

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
WASHINGTON

23 July 1948

Honorable Harold C. Hagen  
House of Representatives  
Washington 25, D. C.

In re: Segregation of Negroes in  
the Minnesota National Guard

Dear Mr. Hagen:

The above matter is receiving considera-  
tion along the lines suggested in the inclosed  
letter to Governor Youngdahl.

As soon as a decision has been reached,  
you will be advised.

Sincerely,



*Kenneth C. Royal*  
Kenneth C. Royal  
Secretary of the Army

Incl  
Cy of ltr dtd 20 May 1948

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
WASHINGTON

23 July 1948

Honorable Edward J. Devitt  
House of Representatives  
Washington 25, D. C.

In re: Segregation of Negroes in the  
Minnesota National Guard


Dear Mr. Devitt:

The above matter is receiving considera-  
tion along the lines suggested in the inclosed  
letter to Governor Youngdahl.

As soon as a decision has been reached,  
you will be advised.



Sincerely,

  
Kenneth C. Royall  
Secretary of the Army

Incl  
Cy of ltr dtd 20 May 1948

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
WASHINGTON

23 July 1948

Honorable John A. Blatnik  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D. C. (25)

In re: Segregation of Negroes in  
the Minnesota National Guard


Dear Mr. Blatnik:

The above matter is receiving considera-  
tion along the lines suggested in the inclosed  
letter to Governor Youngdahl.

As soon as a decision has been reached,  
you will be advised.



Sincerely,

  
Kenneth C. Royall  
Secretary of the Army

Incl  
Cy of ltr dtd 20 May 1948

May 20, 1948

Honorable Luther W. Youngdahl  
Governor of Minnesota  
St. Paul, Minnesota

Dear Governor Youngdahl:

I am now authorized to reply to your letter of March 6, 1948, directed to the Secretary of Defense, relating to Negroes in the National Guard of Minnesota.

In accordance with a report of competent and experienced officers, the War Department on April 27, 1946, issued regulations which among other things required (subject to certain exceptions) that when Negroes are employed in Army units below the battalion, they will be in separate organizations.

Since I became Secretary of the Army, this matter has again been carefully considered by the Military Staff of this Department both in connection with the Regular Army troops and the Federally recognized civilian components. It is the opinion of the Staff -- with which I concur -- that in the interest of national defense the policy of April 27, 1946, should be uniformly applied throughout the Federal forces of the Army.

In the case of New Jersey the Constitution specifically prohibits any segregation in the militia. It follows that no executive action in that State could meet existing Federal requirements in this matter, and that unless an exception were made, there could be no Federally recognized National Guard in that State. Therefore, in the case of the New Jersey National Guard I made an exception to the segregation rule. I would be inclined to follow the same course in the event of legislative action which precluded any State executive from meeting the Federal requirements.

Your proposal would extend the exception further than indicated above. However, because of your interest in this matter, I have referred your request to the Committee on National Guard Policy under Section V of the National Defense Act, which Act provides that policies affecting the organization, distribution and training of the National Guard be referred to such Committee for consideration.

I expect to receive the recommendation of this Committee within the next few weeks and, if these recommendations differ from the views heretofore taken by the Staff and myself, the Staff and I will again carefully restudy the matter from the standpoint of national defense. I will advise you further when I have heard from the Committee on National Guard Policy.

Sincerely yours,



/s/ Kenneth C. Royall

Kenneth C. Royall  
Secretary of the Army

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
WASHINGTON


July 23, 1948

MEMORANDUM TO MR. CLARK CLIFFORD:  
The White House

In view of the delayed decision in the matter of the Minnesota National Guard, I suggest that the following interim replies be dispatched at once.

Please advise me the date they are mailed.



  
Kenneth C. Royall  
Secretary of the Army

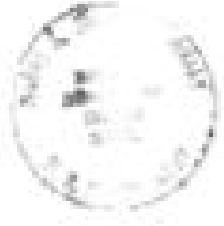
KCR/g

Enc.

c o p y

May 20, 1948

Honorable Luther W. Youngdahl  
Governor of Minnesota  
St. Paul, Minnesota



Dear Governor Youngdahl:

I am now authorized to reply to your letter of March 6, 1948, directed to the Secretary of Defense, relating to Negroes in the National Guard of Minnesota.

In accordance with a report of competent and experienced officers, the War Department on April 27, 1946, issued regulations which among other things required (subject to certain exceptions) that when Negroes are employed in Army units below the battalion, they will be in separate organizations.

Since I became Secretary of the Army this matter has again been carefully considered by the Military Staff of this Department both in connection with the Regular Army troops and the Federally recognized civilian components. It is the opinion of the Staff — with which I concur — that in the interest of national defense the policy of April 27, 1946, should be uniformly applied throughout the Federal forces of the Army.

In the case of New Jersey the Constitution specifically prohibits any segregation in the militia. It follows that no executive action in that State could meet existing Federal requirements in this matter, and that unless an exception were made, there could be no Federally recognized National Guard in that State. Therefore, in the case of the New Jersey National Guard I made an exception to the segregation rule. I would be inclined to follow the same course in the event of legislative action which precluded any State executive from meeting the Federal requirements.

Your proposal would extend the exception further than indicated above. However, because of your interest in this matter, I have referred your request to the Committee on National Guard Policy under Section V of the National Defense Act, which Act provides that policies affecting the organization, distribution and training of the National Guard be referred to such Committee for consideration.

I expect to receive the recommendations of this Committee within the next few weeks and, if these recommendations differ from the views heretofore taken by the Staff and myself, the Staff and I will again carefully restudy the matter from the standpoint of national defense. I will advise you further when I have heard from the Committee on National Guard Policy.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Kenneth C. Royall

Kenneth C. Royall  
Secretary of the Army

c o p y