

CABINET PAPER—PRIVILEGED

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are no longer any all-Negro units in the Services. The number of Negro officers and enlisted men in attendance at Service schools has more than doubled.



Hospitals

(1) Segregation has been ended in all Veterans Administration Hospitals. The program to end such segregation began shortly after Mr. Harvey V. Higley became Administrator of Veterans Affairs in September 1953. A survey ordered by Mr. Higley showed that of VA's 166 installations there was some degree of segregation in 47 installations located in 23 states. Mr. Higley instructed the managers of these installations to end segregation as soon as possible. Today no segregation of any type is permitted in VA installations. The designation of color has been eliminated from all future VA hospitals and outpatient application forms as a result of an order approved February 4, 1954. See Veterans Administration Press Release dated October 27, 1954.

(2) The Department of Health, Education, and Welfare reports that with respect to Public Health Service Hospitals in the South, its policy is that all services and facilities shall be available to all patients and employees without distinction as to race or color. The Department further advises that its desegregated program has been almost completely achieved and that what little remains to be done will have been completed not later than July 1, 1955.

Employment practices

(1) The problem of racially discriminatory practices in industry has been tackled by the Administration through the President's Committee on Government Contracts established pursuant to Executive Order 10479 of August 13, 1953. This Committee was set up to strengthen and enforce compliance with non-discrimination provisions required, by executive order, to be included in all Government contracts and sub-contracts. By Executive Order 10557 of September 3, 1954, pursuant to recommendation of the Committee on Government Contracts, the non-discrimination provision was revised "as a means of better explaining, the present nondiscrimination provision of Government contracts". The Committee, under the chairmanship of the Vice President, is engaged in an active program of implementation. It receives and considers complaints of discrimination, advises contracting agencies on appropriate enforcement measures, and cooperates with state, municipal, private, and voluntary agencies to effect non-discrimination. See pamphlet of the Committee, "Equal job opportunity is good business" (1954).

(2) Directed to the problem in the Government itself, the President, by Executive Order 10590 of January 18, 1955, established the President's Committee on Government Employment Policy. The function of this committee is to ensure adherence by all departments and agencies of the executive branch to the policy of non-discrimination in Government employment on account of race, color, religion, or national origin. Thus, the Committee is authorized to review cases and render advisory opinions thereon, and to make necessary inquiries and investigations. The executive order also imposes upon the head of each department and agency the express responsibility for effectuation of the policy of non-discrimination, including the promulgation of a hearing procedure for complaints and the designation of Employment Policy Officers. A vigorous implementation of Executive Order 10590 will do much to accomplish "the utilization of the individual Negro employee at his maximum potential". Cf. Integration in the Armed Forces, supra, pp.9-10.

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