

March 9, 1948

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

Dear Mr. White:

I am most grateful to you for your letter of March 3, and for your comments concerning my previous communication to you about the regional college program.

We shall be grateful for whatever your organization can do in preventing the passage of congressional action which would obviously set up an additional barrier to providing within the states adequate educational opportunities for Negro people.

I regret I do not believe it would serve the best interest of our school at this time to have you publicize my stand in this particular matter. As you may know, the governor of our state, while he has been unusually helpful and generous in his attitude toward our school, as compared to previous governors, has been a leader in this movement for the establishment of regional schools. In view of the great dependence which we must put on personal relationships in obtaining funds for the programs of our schools in the south at this period, I fear it would be inappropriate for me to publicly denounce an effort to which I know he has personally given his approval.

There is, on the other hand, another problem which has been facing all of the Negro colleges of the south in the failure of the Veterans Administration to provide equal Negro personnel to serve as counselors to the thousands of Negro veterans who are seeking educational and social guidance during these hectic days. This agency has certainly followed a discriminatory pattern and untold injury has been done and is being done the Negro veteran and his postwar adjustment is being retarded because of these discriminatory policies. I am enclosing copies of letters which we have written direct to the Veterans Administration of our state, chief of the Veterans Administration in Washington and President Truman. These letters were written after two years of intensive effort on our part to obtain a minimum of consideration from the Veterans Administration in employing competent

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Negro personnel. You certainly may feel free to quote from these letters and to make any further observations concerning my personal opinions on this particular question of the failure of the Veterans Administration to employ Negro personnel.

Thanking you for your interest in these matters and hoping you continued success, I remain

Sincerely yours,

Wm. H. Gray, Jr.

WHG:acbb