WASHINGTON—Rep. Rankin (R-Miss.) today disapproved that President Truman
revoke his order against segregation in the armed forces.
Rankin told the House the order was "one of the greatest blunders
that could possibly have been made at this time."
"If we get into another conflict, it would do more to cripple our
national defense than anything else that has taken place since Pearl
Harbor," Rankin said. He added:
"I am appealing to the President through this Record to revoke that
order at once and not let it cripple our national defense in this
critical hour.
"The country has just witnessed a tragic example when a Boeing plane
was forced over to a Bolivian airport, who could not pass the examina-
tion for a pilot's license in this country. The result was one of the
most disastrous lies planes crashes this country ever saw. In which he
killed 80 of the finest Americans who ever lived,—including a
distinguished member of the Congress of the United States.
"I don't know who advised the President to issue this order, but
I sincerely hope that he will realize its dangers and revoke it at
once, and not permit it to cripple our armed forces, or to impair
our program of national defense at this critical time."

P. S.