

*Mr. Dwight Palmer
dist. to members on
Wednesday evening, 5-21-49,
at Committee meeting, Washington, 10/4.*

A SUGGESTED PROGRAM FOR DISCUSSION

1. Check White House re any current variation in the President's expressed desires.
2. Essential to inform President re change in Secretary of War's decision since our Chairman's memorandum of September 26, 1949.
3. To allay criticism and even possible renewal of Civil Disobedience plans, "member of the committee" or chairman make announcement to the Press. "A member (or Chairman) of The President's Committee on Equality of Treatment and Opportunity in the Armed Services, when asked what position the President's Committee would take in view of the recently expressed policy of Secretary Gray and reported endorsed by Secretary of Defense Louis Johnson, stated that 'our Committee was appointed by the President to do a job, and the members of the Committee are unanimous in their intention to see their program through to a successful conclusion. Both the Air Corps and the Navy have as a result of many conferences with the Committee instituted plans conforming in stated policy with the Committee's recommendations. The President's Committee expects no less of the Army and is convinced, in view of Executive Order 9981 issued by the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Services, and the Secretary of Defense's release of April 20, 1949 reading (quote), that by continuing negotiations with the Army with all cards on the table face up, the Committee will obtain its objectives.' The member (or Chairman) also expressed 'the hope that all interested parties resist the temptation to form quick opinions or issue public or private criticism or challenges which, though made with the best of intentions, could conceivably materially delay or hinder the efforts of the Committee. The policies adopted by the Navy and the Air Corps plus progress to date with the Army strengthen the Committee's opinion of its opportunities for success.'"
4. Chairman to write Secretary Gray, pointing out variance between his stated policy at our meeting of September 16, 1949 with him and his release of September 30, 1949 and asking for an appointment to proceed from where we left off as of the date of that meeting.
5. Send Secretary Johnson copy with a covering memorandum, quoting his April 20, 1949 release, and calling his attention to the expressed policies of the Air Corps and Navy —



cite that much progress has been made with the Army since our appointment on September 18, 1948 and inform him of our intention to continue negotiations with the Army to insure carrying out the President's Order and his (the Secretary's) expressed views released April 20, 1949.

6. (Doubtful): Consider the possibility of interesting several outstanding citizens in coming out publicly to express hope that the Army will adopt the recommendations of the President's Committee and practice in the Army (not just in the Navy and Air Corps) the tenets of Freedom and Equal Opportunity which America claims for all its people.
7. Renew our pledge among ourselves that we will stick together and see this through to a successful conclusion, barring no holds to accomplish our duty.

