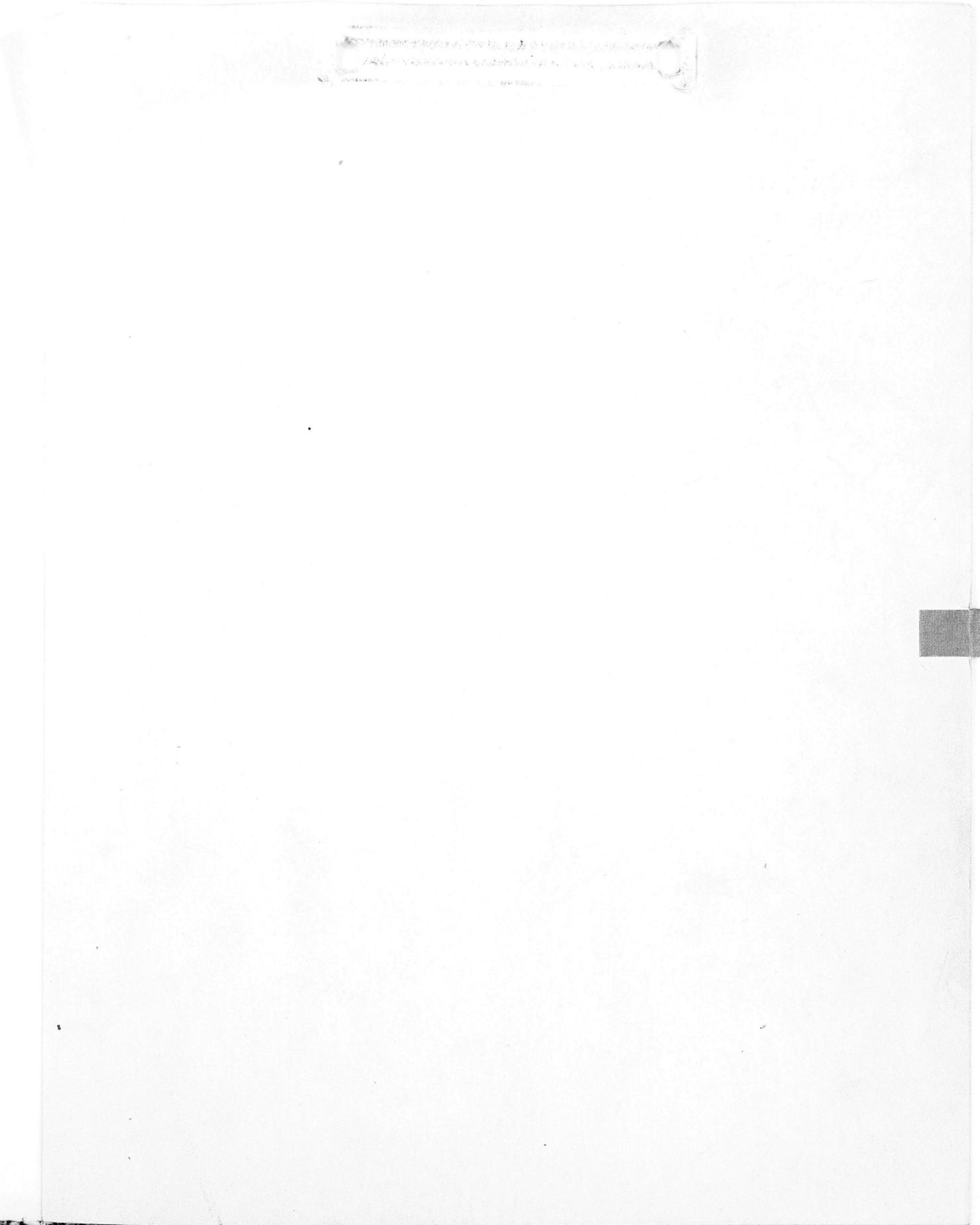


COFEP - INACTIVE M thru 0

27 pnc



March 20, 1942.

Mr. Thomas R. Murphy,
1009 Lindsay Street,
Greensboro, North Carolina.

Dear Mr. Murphy:

The President's Committee on Fair Employment Practice has forwarded to this office your complaint alleging racial discrimination in your effort to secure employment as an Under Inspector of Ordnance Materials at a Government Arsenal in Maryland and the Philadelphia Signal Depot.

Will you please give me immediately the name of the Arsenal in Maryland at which the alleged discrimination occurred and also state the grounds upon which you base your charge of racial discrimination against the Philadelphia Signal Depot?

Sincerely yours,

Civilian Aide to the Secretary
of War

*Carroll
COPELAND*

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

MARK F. ETHRIDGE
CHAIRMAN
WILLIAM GREEN
MILTON P. WEBSTER
LAWRENCE W. CRAMER
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

March 18, 1942

DAVID SARNOFF
EARL B. DICKERSON
PHILIP MURRAY

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

Dear Judge Hastie:

Mr. Thomas R. Murphy, 1009 Lindsay Street, Greensboro, North Carolina, has submitted a complaint to the Committee on Fair Employment Practice that he has been discriminated against because of his Negro racial origin in his failure to be appointed as an under-inspector of ordnance materials at the "Government Arsenal" in Maryland, as well as at the Philadelphia Signal Depot.

He states that he was interviewed at the Government Arsenal in Maryland on August 27, 1941 after certification by the Civil Service Commission. His statement proceeds:

"After taking this defense course at A & T College, a classmate of mine and I were called to come to Maryland to be interviewed at the Arsenal for the position of inspector of ordnance materials. Major Stark, the interviewing officer in charge, informed us after the interview that we had passed it, but the Civil Service Employment Office at the Arsenal's Gates would do the hiring. He wrote some information on the back of two cards for each of us to take to the Office. The cards were sealed in envelopes. At the Office the clerk told us that someone had already been called for the job, but if he did not show up, he would let us know. In the meantime he placed our cards on the desk. So I read what he wrote on mine - the other boy did the same. Mine read "Murphy is the better of the two. If must employ, color will fit only in a (certain) division." That 'certain' was some abbreviated division that I could not understand. The other boy's card contained the same statement concerning 'color.' That three-hundred and fifty (350) mile trip was at our own expense. Before we entered the gates that morning, the clerk wrote 'For Interview Only' on our cards and underlined it with a red pencil."

Judge William H. Hastie

-2-

March 18, 1942

In connection with the certification to the Philadelphia Signal Depot, Mr. Murphy indicates that he was requested on January 1, 1942 to call for an interview. He replied by stating that he had already been interviewed for the same position elsewhere and indicated that he could not afford to make the trip to Philadelphia.

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

Sincerely yours,


Lawrence W. Cramer
Executive Secretary

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

July 23, 1942.

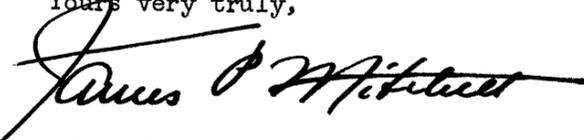
Honorable William H. Hastie,
Civilian Aide to the Secretary of War,
War Department,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Judge Hastie:

Upon receipt of your letter of July 17 in which you mentioned the case of Mr. Ernest E. Mair, I immediately wrote to the Chief of Engineers requesting that steps be taken to see that no discrimination against negroes in employment in Caribbean Bases takes place. Copy of my letter to the Chief of Engineers is attached.

You may rest assured that every means will be used by this office to see that no such discrimination takes place.

Yours very truly,

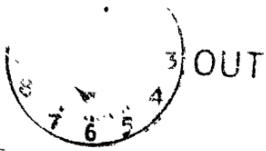

JAMES P. MITCHELL,
Director, Civilian Personnel Division,
Headquarters, Services of Supply.

Incl.
Copy Ltr. to Ch. of Eng.
(7-23-42)



COFFER
M.

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WAR DEPARTMENT
SERVICES OF SUPPLY
CIVILIAN PERSONNEL DIVISION

C O P Y

SPGC-C 291.2 (7-17-42)

July 23, 1942.

MEMORANDUM FOR CHIEF OF ENGINEERS:

Attention: Chief, Civilian Personnel Branch.

Subject: Selection of civilian employees at Caribbean Bases.

1. This office is in receipt of a letter from Judge William H. Hastie, Civilian Aide to the Secretary of War, in which he states that after an investigation of the case of Mr. Ernest E. Mair, who made application for employment at a Caribbean Base, Judge Hastie is of the opinion that there may be a definite policy against assigning negroes to operations in these Bases.

2. The War Department policy has been definitely stated as opposed to any such discrimination.

3. Your office should take immediate steps to see that no discrimination takes place and that equal consideration be given to each applicant regardless of race, creed or color.

By command of Lieutenant General SOMERVELL:

JAMES P. MITCHELL,
Director, Civilian Personnel Division,
Headquarters, Services of Supply.

July 1, 1942

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mr. F. W. Patterson, Chief Administrative
Assistant, Office of the Division Engineer,
Caribbean Division, New York City

The enclosed papers are returned pursuant to
the attached copy of your 4th Indorsement, File #NA 4200
(NAP)-276.

Civilian Aide to the Secretary
of War

20 Mail

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C.F.F. 12
"M"*

JAMAICA

NON-RETIREMENT

<u>Serial</u> No.	Name	Designation	Grade	Salary	C.S.C. No.	Place of Engagement
128	Olive A. Alling	Head Nurse	SP-5	\$1800	SP-5-328	New Haven, Conn.
208	Herman Altschuler	Clerk	CAF-4	1800	CAF-4-116	New York, N. Y.
106	Robert L. Ammon	Engineering Aide (Civil)	SP-5	1800	SP-5-89	Lakewood, Colo.
97	John A. Armitage	Senior Engineering Aide (Civil)	SP-6	2000	SP-6-96	Washington, D.C.
99	Jacob B. Bowman	Chief Engineering Aide (Civil)	SP-8	2600	SP-8-9	Palmyra, Pa.
107	William H. Brown	Engineering Aide (Civil)	SP-5	1800	SP-5-88	Port Royal, Pa.
71	Joseph Capuano	Principal Engineering Aide (Civil)	SP-7	2300	SP-7-42	York, Pa.
129	Elizabeth V. Carroll	Head Nurse	SP-5	1800	SP-5-329	Cumberland, Md.
104	Grant Chandler	Engineering Aide (Civil)	SP-5	1800	SP-5-90	Lakeview, Oregon
189	Augustus E. Collins	Senior Clerk	CAF-5	2000	CAF-5-83	Whitesburg, Ky.
355	James P. Conte	Senior Computer	SP-6	2000	SP-6-31	Mt. Vernon, N. Y.
132	Frances Cooper	Graduate Nurse	SP-4	1620	SP-4-184	Youngstown, Ohio
225	Roger C. Cooper	Assistant Clerk-Typist	CAF-3	1620	CAF-3-100	Arlington, Va.
105	Robert E. Coughlin	Engineering Aide (Civil)	SP-5	1800	SP-5-87	Queens, N.Y.
38	John G. Cygiel	Pharmacist	P-1	2000	P-1-102	Kansas City, Kan.
268	Oliver W. Davenport	Principal Accounting Clerk	CAF-6	2300	CAF-6-10	Washington, D. C.
108	Robert N. Dentz	Engineering Aide (Civil)	SP-5	1800	SP-5-86	Dunellen, N.J.
133	Thelma M. Eaton	Graduate Nurse	SP-4	1620	SP-4-185	Cumberland, Md.
109	William J. Fitzner	Engineering Aide (Civil)	SP-5	1800	SP-5-85	Schenectady, N. Y.

Maly

JAMAICA		NON-RETIREMENT				Place of Engagement
Serial No.	Name	Designation	Grade	Salary	C.S.C. No.	
222	Mavis A. Goldring	Assistant Clerk-Typist	CAF-3	\$1620	CAF-3-101	Brooklyn, N. Y.
134	Daisymae Hastings	Graduate Nurse	SP-4	1620	SP-4-186	Hurlock, Md.
274	Abraham W. Heffler	Senior Accounting Clerk	CAF-5	2000	CAF-5-13	Brooklyn, N. Y.
98	Homer B. Heim	Chief Engineering Aide (Civil)	SP-8	2600	SP-8-10	Washington, D. C.
241	Dorothy C. Hill	Senior Stenographer	CAF-3	1620	CAF-3-44	Attleboro, Mass.
181	Victor Hill	Senior Clerk	CAF-5	2000	CAF-5-82	Providence, R. I.
72	William W. Hinkle	Principal Engineering Aide (Civil)	SP-7	2300	SP-7-43	Frankford, W. Va.
95	Carl Hunsicker	Principal Engineering Aide (Civil)	SP-7	2300	SP-7-44	Cincinnati, Ohio
18	Charles J. Kaltenbach	Assistant Engineer (Civil)	P-2	2600	P-2-4	Wheeling, W. Va.
223	Gordon M. Keatley	Assistant Clerk-Typist	CAF-3	1620	CAF-3-102	Charleston, W. Va.
110	Arthur J. Kenlan	Engineering Aide (Civil)	SP-5	1800	SP-5-84	Newark, N. J.
245	Stephen H. Krauser	Assistant Clerk- Typist	CAF-3	1620	CAF-3-103	Pendleton, Oregon
94	Hyman I. Lefkowitz	Senior Engineering Aide (Civil)	SP-6	2000	SP-6-97	Brooklyn, N. Y.
207	Orland B. Mitchell	Clerk	CAF-4	1800	CAF-4-117	Washington, D. C.
111	Joseph A. Murphy	Engineering Aide (Civil)	SP-5	1800	SP-5-83	Yonkers, N. Y.
117	Roger E. McMullin	Principal Engineering Aide (Civil)	SP-7	2300	SP-7-45	Sparta, Wisc.
130	Elva P. McNeill	Head Nurse	SP-5	1800	SP-5-330	Philippi, W. Va.
206	Rodger M. O'Hanlon	Clerk	CAF-4	1800	CAF-4-118	Washington, D. C.
42	Ramond R. Osenga	Principal Draftsman (Topographic)	SP-7	2300	SP-7-85	Ridgewood, N. J.

NON-RETIREMENT

<u>JAMAICA</u> <u>Serial</u> No.	Name	Designation	Grade	Salary	C.S.C.No.	Place of Engagement
119	Albert E. Otto	Junior Engineering Aide (Civil)	SP-3	\$1440	SP-3-1	Camp Hill, Pa.
116	Barney M. Robbin	Principal Engineering Aide (Civil)	SP-7	2300	SP-7-46	Washington, D. C.
46	Henry J. Rovedatti	Senior Draftsman (Architectural)	SP-6	2000	SP-6-145	Paterson, N. J.
125	Leon R. Rubin	Senior Medical Technician	SP-6	2000	SP-6-236	Chicago, Ill.
251	Flo E. Russell	Assistant Clerk-Stenographer	CAF-3	1620	CAF-3-27	Washington, D. C.
112	Louis Sackron	Engineering Aide (Civil)	SP-5	1800	SP-5-82	Richmond Hill, N. Y.
115	Bruno A. Scrufari	Principal Engineering Aide (Civil)	SP-7	2300	SP-7-47	Niagara Falls, N. Y.
103	Jule W. Shaw	Assistant Engineering Aide	SP-4	1620	SP-4-18	Flint, Mich.
205	Elihu M. Shepard	Clerk	CAF-4	1800	CAF-4-119	New York, N. Y.
356	Ted C. Sherman	Head Hospital Attendant	SP-3	1440	SP-3-57	Seminole, Okla.
19	Stanley D. Shinn	Assistant Engineer (Civil)	P-2	2600	P-2-74	Washington, D. C.
243	Cophine L. Smead	Senior Stenographer	CAF-3	1620	CAF-3-45	Denver, Colo.
305	James P. Speer	First Aid Attendant	SP-3	1440	SP-3-68	Arlington, Va.
177	Harry W. Standiford	Senior Clerk	CAF-5	2000	CAF-5-81	Forest Hill, Md.
113	Lester G. Stoll	Engineering Aide (Civil)	SP-5	1800	SP-5-81	Salt Lake City, Utah
285	Clement Story	Clerk	CAF-4	1800	CAF-4-120	Violet, La.
244	Stephen B. Vernon, Jr.	Assistant Clerk-Typist	CAF-3	1620	CAF-3-104	Reading, Pa.
76	Joyce Parks	Principal Engineering Aide (Civil)	SP-7	2300	SP-7-52	Spaulding, Okla.

June 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:

In reply to your letter of April 7, 1942, in the matter of Mr. Ernest E. Mair, 63 East 100th Street, New York City, you are advised that this office has been furnished the files of Mr. Charles Ceccarelli, Mr. Louis Sackron and Mr. Gene Frankel, whom Mr. Mair asserts were appointed draftsmen for the Engineer Department at San Juan, Puerto Rico, after he had been interviewed on December 28, 1940, and was told to apply for a position at the Jamaica base. The Office of the Division Engineer, Caribbean Division, New York City, advises that the file of Mr. Gossett was not found among the papers transferred to that Division by the Atlantic Division when the Puerto Rico District was assigned to the jurisdiction of the Caribbean Division.

An examination of the files of Mr. Ceccarelli, Mr. Sackron and Mr. Frankel shows that each of them was appointed on January 20, 1941. There is no memorandum in any of the files to indicate when they were interviewed. The fourth indorsement to the request of the Chief of Engineers for a report on Mr. Mair's complaint charging racial discrimination, in his file, fixes the date of his interview as December 28, 1940, and states that "there were no further vacancies" on that date. This indorsement also states that fourteen of the twenty-one candidates interviewed on December 27, 1940, were selected on December 30, 1940.

The file of Mr. Sackron also shows that fifty-six appointments were made in December, 1941, of persons in various categories, including draftsmen, for duty at Fort Simons, Jamaica, but Mr. Mair was not selected, although Mr. Mair was advised by the Office of the Chief of Engineers on September 9, 1941, that the Division Engineer, Caribbean Division, had reported that consideration would be given to his application, along with other applications, in the event a request was received from Jamaica.

Sincerely yours,

Civilian Aide to the Secretary
of War

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

U. S. ENGINEER OFFICE
DIVISION ENGINEER
NORTH ATLANTIC DIVISION

MAY 5 1942

724200 (724) 276
MAY 1942

April 16, 1942.

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Director of Civilian Personnel and Training

The President's Committee on Fair Employment Practice has found a conflict between the statements made by Mr. Ernest E. Mair, 63 East 100th Street, New York City, and the report of the investigation into his complaints alleging racial discrimination in the employment of draftsmen for the construction of bases under the Engineer Office in Jamaica and Puerto Rico. It has requested "copies of the official records of the War Department showing dates of interviews and of employment" of draftsmen Gossett, Ceccarelli, Sackron and Frankel, whom he alleges were employed after he was interviewed on December 28, 1940, at the office of the District Engineer, North Atlantic Division. In this connection attention is invited to the letter of the Office of the Chief of Engineers dated July 22, 1941 (File No. 1902 (Negroes-46), addressed to Mr. Mair in reply to his letter of June 6, 1941, to the President.

May the request of the President's Committee on Fair Employment Practice be complied with?

William Hastie

Civilian Aide to the Secretary
of War

1st Ind.

mfb/jh

War Department, Office of the Secretary
To: Chief of Engineers

April 21, 1942

1. For investigation and report to this Office.

By order of the Secretary of War:



Wm. H. Kushnick
Director of Civilian Personnel
and Training

1902 (Negroes) SPEAP 2nd Ind.

Office, C. of E., April 30, 1942 - To: The Division Engineer,
North Atlantic Division, NEW YORK, NEW YORK.

For investigation and report.

By order of the Chief of Engineers:



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

1 Inclosure:
Copy of ltr dated 7/22/41

REC'D OFFICE LABOR RELATIONS
NO. ATL. DIV. NEW YORK

MAY 3 1942 3 PM

NORTH ATLANTIC
DIVISION OFFICE

MAY 2 1 30 PM '42

NEW YORK, N.Y.

SUBJECT: Request from Civilain Aide to the Secretary of War
re alleged Racial Discrimination.

NA 4200 (NAD)-276 (4/16/42)

3rd Ind.

