

●PSF: PRESIDENT'S COMMITTEE ON FAIR EMPLOYMENT PRACTICE

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Subject File

Box 175

PSF: Pres. Committee on Fair  
Employment Practice

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

~~PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL~~

September 26, 1941.

September 25, 1941

DAVID BARNOFF  
W. H. TICKETTS  
MURRAY

MEMORANDUM FOR

MARK ETHRIDGE

I agree with you that it is not a good thing for the R. A. F. Ferry Command to turn down applicants because they do not belong to the white race. Nevertheless, I think it would be not only discourteous but presumptuous for us to interfere with the war procedure of a different nation. None of us are in a position to determine the problems of the British Empire. If the shoe were on the other foot I think that you and I would be the first to condemn an attempt by the British Empire to tell us how to handle our war, they being at peace.

It always pays to put yourself into the other fellow's place.

F. D. R.

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By Deputy Archivist of the U.S.  
By W. J. Stewart Date JUN 2 1972

*Mark Ethridge*

THE WHITE HOUSE  
SEP 25 9 24 AM '41

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

September 23, 1941

DAVID SARNOFF  
EARL B. DICKERSON  
PHILIP MURRAY

The President  
The White House  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

Mr. Charles M. Ashe has brought to the attention of the Committee on Fair Employment Practice his experience in applying for employment with the Royal Air Force Ferry Command. Mr. Ashe, who is colored, states that he is a commercial pilot and instructor with 2,400 hours flying experience. After being refused employment, he was furnished by Captain J. D. Mugford, R. A. F. Ferry Command, British Air Commission, Washington, D. C. in a letter addressed to him on September 15, 1941, with a copy of "Minimum Requirements for Pilots or Co-pilots" issued by the R. A. F. Ferry Command Headquarters in Montreal, Canada.

One of these requirements is as follows: "All applicants must be of the white race."

Because of the intimate association in the minds of the people of this country between the Lend-Lease program and the activities of the British Air Commission, your Committee on Fair Employment Practice believes it to be singularly inappropriate that the British Air Commission should openly practice race discrimination in its authorized activities in this country.

Although the Committee is not authorized to take any direct action in this matter, it is aware of its important effect in undermining the confidence of many loyal American citizens and it therefore recommends that you propose to the British government that it carry on those of its activities in this country which are supported by United States funds in conformity with the policy laid down by you in Executive Order 8802.

Respectfully yours,

*Mark Ethridge*  
Mark Ethridge  
Chairman

THE WHITE HOUSE  
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