MEMORANDUM FOR MR. BIMSTIE

SUBJECT: Negro manpower pool

14 October 1949

In the meeting which Secretary Gray, General Holley and you, Mr. Phry and Mr. Palmer on September 16th, you will recall, it was agreed that personnel and administration would submit to the Committee figures on which it based its belief that, even under a GDT 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 McPherson in PAA sent Mr. Bimstie, one of his statisticians, around to see me, and Mr. Bimstie left with me a copy of a memorandum which he had prepared for Colonel McPherson, and which apparently formed the basis for the Army's conclusions. I enclose a copy of Mr. Bimstie's 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 GDT 50 are ready, willing, and able to enlist each month.

I enclose a copy of a memorandum I sent to Mr. Bimstie after examining his figures. In this memorandum I take 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. Bimstie'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 30.

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 300. I think you will find this 
chart significant.

H. H. Kenworthy 
Executive Secretary