NAD 11

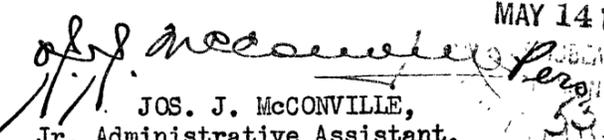
Office, Division Engineer, NORTH ATLANTIC DIVISION, New York City -
May 12, 1942 - To the Division Engineer, Caribbean Division,
NEW YORK, NEW YORK.

1. Forwarded for compliance with request re "copies of official records of the War Department showing dates of interviews and of employment" of certain draftsmen, as contained in basic communication from the Civilain Aide to the Secretary of War.

2. Employment and other records pertinent to the Puerto Rico District were transferred to the Caribbean Division when that District was assigned to the jurisdiction of the Caribbean Division.

3. The Office of the Chief of Engineers has been advised of this reference. It is requested, therefore, that response be made directly to that office.

For the Division Engineer:


JOS. J. McCONVILLE,
Jr. Administrative Assistant.

MAY 14 1942

1 Incl.
N/C

NA 4200 (NAD)-276

Subject: Request from Civilian Aide to the
Secretary of War re alleged Racial
Discrimination.

4th Ind.

Office of the Division Engineer, Caribbean Division, New York, New York.
May 16, 1942. To: War Department, Office of the Secretary, Washington,
D. C.

1. Inasmuch as the North Atlantic Division is familiar with the
circumstances surrounding the employment of the individuals in question,
it is considered appropriate that the information requested by the Secre-
tary of War be furnished by the Division Engineer, North Atlantic Division.

2. The index record furnished by the North Atlantic Division
indicates the following file references for the individuals concerned:

Mair	P.R.2/1446
Cossett	None
Ceccarelli	P.R.2/807 and 1126
Sackron	P.R.2/807 and 1494
Frankel	P.R.2/807 and 1102

File P.R.2/807 was not found among the papers transferred to this Division.
The other references are furnished herewith together with subsequent papers
on these individuals.

3. It is requested that these files be returned to this office after
they have served their purpose.

For the Division Engineer:



P. W. Patterson,
Chief Administrative Assistant.

5 Inclosures:
Copy of ltr. dated 7/22/41
File for Ceccarelli
" " Sackron
" " Frankel
" " Mair

1942 MAY 17 AM 11:11
WAR DEPARTMENT
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

RECEIVED
MAY 10 1939

MAY 10 11 39

ADDRESS REPLY TO
CHIEF OF ENGINEERS, U. S. ARMY
WASHINGTON, D. C.

REFER TO FILE NO. 1902(Negroes)-46

WAR DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF ENGINEERS
WASHINGTON

U. S. ENGINEER OFFICE
DIVISION ENGINEER
NORTH ATLANTIC DIVISION

MAY 5 1942

4-B

704200 (721) 27 G/1
NEW YORK, N. Y.

July 22, 1941

Mr. Ernest E. Mair,
63 East 100 St.,
New York City.

Sir:

Reference is made to your letter of June 6, to the President, inclosing copies of three other letters to various offices of the War Department. This letter was referred from the White House for reply to your complaints of discrimination in employments in Jamaica and Puerto Rico.

All the complaints in your letters have been investigated. The Eastern Division Engineer, who is in charge of the construction work on bases recently leased from Great Britain, reports that your letter of April 21, was received by him, but your application for employment as draftsman at the Jamaica base was held pending the award of the contract for construction work at the base. The contract was awarded on May 26, 1941, and your application was then forwarded to the District Engineer at Jamaica, for his information, in the event of a suitable vacancy. You were then advised of the action taken. Since the design of the bases in the Eastern Division is being performed by contract, there is little need for drafting services. You are further advised that no draftsmen have been employed for the Jamaica District since the receipt of your application.

The Division Engineer, North Atlantic Division, New York City, reports that his office received a telephone request from higher authority to recruit a number of draftsman in Puerto Rico. The suggestion was made that these men might be found at the War Department Mapping Project, 641 Washington St., New York City. Accordingly, Mr. J. W. Stewart, Representative of the Division Office, went there and interviewed 21 candidates recommended by Mr. Toth, Supervisor of the Project. You were not among those interviewed at this time. Starting at the head of the list, those willing to go to Puerto Rico were selected. On December 30, 1940, 14 were recommended for employment.

The news that candidates for Puerto Rico were being interviewed, spread around the drafting room and a number of men that were not called in by Mr. Toth, appeared and were given an interview for the following day, December 28, at the office of the North Atlantic Division. However, the number of men required for Puerto Rico had been obtained from those previously interviewed. Hence, when the others appeared December 28,

Incl. #1

there were no further vacancies. Your names were placed on file for reference in the event additional help was called for. The Division Engineer further reports that when your birthplace was made known, it was suggested that you might be useful in Jamaica, B. W. I., and you stated that you would prefer employment there. However, this was only a suggestion. The Division Offices of the North Atlantic Division, and of the Eastern Division, are entirely separate, and one has no authority to select employees for the other; therefore, no action could be taken by the North Atlantic Division, to place you, or other candidates, in Jamaica, which is one of the Island bases under the jurisdiction of the Eastern Division. In a subsequent visit to that office, it was suggested that you communicate with Colonel Arthur direct. (Copies of the correspondence which you inclose indicate that you have done this).

The conclusion from this investigation, is that there has been no discrimination against you in employment on the work of the Engineer Department in the West Indies, on the grounds of race or color.

For the Chief of Engineers:

Very respectfully,

W. E. Lorence,
Lt. Col., Corps of Engineers,
Assistant Chief, Finance Section.

5th Ind.

mfb/jh

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

May 27, 1942

1. Forwarded, inviting attention to fourth indorsement.

By order of the Secretary of War:



Wm. H. Kushnick
Director of Civilian Personnel
and Training

April 16, 1942.

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Director of Civilian Personnel and Training

The President's Committee on Fair Employment Practice has found a conflict between the statements made by Mr. Ernest E. Mair, 63 East 100th Street, New York City, and the report of the investigation into his complaints alleging racial discrimination in the employment of draftsmen for the construction of bases under the Engineer Office in Jamaica and Puerto Rico. It has requested "copies of the official records of the War Department showing dates of interviews and of employment" of draftsmen Gossett, Ceccaralli, Sackron and Frankel, whom he alleges were employed after he was interviewed on December 28, 1940, at the office of the District Engineer, North Atlantic Division. In this connection attention is invited to the letter of the Office of the Chief of Engineers dated July 22, 1941 (File No. 1902 (Negroes-46), addressed to Mr. Mair in reply to his letter of June 6, 1941, to the President.

May the request of the President's Committee on Fair Employment Practice be complied with?

Civilian Aide to the Secretary
of War

147-1

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

April 7, 1942

DAVID SARNOFF
EARL B. DICKERSON
PHILIP MURRAY
MARK ETHRIDGE

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

Dear Judge Hastie:

An analysis of your letter of February 20, 1942, in the matter of Mr. Ernest E. Mair seems to indicate, as you suggested, that there is a conflict between the report of the Office of the Chief of Engineers and the statements made by Mr. Mair, and that this conflict of statements joins the issue at the true date of the interviewing and employment of draftsmen, specifically draftsmen Gossett, Ceccrelli, Sackron and Frankel.

You are requested to furnish this office with copies of the official records of the War Department showing dates of interviews and of employment of the above mentioned draftsman, so that the facts may be officially determined.

Sincerely yours,


Lawrence W. Cramer
Executive Secretary



February 20, 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:

For your information I am summarizing the facts in the case of Mr. Ernest E. Mair, 63 East 100th Street, New York City.

On June 6, 1941, Mr. Mair wrote this office stating that in August, 1940, the Military Construction Unit, War Department, 641 Washington Street, New York City, had invited applications from its draftsmen for positions in the Engineer Office in San Juan, Puerto Rico. He was among those who applied. Seven men were selected. He was not one of them, although he was recommended and possessed the advantages of acclimatization and a thorough knowledge of Spanish.

In October, 1940, he learned that two men employed at the San Juan Base had contracted tropical fever and would be returned to this country. He applied for appointment to one of these vacancies to Major Hyde in San Juan. In the middle of November, 1940, he was called into the office of his head engineer, Mr. Alexander S. Toth, Supervisor of the War Department Mapping Project, 641 Washington Street, New York City, and informed that the San Juan Base had requested by radiogram his release to that base at a salary of \$2,300 a year. Mr. Toth told him if he were willing to accept the offer, he would release him. He accepted and his acceptance was transmitted by radio the same day. Four days later the offer was withdrawn for the reason that "position filled locally."

About a month later there was another request for draftsmen for the San Juan Base. Several men applied, including Mr. Mair, a Filipino and another Negro. On December 27, 1940, Major Stewart of the Eastern Division Engineer Office interviewed applicants at the Mapping Project where Mr. Mair is employed. Mr. Mair stated that no Negroes were called for the interview, but, having learned of it, he got in line. He was informed that his name was not on the list of persons to be interviewed. He protested. The clerk at the information desk, after inquiring of someone in an inner office, said there had been an oversight and Mr. Mair was allowed to remain

Mr. Lawrence W. Cramer
February 20, 1942
Page 2

in line. When there were still six men to be interviewed, Major Stewart said he had another appointment and could not complete the interviews that day. An appointment for the next morning was made. At the interview the next morning the fact was developed that Mr. Mair was a West Indian. Major Stewart suggested that he apply for work at the Jamaica Base as he thought he might be more useful there. Mr. Mair did so.

On June 10, 1941, this office forwarded the complaint of Mr. Mair to the Corps of Engineers and requested an investigation of his charge of racial discrimination in the selection of draftsmen for the San Juan Base.

On July 22, 1941, the Office of the Chief of Engineers advised this office that his complaints were thoroughly investigated by the Division Engineer of the North Atlantic Division and by the Eastern Division Engineer and "no support could be found for this charge of discrimination." A copy of the reply of that office to Mr. Mair's letter of June 6 to the President was enclosed. It stated as follows:

The Eastern Division Engineer, who is in charge of the construction work on bases recently leased from Great Britain, reports that your letter of April 21, was received by him, but your application for employment as draftsman at the Jamaica base was held pending the award of the contract for construction work at the base. The contract was awarded on May 26, 1941, and your application was then forwarded to the District Engineer at Jamaica, for his information, in the event of a suitable vacancy. You were then advised of the action taken. Since the design of the bases in the Eastern Division is being performed by contract, there is little need for drafting services. You are further advised that no draftsmen have been employed for the Jamaica District since the receipt of your application.

The Division Engineer, North Atlantic Division, New York City, reports that his office received a telephone request from higher authority to recruit a number of draftsmen in Puerto Rico. The suggestion was made that these men might be found at the War Department Mapping Project, 641 Washington St., New York City. Accordingly, Mr. J. W. Stewart, Representative of the Division

Mr. Lawrence W. Cramer
February 20, 1942
Page 3

Office, went there and interviewed 21 candidates recommended by Mr. Toth, Supervisor of the Project. You were not among those interviewed at this time. Starting at the head of the list, those willing to go to Puerto Rico were selected. On December 30, 1940, 14 were recommended for employment.

The news that candidates for Puerto Rico were being interviewed, spread around the drafting room and a number of men that were not called in by Mr. Toth, appeared and were given an interview for the following day, December 28, at the office of the North Atlantic Division. However, the number of men required for Puerto Rico had been obtained from those previously interviewed. Hence, when the others appeared December 28, there were no further vacancies. Your names were placed on file for reference in the event additional help was called for. The Division Engineer further reports that when your birthplace was made known, it was suggested that you might be useful in Jamaica, B. W. I., and you stated you would prefer employment there. However, this was only a suggestion.

On July 25, 1941, this office asked Mr. Mair to advise whether the facts reported by the Office of the Chief of Engineers were correct.

On August 8, 1941, he forwarded a copy of a letter to the Office of the Chief of Engineers, of the same date, in which he stated he had been told by Mr. Toth that he was one of those recommended for the Puerto Rican base and emphatically denied that when the interview took place on December 28 in the office of the North Atlantic Division the number of men required for that base had been obtained. He asserted that draftsmen Gossett and Ceccarelli were accepted on that day after he had been told to apply for a position at the Jamaican base and that in the next week draftsmen Sackron and Frankel were interviewed and hired.

On September 9, 1941, the Office of the Chief of Engineers wrote Mr. Mair as follows:

It is contrary to the practice of the Engineer Dept. to permit discrimination in appointment on racial, political, or religious grounds. This policy is known to the employing officers of the Engineer Department. The investigation made

Mr. Lawrence W. Cramer
February 20, 1942
Page 4

by this office in your case fails to establish evidence of a violation of this practice.

The Division Engineer, Carribean Division (formerly the Eastern Division), had reported that record has been made of your qualifications, for consideration with those of other applicants, in the event a request should be received from Jamaica. The Puerto Rico District of the Engineer Department has been transferred to the jurisdiction of the Carribean Division. The Division Engineer in charge of that Division has been instructed by this office to give similar consideration to your application in the event a request is received from the District Engineer, San Juan, Puerto Rico, for an employee of your qualifications.

Mr. Mair advised this office on January 26, 1942, pursuant to my inquiry, that after receiving the letter of September 9, he has had no further word from the Corps of Engineers.

In view of the conflict between the report of the Office of the Chief of Engineers and the statements made by Mr. Mair, it may be that your committee will wish to make such further independent inquiry as it may deem proper to resolve the issue of whether racial discrimination was practiced against Mr. Mair in his efforts to secure employment as a draftsman at the San Juan base.

Sincerely yours,

Civilian Aide to the Secretary
of War

February 17, 1942.

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Civilian Aide to the Secretary of War

On June 6, 1941, Ernest E. Mair, 63 East 100th Street, New York City, wrote this office stating that in August, 1940, the Military Construction Unit, War Department, 641 Washington Street, New York City, had invited applications from its draftsmen for positions in the Engineer Office in San Juan, Puerto Rico. He was among those who applied. Seven men were selected. He was not one of them, although he was recommended and possessed the advantages of acclimatization and a thorough knowledge of Spanish.

In October, 1940, he learned that two men employed at the San Juan Base had contracted tropical fever and would be returned to this country. He applied for appointment to one of these vacancies to Major Hyde in San Juan. In the middle of November, 1940, he was called into the office of his head engineer, Mr. Alexander S. Toth, Supervisor of the War Department Mapping Project, 641 Washington Street, New York City, and informed that the San Juan Base had requested by radiogram his release to that base at a salary of \$2,300 a year. Mr. Toth told him if he were willing to accept the offer, he would release him. He accepted and his acceptance was transmitted by radio the same day. Four days later the offer was withdrawn for the reason that "position filled locally."

About a month later there was another request for draftsmen for the San Juan Base. Several men applied, including Mr. Mair, a Filipino and another Negro. On December 28, 1940, Major Stewart of the Eastern Division Engineer Office interviewed applicants at the Mapping Project where Mr. Mair is employed. Mr. Mair stated that no Negroes were called for the interview, but, having learned of it, he got in line. He was informed that his name was not on the list of persons to be interviewed. He protested. The clerk at the information desk, after inquiring of someone in an inner office, said there had been an oversight and Mr. Mair was allowed to remain in line. When there were still six men to be interviewed, Major Stewart said he had another appointment and could not complete the interviews that day. An appointment for the next morning was made. At the interview the next morning the fact was developed that Mr. Mair was a West Indian. Major Stewart suggested that he apply for work at the Jamaican Base as he thought he might be more useful there. Mr. Mair did so.

13
COPY
M

The Civilian Air Corps to the Secretary of War
February 17, 1942
Page 2

On June 10, 1941, this office forwarded the complaint of Mr. Mair to the Corps of Engineers and requested an investigation of his charge of racial discrimination in the selection of draftsmen for the San Juan Base.

On July 22, 1941, the Office of the Chief of Engineers advised this office that his complaints were thoroughly investigated by the Division Engineer of the North Atlantic Division and by the Eastern Division Engineer and "no support could be found for this charge of discrimination." A copy of the reply of that office to Mr. Mair's letter of June 6 to the President was enclosed. It stated as follows:

The Eastern Division Engineer, who is in charge of the construction work on bases recently leased from Great Britain, reports that your letter of April 21, was received by him, but your application for employment as draftsman at the Jamaica base was held pending the award of the contract for construction work at the base. The contract was awarded on May 26, 1941, and your application was then forwarded to the District Engineer at Jamaica, for his information, in the event of a suitable vacancy. You were then advised of the action taken. Since the design of the bases in the Eastern Division is being performed by contract, there is little need for drafting services. You are further advised that no draftsmen have been employed for the Jamaica District since the receipt of your application.

The Division Engineer, North Atlantic Division, New York City, reports that his office received a telephone request from higher authority to recruit a number of draftsmen in Puerto Rico. The suggestion was made that these men might be found at the War Department Mapping Project, 641 Washington St., New York City. Accordingly, Mr. J. W. Stewart, Representative of the Division Office, went there and interviewed 21 candidates recommended by Mr. Toth, Supervisor of the Project. You were not among those interviewed at this time. Starting at the head of the list, those willing to go to Puerto Rico were selected. On December 30, 1940, 14 were recommended for employment.

The news that candidates for Puerto Rico were being interviewed, spread around the drafting

The Civilian Aide to the Secretary of War
February 17, 1942
Page 3

room and a number of men that were not called in by Mr. Toth, appeared and were given an interview for the following day, December 28, at the office of the North Atlantic Division. However, the number of men required for Puerto Rico had been obtained from those previously interviewed. Hence, when the others appeared December 28, there were no further vacancies. Your names were placed on file for reference in the event additional help was called for. The Division Engineer further reports that when your birthplace was made known, it was suggested that you might be useful in Jamaica, B. W. I., and you stated you would prefer employment there. However, this was only a suggestion.

On July 25, 1941, this office asked Mr. Mair to advise whether the facts reported by the Office of the Chief of Engineers were correct.

On August 8, 1941, he forwarded a copy of a letter to the Office of the Chief of Engineers, of the same date, in which he stated he had been told by Mr. Toth that he was one of those recommended for the Puerto Rican base and emphatically denied that when the interview took place on December 28 in the office of the North Atlantic Division the number of men required for that base had been obtained. He asserted that draftsmen Gossett and Ceccarelli were accepted on that day after he had been told to apply for a position at the Jamaican base and that in the next week draftsmen Sackren and Frankel were interviewed and hired.

On September 9, 1941, the Office of the Chief of Engineers wrote Mr. Mair as follows:

It is contrary to the practice of the Engineer Dept. to permit discrimination in appointment on racial, political, or religious grounds. This policy is known to the employing officers of the Engineer Department. The investigation made by this office in your case fails to establish evidence of a violation of this practice.

The Division Engineer, Caribbean Division (formerly the Eastern Division), has reported that record has been made of your qualifications, for consideration of those of other applicants, in the

The Civilian Aide to the Secretary of War
February 17, 1942
Page 4

event a request should be received from Jamaica. The Puerto Rico District of the Engineer Department has been transferred to the jurisdiction of the Caribbean Division. The Division Engineer in charge of that Division has been instructed by this office to give similar consideration to your application in the event a request is received from the District Engineer, San Juan, Puerto Rico, for an employee of your qualifications.

In view of the conflict between the facts reported by the Office of the Chief of Engineers and the statements made by Mr. Mair, it is recommended that the President's Committee on Fair Employment Practice be given a report on the investigation, embodying the facts set forth herein, with recommendation that it make such further inquiry as it may deem proper to resolve the issue of whether racial discrimination was practiced against Mr. Mair in his efforts to secure employment as a draftsman at the San Juan base.

WAR DEPARTMENT
Office of the Chief of Engineers
Washington

Sept. 9, 1941

Mr. Ernest E. Hair
62 East 100th. St
New York N.Y.

Sir:

Reference is made to your letter of Aug. 8, in which you refer to previous correspondence regarding charges of discrimination in employments in the Engineer Dept in Jamaica and Puerto Rico.

It is contrary to the practise of the Engineer Dept. to permit discrimination in appointment on racial, political, or religious grounds. This policy is known to the employing officers of the Engineer Department. The investigation made by this office in your case fails to establish evidence of a violation of this practise.

