

THE PRESIDENT'S COMMITTEE ON EQUALITY
OF TREATMENT AND OPPORTUNITY
IN THE ARMED SERVICES

A. L. M. J.

27 August 1949



MEMORANDUM FOR THE FAHY COMMITTEE

SUBJECT: Two Incidents Worth Noting

1. Mr. Thomas F. Bomar, Special Assistant to the Postmaster General, deals with matters pertaining to discrimination against Negroes in the Postoffice Department, and travels extensively. He came to my home to tell me of an incident observed by him while en route from Little Rock, Arkansas to Memphis, Tennessee, on Missouri Pacific Train 220, Thursday, August 25, 1949. Mr. Bomar was sitting in the main part of the diner when four enlisted men came in to be served. Two of the men were white, two Negro, and the steward informed them that they would have to occupy separate tables. The non-commissioned officer in charge insisted that they were together, but the steward insisted that he must place the Negroes in a special section reserved for them. It was at this point, according to Mr. Bomar, that one of the white men, who he later learned came from Arkansas, spoke up and said: "We work together, we sleep together, and we're going to eat together."

One of the Negro boys said. "If we are not served together I will write to Mr. Evans who will see that the President's Committee learns about this."

As a result of the stand taken all the men were seated in the main part of the diner and had their meal together.

2. In a report made on a visit to Camp Meade reference was made to the discussion with General Gerow and others concerning the use of the swimming pool and the difficulty they anticipated if swimming was not kept racially separated. The policy of the post has been that Negroes will use the pool assigned to them.

Information has come to this office that recently a young woman living on the post, wife of a Negro sergeant, wanted to take her young son for a swim, but learned that the pool assigned to Negroes was temporarily closed for repairs. She made inquiry at the headquarters office as to what she could do about swimming, and was told that she could use any pool on the post. Following this information she and her son went to the white swimming pool and enjoyed a swim together with no questions asked nor any unpleasant incident following as a result of the use of the pool.

Jos. H.B. Evans
Associate Executive Secretary