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Correspondence on Desegregation, to J. H. McLeod, January 5, 1955

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January 5, 1955

Dean J. H. McLeod
College of Agriculture
University of Tennessee

Dear Dean McLeod:

I am sending you herewith copy of Executive Order No. 10557 issued by the President of the United States, approving the revised provision in government contracts relating to nondiscrimination in employment. This applies to all contracts and cooperative agreements, I assume, with which Federal funds are employed.

There is also attached, copy of letter from Herman M. Roth, Director, Research and Medicine Division of the Atomic Energy Commission, in regard to this matter, which relates to the new clause which it is proposed will be placed in contracts at the time of the next modification.

In the Agricultural Extension Service, as you know, the salaries of the negro extension personnel are considerably below salaries for comparable positions for the white personnel. This is true both for extension agents and also the secretarial help.

For example, I recall signing a memorandum the other day where the salary for one white office secretary was \$200.00 per month and the salary for the negro secretary was \$70.00 per month. It is true that negro personnel are probably not as well trained as the white personnel. In a case of this kind, we should make an effort to employ negro personnel equally as well trained as white personnel, if it is possible to do so.

In any event, these discrepancies in salaries between the white personnel and negro personnel could require a lot of explanation -- some phases of which it might be difficult to make.

Yours very truly,

C. E. Bruhn
President

CEB:lms