The Division Engineer, Carribean Division (formerly the Eastern Division), has reported that record has been made of your qualifications, for consideration with those of other applicants, in the event a request should be received from Jamaica. The Puerto Rico District of the Engineer Department has been transferred to the jurisdiction of the Carribean Division. The Division Engineer in charge of that Division has been instructed by this office to give similar consideration to your application in the event a request is received from the District Engineer, San Juan, Puerto Rico, for an employee of your qualifications.

For the Chief of Engineers:

Very respectfully,

(sgd.) E. E. Gesler
Lt. Col., Corps of Engineers.
Chief, Finance Section.

62 East 100th. Street
New York N.Y.
Feb. 14, 1942

Wm. H. Hestie Esq.
Civilian Aide to the Secretary of War
Office of the Asst. Secretary
Washington D. C.

Dear Sir:

Enclosed find copy of latest letter to me from
the Office of the Chief of Engineers relative to my case.

I never replied to that letter as it amounted merely to
a reiteration of what had been stated in earlier letters. I
assumed at the time (mistakenly, apparently) that you had
also been sent a copy.

I am, respectfully yours

Ernest B. Main

63 E. 100TH ST.
NEW YORK, N. Y.
JAN. 26, 1942

WM. H. HASTIE
CIVILIAN AIDE TO THE SEC. OF WAR
WASHINGTON, D. C.

DEAR SIR,

REPLYING TO YOUR LETTER
OF JAN 8, 1942 —

I RECEIVED A REPLY DATED
SEPT. 9 TO MY LETTER OF AUG. 8,
COPY OF WHICH I FORWARDED TO
YOU AT THE TIME. THIS REPLY
REITERATES STATEMENTS MADE IN
PREVIOUS LETTERS TO ME FROM THE
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF ENGINEERS
TO THE EFFECT THAT NO RACIAL
EXCLUSION WAS PRACTISED AGAINST
ME AND THAT MY QUALIFICATIONS
HAVE BEEN PASSED ON TO THE
DISTRICT ENGINEERS IN JAMAICA
COFERM
C.M.

AND PUERTO RICO RESPECTIVELY
"FOR CONSIDERATION WITH THOSE
OF OTHER APPLICANTS"

IN A FEW DAYS I WILL SEND
YOU A VERBATIM COPY OF THIS
LETTER OF SEPT. 9. — MY HOURS
ARE LONG AND I HAVE NOT THE
TIME TODAY. THANK YOU.

VERY FAITHFULLY YOURS

Ernest E. Mair

(ERNEST. E. MAIR)

January 8, 1942

Mr. Ernest E. Mair
63 East 100th Street
New York City

Dear Mr. Mair:

In checking our file on your case I find no record of final action on your letter of August 8. Will you advise me whether you have received any official reply to that communication.

Sincerely yours,

Civilian Aide to the Secretary
of War

100-100000-100000

September 16, 1941

Mr. Lawrence W. Cramer
Executive Secretary
President's Committee on
Fair Employment Practice
Social Security Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Cramer:

You have inquired concerning the complaint of Mr. Ernest E. Mair with reference to employment for service at the West Indian Bases. Upon receipt of Mr. Mair's letter of June 6, this office requested an investigation by the office of the Chief of Engineers. On July 22, the office of the Chief of Engineers wrote to Mr. Mair, giving the substance of a report from the Division Engineer of the North Atlantic Division, New York City, on the facts of the case as determined by that office.

There was a definite conflict between the facts as reported by Mr. Mair and by the Division Engineer. For that reason this office wrote to Mr. Mair on July 25, asking whether he cared to make a further submission. He did make such a submission on August 8, in the form of a letter to the office of the Chief of Engineers, a copy of which was submitted to this office. On August 15, this office wrote again to Mr. Mair advising him that his additional statement had been sent to the field for further investigation.

We are now awaiting a report from the field on Mr. Mair's statement of August 8. It is anticipated that that report will either resolve the factual controversy or reveal an irreconcilable issue of veracity between Mr. Mair and the person or persons with whom he dealt. In either event, you will be advised when the final report shall have been received from the field.

Sincerely yours,

Civilian Aide to the Secretary
of War

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

MARK F. ETHRIDGE
CHAIRMAN
WILLIAM GREEN
MILTON P. WEBSTER

DAVID SARNOFF
EARL B. DICKERSON
PHILIP MURRAY

September 12, 1941

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

My dear Judge Hastie:

Mr. Walter White has transmitted to me a copy of a letter addressed to you in June 1941 by Mr. Ernest E. Mayer of 63 East 100th Street, New York City in which he relates his experiences in connection with his effort to secure appointment as draftsman at the San Juan, Puerto Rico Engineer's Office and his subsequent efforts to secure employment with the War Department.

Can you give me any information on this case that may be of use to me?

Sincerely yours,


Lawrence W. Cramer
Executive Secretary

August 15, 1941

Mr. Ernest E. Mair
63 East 100th Street
New York City

Dear Mr. Mair:

Thank you for your letter of August 8. The specific matters upon which you take issue with the report from New York on your case are being further investigated.

Sincerely yours,

Civilian Aide to the Secretary
of War

68 East 100th. Street
New York N.Y.
Aug. 8, 1941

Wm.H.Hastie Esq.,
Civilian Aide to the Sec'y of War
Office of the Under Secretary
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

I acknowledge with thanks your letter of July 25 to which I have been unable to reply earlier because of putting in overtime on my new job, which leaves me with little leisure.

I have, under present date, replied to a letter, the same to which you refer in your communication, written to me on July 22 by Lt.Col.Lorence, Asst.Chief, Finance Section, Office of the Chief of Engineers.

I find the letter a summary of errors, and it's terminating conclusion the sum of them.

I enclose herewith a copy of my reply and beg to remain,

Most respectfully yours,


Ernest T. Mair

63 East 100th. Street
New York N.Y.
Aug. 8 1941

Lt. Col. W. E. Lorence
Asst. Chief, Finance Section
Corps of Engineers, U.S.A.
Office of the Chief of Engineers
Washington D.C.

Dear Sir:

I regret that I was unable to reply earlier to your letter of July 22 due to working overtime on my new job.

It would have been a pleasure to agree with your findings and so close an episode that has been extremely distasteful to me. It may appear strange to you but I really do not like the role in which circumstances cast me. I truly love this adopted country of mine in spite of many things that are not to be understood by those who were wise enough to choose the right ancestors. Unfortunately, you leave me no choice. To accept your findings would be tantamount to an admission of childish fault-finding; of shooting at spooks. This is not so.

You airily dispose of the failure of Col. Arthur to answer my letters of April 21 and May 26 (you mention only the first) by saying that it was being held pending the award of contract for Jamaica Base. Well, anyone familiar with office routine will find it at least odd that letter No. 1 with appropriate enclosures should have been unacknowledged for more than a month and that letter No. 2 requesting a reply to letter No. 1 should have been ignored for the fortnight thereafter before my communication to the White House. It was not until June 18, nearly two months from the date of my first letter, that a reply was sent and I have every right in the circumstances to assume that it was only because of representations made to your Dept. in my behalf, by men in Public Office that I was answered even then.

Your letter contains the implication that I was one of several men, not previously recommended, who were given an interview when "the news that candidates for Puerto Rico were being interviewed, spread around the drafting room."

My answer to that is that if I was not on the list of men recommended, then my superiors lied to me and that I will not believe without proof. My superiors told me I had been recommended and I have always found them just and truthful, therefore I still believe them. You may quote me as saying

that both Mr Toth and Mr. Mercurio told me I had been recommended --- Mr Toth with the qualification that he had nothing to do with the selection -- the Army people did their own selecting. Of course it is possible that Mr Toth removed certain names from the list at the instance of the Army people. That would account for my being told when I went into his (Mr.Toth's) office on Dec. 28 that my name was not on the list, and being subsequently told after a colloquy by the information desk with someone inside that it had been an oversight. (See reference to this in my letter to the Civilian Aide to the Sec'y of War.) That would account also for the fact that not one of the five other Negro Draftsmen who applied were ever called for interview though men far less qualified than any of them were given jobs.

The statement is made that when we were interviewed by Maj. Stewart at his office on Dec. 28, the number of men required for Puerto Rico had already been obtained from among those previously interviewed. This is not so. The records of your own Dept. will show that not only were Draftsmen Gossett and Ceccarelli accepted for Puerto Rico on that same day after I was disposed of by shifting my application to a base where the Dept. had little or no hope of employing Draftsmen, but that in the week following, Draftsmen Saekron and Frankel were interviewed and hired and are now, with others whose names escape me at the moment, ~~working~~ working in San Juan. If the investigation is not an inept try at whitewashing an indefensible act, it is difficult to understand how statements so easy of disproof can be put forward as a base on which to rest the conclusion that "there has been no discrimination on the grounds of race or color."

I gave the War Dept. excellent service for miserable pay. That is water under the bridge. The Dept. repaid me with a scurvy trick when there was real pay to be earned. To try discrediting my just complaint on top of all this is just -- well I'm glad I have no such act on my conscience.

I beg to remain,
Most respectfully yours,

Ernest. E. Mair

July 25, 1941

Mr. Ernest R. Mair
63 East 100th Street
New York City

Dear Mr. Mair:

You have no doubt already received from the Office of the Chief of Engineers a report on your complaints concerning racial discrimination in connection with your application for employment as a draftsman at San Juan, Puerto Rico.

If any of the facts therein reported are in error, please feel free to advise us.

Sincerely yours,

Civilian Aide to the Secretary
of War

Ernest R. Mair
100th Street

ADDRESS REPLY TO
CHIEF OF ENGINEERS, U. S. ARMY
WASHINGTON, D. C.

WAR DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF ENGINEERS
WASHINGTON 4-B

REFER TO FILE NO. 1902(Negroes)-42

July 22, 1941

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mr. William H. Hastie, Civilian Aide to the
Secretary of War.

Reference is made to your Memorandum of June 10, inclosing a complaint of Ernest E. Mair, 63 East 100 St., New York City, charging racial discrimination in the selection of draftsman for the Engineer Office at San Juan, Puerto Rico. The complaints were thoroughly investigated by the Division Engineer of the North Atlantic Division, and by the Eastern Division Engineer, and no support could be found for this charge of discrimination.

A copy of a reply of this office to the writer is inclosed for your files.

For the Chief of Engineers:


W. E. Lorence,
Lt. Col., Corps of Engineers,
Assistant Chief, Finance Section.

2 Inclosures:
Sub. 1
Copy of letter based on Ser. 46

ADDRESS REPLY TO
CHIEF OF ENGINEERS, U. S. ARMY
WASHINGTON, D. C.

WAR DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF ENGINEERS
WASHINGTON 4-B

CC:AJO

REFER TO FILE NO. 1902(Negroes)-42

July 22, 1941

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mr. William E. Hastie, Civilian Aide to the
Secretary of War.

Reference is made to your Memorandum of June 10, inclosing a complaint of Ernest D. Mair, 63 East 100 St., New York City, charging racial discrimination in the selection of draftsman for the Engineer Office at San Juan, Puerto Rico. The complaints were thoroughly investigated by the Division Engineer of the North Atlantic Division, and by the Eastern Division Engineer, and no support could be found for this charge of discrimination.

A copy of a reply of this office to the writer is inclosed for your files.

For the Chief of Engineers:

W. E. Lorence,
Lt. Col., Corps of Engineers,
Assistant Chief, Finance Section.

2 Inclosures:
Sub. 1
Copy of letter based on Ser. 46

63 East 100th. Street
New York, N.Y.
Sacramento 2-5980
June 6, 1941

OFFICE CHIEF OF ENGINEERS
JUN 12 1941
1902 (Negroes) -42/1

Wm.H.Hastie Esq.,
Civilian Aide to the Secretary of War
Office of the Assistant Secretary
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

I enclose herewith copies of two (2) letters written recently to Lt. Col. J. D. Arthur, Eastern Division, 2 New York Avenue, Washington, D.C. They are self-explanatory. They are also unanswered.

Let me tell you of two experiences that will help explain why those two letters elicit no replies. During August, 1940, the Military Construction Unit, 641 Washington Street, New York, invited applications from its Draftsmen for positions at the San Juan, Puerto Rico, Engineers' Office. Several men including myself applied. Seven men were selected and sent to San Juan. I was recommended, but not selected, though I had two things in my favor that none of the other applicants had. These were: Acclimatization (I am of West Indian birth and upbringing), and a thorough knowledge of Spanish (I have worked as an Interpreter and Translator).

In October, 1940, I learned that two of the men at San Juan Base had contracted Tropical Fever and would be repatriated. I wrote direct to Major Hyde in San Juan, and stating my qualifications, offered my services. About the middle of November I was called into the office of our Head Engineer, Mr. Alexander S. Toth, and informed that the San Juan Office had requested by Radiogram my release to them at \$2300 per annum. Mr. Toth said that if I were willing to go he would release me. I accepted the offer and my acceptance, as per request, was radiogrammed back the same day. Four days later the offer was withdrawn, also by radio, reason stated: "Position filled locally."

About a month later there was another request for Draftsmen for San Juan Base. Several men applied, among them being myself and three other non-whites, one a Phillipino, and the other two, Negroes. On December 28, Major Stewart of the Eastern District appeared at our office to interview the applicants. The Negroes were not called, but I knew of the interview and took my place in line. The man at the Information Desk in our Head Engineer's Office told me that my name was not on the list. I protested that this could not be so. He went inside, spoke to someone, returned, and told me there had been an oversight, and I was allowed to remain. When there yet remained six men to be interviewed Major Stewart called us inside. He told us he had an appointment elsewhere in a few minutes, could not remain to complete the interviews, and gave us an appointment at his office, Room 1213,

Wm. H. Hastie, Esq.

June 6, 1941.

90 Church Street, New York, for the following morning, Saturday, December 28, at 10:30 o'clock.

I was the first man there. The outcome of that interview is given in detail in the lengthier of the two letters referred to in the opening paragraph of this letter, copies of which are attached herewith.

I remember clearly the statement attributed to you at the time of your appointment to your present office. I call upon you as a fellow Negro citizen to live up to that statement and to use every means at your command towards securing for me and for all other Negro professionals the rights being denied us in these premises.

I beg to call your attention to the fact that the West Indies National Council, with which I have always been in close contact, has communicated with you on this very subject, and I understand that your reply to them conveyed the idea that this practice of discrimination by the United States Government in relation to work on the Bases was not in operation, and that you invite specific cases that tend to prove the contrary.

May I, through you, call the attention of the Secretary of War, and those serving under him, to the disgraceful spectacle they make of a great nation, girding itself to defend Democracy abroad while they, in her name, deny it to their fellow citizens at home? I swore when I became a citizen of this great Republic to defend it, if need be, with my life. I can demand no less, and remain a man, than the equality of opportunity guaranteed me by that Republic's supreme law.

I am, Sir,

Most respectfully yours,


ERNEST E. MAIR.

C O P Y

April 21st, 1941

Lt. Col. J. D. Arthur
Eastern Division
2 New York Ave.,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

During an interview with Major Stewart at Room 1213, 90 Church Street, New York City, on December 28th last, held for the purpose of selecting Drafting Room Personnel for the Puerto Rico Base, the fact came out that I was of Jamaican (B.W.I.) origin.

The Major then suggested that I apply instead for the Jamaica Base, as he thought I might be more useful to the Department there because of my knowledge of place, population and customs.

I assented and was placed tentatively on file for appointment at \$2,000 per annum.

On Saturday, April 12th, I called to make inquiry relative to the above and was advised to communicate with you, forwarding all pertinent information. That information is herewith enclosed.

I would be grateful, in case you find me acceptable, for some indication as to the earliest date on which I might be called so that I may arrange my personal affairs accordingly.

For samples of my work I refer you to the Typical Plans for the Theatre of Operations, specifically Sheet I, Warehouse 96' x 320' Wood, T.O. - 11.22; Sheet 2, Warehouse or Shop 48' x 112' Wood, T.O. 11-21; Sheet 3, Open Shed 48' x 112' Wood, T.O. 11-25; and Sheet 2, Structure 20' x 20' Wood, T.O. 11-6.

I am informed that prints including some or all of the above-named sheets have been forwarded to your office by the Fortification Section, Office of the Chief of Engineers.

I am, Dear Sir,

Most Respectfully yours

ERNEST E. MAIR

C C P Y

May 26th, 1941.

Lt. Col. J. D. Arthur
Eastern Division
2 New York Avenue
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

I respectfully beg to call your attention to my letter dated April 21st, 1941, in which I made inquiry respecting position on the Drafting Staff at Jamaica Base.

I have already waited five months on the convenience of the Department while other opportunities went by default.

May I please have a definite reply at your earliest convenience so that I may know what to do?

I am, Sir,

Most respectfully yours,

ERNEST E. MAIR.

ADDRESS REPLY TO
CHIEF, OF ENGINEERS, U S ARMY
WASHINGTON, D. C.

WAR DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF ENGINEERS
WASHINGTON *L-3*

REFER TO FILE NO - 1902(Negroes)-46

July 22, 1941

Mr. Ernest E. Mair,
69 East 100 St.,
New York City.

Sir:

Reference is made to your letter of June 6, to the President, inclosing copies of three other letters to various offices of the War Department. This letter was referred from the White House for reply to your complaints of discrimination in employments in Jamaica and Puerto Rico.

All the complaints in your letters have been investigated. The Eastern Division Engineer, who is in charge of the construction work on bases recently leased from Great Britain, reports that your letter of April 21, was received by him, but your application for employment as draftsman at the Jamaica base was held pending the award of the contract for construction work at the base. The contract was awarded on May 26, 1941, and your application was then forwarded to the District Engineer at Jamaica, for his information, in the event of a suitable vacancy. You were then advised of the action taken. Since the design of the bases in the Eastern Division is being performed by contract, there is little need for drafting services. You are further advised that no draftsmen have been employed for the Jamaica District since the receipt of your application.

The Division Engineer, North Atlantic Division, New York City, reports that his office received a telephone request from higher authority to recruit a number of draftsmen in Puerto Rico. The suggestion was made that these men might be found at the War Department Mapping Project, 641 Washington St., New York City. Accordingly, Mr. J. W. Stewart, Representative of the Division Office, went there and interviewed 21 candidates recommended by Mr. Toth, Supervisor of the Project. You were not among those interviewed at this time. Starting at the head of the list, those willing to go to Puerto Rico were selected. On December 30, 1940, 14 were recommended for employment.

The news that candidates for Puerto Rico were being interviewed, spread around the drafting room and a number of men that were not called in by Mr. Toth, appeared and were given an interview for the following day, December 28, at the office of the North Atlantic Division. However, the number of men required for Puerto Rico had been obtained from those previously interviewed. Hence, when the others appeared December 28,

there were no further vacancies. Your names were placed on file for reference in the event additional help was called for. The Division Engineer further reports that when your birthplace was made known, it was suggested that you might be useful in Jamaica, B. W. I., and you stated that you would prefer employment there. However, this was only a suggestion. The Division Offices of the North Atlantic Division, and of the Eastern Division, are entirely separate, and one has no authority to select employees for the other; therefore, no action could be taken by the North Atlantic Division, to place you, or other candidates, in Jamaica, which is one of the Island bases under the jurisdiction of the Eastern Division. In a subsequent visit to that office, it was suggested that you communicate with Colonel Arthur direct. (Copies of the correspondence which you inclose indicate that you have done this).

The conclusion from this investigation, is that there has been no discrimination against you in employment on the work of the Engineer Department in the West Indies, on the grounds of race or color.

For the Chief of Engineers:

Very respectfully,

W. E. Lawrence,
Lt. Col., Corps of Engineers,
Assistant Chief, Finance Section.

ADDRESS REPLY TO
CHIEF OF ENGINEERS, U. S. ARMY
WASHINGTON, D. C.

WAR DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF ENGINEERS
WASHINGTON 4-B

REFER TO FILE NO. 1902(Negroes)-42/1

June 16, 1941.

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. William H. Hastie,
Civilian Aide to the Secretary of War.

1. I am in receipt of your memorandum of June 10, inclosing a complaint of Mr. Ernest E. Mair, charging racial discrimination in the selection of Draftsmen for the Engineer Department, San Juan, Puerto Rico.

2. An investigation will be made immediately and upon its completion, further information will be furnished you.

For the Chief of Engineers:


W. E. Lorence,
Lt. Col., Corps of Engineers,
Assistant Chief, Finance Section.

W. E. Lorence
M

June 10, 1941

Mr. Ernest E. Mair
63 East 100th Street
New York City

Dear Mr. Mair:

Your letter of June 6 is the first specific complaint this office has received charging discrimination in the selection of civilian employees of the War Department for service at West Indian Bases.

