

7 March 1947

Honorable Brien McMahon

United States Senate

Dear Senator McMahon:



I have your letter of recent date, in which you discussed War Department policy relating to utilization of Negro manpower in the post war Army.

The War Department policy on the above subject is published in War Department Circular No. 124, dated April 27, 1946, a copy of which is inclosed. For convenient reference, I quote in part from the policy as outlined in this Circular:

"To effect the maximum efficient utilization of the authorized Negro manpower in the post war period, the War Department had adopted the following policy:

"Negro manpower in the post war Army will be utilized on a broader professional scale than has obtained heretofore. The development of leaders and specialists based on individual merit and ability, to meet effectively the requirements of an expanded war Army will be accomplished through the medium of installations and organizations. Groupings of Negro units with white units in composite organizations will be accepted policy."

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"The Initial Objectives: The utilization of the proportionate ratio of the manpower made available to the military establishment during the postwar period. The manpower potential to be organized and trained" in consonance with the above policy.

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"The Ultimate Objective: The effective use of all manpower made available to the military establishment in the event of a major mobilization at some unknown date against an undetermined aggressor. The manpower to be utilized, in the event of another major war, in the Army without regard to antecedents or race."

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Honorable Brien McMahon -- 2

The National Guard of the United States is a Reserve Component of the Army of the United States and as such is administered, armed, uniformed, and trained by the Federal Government. The recruitment of enlisted men and the appointment of officers are a function delegated the National Guards of the several states, territories, and District of Columbia, operating under policies established by the War Department.

In the third paragraph of your letter you made reference to a gentleman by the name of Cramer. Major General Cramer commands the 43rd Infantry Division, composed of troops from Vermont, Rhode Island, and Connecticut. He is not in command of the National Guard of Connecticut. He is not in command of the National Guard of Connecticut. As a Division commander, General Cramer is bound by the policies of the War Department and by the policies enunciated by the military authorities of the States concerned.

I trust that the above information answers your questions.

Sincerely yours,



s/ Robert P. Patterson

Secretary of War

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UNITED STATES SENATE

WASHINGTON, D. C.

February 20, 1947

Honorable Robert P. Patterson
The Secretary of War
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Secretary:

Governor McConaughy has recently given out a statement to the effect that he deplors the segregation of Negro troops in the National Guard in the State of Connecticut.

He is quite lathered up at what he calls the "policy of discrimination of the War Department."

I have some recollection to the effect that this is not the policy of the War Department but this is left to the States, and if there is any discrimination in Connecticut in the National Guard against Negro troops, that it is being practiced by a gentleman by the name of Cramer who is in command of the National Guard and the fault lies with him.

Will you kindly advise me whether or not I am right? I am going to release your answer to the press together with a copy of this letter, but I shall not release this letter to the press until I receive your answer. I would appreciate receiving it speedily.



Sincerely yours,

s/ Brien McMahon
United States Senator