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at 205

SPGC-L  
201 Miller, Gaston

February 20, 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF WAR  
(Attention: Acting Civilian Aide, Mr. Truman K. Gibson)

Subject: Alleged Racial Discrimination against Mr. Gaston B.  
Miller, Richmond, Kentucky.

1. As requested in the memorandum from your office, an investigation of this case of alleged racial discrimination has been made by the office of the Chief of Ordnance, results of which are as follows:

a. Mr. Gaston B. Miller wrote to the Blue Grass Ordnance Depot, Richmond, Kentucky on June 2, 1942 requesting information regarding employment and on June 5, 1942 his letter was answered enclosing therewith an application for employment. Completed application of Mr. Miller was received July 8, 1942 and in the space provided for position applied for applicant had inserted the statement "employment for which I am best suited." This notation was ruled out by the local Civil Service Board and over it was inserted "Guard" or "Janitor."

b. The local Civil Service Board, Richmond, Kentucky, rated the applicant eligible for a position as Senior Guard, CPC-5, \$1,680.00 per annum, or as Janitor CPC-2, \$1,200.00. He was notified by letter to report for interview September 28, 1942 for the position as Senior Guard. The applicant was interviewed by Chief Vice, Head of the Guard Force, and was rejected because of lack of qualifying experience. He was again interviewed on December 11, 1942 and rejected for the same reason.

c. Mr. Miller had erroneously been certified as eligible by the Richmond, Kentucky Civil Service Board and this error was discovered upon his being interviewed for the position. The qualifications necessary for Senior Guard position at this Station are that the applicant either have a minimum of twelve months experience or service as a policeman or guard or one years duty in the military service.

Since Mr. Miller has only had eleven months service as a World War Veteran he did not meet the minimum requirements and the local

CONFIDENTIAL

Civil Service Board was notified to that effect. The cancellation of the eligibility certification as guard still left Mr. Miller eligible for janitor, and as soon as a position in that classification was opened he was notified of that fact and has since been appointed a janitor CPC-2 \$1,200.00 per annum and is now working under that classification.

2. Should your office feel that this reply is unsatisfactory or incomplete, we shall be glad to direct a further investigation.

For the Commanding General:

JAMES T. O'CONNELL  
Lt. Colonel, General Staff Corps  
Executive Officer  
Industrial Personnel Division

CONFIDENTIAL

March 5, 1943

Mr. George M. Johnson,  
Assistant Executive Secretary,  
President's Committee on Fair  
Employment Practice,  
Tenth and U Streets, N. W.,  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Johnson:

On January 9, 1943, you forwarded to this office the complaint of Mr. Gaston B. Miller, Richmond, Kentucky, alleging that racial discrimination had been practiced against him in his effort to secure employment as a Senior Guard, at the Blue Grass Ordnance Depot, Richmond, Kentucky.

The report of the investigation states that Mr. Miller's application for employment was received on July 8, 1942, and in the space provided for position applied for he had inserted the statement "employment for which I am best suited." I am informed that this notation had been ruled out by the local Civil Service Board and over it had been inserted the words "Guard" or "Janitor."

He was eligible for a position as Senior Guard CPC-5, \$1680 a year or as Janitor CPC-2, \$1200 a year. He was interviewed on September 28, and December 11, and was rejected because of lack of qualifying experience.

It was discovered upon his being interviewed that he had been erroneously certified as eligible. The qualifications necessary for Senior Guard at the Blue Grass Ordnance Depot are a minimum of twelve months experience or service as a policeman or guard, or one year's duty in the military service. Mr. Miller had only eleven months service as a World War Veteran. The cancellation of the eligibility certificate as Guard still left him eligible for Janitor and as soon as a position in that classification was opened he was notified and has since been appointed Janitor, CPC-2, \$1200 and is now working under that classification.

You may wish to check this report with Mr. Miller. If so, I shall be pleased to have any information at variance with the report which you may receive.

Truman K. Gibson, Jr.  
Acting Civilian Aide to the Secretary  
of War

January 11, 1943

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Director of the Civilian Personnel Division,  
Services of Supply,  
Attention: Mr. Lemuel Foster

This office has received from the President's Committee on Fair Employment Practice the complaint of Mr. Gaston B. Miller, Richmond, Kentucky, alleging that racial discrimination was practiced against him in his effort to secure employment as a Senior Guard at the Blue Grass Ordnance Depot, Richmond, Kentucky.

Mr. Miller states that on June 9, 1942, he received an eligible rating for Senior Guard; that under date of September 24, 1942, First Lieutenant Humbert O. Nelli requested him to report for an interview; that he reported for the interview on September 28 and was referred to Mr. Vice, the Chief Guard, who promised to let him hear from him in a few days; that hearing nothing from Mr. Vice, he called and had another interview with him but received no satisfaction.

Mr. Miller further states that later he called Mr. Love in the Personnel Office, who told him "They had not put on any colored guards and did not know whether they would or not and for me to come out as maybe he could help out on something else I could do." Mr. Miller states that when he reported, Mr. Love offered him a position as service man for the officers at a salary of \$100 a month, which he refused.

May the facts in this case be investigated to determine whether there has been any violation of the directives prohibiting racial discrimination in the selection of Federal employees?

This office also has received from the President's Committee on Fair Employment Practice the complaint of Mr. Clarence Shelby White, Lexington, Kentucky, alleging discriminatory treatment of Negro employees of the Blue Grass Ordnance Depot, Ammunition Department.

*Handwritten:*  
Lemuel Foster  
11  
C. W. A.

Director of Civilian Personnel Division,  
January 11, 1943,  
Page 2

Mr. White states as follows:

"To reach our first destination, we travel a distance of thirty-five miles, then we travel two miles to another point and unload. Regardless of weather conditions, we are left standing in the weather from thirty to sixty minutes before we are reloaded to be carried to our working quarters. After reaching our quarters, we are forced to stand outside another thirty or forty minutes before we are let inside. On our return trip these same unnecessary conditions are forced upon us.

Mr. White also states that employees are embarrassed because their pay checks are not delivered to them when due.

May this office have a report on the facts in this case?

Civilian Aide to the Secretary  
of War

PRESIDENT'S COMMITTEE ON FAIR EMPLOYMENT PRACTICE  
WAR MANPOWER COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

MALCOLM S. MACLEAN  
CHAIRMAN  
WILLIAM GREEN  
MILTON P. WEBSTER  
LAWRENCE W. CRAMER  
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

DAVID SARNOFF  
EARL B. DICKERSON  
PHILIP MURRAY  
MARK ETHRIDGE

January 9, 1943

Honorable William H. Hastie  
Civilian Aide to the Secretary of War  
War Department  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Judge Hastie:

This office has received a complaint from Mr. Gaston R. Miller, 122 Holly Street, Richmond, Kentucky that he has been unable to secure employment at the Blue Grass Ordnance Depot, Richmond, Kentucky because of his race.

He states that on or about June 8, 1942 he filled out application blanks for employment at the Blue Grass Ordnance Depot and on June 9 received a notice of an eligible rating for Senior Guard, \$1,680 per annum. Subsequently he received a notice dated September 24 (BGOD #18) signed by First Lieutenant Humbert O. Nelli requesting him to report for an interview for a position as Senior Guard which was then open. On September 28 he reported to the Blue Grass Ordnance Depot and was referred to a Mr. Vice, the Chief of Guards, who promised to inform him further in a few days. Hearing nothing from Mr. Vice, he called again and reported for another interview with Mr. Vice but received no further satisfaction.

Later Mr. Miller states that he called a Mr. Love in the Personnel Department who made the statement "They had not put out on any colored guards and did not know whether they would or not and for me to come out as maybe he could help out on something else I could do."

Mr. Miller states further that when he reported again Mr. Love offered him a position as service man for



Honorable William F. Hastie     -2-     January 9, 1943

the officers at a salary of \$100 per month which he refused to take.

It is requested that this matter be investigated and a report be furnished this office upon completion of this investigation.

Sincerely yours,



George M. Johnson  
Assistant Executive Secretary



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PRESIDENT'S COMMITTEE ON FAIR EMPLOYMENT PRACTICE  
WAR MANPOWER COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Date January 1, 1943

The Honorable  
William H. Hastie  
Civilian Aide  
War Department  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Judge Hastie:

I transmit herewith two copies of an allegation made by Mr. Clarence Shelby White of Lexington, Kentucky, under date of December 20, 1942, charging discrimination against the War Department.

It is requested that this matter be investigated and that the Committee on Fair Employment Practice be furnished a report on it.

Sincerely yours,

*Lawrence W. Cramer*

Lawrence W. Cramer  
Executive Secretary

*by Joseph H. Johnson*

Enc.

35276

PRESIDENT'S COMMITTEE ON FAIR EMPLOYMENT PRACTICE  
WAR MANPOWER COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Date January 1, 1943

The Honorable  
William H. Hastie  
Civilian Aide  
War Department  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Judge Hastie:

I transmit herewith two copies of an allegation made by Mr. Clarence Shelby White of Lexington, Kentucky, under date of December 20, 1942, charging discrimination against the War Department.

It is requested that this matter be investigated and that the Committee on Fair Employment Practice be furnished a report on it.

Sincerely yours,

*Lawrence W. Cramer*  
Lawrence W. Cramer  
Executive Secretary *George H. Plerson*

Enc.

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Y

803 Whitney Avenue  
Lexington, Ky.  
December 20, 1942

Honorable President Roosevelt,

Dear Sir;

We the Negro employees of the Bluegrass Ordnance Depot, ammunition department, Richmond, Ky., feel that due to conditions beyond our control, we are being treated unfair by our employers.

To reach our first destination, we travel a distant of thirty-five miles, then we travel two miles to another point and unload. Regardless of weather conditions, we are left standing in the weather from thirty to sixty minutes, before we are reloaded to be carried to our working quarters. After reaching our quarters, we are forced to stand outside another thirty or forty minutes before we are let inside. On our return trip these same unnecessary conditions are forced upon us. In our endeavor to reach our working quarters, we are discriminated beyond the point of endurance by the truck drivers.

Due to the fact that our employers fail to issue our checks to us on the date specified, we are placed in many embarrassing positions.

We would deeply appreciate any attention given toward this matter, as we are unable to get any satisfactory information here.

Thank you very much.

Yours respectfully

/s/ Clarence Shelby White

5th Ind.

May 15, 1942

War Department, Office of the Civilian Aide to the Secretary of War  
To: The Director of Civilian Personnel and Training

1. The statements made in the third indorsement are not deemed by this office to be an adequate answer to the basic communication.

2. Of a large number of cases in which investigations have been made at the request of this office, this is the first one in which this office has been advised that "no records are maintained of the reasons for non-selection of individuals." If the statement in the first paragraph that prospective employees are certified to the Depot by the Seventh U. S. Civil Service District is correct, it would appear that a copy of each certificate, showing the notations with which it was returned, would be on file. It also seems that the letters, which, Miss Myles states, applicants brought from the Commission and were taken from them, as well as the application blanks which they were required to fill out, would be filed away for future reference.

3. Some comment appears appropriate on the allegation of Miss Myles that colored girls applying with her for employment as typists were offered jobs as messengers.

4. The fact that 225 colored persons, comprising 13 percent of the Depot Force, are colored is not decisive of the question of whether race discrimination is practiced by the Depot.

5. May the facts in this case be investigated further to determine whether there has been any violation of the directives prohibiting racial discrimination in the selection of Federal employees? In this connection, may this office be advised in what classifications are the 225 colored persons employed by the Depot?

Civilian Aide to the Secretary  
of War

3rd Ind.

QM 291.2 AP-C

OCG, Chicago QM Depot, Chicago, Illinois, April 30, 1942 - To The  
Quartermaster General, Washington, D. C.

1. Inasmuch as prospective employees are certified to this Depot by the Manager, Seventh U. S. Civil Service District, and no records are maintained of the reasons for non-selection of individuals who do not meet the requirements of the Depot, it would be impossible to determine the circumstances surrounding the case referred to in letter Office of the Assistant Secretary of War, dated April 20, 1942.

2. It has been the policy of the Depot to make no racial discrimination but rather to select from those interviewed the individuals best suited for the position to which they are assigned regardless of race, creed, or color.

3. There are at the present time 225 colored persons on the pay rolls of the Depot, which is more than 13% of the Depot force.

For the Commanding General:

/S/ Frederic W. Dennis, Jr.,

FREDERIC W. DENNIS, JR.,  
Lieut., Colonel, Q. M. C.  
Assistant.

WAR DEPARTMENT  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF WAR  
CIVILIAN PERSONNEL DIVISION  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

April 7, 1943

MEMORANDUM TO: The Acting Civilian Aide to the Secretary  
of War.

1. Reference is made to your memorandum of February 13, 1943, directed to Services of Supply, in behalf of Mr. Marion Myers who alleged that racial discrimination was practiced against him in his effort to secure employment on the U. S. Dredge A. MacKenzie.

2. This office is in receipt of a report in this case and it is learned that an effort has been made to locate Mr. Myers for the purpose of offering him employment as a warehouseman. However, the District Engineer, San Francisco, California, advised the Office of the Chief of Engineers that a representative of the Marine Cooks and Stewards Association reported that Mr. Myers has been out on a ship since December 1942. In view of Mr. Myers absence no further action can be taken to effect his employment.

3. We trust this information is satisfactory.

*J. H. Mason*

J. H. Mason, Chief  
Employee Relations Branch



June 15, 1942.

Mr. Lawrence S. Cramer,  
Executive Secretary,  
President's Committee on Fair  
Employment Practice,  
1406 G Street, N. W.,  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Cramer:

On April 11, 1942, you transmitted to this office the complaint of Miss Therryle Myles, 525 East Forty-fourth Place, Chicago, Illinois, alleging racial discrimination against her in her effort to secure employment as a typist at the Chicago Quartermaster Depot, Chicago, Illinois.

The report of the investigation into this complaint states that Miss Myles went to the Chicago Quartermaster Depot with her sister, Miss Vivian Myles, of her own accord, seeking employment. She did not have a letter nor was she certified to that office by the Civil Service Commission. Her application on file in that office shows that she graduated from high school and had two years of college training specializing in liberal arts; that she had been previously employed in the position of clerk on a NYA project from May to December, 1941, and that she had had no previous civilian employment. The report states that she was not selected for any position then open, for the reason that she had not sufficient experience, more experienced applicants being available.

The report further states as follows:

2. With reference to the case of Miss Vivian Myles, the records indicate that she was referred to this Depot by letter from the Local Civil Service Commission for consideration of temporary appointment, having taken the Civil Service Examination for Junior Typist, with notation "not known if bearer of this letter has successfully completed this examination." Examination papers in the case were not referred. She filled out an application at this Depot on February 27, 1942, showing education, experience, etc., along with some two hundred other applicants during the few days following. These applications were taken as a result of a recruiting appeal by this Depot to temporarily fill expected positions for contemplated

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Mr. Lawrence S. Crumer  
June 15, 1942  
Page 2

expansion, pending the establishment of a register of eligibles by the Civil Service Commission. On March 10 the local Civil Service Commission informed this office that registers of eligibles for Clerk-Typists and Stenographers were available, and directed therefore that no more temporary appointments be made. Only a few positions were filled during this interval of eleven days, and Miss Vivian Myles' name was not selected for temporary appointment for the reason that other applicants met the experience requirements of the position requested in a greater degree than her own. Her application was suspended and is still suspended for consideration if and when temporary appointments are necessary and authorized. Her name has never been certified by the Commission on any eligible register to this Depot; should it be so certified to this office, she will be given equal consideration with others according to Civil Service rules and regulations.

3. \* \* \* a Civil Service list of Messenger eligibles has not been available at all times, and the induction of male employees of this classification has caused considerable turnover. Opportunity is generally given applicants who cannot qualify for other positions, if they desire, to also file applications for vacancies as Messengers provided they appear to be suitable personnel for the needs of the Depot. There are 8 Negro Messengers and 27 white Messengers of the Quartermaster Corps now employed in the Depot.

4. \* \* \* it is advised that the classifications of colored persons of the Quartermaster Corps now employed in the Depot are as follows:

<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>CLASSIFICATION</u>
1	Asst. Clerk-Stenographer	CAF-3
4	Asst. Messengers	CU-2
5	Elevator Conductors	Uncl.
16	Examiners	Uncl.
1	Guard	CU-4
7	Jr. Clerk-Typists	CAF-2
6	Jr. Checkers	CAF-2
1	Jr. Tabulating Equipment Operator	CAF-2
1	Laboratory Helper	SP-1
270	Laborers	Uncl.
4	Messengers	CU-3



Mr. Lawrence W. Cramer  
June 15, 1960  
Page 3

<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>CLASSIFICATION</u>
3	Packers	Uncl.
13	Patrolmen	CU-5
10	Sr. Packers	Uncl.
2	Squad Foremen of Laborers	Uncl.
1	Under Clerk	CAF-1
5	Under Clerk-Typists	CAF-1
<del>4</del>	Under Mimeograph Operators	CAF-1
350	Total (total employees 1960)	

In view of the fact that neither Miss Therryle Myles nor Miss Vivian Myles was certified to the Depot by the Civil Service Commission, and only a few positions were filled by temporary appointment, it is believed that the report satisfactorily explains their non-selection as well as the allegation of Miss Therryle Myles that colored girls applying with her were offered jobs as messengers.

It is also believed that the foregoing report gives you the information you desire as to the number of Negroes employed at the Chicago Quartermaster Depot and their classifications.

Sincerely yours,

Civilian Aide to the Secretary  
of War

QM 291.2-A

9th Ind.

C.C.G., Chicago Quartermaster Depot, Chicago, Illinois, June 4, 1942 -  
To The Quartermaster General, Washington, D. C.

1. Regarding subject complaint of Miss Therryle Myles of 525 E. 44th Place, Chicago, Illinois, alleging racial discrimination against her in her effort to secure employment as a typist at the Chicago Quartermaster Depot, the records show that this applicant came to this Depot with her sister, Vivian Myles, of her own accord, seeking employment. She did not have a letter nor was she certified to this office by the Civil Service Commission. Her application is on file with others for future use, and bears the following information:

High School: Graduated.  
College: 2 years.  
Specialized courses or training: Liberal Arts.  
Previous Government service: NYA project, May to  
Dec. 1941, position Clerk.  
Previous civilian employment: None.

She was not selected for any position then open, for the reason that she had not sufficient experience, more experienced applicants being available.

2. With reference to the case of Miss Vivian Myles, the records indicate that she was referred to this Depot by letter from the Local Civil Service Commission for consideration of temporary appointment, having taken the Civil Service Examination for Junior Typist, with notation "not known if bearer of this letter has successfully completed this examination." Examination papers in the case were not referred. She filled out an application at this Depot on February 27, 1942, showing education, experience, etc., along with some two hundred other applicants during the few days following. These applications were taken as a result of a recruiting appeal by this Depot to temporarily fill expected positions for contemplated expansion, pending the establishment of a register of eligibles by the Civil Service Commission. On March 10 the local Civil Service Commission informed this office that registers of eligibles for Clerk-Typists and Stenographers were available, and directed therefore that no more temporary appointments be made. Only a few positions were filled during this interval of eleven days, and Miss Vivian Myles' name was not selected for temporary appointment for the reason that other applicants met the experience requirements of the positions requested in a greater degree than her own. Her application was suspended and is still suspended for consideration if and when temporary appointments are necessary and authorized. Her name has never been certified by the Commission on any eligible register to this Depot; should it be so certified to this office, she will be given equal consideration with others according to Civil Service rules and regulations.

3. Regarding paragraph 3, preceding indorsement, a Civil Service list of Messenger eligibles has not been available at all times, and the induction of male employees of this classification has caused considerable turnover. Opportunity is generally given applicants who cannot qualify for other positions, if they desire, to also file applications for vacancies as

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6/4/42, Cont.

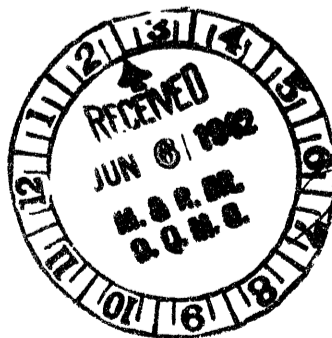
Messengers provided they appear to be suitable personnel for the needs of the Depot. There are 8 negro Messengers and 27 white Messengers of the Quartermaster Corps now employed in the Depot.

4. In compliance with paragraph 5, it is advised that the classifications of colored persons of the Quartermaster Corps now employed in the Depot are as follows:

<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>CLASSIFICATION</u>
1	Asst. Clerk-Stenographer	CAF-3
4	Asst. Messengers	CU-2
5	Elevator Conductors	Uncl.
16	Examiners	Uncl.
1	Guard	CU-4
7	Jr. Clerk-Typists	CAF-2
6	Jr. Checkers	CAF-2
1	Jr. Tabulating Equipment Operator	CAF-2
1	Laboratory Helper	SP-1
270	Laborers	Uncl.
4	Messengers	CU-3
3	Packers	Uncl.
13	Patrolmen	CU-5
10	Sr. Packers	Uncl.
2	Squad Foremen of Laborers	Uncl.
1	Under Clerk	CAF-1
3	Under Clerk-Typists	CAF-1
2	Under Mimeograph Operators	CAF-1
<u>350</u>	Total (total employees 1960)	

5. It is the policy of this Depot to make no discrimination in the selection of Federal employees, regardless of race, creed, color, or national origin.

For the Commanding General:




*[Signature]*  
Major, Q.M.C.,  
Executive

SPQCA 291.2 Chicago Quartermaster Depot 10th Ind.  
War Dept., SOS, OQMG, June 9, 1942. To Administrative Assistant, War Dept.