I am taking the matter up immediately with the appropriate authorities here and will write you more fully after they shall have investigated the matter.

Sincerely yours,

Civilian Aide to the Secretary
of War

*Chapman
Mair*

June 10, 1941

MEMORANDUM

TO: Major W. E. Lorence, Corps of Engineers,
Assistant Chief, Finance Section

The attached complaint of Ernest E. Mair, charging racial discrimination in the selection of draftsmen for the Office of Engineers at San Juan, Puerto Rico, is self-explanatory.

May proper steps be taken to determine the facts in this case and to assure the consideration of this applicant, solely on the basis of merit.

Civilian Aide to the Secretary
of War

Ernest E. Mair
San Juan

63 East 100th. Street
New York, N.Y.
Sacramento 2-5980
June 6, 1941

Wm. H. Hastie Esq.,
Civilian Aide to the Secretary of War
Office of the Assistant Secretary
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

I enclose herewith copies of two (2) letters written recently to Lt. Col. J. D. Arthur, Eastern Division, 2 New York Avenue, Washington, D. C. They are self-explanatory. They are also unanswered.

Let me tell you of two experiences that will help explain why those two letters elicit no replies. During August, 1940, the Military Construction Unit, 641 Washington Street, New York, invited applications from its Draftsmen for positions at the San Juan, Puerto Rico, Engineers' Office. Several men including myself applied. Seven men were selected and sent to San Juan. I was recommended, but not selected, though I had two things in my favor that none of the other applicants had. These were: Acclimatization (I am of West Indian birth and upbringing), and a thorough knowledge of Spanish (I have worked as an Interpreter and Translator).

In October, 1940, I learned that two of the men at San Juan Base had contracted Tropical Fever and would be repatriated. I wrote direct to Major Hyde in San Juan, and stating my qualifications, offered my services. About the middle of November I was called into the office of our Head Engineer, Mr. Alexander S. Toth, and informed that the San Juan Office had requested by Radiogram my release to them at \$2300 per annum. Mr. Toth said that if I were willing to go he would release me. I accepted the offer and my acceptance, as per request, was radiogrammed back the same day. Four days later the offer was withdrawn, also by radio, reason stated: "Position filled locally."

About a month later there was another request for Draftsmen for San Juan Base. Several men applied, among them being myself and three other non-whites, one a Phillipino, and the other two, Negroes. On December 28, Major Stewart of the Eastern District appeared at our office to interview the applicants. The Negroes were not called, but I knew of the interview and took my place in line. The man at the Information Desk in our Head Engineer's Office told me that my name was not on the list. I protested that this could not be so. He went inside, spoke to someone, returned, and told me there had been an oversight, and I was allowed to remain. When there yet remained six men to be interviewed Major Stewart called us inside. He told us he had an appointment elsewhere in a few minutes, could not remain to complete the interviews, and gave us an appointment at his office, Room 1213,

Wm. H. Hastie, Esq.

June 6, 1941.

90 Church Street, New York, for the following morning, Saturday, December 28, at 10:30 o'clock.

I was the first man there. The outcome of that interview is given in detail in the lengthier of the two letters referred to in the opening paragraph of this letter, copies of which are attached herewith.

I remember clearly the statement attributed to you at the time of your appointment to your present office. I call upon you as a fellow Negro citizen to live up to that statement and to use every means at your command towards securing for me and for all other Negro professionals the rights being denied us in these premises.

I beg to call your attention to the fact that the West Indies National Council, with which I have always been in close contact, has communicated with you on this very subject, and I understand that your reply to them conveyed the idea that this practice of discrimination by the United States Government in relation to work on the Basos was not in operation, and that you invite specific cases that tend to prove the contrary.

May I, through you, call the attention of the Secretary of War, and those serving under him, to the disgraceful spectacle they make of a great nation, girding itself to defend Democracy abroad while they, in her name, deny it to their fellow citizens at home? I swore when I became a citizen of this great Republic to defend it, if need be, with my life. I can demand no less, and remain a man, than the equality of opportunity guaranteed me by that Republic's supreme law.

I am, Sir,

Most respectfully yours,

/sgd/ Ernest E. Mair

ERNEST E. MAIR.

C
C
F
I

April 21st, 1941

Lt. Col. J. D. Arthur
Eastern Division
2 New York Ave.,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

During an interview with Major Stewart at Room 1213, 90 Church Street, New York City, on December 28th last, held for the purpose of selecting Drafting Room Personnel for the Puerto Rico Base, the fact came out that I was of Jamaican (B.N.I.) origin.

The Major then suggested that I apply instead for the Jamaica Base, as he thought I might be more useful to the Department there because of my knowledge of place, population and customs.

I assented and was placed tentatively on file for appointment at \$2,000 per annum.

On Saturday, April 12th, I called to make inquiry relative to the above and was advised to communicate with you, forwarding all pertinent information. That information is herewith enclosed.

I would be grateful, in case you find me acceptable, for some indication as to the earliest date on which I might be called so that I may arrange my personal affairs accordingly.

For samples of my work I refer you to the Typical Plans for the Theatre of Operations, specifically Sheet 1, Warehouse 96' x 320' Wood, T.O. - 11-22; Sheet 2, Warehouse or Shop 48' x 112' Wood, T.O. 11-21; Sheet 3, Open Shed 48' x 112' Wood, T.O. 11-25; and Sheet 2, Structure 20' x 20' Wood, T.O. 11-6.

I am informed that prints including some or all of the above-named sheets have been forwarded to your office by the Fortification Section, Office of the Chief of Engineers.

I am, Dear Sir,

Most Respectfully yours

Ernest E. Mair

may 26th, 1941.

Lt. Col. J. D. Arthur
Eastern Division
2 New York Avenue
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

I respectfully beg to call your attention to my letter dated April 21st, 1941, in which I made inquiry respecting position on the Drafting Staff at Jamaica Base.

I have already waited five months on the convenience of the Department while other opportunities went by default.

May I please have a definite reply at your earliest convenience so that I may know what to do?

I am, Sir,

Most respectfully yours,

ERNEST E. MAIR.

June 11, 1941

Mr. H. P. Osborne
Secretary, West Indian National Council
2007 Seventh Avenue
New York City

Dear Mr. Osborne:

Thank you for your letter of June 4 concerning the complaint of Mr. Ernest Mair.

I have received and acknowledged Mr. Mair's complaint and have taken the matter up immediately with the authorities concerned. We hope to be able to submit a further report in the near future.

Sincerely yours,

Civilian Aide to the Secretary
of War

100-100000-100000
100-100000-100000
100-100000-100000

WEST INDIES NATIONAL COUNCIL

(Formerly West Indies National Emergency Committee)

President:
W. A. DOMINGO
Secretary:
H. P. OSBORNE
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112

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T. E. CHALWILL

June 4, 1941

Mr. William H. Hastie
Munitions Building
Washington, D. C

Dear Judge Hastie:

You will doubtless recall that the Council has had occasion in the recent past to communicate with you on the subject of discrimination against Negroes in the matter of employment at the West Indian bases; by the United States Government.

At that time the issue was raised in Congress by Congressman Mitchell; and while a specific case was cited it was held to be insufficient grounds upon which to take definite action.

Within the next few days you will receive a communication from a Mr. Ernest Mair of # 63 East 100 Street, N.Y.C. bearing directly on the subject, and the Council takes this opportunity to respectfully request that you go into this case as thoroughly as the facts warrant.

We firmly believe you will find the evidence submitted to be sufficiently conclusive and that it throws a strong light upon a problem which calls for prompt, vigorous action.

With kindest regards.

Yours very truly,
WEST INDIES NATIONAL COUNCIL

H. P. Osborne
H. P. OSBORNE, Sec'y

HM:HPO

May 2, 1942.

Mr. Harry I. Barron,
Administrative Assistant,
President's Committee on Fair
Employment Practice,
1406 G Street, N. W.,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Barron:

Receipt is acknowledged of your letter of April 21, 1942, concerning the complaint of Miss America G. Marrero, 1964 Seventh Avenue, New York City, ~~that~~ although she was informed that her name was being held in the active list of applicants who were to be considered in February, she has not yet been appointed an examiner in the New York Postal Censorship Unit.

All postal censorship activities have been transferred from the War Department to the Office of Censorship. Mr. Byron Price, Director of Censorship, is located in the Federal Trade Commission Building. I would suggest that you take up Miss Marrero's case directly with him.

Sincerely yours,

Civilian Aide to the Secretary
of War

Carded
C.F.P.
M
C.F.P.

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

April 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.

Dear Judge Hastie:

With further reference to the complaint of Miss America Marrero, 1964 Seventh Avenue, New York City, I am in receipt of a letter from her in which she indicates that despite assurances made by Major W. Preston Corderman that her name was being held in the active file of applicants and that she would be called for consideration in connection with the filling of vacancies during the month of February 1942, she has failed to receive any real encouragement, and only after taking the initiative in communicating with the Army Personnel Office did she receive any statement from them.

I am enclosing copies of the latest correspondence from Miss Marrero and would appreciate getting your views in the matter.

Sincerely yours,



Harry I. Barron
Administrative Assistant

Enclosure



1

1964 Seventh Avenue
New York, New York
April 10, 1942

Mr. Lawrence W. Cramer
President's Committee on Fair Employment Practice
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Cramer:

I sincerely appreciate the effort you made in investigating my particular case. You might be interested in knowing that as yet I have not been called to work.

Not wishing to be too aggressive, I waited until the very end of February before making enquiries as to why I hadn't been called as promised. On February 23 I wrote to Captain Kawkwood, the Personnel Officer. Not receiving any answer by the 28th, I went down to the office. Here, they informed me that I would get the details as to why I hadn't been called via the mail. On March 2nd I received their reply which I am retyping for your benefit on a separate sheet of paper.

I know that you will do everything possible to straighten out the matter. I thank you for your cooperation.

Respectfully yours,

/s/ America Marrero

(COPY)

U. S. Army Personnel Office
Room 4500 General Post Office Bldg.
33rd Street and 8th Avenue
New York, New York

February 28, 1942

Miss America Marrero
1964 Seventh Avenue
New York, New York

Dear Miss Marrero:

In response to your letter of February 23rd, we wish to advise that we are still carrying you on our lists as a potential Spanish translator, but we are adding very few people to our staff at the present time due to lack of space and the few Spanish translators that we are taking are those who received a better mark than you did in the preliminary test which we gave in this office.

As soon as we obtain the enlarged quarters, which we expect to have some time in April, we will arrange for a written test for all Spanish translators on our list in order that they may be finally classified.

Very truly yours,

Ernest H. Hawkwood
Personnel Officer

EHH:el

April 13, 1942.

Dr. Robert C. Weaver, Chief,
Negro Employment and Training Branch,
Labor Division,
War Production Board,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Dr. Weaver:

With reference to the complaint of Miss America
Marrero, 1964 Seventh Avenue, New York City, about which you
sent this office a copy of a memorandum from Mr. Edward H.
Lawson, you are informed that all postal censorship activi-
ties have been transferred from the War Department to the
Office of Censorship. Mr. Byron Price, Director of Censor-
ship, is located in the Federal Trade Commission Building.

Sincerely yours,

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

COPIED
4/13/42

15177

OPM - LABOR DIVISION
NEGRO EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING BRANCH

3-19 1942

The attached is respectfully referred to

Mrs. Mary McLeod Bethune, NYA

Mr. Martin Carpenter, BES

✓ Judge William H. Hastie, WAR
at Mr. Lauter
Dr. Frank Horne, USHA

Major Campbell C. Johnson, SSS

Dr. Ira deA. Reid, BES

Miss Corienne Robinson, USHA

Mr. Alfred E. Smith, WPA

Mr. Robert R. Taylor, DEFENSE HOUSING

Mr. William J. Trent, Jr., FWA

For information

For consideration and *action* ~~reply, direct~~

For advice to me

We have (not) advised the writer of
this reference

The attachments should (not) be returned
to me

Remarks:

Robert C. Weaver
Chief

March 11, 1947

Mr. Robert G. Server

Frank W. Lawson

File report: Complaint of Miss America Barrero, 1564-7th Avenue,
New York, New York, against the Censorship Division

This is in regard to a complaint made in person to the office here by Miss America Barrero. When I talked to Miss Barrero about a month ago, she charged that she had been discriminated against by the Censorship Division of the Army located in the General Post Office Building here. She claimed she had been refused a job as a Spanish translator on the grounds that she could not speak Spanish. Actually her mother is of Spanish origin and the girl has never spoken anything but Spanish in her home. At that time I asked Captain Ernest Hawkwood, who is in charge of the personnel office in the Censorship Division, to review Miss Barrero's application and to see if she could not be considered for employment. Captain Hawkwood said that he would do this. The last time I was in Washington I talked to Mr. Lautier in the War Department about this case and found that he had had some correspondence with Captain Hawkwood about it. It was my impression, and apparently it was also Mr. Lautier's impression, that the complaint had been cleared up by Captain Hawkwood and that the girl was being put to work.

Miss Barrero came into see me again today and said that she still is trying to get the job for which she qualified over a month ago. She said that about the 25th of February she had written to Captain Hawkwood asking where she stood and had received a reply from him dated February 28 which stated, "the office is still carrying you on its list as a potential Spanish translator". This letter also stated that, "as soon as we obtain enlarged quarters, which will be some time in April, we will arrange a written test for all Spanish translators on our list so they may be finally qualified".

I know that it is Mr. Lautier's impression that this young lady's complaint was cleared up and that she went to work. Now that I find that this is not the case, I suggest that you call these additional facts to Mr. Lautier's attention and ask him to take some further steps that may help Miss Barrero to find employment.

I am attaching an extra copy of this memorandum to be sent to Mr. Lautier, if you think it advisable.

Lawson:fe

January 23, 1942.

Mr. Lawrence W. Cramer,
Executive Secretary,
President's Committee on
Fair Employment Practice,
Social Security Building,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Cramer:

On January 20, 1942, this office requested of you additional information in the matter of the complaint of Miss America G. Marrero, 1964 Seventh Avenue, New York City, charging racial discrimination in connection with her efforts to secure employment as a translator of Spanish with the Army censorship unit in New York City.

Without waiting for this additional information I took up this matter by telephone with Major W. Preston Corderman and was advised by him today that the name of Miss Marrero is being held in the active file of applicants who will be called in February. He also stated that the New York office has been instructed, and has assured the Department, that Negro applicants will be accepted without discrimination.

If there is any further evidence of racial discrimination in this matter, please let this office know.

Sincerely yours,

Civilian Aide to the Secretary
of War

151-100
C.F.E.P.
"M"
S. J. T. H. P.

January 20, 1942.

Mr. Lawrence W. Cramer,
Executive Secretary,
President's Committee on
Fair Employment Practice,
Social Security Building,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Cramer:

On January 16, 1942, you referred to this office the complaint of Miss America G. Marrero, submitted to your office by Mr. Earl Brown of Life Magazine, charging discrimination in connection with her efforts to secure employment as a translator of Spanish.

It is not stated in your letter whether other applicants called for interviews in the General Post Office Building, New York City, were given tests and appointed after Miss Marrero had been interviewed and told that she would be notified of any openings. May we have this specific information?

The racial identity of Miss Marrero also is not given. It is presumed that she is colored. Is this correct?

With this additional information this office will be in better position to determine whether an investigation should be requested.

Sincerely yours,

Civilian Aide to the Secretary
of War.

COPIED
M

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

MARK F. ETHRIDGE
CHAIRMAN

WILLIAM GREEN
MILTON P. WEBSTER

LAWRENCE W. CRAMER
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

DAVID SARNOFF
EARL B. DICKERSON
PHILIP MURRAY

January 16, 1942

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

Dear Judge Hastie:

I should like to refer to you the complaint of Miss America C. Marrero which was submitted to this office by Mr. Earl Brown of Life Magazine. Excerpts from his letter follows:

"Miss America C. Marrero of 1964 Seventh Avenue is on the Federal Civil Service list for the position of translator of Spanish. On January 8 Miss Marrero received a telegram signed U. S. Army requesting her to come to Room 4560, General Post Office Building, to be interviewed concerning a position as translator of Spanish at \$1,620 a year. Miss Marrero complied with the telegram, and carried out all of the preliminary instructions in the office. About forty other applicants for the same position were in the same room with Miss Marrero.

"When Miss Marrero reached the woman who was apparently in charge of directing the applicants to the proper places where they would be given tests to determine their ability as translators, instead of directing her to take the test, the woman in charge told Miss Marrero, rather summarily, that there were no openings now and that she would notify Miss Marrero when there would be some.

"Reliable information has shown that not only were applicants called in the same manner given tests to determine their ability but were promptly employed.

"Miss Marrero was graduated from Hunter College, New York City, in February 1941. She took the Federal Civil Service test in June of the same year and passed it with a grade of 85."

I have already requested Mr. Brown to furnish this office with the telegram which Miss Marrero received and a more detailed statement on her experiences. However, there may be sufficient information here for you to take preliminary steps in investigating this complaint.

Sincerely yours,

Lawrence W. Cramer
Lawrence W. Cramer
Executive Secretary

December 12, 1941

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Director of Civilian Personnel

The attached complaint of Mr. William B. Merrill was transmitted to this office by the President's Committee on Fair Employment Practice. It appears in Mr. Merrill's letter that he has also written to the Director of Civilian Personnel.

No evidence of racial discrimination appears on the face of the complaint. However, for the information of the President's Committee on Fair Employment Practice I would like to have a copy of such reply as may have been made to Mr. Merrill.

Civilian Aide to the Secretary
of War

in action
copy
"M"

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

Date December 4, 1941

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. William B. Merrill of Washington, D. C., under date of December 1, 1941, 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
Executive Secretary

Enc.

COPY

2038 - 18th St., N. W.
Washington, D. C.
Apt. 43
December 1 - 41

Mr. Lawrence W. Cramer
President's Committee on Fair Employment
Social Security Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Cramer:

This letter will confirm our conversation over the phone on the afternoon of Dec. 1, 1941, at which time I attempted to explain I received a letter from the War Department or rather a Postal Telegraph message, signed by Mr. Onthank, Director of Personnel. The following is the substance of the message of which is in my possession:

"If you are interested in an appointment as under-clerk typist at \$1260 per annum in the War Dept. Wash. D. C. Temporary not to exceed 90 days report for interview Mon. Dec. 1-41 between 8:15 a. m. and three-thirty p. m. to Mrs. Gebeaux Room 2609 Munitions Building 20th & Constitution Ave. Wash. D. C. This is an inquiry and not an offer of appointment. Refer file M-25412."

Onthank War Department.

When I arrived for my so called interview, I was told that Mrs. Gebeaux may not be able to interview me because she had been interviewing all morning. I was given an application to fill out but refused on the grounds that it would be wasted time since I have an application on file with the same dept. also have in my possession a letter from the Director of Personnel - dated Oct. 8, 1941.

After waiting 25 minutes, I was told all vacancies had been filled this morning that only four were open anyway.

Just for your records, I'll state I'm colored and definitely feel I've received another run around which happens to be my fifth run around. It doesn't appear reasonable to waste money, a persons time, and every one elses time, to have statements made that don't even make sense. Why did I have to know how many jobs were vacant? Why say report for interview between 8:15 and 3:30 p. m. if the jobs can be filled as fast as that? A letter is also being sent to Mr. Onthank's office as well as Mr. Wm. C. Hull, of the Commission in this matter. If this can be cleared up, they have the right man to fight it.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Wm. B. Merrill

Metcalfe, Ona (Miss)
Michigan

See correspondence in COFEP file under the name Verna N. Parks ("P").

207
"A"

April 21, 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 April 10, 1942, in regard to the reinstatement status of Mr. Paul A. Montimore, Jr., 622 Virginia Boulevard, San Antonio, Texas, whose original complaint of racial discrimination in his effort to secure employment at the Normoyle Quartermaster Depot, San Antonio, was returned to you on September 17, 1941, because it contained insufficient information upon which to base a request for an investigation.

