MEMORANDUM FOR MR. BURSTON

SUBJECT: Negro manpower pool.

In the meeting which Secretary Gray, General Holley and I had with Mr. Phily and Mr. Walker on September 10, you will recall, it was agreed that the memorandum would submit to the committee the figures on which it based its belief that, even under a GOT quota system as proposed by the committee, there would be a likelihood of getting a Negro strength of 30-40 percent.

A week or so ago Colonel McPadden in PAA sent Mr. Bonsi, one of his statisticians, around to see me, and Mr. Bonsi left with me a copy of a memorandum which he had prepared for Colonel McPadden, which apparently formed the basis for the Army's conclusions. I enclose a copy of Mr. Bonsi's memorandum.

You will note that he makes two points: (1) that 51,000 Negro men are turning 18 each month (2) that experience of September, 1948, shows that between 2,200 and 3,000 Negroes over GOT 60 are ready, willing and able to enlist each month.

I enclose a copy of a memorandum I sent to Mr. Bonsi after examining his figures. In this memorandum I make the point that while it is true that 51,000 Negroes turn 18 each month, this basic pool must be scaled down to take account of those who cannot meet the physical and mental qualifications and those who are in school. As to Mr. Bonsi's second point, I agree that in September, 1948, slightly over 2,000 Negro men enlisted or re-
enlisted in the Army and Air Force. However, almost 40 percent of these men were below 507 80. 

I enclose also a chart which I have prepared, which gives a picture of white and Negro enlistments and reenlistments for the whole fiscal year 1947, as well as percentages of both whites and Negroes falling below 507 80. I think you will find this chart significant.

E. H. Nenworth 
Executive Secretary