1. Attention is invited to preceding ninth indorsement furnishing report as requested in sixth indorsement.

For The Quartermaster General:

  
E. G. MATHEWS,  
Lt. Col., Q.M.C.,  
Assistant.

11th Ind.


mfb/jh

War Department, Office of the Secretary  
To: The Civilian Aide to the Secretary of War

June 11, 1942

1. Forwarded.

By order of the Secretary of War:

  
Wm. H. Kushnick  
Director of Civilian Personnel  
and Training



WAR DEPARTMENT  
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

April 20, 1942.

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Director of Civilian Personnel and Training

This office has received from the President's Committee on Fair Employment Practice the complaint of Miss Therryle Myles, 525 East Forty-fourth Place, Chicago, Illinois, alleging racial discrimination against her in her effort to secure employment as a typist at the Chicago Quartermaster Depot, 1819 West Pershing Road, Chicago, Illinois.

The complaint states as follows:

Miss Myles alleges that she and her sister, Vivian Myles, went to the Quartermaster Depot seeking temporary employment as typists. Her sister had a letter from the Civil Service Commission, signed by J. V. Swanson, instructing her to report to the above named Quartermaster Depot for temporary employment. She was told by the guard that she did not need a letter from the Civil Service Commission but could apply directly. At the time they presented themselves a number of other girls both white and colored were there also with letters from the Civil Service Commission. All letters were collected and each person instructed to fill out an application form. After this three of the white girls were called into the office for interviews and inasmuch as they did not return Miss Myles presumed that they were employed. After this all five of the colored girls who were present were called in succession although their applications were not collected together nor were they sitting together. The first colored girl, according to Miss Myles, was told that she did not have sufficient experience and could not be employed. All of the other colored girls, although applying for positions as typists, were not questioned concerning their typing ability or experience but were told immediately that they could be considered for messenger jobs if they so desired. Miss Myles states that she has received no further word from the Quartermaster Depot in regard to the typing or the messenger position.

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Director of Civilian Personnel and Training  
April 20, 1942  
Page 2

May the facts in this case be investigated to determine whether there has been any violation of the directives prohibiting racial discrimination in the selection of Federal employees? In this connection, the number of Negroes employed in the various categories would be informative.

*William H. Hastie*  
Civilian Aide to the Secretary  
of War



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1st Ind.

War Department, Office of the Secretary  
To: The Quartermaster General

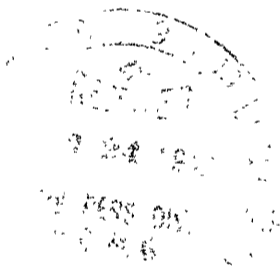
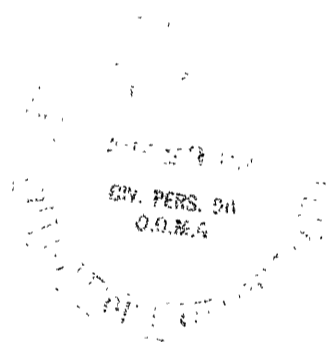
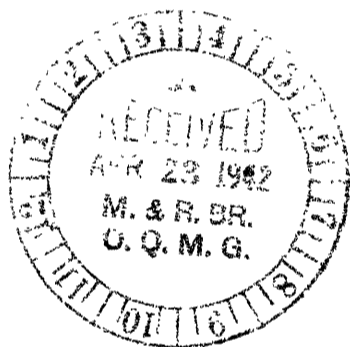
mfb/vh  
April 22, 1942

- 1. For investigation and report to this Office.

By authority of the Secretary of War:

*Wm. H. Kushnick*

Wm. H. Kushnick  
Director of Civilian Personnel  
and Training



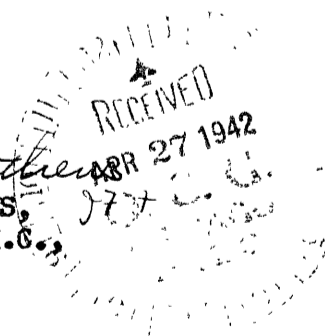
*W. H. Kushnick*

QM 291.2 P-CM (Chicago Quartermaster Depot) 2nd Ind.  
War Department, OQMG, April 25, 1942. To Commanding General, Chicago  
Quartermaster Depot, Chicago, Illinois.

- 1. Forwarded for investigation and report.

For The Quartermaster General:

*E. G. Mathews*  
E. G. MATHEWS,  
Lt. Col., Q.M.G.,  
Assistant.



APR 24 1942

*W. H. Kushnick*

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QM 291.2 AP-C 3rd Ind.  
OCG, Chicago QM Depot, Chicago, Illinois, April 30, 1942 - To The Quartermaster General, Washington, D. C.

1. Inasmuch as prospective employees are certified to this Depot by the Manager, Seventh U. S. Civil Service District, and no records are maintained of the reasons for non-selection of individuals who do not meet the requirements of the Depot, it would be impossible to determine the circumstances surrounding the case referred to in letter Office of the Assistant Secretary of War, dated April 20, 1942.
2. It has been the policy of the Depot to make no racial discrimination but rather to select from those interviewed the individuals best suited for the position to which they are assigned regardless of race, creed, or color.
3. There are at the present time 225 colored persons on the pay rolls of the Depot, which is more than 13% of the Depot force.

For the Commanding General:

*Frederic W. Dennis, Jr.*

FREDERIC W. DENNIS, JR.,  
Lieut., Colonel, Q. M. C.,  
Assistant.



SPQCA 291.2 (Chicago Quartermaster Depot) 4th Ind.  
War Department, OQMG, May 4, 1942. To Administrative Assistant, War Department.

1. Attention is invited to preceding third indorsement forwarding report as requested in first indorsement.

For The Quartermaster General:

*E. G. Mathews*  
E. G. MATHEWS,  
Lt. Col., Q.M.C.,  
Assistant.

MAY 2 1942

291.2 Chicago

CIVILIAN PERSONNEL DIV.  
WAR DEPARTMENT

MAY 15 11 3 51 AM '42


5th Ind.

War Department, Office of the Secretary  
To: Civilian Aide to the Secretary of War

mfb/vh  
May 5, 1942

1. Forwarded.

By authority of the Secretary of War:

  
Wm. H. Kushnick  
Director of Civilian Personnel  
and Training

6th Ind.

War Department, Office of the Civilian Aide to the Secretary of War  
To: The Director of Civilian Personnel and Training

May 15, 1942

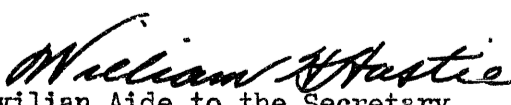
1. The statements made in the third indorsement are not deemed by this office to be an adequate answer to the basic communication.

2. Of a large number of cases in which investigations have been made at the request of this office, this is the first one in which this office has been advised that "no records are maintained of the reasons for non-selection of individuals." If the statement in the first paragraph that prospective employees are certified to the Depot by the Seventh U. S. Civil Service District is correct, it would appear that a copy of each certificate, showing the notations with which it was returned, would be on file. It also seems that the letters, which, Miss Myles states, applicants brought from the Commission and were taken from them, as well as the application blanks which they were required to fill out, would be filed away for future reference.

3. Some comment appears appropriate on the allegation of Miss Myles that colored girls applying with her for employment as typists were offered jobs as messengers.

4. The fact that 225 colored persons, comprising 13 percent of the Depot Force, are colored is not decisive of the question of whether race discrimination is practiced by the Depot.

5. May the facts in this case be investigated further to determine whether there has been any violation of the directives prohibiting racial discrimination in the selection of Federal employees? In this connection, may this office be advised in what classifications are the 225 colored persons employed by the Depot?

  
Civilian Aide to the Secretary  
of War

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

7th Ind.

mfb/jh

War Department, Office of the Secretary  
To: The Quartermaster General

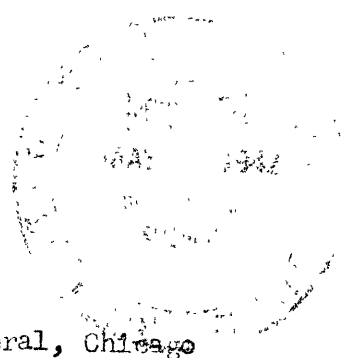
May 18, 1942

1. Referred, inviting attention to the 6th indorsement.

By order of the Secretary of War:



Wm. H. Kushnick  
Director of Civilian Personnel  
and Training



SPQCA 291.2 Chicago Quartermaster Depot 8th Ind.  
War Dept., CQMG, May 21, 1942. To Commanding General, Chicago  
Quartermaster Depot, Chicago, Illinois.

1. For thorough investigation and complete report in connection with preceding sixth indorsement.

For The Quartermaster General:



E. G. MATTHEWS,  
Lt. Col., Q.M.C.,  
ASSISTANT.



April 20, 1944.

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Director of Civilian Personnel and Training

This office has received from the President's Committee on Fair Employment Practice the complaint of Miss Therryle Myles, 525 East Forty-fourth Place, Chicago, Illinois, alleging racial discrimination against her in her effort to secure employment as a typist at the Chicago Quartermaster Depot, 1819 West Pershing Road, Chicago, Illinois.

The complaint states as follows:

Miss Myles alleges that she and her sister, Vivian Myles, went to the Quartermaster Depot seeking temporary employment as typists. Her sister had a letter from the Civil Service Commission, signed by J. V. Swanson, instructing her to report to the above named Quartermaster Depot for temporary employment. She was told by the guard that she did not need a letter from the Civil Service Commission but could apply directly. At the time they presented themselves a number of other girls both white and colored were there also with letters from the Civil Service Commission. All letters were collected and each person instructed to fill out an application form. After this three of the white girls were called into the office for interviews and inasmuch as they did not return Miss Myles presumed that they were employed. After this all five of the colored girls who were present were called in succession although their applications were not collected together nor were they sitting together. The first colored girl, according to Miss Myles, was told that she did not have sufficient experience and could not be employed. All of the other colored girls, although applying for positions as typists, were not questioned concerning their typing ability or experience but were told immediately that they could be considered for messenger jobs if they so desired. Miss Myles states that she has received no further word from the Quartermaster Depot in regard to the typing or the messenger position.

COPY

Director of Civilian Personnel and Training  
April 20, 1942  
Page 2

May the facts in this case be investigated to determine whether there has been any violation of the directives prohibiting racial discrimination in the selection of Federal employees? In this connection, the number of Negroes employed in the various categories would be informative.

Civilian Aide to the Secretary  
of War

PRESIDENT'S COMMITTEE ON FAIR EMPLOYMENT PRACTICE  
SOCIAL SECURITY BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

MALCOLM S. MACLEAN  
CHAIRMAN

WILLIAM GREEN  
MILTON P. WEBSTER

LAWRENCE W. CRAMER  
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

DAVID SARNOFF  
EARL B. DICKERSON  
PHILIP MURRAY  
MARK ETHRIDGE

April 11, 1942

Judge William H. Hastie  
Civilian Aide to the Secretary of War  
War Department  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Judge Hastie:

This office has received a complaint from Miss Therryle Myles, a Negro, 525 East Forty-fourth Place, Chicago, Illinois that she was discriminated against because of her race in her efforts to secure employment as a typist at the Quartermasters Depot, 1819 West Pershing Road, Chicago, Illinois.

Miss Myles alleges that she and her sister Vivian Myles went to the Quartermasters Depot seeking temporary employment as typists. Her sister had a letter from the Civil Service Commission, signed by J. V. Swanson, instructing her to report to the above named Quartermasters Depot for temporary employment. She was told by the guard that she did not need a letter from the Civil Service Commission but could apply directly. At the time they presented themselves a number of other girls both white and colored were there also with letters from the Civil Service Commission. All letters were collected and each person instructed to fill out an application form. After this three of the white girls were called into the office for interviews and in as much as they did not return Miss Myles presumed that they were employed. After this all five of the colored girls who were present were called in succession although their applications were not collected together nor were they sitting together. The first colored girl, according to Miss Myles, was told that she did not have




Judge William H. Hastie - 2 -

April 11, 1942

sufficient experience and could not be employed. All of the other colored girls, although applying for positions as typists, were not questioned concerning their typing ability or experience but were told immediately that they could be considered for messenger jobs if they so desired. Miss Myles states that she has received no further word from the Quartermaster's Depot in regard to the typing or the messenger position.

Would you kindly have this matter investigated and a report furnished me upon completion of the investigation?

Sincerely yours,

  
Lawrence W. Cremer  
Executive Secretary

September 2, 1942.

MEMORANDUM

To The Director of Civilian Personnel and Training

Under date of June 12, 1942, this office requested an investigation into the complaint of Miss Mary E. Branch, president of Tillotson College, Austin, Texas, alleging that racial discrimination was practiced against Miss Marion Letitia Washington and Miss Nevada Mackey, students at Tillotson College, in their efforts to secure employment as Minor Inspectors, Ordnance Material, under the St. Louis Ordnance District. To date no report has been received in either case.

The President's Committee on Fair Employment Practice has forwarded to this office an additional statement made by Miss Mackey concerning her interview at the Red River Ordnance Depot, New Boston, Texas, together with a copy of a letter from Major G. A. Dingee dated March 5, 1942, requesting Miss Mackey to report for an interview on March 10, and a copy of a letter from Captain J. T. Prendergast, dated July 2, 1942, informing her that "all ammunition inspection functions are discharged by men" and that until such time as the Red River Ordnance Depot "has complete laboratory facilities applications for female Ammunition Inspectors cannot be considered."

Attached hereto are copies of the correspondence referred to.

May the facts in this case be investigated to determine whether there has been any violation of the directives prohibiting racial discrimination in the selection of Civil Service employees?

May this office also have a report on the facts in the case of Miss Washington?

Civilian Aide to the Secretary  
of War

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100-100000-100000

IMPROVED METHODS OF PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT PRACTICE

OFFICE FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

WAR MANPOWER COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D. C.

Chairman  
PAUL V. McNUTT  
FEDERAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATOR

August 27, 1947

MEMORANDUM

To: Judge William H. Hastie

From: George M. Johnson *G. M. Johnson*

I am enclosing herewith copies of statements of details in connection with her complaint against the Red River Ordnance Depot, New Boston, Texas, by Miss Nevada Mackey whose case was referred to you under date of May 30.

Miss Mackey presents further information to substantiate her allegation of racial discrimination.

I am enclosing, also, a copy of a letter received by Miss Mackey from Captain J. T. Frendergast.

Enclosures



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RPL;nh

Commanding Officer

July 2, 1942

Miss Nevada V. Mackey  
2406 Bryan Street  
Austin, Texas

Dear Miss Mackey:

1. Reference is made to your letter of June 29, 1942, addressed to Major G. A. Dingee which has been referred to me for reply.
2. At the present time all ammunition inspection functions are discharged by men.
3. Until such time as this establishment has complete laboratory facilities applications for female Ammunition Inspectors cannot be considered.

Very truly yours,

J. T. Prendergast  
Captain, Ord. Dept.,  
Executive Officer

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WAR DEPARTMENT  
Red River Ordnance Depot  
New Boston, Texas  
March 5, 1942

RROD 230.133  
Attention of  
Personnel Section

Certificate No.  
Position: Jr. Ammunition  
Inspector  
Place: Texarkana, Texas  
Kind of Appointment:  
Probational  
Salary: \$1620 per annum  
Probable Duration:  
Permanent

Mr. Nevada Mackey  
2406 Bryan Street  
Austin, Texas

Dear Sir:

You have been certified by the Tenth U. S. Civil Service District for the position of Junior Ammunition Inspector at \$1620 per annum.

You are, therefore, requested to report to the Commanding Officer, Red River Ordnance Depot, New Boston, Texas, not later than 9:00 A. M., March 10, 1942, for interview.

If you are selected for the position in question, you will be immediately employed at this depot and recommended for and sent to the Delaware Ordnance Depot, Pedricktown, N. J., for six (6) weeks intensive full time inspection course, after completion of which you will be returned to this depot for duty.

You will be reimbursed for travel to and from New Boston, Texas, and Pedricktown, N. J., and in addition to your regular salary will receive \$6.00 per diem while traveling and while engaged on temporary duty involved.

Yours very truly,

G. A. DINGEE  
Major, Ordnance Department  
Commanding



C  
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By Miss Nevada V. Mackey  
August 7, 1942

On March 10, I reported at the Red River Ordnance Plant, Texarkana, Texas, for personal interview with Major G. A. Dingee concerning the position as Junior Ammunition Inspector, for which I had been certified. There were about ten whites who reported for the same kind of position. I was the only Negro. I was given a pass to Major Dingee's office by the lady at the reception desk. It was a little longer than an hour before we were called for. After we had been sent for by Major Dingee and were all seated in his office, he began to question us concerning our occupations. When he began to question me individually, the conversation was as follows:

Major Dingee -- I'm going to keep you right here at this plant. We are going to be doing the same type of work here. The work in New Jersey is no work for a lady. It is too hard. (Major Dingee had told us that after working at that depot for a while, he would send us to New Jersey for intensive study.) Where are you working?

Nevada V. Mackey -- I am a student. I'm a senior at Tillotson College.

Major Dingee -- Oh, you are? Are you going to finish this year?

Nevada V. Mackey -- Yes, I am expecting to graduate in the spring.

Major Dingee -- Oh! I'm not about to take you out of school. Go back and finish school, then return for work. When is your school out?

Nevada V. Mackey -- About the last of May. May 26 is Commencement date.

Major Dingee -- You report here on May 26. (He writes it down on duplicate copy of the letter that he wrote to Mackey) No. (He scratches it off). That is your commencement date. Report here on June 1. (He writes that down on duplicate letter copy.)

Nevada Mackey -- When I report on June 1, is that going to be the same job, with the same salary and all, as I am told about in this letter?

Major Dingee -- Oh sure! You see we are going to have about four hundred workers here, both colored and white, male and female working here. (He holds up a chart).

Nevada Mackey -- So you want me to report here at this plant on June 1?

Major Dingee -- Yes. (Nevada V. Mackey arises to leave the room).

Major Dingee -- Are you a Chemistry major?

Nevada Mackey -- Yes, I am a chemistry major and a mathematics minor.

On June 1 I walked up to the reception desk.

Nevada Mackey -- I would like to get permission to see Major Dingee, please.  
Lady (at desk) Oh! you're the little Junior Inspector. (She gives Nevada a pass and calls Major Dingee). He says he wants to see you.

Major Dingee -- (To Nevada entering the room) Well, did you finish school?

Nevada Mackey - Yes, I did.

Major Dingee -- Fine. Well, something happened. We've had a set back. We haven't been able to finish the work as I had expected. I'm sorry, but it can't be helped. (Turning to a young man who brought some papers into the office) Bring me that letter concerning applicants. (While the boy was out, Major Dingee began to talk to Nevada.) Sure is some hot weather isn't it?

Nevada Mackey -- It surely is.

Major Dingee -- What rank did you graduate?

Nevada Mackey -- I was graduated cum laude.

Major Dingee -- Fine. You're a smart girl. (The boy returns.) Wheres that letter?

Boy -- I can't find it.

Major Dingee -- Go back and bring that letter. (The boy returns without the letter). Is that the letter?

Boy -- No, I can't find it.

Major Dingee -- Don't come back until you bring it. (The boy stays a long time, but returns without letter). Wheres that letter?

Boy -- I can't find it.

Major Dingee -- I'll go find it myself. (Secretary - Let me find it. Major Dingee goes out and returns with letter, and then began to read. He reads something which meant in total that they had run out of supplies, and all the necessary equipments with which to complete the job as he expected).

Major Dingee -- (raising eyes from paper) Now **thats that**. When the time comes that the job will be complete for you to begin work, you will be written to and will be given time to report for work. When that time is, I cannot tell.

Nevada Mackey -- And you don't know when that will be?

Major Dingee -- No, I have no idea. I'm sorry.

Nevada Mackey -- Thank you. (Leaves room, but turns shortly and asks) You don't ever pay transportation, do you, Major Dingee?

Major Dingee -- No, we don't.

(Nevada V. leaves room permanently.)

June 12, 1942.

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Director of Civilian Personnel and Training

This office has received from the President's Committee on Fair Employment Practice the complaint of Miss Mary E. Branch, president of Tillotson College, Austin, Texas, alleging that racial discrimination was practiced against Miss Marion Letitia Washington, a student at that college, in her effort to secure employment as a Minor Inspector, Ordnance Material, under the St. Louis Ordnance District.

The complaint states as follows:

Some time during March two of the senior young women of Tillotson College, whose majors are in chemistry, made application to the United States Civil Service Commission for consideration as Junior Inspectors. They received ratings and the instruction that three of the people with the highest grades would be given an appointment. On May 7 Miss Marion Letitia Washington, the person under consideration, received the enclosed letter.

Miss Washington went immediately on May 7 so as to be ready, according to the instructions, to report at eight o'clock May 11. She took with her a health certificate which had just been secured from the physician here. There were six white girls and one white man also reporting. Mr. A. C. Settlage, Resident Inspector, called the six white girls and the white man into his office, leaving Miss Washington outside. He employed each of the six white girls and the white man and gave them their buttons. He then called Miss Washington into his office alone and said to her that he had employed all the workers which he needed. He stated that Mr. Poletti, Captain of the Ordnance Department, St. Louis, had made a mistake and sent him too many girls. He kept Miss Washington's health certificate stating that he would send that to St. Louis, instructing the officials in St. Louis that they had made a mistake.

Director of Civilian Personnel and Training  
June 1, 1944  
Page 4

The letter referred to in the complaint, a copy of which was forwarded therewith, was addressed to Miss Washington by Captain H. A. Poletti and notified her that she had been selected as a Minor Inspector, Ordnance Material, CAF-1, \$1,260 per annum, and directed her to report to Mr. A. C. Settlage, Resident Inspector, American Manufacturing Company, St. Louis Ordnance District, Fort Worth, Texas.

