THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON

3 August 1943

Dear Mr. President:

I am in receipt of a letter from Mr. Donald Dawson, suggesting that I submit to you my recommendations for the persons to be appointed to the Committee on Equality of Treatment and Opportunity in the Armed Services.

The names which I recommend are the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Member</th>
<th>Alternate</th>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Frank Graham, Chairman</td>
<td>Mr. Charles R. Wilson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. Ralph McGill</td>
<td>Mr. Mark Hargrave</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. Lester Granger</td>
<td>Mr. John H. Sengstacke</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mrs. Mary McNeill Bethune</td>
<td>Dr. Clemming Cooks</td>
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<tr>
<td>Senator Caleb Lodge</td>
<td>Dr. Earl Gurney</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. Philip Graham</td>
<td>Mr. Clark Howell</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. Edward S. Hope</td>
<td>Mr. Truman Gibson</td>
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I will be glad to supply more detailed information concerning all of the individuals named, if you should desire it.

Respectfully,

[Signature]

James Forrestal

The President
The White House
Suggested Members and alternates for President's Committee on Equality of Treatment and Opportunity in the Armed Services (Telephoned by Marx Levy):

Chairman: Dr. Frank Graham
Alternate: Charles Wilson

MEMBERS:
Lester Granger
Mr. Singerstown (Alternate)

Mary McDaid Bethune
Dr. Channing Tobias (Alternate)

Mr. Philip Graham
Clark Howell (Atlanta) (Alternate)

Senator Harry Cabot Lodge, Jr.
Maron Fort (Alternate)
My dear Mr. President:

In connection with the President's Committee on
Equality of Treatment and Opportunity in the Armed Services,
I would like to suggest two names for membership on the Com-
mittee.

For Chairman, I would like to urge you to appoint
Charles E. Wilson, President of General Electric Company. As
Chairman of the President's Committee on Civil Rights, Mr.
Wilson did an outstanding job. His work on that Committee has
given him the unbounded confidence of all minority groups for
his fairness and integrity. His appointment as Chairman will
give an assurance to the minority groups that is absolutely
necessary.

I have discussed this matter with Howard McMillan
and I think he has somewhat different ideas. You will doubt-
less want to hear his views. I have thought over what Howard
has said, but I still would strongly urge Mr. Wilson's appoint-
ment.

I do not know how many Negroes you plan to include in
the membership. I would, however, urge that you appoint John H.
Sengstacke, Publisher and Editor of the Chicago Defender. Mr.
Sengstacke is a man of highest qualifications and integrity.
He is well and favorably known to Secretary Forrester. Mr. Seng-
stacke has come out in an editorial in the Chicago Defender,
saying your re-election in unqualified terms. Congressman Wil-
liam Dawson also urges Sengstacke's appointment. I think it
will mean a lot to the Negro press if one of their members is
recognized in this way.

Cordially and sincerely,

Owen P. Davis

Owen P. Davis

The President
The White House
Washington 25, D. C.
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON
10 August 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. DONALD DAMREN.

Attached is a supplemental list of suggested names from the Navy. This list has just reached my office this morning, and I am sending it on to you for any interest it may have.

Marx Levy

Marx Levy
DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON

9 August 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. MAX LEVY, SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

Subject: Nominations for Membership on the President’s Committee on Equality of Treatment and Opportunity in the Armed Forces.

1. This memorandum confirms our telephone conversations on this subject.

2. The Chief of Naval Personnel has suggested the following possible nominations, consisting of the names of persons who have served or are serving on various Navy advisory groups:

Mr. Rawleigh Warner
Chairman of the Board of Directors
Pure Oil Company
36 East Wacker Drive
Chicago, Illinois

Mr. C. Douglas Dillon
Dillon Read & Company
23 East 42nd Street
New York 17, New York

Dr. Henry T. Heald, President
Illinois Institute of Technology
Technology Center
Chicago 16, Illinois

Mr. John A. Mayer, Secretary
Penn Mutual Life Insurance Company
Independence Square
Philadelphia 5, Pennsylvania

Mr. Milton C. Ransford
Marshall Field & Company
General Offices
25 East Washington Street
Chicago 2, Illinois

Mr. Lester B. Granger
Executive Secretary
National Urban League
1131 Broadway
New York 10, N.Y.

Mr. Harron W. Fort
16 Arlington St.
Newburyport, Mass.

Mr. E. Hall Dowes
Apartado 1002
Lima, Peru

3. Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Air Brown has no names to add to Admiral Sprague’s list, but considers that Mr. Granger is a must. In addition, Mr. Brown believes that Mr. Warner would be most competent, and states that he has heard very favorable comments on Heald, although he does not know him personally.

Respectfully,

N. C. Beauregard

* Members of minority racial group.
MEMORANDUM FOR MR. DAWSON:

You requested further information concerning five names of persons recommended by Secretary Forrestal. Attached are two memoranda, containing the requested information. The memorandum concerning Mr. Clark Howell and Mr. Ralph McGill contains information taken from Who's Who in America. The memorandum containing information concerning Mr. Oranger, Mr. Roper, and Mr. Sengstabe was dictated by Mr. James Evans, Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army.

Mary Lerna
Special Assistant to the Secretary

2 Encls.
Clark Howell's biography, from Who's Who in America, reads as follows:


Ralph McGill's biography, from Who's Who in America, reads as follows:

Mr. Lester Granger

Lester Granger is Executive Secretary of the National Urban League. His office is in New York. He served earlier as a college teacher concerned with vocational and occupational aspects of Negro life in the nation. From this position, he took a similar position with the Urban League and now, for probably ten years, has been Executive Secretary and the active head of this organization.

During the war he served as Special Consultant to the Secretary of the Navy. For the services which he rendered during the integration and full utilization of Negro personnel, leading to abolition of racial differentials in the Navy, Mr. Granger was awarded the Medal of Merit by the President. He holds numerous other citations from civic organizations.

Dr. Edward S. Hope

Dr. Hope is presently Professor of Civil Engineering at Howard University in Washington, D.C. He is the son of the late Dr. John Hope, for many of years the senior Negro educational leader in the nation and the founder of the Greater Atlanta University.

During the war Dr. Hope attained the highest rank, lieutenant commander, ever held by a Negro in the United States Navy. He saw service in the Pacific and in view of his educational background was, toward the close of the war, chief educational officer in an armed forces university organization based in Honolulu. Dr. Hope holds degrees from Morehouse College in Atlanta, MIT, and Columbia.

Mr. John H. Sengstak

Mr. Sengstak is the nephew of the late Robert S. Abbott, founder of the Chicago Defender. While not in direct line of inheritance, he was chosen by his late uncle to carry on the work of the Chicago Defender in its fight for human rights.
Mr. H. B. Sengstacke, now editor and publisher of the Chicago Defender, did receive a full heritage of his uncle's ability and spirit and is the most prominent of the younger publishers in the field of American Negro journalism. Through his journal, his influence and that of his late uncle are widely felt among Negroes and others in many parts of the world.