MEMORANDUM FOR Mr. BURTON

SUBJECT: Negro manpower pool

In the meeting which Secretary Grew, General Wofford and you had with Mr. Phily and Mr. Palmer on September 19, 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 GPT 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 PMA sent Mr. Bona, one of his statisticians, around to see me, and Mr. Bona 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 conclusions. I enclose a copy of Mr. Bona’s memorandum.

You will note that he makes two points: (1) that 13,000 Negro men are turning 18 each month; (2) that experience of September, 1944, shows that between 2,000 and 3,000 Negroes over GPT 80 are ready, willing and able to enlist each month.

I enclose a copy of a memorandum I sent to Mr. Bona after examining his figures. In this memorandum I raise the point that, while it is true that 13,000 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. Bona’s second point, I agree that in September, 1944, 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 157 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 1939, as well as percentages of both Whites and Negros falling below 157 80. I think you will find this chart significant.

R. W. Kennworthy
Executive Secretary