A second complaint, embodied in the letter of Miss Branch to the President's Committee and forwarded to this office, does not make out a prima facie case of racial discrimination, but inasmuch as it also involves the St. Louis Ordnance District it is also submitted. It concerns Miss Nevada Mackey, another student at Tillotson College, who, it is alleged, was discriminated against in her effort to secure employment as a Minor Inspector, Ordnance Material, under the St. Louis Ordnance District. The complaint states that she was selected for appointment in March and instructed to report at South Boston, Texas. It further states as follows:

Miss Mackey is an excellent student, but financially very poor. She had to borrow money to go to South Boston to see about the job. I gave her instructions to the effect to report to me if she received any discriminatory treatment. Miss Mackey said that she was the only woman in the group of a number of white young men. When it came her turn to be questioned by the man in charge, Miss Mackey said that he was very polite to her, but told her to report again on June 1. Miss Mackey asked him if she would be given the same job at the same salary on June 1. She was assured by the man in charge that she would be given the same consideration.

In view of the very great need for inspectors of ordnance materials, may these complaints be investigated to determine whether there has been any violation of the directives prohibiting racial discrimination in the selection of Civil Service employees?

Civilian Aide to the Secretary  
of War

9 July 1943

Mr. George M. Johnson,  
Assistant Executive Secretary,  
President's Committee on  
Fair Employment Practice,  
Tenth and U Streets, N. W.,  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Johnson:

Reference is made to your letter of June 16, 1943, requesting a further investigation into the complaint of Mrs. Florence Martinez who alleged that racial discrimination was practiced against her in the termination of her services as an Under Inspector assigned to the Belmont Radio Corporation in the Chicago Signal Corps Inspection Zone.

Mr. A. W. Slapkowski, Administrative Inspector in charge of the Signal Corps Office, Belmont Radio Corporation, submitted the following statement to the Chicago Signal Corps Inspection Zone.

"Mrs. Martinez was assigned to mechanical inspection of sub-assembly component parts and after a reasonable period of time it has been found that the above party could not handle such assignment. In all fairness to the person, I had her re-assigned to other duties of more minor significance, but this same condition prevailed. Mrs. Martinez could not accurately judge workmanship and consequently either rejects were passed or accepted material rejected. This brought about considerable friction between management and Signal Corps.

Taking in account the above statement it is the opinion of the writer that Mrs. Martinez cannot capably and efficiently perform the necessary duties required of Signal Corps Inspectors and that with great regret the writer feels her services should be terminated with a release without prejudice."

Her resignation was requested after it was determined by personal interview that she would not be suitable for any other type of assignment within that installation. She was released without prejudice by the Chicago Signal Corps Inspection Zone as of the close of business March 5, 1943, for

Mr. George M. Johnson  
9 July 1943

Page - 2

the reason stated by Mr. Slapkowski. Moreover, Negroes are working in harmony with other personnel for the office and field of this installation and under these circumstances it is believed that a further investigation into this complaint is unjustified.

Yours very truly,

Truman K. Gibson, Jr.,  
Acting Civilian Aide to the Secretary  
of War.

PRESIDENT'S COMMITTEE ON FAIR EMPLOYMENT PRACTICE  
WAR MANPOWER COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 25

June 16, 1943

Mr. Truman K. Gibson, Jr.  
Acting Civilian Aide to the  
Secretary of War  
War Department  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Gibson:

This is in further reference to the complaint of Mrs. Florence Martinez, 4339 Forestville Avenue, Chicago, Illinois, against the Chicago Signal Corps Inspection Zone, on which you reported in a letter of May 6, 1943.

I am enclosing herewith two copies of a recent communication received from Mrs. Martinez, in which she comments on the report which you submitted. She states that she was employed but six days by the Signal Corps and, during that time, worked only one and one-half days, which did not seem to her to be a "reasonable period of time" in which to judge her ability.

In view of the above, it is requested that this matter be resubmitted for further comment and that a report be furnished this office when received.

Sincerely yours,

*George M. Johnson*  
George M. Johnson  
Assistant Executive Secretary

Enclosures



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Chicago, Illinois  
June 6, 1943

Mr. George M. Johnson  
Assistant Executive Secretary  
President's Committee on Fair  
Employment Practice  
Tenth and U Streets, N. W.  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

In reply to your letter on May 22, 1943 you asked if I had any comments to make.

In the first place I do not understand what the Signal Corps meant by a reasonable period. I went to the Belmont Corporation on February 28 and remained there until March 5, 1943 just six days. During that time I worked one and half day, the rest of the time I just sat around doing nothing.

I do know when to reject and when to put the stamp of approval on any thing no matter what it is. If the wires are loose and if there is too much solder I know that it is to be rejected. How can anyone prove himself unless he is given a chance.

I asked to be put on the line for inspection work but I was told that several of them were closed down, but I would be given a chance when a new line was opened up. That never happened with me. Instead I was sent back to the Main office and you know the result. I was forced to resign. I am still of the opinion that I was not given a fair deal. I only wish that I could do my talking like I would like to do.

I appreciate your allowing me this opportunity to explain some things however little it may be but it means a lot to me.

Thanking you for this chance to state my side,  
I remain

Sincerely,

/s/ Florence Martinez  
4339 Forestville, Avenue



May 6, 1943

Mr. George M. Johnson,  
Assistant Executive Secretary,  
President's Committee on Fair  
Employment Practice,  
Tenth and U Streets, N. W.  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Johnson:

On March 25, 1943 you forwarded to this office the complaint of Mrs. Florence Martinez who alleged that racial discrimination was practiced against her in the termination of her services as an Under Inspector assigned to the Belmont Radio Corporation in the Chicago Signal Corps Inspection Zone.

The report of the investigation states that Mrs. Martinez's resignation was requested because her services were unsatisfactory and it was determined by personal interview that she would not be suitable for any other type of assignment. In recommending the termination of her service, the Administrative Inspector in charge at Belmont Radio Corporation stated as follows:

"Mrs. Martinez was assigned to mechanical inspection of sub-assembly component parts and after a reasonable period of time it has been found that the above party could not handle such assignment. In all fairness to the person I had her reassigned to other duties of more minor significance, but this same condition prevailed. Mrs. Martinez could not accurately judge workmanship and consequently either rejects were passed or accepted material rejected. This brought about considerable friction between management and Signal Corps.

Taking in account the above statement it is the opinion of the writer that Mrs. Martinez cannot capably and efficiently perform the necessary duties required of Signal Corps Inspectors and that with great regret the writer feels her services should be terminated with a release without prejudice."

Mr. George M. Johnson,  
President's Committee on Fair  
Employment Practice,  
May 6, 1943.

Page - 2 -

The Committee may wish to check this report with Mrs. Martinez. If so, I shall be pleased to have any additional information at variance with this report which you may obtain.

Yours very truly,

Truman K. Gibson, Jr.  
Acting Civilian Aide to the Secretary  
of War

WAR DEPARTMENT  
~~HEADQUARTERS, SERVICES OF SUPPORT~~  
Headquarters, Army Service Forces  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

April 29, 1943

SPGC-C-201-Martinez  
Florence

MEMORANDUM FOR:

THE SECRETARY OF WAR

ATTENTION: ACTING CIVILIAN AIDE TO  
THE SECRETARY OF WAR

1. Reference is made to memorandum of March 29, 1943 to the Director of Civilian Personnel and Training from the Acting Civilian Aide to the Secretary of War relative to a complaint by Mrs. Florence Martinez, alleging racial discrimination at the Chicago Signal Corps Inspection Zone.


2. Inclosed is a Certified True Copy of a letter submitted by A. W. Slapkowski, Inspector in Charge in Belmont Radio Corporation, Chicago, Illinois, relative to the work of Mrs. Martinez.

3. Mrs. Martinez's resignation was requested after it was determined by personal interview that she would not be suitable for any other type of assignment within that installation.

4. Mrs. Martinez was released without prejudice by the Chicago Signal Corps Inspection Zone as of the close of business March 5, 1943 for the reasons stated in Mr. Slapkowski's letter, referred to in paragraph (2) above. This release was not due to the fact that Mrs. Martinez is a Negress.

5. It is the belief of this office that the charge of discrimination is unjustified as Negroes are working in harmony with other personnel in the office and field of this installation.

For the Commanding General:

  
JAMES P. MITCHELL  
Director  
Industrial Personnel Division



Incl-  
True Copy Ltr. A.W. Slapkowski

MAY 1 - 43 AM

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WAR DEPARTMENT  
SERVICES OF SUPPLY  
INDUSTRIAL PERSONNEL

HAD-SC

~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~  
Headquarters, Army Service Forces

April 29, 1943

SPGC-C-201-Martinez  
Florence

MEMORANDUM FOR:

THE SECRETARY OF WAR

ATTENTION: ACTING CIVILIAN AIDE TO  
THE SECRETARY OF WAR

1. Reference is made to memorandum of March 29, 1943 to the Director of Civilian Personnel and Training from the Acting Civilian Aide to the Secretary of War relative to a complaint by Mrs. Florence Martinez, alleging racial discrimination at the Chicago Signal Corps Inspection Zone.

2. Inclosed is a Certified True Copy of a letter submitted by A. W. Slapkowski, Inspector in Charge in Belmont Radio Corporation, Chicago, Illinois, relative to the work of Mrs. Martinez.

3. Mrs. Martinez's resignation was requested after it was determined by personal interview that she would not be suitable for any other type of assignment within that installation.

4. Mrs. Martinez was released without prejudice by the Chicago Signal Corps Inspection Zone as of the close of business March 5, 1943 for the reasons stated in Mr. Slapkowski's letter, referred to in paragraph (2) above. This release was not due to the fact that Mrs. Martinez is a Negress.

5. It is the belief of this office that the charge of discrimination is unjustified as Negroes are working in harmony with other personnel in the office and field of this installation.

For the Commanding General:

JAMES P. MITCHELL  
Director  
Industrial Personnel Division

Incl-  
True Copy Ltr. A. W. Slapkowski

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Major DUNN  
Colonel O'Connell  
L. C. Foster

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C :  
F :  
Y :

CHICAGO SIGNAL CORPS INSPECTION ZONE  
1 North La Salle Street  
Chicago, Illinois

201-  
Florence Martinez

COPY

AWS'ar  
Signal Corps Office  
Belmont Radio Corporation  
5921 West Dickens Avenue  
Chicago, Illinois  
March 5, 1943

SUBJECT: Mrs. Florence Martinez

TO: Officer in Charge  
Chicago Signal Corps Inspection Zone  
One North LaSalle Street  
Chicago, Illinois

Attn: Lt. George Schreck

1. The following information is submitted to your office concerning Mrs. Florence Martinez, Under Inspector SP-5, who has been assigned to Belmont Radio Corporation for Signal Corps Inspection duties. Mrs. Martinez was assigned to mechanical inspection of sub-assembly component parts and after a reasonable period of time it has been found that the above party could not handle such assignment. In all fairness to the person I had her reassigned to other duties of more minor significance, but this same condition prevailed. Mrs. Martinez could not accurately judge workmanship and consequently either rejects were passed or accepted material rejected. This brought about considerable friction between management and Signal Corps.

2. Taking in account the above statement it is the opinion of the writer that Mrs. Martinez cannot capably and efficiently perform the necessary duties required of Signal Corps Inspectors and that with great regret the writer feels her services should be terminated with a release without prejudice.

/s/ A. W. Slapkowski  
A. W. Slapkowski  
Admin. Inspector in Charge

CERTIFIED: TRUE COPY  
/s/ Arnold B. Henson  
ARNOLD B. HENSON, 1st Lieut. Signal Corps

*See*

March 29, 1943

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Director of Civilian Personnel and Training

Attached hereto is a copy of a letter addressed to President Roosevelt under date of March 2, 1943, by Miss Florence Martinez. It was forwarded to this office by the President's Committee on Fair Employment Practice.

Miss Martinez alleges that racial discrimination was practiced against her in the termination of her services by the Signal Corps in Chicago.

May the facts in this case be investigated to determine whether there has been any violation of the directives prohibiting racial discrimination in Civil Service employment.

Truman K. Gibson, Jr.  
Acting Civilian Aide to the Secretary  
of War

PRESIDENT'S COMMITTEE ON FAIR EMPLOYMENT PRACTICE  
WAR MANPOWER COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

MALCOLM S. MACLEAN  
CHAIRMAN  
WILLIAM GREEN  
MILTON P. WEBSTER  
LAWRENCE W. CRAMER  
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

DAVID SARNOFF  
EARL B. DICKERSON  
PHILIP MURRAY  
MARK ETHRIDGE

March 25, 1943

Mr. Truman K. Gibson, Jr.  
Acting Civilian Aide to the  
Secretary of War  
War Department  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Gibson:

I am enclosing herewith two copies of a letter addressed to the President by Miss Florence Martinez, in which she alleges that racial discrimination has been practiced against her in her forced resignation from her employment with the United States Signal Corps.

It is requested that this matter be investigated and a report furnished this office upon completion of the investigation.

Sincerely yours,

*George M. Johnson*

George M. Johnson  
Assistant Executive Secretary

Enclosures





S  
O  
P  
Y

Chicago, Illinois  
March 2, 1943

Honorable Franklin Delano Roosevelt  
President of the United States  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

I worked as an Under Inspector for the Signal Corps from February 23, 1943 to March 5, 1943. I was sent to the Philco Radio Corporation, 3335 W. 47th Street on February 23 and remained there until noon of February 28, when I was sent to the Belmont Radio Company, 5903 W. Dickens Street and remained there until March 5, 1943. I was then sent back to the Signal Corps for reassignment. But I did not get one instead a gentleman told me that a lady would take care of me and she did. She laid before me four sheets of paper that said I had resigned. She told me to sign them. I told her that I was not resigning, but she insisted that I sign them. As this was all new to me I signed the papers. I judge that the trouble lay in the fact that I am an American Negress, and they evidently did not want to give me another assignment and this was the easiest way to get rid of me. Mr. Antonio Slabskowski of the Belmont Company (said) that he would give me the best of references anytime, but that the only reason he was sending me back was that he thought it best to have us placed near our home. He is a very nice gentleman. I called him up that same afternoon and told him what had happened. He was very much displeased and said that he would try and straighten it out.

The Personnel at 1 N. LaSalle said that our work was not satisfactory. Mr. Slabskowski said that he never said anything against us, and I firmly believe him.

How could anyone say that our work was not satisfactory when we would sometimes, or I might say, did not have any work to inspect, just sit there. So why force me to resign when it wasn't my fault. I know and believe that you are a wonderful gentleman and that you believe in the rights of the minority groups of people.

I sincerely hope and pray to God that you would use your executive powers in some way in my behalf. Either by having me reinstated or placed some where else.

-2-

I am a graduate of Wendell Phillips High School, (Chicago) and I have had one semester of college. My course in high school was Four-year Commercial. I type, file, and do clerical work.

Thanking you in advance for whatever you may do

I remain

Yours truly,

/s/ Florence Martinez  
4339 Forestville Avenue

P.S.

I believe in you Mr. President and I also feel confident that you can do something about this unfortunate affair. I am single. (divorced)

July 21, 1944.

Mr. George H. Johnson,  
Assistant Executive Secretary,  
President's Committee on Fair  
Employment Practice,  
1206 G Street, N. W.,  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Johnson:

Receipt is acknowledged of your letter of July 16, 1944, transmitting to this office the complaint of Mrs. Grace Mann, 771 John Street, Elmira, New York, alleging that she has been refused employment as an Inspector at the Eclipse Machine Division, Bendix Aviation Corporation, Elmira, solely because she is a Negro.

Evidently this complaint was inadvertently forwarded to this office. The Eclipse Machine Division of the Bendix Aviation Corporation is a privately owned and operated plant. The understanding is that in such cases the President's Committee on Fair Employment Practice will conduct its own independent investigation of complaints of discrimination on account of race, color or national origin and advise this office if it finds that the anti-discrimination clause of War Department contracts are being violated.

Sincerely yours,

Civilian Aide to the Secretary  
of War

CO. 11

PRESIDENT'S COMMITTEE ON FAIR EMPLOYMENT PRACTICE  
SOCIAL SECURITY BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

MALCOLM S. MacLEAN  
CHAIRMAN  
WILLIAM GREEN  
MILTON P. WEBSTER  
LAWRENCE W. CRAMER  
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

July 16, 1942

DAVID SARNOFF  
EARL B. DICKERSON  
PHILIP MURRAY  
MARK ETHRIDGE

The Honorable  
William H. Hastie  
Civilian Aide to the  
Secretary of War  
War Department  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Judge Hastie:

The President's Committee on Fair Employment Practice is in receipt of a notarized complaint from Mrs. Grave Mann, 771 John Street, Elmira, New York, in which she alleges that she has been refused employment as an Inspector at the Eclipse Machine Division, Bendix Aviation Corporation, Elmira, New York, solely because of her Negro race.

She states that she was refused employment on June 22, 1942 by personnel officer, Mr. Hatfield, who gave as his reason, "no colored women wanted, sorry.... his hands were tied. I was a Negro"

Witnesses to the incident were:

Juanita Johnstone	654 E. Clinton St.
Yutokia Johnstone	654 E. Clinton St.
Elsie Sykes	714 Benjamine St.
Alice Moore	769 John St.
Stella Blandford	506 Madinson Ave.

Mrs. Mann adds the following list of women who were also refused employment because of their race on June 22, 1942:

Eulands Johnstone	654 E. Clinton St.
Connie Wallace	512 Madinson Ave.
Helen Persons	707 Dickinson St.
Fannie Moore	769 John St.

(cont'd)



The Honorable  
William H. Hastie

-2-

July 16, 1942

Nora Williams	604 Baldwin St.
Pearl Paisley	769 E. Church St.
Ethel Brown	Benjamin St.
Ruth Ashley	719 Dickinson St.
Gerolen Fannell	712 Dickinson St.
Helen Stiles	654 E. Clinton St.
Helen Garey	502 E. Fifth St.

It is requested that an investigation be made and the President's Committee on Fair Employment Practice be furnished a report.

Sincerely yours,

*George M. Johnson*

George M. Johnson  
Assistant Executive Secretary

July 16, 1942

The Honorable  
William H. Hastie  
Civilian Aide to the  
Secretary of War  
War Department  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Judge Hastie:

The President's Committee on Fair Employment Practice is in receipt of a notarized complaint from Mrs. Grave Mann, 771 John Street, Elmira, New York, in which she alleges that she has been refused employment as an Inspector at the Eclipse Machine Division, Bendix Aviation Corporation, Elmira, New York, solely because of her Negro race.

She states that she was refused employment on June 22, 1942 by personnel officer, Mr. Hatfield, who gave as his reason, "no colored women wanted, sorry..... his hands were tied. I was a Negro"

Witnesses to the incident were:

Juanita Johnstone	654 E. Clinton St.
Tutokia Johnstone	654 E. Clinton St.
Elsie Sykes	714 Benjamin St.
Alice Moore	769 John St.
Stella Blandford	506 Madison Ave.

Mrs. Mann adds the following list of women who were also refused employment because of their race on June 22, 1942:

Zulanda Johnstone	654 E. Clinton St.
Connie Wallace	512 Madison Ave.
Helen Persons	707 Dickinson St.
Fannie Moore	769 John St.

(cont'd)

The Honorable  
William H. Hastie

-2-

July 16, 1942

Nora Williams	604 Baldwin St.
Pearl Paisley	769 E. Church St.
Ethel Brown	Benjamin St.
Ruth Ashley	719 Dickinson St.
Carolyn Pannell	712 Dickinson St.
Helen Stiles	654 N. Clinton St.
Helen Carey	502 E. Fifth St.

It is requested that an investigation be made and the President's Committee on Fair Employment Practice be furnished a report.

Sincerely yours,

George W. Johnson  
Assistant Executive Secretary

Landes/vb

July 16, 1942

Mrs. Grace Mann  
771 John Street  
Elmira, New York

Dear Mrs. Mann:

Your letter to Mrs. Roosevelt has been referred to the President's Committee on Fair Employment Practice for acknowledgment and consideration. In it you allege that members of the Negro Women Progressive Club, 771 John Street, Elmira, New York, have been denied employment because of their race, although some of them attended defense training classes "with the understanding that they would be hired after completing the course".

The Committee has authority to intervene in cases of discrimination in employment in defense industries and in Government service on the ground of race, creed, color or national origin. Under this authority an investigation is being made and a report of this investigation will be furnished you.

Sincerely yours,

George M. Johnson  
Assistant Executive Secretary

xxx  
Landes/vb



August 7, 1942.

Mr. Lawrence W. Cramer,  
Executive Secretary,  
President's Committee on Fair  
Employment Practice,  
1406 G Street, N. W.,  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Cramer:

On May 1, 1942, you forwarded to this office the complaint of Mr. Louis Martino, 465 Breckenridge Avenue, Buffalo, New York, which was submitted to your office by Mr. Robert Washburn, Executive Secretary of the New York Committee on Discrimination in Employment, State Council of Defense. Mr. Martino alleged that discrimination had been practiced against him, on account of his Italian descent, in his effort to secure employment as a guard at an Army installation in Buffalo, New York. On June 19 you advised that the installation concerned was the Army Air Forces, Air Forces Command, United Nations Depot No. 4.

An investigation into the complaint of Mr. Martino has now been made. The report of the investigation states as follows:

This office (Army Air Forces, United Nations Depot No. 4, Buffalo) has no record of an application for employment of Mr. Louis Martino, other than his name on the Visitors' Register. He was, no doubt, one of many hundreds of applicants who have been interviewed during the period of operation of this Depot, and who has been rejected without filling in his application questionnaire. This may have been due to any of the following reasons: lack of physical build to qualify for position desired, police record, or illiteracy, rendering the applicant incapable of accomplishing appointment papers.

