

NOV 17 1949

Dear Judge Fahy:

I acknowledge your letter of November 8, in which you refer to my memorandum to the press of November 3rd, 1949 concerning utilization of Negro Manpower in the Army (copy attached).

As you will observe from its contents, the purpose of this memorandum is self-explanatory and did not constitute the announcement of a new policy.

The Army's policy on the entire subject continues to be in conformity with my memorandum for the Secretary of Defense, dated September 30, 1949 (copy attached) which, as you know, was approved. Immediately following such approval, its contents were transmitted by wire to all Army Commands for effectuation; and the policy then promulgated has been in continuous effect since October 1. I am confident that the progressive and substantial change in policy which was then brought about will produce significant results within the next few months.

During the conference in my office on Friday, September 16, 1949, which you, Mr. Palmer and the Secretary of your committee attended, we discussed at some length the various aspects of the Army's manpower procurement problems with relationship to the numerical quota, and we presented the Army's actual G.C.T. experience figures over the years since 1941. In connection with your proposal that some substitute be found for the numerical quota, I specifically recall that you and Mr. Palmer both recognized that any substitute must afford assurance against a disproportion between Negro and other personnel within the Army.

The proposal made by your committee to abolish the numerical quota and, in the alternative, to rely upon the estimated distribution of G.C.T. scores throughout the total United States manpower pool, would afford no such assurance except, perhaps, during total mobilization. During the course of our discussion it developed that there were differences between the interpretations placed upon the Army's G.C.T. experience figures by the committee's staff on the one hand, and by the Army's staff on the other. At your request, it was agreed that a representative of the Personnel and Administration Division would be available to the staff of your committee for consultation for the purpose of seeking a resolution of these differing interpretations. Colonel B. M. McFayden, who was named to you at the time, continues to be available for this purpose. In line with this arrangement, Mr. Kenworthy's memorandum was referred to Colonel McFayden and I am informed that a response will shortly be placed in Mr. Kenworthy's hands. I have directed that this response be expedited.



I have repeatedly declared that the Army is prepared to adopt a substitute for the numerical quota if one could be devised which afforded assurance against a disproportion between Negro and other personnel within the Army in peace as well as war time. After a most careful examination into the subject, I am compelled to conclude that nothing has been suggested by your committee which approaches this requirement.

Sincerely,



Gordon Gray
Secretary of the Army



- 2 Incls
1. cy Memo to Press
3 Nov 49
2. cy Memo to S/D
30 Sep 49

Honorable Charles Fahy, Chairman
The President's Committee on Equality
of Treatment and Opportunity in the
Armed Services
Washington 25, D. C.

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MEMORANDUM TO THE PRESS:

In answer to an inquiry Secretary of the Army Gordon Gray emphasized today that there has been no change in the policy concerning equality of opportunity in the Army as announced on September 30, 1949. He said that an administrative message sent to the Army Commanders on October 27, 1949 violates this announced policy and that as soon as it came to his attention he ordered it rescinded.

Secretary Gray said that no individual who qualifies for a Military Occupational Specialty will be denied the opportunity to follow it because of race or color. This policy guarantees that qualified Negro soldiers will be given equal opportunity with other qualified soldiers to practice their specialties if vacancies exist for these specialties.

Secretary Gray stated that it was anticipated that as a result of the announced policy qualified Negro specialists would be assigned to some white units. He said this does not mean that existing Negro units will be broken up or that Negro personnel of these units will be scattered throughout the Army.

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