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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

October 11, 1948.

Filed
10-20-48

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.

not sent

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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JULY 26, 1948

EXECUTIVE ORDER

9971ESTABLISHING THE PRESIDENT'S COMMITTEE ON
EQUALITY OF TREATMENT AND OPPORTUNITY IN
THE ARMED SERVICES

WHEREAS it is essential that there be maintained in the armed services of the United States the highest standards of democracy, with equality of treatment and opportunity for all those who serve in our country's defense:

NOW, THEREFORE, by virtue of the authority vested in me as President of the United States, by the Constitution and the statutes of the United States, and as Commander in Chief of the armed services, it is hereby ordered as follows:

1. It is hereby declared to be the policy of the President that there shall be equality of treatment and opportunity for all persons in the armed services without regard to race, color, religion or national origin. This policy shall be put into effect as rapidly as possible, having due regard to the time required to effectuate any necessary changes without impairing efficiency or morale.

2. There shall be created in the National Military Establishment an advisory committee to be known as the President's Committee on Equality of Treatment and Opportunity in the Armed Services, which shall be composed of seven members to be designated by the President.

3. The Committee is authorized on behalf of the President to examine into the rules, procedures and practices of the armed services in order to determine in what respect such rules, procedures and practices may be altered or improved with a view to carrying out the policy of this order. The Committee shall confer and advise with the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of the Army, the Secretary of the Navy, and the Secretary of the Air Force, and shall make such recommendations to the President and to said Secretaries as in the judgment of the Committee will effectuate the policy hereof...

4. All executive departments and agencies of the Federal Government are authorized and directed to cooperate with the Committee in its work, and to furnish the Committee such information or the services of such persons as the Committee may require in the performance of its duties.

5. When requested by the Committee to do so, persons in the armed services or in any of the executive departments and agencies of the Federal Government shall testify before the Committee and shall make available for the use of the Committee such documents and other information as the Committee may require.

6. The Committee shall continue to exist until such time as the President shall terminate its existence by Executive order.



HARRY S. TRUMAN

THE WHITE HOUSE

July 26, 1948

HOLD FOR RELEASE

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HOLD FOR RELEASE

September 18, 1948

The following MUST BE HELD IN STRICT CONFIDENCE UNTIL RELEASED. Release is automatic at 7:00 P.M., E.D.T., today, Saturday, September 18, 1948. The same release applies to all newspapers, radio commentators and news broadcasters.

PLEASE GUARD AGAINST PREMATURE PUBLICATION OR ANNOUNCEMENT.

EBERT A. AYERS
Assistant Press Secretary

The President today designated the following members of the President's Committee on Equality of Treatment and Opportunity in the Armed Services:

Mr. Charles H. Fahy (Chairman)
Former Solicitor General of the U. S.
Washington, D. C.

Mr. Alphonsus J. Donahue
President
A. J. Donahue Corporation
Stamford, Connecticut

Mr. Lester Granger
Executive Secretary
National Urban League
New York City

Mr. Charles Luckman
President, Lever Brothers
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Mr. Dwight R. G. Palmer
President
General Cable Corporation
New York City

Mr. John H. Sengstacke
Publisher, Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

Mr. William E. Stevenson
President, Oberlin College
Oberlin, Ohio



The President's Committee on Equality of Treatment and Opportunity in the Armed Services is provided for by Executive Order 9881, which created an advisory committee of seven members in the National Military Establishment.

The Committee was authorized on behalf of the President to examine the rules, procedures and practices of the armed services in order to determine in what respect they might be altered or improved with a view toward carrying out the policy of the order.

The order declared it to be the policy of the President that there should be equality of treatment and opportunity for all persons in the armed services without regard to race, color, religion or national origin.

The Committee was instructed to confer and advise with the Secretary of Defense, Secretary of the Army, Secretary of the Navy, and the Secretary of the Air Force and to make recommendations to them and to the President.

Under the executive order, the Committee will continue to exist until terminated by the President.