Every applicant is asked his nationality and whether or not he has become a naturalized citizen. There is no distinction drawn as to race, creed, or color of employees of this Depot. Practically every race, creed, and nationality is represented among this Depot's employees.

*Review  
COTK  
M*

Mr. Lawrence W. Cramer  
August 7, 1942  
Page 2

No doubt Mr. Martino was informed that no opening then existed. The statement was true because obviously this Depot's requirements change from time to time. Others, whose applications may have been on file at this Depot may have been summoned and engaged the very next day because of unanticipated vacancies, resulting from resignations or discharges.

You may wish to check this report with Mr. Martino. If so, I shall be pleased to have any additional information you may obtain.

Sincerely yours,

Civilian Aide to the Secretary  
of War

3rd Ind.

JWL:td

Commanding Officer, W.D., AAF, ASC, United Nations Depot No. 4, 222 Van Rensselaer Street, Buffalo, New York July 14, 1942 To: Chief, Civilian Personnel Division, Headquarters of the Army Air Forces, Washington, D.C.

1. This office has no record of an application for employment of Mr. Louis Martino, other than his name on the Visitors' Register. He was, no doubt, one of many hundreds of applicants who have been interviewed during the period of operation of this Depot, and who has been rejected without filling in his application questionnaire. This may have been due to any of the following reasons: lack of physical build to qualify for position desired, police record, or illiteracy, rendering the applicant incapable of accomplishing appointment papers.

2. Every applicant is asked his nationality and whether or not he has become a naturalized citizen. There is no distinction drawn as to race, creed, or color of employees of this Depot. Practically every race, creed, and nationality is represented among this Depot's employees.

3. No doubt Mr. Martino was informed that no opening then existed. The statement was true because obviously this Depot's requirements change from time to time. Others, whose applications may have been on file at this Depot may have been summoned and engaged the very next day because of unanticipated vacancies, resulting from resignations or discharges.

*Joseph W. Lane*  
JOSEPH W. LANE  
Major, Army Air Force  
Commanding Officer



(Martino, Louis)

4th Ind.

War Department, Headquarters of the Army Air Forces, Washington, D. C.  
To: Office of the Secretary of War. Attn: William H. Kushnick.

1. In compliance with your request, attention is invited to 3rd Indorsement.

For the Commanding General, Army Air Forces:

GORDON E. CLARK  
Lieutenant Colonel, Air Corps  
Chief, Civilian Personnel Division

*Kermit E. Goodsee*  
KERMIT E. GOODSEE  
1st Lieutenant, Air Corps

001 11 PM 8 55

(Martino, Louis) 5th Ind.  
War Department, Office of the Secretary, July 30, 1942  
To: Civilian Aide to the Secretary of War

mfb/vh

Forwarded.

By authority of the Secretary of War:

*Wm. H. Kushnick*  
Wm. H. Kushnick  
Director of Civilian Personnel  
and Training

(Martino, Louis) 5th Ind.  
War Department, Office of the Secretary, July 30, 1942  
To: Civilian Aide to the Secretary of War

mfb/vh

Forwarded.

By authority of the Secretary of War:

Wm. H. Kushnick  
Director of Civilian Personnel  
and Training

WAR DEPARTMENT  
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

June 23, 1942.

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Director of Civilian Personnel and Training

This office has received from the President's Committee on Fair Employment Practice the complaint of Mr. Louis Martino, 465 Breckenridge Avenue, Buffalo, New York, which was submitted to it by the New York Committee on Discrimination in Employment, State Council of Defense.

Mr. Martino alleges that he was discriminated against, on account of his Italian descent, in his effort to secure employment as a guard at the Army Air Forces, Air Service Command, United Nations Depot No. 4, 220 Van Rensselaer Street, Buffalo, New York. He was one of several veterans referred to that installation by the Veterans of Foreign Wars. It is alleged that when he was asked his nationality, he replied that he was a naturalized citizen, born in Italy, and that he was told that all jobs had been filled, but more men were hired the next day.

In a letter dated June 19, 1942, Mr. Victor Einach, Executive Secretary of the Committee on Discrimination in Employment in New York State, writes that men have been and are being hired at that installation as laborers and guards and that the United States Employment Service reports that job vacancies exist. He further advises that the United States Employment Service has stated informally that the hiring policy at the installation concerned is being relaxed primarily because of a labor shortage.

May this office have a report on the facts in this case in order that it may be determined whether there has been any violation of the directives prohibiting discrimination in Federal employment on account of national origin?

*William A. Hattie*  
Civilian Aide to the Secretary  
of War

1955



1st Ind.

War Department, Office of the Secretary  
To: Chief of Army Air Forces

afb/vh  
June 25, 1942

1. For investigation and report to this office.

By authority of the Secretary of War:

*Wm H. Kushnick*

W. H. Kushnick  
Director of Civilian Personnel  
and Training

797857 JUN 26 1942  
CENTRAL MAIL SECTION AAF



2nd. Ind.

(Martino, Louis)

War Department. Headquarters of the Army Air Forces, Washington, D. C.  
July 9, 1942. To: Army Air Forces, Air Forces Command, U. S. Depot No. 4  
220 Van Rensselaer Street, Buffalo, New York.

1. This office has received information concerning a Mr. Martino, who recently attempted to secure employment as a guard under your supervision. He apparently was one of the several veterans referred to you by Veterans of Foreign Wars. It is alleged that he was asked his nationality, and when he replied that he was a naturalized citizen, born in Italy, that he was told all jobs had been filled. Moreover, it is alleged that other men were hired there the next day.

This office requests a report on the facts in this case in order that it might be determined whether there has been any violation of the directives prohibiting discrimination in Federal employment on account of national origin.

By Command of Lieutenant General Arnold;

GORDON E. CLARK  
Lieutenant Colonel, Army Air Forces  
Chief, Civilian Personnel Division

*Kermit E. Goodger*  
KERMIT E. GOODGER  
2nd Lt., Army Air Forces

1955 8 11 4

June 23, 1942.

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Director of Civilian Personnel and Training

This office has received from the President's Committee on Fair Employment Practice the complaint of Mr. Louis Martino, 465 Breckenridge Avenue, Buffalo, New York, which was submitted to it by the New York Committee on Discrimination in Employment, State Council of Defense.

Mr. Martino alleges that he was discriminated against, on account of his Italian descent, in his effort to secure employment as a guard at the Army Air Forces, Air Service Command, United Nations Depot No. 4, 220 Van Rensselaer Street, Buffalo, New York. He was one of several veterans referred to that installation by the Veterans of Foreign Wars. It is alleged that when he was asked his nationality, he replied that he was a naturalized citizen, born in Italy, and that he was told that all jobs had been filled, but more men were hired the next day.

In a letter dated June 19, 1942, Mr. Victor Einach, Executive Secretary of the Committee on Discrimination in Employment in New York State, writes that men have been and are being hired at that installation as laborers and guards and that the United States Employment Service reports that job vacancies exist. He further advises that the United States Employment Service has stated informally that the hiring policy at the installation concerned is being relaxed primarily because of a labor shortage.

May this office have a report on the facts in this case in order that it may be determined whether there has been any violation of the directives prohibiting discrimination in Federal employment on account of national origin?

Civilian Aide to the Secretary  
of War

7-10-42  
CCF:K

June 13, 1944.

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Director of Civilian Personnel and Training

This office has received from the President's Committee on Fair Employment Practice the complaint of Mr. Louis Martino, 405 Breckenridge Avenue, Buffalo, New York, which was submitted to it by the New York Committee on Discrimination in Employment, State Council of Defense.

Mr. Martino alleges that he was discriminated against, on account of his Italian descent, in his effort to secure employment as a guard at the Army Air Forces, Air Service Command, United Nations Depot No. 4, 220 Van Rensselaer Street, Buffalo, New York. He was one of several veterans referred to that installation by the Veterans of Foreign Wars. It is alleged that when he was asked his nationality, he replied that he was a naturalized citizen, born in Italy, and that he was told that all jobs had been filled, but more men were hired the next day.

In a letter dated June 19, 1944, Mr. Victor Einach, Executive Secretary of the Committee on Discrimination in Employment in New York State, writes that men have been and are being hired at that installation as laborers and guards and that the United States Employment Service reports that job vacancies exist. He further advises that the United States Employment Service had stated informally that the hiring policy at the installation concerned is being relaxed primarily because of a labor shortage.

May this office have a report on the facts in this case in order that it may be determined whether there has been any violation of the directives prohibiting discrimination in Federal employment on account of national origin?

Civilian Aide to the Secretary  
of War

PRESIDENT'S COMMITTEE ON FAIR EMPLOYMENT PRACTICE  
SOCIAL SECURITY BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

MALCOLM S. MacLEAN  
CHAIRMAN

WILLIAM GREEN  
MILTON P. WEBSTER

LAWRENCE W. CRAMER  
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

DAVID SARNOFF  
EARL B. DICKERSON  
PHILIP MURRAY  
MARK ETHRIDGE

June 19, 1942

Honorable William H. Hastie  
Civilian Aide to the Secretary of War  
War Department  
Washington, D. C.

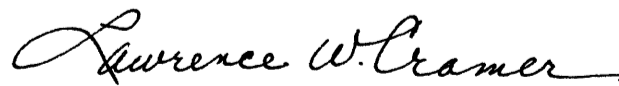
Dear Judge Hastie:

With further reference to the case of Mr. Louis Martino, 465 Breckenridge Avenue, Buffalo, New York, to which reference is made in your letter of May 14, we are now advised by Mr. Victor Einach, Executive Secretary of the Committee on Discrimination in Employment in New York State that the complete title of the agency at the Larkin Terminal to which reference is made is as follows: Army Air Forces, Air Service Command, United Nations Depot No. 4, 220 Van Rensselaer Street, Buffalo, New York. The commanding officer in charge is Major Joseph W. Lane. Mr. Einach states that some of the hiring is done by Captain Wilson.

Mr. Einach states further that men have been and are being hired as laborers and guards with a civil service status for a probationary indefinite period and that the United States Employment Service reports that job vacancies exist, also that the USES states informally that the hiring policy at this agency is "easing up" with regard to minority groups, due primarily to a labor shortage.

It is requested that the complaint made by Mr. Martino, to which reference was made in my letter addressed to you under date of May 1, be now investigated and that the Committee on Fair Employment Practice be furnished with a report when this investigation has been completed.

Sincerely yours,



Lawrence W. Cramer  
Executive Secretary



(Dictated but not read.)

June 19, 1942

Honorable William H. Hastie  
Civilian Aide to the Secretary of War  
War Department  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Judge Hastie:

With further reference to the case of Mr. Louis Martino, 465 Breckenridge Avenue, Buffalo, New York, to which reference is made in your letter of May 14, we are now advised by Mr. Victor Einach, Executive Secretary of the Committee on Discrimination in Employment in New York State that the complete title of the agency at the Larkin Terminal to which reference is made is as follows: Army Air Forces, Air Service Command, United Nations Depot No. 4, 220 Van Rensselaer Street, Buffalo, New York. The commanding officer in charge is Major Joseph W. Lane. Mr. Einach states that some of the hiring is done by Captain Wilson.

Mr. Einach states further that men have been and are being hired as laborers and guards with a civil service status for a probationary indefinite period and that the United States Employment Service reports that job vacancies exist, also that the ~~USES~~ states informally that the hiring policy at this agency is "easing up" with regard to minority groups, due primarily to a labor shortage.

It is requested that the complaint made by Mr. Martino, to which reference was made in my letter addressed to you under date of May 1, be now investigated and that the Committee on Fair Employment Practice be furnished with a report when this investigation has been completed.

Sincerely yours,

Lawrence W. Cramer  
Executive Secretary

Cramer/mi

(Dictated but not read.)

May 14, 1942.

Mr. Lawrence W. Cramer,  
Executive Secretary,  
President's Committee on Fair  
Employment Practice,  
1406 G Street, N. W.,  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Cramer:

Receipt is acknowledged of your letter of May 1, 1942, transmitting the complaint of Mr. Louis Martino, 465 Breckenridge Avenue, Buffalo, New York, alleging racial discrimination against him, on account of his Italian descent, in his effort to secure employment as a guard at the Larkin Terminal, 701 Seneca Street, Buffalo.

The Adjutant General's Office has advised this office that the Larkin Terminal is not an Army installation. It is suggested that Mr. Robert Washburn, Executive Secretary of the New York Committee on Discrimination in Employment, State Council of Defense, who forwarded the complaint to the President's Committee on Fair Employment Practice, be requested to identify the Larkin Terminal more positively.

Sincerely yours,

Civilian Aide to the Secretary  
of War

11/1/42

PRESIDENT'S COMMITTEE ON FAIR EMPLOYMENT PRACTICE  
SOCIAL SECURITY BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

MALCOLM S. MacLEAN  
CHAIRMAN

WILLIAM GREEN  
MILTON P. WEBSTER

LAWRENCE W. CRAMER  
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

DAVID SARNOFF  
EARL B. DICKERSON  
PHILIP MURRAY  
MARK ETHRIDGE

May 1, 1942

Honorable William H. Hastie  
Civilian Aide to the Secretary of War  
War Department  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Judge Hastie:

Mr. Robert Washburn, Executive Secretary of the New York Committee on Discrimination in Employment, State Council of Defense, has forwarded to me a complaint submitted to his office by Mr. Louis Martino of 465 Breckenridge Avenue, Buffalo, New York, that he has been discriminated against because of his national origin in his effort to secure employment with an agency of the War Department believed to be the Air Corps.

His statement is as follows:

"Mr. Louis Martino, 465 Breckenridge Avenue, Buffalo, New York was one of several war veterans referred by the V.F.W. to the Larkin Terminal, 701 Seneca Street, Buffalo, New York for jobs as guards. They were to see Mr. H.B. Merrell. It is believed by the V.F.W. that the agency is part of the Army Air Corps. The guards were to be given a civil service status. Mr. Martino was born in Italy, but is a naturalized citizen. All men referred were given applications and hired, except for Mr. Martino and another Italian. When Martino inquired he was asked his nationality. He replied that he was a naturalized citizen, born in Italy. Mr. Merrell said there was nothing for him as all jobs had been given out. However, more men from V.F.W. were hired the next day. Upon protest by the V.F.W. Martino was given an application, but was told that there was no job for him. In the meantime Mr. Martino has obtained a job as a guard at the American Car and Foundry in Buffalo. Nevertheless, he is still interested in the principle involved with Mr. Merrell which he feels is definite discrimination against the Italians."

Commenting on this case, Mr. Washburn makes the following observation:



(over)



"The complaint of Louis Martino of Buffalo, on which a separate letter is enclosed, is only one of many indications that representatives of the Army and the Navy in the field do not themselves always follow the law and regulations as we understand them. Where such confusion exists it is difficult to interest publishers in the desirability of their being 'more royal than the king.' "

His reference to publishers relates to a suggestion made by me to his Committee that Miss Frieda Miller, Chairman of the Committee, might request the publishers of New York City newspapers to agree to certain established rules for the acceptance of want ads to eliminate discriminatory specifications. Mr. Washburn expresses the opinion that my suggestion is not "a fruitful ground for approach to newspapers under present circumstances because I am convinced that the difficulty arises very often through a misunderstanding on the part of (if not conflicting instructions to) agents of the Federal Government itself. As recently as last week, when I last noticed, the papers were full of advertisements by the United States Employment Service specifying United States citizens, and it is certainly difficult to ask the newspapers to censor advertisements from a Federal agency or to make private advertisements conform to a policy to which the Federal Government itself apparently does not adhere."

I am sending a copy of this letter to Major Lane, Chief, Special Defense Unit, War Department, because this matter has been the subject of frequent conferences in which he and I have participated. You may find it desirable to confer with Major Lane on this general question.

Sincerely yours,

*Lawrence W. Cramer*  
Lawrence W. Cramer  
Executive Secretary

May 1, 1942

Honorable William H. Hastie  
Civilian Aide to the Secretary of War  
War Department  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Judge Hastie:

Mr. Robert Washburn, Executive Secretary of the New York Committee on Discrimination in Employment, State Council of Defense, has forwarded to me a complaint submitted to his office by Mr. Louis Martino of 465 Breckenridge Avenue, Buffalo, New York, that he has been discriminated against because of his national origin in his effort to secure employment with an agency of the War Department believed to be the Air Corps.

His statement is as follows:

"Mr. Louis Martino, 465 Breckenridge Avenue, Buffalo, New York was one of several war veterans referred by the V.F.W. to the Larkin Terminal, 701 Seneca Street, Buffalo, New York for jobs as guards. They were to see Mr. H.B. Merrill. It is believed by the V.F.W. that the agency is part of the Army Air Corps. The guards were to be given a civil service status. Mr. Martino was born in Italy, but is a naturalized citizen. All men referred were given applications and hired, except for Mr. Martino and another Italian. When Martino inquired he was asked his nationality. He replied that he was a naturalized citizen, born in Italy. Mr. Merrill said there was nothing for him as all jobs had been given out. However, more men from V.F.W. were hired the next day. Upon protest by the V.F.W. Martino was given an application, but was told that there was no job for him. In the meantime Mr. Martino has obtained a job as a guard at the American Bar and Foundry in Buffalo. Nevertheless, he is still interested in the principle involved with Mr. Merrill which he feels is definite discrimination against the Italians."

Commenting on this case, Mr. Washburn makes the following observations:

"The complaint of Louis Martino of Buffalo, on which a separate letter is enclosed, is only one of many indications that representatives of the Army and the Navy in the field do not themselves always follow the law and regulations as we understand them. Where such confusion exists it is difficult to interest publishers in the desirability of their being 'more royal than the king.' "

His reference to publishers relates to a suggestion made by me to his Committee that Miss Frieda Miller, Chairman of the Committee, might request the publishers of New York City newspapers to agree to certain established rules for the acceptance of want ads to eliminate discriminatory specifications. Mr. Washburn expresses the opinion that my suggestion is not "a fruitful ground for approach to newspapers under present circumstances because I am convinced that the difficulty arises very often through a misunderstanding on the part of (if not conflicting instructions to) agents of the Federal Government itself. As recently as last week, when I last noticed, the papers were full of advertisements by the United States Employment Service specifying United States citizens, and it is certainly difficult to ask the newspapers to censor advertisements from a Federal agency or to make private advertisements conform to a policy to which the Federal Government itself apparently does not adhere."

I am sending a copy of this letter to Major Lane, Chief, Special Defense Unit, War Department, because this matter has been the subject of frequent conferences in which he and I have participated. You may find it desirable to confer with Major Lane on this general question.

Sincerely yours,

Lawrence W. Cramer  
Executive Secretary

Cramer/cs  
cc: Major Lane

September 11, 1942.

Mr. George M. Johnson,  
Assistant Executive Secretary,  
President's Committee on Fair  
Employment Practice,  
Tenth and V Streets, N. W.,  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Johnson:

On July 14, 1942, you forwarded to this office the complaint of Mr. Frank Massanet, 1899 Oakdale Avenue, San Francisco, California, alleging that racial discrimination was practiced against him in his effort to secure employment as a painter at Letterman General Hospital, San Francisco.

The report of the investigation into his complaint states as follows:

Mr. Frank Massanet had previously been employed by the local office of the W.P.A. and assigned to a project at the Letterman General Hospital in the capacity of painter, which work he performed under the supervision of Sergeant Felix Trentowski, who is the painter foreman at this hospital. Shortly before the project was terminated Mr. Massanet was removed from this hospital by the local office of the W.P.A. Other painters were also withdrawn by the local office of the W.P.A. and it became necessary to apply to the Civil Service Commission and the State Employment Office for painters. Mr. Massanet was one of the painters sent by the State Employment Office in response to the request. Mr. Massanet accordingly reported to the undersigned (the Captain referred to in the complaint) and was referred to the painter foreman for interview. The foreman reported that his knowledge of Mr. Massanet when previously at this hospital as a W.P.A. employee was such that he was considered unsatisfactory. His work as a painter at that time was poor; he was considered incompetent as a painter and for that reason was not employed.

10  
11

Mr. George M. Johnson,  
September 11, 1942,  
Page 2

Racial discrimination has not been practiced in this or any other case. There are at present employed in this department (Post Engineer) a Puerto Rican, a Negro, an Indian, and an Argentinian.

Your attention is invited to the fact that Mr. Massanet submitted no evidence in support of his charge of racial discrimination, but inasmuch as he was of the opinion that "the trouble is that these people do not like to work with a colored man," this office requested an investigation of his complaint.

In view of the conflict between his statement that he is "competent for the job" and the statement in the report that he was "considered incompetent as a painter," the Committee may wish to make its own independent investigation.

Sincerely yours,

Civilian Aide to the Secretary  
of War

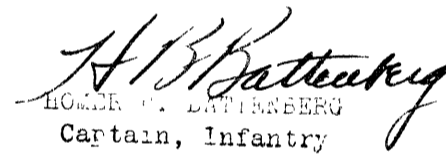
201 (Massenet, Frank)  
(SPKII) CPB (LNGR)

8th Ind.

Headquarters, Ninth Service Command, Office of the Director, Personnel Division,  
Fort Douglas, Utah, September 1, 1942. TO: Office of the Assistant Secretary,  
Washington, D. C.

Attention is invited to preceding 6th indorsement.

For the Commanding General:

  
HOMER C. LATTINBERG  
Captain, Infantry

Assist. to Director, Personnel Division

WAR DEPARTMENT  
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

July 17, 1942.

