

filed by
Mr. Dawson
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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

September 9, 1948.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT:

I am listing below one or two things you might want to know when you are talking to Philip Graham about the Armed Services Committee.

(1) Since your Executive Order was issued, all important opposition to the draft on the basis of the Army's race policy has disappeared. Philip Randolph and Grant Reynolds have withdrawn from their Committee Against Jimcrow, and only a few conscientious objectors and other war resisters remain in this movement.

(2) Negro leaders and their white friends have been universal in their praise of the Order and in their support of the proposed Committee. Perhaps the most significant of these is the group of sixteen prominent Negroes who were called in by Secretary Forrestal to advise him on racial problems in the Defense Establishment. The report of this group was submitted and published day before yesterday. The seven important recommendations of this group were directed primarily towards the Committee on Equality of Treatment and Opportunity in the Armed Services, and the group asked that this report be submitted to the Committee as soon as it meets. #

(3) The Committee will have complete minority press support. The Negro Press, which had been conducting a vigorous campaign against the Army's racial policy, has now abandoned it. The Afro-American newspapers were particularly bitter over the question of ROTC units in the Negro Land Grant Colleges. This matter was negotiated during the summer and the Army has improved its position in this respect, and there is now no organized newspaper campaign in existence.

DONALD S. DAWSON
Administrative Assistant
to the President



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

September 9, 1948

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT:

Philip L. Graham, President and Publisher of the Washington Post, is calling on you at 11:45, off the record.

Secretary Forrestal, Dave Niles and others feel he would make an exceptionally good chairman of the President's Committee on Equality of Treatment and Opportunity in the Armed Services, provided for in the attached Executive Order. Mrs. Agnes Meyer, who is the Mother-in-law of Mr. Graham has been interested in this problem for some time. The Post has also been interested. He is highly acceptable to the groups to be considered by the committee.

The Committee will be composed of seven members tentatively set forth below:

Mr. Philip L. Graham, Chairman
President and Publisher, Washington Post

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

Mr. Lester Granger (Colored)
Executive Secretary, National Urban League
New York City

Mr. Jacob Billikopf
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Mr. John H. Sengstacke (Colored)
Editor and Publisher, Chicago Defender

Col. Alphonsus J. Donahue
Stamford, Connecticut

Mr. Julius Ochs Adler
Vice President, New York Times



DONALD S. DAWSON