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~~7/8~~
Jan. 8, 1944
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Mr. Frank Constangy
Deputy Regional Director, WMC
A. Bruce Hunt
Regional Office, FEPC
Bell Aircraft Corporation
7-BC-160
7-BR-161
7-BR-162
7-BR-163

This memorandum is in reference to four cases involving Bell Aircraft Corporation, Marietta, Georgia, which has programs both under Apprenticeship-Training Service and Training-Within-Industry. In accordance with our telephone conversation of January 5, I am referring these cases to you.

Case No. 7-BC-160 involves the complaint of Max Block, 1284 Oxford Road, Atlanta, Georgia, which was filed on December 20, 1943. Mr. Block alleges that he was denied employment because he is Jewish. According to Mr. Block, he was formerly president of Block Garment Company, Inc. in New York City and had 21 persons in his employ. He states that he severed his connection with the company upon being admitted to the New York State Bar as an attorney in June, 1941, that he practiced law in New York State for a little more than a year, and that he was then engaged in the Legal Department of Calvert Distillery Company, Relay, Maryland for approximately 7 months, about which time he came to Atlanta to join his brother, Daniel Block, an engineer at Bell Aircraft.

Mr. Block alleges that on or about December 15, 1943, he filed an application in his own handwriting for employment with Bell Aircraft, stating thereon his nationality as "American" and the nationality of his parents as "Russian", that he filed the application with a Mr. Mayfield, an employment clerk at 426 Marietta Street, that the application was referred to a Mr. Flood in Marietta, Georgia, and that Mr. Flood stated that the application should be referred to a Mr. Redfern in the Atlanta office. Apparently Mr. Flood is the head of a department at the plant, and the complaint alleges that Mr. Flood expressed the belief that the complainant was qualified for more important work than that in Mr. Flood's department.

Mr. Block further alleges that Mr. Redfern stated to Mr. Flood that Mr. Block might be qualified for employment for the position of Employment Counsellor, and that Mr. Block was referred to Mr. Redfern. Mr. Redfern apparently was not in his office when Mr. Block called upon him and Mr. Block

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was again referred to Mr. Mayfield. Mr. Block further alleges that Mr. Mayfield examined the application and expressed the view that Mr. Block was qualified for such position and thereupon telephoned the person in charge of counsellors at Marietta. Mr. Block further alleges that he overheard a part of the conversation between Mr. Mayfield and such person in charge, that Mayfield recommended Block and gave his name to such person in charge, that the name was repeated several times, after which Mayfield turned to Block and inquired if he was Jewish. Mr. Block further alleges that upon replying affirmatively Mr. Mayfield said to him, "Then I can't send you over on that basis", and apologetically stated that the person in charge of counsellors did not employ Jews in his department, although the company itself has Jews on the payroll. The reason given to Mr. Block, he states, is that the counsellors deal with hundreds of ignorant persons who would not "bring their problems to a Jewish boy." Finally, Mr. Block alleges that Mr. Mayfield informed him that Mr. Mayfield had referred a number of Jewish persons to the particular man in charge of counsellors, who had consistently rejected them, and that the proof of these allegations may be found in Mr. Block's application, which was left with Mr. Mayfield, upon which Mr. Mayfield wrote in red pencil "Jewish".

Mr. Block states that he filed an original and one copy of his application, in his own handwriting, and that Mr. Mayfield's comment was written on the original.

Case No. 7-RR-161 involves the complaint of Norman H. Prince, 938 Lena Street, N. W., Atlanta, Georgia, filed on December 22, 1943, that he was a janitor at Bell Aircraft for more than 8 months, and that according to the company's policy ~~that~~ an employee is eligible to apply for training after 6 months of satisfactory service. Mr. Prince further states that an applicant for training may obtain such upon receiving the permission of his foreman, provided he is then obtaining the maximum wage rate for his job. According to Mr. Prince he was receiving that wage rate but could not obtain the permission of his foreman, a Mr. Beck. Mr. Prince alleges that the approval of Mr. Beck could not be obtained because Mr. Prince is a Negro. Mr. Prince further alleges that Mr. R. Trimble, Labor Relations Assistant, and Mr. Winshield Nunnally in charge of flight testing division, endeavored to assist him in training but were unsuccessful.

Mr. Prince also alleges that he is a high school graduate and that he was a mechanic in business for himself prior to 1939 and, therefore, is a good prospect for training.

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Case No. 7-BR-162 also involves Mr. Prince. In this case he alleges that his application for training, and his appeals to Mr. Trimble and Mr. Nunnally over the head of his foreman, coupled with the fact that he is a Negro, caused the foreman to discharge him. This complaint, therefore, is concerned with the discharge, rather than with the refusal to train. Mr. Prince alleges that he was suspended on about December 8, that he applied for a review of his case but that he was not afforded the right to appear in his own defense. Mr. Prince has delivered to us a document which purports to be a "grievance record" which he received from the company, and a letter dated December 17, 1943 to him from Mr. David S. Crandall, Assistant Labor Relations Manager. The first of these documents gives Mr. Prince's clock number as 290073 and lists the reason for his suspension as "insubordination". The same document and the letter state that the suspension is made permanent by discharge.

The last of the above cases, 7-BR-163, involves the practice of Bell Aircraft Corporation in placing segregated want ads in the local press, said ads offering training and employment opportunities to whites and other employment opportunities to Negroes.

I enclose clippings from "The Atlanta Journal" of Sunday, December 5, 1943, and Sunday, January 2, 1944. In addition, I have an advertisement which appeared in "The Atlanta Journal" for November 4, 1943, page 34, but I could not obtain another for you because the issues of that paper for that day have been sold. This advertisement offers employment to "Colored Workers", as shear operators, stack router operators, laborers, janitors, railroad section laborers, productive helpers, burr and polish operators, heat treaters, and pot washers. I take the position that these advertisements are prohibited because they specify race and limit the employment of applicants according to the applicant's race.

I shall appreciate your having someone look into these matters and take appropriate steps to eliminate any discrimination which is found to exist. Thank you.