is, the racial quota for schools will still remain in effect whether or not these quotas are put down on paper.
3. The Committee has very definitely stated to the President in its letter of October 12 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 Negro units will be assigned to the present Negro T/O 56 units or equivalent, 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 "specialized." "Specialists" 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 mere 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 under strength, as the Committee has proposed.

5. Further evidence that the Army intends to keep its Negro units unchanged 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 30 (copy of which I enclose), stating that "the foreseeable future Negro units must be maintained" and finally by Grey's letter to Judge Hays (copy also enclosed) in which he states that his memo to the press on Nov. 3 declaring that Negroes would be used in some white units did not constitute an advance over the policy announced by Johnson on September 30.

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. E. R. Conatori
Executive Secretary