EXECUTIVE ORDER

8802

REAFFIRMING POLICY OF FULL PARTICIPATION IN
THE DEFENSE PROGRAM BY ALL PERSONS, REGARDLESS
OF RACE, CREED, COLOR, OR NATIONAL ORIGIN, AND
DIRECTING CERTAIN ACTION IN FURTHERANCE OF
SAID POLICY.

WHEREAS it is the policy of the United States to en-
courage full participation in the national defense program by
all citizens of the United States, regardless of race, creed,

color, or national origin, in the firm belief that the demo-

cratic way of life within the Nation can be defended success-

fully only with the help and support of all groups within its

borders; and

WHEREAS there is evidence that available and needed
workers have been barred from employment in industries engaged
in defense production solely because of consideration of race,

creed, color, or national origin, to the detriment of workers'

morale and of national unity:

NOW, THEREFORE, by virtue of the authority vested in
me by the Constitution and the statutes, and as a prerequisite
to the successful conduct of our national defense production

effort, I do hereby reaffirm the policy of the United States
that there shall be no discrimination in the employment of
workers in defense industries or government because of race,

creed, color, or national origin, and I do hereby declare that
it is the duty of employers and of labor organizations, in fur-

therance of said policy and of this order, to provide for the

full and equitable participation of all workers in defense in-
dustries, without discrimination because of race, creed, color,
or national origin;

And it is hereby ordered as follows:

1. All departments and agencies of the Government of

the United States concerned with vocational and training pro-

grams for defense production shall take special measures ap-

propriate to assure that such programs are administered without
discrimination because of race, creed, color, or national origin;

2. All contracting agencies of the Government of the

United States shall include in all defense contracts hereafter

negotiated by them a provision obligating the contractor not to
discriminate against any worker because of race, creed, color,
or national origin;

Some of the historical documents contained in this curriculum guide reflect deep-seated and disturbing racial prejudices regarding African-Americans that were common among many white Americans in the early and middle years of the twentieth century. It is important to remember that these documents must be viewed in the context of their own time. While offensive to modern readers, they help us understand the intense opposition the Roosevelts and the Tuskegee Airmen faced over the issue of allowing black men to pilot military aircraft. FDR Presidential Library and Museum
3. There is established in the Office of Production Management a Committee on Fair Employment Practice, which shall consist of a chairman and four other members to be appointed by the President. The chairman and members of the Committee shall serve as such without compensation but shall be entitled to actual and necessary transportation, subsistence and other expenses incidental to performance of their duties. The Committee shall receive and investigate complaints of discrimination in violation of the provisions of this order and shall take appropriate steps to redress grievances which it finds to be valid. The Committee shall also recommend to the several departments and agencies of the Government of the United States and to the President all measures which may be deemed by it necessary or proper to effectuate the provisions of this order.

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

THE WHITE HOUSE,

June 25, 1941.

And it is hereby ordered as follows:

4. All instrumentalities and agencies of the Government of the United States created or established or maintained by or under authority of or for the use of the United States Government, or any of its departments or agencies, which are engaged in the production of materials for the use of the armed forces or for the national defense, shall be subject to the provisions of this order.

5. All contracting agencies of the Government of the United States shall include in all contracts and agreements hereafter made by them a provision obligating the contractor not to discriminate against any employee because of race, color, or national origin.

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