

McGILL

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1948

October 11, 1948.



Dear Mr. McGill:

Although you no doubt have read of the designation of the members of the President's Committee on Equality of Treatment and Opportunity in the Armed Services, I feel you would wish to have a copy of the official announcement.

I am very appreciative of the careful consideration you gave our request to serve on the Committee.

In connection with the last paragraph of your telegram, I am also enclosing a copy of the Executive Order. I hope this will convince you that the function of the Committee is to find ways and means of improving the present situation without arbitrary or ill-considered action.

Sincerely yours,

DONALD S. DAWSON
Administrative Assistant
to the President

Mr. Ralph McGill,
Editor,
Atlanta Constitution,
Atlanta, Georgia.

Armed Services Comm. (CETOAS)

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The White House
Washington

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DONALD S DAWSON

THE WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON DC

FIRST, LET ME SAY I AM HONORED TO HAVE BEEN ASKED TO SERVE ON THE COMMITTEE AND I HAVE GIVEN IT MY DEEP AND CAREFUL CONSIDERATION. I BELIEVE THAT OUR LOCAL POLITICAL SITUATION MIGHT MAKE IT INADVISABLE FROM THE VIEWPOINT OF THE COMMITTEE FOR ME TO SERVE. SECOND, I MUST, IN CANDOR, SAY THAT IT SEEMS TO ME THAT THE DECISION OF THE COMMITTEE MAY

ALREADY BE ANTICIPATED BECAUSE OF THE WELL KNOWN AND
PUBLICLY EXPRESSED VIEWS OF AT LEAST FOUR OF THE SEVEN
MEMBERS.

IT IS ALREADY OBVIOUS THAT THEY WILL BRING IN A
REPORT IN FAVOR OF COMPLETE INTERGRATION UNLESS THEY
REPUDIATE WHAT THEY HAVE OFTEN EXPRESSED. THEREFORE, IT
SEEMS A NEEDLESS SACRIFICE TO HAVE SUCH A COMMITTEE. I SAY
THIS NOT IN CRITICISM OF THE MEMBERS OR OF THEIR VIEWS,
BUT WITH THE RESULT INEVITABLE, I MUST REGRETFULLY DECLINE
THE INVITATION

RALPH MCGILL.



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