

*Natl Guard*

DRAFT

*For Chester Bowles,*



Dear Mr. Secretary:

I am writing to tell you of my intentions and to ask for your assistance in connection with changes I intend to propose in the Connecticut National Guard.

It has long seemed to me both unnecessary and unjust that Negro citizens of Connecticut who wish to serve in the Connecticut National Guard should be required to join ~~only~~ under segregated conditions, which do not prevail in other Connecticut institutions and which are repugnant to many citizens of Connecticut, both white and Negro.

It is my intention upon my inaugural, or as soon thereafter as possible, to initiate steps leading to the elimination of segregation in the Connecticut National Guard. I believe such a step is consonant with the wishes of the people of Connecticut, and the policies of the President and Commander-in-Chief.

I am familiar with your own record of achievement in this area of human relations. In any case, I would hope that the steps we take here in Connecticut would be agreeable to the Defense Establishment. For these reasons, I would very much appreciate having your advice as to the manner in which we should proceed in this state.

Cordially,