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RANKIN

WASHINGTON--REP. RANKIN (D-MISS) TODAY DEMANDED 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 BOMBER PLANE WAS TURNED OVER TO A BOLIVIAN NEGRO, WHO COULD NOT PASS THE EXAMINATION FOR A PILOT'S LICENSE IN THIS COUNTRY. THE RESULT WAS ONE OF THE MOST DISASTROUS AIR PLANE CRASHES THIS COUNTRY EVER SAW, IN WHICH HE KILLED 58 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 INJURE OUR PROGRAM OF NATIONAL DEFENSE AT THIS CRITICAL TIME."

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