

14 October
1949

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. BENDETSSEN

SUBJECT: Negro Manpower Pool

In the meeting which Secretary Gray, General Haislip and you had with Mr. Fahy and Mr. Palmer on September 16, you will recall, it was agreed that Personnel and Administration would submit to the Committee the figures on which it based its belief that, even under a GCT 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 McFayden in P&A sent Mr. Bonis, one of his statisticians, around to see me, and Mr. Bonis left with me a copy of a memorandum which he had prepared for Colonel McFayden, and which apparently formed the basis for the Army's conclusion. I enclose a copy of Mr. Bonis' memorandum.

You will note that he makes two points: (1) that 11,000 Negro men are turning 18 each month; (2) that experience of September, 1948, shows that between 2,000 and 3,000 Negroes over GCT 80 are ready, willing and able to enlist each month.

I enclose a copy of a memorandum I sent to Mr. Bonis after examining his figures. In this memorandum I make the point that while it is true that 11,000 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. Bonis' 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 GCT 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 1949, as well as percentages of both Whites and Negroes falling below GCT 80. I think you will find this chart significant.

E. W. Kenworthy
Executive Secretary

