MARCH 25, 1949

CONFIRMATION

E. H. KENNEDY
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
THE PRESIDENT'S COMMITTEE ON EQUALITY OF TREATMENT
AND OPPORTUNITY IN THE ARMED SERVICES
C/O OFFICE OF SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D.C.

SUBJECT: ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOLLOW (QUOTE)

GENERAL

1. IS THE VIEW THAT THE ELIMINATION OF SEGREGATED UNITS WOULD NORMALIZE THE
SERVICE PERSONNEL, THE ONLY REASON FOR INSISTING UPON A SLOW CHANCE OF POLICY
OR NO CHANCE 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 NEUTRALIZATION OF OTHER UNIONS 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, JUDAS, AND CATHOLICS?

3. IT IS INSISTED THAT A GRADUAL PROCESS IN WHICH THE IS ALL IMPORTANT IS THE
PRACTICAL APPROACH TO THE PROBLEM WITH WHICH THIS COMMITTEE IS CONCERNED.
WILL YOU GIVE THIS COMMITTEE SOME SUGGESTION AS TO WHAT YOU THINK THE
PROGRAM FOR GRADUAL CHANGE SHOULD CONTAIN, AND WHAT RELATIVE PERIOD OF TIME
YOU HAVE IN MIND?

4. IT IS INSISTED THAT OUR LAW OF PLAT THE SITUATION CAN NOT BE CORRECTED.
WE INSIST THAT IT IS ENTIRELY UNNECESSARY TO WAIT A CHANGE IN CERTAIN
ATTITUDES, ESPECIALLY IN THE MILITARY, AND THAT Waiting FOR THAT CHANGE WILL
ITSELF ALLOW THOSE ATTITUDES TO GROW AND BECOME MORES. WOULD YOU SUGGEST
THAT A PRACTICAL PROGRAM OF CAREFUL PLANNING COULD OR COULD NOT BE EFFECTED
IN A REASONABLE PERIOD OF TIME, SAY 10 YEARS TO FIVE YEARS?

ARMY (OFFICERS)

1. HAS ANY SPECIAL EFFORT BEEN MADE TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF NEGRO OFFICER
TRAINING SINCE THE OLIVER REPORT?

2. TO WHAT EXTENT HAVE YOU ACCOMPLISHED AN ELIMINATION OF SEGREGATION IN
OFFICER AND SPECIALIST TRAINING SCHOOLS?

3. TO WHAT EXTENT AND WITH WHAT SPEED COULD SEGREGATION IN THE MILITARY BE
ELIMINATED OR INTEGRATED TO EXIST, BE TRAINED AND ADVANCED TO LEADERS
POSITIONS THAN THAT OF CAPTAIN?
4. Have you had any experience whatever with Negro officers serving over units which predominantly were made up of white enlisted personnel? If so, have there been any complaints?

Unlisted

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

6. If you were called upon to get under way a program of experimentation in integration, would you suggest that it be developed from volunteer personnel or that it be started with compulsory integration upon what was being done?

7. If you were called upon to get under way a program for completely eliminating segregated units over a period of time—say—5 to 6 years, would you suggest that the institution be started on the recruitment and training level, or on the assignment or duty level (after you would have had time to work with the men first)?

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

Suppose you have a training installation made up of the companies, one of which is composed entirely of Negro, 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 in over-complement company, creating a new three-company made up of 1/3 of the other three units, and then expelling the compliments of the 10 companies from the excess Negro company?

Or would you suggest that there be merely a gradual exchange of personnel between the companies as they stand until those of Negro origin are distinctly Negro company?

Or a third alternative might be to leave the plans up to the base 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 instructions 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. We understand that under the Air Force's designation 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 CONSIDERED THE GRIEL 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(UK WORDS CALLED INTELLIGENCE) BOTH WHITE AND BROWN, THAN IS THE GROUND ARMY.

3. IN THE LAST FEW YEARS A GROAT NUMBER OF NEGRO YOUTH HAVE GONE IN FOR CIVILIAN TRAINING IN RADIO, RADAR, TELEVISION AND COMMUNICATIONS. HAS THE AIR FORCE FULFILLED THEIR PROMISE 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 PILOT?

3. HAS ANY SPECIAL RECRUITING CAMPAIGN, EITHER THROUGH THE REGULAR RECRUITING MACHINERY OR THROUGH SPECIAL RECRUITING OFFICERS TO LOCATE AND BRING INTO THE NAVY ANY OF THE MANY YOUNG NEGRO MENS 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 ON THE MOST CAPABLE AMERICAN CITIZEN THAT THE NAVY CAN GET REGARDLESS OF THEIR COLOR. THIS IS SUPPORTED FOR THE "FROM-BELOW" PROGRAM, WHERE ALL OTHER FACTORS ARE EQUALIZED, BUT IT IS NOT SUFFICIENT IN ORNING A DISCRIMINATORY IN THE PRESENT STATUS WHICH IS THE RESULT OF A HUNDRED YEARS OF DISCRIMINATION.)

DOES THE NAVY REALIZE THE DUAL ASPECT OF THE PROBLEM OF ELIMINATING DISCRIMINATION AND SEGREGATION THAT OF COMPLETING PRESENTS IN ALL FUTURE DEALINGS, AND THAT OF REDUCING THE SEVERE HISTORICAL PROGRESSIVELY ELUSIVE, HAS THE SERVICE BEEN CONSIDERED 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 INSTRUCTING 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 SCHOOLS, OR GIVE SPECIAL ATTENTION TO THE DESIRS OF THE NAVY TO INCREASE ITS NEGRO OFFICER PERSONNEL?

6. WE UNDERSTAND THAT STILL MORE THAN 2/3RDS OF THE SELECTED NAVY PERSONNEL ARE YET IN THE SUGGESTIVE RECRUIT. HAS ANY PROGRAM BEEN STARTED TO RECRUIT OR RE-ENLIST ANY OF THESE MEN?

MARINES

1. HAS THE POLICY OF NOT ENLISTING NEGROES IN THE REGULAR MARINES BEEN CHANGED SINCE THE END OF THE WAR?
2. Within the last two years, what problems has been made toward using Seahawks in other than the regular Branch of the service?

3. Has there been any information to the Platoon units of the Marines, as apart from any information of being Platoons within Marine Companies?

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

[Quote]

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

Sincerely,
John M. Hawkins
Publisher and Editor