In the absence of any allegations of racial discrimination, there is no basis for a formal inquiry into the action of the appointing officer on the application of Mr. Montimore for reinstatement because the question of reinstatement is one of administrative discretion. Under any circumstance, it appears that the Civil Service Commission may properly be asked about his reinstatement status because it would first have to issue a certificate.

Sincerely yours,

Civilian Aide to the Secretary
of War

10
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

DAVID SARNOFF
EARL B. DICKERSON
PHILIP MURRAY
MARK ETHRIDGE

April 10, 1942

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

Dear Judge Hastie:

Mr. Paul A. Montimore, Jr. of 622 Virginia Boulevard, San Antonio, Texas, whose complaint that he has been discriminated against in his effort to secure appointment as packer at Fort Sam Houston, Quartermasters Depot, I referred to you under date of August 22, 1941, has advised me that he has applied for reinstatement as a permanent employee with this agency instead of his present classification as temporary packer.

He states that he made application in writing to the chief clerk, Personnel Branch, Post Quartermaster, Fort Sam Houston, Texas, for such reinstatement in February, but that his application has not, as yet, been acted on.

Can you ascertain whether or not there is any reason for failure of the authorities to act favorably on his application which may be related to his racial origin?

Sincerely yours,

Lawrence W. Cramer
Lawrence W. Cramer
Executive Secretary



November 6, 1941

Mr. Lawrence W. Cramer
Executive Secretary
President's Committee on
Fair Employment Practices
Social Security Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Cramer:

With reference to the case of Mr. Paul A. Montmore
which you have resubmitted, it does not appear desirable
to address the Commander of the Normoyle Depot in the
manner you suggest. Such a question would be desirable
if made incidental to a request for investigation based
on specific facts.

Yours very truly,

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

11/10/41
Cramer

PRESIDENT'S COMMITTEE ON FAIR EMPLOYMENT PRACTICE

OFFICE OF PRODUCTION MANAGEMENT

SOCIAL SECURITY BUILDING

WASHINGTON, D. C.

November 5, 1941

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. Paul A. Montimore, Jr. of San Antonio, Texas, which I referred to you under date of August 21 and concerning whom an additional charge of discrimination was forwarded to you on September 6, you requested that I secure additional information to support the allegation that he has been discriminated against because of his color.

I transmit herewith a copy of a letter addressed to me by Mr. Montimore in which he states that he is unwilling to give the names of persons who advised him that Negroes would not be employed as checkers, packers, shipping and receiving clerks, because white men working as laborers on the project would not stand for a Negro working on a job and drawing more money than white men did. Mr. Montimore's letter merely states that he was certified by the Civil Service Commission, was called to the particular job on June 18, 1941 but was not employed for a reason which he believes to be related to his race. His statement that Negroes are not allowed to work as packers at the Normoyle Quartermaster's Depot will be worthy of investigation.

Would it be possible to ask the Commandant at this Depot to state categorically whether or not it is a policy of his office not to employ Negroes as checkers, packers, shipping and receiving clerks?

Sincerely yours,

Lawrence W. Cramer
Lawrence W. Cramer
Executive Secretary

Enclosure

PRESIDENT'S COMMITTEE ON FAIR EMPLOYMENT PRACTICE

November 5, 1941

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. Paul A. Montimore, Jr. of San Antonio, Texas, which I referred to you under date of August 21 and concerning whom an additional charge of discrimination was forwarded to you on September 6, you requested that I secure additional information to support the allegation that he has been discriminated against because of his color.

I transmit herewith a copy of a letter addressed to me by Mr. Montimore in which he states that he is unwilling to give the names of persons who advised him that Negroes would not be employed as checkers, packers, shipping and receiving clerks, because white men working as laborers on the project would not stand for a Negro working on a job and drawing more money than white men did. Mr. Montimore's letter merely states that he was certified by the Civil Service Commission, was called to the particular job on June 18, 1941 but was not employed for a reason which he believes to be related to his race. His statement that Negroes are not allowed to work as packers at the Normoyle Quartermaster's Depot will be worthy of investigation.

Would it be possible to ask the Commandant at this Depot to state categorically whether or not it is a policy of his office not to employ Negroes as checkers, packers, shipping and receiving clerks?

Sincerely yours,

Lawrence W. Cramer
Executive Secretary

Cramer/mi

Enclosure

COPY

622 Virginia Blvd.
San Antonio, Texas
October 25, 1941

Mr. Lawrence W. Cramer
Executive Secretary
Office of Production Management
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Cramer:

I received your letter dated Oct. 8, 1941 stating that I did not furnish enough information for my case to be investigated in regard of me being discriminated. Now you stated in your letter that I should have mention the names of the individuals that made the statement, that I was rejected on the account of my (Race).

I feel that it is not expedient that I should give you their names. Sorry to know that you require me to do so. I realize that I am a Negro and also realize that I live in the South and I realize what it will mean to me if I should mention the names of the white people.

But never the less if you will kindly investigate with the necessary information that I am about to give you, you will find all you need to know of my having been discriminated.

Now if you will kindly kindly write the Local Civil Service Board at Ft. Sam Houston, Texas and ask them whether or not I am placed on the re-employment list as Civil Service Packer, also ask if I was called to this particular job on June 16, 1941 at Camp Normoyle and placed back on the re-employment list June 18, 1941 also ask them just why I was not selected after signing up to report?

Of course they were not in position to give me this information.

Now it is a known fact by white and colored that the three colored men was called the same day and rejected. Later was replaced by other races.

After getting this necessary information from the Civil Service Board you will find my statements to be true. And if you kindly investigate you will find that Negroes to not (or) not allowed to work as Packers at this particular place.

If I understand rightly there should not be any discrimination especially doing this defense work toward any race.

Now what ever amount of investigation is done in this my case will be highly appreciated. I trust I have made the matter plain.

With best wishes

Yours truly,

/s/ Paul A. Montimore, Jr.

September 27, 1941

Mr. Lawrence W. Cramer
Executive Secretary
President's Committee on
Fair Employment Practice
Social Security Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Cramer:

I have already returned to your office several complaints which you have referred to this department in cases in which no sufficient statement of facts has been given to establish a prima facie case of discrimination.

The attached complaints of Messrs. Paul A. Montimore, Jr., and Oscar B. Perkins, Misses Lorraine Cantrell and Dorothy M. Ingram are returned herewith for the same reason.

Of course, you may wish to resubmit them after further consideration or on the basis of some more adequate statements by the complainants.

Sincerely yours,

Civilian Aide to the Secretary
of War

COFFER
M. P.
Inactive

1st Ind.

aho/mf

War Department, Office of the Secretary. September 23, 1941.
To: Civilian Aide to the Secretary of War.

1. The case of Mr. Edward W. Burrs has been referred to the Office Chief of Air Corps for investigation.

2. The complaints from the other persons listed in basic communication are returned herewith as containing insufficient information as a basis for determining whether discrimination actually occurred, bearing in mind the fact that an appointing officer has a choice of one out of three eligibles. In the case of Oscar B. Perkins, Jr., it is noted that the information given is the barest sort of hearsay evidence.

By order of the Secretary of War:

A. H. ONTHANK

A. H. Onthank
Director of Personnel

September 17, 1941

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mr. A.H. Onthank, Director of Civilian Personnel

The attached complaints from Messrs. Paul A. Montimore, Jr., Edward W. Hurrs and Oscar B. Perkins, Misses Lorraine Cantrell and Dorothy M. Ingram have been referred to this office by the President's Committee on Fair Employment Practice.

May proper steps be taken to determine the facts and circumstances in these matters.

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

Handwritten:
Sept 17 1941
S.M. Gibson

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

MARK F. ETHRIDGE
CHAIRMAN
WILLIAM GREEN
MILTON P. WEBSTER

DAVID SARNOFF
EARL B. DICKERSON
PHILIP MURRAY

September 6, 1941

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

My dear Judge Hastie:

I transmit herewith a copy of a letter addressed to me by Mr. Paul A. Montimore, Jr. of San Antonio, Texas which supplements his letter of August 8 which I referred to you under date of August 22.

Mr. Montimore cites an additional case in which he alleges discrimination against the War Department in his present letter. I shall appreciate your going into this case as well as into his charge of discrimination against the Normoyle Quartermaster Depot, San Antonio, Texas.

Sincerely yours,

Lawrence W. Cramer
Lawrence W. Cramer
Executive Secretary

Enclosure

C O P Y

622 Virginia Blvd.,
San Antonio, Texas
August 28, 1941

Mr. Lawrence W. Cramer
Executive Secretary
Office of Production Management
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Cramer:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter of August 22, in which you stated a Committee is taking steps to investigate a charge of discrimination in connection with my application for employment in the Normoyle Quartermaster Depot, San Antonio, Texas. I deeply appreciate your prompt attention given this matter and hope that I shall here something favorable in regard the same very soon.

May I suggest that you also have the Committee to investigate discrimination shown me about three or four months ago at the Engineer Supply Depot, Wilson Street, Ft. Sam Houston, Texas. I believe the latter was omitted in my previous letter addressed to the President.

Thank you again for whatever consideration is given this matter, I am

Respectfully yours,

/s/

PAUL A. MONTIMORE, JR.

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

August 21, 1941

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

My dear Judge Hastie:

I transmit herewith a copy of a letter addressed to the President under date of August 8, by Mr. Paul A. Montimore, Jr., together with its enclosures.

Mr. Montimore makes the charge that he is being discriminated against in connection with his application for employment in the Normoyle Quartermaster Depot, San Antonio, Texas.

I shall appreciate your investigating this case and furnishing me with a report of your findings, so that I may advise the Committee.

I presume that Mr. Montimore will wish to have the United States Civil Service Commission service record which he has sent with his letter. May I suggest that you send it to him directly when you have completed your investigation in the case.

Sincerely yours,

Lawrence W. Cramer
Lawrence W. Cramer
Executive Secretary

Enclosures

PRESIDENT'S COMMITTEE ON FAIR EMPLOYMENT PRACTICE

August 22, 1941

Mr. Paul A. Montimore, Jr.
622 Virginia Blvd.
San Antonio, Texas

Dear Mr. Montimore:

Your letter of August 8, addressed to the President, has been referred to the President's Committee on Fair Employment Practice.

The Committee is taking steps to investigate your charge of discrimination in connection with your application for employment in the Normoyle Quartermaster Depot, San Antonio, Texas, and will advise you of any action that it may take.

Sincerely yours,

Lawrence W. Cramer
Executive Secretary

cc: Honorable William H. Hastie

C
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P
Y

622 Virginia Blvd.
San Antonio, Texas
August 8, 1941

Franklin D. Roosevelt
President of our U.S.A.
Washington, D. C.

My dear President:

Since it is a fact that I am being discriminated in the United States Government defense work in the state of Texas. I am writing you in regard of my reinstatement. Recently I received a letter from the Civil Service Board stating that I was placed on the re-employment list as checker, packer, shipping, and receiving clerk. Then later, I received another letter stating that I report for assignment; at which time there were several white men and mexiacans who had also been called for assignment and were accepted, but I being a Negro man was rejected. This unfair deal has oppressed me very much as I am presently unemployed and have been looking foward of finding employment in some defense project. I am experienced in the above mentioned work, worked during the World's War in the United States Government Service as a civilian employer from 1916 to 1921, or rather until the close of the war at which time I was honorable discharged.

I might mention that a few days ago when I reported for work assignment one chief clerk told me that the white men who were working as laborers would not stand for me to work on a job and draw more money than them. So I was advised by some of my good white friends who are well acquainted with my service that I should write you and something would be done in the way of investigating.

Enclosed you will find a slip containing my service history during the World War. Also recent envelopes ragarding present employment from the War Department, Office of the Quartermaster, Normoyle Q.M. Depot (MT), San Antonio, Texas.

Trusting that you will give this matter due consideration, I am

Yours truly

(s) Paul A. Montimore, Jr.

Enc.

November 4, 1941

Mr. Lawrence E. Cramer
Executive Secretary
President's Committee on
Fair Employment Practice
Social Security Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Cramer:

Pursuant to our telephone conversation, I am returning your letter of October 31, concerning the case of Mr. William S. Myers.

It seems to me practically certain that any further inquiry will merely result in a statement that the race of Mr. Myers had no connection with the decision not to appoint a steam fitter and that in other cases where it has been found possible to get along without additional help certificates have been returned to the Civil Service Commission without any appointment.

If you do not agree with this position or if you feel that some other approach will be helpful, please advise me.

Sincerely yours,

Civilian Aide to the Secretary
of War

11-11-41
J. M. G. [unclear]

October 13, 1941

Mr. Lawrence W. Cramer
Executive Secretary
President's Committee on
Fair Employment Practice
Social Security Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Cramer:

A report has been received on the complaint of Mr. William S. Myers which was forwarded to this office on September 15.

A statement of facts submitted by the Quartermaster at Camp Lee is in the following language:

"In replying to basic communication, it is advised that about one month ago this office contemplated hiring a steam fitter \$1860 Per Annum. The Civil Service Commission was contacted and a list of eligibles furnished this office by them for this position. The individuals appearing on this list were contacted including William S. Myers, 501 Jefferson Street, Petersburg who called at this office for an interview and was informed he would be notified if his services were desired. Later the decision was made that the position of steam fitter would not be filled and no eligibles appearing on the list were hired.

"As a matter of information, it is advised that at the present time, there are employed on our payroll approximately 586 civilian employees, which includes 278 of the colored race, or approximately 47%, which it is believed clearly indicates that no race discrimination is practiced or permitted in the hiring of civilian employees by the Post Quartermaster."

If you wish any further steps taken in this case, please advise us.

Sincerely yours,

Civilian Aide to the Secretary
of War

RECEIVED
OCT 15 1941
M

October 13, 1944

Mr. Lawrence W. Cramer
Executive Secretary
President's Committee on
Fair Employment Practice
Social Security Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Cramer:

A report has been received on the complaint of Mr. William S. Myers which was forwarded to this office on September 15.

A statement of facts submitted by the Quartermaster at Camp Lee is in the following language:

"In replying to basic communication, it is advised that about one month ago this office contemplated hiring a steam fitter \$1860 Per Annum. The Civil Service Commission was contacted and a list of eligibles furnished this office by them for this position. The individuals appearing on this list were contacted including William S. Myers, 101 Jefferson Street, Petersburg who called at this office for an interview and was informed he would be notified if his services were desired. Later the decision was made that the position of steam fitter would not be filled and no eligibles appearing on the list were hired.

"As a matter of information, it is advised that at the present time, there are employed on our payroll approximately 586 civilian employees, which includes 278 of the colored race, or approximately 47%, which it is believed clearly indicates that no race discrimination is practiced or permitted in the hiring of civilian employees by the Post Quartermaster."

If you wish any further steps taken in this case, please advise us.

Sincerely yours,

Civilian Aide to the Secretary
of War

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

17149

September 17, 1941

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Quartermaster General
Through the Director of Civilian Personnel

The attached complaint has been forwarded to this office by the President's Committee on Fair Employment Practice.

May this office be informed of the facts, so that a report may be submitted to the Committee.



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



201
Manning, William S.

~~14255~~

501 Jefferson Street
Petersburg, Virginia
September 11, 1941

Mr. Mark Etheridge
Chairman of Fair Employment
Practice Committee
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

I stood examination for a plumber at Camp Lee, Va. I received my rating from Washington which was 95%. The Washington authorities recommended me to the Quartermasters' Corps at Camp Lee, Va.

Major Miller of Camp Lee sent me a communication of the advisability of accepting this job. When I reported to him and he saw that I was colored, he gave me the same old story "We shall call you later."

I am a graduate of Hampton Institute - the steamfitting & plumbing dept. I have had twenty-five (25) years experience. I am using this method to get aid from your board.

Hoping to hear from you at once.

Respectfully yours,

/s/ William S. Myers



Ind 1

9264

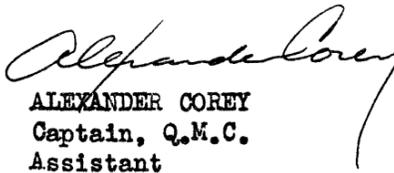


25 2584

QM 201 P-CM (Myers, William S.) 1st Ind.
War Department, OQMG, September 22, 1941. - To: Quartermaster, Third Corps
Area, Baltimore, Maryland. THRU: Commanding General.

For compliance with request contained in basic communication and
return to this office.

For The Quartermaster General:


ALEXANDER COREY
Captain, Q.M.C.
Assistant

1 Incl. - n/c

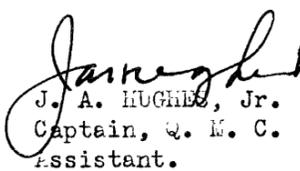
201-Myers, William S. 2nd Ind. S-10/5/41
48 A-P-C (9-17-41)
HQ THIRD CORPS AREA, OQM, Baltimore, Maryland, September 25, 1941. To:
Quartermaster, 1326th Service Unit, Station Complement, Camp Lee, Va.
THRU: Commanding General, Camp Lee, Virginia.

For report.

For the Quartermaster:

1 Incl.
n/c




J. A. HUGHES, Jr.
Captain, Q. M. C.
Assistant.



201 (Myers, William S.) civ.
9-17-41

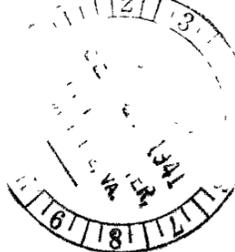
3rd Ind.

REL/od

HEADQUARTERS, CAMP LEE, VIRGINIA, September 27, 1941. TO: Quartermaster,
1326th Service Unit, Camp Lee, Virginia.

For report required by basic communication.

By command of Major General EDMUNDS:



[Signature]
S. E. LAFFERTY,
Major, Cavalry
Asst. Adjutant.

1 Incl. n/c

201 (Myers, William S.) Civ.
9-17-41

4th. Ind.

JDM/ehc

OFFICE OF THE QUARTERMASTER, Camp Lee, Virginia, September 30, 1941. TO:
Commanding General, Third Corps Area, Baltimore, Maryland, THRU: Commanding
General, Camp Lee, Virginia.

1. In replying to basic communication, it is advised that about one month ago this office contemplated hiring a steam fitter \$1860 Per Annum. The Civil Service Commission was contacted and a list of eligibles furnished this office by them for this position. The individuals appearing on this list were contacted including William S. Myers, 501 Jefferson Street Petersburg who called at this office for an interview and was informed he would be notified if his services were desired. Later the decision was made that the position of steam fitter would not be filled and no eligibles appearing on the list were hired.

2. As a matter of information, it is advised that at the present time, there are employed on our payroll approximately 586 civilian employees, which includes 278 of the colored race, or approximately 47%, which it is believed clearly indicates that no race discrimination is practiced or permitted in the hiring of civilian employees by the Post Quartermaster.

For the Quartermaster:



[Signature]
J. DONALD MARTIN,
Major, Q.M.C.
Assistant

201 (Myers, William S.) civ.
(9-17-41)

5th Ind.

PKB/mf

HEADQUARTERS, CAMP LEE, VIRGINIA, October 1, 1941. TO: Commanding General,
Third Corps Area, Baltimore, Maryland.

Attention invited to 4th indorsement.

For the Commanding General:

Paul K Brown

PAUL K. BROWN,
Captain, Infantry,
Assistant Adjutant.

1 Encl. n/c



201-Myers, William S.
48 A-P-C (9-17-41)

6th Ind.

HQ. THIRD CORPS AREA, OQM, Baltimore, Maryland, October 4, 1941. TO:
The Quartermaster General, Washington, D. C.

1 Incl.:
n/c.

H. A. M.
H. A. M.



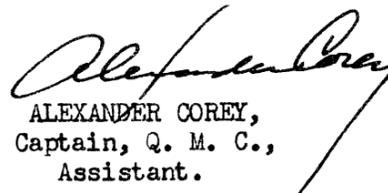
14255



QM 201 P-CM (Myers, William S.) 7th Ind.
War Department, OCMG, October 9, 1941. To: Administrative Assistant,
War Department.

Attention is invited to the report rendered in the preceding
fourth indorsement.

For The Quartermaster General:


ALEXANDER COREY,
Captain, Q. M. C.,
Assistant.

1 Incl. - n/c.

8th Ind.

aho/mf

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

October 11, 1941.

Am

1945

THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY

WASHINGTON, D. C.

