

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

SECOND DRAFT
IMPIETE'S SUNDAY,
9 OCTOBER, AND
SENT TO COM-
MITTEE SPECIAL
DELIVERY

6 October
1949

FURTHER INTERIM REPORT TO THE PRESIDENT

A further Interim Report is made to the President at this time because of the announcement September 30, 1949, of approval by Secretary of Defense Louis Johnson of a program proposed by the Department of the Army to give greater assurance of equality of treatment and opportunity to Army personnel. Approval had been previously given by the Secretary of Defense to policies of the Air Force (May 11, 1949) and the Navy (June 7, 1949), both of which services met standards of policy deemed satisfactory by the Committee. The policy of the Army remained a matter of active consideration and discussion between the Army and the Committee.

The Committee met October 5, 1949, to consider the terms of the announcement of September 30, 1949, regarding the Army program. We respectfully comment on that program as follows: .

1. We entirely approve the provisions which open Military Occupational Specialties (MOS) to qualified personnel without regard to race, which abolish the present Negro quotas for selection



to attend Army Schools and which require that such selection will be made from the best qualified personnel without regard to race or color. These provisions conform with recommendations made to the Army by the Committee. The Committee assumes that these provisions will apply not only to new enlistments but to personnel already assigned to units.

Furthermore, it is the Committee's intention that additional Negro units will not be formed in order to create spaces to absorb Negro personnel who receive schooling and acquire technical occupational specialties as a result of the Army's removing racial restrictions on MOS and service schools.

2. We also approve the statement of policy regarding promotions, which conforms with present practice.

3. We also approve the provision that ROTC students attending summer training camps as members of school units to which they are regularly assigned will be trained with those units without regard to race or color.

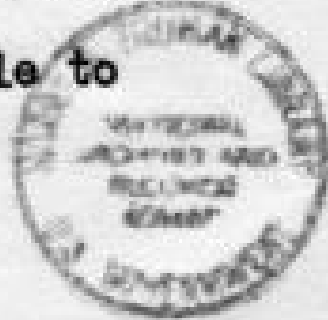
4. The benefit of the new policy of opening Military Occupational Specialties (MOS) to all personnel without regard to race or color and abolishing the present Negro quotas for Army Schools (Points 1 and 2 of the Army program) will be nullified to a considerable degree by the failure of the program to provide that



personnel, to whom these opportunities will be accorded, will be assigned without regard to race or color. Unless assignments are so made, and are not restricted as at present to Negro and overhead units, the principle of equality of treatment and opportunity is not carried forward and the manpower of the Army is not utilized to best advantage. The Committee feels that this further logical step is required to effectuate the President's Executive Order 9981 and the statement of the Secretary of Defense of April 6, 1949. Furthermore, failure to do so would create a differential between the racial policies of the three services -- a differential at variance with the President's expressed intention and the concept of a unified National Defense program.

5. There remains for further consideration the suggestion which the Committee has made to the Army for the abolition of the 10% racial quota. We are glad to note that the Secretary of the Army declares that the Army is continuing its study of this matter. We will continue our discussions with the Army on this point in the hope of reaching a satisfactory solution.

6. We note that in the announcement of September 30, 1949, Secretary Gray refers to a new reenlistment policy under which the Army limits reenlistments to those who during the first regular enlistment qualify for promotion to Private First Class, if unmarried, and to Corporal, if married, and that all personnel are eligible to



win these promotions. The Secretary states that this policy is expected to produce greater economy and efficiency by gradually eliminating those who fail to demonstrate the capacity to advance; and that its progressive application will assure continuing opportunities to highly-qualified individuals, both Negroes and others, to enlist. This policy is consistent with suggestions made by the Committee.

To summarize, the Committee believes (1) that the program announced September 30, 1949, should now be supplemented so as to make clear that all personnel to whom under the new policy all Military Occupational Specialties are open and to whom all Army School courses are open, both without regard to race or color, shall also be assigned according to their qualifications without regard to race or color; and (2) that the Committee's consideration with the Army of the quota enlistment and other problems should be continued.

Charles Fahy
Charles Fahy
Chairman
For the Committee

