

WHITE, WALTER

The Florida Agricultural and Mechanical College



WILLIAM H. GRAY JR., PRESIDENT

Tallahassee, Florida

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

September 26, 1947

Mr. Walter White
National Association for the
Advancement of Colored People
20 W 40 Street
New York, New York

Dear Mr. White:

For sometime the refusal of jitney companies that have exclusive contracts with the airlines in southern states, to provide transportation or make available such services to Negro airplane passengers, seems to be a very serious matter facing our racial group. I would certainly appreciate it if the NAACP would give some attention to this matter.

I am enclosing copies of letters which I wrote to the presidents of the Eastern and National Airlines concerning this practice. You will note that the Eastern Airlines gave a very sympathetic reply, while National seemingly did not recognize any moral responsibility whatever in the matter. I feel confident that you would be helping the race in the matter of air transportation in the future by giving a thorough study to this refusal of service and take proper action. Perhaps the policies of the National Airlines would merit thorough consideration by your legal force.

With your permission, I am sending copies of these communications to you for Mr. Thurgood Marshall in your New York office, as well as to Mr. Harry T Moore, executive secretary of the Florida branch of the NAACP.

Sincerely yours,

WHG:acbb

Wm. H. Gray, Jr.

C O P Y

The Florida Agricultural and Mechanical College



WILLIAM H. GRAY JR., PRESIDENT

Tallahassee, Florida

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

September 4, 1947

Mr. G T Baker
National Air Lines
3240 N W 27th Avenue
Miami, Florida

Dear Mr. Baker:

I am interested in ascertaining as to whether your office is familiar with the practices taking place in many southern communities, of denying Negro passengers service on the regular and established buses and taxi lines which meet your planes at various airports. I am sure you appreciate the fact that transportation to outlying airports is basic and vital to the total transportation services of your company. On several occasions, I have been denied the right to utilize established jitney services in Jacksonville and Tampa, Florida, and I would appreciate being advised directly by your office as to the policies which you have in this matter and the extent of responsibility which you recognize in these situations.

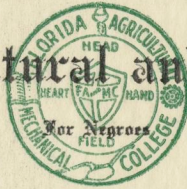
Respectfully yours,

WHG:acbb

Wm. H. Gray, Jr.

C O P Y

The Florida Agricultural and Mechanical College



WILLIAM H. GRAY JR., PRESIDENT

Tallahassee, Florida

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

September 4, 1947

Captain E D Rickenbacker
President, Eastern Air Lines
10 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York

Dear Captain Rickenbacker:

I am interested in ascertaining as to whether your office is familiar with the practices taking place in many southern communities, of denying Negro passengers service on the regular and established buses and taxi lines which meet your planes at various airports. I am sure you appreciate the fact that transportation to outlying airports is basic and vital to the total transportation services of your company. On several occasions, I have been denied the right to utilize established jitney services in Jacksonville and Tampa, Florida, and I would appreciate being advised directly by your office as to the policies which you have in this matter and the extent of responsibility which you recognize in these situations.

Respectfully yours,

Wm. H. Gray, Jr.

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