I have just received the report of the President's Committee on Equality of Treatment and Opportunity in the Armed Services. For the past two years, this Committee has been working diligently to find ways and means to bring about true equality of opportunity for everyone in military service.

I have followed the work closely, and I know that it has poured energy into the problem, which is not a simple one, and has been careful to keep up the need for military efficiency.

As the Committee explored personal practices in the Armed Services, the members of the staff worked in the closest possible consultation with the Navy, the Army and the Air Force. In fact, the consultation was so close and continuous that the Committee's recommendations grew naturally out of the joint discussions. The Service have accepted all of the Committee's recommendations.

It is, therefore, with a great deal of confidence that I learn from the Committee that the present programs of the three Services are destined to accomplish the objectives of the President and that in these programs are carried out, there will be, within the reasonable near future, equality of treatment and opportunity for all persons in the Armed Services, with a consequent improvement in military efficiency.

I attach the highest importance to the Committee's assignment. In the Committee's own words, equality of treatment and opportunity in the Armed Services is right, it is just, and it will strengthen the nation. That is true throughout our entire national life.

All men and women of our people have shared the opportunity to enter the good things of life, and have developed confidence in the willingness of their fellow Americans to extend equal treatment to them, our country has grown great and strong.

Today, the three people of the world are looking to us for the moral leadership that will unite them in a common purpose. The free nations of the world are counting on our strength to sustain that as they mobilize their energies to resist Communist imperialism.

We have accepted these responsibilities gladly and fully. We shall meet them with the sure knowledge that as our men served in the solution of our own problems in accordance with the methods of our national ideals - the belief that all men are created equal.

John F. Kennedy and the members of his Committee have been using in the time and energy they have devoted to their mission. Every American who believes sincerely in the importance of the Committee and the Toleration of Disposition seems them a debt of gratitude.

This Report is submitted to the United States Senate in considering a motion to take up a Full Diplomatic Protection Bill. The work of the President's Committee on Equality of Treatment and Opportunity in the Armed Services shows what can be accomplished by a Committee in this time, this place. I hope that Senate will take this report into consideration as it debates the merits of S.1237, and that, as I urged in my State of the Union Message in January, it will permit this important measure to come to a vote.

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