1945

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

WASHINGTON, D. C.

1945

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
WASHINGTON, D. C.

8th Ind.

ahc/mf

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

October 11, 1941.

September 17, 1941

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Quartermaster General
Through the Director of Civilian Personnel

The attached complaint has been forwarded to this office by the President's Committee on Fair Employment Practice.

May this office be informed of the facts, so that a report may be submitted to the Committee.

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

5
1941

CONFIDENTIAL

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

MARK F. ETHRIDGE
CHAIRMAN
WILLIAM GREEN
MILTON P. WEBSTER

DAVID SARNOFF
EARL B. DICKERSON
PHILIP MURRAY

September 15, 1941

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

My dear Judge Hastie:

I transmit herewith a letter addressed to the Committee on Fair Employment Practice by Mr. William S. Myers of Petersburg, Virginia, in which he alleges that he has been discriminated against because of his race in his effort to secure employment at the Quartermaster's Corps at Camp Lee, Virginia.

I shall appreciate your having this matter investigated and giving me a report on it for the information of the Committee.

Sincerely yours,


Lawrence W. Cramer
Executive Secretary

Enc.

501 Jefferson Street
Petersburg, Virginia
September 11, 1941

Mr. Lark Etheridge
Chairman of Fair Employment
Practice Committee
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

I stood examination for a plumber at Camp Lee, Va. I received my rating from Washington which was 95%. The Washington authorities recommended me to the Quartermasters' Corps at Camp Lee, Va.

Major Miller of Camp Lee sent me a communication of the advisability of accepting this job. When I reported to him and he saw that I was colored, he gave me the same old story "We shall call you later."

I am a graduate of Hampton Institute - the steamfitting & plumbing dept. I have had twenty-five (25) years experience. I am using this method to get aid from your board.

Hoping to hear from you at once.

Respectfully yours,

/s/ William S. Myers

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February 28, 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 January 16, 1942, you submitted to this office the complaint of Mr. Francis T. Nakahara, Hotel Palmetto, 110 E. Hancock Street, Detroit, Michigan, alleging that he was dismissed from his position in the Central Air Corps Procurement District at 8505 W. Warren Avenue, Detroit, because of his Japanese origin.

His complaint has been investigated. The report of the District Supervisor, Central Air Corps Procurement District, Detroit, states as follows:

a. Francis T. Nakahara was employed October 21, 1941 in the Inspection Branch of the Central Procurement District as a Junior Mechanical Engineer. It was impossible to use him as an Inspector because of opposition by the facilities to whose plants he would have to be assigned.

b. Mr. Nakahara's father, Fukuse Nakahara, is a native of Japan, but has been living in San Francisco. A few months before Japan declared war on the United States, Mr. Fukuse Nakahara was released by the Mackay Radio Telegraph Company for reasons unknown to the undersigned. Mr. Nakahara's mother, Mrs. Shitsuka Nakahara, is a native of Japan but lives with her son Francis. Mr. Nakahara also has an uncle named Mr. Shinabu Nakahara, who is a resident of Japan. With these connections, it has been a problem where to place Mr. Nakahara in the Central Procurement District and yet protect confidential matters.

c. At the time of the outbreak of the war between Japan and the United States, Mr. Nakahara, although an engineer, was employed in the Supply

RECEIVED
C. P. P. F.
N. W.

Mr. Lawrence W. Cramer
February 28, 1942
Page 2

Section keeping track of office furniture and supplies and blank forms. However, the Supply Section adjoins the Mail Section and both are under the same officers and it is impossible to prevent personnel of the Supply Section from having access to the Mail Section.

2. The day after the beginning of the war between Japan and the United States there was considerable excitement in the City of Detroit. The Central Procurement District received telephone calls inquiring about the employment of a Japanese by the District, and Mr. Nakahara is decidedly in appearance, Japanese. The newspapers made inquiry. There was considerable comment among personnel of the Central District. Some violence broke out in the city between Japanese and Filipinos.

3. It was therefore deemed necessary in order to protect Mr. Nakahara, that he go home and stay there indefinitely. Furthermore, in order not to cause any more discussion than necessary, he was told not to say anything to anyone in his office about the matter. His work had been satisfactory, although it had not been possible to assign him to work in keeping with his education because of his close Japanese connections and Japanese appearance.

4. There being no position available to which he could be assigned where he could not obtain confidential information, it was decided that it would be necessary to release him because of the possibilities of a leak occurring through his Japanese parents or his Japanese uncle. This office was unwilling to risk leaks of confidential information through the enemy alien parents and uncle of an employee.

5. This is not a case of racial discrimination. He was not released because of his color. This District has in its employ an American born Chinese, a Filipino and numerous colored persons both male and female. Mr. Nakahara was

Mr. Lawrence W. Cramer
February 28, 1942
Page 3

released because of his Japanese ancestry and his close family ties with enemy aliens and because of the belief that the Air Corps should not risk a leak of confidential information through these connections.

Sincerely yours,

Civilian Aide to the Secretary
of War

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

January 19, 1942.

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Director of Civilian Personnel

This office has received from the President's Committee on Fair Employment Practice the complaint of Mr. Francis T. Nakahara, Hotel Palmetto, 110 E. Hancock Street, Detroit, Michigan, alleging that he was dismissed from his position in the Central Air Corps Procurement District at 8505 W. Warren Avenue, Detroit, because of his racial origin.

Mr. Nakahara's statement, quoted in the letter from the President's Committee on Fair Employment Practice, is as follows:

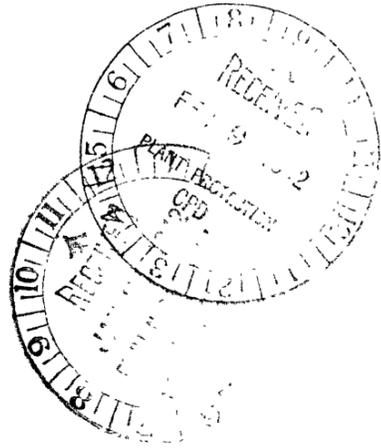
"I am an American citizen of Japanese descent and am writing this at the suggestion of Mrs. W. R. Alvord, Executive International Center Branch, Y.W.C.A., 2431 East Grand Boulevard, Detroit, Michigan, and member of the Detroit Nationality Committee.

"On Thursday, December 11, 1941, the Personnel Administration of the Central Air Corps Procurement District at 8505 W. Warren Ave., Major Anderton and Mr. Farber, called me to their offices and told me to go home at the end of the day and stay there until something definite was decided. They told me not to say anything to anyone in our office about this.

"After waiting until Tuesday, December 16, 1941, I finally went to see Mr. Forbes. He told me nothing had been decided yet but would communicate with me as soon as something came up. I then went to see my immediate bosses, Lt. O'Neill and Lt. Davis. I was then told to leave.

"Several hours later Mr. Forbes called on me and presented me with my resignation papers. Everything had been typed on the papers without consulting me in the least. The reason for

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The Director of Civilian Personnel -2-

resignation as advanced by them was that I was returning to California. He said I was obviously upset at the time so he would leave the papers and for me to mail them together with my pass. Since I could do nothing else I finally signed the papers and sent them back on Wednesday, December 17, 1941.

"No written reason for my dismissal was given. In fact I was not told that I would be dismissed until Mr. Forbes appeared with my resignation papers.

"The reason for dismissal as told to me was to protect me. How being out of a job in a strange city thousands of miles from home is any protection is a little beyond me. They claim that if any act of sabotage or the like were executed, I would be blamed. Why, I can't see, since many of German and Italian descent also work there and are still working.

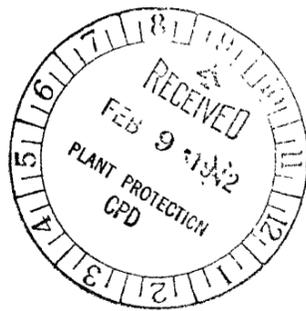
"My record is good and I am sure my work cannot be given as the reason for dismissal. My actual duties were that of a supply clerk keeping track of office furniture and supplies, and blank forms for both the offices there and in the factories.

"The only reason for my dismissal was my color. This, then, is obviously a case of racial discrimination whether intended or not."

May the facts in this case be investigated to determine whether there has been any violation of the policy of non-discrimination in Federal employment regardless of race or national origin?

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

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D/1985
~~03707~~

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

jsh/kt
January 26, 1942

For investigation and report to this Office.
By authority of the Secretary of War:



A. H. Onthank
A. H. Onthank
Director of Personnel

2nd Ind.

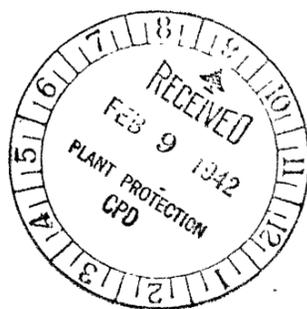
(13-F)

War Department, Office of the Chief of the Air Corps, Washington, D. C.
JAN 29 1942 To: Supervisor, Central Air Corps Procurement District,
8505 West Warren Avenue, Detroit, Michigan. (THROUGH: Assistant Chief,
Material Division, Wright Field, Dayton, Ohio.)

For investigation and report.

By order of the Chief of the Air Corps:

Edward T. Miller Jr.
Edward Miller, Jr.
Captain, Air Corps,
Chief of the Personnel Relations Section
Civilian Personnel Division



GENERAL MFG CO-OPS
PROLIFERATION DISTRICT
DETROIT, MICH.
FEB 4 AM 8:39

(Francis T. Nakahara - CPD)

3rd Ind.

War Department, Air Corps, Materiel Division, Wright Field, Dayton, Ohio,
February 2, 1942. To: District Supervisor, Air Corps Central Procurement
District, 8505 West Warren Avenue, Detroit, Michigan.

1. For immediate compliance.

By order of the Assistant Chief of the Materiel Division:

~~NORMAN D. BROPHY,~~
Lieut. Colonel, Air Corps,
Chief, Civ. Personnel Section.

4th Ind.

GES:gs

War Department, Materiel Division, Office of the District Supervisor, Cen-
tral Air Corps Procurement District, 8505 W. Warren Avenue, Detroit, Mich.
February 10, 1942. To: Assistant Chief, Materiel Division, Wright Field,
Dayton, Ohio.

1. This report is submitted in compliance with the 3d Indorsement.

a. Francis T. Nakahara was employed October 21, 1941 in the Inspection
Branch of the Central Procurement District as a Junior Mechanical Engineer.
It was impossible to use him as an Inspector because of opposition by the
facilities to whose plants he would have to be assigned.

b. Mr. Nakahara's father, Fukuzo Nakahara, is a native of Japan, but
has been living in San Francisco. A few months before Japan declared war on
the United States, Mr. Fukuzo Nakahara was released by the Mackay Radio Tele-
graph Company for reasons unknown to the undersigned. Mr. Nakahara's mother,
Mrs. Shitsuka Nakahara, is a native of Japan but lives with her son Francis.
Mr. Nakahara also has an uncle named Mr. Shinabu Nakahara, who is a resident
of Japan. With these connections, it has been a problem where to place Mr.
Nakahara in the Central Procurement District and yet protect confidential
matters.

c. At the time of the outbreak of the war between Japan and the United
States, Mr. Nakahara, although an engineer, was employed in the Supply Section
keeping track of office furniture and supplies and blank forms. However, the
Supply Section adjoins the Mail Section and both are under the same officers
and it is impossible to prevent personnel of the Supply Section from having
access to the Mail Section.

2. The day after the beginning of the war between Japan and the United
States there was considerable excitement in the City of Detroit. The Central

RECEIVED
FEB 4 1962
PERSONNEL SECTION
CPD

4th Ind. ACMD Wright Field, Dayton, O. 2/10/42

GES:gs

Procurement District received telephone calls inquiring about the employment of a Japanese by the District, and Mr. Nakahara is decidedly in appearance, Japanese. The newspapers made inquiry. There was considerable comment among personnel of the Central District. Some violence broke out in the city between Japanese and Filipinos.

3. It was therefore deemed necessary in order to protect Mr. Nakahara, that he go home and stay there indefinitely. Furthermore, in order not to cause any more discussion than necessary, he was told not to say anything to anyone in his office about the matter. His work had been satisfactory, although it had not been possible to assign him to work in keeping with his education because of his close Japanese connections and Japanese appearance.

4. There being no position available to which he could be assigned where he could not obtain confidential information, it was decided that it would be necessary to release him because of the possibilities of a leak occurring through his Japanese parents or his Japanese uncle. This office was unwilling to risk leaks of confidential information through the enemy alien parents and uncle of an employee.

5. This is not a case of racial discrimination. He was not released because of his color. This District has in its employ an American born Chinese, a Filipino and numerous colored persons both male and female. Mr. Nakahara was released because of his Japanese ancestry and his close family ties with enemy aliens and because of the belief that the Air Corps should not risk a leak of confidential information through these connections.



ALONZO M. DRAKE
Colonel, Air Corps
Supervisor

5th Ind.

AEH:MS

War Department, Air Corps, Materiel Division, Wright Field, Dayton, Ohio February 16, 1942. To: Office, Chief of the Air Corps, Attention: Chief of the Personnel Relations Section, Civilian Personnel Division, Washington, D. C. (THROUGH: Chief, Materiel Division, Washington, D. C.)

1. Report submitted in compliance with second indorsement.
2. In connection therewith attention is invited to teletypes TEX-T-879 dated December 22, 1941 and reply C-166 dated December 24, 1941.

For the Assistant Chief of the Materiel Division:

A. E. Howse
A. E. HOWSE
Major, Air Corps
Asst. Technical Executive

6th Ind.

War Department, Air Corps, Chief of the Materiel Division, Washington, D. C.
FEB 19 1942 To: The Chief of the Air Corps, Attention: Chief of the Personnel Relations Section, Civilian Personnel Division, Washington, D. C.

1. In view of the circumstances involved in this case and of the instructions contained in letter from the Adjutant General's Office dated February 9, 1942, AG 291.2 (2-7-42) MSC-M, action taken by the District Supervisor, Central Air Corps Procurement District, Detroit, Michigan, is considered by this office to be proper.

For the Chief of the Materiel Division

Incls.
Ltr. 1/19/42
1st, 2nd, 3rd, & 4th Ind.

W. F. Volandt
W. F. Volandt
Colonel, Air Corps,
Asst. to Chief, Mat. Div.



716845 FEB 21 42
CENTRAL MAIL SECTION A.A.F.

CP

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EXECUTIVE
OFFICE

1942 FEB 17 PM 5 16

MATERIAL DIVISION
AIR CORPS, WAR DEPT.
WASHINGTON, D. C.

[Faint, illegible text, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page]

RECEIVED

7th Ind.

(13-B)

War Department, Office of the Chief of the Air Corps, Washington, D. C.
FEB 24 1942 To: The Secretary of War.

Attention is invited to the 4th, 5th, and 6th indorsements.

For the Chief of the Air Corps:

Edward T. Miller Jr.
Edward T. Miller, Jr.,
Captain, Air Corps
Chief of the Personnel Relations Section
Civilian Personnel Division.

8th Ind.

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

mfb/vh
February 25, 1942

Forwarded.

By authority of the Secretary of War:

A. H. Onthank
A. H. Onthank
Director of Personnel

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

FEB 25 AM 11 09

Director of Laboratory
F. B. I.

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RE: [Illegible]

[Illegible]

TO: [Illegible]

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

February 3, 1942.

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Director of Personnel

With reference to the request of this office for
an investigation of the complaint of Mr. Francis T. Nakara^{has ad}
a citizen of Japanese descent, alleging racial discrimination
in his dismissal from his position in the Central Air Corps
Procurement Division at Detroit, Michigan, there is trans-
mitted herewith a copy of a letter addressed by him to the
President's Committee on Fair Employment Practice, giving
certain additional information.

William H. Hastie

Civilian Aide to the Secretary
of War.

COPIED
W. H. H.

COPY

Hotel Palmetto
Detroit, Mich.
Jan. 19, 1942

Dear Mr. Cramer,

I have just received your letter telling me that my case will be investigated. May I ask that this investigation be conducted right away? My case is really very simple and should be settled in a short time.

The actual reason for my dismissal was for a precautionary measure and I was assured that if Washington should decide my presence at the Central Procurement District was not undesirable they would reinstate me immediately. Since this is the case surely it will be a simple matter to reach a conclusion.

If it is decided that I cannot be reinstated I desire to know it right away. In any case would it be possible to have an answer before the month is up?

Yours truly,

/s/ Francis T. Nakahara

FEB 4 11 2 59

W. E. B. DUBOIS

TO THE EDITOR

re your article of the 2nd inst. regarding the matter of the
I desire to know if it is true. In any case would it
if it is decided that I cannot be reinstated

again.
I would like to know if it is true that you are con-
sidering the possibility of a new trial. Since this is the case
I would like to know if you are considering the possibility
of a new trial. I would like to know if you are considering
the possibility of a new trial. I would like to know if you are
considering the possibility of a new trial.

It is true that I am not a member of the
I am not a member of the

Very truly,
W. E. B. DUBOIS

W. E. B. DUBOIS
1885-1963

1st Ind.

jsh/kt

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

February 5, 1942

1. Reference is made to previous indorsement on the same subject, dated January 26, from this Office.

By authority of the Secretary of War:

A. H. Onthank

A. H. Onthank
Director of Personnel

February 3, 1942

MEMORANDUM

To: The Director of Personnel

With reference to the request of this office for an investigation of the complaint of Mr. Francis T. Nakara, a citizen of Japanese descent, alleging racial discrimination in his dismissal from his position in the Central Air Corps Procurement Division at Detroit, Michigan, there is transmitted herewith a copy of a letter addressed by him to the President's Committee on Fair Employment Practice, giving certain additional information.

Civilian Aide to the Secretary
of War.

C.F.A.P.

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

MARK F. ETHRIDGE
CHAIRMAN
WILLIAM GREEN
MILTON P. WEBSTER
LAWRENCE W. CRAMER
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

DAVID SARNOFF
EARL B. DICKERSON
PHILIP MURRAY

January 29, 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. Francis T. Nakahara which I referred to you
in my letter of January 16, I now have a letter
from him giving certain additional information.

I transmit herewith copies of this
letter for your information and guidance.

Sincerely yours,


Lawrence W. Cramer
Executive Secretary

Enclosure

January 20, 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. Francis T. Nakahara which I referred to you
in my letter of January 16, I now have a letter
from him giving certain additional information.

I transmit herewith copies of this
letter for your information and guidance.

Sincerely yours,

Lawrence W. Cramer
Executive Secretary

Cramer/al

Enclosure

COPY

Hotel Palmetto
Detroit, Mich.
Jan. 19, 1942

Dear Mr. Cramer,

I have just received your letter telling me that my case will be investigated. May I ask that this investigation be conducted right away? My case is really very simple and should be settled in a short time.

The actual reason for my dismissal was for a precautionary measure and I was assured that if Washington should decide my presence at the Central Procurement District was not undesirable they would reinstate me immediately. Since this is the case surely it will be a simple matter to reach a conclusion.

If it is decided that I cannot be reinstated I desire to know it right away. In any case would it be possible to have an answer before the month is up?

Yours truly,

/s/ Francis T. Nakahara

January 19, 1942.

PERSONNEL

To: The Director of Civilian Personnel

This office has received from the President's Committee on Fair Employment Practice the complaint of Mr. Francis T. Nakahara, Hotel Palmetto, 110 E. Hancock Street, Detroit, Michigan, alleging that he was dismissed from his position in the Central Air Corps Procurement District at 8505 W. Warren Avenue, Detroit, because of his racial origin.

Mr. Nakahara's statement, quoted in the letter from the President's Committee on Fair Employment Practice, is as follows:

"I am an American citizen of Japanese descent and am writing this at the suggestion of Mrs. V. R. Alvord, Executive International Center Branch, Y. C. C. A., 2431 East Grand Boulevard, Detroit, Michigan, and member of the Detroit Nationality Committee.

"On Thursday, December 11, 1941, the Personnel Administration of the Central Air Corps Procurement District at 8505 W. Warren Ave., Major Anderton and Mr. Farber, called me to their offices and told me to go home at the end of the day and stay there until something definite was decided. They told me not to say anything to anyone in our office about this.