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Director of Civilian Personnel and Training

This office has received from the President's Committee on Fair Employment Practice the complaint of Mr. Frank Massanet, 1899 Oakdale Avenue, San Francisco, California, alleging that racial discrimination was practiced against him on May 27, 1942, in his effort to secure appointment as a painter at Letterman Hospital, San Francisco, because he is a Puerto Rican.

His complaint states as follows:

I was assigned to a painter job at the Letterman Hospital, Utility Department, by the State Employment Office, and after being accepted by the Captain, Q.M., the Sergeant in charge of the painting department refuses to accept me and no reason is given; but the trouble is that these people do not like to work with a colored man, even though they know that I am competent for the job.

May the facts in this case be investigated to determine whether there has been any violation of the directives prohibiting discrimination on account of race or color in the selection of Federal employees?

*William A. Hastie*  
Civilian Aide to the Secretary  
of War





1st Ind.  
War Department, Office of the Secretary  
To: Chief of Engineers

mfb/vh  
July 25, 1942

For investigation and report to this Office.

By authority of the Secretary of War:

*Wm. H. Kushnick*  
Wm. H. Kushnick  
Director of Civilian Personnel  
and Training

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*Wm. H. Kushnick*  
Wm. H. Kushnick  
Director of Civilian Personnel  
and Training

AIR MAIL

*3rd* Ind.  
Office, Div. Engr., So. Pac. Div. AUG 13 1942  
To: The Division Engineer,  
Mountain Division,  
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH.  
Forwarded as a matter pertaining  
to your office.



WTH

1911

1912

1913

1914

1915

1916

201 (Massenet, Frank)  
(SP-KII) CPB (ENGR)

4th Ind.

Headquarters, Ninth Service Command, Office of the Director, Personnel Division,  
Fort Douglas, Utah, August 22, 1942. TO: The Commanding General, Letterman  
General Hospital, Presidio of San Francisco, California. ATTENTION: Post Engineer.

For report.

For the Commanding General:



*Guy D. Edwards*  
GUY D. EDWARDS  
Capt., Engr.,  
Assist. to Director, Personnel Division

201 (Massenet, Frank)

5th Ind.

AF16K/MB

Letterman General Hospital, San Francisco, California, August 27, 1942 -  
To The Post Engineer, L.G.H.

For compliance with preceding indorsement.

By command of Brigadier General WELD:

*Frank R. Day*  
FRANK R. DAY  
Captain, Med. Adm. Corps  
Adjutant

201 (Massenet, Frank)

6th Ind.

WEC/MB

Letterman General Hospital, San Francisco, California, August 22, 1942 -  
To The Commanding General, Post.

1. The complaint referred to in basic communication has been investigated and the following was determined:

Mr. Frank Massenet had previously been employed by the local office of the W.F.A. and assigned to a project at the Letterman General Hospital in the capacity of painter, which work he performed under the supervision of Sergeant Felix Trentowski, who is the painter foreman at this hospital. Shortly before the project was terminated Mr. Massenet was removed from this hospital by the local office of the W.F.A. Other painters were also withdrawn by the local office of the W.F.A. and it became necessary to apply to the Civil Service Commission and the State Employment Office for painters. Mr. Massenet was one of the painters sent by the State Employment Office in response to the request. Mr. Massenet accordingly reported to the undersigned (the Captain referred to in the complaint) and was referred to the painter foreman for interview. The foreman

201. (Massanet, Frank)

6th Ind. (Cont'd.)

Aug. 28, 1942

reported that his knowledge of Mr. Massanet when previously at this hospital as a W.P.A. employee was such that he was considered unsatisfactory. His work as a painter at that time was poor; he was considered incompetent as a painter and for that reason was not employed.

2. Racial discrimination has not been practised in this or any other case. There are at present employed in this department a Puerto Rican, a negro, an Indian, and an Argentinian.

*Wesley E. Covert*  
WESLEY E. COVERT  
Major, Corps of Engineers  
Post Engineer

201. (Massanet, Frank)

7th Ind.

AEMcK/MB

Letterman General Hospital, San Francisco, California, August 28, 1942 -  
To The Commanding General, Hdqrs. Ninth Service Command, Office of the Director,  
Personnel Division, Fort Douglas, Utah.

Returned inviting attention to report of the Post Engineer in the preceding indorsement, in which this office concurs. Racial discrimination is not practised or countenanced in any of the activities of this hospital.

For the Commanding General:

*Frank R. Day*  
FRANK R. DAY  
Captain, Med. Adm. Corps  
Adjutant

REC'D P.D. CIV. 9th SERV. COMD. AUG 31 1942

July 17, 1942.

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Director of Civilian Personnel and Training

This office has received from the President's Committee on Fair Employment Practice the complaint of Mr. Frank Massanet, 1899 Oakdale Avenue, San Francisco, California, alleging that racial discrimination was practiced against him on May 27, 1942, in his effort to secure appointment as a painter at Letterman Hospital, San Francisco, because he is a Puerto Rican.

His complaint states as follows:

I was assigned to a painter job at the Letterman Hospital, Utility Department, by the State Employment Office, and after being accepted by the Captain, Q.M., the Sergeant in charge of the painting department refuses to accept me and no reason is given; but the trouble is that these people do not like to work with a colored man, even though they know that I am competent for the job.

May the facts in this case be investigated to determine whether there has been any violation of the directives prohibiting discrimination on account of race or color in the selection of Federal employees?

Civilian Aide to the Secretary  
of War

*Handwritten:*  
CIVILIAN  
AIDE TO THE  
SECRETARY  
OF WAR

PRESIDENT'S COMMITTEE ON FAIR EMPLOYMENT PRACTICE  
SOCIAL SECURITY BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

MALCOLM S. MACLEAN  
CHAIRMAN  
WILLIAM GREEN  
MILTON P. WEBSTER  
LAWRENCE W. CRAMER  
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

DAVID SARNOFF  
EARL B. DICKERSON  
PHILIP MURRAY  
MARK ETHRIDGE

July 14, 1942

The Honorable  
William H. Hastie  
Civilian Aide to the  
Secretary of War  
Munitions Building  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Judge Hastie:

The President's Committee on Fair Employment Practice is in receipt of a complaint from Mr. Frank Massanet, President, Puerto Rican Democratic Club, 1899 Oakdale Avenue, San Francisco, in which he alleges that on May 27, 1942 he was discriminated against in connection with his assignment to a paint job at Letterman Hospital in San Francisco.

In connection with what transpired on May 27 Mr. Massanet states as follows:

"I was assigned to a painter job at the Letterman Hospital, Utility Department, by the State Employment Office, and after being accepted by the Captain, Q. M., the Sergeant in charge of the painting department refuses to accept me and no reason is given; but the trouble is that these people do not like to work with a colored man, even though they know that I am competent for the job.

"So, I ask justice of your committee, because if I am good to back the Administration with twenty-one thousand Puerto Rican votes in the state, I should be good enough to have a right to a decent job with no color discrimination."

It is my understanding that Letterman Hospital is under the jurisdiction of the War Department and it is requested that you have this complaint investigated and furnish the Committee with a report.

Sincerely yours,

*George M. Johnson*

George M. Johnson  
Assistant Executive Secretary



September 5, 1942.

Mr. George K. Johnson,  
Assistant Executive Secretary,  
President's Committee on Fair  
Employment Practice,  
Tenth and U Streets, N. W.,  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Johnson:

On July 21, 1942, you forwarded to this office the complaint of Mr. Clifton C. Mills, 631 South Palmetto Street, San Antonio, Texas, alleging that racial discrimination was practiced against him in his effort to secure employment as Guard with the United States Engineer Area Office, Duncan Field, Texas.

The report of the investigation into this complaint states that Mr. William J. Stone, upon being questioned concerning Mr. Mills's complaint, denied that he told Mr. Mills that he (Mills) would not be employed because of his race. Mr. Stone made the following written statement:

On the morning of June 30, 1942 I met a group of men at the Plant Protection Building and was taking the names of the men that I had hired for Guard duties. A colored man named Clifton C. Mills rushed through the crowd of men, came up to me, and said that he was an Ex-Policeman and wanted a job as Guard. I told him I had all the men I could use at that time, but would be glad to help place him some where else. He got mad and said he would get a guard job or know the reason why.

I have always made it a practice to help people find jobs regardless of their race.

Corroborating statements were made by Mr. Lawrence L. Fearons, Assistant to the Chief Clerk, Area Engineer's Office, Duncan Field, and Mr. Curren A. Johnson, Senior Guard, Duncan and Kelly Fields.

The report also states that inquiry of the San Antonio Police Department revealed that Mr. Mills was dismissed from that

U. S. ENGINEER

Mr. George W. Johnson  
September 5, 1944  
Page 1

department on September 27, 1939, for physical inability to perform the duties prescribed to him and that he is at the present time drawing retirement pay in the amount of \$75 a month.

His employment record, made a part of the report, shows that he was employed by the San Antonio Police Department on July 10, 1919; that he resigned on October 1, 1919; that he was reemployed on March 10, 1920; that he was suspended in July, 1929, for non-payment of taxes; that he was suspended for 60 days on October 1, 1934, for gross neglect of duty; that he was indefinitely suspended on December 1, 1934, to await the findings of a grand jury on a charge of murder; that on December 5, 1934, the grand jury exonerated him and he was restored to duty; that he was promoted to third class detective on January 28, 1935, at a salary of \$100 a month; that on March 27, 1935, he was suspended for three days and reduced to uniform patrolman for conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman; that on June 14, 1937, he was suspended for five days on a charge of unwarranted violence to a prisoner.

His record further shows that he was born on December 5, 1876.

In these circumstances, it is believed that the investigation has failed to substantiate the charge of racial discrimination.

Sincerely yours,

Civilian Aide to the Secretary  
of War




1902(Negroes) SPEAP 5th Ind.

Office, C. of E., August 28, 1942. - To: The Director of Civilian  
Personnel and Training. (Office of the Secretary of War).

In accordance with the first indorsement, the basic communi-  
cation was referred to the District Engineer, San Antonio for inves-  
tigation. The report is contained in the inclosures. It is the opinion  
of this office that the charge of discrimination is not supported by  
evidence.

For the Chief of Engineers:

  
W. B. Lorence,  
Colonel, Corps of Engineers,  
Chief, Civilian Personnel Branch,  
Administrative Division.

Inclosure:  
File of correspondence.

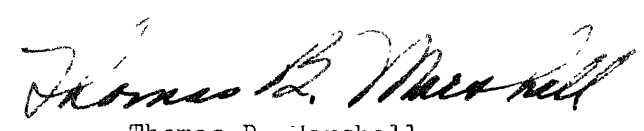
6th Ind.

fh/jh

War Department, Office of the Secretary, C.P.D.  
To: Civilian Aide to the Secretary of War

September 1, 1942

Forwarded.

  
Thomas B. Marshall  
Assistant Director  
for Employee Relations

WAR DEPARTMENT  
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

July 24, 1942.

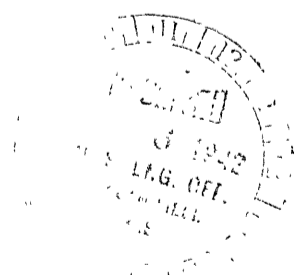
MEMORANDUM

TO: The Director of Civilian Personnel and Training

This office has received from the President's Committee on Fair Employment Practice the complaint of Mr. Clifton C. Mills, 631 South Palmetto Street, San Antonio, Texas, alleging that racial discrimination was practiced against him in his effort to secure employment as Guard with the United States Engineer Area Office, Duncan Field, Texas.

In his complaint Mr. Mills states that he applied in person for the job on June 30, 1942; that Mr. William J. Stone, who refused him employment, told him that probably some other department might hire him but his department was not hiring Negroes. Mr. Stone says he has had twenty years of experience as a member of the San Antonio police force.

May the facts in this case be investigated to determine whether there has been any violation of the directives prohibiting racial discrimination in Federal employment?



*William H. Hastie*  
Civilian Aide to the Secretary  
of War

FILE NO 51

Page 1

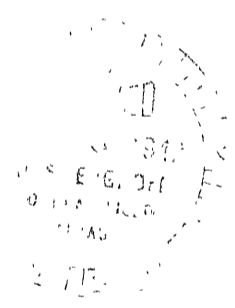
1st Ind.  
War Department, Office of the Secretary  
To: Chief of Engineers

mfb/vh  
July 28, 1942

For investigation and report to this Office.

By authority of the Secretary of War:

*Wm. H. Kushnick*  
Wm. H. Kushnick  
Director of Civilian Personnel  
and Training



*Wm. H. Kushnick*  
Wm. H. Kushnick  
Director of Civilian Personnel  
and Training

RECEIVED  
WASHINGTON, TEXAS

DISPATCHED  
O.C.E.  
JUL 31 2 57 PM '42

C-7


3rd Ind.

U. S. Engineer Office, San Antonio District, Fort Sam Houston, Texas,  
August 14, 1942. - To: The Chief of Engineers, U. S. Army, War Department, Washington, D. C. ( THRU: Division Engineer, Southwestern Division, Dallas, Texas)

1. As requested in 2nd Indorsement, transmitted herewith, is a report submitted by the Area Engineer Office, Duncan and Kelly Fields.

2. A review of the inclosed evidence indicates that Mr. William J. Stone did not refuse employment to Mr. Mills, in the manner as alleged, therefore, complaint of Mr. Mills does not appear justifiable.

For the District Engineer:

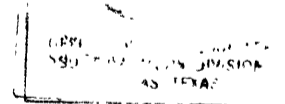


C. W. TERRY  
Major, Corps of Engineers  
Executive Assistant

Aug 19 42 AM

Incls.

1st Wrapper Ind. }  
2nd Wrapper Ind. }  
with supporting papers



Duncan Fld. 614/12-419/10/15

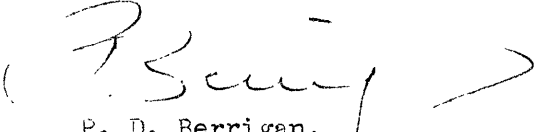
Subject: Complaint on Fair Em-  
ployment Practices -  
Mills, Clifton C.

4th Ind. AE

Office, Division Engineer, Southwestern Division, Dallas, Tex., Aug. 20,  
1942. - To the Chief of Engineers, U. S. Army, Washington, D. C.

This office concurs in the views of the District Engineer as men-  
tioned in the 3rd indorsement.

For the Division Engineer:

  
P. D. Berrigan,  
Lt. Col., Corps of Engineers,  
Executive Assistant.

Incls. - (in dup.)  
No change.

2nd Wrapper Ind.

U. S. Engineer Area Office, Duncan and Kelly Fields, San Antonio District, Duncan Field, Texas, August 7, 1942.- To: U. S. Engineer Office, San Antonio District, Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

1. Upon receipt correspondence pertaining to Mr. Clifton C. Mills, 631 Palmetto Street, San Antonio, Texas, Mr. William J. Stone was called to this office and questioned requesting complaint made by Mills. Mr. Stone stated that he did not tell Mills that he would not be employed because of this race, in evidence of which, there is inclosed herewith a statement from Mr. Stone and statements from Lawrence L. Fearons and Curren A. Johnson, both of whom are employees of this office.

2. Further inquiry from the San Antonio Police Department reveals that Mills was dismissed from the San Antonio Police Department in September 1939 for physical inability to perform the duties prescribed to him and that he is at the present time drawing retirement pay in the amount of \$75.00 per month.

3. Herewith is employment record of Mills with the city of San Antonio, Texas.

Employed by City of San Antonio Police Department July 10, 1919.

Resigned October 1, 1919.

Reemployed March 10, 1920.

✓ Suspended in July of 1929 for non-payment of taxes.

✓ October 1, 1934, suspended for 60 days for violation of Civil Service Code, Section 84-G, gross neglect of duty.

✓ December 1, 1934, indefinitely suspended charged with murder awaiting findings of Grand Jury.

✓ December 5, 1934, Grand Jury exonerated Mills and he was restored to duty.

✓ January 28, 1935, promoted to 3rd class detective at \$100.00 per month.

✓ March 27, 1935, suspended three (3) days and reduced to uniform patrolman for violation of Civil Service Code, Section 84-O. Conduct unbecoming to an officer and gentleman.

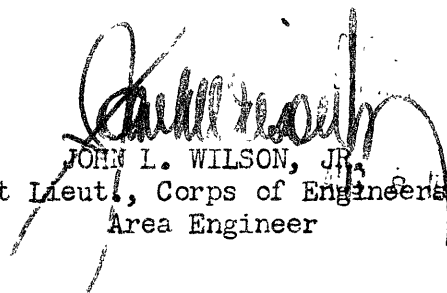
✓ June 14, 1937, suspended five (5) days charged with unwarranted violence to prisoner.

✓ September 27, 1939, dismissed--"will apply for pension."

BIRTH DATE---December 5, 1876.

2nd Wrapper Ind. August 7, 1942, (cont.)

4. Investigation made by undersigned discloses that no racial discrimination was practiced against Clifton C. Mills by Mr. William J. Stone.

  
JOHN L. WILSON, JR.  
1st Lieut., Corps of Engineers  
Area Engineer

FORT SAM HOUSTON, TEXAS

Incls.-

Statement by William J. Stone (dup.)  
Statement by Lawrence E. Fearons (dup.)  
Statement by Curren A. Johnson (dup.)



August 7, 1942  
Duncan Field, Texas.

John L. Wilson,  
1st. Lieut., Corps of Engineers  
Area Engineer,  
Duncan Field, Texas.

Dear Sir:

On the morning of June 30, 1942, Mr. William J. Stone left our office, saying that he was going to Plant Protection to see some men he had hired.

A few seconds after he had gone, I discovered a letter addressed to him that had come in the evening before. As he had been expecting a letter, I thought I had better take it to him, so, I went out and got into the car and drove over to Plant Protection.

As I arrived there and got out of the car, I saw Clifton C. Mills walking through a group of men who were standing around Mr. Stone.

I heard Clifton C. Mills tell Mr. Stone his name and that he was an ex-City Policeman and had come to see him about getting a Guards job.

Mr. Stone told him that he had all the men he needed but would try to help him get a Guard job some other place where they needed some men.

Mr. Mills seemed to get pretty angry, saying that he would get a Guards job or know the reason why.

Mr. Stone told him that he was sorry, but could do nothing for him at the present time.

I gave Mr. Stone the letter and came back to the office, and Mr. Stone left in his car when I did.

I have been a citizen of San Antonio for about twenty seven years and knew Clifton C. Mills when he was a City Policeman.

There was nothing mentioned about Mills race or color.

*Lawrence L. Fearons*  
Lawrence L. Fearons  
Assistant to Chief Clerk  
Area Engineers' Office  
Duncan Field, Texas.

August 7, 1942

John L. Wilson, Jr.  
1st Lieut., Corps of Engineers,  
Area Engineer,  
Duncan Field, Texas.

Dear Sir:

I was present when Mr. Clifton C. Mills asked Mr. Stone for a job as Guard.

Mr. Mills pushed through the crowd of men and gave Mr. Stone a letter. Mr. Stone read the letter and told Mr. Mills that he had all the men that he needed at present, and if there was a vacancy later on he would be glad to help him get a Guard job. Then Mr. Mills seemed to get mad and went off threatening what he was going to do, and mumbling a lot of stuff that I did not understand. Mr. Stone did not tell him he would not hire him on account of his being a negro.

*Curren A. Johnson,*  
*Sr. Guard*  
*Duncan & Kelly Field*

Curren A. Johnson,  
Sr. Guard,  
Duncan & Kelly Fields, Texas.

August 7, 1942

John L. Wilson,  
1st Lieut, Corps of Engineers,  
Area Engineer,  
Duncan Field, Texas.

Dear Sir:

On the morning of June 30, 1942 I met a group of men at the Plant Protection Building and was taking the names of the men that I had hired for Guard duties. A colored man named Clifton C. Mills rushed through the crowd of men, came up to me, and said he was an ex-policeman and wanted a job as Guard. I told him that I had all the men I could use at that time, but would be glad to help place him some where else he got mad and said he would get a Guard job or know the reason why.

I have always made it a practice to help people find jobs regardless of their race.



W. J. Stone,  
U. S. Engineers  
Duncan Field, Texas.

July 27, 1942.

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Director of Civilian Personnel and Training

This office has received from the President's Committee on Fair Employment Practice the complaint of Mr. Clifton C. Mills, 631 South Palmetto Street, San Antonio, Texas, alleging that racial discrimination was practiced against him in his effort to secure employment as Guard with the United States Engineer Area Office, Duncan Field, Texas.

In his complaint Mr. Mills states that he applied in person for the job on June 30, 1942; that Mr. William J. Stone, who refused him employment, told him that probably some other department might hire him but his department was not hiring Negroes. Mr. Stone says he has had twenty years of experience as a member of the San Antonio police force.

May the facts in this case be investigated to determine whether there has been any violation of the directives prohibiting racial discrimination in Federal employment?

Civilian Aide to the Secretary  
of War

PRESIDENT'S COMMITTEE ON FAIR EMPLOYMENT PRACTICE  
SOCIAL SECURITY BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

MALCOLM S. MACLEAN  
CHAIRMAN  
WILLIAM GREEN  
MILTON P. WEBSTER  
LAWRENCE W. CRAMER  
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

July 21, 1942.

DAVID SARNOFF  
EARL B. DICKERSON  
PHILIP MURRAY  
MARK ETHRIDGE

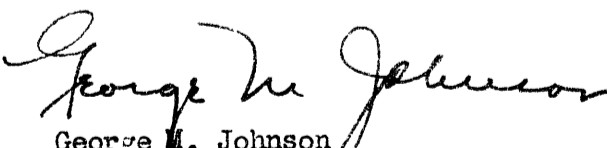
Honorable William H. Hastie,  
Civilian Aide to the Secretary of War  
War Department  
Washington, D. C.

