

30 August 1949

Major General James E. Edmonds, NGUS, Ret.
535 Garfield Avenue
Milford, Ohio

Dear General Edmonds:

Thank you very much for your letter of August 25, which I have today, asking for any additional information which we may have on the status of the Army's policy on equality of treatment and opportunity. Discussions are still going forward between the President's Committee and the Office of the Secretary of the Army and Chief of Staff, on the policy and program for the Army. Therefore, I have not anything very definite to give you at the present time, and it isn't likely I will have for a few weeks yet.

For your information only, I might tell you that the President's Committee has not recommended to the Army that it break up immediately its segregated units. Rather, the Committee has concentrated its attention on getting the best utilization out of more highly qualified Negroes in the Army. To this end, the Committee has recommended:

- (1) That all MOS be opened to all qualified men;
- (2) That all Army schools be opened to qualified personnel;
- (3) That qualified men upon completion of Army courses be utilized as they are needed without regard to race;
- (4) That the present racial quota be abandoned in favor of a quota based on GCT.

At present, there are over 70 MOS for which there are no Negro authorizations. Furthermore, only 19 percent of the Army school courses are open to Negroes. The recommendation for a substitution of AGCT for a racial quota is intended to implement the original proposal of the



Gillem Board that the "professional private" should not be allowed to re-enlist indefinitely. As you may know, there have been no Negro enlistments for five months because the quota is presently filled. The effect of this policy is to foreclose the enlistment of qualified Negroes while permitting the re-enlistment of low score men. These are the essential recommendations of the President's Committee and discussions are progressing on the basis of these recommendations.

In reply to your question about recreational facilities, the Committee has made no recommendations on that as yet because it is, so far, satisfied with the policy of the Gillem Board Report which stipulates that recreational facilities would be open to all personnel regardless of race. As a matter of practice, however, individual units of sufficient size usually have their own recreational facilities.

You may be interested to know the Navy now has a policy of complete integration in its general ratings and that enlisted men now work, mess and bunk without any segregation. The Navy has also recently agreed, in response to recommendations of the President's Committee, that chief stewards shall have the rating of chief petty officer; that segregated Marine Negro units will be disabandoned and integrated with white units; that some Negro Reserve officers will be recalled for service with the recruiting program.

As you may also know, the Air Force is currently dissolving its Negro fighter wing stationed at Lockbourne Field and almost all Negroes are being reclassified and reassigned. The flying personnel in the 332d Fighter Wing are being sent to various Air Bases for further training and schooling.

I am enclosing a list of the 16 conferees with the organizations they represented, who met with Secretary Forrestal in April 1948.

I was in Ohio two weeks ago to see President Stevenson of Oberlin, a member of the Committee and I regret that I did not have the time to make the journey to Cincinnati to see you. I appreciate your continuing interest in the work of the President's Committee and I hope that you will freely call upon the Committee staff at any time for material you may need.

Inasmuch as discussions are still going on with the Army, I ask you to keep confidential the recommendations which have been made to the Secretary of the Army by the Committee.

I assure you that as soon as a new policy and program are adopted by the Army I will inform you of its details.

Sincerely yours,

E. W. Kenworthy
Executive Secretary



NATIONAL DEFENSE CONFERENCE ON NEGRO AFFAIRS

Washington, D. C. - April 26, 1948

Attendance -

Mr. Ira F. Lewis, President, The Pittsburgh Courier, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
Dr. Benjamin E. Mays, President, Morehouse College, Atlanta, Georgia
Mr. Loren Miller, Attorney at Law, 1105 E. Varnon Avenue, Los Angeles, California
Mr. Hobson E. Reynolds, Improved Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks
Philadelphia, Pa.
Dr. Channing H. Tobias, Director, Phelps-Stokes Foundation, New York, N.Y.
Mr. George L. P. Weaver, United Transport Service Employees, Chicago, Ill.
Mr. Roy Wilkins, Assistant Secretary, National Association for the Advancement
of Colored People, New York, N.Y.

