

January 5, 1948

Dr. Ralph McDonald, Executive Secretary
Department of Higher Education
National Education Association of the
United States
1201 Sixteenth Street Northwest
Washington 6, D. C.

Dear Dr. McDonald:

This is to acknowledge your letter of December 22.

In the field of higher education for Negroes, I think that there are two very serious and pressing problems of far-reaching significance that merit consideration:

1. The problem of providing adequate technical education in Negro Land-Grant Colleges in the South: the present policy is to teach Negroes elementary trades at the college level with the result that we do not have a first-rate engineering program in any Negro college in the country, although the large majority of Negroes are prepared in Negro colleges.
2. There has been a persistent policy on the part of the Veterans Administration not to employ Negro counselors and training officers, with the result that Negro veterans, in the South in particular, do not have the opportunity of obtaining sympathetic counseling advice from members of their own racial group; and at the same time, almost without exception, Negro veterans are being denied opportunities of employment with the Veterans Administration.

Respectfully yours,

WHG/czs

Wm. H. Gray, Jr.

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NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES
1201 SIXTEENTH STREET NORTHWEST, WASHINGTON 6. D. C.

December 22, 1947

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Dr. W. H. Gray, Jr., President
Florida Agricultural and Mechanical College for Negroes
Tallahassee, Florida

Re: National Conference on Higher Education

Dear President Gray:

The third annual National Conference on Higher Education will be held at the Congress Hotel in Chicago, Illinois, on March 22-25, 1948. The Conference will bring together a broadly representative group of educational leaders from all types of accredited colleges and universities throughout the nation to consider some of the more critical problems confronting higher education in the United States.

You will probably recall the two previous conferences, both of which were held in Chicago, from which very constructive results emanated. For your information and use we are sending to you under separate cover a copy of the final report of the 1947 Conference, Current Problems in Higher Education. Benefits from the 1946 and 1947 Conferences were so far-reaching that we have been urged by those who participated to sponsor a similar national event in 1948.

On behalf of the Executive Committee of the Department of Higher Education, I have the honor to extend to you a cordial invitation to participate in the important work of the Conference. If you are unable to attend personally, we hope that you will send an officer or faculty member from your institution.

In order that we may have the benefit of your thinking in determining the problems to be considered by the Conference, we shall appreciate very much your sending to us on the enclosed card a list of problems which you consider crucial at the present time.

Since the Conference must be limited to five hundred participants, we shall appreciate an early reply.

Yours very truly,

Ralph McDonald
Ralph McDonald, Executive Secretary
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION

RM:cj