My dear Judge Hastie:

The President's Committee on Fair Employment Practice has received a complaint from Clifton C. Mills, 631 South Palmetto, San Antonio, Texas, a copy of which is enclosed for your convenience, in which it is alleged that racial discrimination was responsible for Mr. Mills' inability to obtain employment as Guard with the United States Engineer Area Office at Duncan Field, Texas.

Will you kindly investigate this complaint, and submit a report to this Committee upon completion of your investigation?

Sincerely yours,

  
George M. Johnson  
Assistant Executive Secretary.

Encls.



COPY

U. S. Engineer Area Office  
Name of Firm, Agency, School, Union.

San Antonio District          x   Government Agency  
Duncan Field, Texas.

The following facts are submitted to substantiate this charge:

1. Race, Religion or National Origin of Complaint: Race
2. Job, position or classification for which application was made: Guard
3. Qualifications for such job, position or classification:
  - A. Education: Police school in San Antonio, Texas
  - B. Experience and Work history: Member of Police Force in San Antonio, Texas, 20 consecutive years.
  - C. Civil Service List \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Examination \_\_\_\_\_ Rating \_\_\_\_\_
4. Date of application certification (in person (~~by-letter~~)) for position: June 30, 1942.
5. Date of refusal to employ or admit: June 30, 1942
6. Name and official position of persons refusing or transmitting refusal :  
William J. Stone U. S. Engineer
7. Reason given for such refusal: We are not hiring Negroes.
8. Statement of additional facts and/or circumstances indicating discrimination on account of race, religion or national origin:  
  
William J. Stone volunteered information that probably some other department may hire Negroes, but his department did not.
9. Names and addresses of any witnesses to facts and/or circumstances indicating discrimination:

None listed.

Name and address of person claiming discrimination

-s- Clifton C. Mills  
631 S. Palmetto St.,  
San Antonio, Texas

June 18, 1942.

Mr. Lawrence S. Cramer,  
Executive Secretary,  
President's Committee on Fair  
Employment Practice,  
1406 G Street, N. W.,  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Cramer:

Reference is made to the complaint of Mr. Iverson O. Mitchell, Jr., 1701 Thirteenth Street, N. W., whom Dr. Ruth Landes of your staff sent to this office on yesterday. Mr. Mitchell alleges that he was discriminated against in his effort to secure employment as a topographical draftsman with the Chemical Warfare Service.

In the interview that Mr. Mitchell had at this office it developed that he had been required to resign, with prejudice, from a position in the city post office. I fear that unless he can clear his name with the city post office, an investigation of his complaint will prove useless. If he will take up this matter with the city post office and clear his name, further consideration will be given his complaint.

Sincerely yours,

Civilian Aide to the Secretary  
of War

6/18/42

September 28, 1942

Mr. Lawrence G. Cramer  
Executive Secretary  
President's Committee on  
Fair Employment Practice  
Tenth and H Streets, N.W.  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Cramer:

On May 1, 1942, you forwarded to this office the complaint of Mr. Clinton E. Modeste, 83 St. Nicholas Place, New York City, alleging that racial discrimination was practiced against him in his effort to secure employment as a senior automotive instructor (Motor Transport School) at Miller Field, Staten Island, New York.

The report of the investigation into this complaint states as follows:

a. It is reported that the Second Corps Area Motor Transport School opened on January 14, 1942, with five civilian instructors who were taken from the Civil Service list, and who all had ratings above 90, whereas Mr. Modeste's rating was 86.5 per cent.

b. In April, 1942, it is further reported, 234 civilian employees were hired in the Metropolitan District Shop, but the school did not hire any instructors and was not authorized to do so at the time. In the hiring of the above personnel a number of colored mechanics, including one foreman, were hired. Mr. Modeste's statement alleging that these positions were filled outside of Civil Service is in error, as a Civil Service Commission representative was on duty at the District Shop during the hiring of both mechanics and instructors. Twenty-one instructors, secured from Civil Service lists, were hired on June 19, 1942. Records do not indicate that Clinton E. Modeste applied for one of these positions.

You may wish to check this report with Mr. Modeste. If so, I shall be pleased to have any information at variance with the report, which you may receive from him.

Sincerely yours,

Civilian Aide to the Secretary  
of War



WAR DEPARTMENT  
HEADQUARTERS, SERVICES OF SUPPLY  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

SPGC-L 201  
Modeste, Clinton E.

September 24, 1942

MEMORANDUM FOR THE UNDER SECRETARY OF WAR  
(Attention: Judge William H. Hastie)

Subject: Investigation of alleged racial discrimination  
practiced against Mr. Clinton E. Modeste

1. Reference is made to your memorandum of May 13, 1942, which reported the complaint of Mr. Clinton E. Modeste who alleged that racial discrimination had been practiced against him in his effort to secure employment as a Senior Automotive Instructor (Motor Transport School) at Miller Field, Staten Island, New York. This office directed the Quartermaster Corps to conduct an investigation of this complaint, the results of which are as follows:

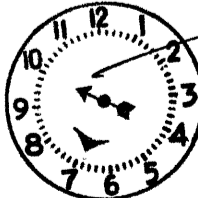
a. It is reported that the Second Corps Area Motor Transport School opened on January 14, 1942, with five civilian instructors who were taken from the Civil Service list, and who all had ratings above 90, whereas Mr. Modeste's rating was 86.5 per cent.

b. In April, 1942, it is further reported, 234 civilian employees were hired in the Metropolitan District Shop, but the school did not hire any instructors and was not authorized to do so at the time. In the hiring of the above personnel a number of colored mechanics, including one foreman, were hired. Mr. Modeste's statement alleging that these positions were filled outside of Civil Service is in error, as a Civil Service Commission representative was on duty at the District Shop during the hiring of both mechanics and instructors. Twenty-one instructors, secured from Civil Service lists, were hired on June 19, 1942. Records do not indicate that Clinton E. Modeste applied for one of these positions.

2. Should your office feel that this reply is either unsatisfactory or incomplete, we shall be glad to direct a further investigation of this matter.

For the Commanding General:

SEP 25 '42 PM



OUT

OUT

WAR DEPARTMENT  
SERVICES OF SUPPLY  
CIVILIAN PERSONNEL DIVISION

*James P. Mitchell*  
JAMES P. MITCHELL,  
Director, Civilian Personnel Division.

May 13, 1942.

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Director of Civilian Personnel and Training

This office has received from the President's Committee on Fair Employment Practice the complaint of Mr. Clinton E. Modeste, 83 St. Nicholas Place, New York City, which was submitted to it by Mr. Robert Washburn, Executive Secretary of the Committee on Discrimination in Employment, State Council of Defense in New York State.

Mr. Modeste alleges that racial discrimination was practiced against him in his effort to secure employment as a Senior Automotive Instructor (Motor Transport School) at Miller Field, Staten Island, New York. He states that he qualified in a Civil Service examination with a rating of 86.5 percent and was called in December for an interview at Miller field but was not selected. He bases his charge of discrimination upon public advertisements of 240 openings in this position at Miller Field, which he states recently appeared. A copy of his complaint is attached hereto.

May the facts in this case be investigated to determine whether there has been any violation of the directives prohibiting racial discrimination in the selection of Civil Service employees?

Civilian Aide to the Secretary  
of War

copy

PRESIDENT'S COMMITTEE ON FAIR EMPLOYMENT PRACTICE  
SOCIAL SECURITY BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

MALCOLM S. MACLEAN  
CHAIRMAN  
WILLIAM GREEN  
MILTON P. WEBSTER  
LAWRENCE W. CRAMER  
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

May 1, 1942

DAVID SARNOFF  
EARL B. DICKERSON  
PHILIP MURRAY  
MARK ETHRIDGE

Honorable William H. Hastie  
Civilian Aide to the Secretary of War  
War Department  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Judge Hastie:

Mr. Robert Washburn, Executive Secretary of the Committee on Discrimination in Employment, State Council of Defense in New York State, cited to me the case of Clinton E. Modeste of 83 St. Nicholas Place, Manhattan, who has submitted to his office a complaint that he has been discriminated against in his effort to secure employment in an agency of the War Department. His statement is as follows:

"I write to pass on to you the story of Clinton E. Modeste of 83 St. Nicholas Place, Manhattan, a forty-seven-year-old Negro native born citizen, who came here in person and who appears, on the face of his story, to have a justifiable complaint of discrimination against him in Army civilian employment.

"He says he has been an expert auto mechanic for many years and that during the last war he was head instructor of S.A.T.C. automotive courses at Branch College, Pine Bluff, Arkansas.

"On January 20, 1941, he took the United States Civil Service examination in the Second District for Senior Automotive Instructor (Motor Transport School) and under date of February 3, 1941, was notified that he had passed with the grade of 86.50%. He was called for interview to Miller's Field, Staten Island, last December and twice last February to the Army base at 59th Street and First Avenue, Brooklyn, but turned down each time.

"He states that just last week public advertisements were placed for 240 openings in this position at Miller's Field, outside of Civil Service, and thus that he is being passed over in a big way."

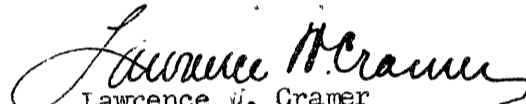
(over)



-2-

It is requested that this complaint be investigated and that the Committee on Fair Employment Practice be advised of the results of that investigation.

Sincerely yours,

  
Lawrence W. Cramer  
Executive Secretary

July 1, 1942.

Mr. Lawrence W. Cramer,  
Executive Secretary,  
President's Committee on Fair  
Employment Practice,  
1406 G Street, N. W.,  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Cramer:

On April 21, 1942, you transmitted to this office the complaint of Mr. Jerome Morgan, 518 East 39th Street, Chicago, Illinois, alleging that racial discrimination was practiced against him in his effort to secure employment as an inspector of Signal Corps equipment in the Chicago Signal Corps Procurement District.

The report of the investigation into this complaint states as follows:

The office of the Chicago Signal Corps Procurement District has been in the throes of an expansion due to the urgent requirements for the speedy and effective prosecution of the war effort, and had been hiring personnel on a considerable scale for some time-- the class of personnel being mostly clerk-typists, stenographers, and common labor. In addition thereto, a large number of telephone switchboard (both automatic and manual), power unit repairmen, and radio repairmen were being secured for the use of the expansion program of the shop, to meet and keep abreast of the tide of unserviceable equipment which has started to arrive and will accumulate and amount to immense proportions as time passes.

There is a recollection that somewhere about this period Mr. Jerome Morgan appeared and applied for a position as an inspector of Signal Corps equipment. He was noisy, talkative, and engaged all the men who were waiting or filling out applications for positions as telephone and switchboard repairmen in distracting and unwanted conversation and, in other words, made a general nuisance of himself; which left every indication that the man would be a trouble-maker of the first water and to have accepted a party possessing these characteristics into the organization would have deterred

COPIED  
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Mr. Lawrence W. Cramer  
July 1, 1942  
Page 2

the war effort. No consideration was given to his color as we make no record as to race, nationality, or creed. He did come back at a later date and, in a threatening manner, did inform all hearers in a loud and blustery voice that he would have a job in spite of everything-- which is further indication that he does not possess the proper mental balance to keep peace in an organization which is striving day and night to keep abreast of the war effort.

It is further advised that approximately 14 per cent of the personnel of this office is colored, which indicates that no discrimination is practiced by this office.

Further, in view of the intricate and delicate nature of the radio apparatus being procured, this office has been striving and struggling to secure individuals who possess a degree in electrical engineering from some recognized university covering this particular type of qualification; and in desperation this office has been accepting applicants who can show the equivalent of this requirement. This requirement was not demanded for the Repair Shop as it is evident we could not obtain and hold men of this type for duty in a Repair Shop where the salaries paid are only comparable to those paid in civil industry for like skill and which at this time are considerably lower than that paid by civil establishments.

In the opinion of this office, the trouble with this particular individual is that he is unaware of the fact that he is combative and considers his own personality above that of the organization.

You may wish to make an independent check on this report. After you have done so, if there is any additional information you may wish to submit, I shall be pleased to consider it.

Sincerely yours,

Civilian Aide to the Secretary  
of War

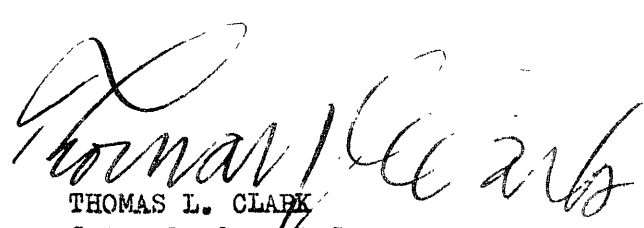
230-Morgan, Jerome  
To: Chief Signal Officer

3rd Ind. Contd.

CSD-1

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6. In the opinion of this office, the trouble with this particular individual is that he is unaware of the fact that he is combative and considers his own personality above that of the organization.

  
THOMAS L. CLARK  
Colonel, Signal Corps  
Officer in Charge

1 Incl. - No change

SPSCP-201-Morgan, Jerome

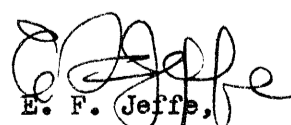
4th Ind.

SPSCP-2

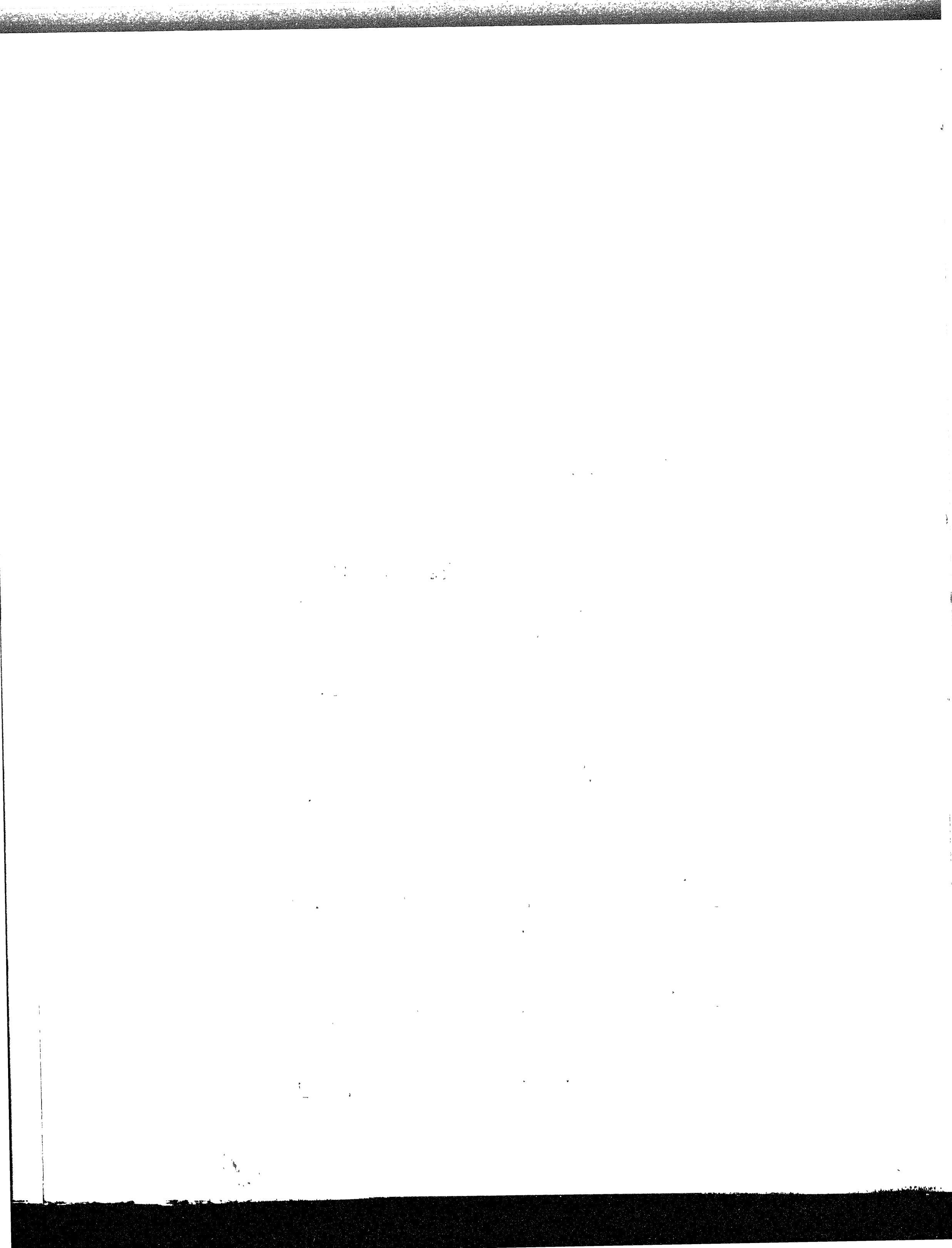
War Department, OCSigO, Washington, June 1, 1942. To: Secretary of War.

Report requested in first indorsement is contained in foregoing third indorsement.

By order of the Chief Signal Officer:

  
E. F. Jeffe,  
Major, Signal Corps.

1 Incl.  
withdrawn





3th Inc.

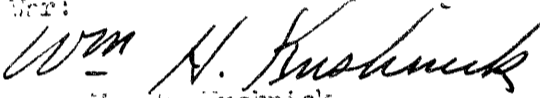
mfo/vh

War Department, Office of the Secretary  
To: Civilian Aide to the Secretary of War

June 18, 1942

Forwarded.

By authority of the Secretary of War:

  
Wm. H. Kushnick  
Director of Civilian Personnel  
and Training

WAR DEPARTMENT  
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

May 2, 1942.

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Director of Civilian Personnel and Training

This office has received from the President's Committee on Fair Employment Practice the complaint of Mr. Jerome Morgan, 518 East 39th Street, Chicago, Illinois, alleging that racial discrimination was practiced against him in his effort to secure employment as an inspector of Signal Corps equipment in Chicago, although he was employed in that capacity at the Wright Field Aircraft Radio Laboratory, Dayton, Ohio.

It appears from his complaint that he resigned his job while undergoing training at the Western Electric plant in Kearny, New Jersey, because his assignment would require him to maintain two places of abode-- one in Chicago for his family and the other for himself in the vicinity of his employment. He states that on his way back he stopped in Dayton and talked with Captain Koerner about the possibility of his getting work in the Chicago area. His complaint also states as follows:

He (Captain Koerner) told me it had not been their policy to send Negro inspectors to factories where there were no Negroes working on the production line.

A copy of his complaint is attached hereto. May the facts in this case be investigated to determine whether there has been any violation of the directives prohibiting racial discrimination in the Federal service?

*William H. Hastie*  
Civilian Aide to the Secretary  
of War

10-11-1964

10-11-1964

10

C O P Y

April 21, 1942

Honorable William H. Hastie  
Civilian Aide to the Secretary of  
War  
War Department  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Judge Hastie:

The Committee on Fair Employment Practice is in receipt of a complaint from Mr. Jerome Morgan of 518 East 39 Street, Chicago, Illinois, alleging that he has been discriminated against because of his Negro origin in his effort to secure work for which he has qualifications, and in which he sets forth a number of instances including one in which he was certified to the Signal Corps in Avon, Kentucky, by the Civil Service Commission.

His statement is as follows:

"Early in November, 1941, I submitted my experience and training for a job entitled Radio Mechanic Technician. I received a rating of 78. A few months later I received an availability statement from the Signal Corps in Avon, Kentucky. At that time I was still employed as a National Defense Instructor so I stated that I was not available.

"After the hearing in Chicago, I met some of my white radio friends who informed me that the U. S. Signal Corps at 1819 West 39 Street was employing people rated a technicians as Inspectors of Signal Corps equipment. I went over to the U. S. Signal Corps located at 1819 West Pershing Road on approximately January 24, 1942, at about 10:00 o'clock in the morning. I sat on a bench where six others were sitting and waiting to be interviewed. I asked some of the fellows what jobs they were applying for, and they told me that they were applying for jobs as inspectors of Signal Corps equipment. I asked them if they had been certified by the Civil Service Commission, and they said no. I asked them their experience. One had worked with the telephone company, one or two were Radio Amateurs and the others were service men. All six were white. I saw these men being interviewed, fill out the Civil Service form, have them notarized, and being sworn in and employed during my presence. When it was my time to be interviewed, I talked to Captain Greenfield. I told him that I had already been certified by the Civil Service Commission. He gave me a form to fill out which would give him a picture of my training and experience. On reading this form, he stated that

C O P Y

I had a very good background and an unusual amount of experience, but that he was sorry that he could not use me. I asked him if there were any colored inspectors. He said that there was no way of telling because there was no question of that nature on the blanks. I asked him if it wasn't his duty to interview all inspectors in his unit so that he could see them and inform them of their duties and their responsibilities to the Signal Corps. He said yes. I asked him if he had interviewed any colored, he replied that he had been in personnel work only about three months. He then dismissed me. Talking to friends, I found out that men who had less experience than I were being employed so I again applied to Captain Greenfield during the month of February 1942. This time he promised me he would call me within a few days. I waited two weeks and I called him by phone, he said there was no opening. During the last week in March 1942 I called on Captain Greenfield again this time I was bluntly told nothing doing. Even as late as March 1942 I saw people in that office still filling out Civil Service forms for jobs. Even before I went to see Captain Greenfield a friend of mine Mr. Robert B. Pairs had received a letter from the Signal Corps 1819 West 39th Street stating that he had been certified to that office by the Civil Service Commission, and if available to report for work. When Mr. Pairs was interviewed he was told that he did not have the experience for that job, and dismissed him. Now it seems strange that the Civil Service would certify a man on the basis of his experience and the War Department turn him down. I know of a case where a man by the name of Thomas White whose only training was the completion of a National Defense Training Course who is now a Junior Inspector for the Signal Corps at Dayton, Ohio. I taught this man myself. I know of others who have less experience than Mr. Pairs who are working as inspectors. I therefore believe that this is a clear cut case of discrimination.

