

There is some excellent news at hand right now about the normally bad situation of racial discrimination in the Armed Forces. Months ago the President appointed the Fahy Committee to push for equality in the services, and therereports from field surveys are coming in. The Army is just beginning to integrate Negroes and whites in its jobs and schools. But Air Force and Navy have already made some very real progress. There are 26,000 Negroes in the Air Force; 71 per cent are now completely integrated--sleeping, studying, working, eating, side by side with whites. In a few months, all will be integrated. Field investigators now find the Officer and Service Clubs without discrimination. They find Negroes and whites together at Air Force swimming pools and dances. The amount of mixing varies from place to place. But it is none the less a remarkable change. And in every place the transition has occurred with remarkably little trouble. Even southern officers who personally do not like it tell the investigators, almost invariably, that the integration is working. There is less friction and not more. At the end of the war 95 per cent of the Negroes in general ratings in the Navy were confined to the Steward Branch; today only 58 per cent. One can only suggest in this limited space the full story of what is happening. But as one of the field investigators puts it, what is going on is a kind of quiet social revolution. We feel, he said, that in time this will have an incalculable effect upon the civilian population.

