

General EISENHOWER. I would sir.

Senator SALTONSTALL. May I ask you one further question. There have been some very extreme statements made before this committee, and I think I have heard most of the evidence concerning the program of segregation in the Army, and in the possibilities of segregation of races or creeds or colors in this UMT program. You have been the Chief of Staff, a very distinguished general. I think it would be extremely helpful if you would elaborate briefly your views on that problem and what the Army is doing about it at the present time?

General EISENHOWER. It has been the problem of course that has been with the Army ever since it has been with the country. We must never forget that in a very definite way the Army is merely one of the mirrors that holds up to our faces the United States of America. It has never been easy to solve because you have certain incontrovertible facts that you must walk right up to.

One of them is that there is race prejudice in this country, and when you put in the same organization and make live together under the most intimate circumstances men of different races, we sometimes have trouble. Therefore, there has been a sort of a compromise made with this problem, right down through the years with the Army. When I first joined the Army, there were two regiments of infantry that were Negro, two regiments of cavalry. We began to organize smaller units, and I believe at the present regulations allow us to build down to company strength, the company being the smallest administrative unit. It allows them to live together, mess together, sleep together, and so on.

In the war, when we became so desperate for infantry replacements in the fall of 1944, we did not make the best use of our Negro manpower. We had some 600,000 in Europe. We told the Negroes

we would take volunteers for service in the line, in the front lines; 2,400 of them volunteered. Those 2,400 were organized as platoons, the real reason being this. There was not time to train them in larger units, and because we found that they fought better when distributed in small units, with the white troops. They do not seem to gain a self-confidence among themselves when used in larger units, and the platoon worked out very well.

There was no opposition to it. In fact, Gen. George Patton thought that it was the finest way in the world to use them.

I personally have always stood since that time for organizing the Negro down to include units no larger than platoons. It does create certain social problems on a post, because you always have men that do not like to mingle freely between the races, and therefore if you have a dance for your soldiers, you have a problem. But I believe those things can be handled. They are not too difficult; particularly since we are going to have large posts, the social problem can be met without difficulty. I personally see no reason why he should not be amalgamated to that extent.

Now, if you are going to go further, here is the problem you run into Senator. In general, the Negro is less well educated than his brother citizen that is white, and if you make a complete amalgamation, what you are going to have is in every company the Negro is going to be relegated to the minor jobs, and he is never going to get his promotion to such grades as technical sergeant, master sergeant, and so on, because the competition is too tough.

If, on the other hand, he is in smaller units of his own, he can go up to that rate, and I believe he is entitled to the chance to show his own wares.

I do not mean to say that I have any final answer to the problem, and I believe that the human race may finally grow up to the point where it will not be a problem. It will disappear through education, through mutual respect, and so on. But I do believe that if we attempt merely by passing a lot of laws to force someone to like someone else, we are just going to get into trouble.

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On the other hand, I do not by any means hold out for this extreme segregation as I said when I first joined the Army 38 years ago.

The CHAIRMAN. Senator Russell has a question, General.

Senator RUSSELL. My question will not be the one I first had in mind, due to the question that Senator Saltonstall asked.

The question of segregation is one that is always painful for me to discuss, and particularly unpleasant for me to ask questions that I shall now, but due to the decided views I have on this issue, I must ask these questions. More is involved than racial prejudice, it goes directly to such vital factors as the morale, discipline, and health of the troops.

You are familiar, I am sure, with the ratio of crime among Negro troops as compared with white troops in the service, are you not?

General EISENHOWER. Well, certainly on a partial basis, within my own theater, I would say.

Senator RUSSELL. How did the ratio of crime among the Negro troops compare with that of the white troops.

General EISENHOWER. It was higher.

Senator RUSSELL. You are familiar with the reports that indicated the incidence of venereal diseases, were you not?

General EISENHOWER. Yes, sir.

General EISENHOWER. Could I inject one observation of my own, sir?

Senator RUSSELL. Yes, sir.

General EISENHOWER. I saw the questions you asked, and the answers are correct, but I still believe that much of that came about because of the lower educational standards of the Negroes that we had. I did not find that to be true particularly among those who had greater advantages. In other words, I believe that a Negro can improve his standing and his social standing and his respect for certain of the standards that we observe, just as well as we can.

Senator RUSSELL. I agree completely with that statement, and I have always advocated that approach to it, rather than by doing it by the power of the Federal Government. That is the approach under which we have made greater progress in this country over the same period of time in handling the racial problem than any other part of the world has ever done in a similar case, a problem of such magnitude.