"After waiting until Tuesday, December 16, 1941, I finally went to see Mr. Forbes. He told me nothing had been decided yet but would communicate with me as soon as something came up. I then went to see my immediate bosses, Lt. O'Neill and Lt. Davis. I was then told to leave.

"Several hours later Mr. Forbes called on me and presented me with my resignation papers. Everything had been typed on the papers without consulting me in the least. The reason for

The Director of Civilian Personnel -2-

resignation as advanced by them was that I was returning to California. He said I was obviously upset at the time so he would leave the papers and for me to mail them together with my pass. Since I could do nothing else I finally signed the papers and sent them back on Wednesday, December 17, 1941.

"No written reason for my dismissal was given. In fact I was not told that I would be dismissed until Mr. Forbes appeared with my resignation papers.

"The reason for dismissal as told to me was to protect me. How being out of a job in a strange city thousands of miles from home is any protection is a little beyond me. They claim that if any act of sabotage or the like were executed, I would be blamed. Why, I can't see, since many of German and Italian descent also work there and are still working.

"My record is good and I am sure my work cannot be given as the reason for dismissal. My actual duties were that of a supply clerk keeping track of office furniture and supplies, and blank forms for both the offices there and in the factories.

"The only reason for my dismissal was my color. This, then, is obviously a case of racial discrimination whether intended or not."

May the facts in this case be investigated to determine whether there has been any violation of the policy of non-discrimination in Federal employment regardless of race or national origin?

Civilian Aide to the Secretary
of War.

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

MARK F. ETHRIDGE
CHAIRMAN
WILLIAM GREEN
MILTON P. WEBSTER
LAWRENCE W. CRAMER
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

January 16, 1942

DAVID SARNOFF
EARL B. DICKERSON
PHILIP MURRAY

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

Dear Judge Hastie:

Mr. Francis T. Nakahara, Hotel Palmetto, 110 E. Hancock Street, Detroit, Michigan, has submitted a complaint to Dr. Will Alexander, setting forth the following facts:

"I am an American citizen of Japanese descent and am writing this at the suggestion of Mrs. W. R. Alvord, Executive International Center Branch, Y.W.C.A., 2431 East Grand Boulevard, Detroit, Michigan, and member of the Detroit Nationality Committee.

On Thursday, December 11, 1941, the Personnel Administrators of the Central Air Corps Procurement District at 8505 W. Warren Ave., Major Anderton and Mr. Farber, called me to their offices and told me to go home at the end of the day and stay there until something definite was decided. They told me not to say anything to anyone in our office about this.

After waiting until Tuesday, December 16, 1941, I finally went to see Mr. Forbes. He told me nothing had been decided yet but would communicate with me as soon as something came up. I then went to see my immediate bosses, Lt. O'Neill and Lt. Davis. I was then told to leave.

Several hours later Mr. Forbes called on me and presented me with my resignation papers. Everything had been typed on the papers without consulting me in the least. The reason for resignation as advanced by them was that I was returning to California. He said I was obviously upset at the time so he would leave the papers and for me to mail them together with my pass. Since I could do nothing else I finally signed the

Judge William H. Hastie

-2-

January 16, 1942

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The reason for dismissal as told to me was to protect me. How being out of a job in a strange city thousands of miles from home is any protection is a little beyond me. They claim that if any act of sabotage or the like were executed, I would be blamed. Why, I can't see, since many of German and Italian descent also work there and are still working.

My record is good and I am sure my work cannot be given as the reason for dismissal. My actual duties were that of a supply clerk keeping track of office furniture and supplies, and blank forms for both the offices there and in the factories.

The only reason for my dismissal was my color. This, then, is obviously a case of racial discrimination whether intended or not."

It is requested that this complaint be investigated and that you furnish me with a report on it at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely yours,



Lawrence W. Cramer
Executive Secretary

March 1, 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 February 26 and 27, 1942, you transmitted to this office the complaints of Mr. James Y. Nakamura, 133 Webster Street, N. W., and Miss Helen I. Aratani, 4215 Brandywine Street, N. W., respectively, alleging that they were dismissed from their positions as junior stenographers in the Personnel Office of the Signal Corps because of their national origin. They are citizens of Japanese descent.

A report on the facts in these two cases has been received from Mr. John W. Martyn, the Administrative Assistant. It states as follows:

The two employees referred to were requested by Mrs. L. B. Swartz, Chief of the Appointment and Placement Section of the Civilian Personnel Division, to resign their civilian positions in the War Department for administrative reasons. Mrs. Swartz was acting under direct instructions from me.

Following the resignation of Mr. Nakamura and Miss Aratani immediate steps were taken to assist the employees in obtaining work in non-defense agencies. The Appointment Section worked with the Civil Service Commission in this regard, and I am informed that they have both been satisfactorily placed elsewhere, in the Federal Government.

I believe the action taken in this case was in the best interest of the National Defense and the personal welfare of these employees.

1
C. F. W.

Mr. Lawrence W. Cramer
March 14, 1942
Page 2

These cases seem to indicate an administrative policy of eliminating American citizens of Japanese origin from posts within the War Department but at the same time seeking employment for them outside of the Military Establishment.

Sincerely yours,

Civilian Aide to the Secretary
of War

lbs 6ls

5 March, 1942.

Memorandum to the Civilian Aide to the Secretary of War:

With reference to your memorandum to the Director of Personnel relative to the complaints of Mr. James Y. Nakamura and Miss Helen I. Aratini, you are advised as follows:

The two employees referred to were requested by Mrs. L. B. Swartz, Chief of the Appointment and Placement Section of the Civilian Personnel Division, to resign their civilian positions in the War Department for administrative reasons. Mrs. Swartz was acting under direct instructions from me.

Following the resignation of Mr. Nakamura and Miss Aratini immediate steps were taken to assist the employees in obtaining work in non-defense agencies. The Appointment Section worked with the Civil Service Commission in this regard, and I am informed that they have both been satisfactorily placed elsewhere, in the Federal Government.

I believe the action taken in this case was in the best interest of the National Defense and the personal welfare of these employees.

John W. Martyn
Administrative Assistant

February 28, 1942.

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Director of Personnel

This office has received from the President's Committee on Fair Employment Practice the complaints of Mr. James Y. Nakamura, 133 Webster Street, N. W., and Miss Helen I. Aratani, 4215 Brandywine Street, N. W., Washington, D. C., citizens of Japanese descent, alleging that they were dismissed from their positions as junior stenographers in the Personnel Office of the Signal Corps because of their national origin.

The facts in the two cases are similar. Both Mr. Nakamura and Miss Aratani allege that they were sent to the office of Mrs. L. B. Swartz, Chief of the Appointment and Placement Section of the Civilian Personnel Division, and that she requested them to resign.

Mr. Nakamura states that he was appointed on January 26; that he was assigned to the Personnel Office of the Signal Corps in Temporary Building "N" on January 27; that Lieutenant Nicholson told him on February 2 that his supervisor had submitted a "bad report" on him; that on February 3 Lieutenant Nicholson told him that Lieutenant Dunklee had said that for his (Mr. Nakamura's) welfare and because his origin was Japanese he would have to dismiss him; that on February 5 Lieutenant Dunklee sent him to see Mrs. Swartz; that he met in her office another Japanese, Mr. San Hayeda, who was also a junior stenographer in the War Department; that Mrs. Swartz handed them prepared letters of resignation, effective immediately; that he asked her why their resignations were being requested; that she replied that the request was made for "administrative reasons" but could not tell them what was meant by that term; that Mr. Hayeda said he would not sign the resignation; that Mrs. Swartz told both of them that refusal to sign meant immediate dismissal; that they asked her whether they could have until the next day to consider the matter; that she told them she had orders from her superior to obtain the resignations immediately, and that she offered to provide them with transportation back to their homes out of the Welfare Fund of the Department.

Miss Aratani states that she was appointed on January 19; that she was assigned to the Signal Corps on February 4; that she reported with a group of about twenty employees; that the group was asked who could operate a Burroughs Posting Machine; that she replied

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"N"

The Director of Personnel
February 26, 1942
Page 2

that she could and was taken in to see the person who evidently needed such an operator; that he asked her whether she could operate a Monroe Posting Machine; that she said she could not and he told her he preferred someone who could operate a Monroe Posting Machine after she had told him she was of Japanese descent; that on February 5 she was sent to the Procurement Section of the Signal Corps in Temporary Building "M"; that on the next day she was sent to see Mrs. Swartz; that Mrs. Swartz handed her a letter of resignation for her signature; that when she asked "what it was all about" she was told that the request for her resignation was no reflection on her work but that "two other Japs had already resigned."

Attached hereto are copies of the affidavits filed with the President's Committee on Fair Employment Practice by Mr. Nakamura and Miss Aratani.

May the facts in these two cases be investigated to determine whether there has been any violation of the directives prohibiting discrimination in Federal employment on account of race, color or national origin?

Civilian Aide to the Secretary
of War

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

MARK F. ETHRIDGE
CHAIRMAN
WILLIAM GREEN
MILTON P. WEBSTER
LAWRENCE W. CRAMER
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

DAVID SARNOFF
EARL B. DICKERSON
PHILIP MURRAY

February 26, 1942

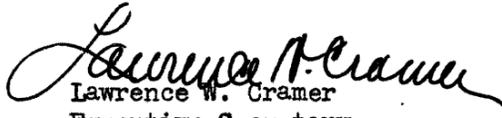
Honorable William H. Hastie
Civilian Aide to the Secretary of War
War Department
Washington, D. C.

Dear Judge Hastie:

I transmit herewith two copies of an affidavit executed by Mr. James Y. Nakamura, 133 Webster Street, N.W., Washington, D. C. under date of February 16, in which he alleges that he has been forced to resign a position as Junior Stenographer in the War Department solely because of his national origin.

It is requested that this complaint be investigated and that you advise me of the results of your investigation.

Sincerely yours,


Lawrence W. Cramer
Executive Secretary

Enclosures

February 26, 1942

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

Dear Judge Hastie:

I transmit herewith two copies of an affidavit executed by Mr. James I. Nakamura, 133 Webster Street, N.W., Washington, D. C. under date of February 16, in which he alleges that he has been forced to resign a position as Junior Stenographer in the War Department solely because of his national origin.

It is requested that this complaint be investigated and that you advise me of the results of your investigation.

Sincerely yours,

Lawrence W. Cramer
Executive Secretary

Cramer/mi

Enclosures

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON FAIR EMPLOYMENT PRACTICE
OF
THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

February 16, 1942

C H A R G E

Pursuant to Presidential Executive Order No. 8802 the undersigned hereby charges discrimination on account of National Origin.

WAR DEPARTMENT
Agency in Government Agency
WASHINGTON, D. C.
City

The following facts are submitted to substantiate this charge:

1. National Origin of Complainant: Japanese Parentage (My father came to U. S. in the late 1890's and my mother came in 1913 or 1914)
2. Job, position or classification for which application was made: Jr. Stenographer
3. Qualifications for such job, position or classification:
 - A. Education --Had 8 years of Grammar School, Graduated from Garfield High School in 1940 with a Diploma. Attended Broadway-Edison Evening Vocational School from Sept. 1941 to Jan. 1942. Specified in Stenography and Typing.
 - B. Experience and Work History--From July 1940 to October 1940 worked for the Great Northern R. R. of Seattle, Washington. From October 1940 to January 1942 worked for A.Hagen & Son Produce, 1120 Western Ave., Seattle, Washington as Salesman. My duties were to receive and ship goods, type records for the business, type weekly statements, buyer, sell to retailers.
 - C. Civil Service List Jr. Clerk Typist Date of Examination Dec. 4, 1941.
4. Date of certification in person for position Jan. 26, 1942.
5. Date of refusal to employ or admit February 5, 1942 (I was given the alternative of resigning or being terminated on that day.
6. Name and official position of person refusing or transmitting refusal

Mrs. L. B. Swartz
Name

Chief of Appointment & Placement of
Position
Civilian Personnel Section

7. Reason given for such refusal

In the afternoon of Feb. 5, 1942 I was taken into Mrs. Swartz's office. I thought that I was to see her to be transferred to another division from the one to which I had originally been assigned (See under 8) There, I met another fellow waiting to see Mrs. Swartz. His name was Sam Mayeda, a Jr. Stenographer, who had recently come to work in the War Department. Mrs. Swartz handed us both letters on official letterhead which had evidently been prepared for our signature. They were letters of resignation effective immediately. A copy of my letter is attached. When we had read the letters, I asked Mrs. Swartz why they were asking for our resignation. She replied that it was "for administrative reasons." We asked what "Administrative" meant and she replied she could not tell us that. Sam Mayeda then said that he would not sign the resignation. He was told that refusal to sign meant an immediate discharge. I asked Mrs. Swartz whether we could have over-night to consider the matter, but she said that "She had orders from the superior to obtain our signatures immediately. We asked whether we could not see her "superior," but we were told he was "too busy" to see us. Mrs. Swartz then said that inasmuch as we had come such a long distance, (I came from Seattle, Washington, and Mayeda from La Junta, Colorado) they would provide transportation home for us out of some welfare fund maintained by the War Department, if efforts to place us in a non-defense agency did not succeed. She then added, in effect, we would lose nothing by our failure to get placed in Washington if our way home were paid by the welfare fund.

8. Statement of additional facts and or circumstances indicating discrimination on account of race, religion or national origin:

In November 1941, I filed application to take the examination for Jr. Stenographer.

I believe that in answer to the question regarding my nationality I indicated I was "Japanese."

I was asked by telegram (copy attached) on January 17, 1942, whether I would accept an appointment as Jr. Clerk or Junior Clerk Typist at \$1440 per annum in the War Department in Washington, D. C. I sent in my acceptance by wire, arrived in Washington before the specified date, January 26th. As instructed, I reported on January 26, 1942 to the Civilian Personnel Division, Second Floor, Temporary Building H, at 23rd and C Street, where I took the Oath of Office. On January 27, 1942, along with a large group of other newly-certified employees, I went to Room 4423 of the Munitions Building to get instructions as to where I should report for work. My instructions were first, to be photographed for the identification badge, and then to report to the Personnel Office of the Signal Corps in Temporary Building "M". I was assigned to night duty on Typing work under the supervision of Major Stone, Lieut. Nicholson, and Lieut. Popkess.

On Feb. 2, I was called into Lieut. Nicholson's office. He indicated that a Miss Woodard, supervisor of the day shift of typists in his office, had sent in a "bad report" on me. When I asked him the nature of the report, he did not tell me, but asked me to do the work to the best of my ability.

The next day, Feb. 3, 1942 Lieut. Nicholson told me that Lieut. Dunklee, who I understand was head of the Personnel Division of the War Dept. employees in Temporary Building "M". Lieut. Dunklee said, in effect, that for my own welfare and because I was of Japanese origin, he would have to dismiss me, but that I would remain on the payroll until I located a position in a non-defense agency. He added that if I could not obtain a position in other agencies, he would try to find a place for me. (I don't know whether he meant the War Dept)

On Feb. 5, 1942 when I reported for work about 3 o'clock, I was asked to report to Lieut. Dunklee. He told me I was transferred to the office of the Secretary of War. He gave me a letter, which I did not inspect carefully, to

a Miss Leahy in the Personnel Office at the Munitions Building. My impression was that it merely confirmed what he told me orally. Miss Leahy took me into see Mrs. Swartz (mentioned above) and, on the way to her office, said that there had been "a mistake" in certifying me to the War Department. (What happened in Mrs. Swartz's office, I have indicated above.)

9. Names and addresses of any witnesses to facts and or circumstances indicating discrimination:

On both the occasions I spoke to Lieut. Dunklee, his secretaries probably overheard the conversation. I do not know their names.

In Mrs. Swartz's office, Sam Mayeda was, of course present, and Mrs. Swartz's secretary listened to the entire conversation. I do not know her name.

The undersigned further charges that the said unfair employment practices are contrary to the public policy of the United States of America as stated in Executive Order No. 8802.

Subscribed and sworn to
before me this 16th day
of February 1942

at Washington, D. C.

/s/
James Sherwin
NOTARY PUBLIC
My Commission Expires Jan. 15, 1945

Name and Address of Person Claiming
Discrimination

/s/
James Y. Nakamura
133 Webster Street, N. W.
Address
Washington, D. C.
City and State

March 2, 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 December 22, 1942, you submitted to this office the complaint of Mr. Herbert F. Nicholls, 4616 Hayes Street, N. E., Washington, D. C., alleging racial discrimination was practiced against him in his efforts to secure employment as an electrician's helper at Fort Belvoir, Virginia.

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

This office does not discriminate against the employment of any person because of his racial origin. We not only have a large number of Negroes in the skilled and unskilled groups, but have in our office two Negroes as clerks. Mr. Herbert F. Nicholls was certified to us by the U. S. Civil Service Commission on September 12, 1941, as an eligible for the position of Electrician's Helper.

Mr. Nicholls' was the last name on the certificate. Accordingly, we would not have been authorized to offer him employment until all the persons preceding him on the Certificate had been selected or they had declined the employment. It may be further noted that the four persons on the Certificate above Mr. Nicholls' name had expressed their willingness to accept the employment.

Actually, no selections were made from this Certificate in view of the fact that the positions were abolished.

Mr. Nicholls reported to this office about October 4, 1941, reporting to Mr. Miller, then Acting Chief of the Personnel Section. He was interviewed by Mr. Wetyan, Chief Electrician, and recommended

copy
W

Mr. Lawrence W. Cramer
March 2, 1942
Page 2

for employment, provided he was within the first three persons on the list willing to accept the employment. However, several persons preceding him on the list expressed their willingness to accept, thereby prohibiting us from selecting Mr. Nicholls. This was not known at the time of Mr. Nicholls' interview and he was simply told by Mr. Miller that he would be advised when to report, if we could offer him an appointment. Our letter of inquiry to him definitely stated that it was not an offer of employment, but only an inquiry as to his availability. No one in this office made any statement to him regarding his racial origin.

In view of the discrepancy between this report and the statements made by Mr. Nicholls, the President's Committee may wish to make a further independent investigation. It does not appear that the charge of racial discrimination can be substantiated, however, if no selections were made from the certificate on which Mr. Nicholls' name appeared.

Sincerely yours,

Civilian Aide to the Secretary
of War

WAR DEPARTMENT
CIVILIAN PERSONNEL DIVISION
WASHINGTON, D. C.

February 25, 1942

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Civilian Aide to the Secretary of War.

The case of Mr. Herbert F. Nicholls was referred to the proper office of the Department for investigation and report to this Office. The following is the report received in this Office:

This office does not discriminate against the employment of any person because of his racial origin. We not only have a large number of Negroes in the skilled and unskilled groups, but have in our office two Negroes as clerks. Mr. Herbert F. Nicholls was certified to us by the U. S. Civil Service Commission on September 12, 1941, as an eligible for the position of Electrician's Helper.

Mr. Nicholls' was the last name on the certificate. Accordingly, we would not have been authorized to offer him employment until all the persons preceding him on the Certificate had been selected or they had declined the employment. It may be further noted that the four persons on the Certificate above Mr. Nicholls' name had expressed their willingness to accept the employment.

Actually, no selections were made from this Certificate in view of the fact that the positions were abolished.

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(Nicholls, Herbert F.)

Page 2

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In view of the above stated report, there does not appear to have been any racial discrimination in the case of Mr. Nicholls.

A. H. Onthank

A. H. Onthank
Director of Personnel

February 25, 1942

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Civilian Aide to the Secretary of War.

The case of Mr. Herbert F. Nicholls was referred to the proper office of the Department for investigation and report to this Office. The following is the report received in this Office:

This office does not discriminate against the employment of any person because of his racial origin. We not only have a large number of Negroes in the skilled and unskilled groups, but have in our office two Negroes as clerks. Mr. Herbert F. Nicholls was certified to us by the U. S. Civil Service Commission on September 12, 1941, as an eligible for the position of Electrician's Helper.

Mr. Nicholls' was the last name on the certificate. Accordingly, we would not have been authorized to offer him employment until all the persons preceding him on the Certificate had been selected or they had declined the employment. It may be further noted that the four persons on the Certificate above Mr. Nicholls' name had expressed their willingness to accept the employment.

Actually, no selections were made from this Certificate in view of the fact that the positions were abolished.

