

July 19, 1948

Dear Ken:

I have your note of July 19th with reference to the suggested letters to the Governors of Minnesota and Connecticut. The letters have not been mailed.

The President has suggested that this entire matter be studied carefully in the light of recent happenings and he further suggests that replies not be sent to these gentlemen until we have had a chance to discuss the subject thoroughly.

Very sincerely yours,



CLARK M. CLIFFORD

P.S.- The President has just sent in to me a telegram which he has received from Luther W. Youngdahl, Governor of Minnesota. I enclose herewith a copy of this telegram.

C.M.C.

Honorable Kenneth C. Royall  
Secretary of the Army  
Department of the Army  
Washington, D. C.

TELEGRAM

Copy

St. Paul, Minn. July 19, 1948

Hon. Harry S. Truman, President  
The White House

The Attorney General of Minnesota has ruled that because of statutory provisions requiring us to comply with Federal regulations I have no authority to issue an executive order integrating negroes into the Minnesota National Guard. Stop. I urge you as Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces to immediately order a change of policy so that I may be authorized to sign an order giving negroes equal status with whites in the Minnesota National Guard.

Luther W. Youngdahl, Governor Minnesota


Copy

July 19, 1948

MEMORANDUM TO MR. CLARK CLIFFORD  
The White House

Please advise me whether the letters to the  
Governors of Minnesota and Connecticut were mailed and,  
if so, when.

It is necessary for me to answer other inquiries,  
including those made by Senator Thye, Congressman Devitt,  
Congressman Hagen, and Congressman Blatnik; and I want  
to be sure that the Governors have received their letters  
before further communications are sent.

  
Kenneth C. Royall  
Secretary of the Army

KCR/g