GENERAL

1. Is the fact that the elimination of segregated units would disband all the service personnel, the real reason for insisting upon a slow change of policy or no change at all?

2. The committee is considered with more than the extension of equality of treatment and opportunity to Negro service personnel. It is considered also with the discrimination of other persons because of race, religion or national origin. To what extent would you suggest that equality of treatment and opportunity is not being extended to Japanese, Mexicans, Jews and Catholics?

3. It is insisted that a gradual process in which time is all important is the practical approach to the problems with which the committee is concerned. Would you give the committee some suggestion as to what you think this program for gradual change should contain, and what relative period of time you have in mind?

4. It is insisted that my law or any similar law is not being corrected. We insist that it is entirely unnecessary to await a change in certain attitudes, especially in the South, and that waiting for that change will itself allow those attitudes to grow and become stronger. Would you suggest that a practical program of careful planning could or could not be effected in a reasonable period of time, say, three to five years?

ARMY (OFFICERS)

1. Has any special effort been made to increase the number of Negro officer trainees since the Gillum report?

2. To what degree have you accomplished an elimination of segregation in officer and enlisted training schools?

3. To what extent and with what speed could exceptional Negro enlisted officers be advanced in rank, be trained and advanced to ranks higher than that of captain?
4. Have you had any experience, whatever it is, with Negro officers serving over units which predominantly were made up of units enlisted personnel? If so, have there been any complaints?

5. Has the Army any companies in which there is segregation down to the platoon level? What is the record of the behavior of these companies?

6. If you were called upon to set under way a program of experimentation in segregation, would you suggest that it be developed from volunteer personnel or that it be developed with the assistance of unenlisted personnel upon what has been done?

7. If you were called upon to set under way a program for completely eliminating segregated units over a period of time, say 5 to 8 years, would you suggest that the segregation be started on the basic unit and training level, or on the assignment or duty level (after you will have had time to work with the men first)?

8. (This hypothetical may give the committee some idea of how serious your problem may be):

   Suppose you have a training installation made up of the companies, one of which is composed entirely of ensigns, officers and enlisted men.

   In planning the elimination of this segregated unit, would you (off-hand) suggest that it be done by making the Negro company an element or over-company company, creating a new three-company made up of 1/3 of the other three units, and then shrinking the complement of the 16 companies from the Negro Negro company?

   Or would you suggest that there be merely a gradual exchange of personnel between the companies as they stand until there be no longer exists a distinctly Negro company?

   Or a third alternative might be to leave the places up to the basic command with special staff and advisory assistance.

9. It has been suggested that much of the present pattern of segregation in the Army rests on certain old traditions and not upon expressed orders and regulations of the Army command itself. Is this true? And do you anticipate that this committee will have difficulty discovering what those traditions are?

Air Force

1. I understand that since the Air Force's segregation from the Army, its program has followed the civilian report. How far has the Air Force carried out the civilian report?
2. Would it be reasonable for the Air Force to say that as far as it is concerned the Gillen report is behind times, and that in the Air Force training and assignment of men without regard to race can more quickly be accomplished than in the ground Army? For example, in the Air Force, you are dealing with Negro calling individuals, both white and Negro, than in the ground Army.

3. In the last few years a great number of Negro youths have gone in for civilian training in radio, radar, television and communications. Has the Air Force felt their progress in potential Negro personnel?

NAVY

1. The Navy's record as to Negro officers has been far worse than that of the Army. What, if anything, has been done in the way of a special drive or program to increase Negro Naval officer personnel?

2. What has been done toward training Negroes for Navy flyers?

3. Has any special recruiting campaign, either through the regular recruiting machinery or through specially assigned recruiting officers to locate and bring into the Navy any of the young Negro men who are quite capable of the most important officer training assignments?

4. (It has been said that it is best and most democratic to stress the requirements of the most capable American citizen that the Navy can get regardless of their color. This is splendid for the "from below-up" program, where all other factors are equalized, but it is not sufficient in curing a deficiency in the present status which is the result of a hundred years of discrimination.) Does the Secretary realize the dual aspect of the problem of eliminating discrimination and segregation; that of contrasting patterns in all future dealings, and that of redesigning this severe differential presently existing. Has the Secretary been concerned with tackling the problem from both of these angles?

5. The Navy has special recruiting personnel who annually go into trade and professional schools (including law schools for example) for the purpose of introducing Negro students and encouraging them to enlist in the Navy as officers. Have any of these agents been instructed to pay particular attention to outstanding Negro seniors, or given special attention to the desires of the Navy to increase its Negro officer personnel?

6. It is understood that still more than 3/4ths of the enlisted Navy personnel are yet in the summer branch. Has any program been started to re-train or re-admit any of these men?

MARINES

1. Has the policy of not enlisting Negroes in the regular service been changed since the end of the war?
2. Within the last two years, what progress has been made toward using Negroes in other than the reserve branch of the marine?

3. Has there been any information within platoon units of the marines, as apart from any information of Negro platoons within marines companies?

4. How many Negroes are officers in the Marine? What is being done to maintain this Negroes situation?

(quote)

Will see you Monday mornings 9:00 A.M.

Sincerely,
John H. Rembert
Publisher and Editor