Defense Staff

Hon. James Forrestal, Secretary of Defense
Hon. Robert P. Patterson, Former Secretary of War
Mr. Marx Leva, Special Assistant to the Secretary of Defense
Capt. Robert W. Berry, USN, Assistant to the Secretary of Defense
Mr. James C. Evans, Advisor to the Secretary of Defense
Col. J. L. Chamberlain, USA, Army Liaison Officer, Office of Secretary of Defense
Cmdr. E. John Long, USN, Navy Liaison Officer, Office of Secretary of Defense
Col. Joseph C. Reddoch, USAF, Air Force Liaison Officer, Office of Secretary of
Defense

Consultants and Official Observers

Brig. Gen. B. O. Bavis, USA, Special Assistant to Secretary of the Army
Col. Campbell C. Johnson, ORC, Executive Assistant to Director of Selective Service
Maj. Harriet West, WAC, Adjutant General's Department
Lt. Cmdr. E. S. Hope, USNR, Howard University, Washington, D. C.
Lt. Col. George S. Roberts, USAF, AIR ROTC, Tuskegee Institute, Alabama

Department of the Army

Hon. Kenneth C. Royall, Secretary of the Army
Col. Robert A. Ginsburgh, USA, Executive Assistant to Secretary of the Army

Department of the Navy

Hon. John Nicholas Brown, Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Air)
Capt. Fred Stickney, USN, Bureau of Naval Personnel



Department of the Air Force

Hon. Stuart W. Symington, Secretary of the Air Force
Lt. Gen. Idwal H. Edwards, USAF, Deputy Chief of Staff, Personnel and Administration
Col. H. K. Mooney, USAF

Conference Aides

Lt. John T. Martin, ORC
Lt. Dennis D. Nelson, USNR
Lt. Willard W. Savoy, USAFR

Conferees

Mr. Lester B. Granger, Executive Secretary, National Urban League, New York, N.Y.
Dr. Sadie T. M. Alexander, Attorney at Law, Philadelphia, Pa.
Dr. John W. Davis, President, West Virginia State College Institute, West Virginia
Mr. Truman K. Gibson, Attorney at Law, Chicago, Ill.
Rev. Bishop J. W. Gregg, Kansas City, Kansas
Mr. Charles Houston, Attorney at Law, Washington, D. C.
Rev. John H. Johnson, St. Martins Church, New York, N.Y.
Dr. Mordecai Johnson, President, Howard University, Washington, D. C.
Mr. P. B. Young, Jr., Norfolk Journal and Guide, Norfolk, Va.



MEMORANDUM

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Please return to me for my
mailing list file.

ap

From
James E. Edmonds
(Maj. Gen. N. G. U. S.-Ret.)
535 Garfield Avenue
MILFORD, Ohio

Thursday: 25/-VIII-/49

Cable Address
Edmoncino
Telephone
Milford 5242
Tel. thru Cincinnati

To
Mr. Edwin W. Kenworthy,
Executive Secretary,
Committee on Equality of Treatment and Opportunity
in the Armed Services,

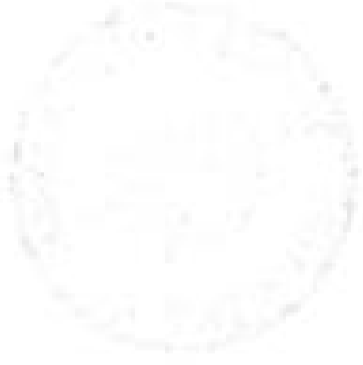
The Pentagon,
WASHINGTON 25
DC.

Dear Mr. Kenworthy: Mr. Roberts, of the OPI, writes me that he has discussed with you, my search for information on the status of the activity in which you are concerned. He sent me material of considerable volume. It stops short, however, of giving me the finally agreed program for the Army. How much of the Gillem Board's plan remains? Is "complete integration" in work? Are camp and post recreational facilities for enlisted men no longer to be "effectively segregated" as hitherto has been the case?

I will appreciate being given the answers to these questions. I would also like to be provided the names of the sixteen conferees with Secretary Forrestal et al., in April of '48, and the organizations they spoke for.

And of course I'd like to be on your mailing list for further material which develops, and for the complete reports of the hearings. . .

Thank you!



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To
Mr. Edwin W. Kenworthy,
Executive Secretary,
Committee on Equality of Treatment and
Opportunity in the Armed Services,

The PENTAGON,
Washington 25
DC.