"On March 11, 1942, I reported for duty as an Inspector of Signal Corps Equipment at Wright Field Aircraft Radio Laboratory, Dayton, Ohio. (If I could be hired here as an Inspector why couldn't I be hired to do the same type of work in Chicago?) On that day I asked the person interviewing me if it would be possible for me to work in the Chicago area since I had a family of four. The interviewer stated that they had to send people where they could get along best (meaning Negroes). I was informed that I was being sent to Western Electric in Kearny, New Jersey, where I would receive good training and where I would probably get along without friction. This pleased me at the time. So I went to the Western Electric plant in New Jersey. I began my work on the 13th of March 1942. Due to my previous work in defense factories I adapted myself to this new job within two days. And after the first two days the quantity of work I produced was higher than that of any other inspector doing that same type of work, the quality was also above question. There were three Negro inspectors who had been working at this plant for some time before I arrived and these had distinguished themselves by their work and conduct. However two of these inspectors had families,

April 21, 1942

one had been on the job as long as four weeks and had been unable to find housing. One landlord wanted to charge an inspector \$16.00 a week for one room and use of the kitchen for his family of four. I also joined this venture of seeking apartments. We went to the defense housing, to Newark, to Brooklyn, New York and places within a 30 mile area from the factory but could not find housing. I was paying for an apartment in Chicago, and it appeared that I would have to maintain two separate residents for the duration so I resigned. A few days before I left another Negro inspector was assigned to the same plant. He told me that six inspectors had just been assigned to Zenith Radio in Chicago. (He would know because all inspectors that leave on the same day know where the others are going. They are all in the same room). So I decided to come by the way of Dayton on my way back to Chicago and inquire if there were openings in that area, and maybe I would not have to resign. I resigned on the 21st of March 1942, and arrived in Dayton on the 23rd of March, 1942. I talked with Captain Koerner and told him of my desire to get work in the Chicago area. He told me that it had not been their policy to send Negro inspectors to factories where there were no Negroes working in the production line. He further stated that the Army had to maintain good relationship with the companies producing war goods and they did not want this relationship broken. I told him how I had taught white and colored youth for three years with the National Youth Administration, and Negro and white men in the National Defense Program for two years, and of my work in defense factories in technical departments, and of how well I had gotten along at Western Electric plant. He admired my experience and my diplomacy and told me to wait around a few hours and he would see if he could work out something for me. So he got on the telephone and called either superior officers or manufacturers or both in Chicago asking them if I would be acceptable. About three hours later he told me that he was sorry that there was nothing that he could do at the present. However, he stated, that he would be in Chicago next week (first week in April) and possibly work out something for me, but warned me not to sit and wait for this to happen. He further stated that he hoped that I would not report this to the Civil Service Commission as this would only complicate the picture.

"Connecting the two pictures together, why was I refused employment at 1819 West 39th Street at the U. S. Signal Corps, and given employment by the War Department at Dayton Ohio.

"At Dayton the discrimination appears to be only in the placement of Negroes, while in Chicago it covers employment and placement."

-4-

It is requested that this complaint be investigated and that the Committee on Fair Employment Practice be advised of the results of this investigation.

Sincerely yours,

Lawrence W. Cramer  
Executive Secretary

Cramer/cs

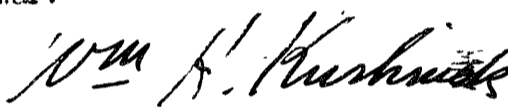
1st Ind.

War Department, Office of the Secretary  
To: Chief Signal Officer

mfb/vh  
May 4, 1942

1. For investigation and report to this Office.

By authority of the Secretary of War:

  
Wm. H. Kushnick  
Director of Civilian Personnel  
and Training

RECEIVED  
MAY 11 2 25 PM '42

SPSCP  
201-Morgan, Jerome


2nd Ind.

SPSCP-2

War Department, OCSigO, Washington, May 11, 1942. To: Signal Supply  
Officer, Chicago Quartermaster Depot, Chicago, Illinois.

1. Attention is invited to basic communication. It is requested  
that complete report be made to this office to be transmitted to the  
Office of the Secretary of War.

By order of the Chief Signal Officer:

  
H. C. Taylor,  
Major, Signal Corps.





230-Morgan, Jerome  
(5/2/42)

3rd Ind.

CSD-1

Chicago Sig.C. Procurement District, 1819 West Pershing Road, Chicago, Illinois, May 27, 1942. To: Chief Signal Officer, Materiel Branch, Temporary Building A, Second and T Streets, Washington, D.C.

1. With reference to the basic communication from the office of the Assistant Secretary of War and the enclosure attached thereto concerning Mr. Jerome Morgan, an investigation discloses the following:

2. The office of the Chicago Signal Corps Procurement District has been in the throes of an expansion due to the urgent requirements for the speedy and effective prosecution of the war effort, and had been hiring personnel on a considerable scale for some time -- the class of personnel being mostly clerk-typists, stenographers, and common labor. In addition thereto, a large number of telephone switchboard (both automatic and manual), power unit repairmen, and radio repairmen were being secured for the use of the expansion program of the shop, to meet and keep abreast of the tide of unserviceable equipment which has started to arrive and will accumulate and amount to immense proportions as time passes.

3. There is a recollection that somewhere about this period Mr. Jerome Morgan appeared and applied for a position as an inspector of Signal Corps equipment. He was noisy, talkative, and engaged all the men who were waiting or filling out applications for positions as telephone and switchboard repairmen in distracting and unwanted conversation and, in other words, made a general nuisance of himself; which left every indication that the man would be a trouble-maker of the first water and to have accepted a party possessing these characteristics into the organization would have deterred the war effort. No consideration was given to his color as we make no record as to race, nationality, or creed. He did come back at a later date and, in a threatening manner, did inform all hearers in a loud and blustery voice that he would have a job in spite of everything -- which is further indication that he does not possess the proper mental balance to keep peace in an organization which is striving day and night to keep abreast of the war effort.

4. It is further advised that approximately 14 per cent of the personnel of this office is colored, which indicates that no discrimination is practiced by this office.

5. Further, in view of the intricate and delicate nature of the radio apparatus being procured, this office has been striving and struggling to secure individuals who possess a degree in electrical

1000 00

May 2 1942.

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Director of Civilian Personnel and Training

This office has received from the President's Committee on Fair Employment Practice the complaint of Mr. Jerome Morgan, 518 East 39th Street, Chicago, Illinois, alleging that racial discrimination was practiced against him in his effort to secure employment as an inspector of Signal Corps equipment in Chicago, although he was employed in that capacity at the Wright Field Aircraft Radio Laboratory, Dayton, Ohio.

It appears from his complaint that he resigned his job while undergoing training at the Western Electric plant in Kearny, New Jersey, because his assignment would require him to maintain two places of abode-- one in Chicago for his family and the other for himself in the vicinity of his employment. He states that on his way back he stopped in Dayton and talked with Captain Koerner about the possibility of his getting work in the Chicago area. His complaint also states as follows:

He (Captain Koerner) told me it had not been their policy to send Negro inspectors to factories where there were no Negroes working on the production line.

A copy of his complaint is attached hereto. May the facts in this case be investigated to determine whether there has been any violation of the directives prohibiting racial discrimination in the Federal service?

Civilian Aide to the Secretary  
of War

PRESIDENT'S COMMITTEE ON FAIR EMPLOYMENT PRACTICE  
SOCIAL SECURITY BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

MALCOLM S. MACLEAN  
CHAIRMAN

WILLIAM GREEN  
MILTON P. WEBSTER

LAWRENCE W. CRAMER  
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

DAVID SARNOFF  
EARL B. DICKERSON  
PHILIP MURRAY  
MARK ETHRIDGE

April 21, 1942

Honorable William H. Hastie  
Civilian Aide to the Secretary of  
War  
War Department  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Judge Hastie:

The Committee on Fair Employment Practice is in receipt of a complaint from Mr. Jerome Morgan of 518 East 39 Street, Chicago, Illinois, alleging that he has been discriminated against because of his Negro origin in his effort to secure work for which he has qualifications, and in which he sets forth a number of instances including one in which he was certified to the Signal Corps in Avon, Kentucky, by the Civil Service Commission.

His statement is as follows:

"Early in November, 1941, I submitted my experience and training for a job entitled Radio Mechanic Technician. I received a rating of 78. A few months later I received an availability statement from the Signal Corps in Avon, Kentucky. At that time I was still employed as a National Defense Instructor so I stated that I was not available.

"After the hearing in Chicago, I met some of my white radio friends who informed me that the U. S. Signal Corps at 1819 West 39 Street was employing people rated as technicians as Inspectors of Signal Corps equipment. I went over to the U. S. Signal Corps located at 1819 West Pershing Road on approximately January 24, 1942, at about 10:00 o'clock in the morning. I sat on a bench where six others were sitting and waiting to be interviewed. I asked some of the fellows what jobs they were applying for, and they told me that they were applying for jobs as inspectors of Signal Corps equipment. I asked them if they had been certified by the Civil Service Commission, and they said no. I asked them their experience. One had worked with the telephone company, one or two were Radio Amateurs and the others were service men. All six were white. I saw these men being interviewed, fill out the Civil Service form, have them notarized, and being sworn in and employed during my presence. When it was my time to be interviewed, I talked to Captain Greenfield. I told him that I had already been certified by the Civil Service Commission. He gave me a form to fill out which would give him a picture of my training and experience. On reading this form, he stated that



(over)

I had a very good background and an unusual amount of experience, but that he was sorry that he could not use me. I asked him if there were any colored inspectors. He said that there was no way of telling because there was no question of that nature on the blanks. I asked him if it wasn't his duty to interview all inspectors in his unit so that he could see them and inform them of their duties and their responsibilities to the Signal Corps. He said yes. I asked him if he had interviewed any colored, he replied that he had been in personnel work only about three months. He then dismissed me. Talking to friends, I found out that men who had less experience than I were being employed so I again applied to Captain Greenfield during the month of February 1942. This time he promised me he would call me within a few days. I waited two weeks and I called him by phone, he said there was no opening. During the last week in March 1942 I called on Captain Greenfield again this time I was bluntly told nothing doing. Even as late as March 1942 I saw people in that office still filling out Civil Service forms for jobs. Even before I went to see Captain Greenfield a friend of mine Mr. Robert B. Pairs had received a letter from the Signal Corps 1819 West 39th Street stating that he had been certified to that office by the Civil Service Commission, and if available to report for work. When Mr. Pairs was interviewed he was told that he did not have the experience for that job, and dismissed him. Now it seems strange that the Civil Service would certify a man on the basis of his experience and the War Department turn him down. I know of a case where a man by the name of Thomas White whose only training was the completion of a National Defense Training course who is now a Junior Inspector for the Signal Corps at Dayton, Ohio. I taught this man myself. I know of others who have less experience than Mr. Pairs who are working as inspectors. I therefore believe that this is a clear cut case of discrimination.

"On March 11, 1942, I reported for duty as an Inspector of Signal Corps Equipment at Wright Field Aircraft Radio Laboratory, Dayton, Ohio. (If I could be hired here as an Inspector why couldn't I be hired to do the same type of work in Chicago?) On that day I asked the person interviewing me if it would be possible for me to work in the Chicago area since I had a family of four. The interviewer stated that they had to send people where they could get along best (meaning Negroes). I was informed that I was being sent to Western Electric in Kearny, New Jersey, where I would receive good training and where I would probably get along without friction. This pleased me at the time. So I went to the western Electric plant in New Jersey. I began my work on the 13th of March 1942. Due to my previous work in defense factories I adapted myself to this new job within two days. And after the first two days the quantity of work I produced was higher than that of any other inspector doing that same type of work, the quality was also above question. There were three Negro inspectors who had been working at this plant for some time before I arrived and these had distinguished themselves by their work and conduct. However two of these inspectors had families,

one had been on the job as long as four weeks and had been unable to find housing. One landlord wanted to charge an inspector \$16.00 a week for one room and use of the kitchen for his family of four. I also joined this venture of seeking apartments. We went to the defense housing, to Newark, to Brooklyn, New York and places within a 30 mile area from the factory but could not find housing. I was paying for an apartment in Chicago, and it appeared that I would have to maintain two separate residents for the duration so I resigned. A few days before I left another Negro inspector was assigned to the same plant. He told me that six inspectors had just been assigned to Zenith Radio in Chicago. (He would know because all inspectors that leave on the same day know where the others are going. They are all in the same room). So I decided to come by the way of Dayton on my way back to Chicago and inquire if there were openings in that area, and maybe I would not have to resign. I resigned on the 21st of March 1942, and arrived in Dayton on the 23rd of March, 1942. I talked with Captain Koerner and told him of my desire to get work in the Chicago area. He told me that it had not been their policy to send Negro inspectors to factories where there were no Negroes working on the production line. He further stated that the Army had to maintain good relationship with the companies producing war goods and they did not want this relationship broken. I told him how I had taught white and colored youth for three years with the National Youth Administration, and Negro and white men in the National Defense Program for two years, and of my work in defense factories in technical departments, and of how well I had gotten along at Western Electric plant. He admired my experience and my diplomacy and told me to wait around a few hours and he would see if he could work out something for me. So he got on the telephone and called either superior officers or manufacturers or both in Chicago asking them if I would be acceptable. About three hours later he told me that he was sorry that there was nothing that he could do at the present. However, he stated, that he would be in Chicago next week (first week in April) and possibly work out something for me, but warned me not to sit and wait for this to happen. He further stated that he hoped that I would not report this to the Civil Service Commission as this would only complicate the picture.

"Connecting the two pictures together, why was I refused employment at 1879 West 39th Street at the U. S. Signal Corps, and given employment by the War Department at Dayton, Ohio.

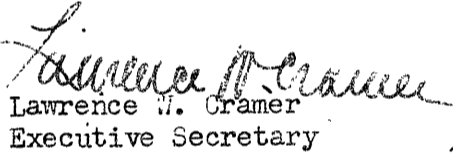
"At Dayton the discrimination appears to be only in the placement of Negroes, while in Chicago it covers employment and placement."

(over)

-4-

It is requested that this complaint be investigated and that the Committee on Fair Employment Practice be advised of the results of this investigation.

Sincerely yours,

  
Lawrence W. Cramer  
Executive Secretary



November 23, 1942

Mr. George M. Johnson,  
Assistant Executive Secretary,  
President's Committee on Fair  
Employment Practice,  
Tenth and U Streets, N. W.,  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Johnson:

On September 18, 1942, you forwarded to this office the complaints of Miss Margaret M. Jackson, 5813 Calumet Avenue, Chicago, Illinois, and Mrs. Jessie M. Morgan, 423 East Forty-eighth Place, Chicago, alleging that racial discrimination had been practiced against them in their efforts to secure employment as Typists with the Chicago Ordnance District.

The report of the investigation into these complaints states as follows:

a. On August 8, 1942, there were 84 applicants admitted to the Placement Section of the Civilian Personnel Branch of the Chicago Ordnance District Office, of which Miss Jackson was the 31st applicant to appear. In view of this, it would seem that Miss Jackson reported for interview sometime after 9:30 A.M. She was the seventh applicant to be interviewed and given a typing test, and due to pressure of work in the office and the fact that the office was at the peak of hiring at that time, it may be that Miss Jackson was not given her test until after the noon hour. It is the opinion of that office that Miss Jackson was given her examination in her rightful turn and as rapidly as possible. She received a grade of 32 words per minute on the test, which result was not considered satisfactory.

b. Mrs. Morgan reported to that office for an interview on August 14, 1942, and was given a typing test, which she passed with a grade of 52 words per minute, and was tentatively accepted for a stenographic position pending her release from her present employer. Mrs. Morgan was told this at the time of her interview, and her present employer, the Illinois Writers' Association, Chicago, Illinois, was contacted to determine whether Mrs. Morgan's services were being utilized to

*Case file # 11*

Mr. George W. Johnson  
November 23, 1942  
Page 2

the fullest extent at OCD, to which organization she had been loaned, and whether or not she could be released. The Illinois Writers' Association advised that they would notify the Chicago Ordnance District office within a short time.

c. Shortly afterwards, Mrs. Morgan called the Ordnance office regarding her application and presented an entirely different attitude. Upon attempts of Miss Goss in the Ordnance Office to explain the facts of the case, Mrs. Morgan became disagreeable and argumentative. Because of her belligerent manner, it was felt that Mrs. Morgan's services would not help to promote a healthy attitude in that District office, therefore her application was cancelled.

d. In view of these facts, it is believed that no racial discrimination was shown in either of these cases, inasmuch as the same disposition would have been made had white applicants been involved. A thorough investigation has been made of these two cases, and the above represents a full statement of the pertinent facts.

The Committee may wish to check with Mrs. Morgan that part of the report which relates to her complaint. If so, I shall be pleased to have any additional information, at variance with the report, which you may receive.

Sincerely yours,

Civilian Aide to the Secretary  
of War

WAR DEPARTMENT  
HEADQUARTERS, SERVICES OF SUPPLY  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

November 14, 1942

SPGC-L  
201 Jackson, Margaret M.  
Morgan, Mrs. Jessie M.  
(9-28-42)

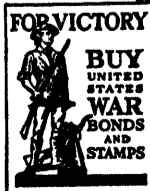
MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF WAR  
(Attention: Judge William H. Hastie)

1. Reference is made to your memorandum of September 28, 1942, regarding the complaints of Miss Margaret M. Jackson, and Mrs. Jessie M. Morgan, made through the President's Committee on Fair Employment Practice, alleging that racial discrimination was practiced against them in their efforts to secure employment as Typists with the Chicago Ordnance District.

2. This office requested that the Ordnance Department conduct an investigation of these charges, the results of which are as follows:

a. On August 8, 1942, there were 84 applicants admitted to the Placement Section of the Civilian Personnel Branch of the Chicago Ordnance District Office, of which Miss Jackson was the 31st applicant to appear. In view of this, it would seem that Miss Jackson reported for interview sometime after 9:30 A.M. She was the seventh applicant to be interviewed and given a typing test, and due to pressure of work in the office and the fact that the office was at the peak of hiring at that time, it may be that Miss Jackson was not given her test until after the noon hour. It is the opinion of that office that Miss Jackson was given her examination in her rightful turn and as rapidly as possible. She received a grade of 32 words per minute on the test, which result was not considered satisfactory.

b. Mrs. Morgan reported to that office for an interview on August 14, 1942, and was given a typing test, which she passed with a grade of 52 words per minute, and was tentatively accepted for a stenographic position pending her release from her present employer. Mrs. Morgan was told this at the time of her interview, and her present employer, the Illinois Writer's Association, Chicago, Illinois, was contacted to determine whether Mrs. Morgan's services were being utilized to the fullest extent at OCD, to which organization she had been loaned, and whether or not she could be released. The Illinois Writer's Association advised that they would notify the Chicago Ordnance District office within a short time.



SPGC-L - 11-14-42 - Continued

c. Shortly afterwards, Mrs. Morgan called the Ordnance office regarding her application and presented an entirely different attitude. Upon attempts of Miss Goss in the Ordnance Office to explain the facts of the case, Mrs. Morgan became disagreeable and argumentative. Because of her belligerent manner, it was felt that Mrs. Morgan's services would not help to promote a healthy attitude in that District office, therefore her application was cancelled.

d. In view of these facts, it is believed that no racial discrimination was shown in either of these cases, inasmuch as the same disposition would have been made had white applicants been involved. A thorough investigation has been made of these two cases, and the above represents a full statement of the pertinent facts.

3. Should your office feel that this reply is either unsatisfactory or incomplete, we shall be glad to direct a further investigation of this matter.

For the Director, Civilian Personnel Division:

NOV 14 12 AM



WAR DEPARTMENT  
SERVICES OF SUPPLY  
CIVILIAN PERSONNEL DIVISION

*James T. O'Connell*

JAMES T. O'CONNELL  
Lt. Colonel, General Staff Corps  
Acting Chief  
Labor Relations Branch

September 28, 1944.

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Director of Civilian Personnel and Training

This office has received from the President's Committee on Fair Employment Practice the complaints of Miss Margaret M. Jackson, 5813 Calumet Avenue, Chicago, Illinois, and Mrs. Jessie M. Morgan, 423 East Forty-eighth Place, Chicago, alleging that racial discrimination was practiced against them in their efforts to secure employment as Typists with the Chicago Ordnance District.

Miss Jackson alleges that she was kept waiting on August 7, 1944, from 9:30 a.m., to 2:15 p.m., to take a typing test; that white applicants who were in the office when she arrived that morning had been taken care of, and that this long wait was discriminatory.

Mrs. Morgan states that she reported to the Chicago Ordnance District on August 14, pursuant to instructions from the Civil Service Commission; that her interviewer, Miss Mary Goss, upon learning that she (Mrs. Morgan) had been lent by the Work Projects Administration to the Office of Civilian Defense, said she had instructions not to transfer anyone from one defense job to another; that she informed Miss Goss that she was on a WPA payroll and not a defense payroll, and Miss Goss promised to take up the question with her Chief Clerk.

Mrs. Morgan further states that she was allowed to take a typing examination with two white girls; that one of the white girls asked her how she had made out in the test; that she told her she had made three mistakes and rated 52 words a minute; that the white girl told her that she had made eleven mistakes and rated 45 words a minute; that the white girl was asked to stay; that Miss Goss told her she would hear from the Chicago Ordnance District in three days, if she were selected.