Mr. Nicholls reported to this office about October 4, 1941, reporting to Mr. Miller, then Acting Chief of the Personnel Section. He was interviewed by Mr. Wetyen, Chief Electrician, and recommended for employment, provided he was within the first three persons on the list willing to accept the employment. However, several persons preceding him on the list expressed their willingness to accept, thereby prohibiting us from selecting Mr. Nicholls.

I
(Nicholls, Herbert F.)

Page 2

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In view of the above stated report, there does not appear to have been any racial discrimination in the case of Mr. Nicholls.

A. H. ONTHANK

A. H. Onthank
Director of Personnel

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

December 26, 1941

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Director of Civilian Personnel

Enclosed herewith is a communication from the President's Committee on Fair Employment Practice, reporting the complaint of Herbert F. Nicholls of 4616 Hayes Street, N.E., Washington, D. C., to the effect that he was denied appointment as an electrician's helper at Fort Belvoir, Virginia, because of his race.

It will be appreciated if the facts in this case can be determined and a report thereon submitted.

/s/ William H. Hastie
Civilian Aide to the Secretary
of War

U. S. EMPLOYMENT OFFICE
PUBLIC RELATIONS
NORTH ATLANTIC DIVISION

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

JAN 24 1942
NA 4290 (N.A.D.) 1/1
NEW YORK, N. Y.

MARK F. ETHRIDGE
CHAIRMAN

WILLIAM GREEN
MILTON P. WEBSTER

LAWRENCE W. CRAMER
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

DAVID SARNOFF
EARL B. DICKERSON
PHILIP MURRAY

December 22, 1941

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

Dear Judge Hastie:

Complaint has been made to the President's Committee on Fair Employment Practice by Mr. William H. Nicholls of 4616 Hayes Street, Northeast, Washington, D. C., that his son Herbert F. Nicholls has been discriminated against in his effort to secure a position as an electrician's helper at Fort Belvoir, Virginia.

The statement of the case as furnished the Committee is that Herbert F. Nicholls took an electrician's helper examination at Fort Belvoir, Virginia, which he passed with a rating of 76.25. By letter of October 2 addressed to him by George C. Calder, 1st Lt. Q.M.C. Executive Officer, he was requested to appear for an interview, which he did on October 4. He was instructed to report to Mr. Netyen, who is reported to have stated to Nicholls that "he was O.K." He states that he was instructed to go back to Lt. Calder's office in order to receive information as to when and where he was to go to work. When he did so "one of the men in 1st Lt. George C. Calder's office" whose name is not known "told him that the job was a white man's job."

He was not successful in securing this appointment and believes that he was discriminated against because of his Negro racial origin. It is requested that this matter be investigated and that you advise me of the results of this investigation when it has been completed.

Sincerely yours,

Lawrence W. Cramer
Lawrence W. Cramer
Executive Secretary

OFFICE CHIEF OF ENGINEERING
FEB 6 - 1942
1902 (Negroes) 76/1

JAN 30 11 08 AM '42
DIRECTOR'S OFFICE
NORTH ATLANTIC DIVISION
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JAN 24 11 08 AM '42
NEW YORK, N. Y.

NORTH ATLANTIC
DIVISION OFFICE

JAN 24 11 08 AM '42

NEW YORK, N. Y.

RECEIVED
JAN - 9 1942
OFFICER
FORT BELVOIR VIRGINIA

December 26, 1941

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Director of Civilian Personnel

Enclosed herewith is a communication from the President's Committee on Fair Employment Practice, reporting the complaint of Herbert F. Nicholls of 4616 Hayes Street, N.E., Washington, D. C., to the effect that he was denied appointment as an electrician's helper at Fort Belvoir, Virginia, because of his race.

It will be appreciated if the facts in this case can be determined and a report thereon submitted.

Civilian Aide to the Secretary
of War

December 26, 1941

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Director of Civilian Personnel

Enclosed herewith is a communication from the President's Committee on Fair Employment Practice, reporting the complaint of Herbert E. Nicholls of 4616 Hayes Street, N.E., Washington, D. C., to the effect that he was denied appointment as an electrician's helper at Fort Belvoir, Virginia, because of his race. 1-500

It will be appreciated if the facts in this case can be determined and a report thereon submitted.

Civilian Aide to the Secretary
of War

1-500
1-500

December 22, 1941

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

Dear Judge Hastie:

Complaint has been made to the President's Committee on Fair Employment Practice by Mr. William H. Nicholls of 4616 Hayes Street, Northeast, Washington, D. C., that his son Herbert F. Nicholls has been discriminated against in his effort to secure a position as an electrician's helper at Fort Belvoir, Virginia.

The statement of the case as furnished the Committee is that Herbert F. Nicholls took an electrician's helper examination at Fort Belvoir, Virginia, which he passed with a rating of 76.25. By letter of October 2 addressed to him by George C. Calder, 1st Lt. Q.M.C. Executive Officer, he was requested to appear for an interview, which he did on October 4. He was instructed to report to Mr. Netyen, who is reported to have stated to Nicholls that "he was O.K." He states that he was instructed to go back to Lt. Calder's office in order to receive information as to when and where he was to go to work. When he did so "one of the men in 1st Lt. George C. Calder's office" whose name is not known "told him that the job was a white man's job."

He was not successful in securing this appointment and believes that he was discriminated against because of his Negro racial origin. It is requested that this matter be investigated and that you advise me of the results of this investigation when it has been completed.

Sincerely yours,

Lawrence W. Cramer
Executive Secretary

September 23, 1941

Mr. Lawrence W. Cramer
Executive Secretary
President's Committee on
Fair Employment Practice
Social Security Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Cramer:

I believe the facts concerning the case of Mrs. Mary S. Nickerson, as set forth in your letter of September 20, are insufficient to establish a prima facie case of racial discrimination. It is not possible to suggest the additional facts which should be submitted since the happenings in individual cases vary so greatly.

Of course, if further facts are submitted which establish a prima facie case of racial discrimination, we shall be glad to have the matter investigated.

Sincerely yours,

Civilian Aide to the Secretary
of War

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

MARK F. ETHRIDGE
CHAIRMAN
WILLIAM GREEN
MILTON P. WEBSTER

DAVID SARNOFF
EARL B. DICKERSON
PHILIP MURRAY

September 20, 1941

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

Dear Judge Hastie:

Dr. Weaver has referred to me a complaint involving Mrs. Mary S. Nickerson, a senior typist-stenographer in the office of Mr. George W. Dorsey, Manager of the Pennsylvania State Employment Service.

Mrs. Nickerson was certified by the Civil Service Commission to the War Department for a position at Oil City, Pennsylvania. She expressed her willingness to accept this position but was never called after her interview with the interviewing officer.

If this is a sufficient statement of facts, I wonder if you can have the matter investigated and furnish me a report on it. If not, I shall be glad to secure any additional facts that may be necessary.

Sincerely yours,



Lawrence W. Cramer
Executive Secretary

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January 29, 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 December 4, 1941, you submitted to this office the complaint of Mrs. Hazel P. Oliver, 1047 Thirteenth Street, Des Moines, Iowa, alleging racial discrimination against her in her effort to secure employment at the Des Moines Ordnance Plant.

The report of the investigation into this case indicates that selections in filling appointments, about which Mrs. Oliver complained, were made from a certificate in accordance with Civil Service Rules and Regulations requiring selection to be made from not more than the three highest persons certified for each vacancy. Only one-third of the eligibles certified were appointed.

Difficulties encountered in locating the appointing officer in question are said to have delayed the investigation.

Sincerely yours,

Civilian Aide to the Secretary
of War.

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WAR DEPARTMENT
CIVILIAN PERSONNEL DIVISION
WASHINGTON, D. C.

January 21, 1942

MEMORANDUM TO: Civilian Aide to the Secretary of War

Reference is made to a communication from your office, dated November 26, 1941, concerning possible discrimination in making appointments from certificate A-4443 at the Des Moines Ordnance Plant. It was later determined that the person concerned was Mrs. Hazel Oliver.

A report has been received from the field about this case which indicates that selections from certificate A-443 were made in accordance with Civil Service rules and regulations. This certificate has been cleared through the District Office of the U. S. Civil Service Commission.

Difficulties encountered in locating the appointing officer in question have delayed reply to your memorandum. This certificate was made by the Manager of the Eighth Civil Service District to the Constructing Quartermaster at the Des Moines Ordnance Plant. In the meantime this activity has been placed under the jurisdiction of the Area Engineer, Corps of Engineers. The Ordnance Department exercises no supervision over Civil Service appointments made by these officers.

A. H. Onthank

A. H. Onthank
Director of Personnel

1st Ind.

Office of the Civilian Aide to the Secretary of War,
January 23, 1942 - To the Director of Personnel

In order that I may appropriately acknowledge the complaint in this case, may I have the text or the substance of the report mentioned in paragraph 2 of your memorandum.

William H. Hartie
Civilian Aide to the Secretary
of War

PERSONNEL DIV.
DEPARTMENT

1942 JAN 24 AM 9 40

2nd. Ind.
War Department, Office of the Secretary
To: Civilian Aide to the Secretary of War

jsh/kt
January 26, 1942

1. The report mentioned in the basic communication reveals that the certificate in question was disposed of as follows:

- a. Seven persons selected.
- b. Twenty-five persons declined.
- c. Five persons failed to reply.
- d. Fourteen persons were not selected.
- e. Inquiries to two persons were returned undelivered.

Mrs. Hazel Oliver was among the group not selected.

2. As stated in the basic communication, this indicates that selections from certificate A-4443 were made in accordance with Civil Service Rules and Regulations.

3. The tabulation concerning the disposition of this certificate is supplied for your information. It should not be made available to persons listed on this certificate.

By authority of the Secretary of War:

A. H. Onthank
A. H. Onthank
Director of Personnel

Jan/kt

January 21, 1942

MEMORANDUM TO: Civilian Aide to the Secretary of War

Reference is made to a communication from your office, dated November 26, 1941, concerning possible discrimination in making appointments from certificate A-4443 at the Des Moines Ordnance Plant. It was later determined that the person concerned was Mrs. Hazel Oliver.

A report has been received from the field about this case which indicates that selections from certificate A-443 were made in accordance with Civil Service rules and regulations. This certificate has been cleared through the District Office of the U. S. Civil Service Commission.

Difficulties encountered in locating the appointing officer in question have delayed reply to your memorandum. This certificate was made by the Manager of the Eighth Civil Service District to the Constructing Quartermaster at the Des Moines Ordnance Plant. In the meantime this activity has been placed under the jurisdiction of the Area Engineer, Corps of Engineers. The Ordnance Department exercises no supervision over Civil Service appointments made by these officers.

A. H. ONTHANK

A. H. Onthank
Director of Personnel

1st Ind.

Office of the Civilian Aide to the Secretary of War,
January 23, 1942 - To the Director of Personnel

In order that I may appropriately acknowledge the complaint in this case, may I have the text or the substance of the report mentioned in paragraph 2 of your memorandum.

Civilian Aide to the Secretary
of War

Hazel P. Oliver

*cc - des
C. H. F. H.
O.*

November 26, 1941

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Director of Civilian Personnel

In order that I may evaluate a complaint which has been received in this office, may I request that you obtain from the Civil Service Commission a copy of Certificate A-443, sent to the Des Moines Ordnance Plant and returned by that office on September 23, 1941, with indication of action taken. If the certificate does not show on its face the action taken by the appointing officer, I would like a copy of any accompanying papers which show that action.

Civilian Aide to the Secretary
of War

Handwritten:
HARRIS
COOPER
(Pliny)

Handwritten:
COOPER
"O"

9282

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

Date December 4, 1941

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 Miss Hazel P. Oliver of 1047 13th St., Des Moines, Iowa, under date of November 24, 1941, 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
Executive Secretary

Enc.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON FAIR EMPLOYMENT PRACTICE
OF
THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE

In the Matter of
and
Complainant
Case No.....

Date **November 24, 1941**

C H A R G E

Pursuant to Presidential Executive Order No. 8802 the undersigned hereby charges discrimination on account of (race) (creed) (national origin) by U. S. WAR DEPARTMENT cross out words not applicable
OFFICE OF CONSTRUCTING QUARTERMASTER
DES MOINES ORDNANCE PLANT

Name of Firm, Agency, School, Union

Ankeny, Iowa

Address

in

- Private Defense Industry
 Vocational or Training Program
 Government Agency
 Labor Organization

City

The following facts are submitted to substantiate this charge:

1. Race, Religion or National Origin of Complainant Race
2. Job, position or classification for which application was made Typist
3. Qualifications for such job, position or classification:
 - A. Education 3 years college and business training, Civil Service
 - B. Experience and Work history Stenographer for four years
- C. Civil Service List 1-25-4 Date of Examination Rating 81.75
4. Date of ~~application~~ ^{certification} (in person) (by letter) for position Sept. 13, 1941
5. Date of refusal to employ or admit September 19, 1941 ^{Letter of inquiry}
6. Name and official position of person refusing or transmitting refusal

<u>Mr. Peterson</u>	<u>Assistant to E. R. Mansfield,</u>
Name	Position

10.30

Was not refused in many words, but was told

7. Reason given for such refusal that I would be called in a couple days.

8. Statement of additional facts and/or circumstances indicating discrimination

on account of race, religion or national origin:

On Sept. 13, Civil Service Commission certified my name for a position at the Ordnance Plant, and I received information relative to various types of Civil Service Appointments from the 8th Civil Service Dist. in St. Paul, Minnesota. I then received a blank from the Office of the Constructing Quartermaster as to my availability, which I filled out and returned immediately, saying I could go to work within 2 days notice. On September 18, Mr. Peterson called me by phone to see if I could report for work with less than a 2 days notice. I said I could, and he made an appointment with me for 9:00 o'clock the following morning. It was quite evident that he did not know I was a Negro until he saw me, at which time he beat around the bush, saying I would be called in a couple

9. Names and addresses of any witnesses to facts and/or circumstances indicating discrimination: days, although others were being hired.

Names

Addresses

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

The undersigned further charges that the said unfair employment practices are contrary to the public policy of the United States of America as stated in Executive Order No. 8802.

Subscribed and sworn to
before me this 24 day
of November 1941
At Des Moines, Iowa

W. L. Oliver
Notary Public.

Name and Address of Person Claiming
Discrimination.

/s/ Hazel P. Oliver

Name

1047 13th Street

Address

Des Moines, Iowa

City and State

November 15, 1941

Mr. Lawrence W. Cramer
Executive Secretary
President's Committee on
Fair Employment Practice
Social Security Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Cramer:

This office has received no information concerning the complaint of W. Lawrence Oliver of Des Moines, Iowa, that his wife was discriminated against in her effort to secure employment in the Des Moines, Iowa Ordnance Plant.

I am confident that the Council of Personnel Administration will devise adequate technical procedures to properly carry out the President's Executive Order #8802.

Yours very truly,

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

*copy
C. K. P.*

PRESIDENT'S COMMITTEE ON FAIR EMPLOYMENT PRACTICE

OFFICE OF PRODUCTION MANAGEMENT

SOCIAL SECURITY BUILDING

WASHINGTON, D. C.

November 12, 1941

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

Dear Mr. Gibson:

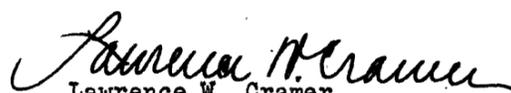
If you have any further information relating to the charge of Mr. W. Lawrence Oliver of Des Moines, Iowa that Mrs. H. P. Oliver was discriminated against in her efforts to secure employment in the Des Moines, Iowa Ordnance Plant, to which you refer in your letter of September 29, I shall be glad to have it.

The Committee on Fair Employment Practice will recommend to the Council of Personnel Administration that that agency create a standing committee of its membership to work out the technical details of implementing the non-discrimination policy which that agency has so strongly recommended. I have had informal discussions with staff members of this agency and have outlined several suggestions that the Committee is about ready to make to tackle small segments of our problem. These have been informally characterized as useful and wholesome.

It is my belief that the Council of Personnel Administration will be best able to determine what technical procedures in the field of personnel administration should be put in operation to implement the Executive Order.

If you have any concrete suggestions as to methods for plugging the loopholes to which you refer in your letter of September 29, I shall be glad to have them.

Sincerely yours,


Lawrence W. Cramer
Executive Secretary

September 29, 1941

Mr. W. Lawrence Oliver
Attorney & Tax Consultant
416 East 6th Street
Des Moines, Iowa

Dear Mr. Oliver:

Your letter of September 24, addressed to Judge Hastie, has been directed to my attention. Since, in your letter, you do not refer to any specific statement that could be construed as a refusal to employ Mrs. Oliver because of her color, I am certain that you can realize the difficulties presented in the case because of Civil Service Rules that permit the exercise of a choice by appointing officers. This discretion applies to all persons certified from Civil Service Registers. These registers sometimes include the names of persons who have applied for examinations because of the immediate necessity for personnel but have not had opportunity to take the regular examination.

Because of the facts presented in your letter, however, I have taken the liberty of referring the matter to the attention of Mr. Lawrence W. Cramer, Executive Secretary of the President's Committee on Fair Employment Practice, as an example of an unfortunate situation that is working to the detriment of many loyal Negroes who are endeavoring to secure employment in government agencies. I know the Committee is seriously concerned with this problem and is at present making a study with a view towards making recommendations to remedy the situation.

Yours very truly,

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

100-100000-100000
100-100000-100000

September 29, 1941

Mr. Lawrence V. Cramer
Executive Secretary
President's Committee on
Fair Employment Practice
Social Security Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Cramer:

Enclosed please find copy of a letter sent Judge Hastie by Mr. W. Lawrence Oliver of Des Moines, Iowa. On reading the communication, it appears that Mrs. Oliver's basic complaint is that she was not selected while others who came after her were. This, of course, is a rather usual procedure and unfortunately one that could be justified by the appointing officer. I am sending it to you, however, because it appears to be a future argument in favor of specific recommendations to plug loop holes of this sort.

Yours very truly,

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

OFFICE PHONE 3-6317

RESIDENCE 3-3568

W. LAWRENCE OLIVER
ATTORNEY AND TAX CONSULTANT
416 EAST 6TH STREET
DES MOINES, IOWA

September 24, 1941

Mr. Wm. H. Hastie
Civilian Aide to Secretary of War
War Department
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Hastie:

I am referring to you a specific case of discrimination on account of race at the Ordnance Plant at Des Moines, Iowa, with the hope that you will do something about the case, more than the mere acknowledgment of this letter.

With specific reference to the Ordnance Plant in Des Moines the discriminate practices out there stink to the high heavens. On or about the 15th day of September, the Civil Service Commission of St. Paul certified the name of Hazel P. Oliver for employment by the War Department at the Des Moines Ordnance Plant. She received a blank form from the Office of the Constructing Quartermaster to be filled out as to her availability, which as requested, was returned immediately. On September 18, 1941, the personnel director called her by telephone, and told her to report on the 19th of September 1941 at 9:00 a. m. She reported, and upon their finding that she was a Negro, she was not hired.

A Mr. Peterson, an assistant to Mr. E. R. Mansfield, Supervisor of Personnel of the War Department in charge of the Ordnance Plant at Des Moines, and Mr. Mansfield, are the ones responsible for this discriminatory practice. When Mrs. Oliver reported at the Ordnance Plant, the receptionist told her that the work was of a commercial nature, and Mrs. Oliver stated to her that she had passed the Civil Service Examination, and also the Merit Examination in the state. After a long wait, and others being received though reporting after she reported, she was finally called by this Mr. Peterson. After a few silly questions as to whether or not she could get out to the plant in the mornings, and some other simple things, he finally told her that he would call her in a few days.

Realizing that they did not intend to hire her because she was a Negro, Mrs. Oliver waited in the office to see how others that came after she did were treated, and whether or not they were going to be hired. The next person called was a woman that had passed no examinations, either Civil Service or

Mr. Wm. H. Hastie

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September 24, 1941

Merit Rating, but had been sent out by the State Employment Office here in Des Moines, and could only do typing. She was hired and immediately put on the job.

Such practices as these make one wonder whether or not this type of Democracy is worth defending. I hope that you will take this up immediately and see that some restitution is made in this specific case.

Very truly yours,

W. Lawrence Oliver
W. Lawrence Oliver

WLO:HO