Mrs. Morgan also states that on August 27 she called to inquire what had been done about her application; that Miss Goss told her she could not remember the case; that after she had refreshed Miss Goss's memory, she finally admitted remembering something about the case but could not recall what the Chief Clerk had

Director of Civilian Personnel and Training  
September 28, 1942  
Page 2

said, and that if she had kept the other young woman after Mrs. Morgan had left, it was because she wished to discuss with her something that was on her application.

May the facts in these two cases be investigated to determine whether there has been any violation of the directives prohibiting racial discrimination in Federal employment? Inasmuch as there is a Civilian Personnel Field Office in Chicago, these cases appear to be appropriate for independent investigation by the Manager of that office.

Civilian Aide to the Secretary  
of War

PRESIDENT'S COMMITTEE ON FAIR EMPLOYMENT PRACTICE  
WAR MANPOWER COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

MALCOLM S. MACLEAN  
CHAIRMAN  
WILLIAM GREEN  
MILTON P. WEBSTER  
LAWRENCE W. CRAMER  
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

DAVID SARNOFF  
EARL B. DICKERSON  
PHILIP MURRAY  
MARK ETHRIDGE

September 18, 1942

The Honorable  
William H. Hastie  
Civilian Aide  
War Department  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Judge Hastie:

This office has received complaints from Miss Margaret M. Jackson, 5813 Calumet Avenue, Chicago, Illinois and Mrs. Jessie M. Morgan, 423 E. 48th Place, Chicago, Illinois that they were discriminated against in their efforts to secure employment with the Chicago Ordnance District, War Department, Chicago, Illinois.

Mrs. Morgan's complaint appears to be a prima-facie case of discrimination but Miss Jackson's complaint is not so substantial. We are submitting it, however, as further evidence to justify a general inquiry into the employment practices of the Chicago Ordnance District.

I am enclosing herewith two copies of pertinent excerpts from Mrs. Morgan's letter and two similar copies from letter received from Miss Jackson.

Sincerely yours,



George M. Johnson  
Assistant Executive Secretary

Enclosures - 4



C  
O  
P  
Y

George M. Johnson  
Ass't. Executive Secretary  
Presidents Committee on Fair Employment Practice  
Office of Emergency Management  
War Manpower Commission  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

I am hereby submitting details in full of my experience with the Chicago Ordnance District, War Department, to which Mrs. Margaret M. Jackson referred in her letter to you of August 14, 1942.

On August 14, 1942, I reported to the War Department, Chicago Ordnance District, 31 S. Clark Street, Room 1046, as instructed by the Civil Service Commission. I was interviewed by Miss Mary Goss who upon learning that I was loaned by the Writers' Unit, War Services Section, WPA, to the Morale Division of the OCD office, said she had orders not to transfer anyone from one Defense work to another. I explained that I was on a WPA payroll, not a Defense payroll. She promised to take it up with her Chief Clerk.

I was permitted to go downstairs with two white girls to take a typing examination. The lady who gave the examination marked the two white girls papers first, sent them back to Miss Goss and after about seven or eight minutes, marked mine.

One of the girls who had been quite friendly was talking to Miss Goss when I came up. She was interested in knowing how I had faired. When I told her that I had made 3 mistakes and rated 52 words a minute, she said, "Oh, don't worry you'll get the job, I had 11 mistakes and rated 45 words per minute." Incidentally she had been told to stay.

Miss Goss by this time had called for me, accepted my test paper and said that if I was selected I would hear from them in 3 days or my name would be returned to the Civil Service Commission.

Last Thursday, August 27, I called her to ask what had been done about the application and what she had learned about my Civil Service status because of my being loaned to the OCD office. She very haughtily told me that she couldn't remember the case. After all she had interviewed hundreds of people and couldn't be expected to remember each of them. I went over the interview so carefully that she finally admitted she remembered something about it but could not recall what the Chief Clerk had said and if she had kept the other young lady it must have been because she wished to discuss something on her application. I insisted on having some definite information and she finally called me back to say that I am eligible for the job and that my application is still there with others under



consideration.

Please recall that she first told me that after 3 days my name would be returned to the Civil Service Commission. It seemed strange that a week and a half later it would still be under consideration.

.....  
.....

Respectfully,

/s/ Jessie M. Morgan  
423 E. 48th Place  
Chicago, Illinois

October 9, 1942.

Mr. Lawrence W. Cramer,  
Executive Secretary,  
President's Committee on Fair  
Employment Practice,  
Tenth and U Streets, N. W.,  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Cramer:

On August 15, 1942, you forwarded to this office the complaint of Mr. Henry E. Morrison, 1508 South Twentieth Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, alleging that racial discrimination was practiced against him in the termination of his employment as a Guard at the Philadelphia Quartermaster Depot.

The report of the investigation into his complaint states as follows:

a. Mr. Henry E. Morrison was found asleep at his post while on guard duty on the second day of May, 1942.

b. All members of the guard force at the Depot where Mr. Morrison was employed have been advised that if they are found asleep at their post of duty, they will be immediately discharged. This punishment has been found necessary, in view of the fact that it is imperative for the protection of the Depot that all guards be on the alert at all times.

c. Mr. Morrison received the same punishment that all other guards who commit the offense of falling asleep while on duty have received.

3. From this report it would appear that there has been no violation of the directives prohibiting racial discrimination.

The Committee may wish to check this report with Mr. Morrison.

Sincerely yours,

Civilian Aide to the Secretary  
of War

WAR DEPARTMENT  
HEADQUARTERS, SERVICES OF SUPPLY  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

SPCC-C 201 Morrison, Henry E.

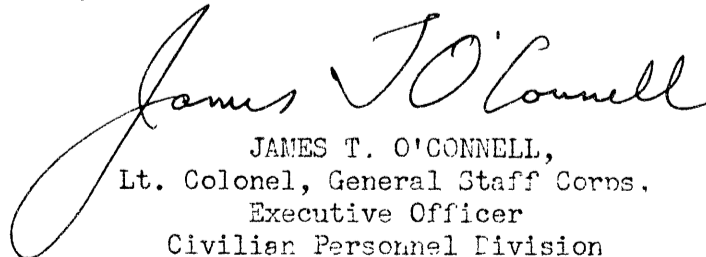
October 2, 1942.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF WAR  
(Attention: Mr. Truman K. Gibson, Jr.,  
Acting Civilian Aide to the Secretary of War)

Subject: Complaint from Henry E. Morrison.

1. We have your memorandum of August 24, 1942 in which you called our attention to a complaint which the President's Committee on Fair Employment Practice received from Mr. Henry E. Morrison, 1508 South Twentieth Street, Philadelphia, Pa.
2. A careful investigation has been made of Mr. Morrison's complaint, and it was found:
  - a. Mr. Henry E. Morrison was found asleep at his post while on guard duty on the second day of May, 1942.
  - b. All members of the guard force at the Depot where Mr. Morrison was employed have been advised that if they are found asleep at their post of duty, they will be immediately discharged. This punishment has been found necessary, in view of the fact that it is imperative for the protection of the Depot that all guards be on the alert at all times.
  - c. Mr. Morrison received the same punishment that all other guards who commit the offense of falling asleep while on duty have received.
3. From this report it would appear that there has been no violation of the directives prohibiting racial discrimination.

For the Commanding General:

  
JAMES T. O'CONNELL,  
Lt. Colonel, General Staff Corps.  
Executive Officer  
Civilian Personnel Division  
Headquarters, Services of Supply.





August 24, 1942

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Director of the Civilian Personnel Division,  
Services of Supply  
Attention: Captain Ira B. Cross, Jr.

This office has received from the President's Committee on Fair Employment Practice the complaint of Mr. Henry E. Morrison, 1508 South Twentieth Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, alleging that racial discrimination was practiced against him in the termination of his probational appointment as Watchman at the Philadelphia Quartermaster Depot for administrative reasons.

Mr. Morrison states that a more severe penalty was imposed upon him for whatever offense he may have committed than was imposed upon white guards for more serious offenses. A copy of his letter to the President's Committee is attached hereto.

May this office have a report on the facts in this case in order that it may be determined whether there has been any violation of the directives prohibiting racial discrimination in Federal employment.

Truman K. Gibson, Jr.  
Acting Civilian Aide to the Secretary  
of War

*Considered  
Cofep*

August 24, 1942.

Mr. Lawrence W. Cramer,  
Executive Secretary,  
President's Committee on Fair  
Employment Practice,  
Tenth and U Streets, N. W.,  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Cramer:

With reference to your communication of August 15, 1942, transmitting the complaint of Mr. Henry E. Morrison alleging that racial discrimination was practiced against him in the termination of his probational appointment as Watchman at the Philadelphia Quartermaster Depot, you are informed that an investigation has been initiated into this complaint.

You may wish to inform Mr. Morrison, however, that the termination of his services for "administrative reasons" will not prevent his employment by some other agency of the Federal Government. In fact, the Depot gave him a release stating that it would interpose no objections to his employment in another Government agency. When seeking employment, he should present his release.

Sincerely yours,

Truman K. Gibson, Jr.  
Assistant Civilian Aide to the Secretary  
of War

35276

PRESIDENT'S COMMITTEE ON FAIR EMPLOYMENT PRACTICE  
SOCIAL SECURITY BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Date August 15, 1942

The Honorable  
William H. Hastie  
Civilian Aide  
War Department  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Judge Hastie:

I transmit herewith two copies of an allegation made by Mr. Henry E. Morrison of 1508 S. 20th St. Phila. Pa., under date of July 15, 1942, charging discrimination against the War Department.

It is requested that this matter be investigated and that the Committee on Fair Employment Practice be furnished a report on it.

Sincerely yours,

*Lawrence W. Cramer*  
Lawrence W. Cramer  
Executive Secretary  
*by G. W. Johnson*

Enc.

Phila. July 30th, 1942

Mr. George M. Johnson, Secretary  
President's Committee on Fair Employment  
Practice  
Social Security Building  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

Your letter of July 22 duly received and contents noted. I do feel discrimination involved for these reasons:

1. Two Guards, white, were found asleep sometime ago at Johnson St. Depot and were given days off.
2. A guard at Schuykill was found drunk on duty was only given days off.
3. I was sick- when called down to Jackson St- was given no chance to make any statement, but was told to report back to work which I did for a week then was handed a discharge as copy.

I asked congressman Jos. P. McGranery to interceed in my behalf to Genera. McCain which he did and the General refused. I was then advised to seek other employment. I filled an application in the Navy Yard. It was rejected because I was told the commission held I had been discharged for a cause, I sent you the statement. I also applied to Leeds Northrup Co. and gave the Quartermasters my last employment. Of course have not heard from them.

It is needles for me to say it is working a terrible hardship on me and mine-no income whatever.

Chief Rogan of the Schuykill, Assistant Chief, Scotland, Harridy, and the rest of the Guard force I feel would testify that I was never dopey or unfit for duty. The same at the inland.

Sincerely hoping you can help me and soon, I am gratefully yours,

Henry E. Morrison  
1508 S. 20th St.  
Phila. Pa.



C O P Y

File 201 Per C-C Morrison, Henry E.

May 8th, 1942

SUBJECT: Discharge without prejudice

TO: Mr. Henry E. Morrison, Thru Officer in Charge  
Depot Service Branch

1. The records of this depot show that you were given a Probational appointment as Watchman, CU-4, \$1320 per annum. November 24, 1941 and promoted to Patrolman, CU-5 \$1500 per annum, January 16, 1942.

2. For administrative reasons it has been decided to terminate your probational appointment. You will stop work at the close of business May 8th, 1942. On account of accrued leave to your credit you will be paid to include 10:30 a. m. June 10, 1942.

For the Commanding General:

(signed) J. G. Middendorf

1st Lt., Q. M. Corps  
Assistant

May 8, 1942

To Henry E. Morrison, Patrolman

1. for your information.

D T A

War Department  
Philadelphia Quartermaster Depot  
Office of the Commanding General

C O P Y

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

201 Per D-C Morrison, Henry E.

June 28, 1942

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

This Depot will interpose no objection to Henry E. Morrison accepting employment in another department of the Government.

For the Commanding General:

ARTHUR . LEMON,  
Lt. Colonel, Q. M. C.  
Assistant

February 13, 1943

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Executive Officer of the Industrial  
Personnel Division, Services of Supply

Reference is made to your memorandum of February 8, 1943, reporting on the complaint alleging that racial discrimination was practiced against Marion Myers in his effort to obtain employment on the U. S. Dredge A. MACKENZIE.

This report is deemed unsatisfactory because it indicates a discriminatory employment practice against Negroes on Engineer Dredges in the San Francisco area.

Without acquiescing in the views expressed in the report, I wonder if this particular case may be adjusted by offering Mr. Myers employment elsewhere in the San Francisco area?

Truman K. Gibson, Jr.  
Acting Civilian Aide to the Secretary  
of War

WAR DEPARTMENT  
HEADQUARTERS, SERVICES OF SUPPLY  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

SPGC-C 201 Myers, Marion

February 8, 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF WAR  
Attention: Mr. Truman K. Gibson, Jr.  
Subject: Alleged Racial Discrimination.

1. Reference is made to the memorandum of November 3, 1942, from Judge Hastie, concerning a complaint alleging that racial discrimination was practiced against Marion Myers in his effort to obtain employment on the U. S. Engineer Dredge A. MACKENZIE.
2. A survey of employment reveals that approximately fifteen percent of both government and contractors' personnel at the Army base in Oakland, California, are colored, and that at the U. S. Engineer Office in San Francisco, nine percent are colored. Every possible consideration has been given to the employment of members of the Negro race under a very broad policy which exists in the San Francisco area for the employment of Negro workers by governmental agencies, and no trend of racial discrimination is in evidence.
3. It is recognized that where accommodations are limited and quarters are isolated as well as confined, some discretion must be exercised in grouping employees. If this were not done, there would be grave danger of disrupting crews and impeding the operation of floating plants engaged on critical war work. Because of labor shortages on the Pacific Coast, crews of dredges could obtain reemployment in other jobs at any time they became dissatisfied. Morale and conditions which contribute to the welfare and satisfaction of crews working under such confinement and isolation as exist on the Dredge A. MACKENZIE must be given proper consideration. Under these circumstances, it is felt that it is desirable to avoid what would certainly be grave trouble by mixing the races on the dredge under consideration, which lacks adequate facilities for housing and recreation and would necessitate five messmen to share the same room and the same sanitary equipment, and frequently to occupy the same beds.



4. Furthermore, this is not felt to be unfair since the colored employee is given special consideration in other employments as indicated by the percentages shown above. This practice is not believed to be out of harmony with either the letter or the spirit of the President's Proclamation. It is recommended that no further action be taken in this specific instance.

For the Commanding General:



FEB 9 43 PM

OUT  OUT  
WAR DEPARTMENT  
SERVICES OF SUPPLY  
CIVILIAN PERSONNEL DIVISION

JAMES T. O'CONNELL,  
Lt. Colonel, General Staff Corps,  
Executive Officer,  
Industrial Personnel Division.

SPGC-C 201 Myers, Marion

February 8, 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF WAR

Attention: Mr. Truman K. Gibson, Jr.

Subject: Alleged Racial Discrimination.

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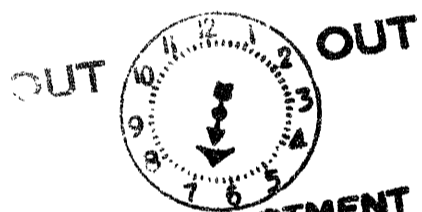
2. A survey of employment reveals that approximately fifteen percent of both government and contractors' personnel at the Army Base in Oakland, California, are colored, and that at the U. S. Engineer Office in San Francisco, nine percent are colored. Every possible consideration has been given to the employment of members of the Negro race under a very broad policy which exists in the San Francisco area for the employment of Negro workers by governmental agencies, and no trend of racial discrimination is in evidence.

3. It is recognized that where accommodations are limited and quarters are isolated as well as confined, some discretion must be exercised in grouping employees. If this were not done, there would be grave danger of disrupting crews and impeding the operation of floating plants engaged on critical war work. Because of labor shortages on the Pacific Coast, crews of dredges could obtain reemployment in other jobs at any time they became dissatisfied. Morale and conditions which contribute to the welfare and satisfaction of crews working under such confinement and isolation as exist on the Dredge A. MACKENZIE must be given proper consideration. Under these circumstances, it is felt that it is desirable to avoid what would certainly be grave trouble by mixing the races on the dredge under consideration, which lacks adequate facilities for housing and recreation and would necessitate five messmen to share the same room and the same sanitary equipment, and frequently to occupy the same beds.

4. Furthermore, this is not felt to be unfair since the colored employee is given special consideration in other employments as indicated by the percentages shown above. This practice is not believed to be out of harmony with either the letter or the spirit of the President's Proclamation. It is recommended that no further action be taken in this specific instance.

For the Commanding General:

FEB 9 43 PM



WAR DEPARTMENT  
SERVICES OF SUPPLY  
INDIAN PERSONNEL DIVISION

JAMES T. O'CONNELL,  
Lt. Colonel, General Staff Corps,  
Executive Officer,  
Industrial Personnel Division.

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July 11, 1942.

Mr. George M. Johnson,  
Assistant Executive Secretary,  
President's Committee on Fair  
Employment Practice,  
1405 G Street, N. W.,  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Johnson:

In reply to your letter of July 2, 1942, you are informed that Mr. William H. Kushnick, Director of Civilian Personnel and Training of the War Department, advised Mrs. Robert McWilliams, Secretary of the Council Against Discrimination, San Francisco, California, that any specific charges of racial discrimination involving War Department agencies will be acted upon, if brought to the attention of this Department.

Sincerely yours,

Civilian Aide to the Secretary  
of War

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OFFICE  
J. W.

PRESIDENT'S COMMITTEE ON FAIR EMPLOYMENT PRACTICE  
SOCIAL SECURITY BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

MALCOLM S. MACLEAN  
CHAIRMAN

WILLIAM GREEN  
MILTON P. WEBSTER

LAWRENCE W. CRAMER  
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

DAVID SARNOFF  
EARL B. DICKERSON  
PHILIP MURRAY  
MARK ETHRIDGE

July 2, 1942

The Honorable  
William H. Hastie  
Civilian Aide to the  
Secretary of War  
War Department  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Judge Hastie:

Mrs. Lucy McWilliams, Secretary, Bay Area Council Against Discrimination, 901 California Street, San Francisco, California, has called the attention of the President's Committee on Fair Employment Practice to a letter which she sent on June 20 to the Secretary of War complaining against alleged discrimination in employment by various divisions of the War Department in the San Francisco area.

This Committee hereby requests that it be kept informed of the findings of the War Department and of any steps that it may take to correct such grievances as it finds to be valid.

I am enclosing herewith a copy of a letter similar to the one submitted to us by Mrs. McWilliams.

Sincerely yours,

*George M. Johnson*  
George M. Johnson  
Assistant Executive Secretary

Enclosure



Bay Area Council Against Discrimination  
901 California Street  
San Francisco, California

June 20, 1942

Secretary of War  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Secretary:

The Bay Area Council Against Discrimination has been furnished with several well documented cases of discrimination in employment by various divisions of the War Department in this area. Information that has been given us indicates clearly that the Ninth Corps Area Signal Corps has a policy of discriminating against Negroes in the hiring of civilian clerical employees.

We have also been given information indicating that at least on one occasion the office of the Quartermaster in Oakland engaged in discriminatory practices in employment. The facts are that during the first part of June of this year several Negro girls were referred from the Civil Service Commission to the Port Quartermaster for jobs as junior clerk typists. These Negro girls were refused, not because of their lack of qualifications, but because the personnel office in charge of hiring did not desire Negroes.

Our efforts to break down the barriers of discrimination which prevent the full utilization of man power in war industries are very much embarrassed by the well known fact that various divisions of the Army themselves pursue discriminatory employment practices.

We are sending this to you with copies to the Civil Service Commission for appropriate action against the persons responsible for these violations of the President's order.

Yours very truly,

Lucy McWilliams (Mrs Robert)  
Secretary

cc: Mr. Harry T. Kranz  
President's Fair Employment Practice Committee  
Dr. Will Alexander  
Civil Service Commission

Bay Area Council Against Discrimination  
901 California Street  
San Francisco, California

June 20, 1942

Secretary of War  
Washington, D. C.

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Yours very truly,

Lucy McWilliams (Mrs Robert)  
Secretary

cc: Mr. Harry T. Kranz  
President's Fair Employment Practice Committee  
Dr. Will Alexander  
Civil Service Commission

June 30, 1942

Mrs. Robert McWilliams, Secretary  
Council Against Discrimination  
Apartment 307  
901 California Street  
San Francisco, California

Dear Mrs. McWilliams:

Reference is made to your letter of June 20, 1942, addressed to the Secretary of War, regarding discrimination against negroes relative to employment in the government service.

The War Department is making every effort to act in accordance with the wishes of the President of the United States as released to the nation in Executive Order 8802 of June 25, which states in part: "I do hereby reaffirm the policy of the United States that there shall be no discrimination in the employment of workers in defense industries or government because of race, creed, color, or national origin, and I do hereby declare that it is the duty of employers and of labor organizations, in furtherance of said policy and of this order, to provide for the full and equitable participation of all workers in defense industries, without discrimination because of race, creed, color, or national origin."

Specific cases of alleged discrimination are thoroughly investigated by this office; and if it appears that administrative action has not conformed to the above executive order, appropriate remedial action is directed.

Any specific charges which are brought to your attention may be forwarded to this office where they will be acted upon as indicated above.

Very truly yours,

Wm. H. Kushnick  
Director of Civilian Personnel  
and Training

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