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Washington, D. C.

May 5, 1943

Mr. Daniel J. Tobin, President
International Brotherhood of Teamsters,
Chauffeurs, Warehousemen and Helpers
of America
222 East Michigan Street
Indianapolis, Indiana

Dear Sir and Brother:

I am submitting to your attention the attached copy of a memorandum from the files of the President's Committee on Fair Employment Practice which involves a case of the application of the President's Executive Order No. 8802. The complaint before the Committee alleges discrimination involving Local Union No. 299 of your International.

It is the established procedure of the President's Committee in cases involving unions to afford the opportunity for adjustment of complaints through the officers of the International unions concerned. To avoid the possibility of direct action by the Committee, I am transmitting this information to you with the request that you give it the necessary attention and take appropriate action at the earliest opportunity.

Fraternally yours,

President
American Federation of Labor

Enclosure

From a Memorandum from the
President's Committee on Fair Employment Practice
submitted to President Green

Mr. Festus Hairston, 8774 Cameron Street, Detroit, Michigan, has filed with this office a complaint alleging that although he is a member of Local #299, Brotherhood of Teamsters, Chauffeurs, and Helpers, A.F. of L., he has been refused the opportunity to take a job as a highway operator, on long hauls, because of his race and color. Mr. Hairston declares that he has been offered a job as a highway operator by the White Star Trucking Company, but the business agent of the union stated to our investigator that the highway truck drivers voted against permitting Mr. Hairston to be transferred to highway work. One of the factors in this vote is that highway operators must sleep on their trucks and, where two operators man a truck, they must share the one sleeping place.

The Business Agent of Local #299 is Mr. James Hoffa and his address is 2741 Trumbull Street.

This office understands that there is a twelve state agreement or "understanding" among locals of the Brotherhood of Teamsters, Chauffeurs, and Helpers that no Negro truck driver will be permitted in long haul interstate operations, one reason being that long haul truck driving necessitates the drivers' sleeping on their trucks, sharing the one bunk available. Both by itself and because of its multi-state ramifications, I have listed this case as one of those to be heard in the Detroit hearing.

It is common knowledge in the Detroit area that there is a scarcity of highway transportation for the moving of goods, especially food stuff, and that one of the bottle-necks in this transportation is the availability of trained truck drivers. We have taken up this complaint informally with Mr. Cushman, Deputy Director of the Area Office of the War Manpower Commission, and he is of the opinion that the War Production Board, Office of Defense Transportation and War Manpower Commission will all be interested in correcting the situation which keeps men like Mr. Hairston from working where they are most needed in the war effort--this case in highway trucking.

Before taking this case up with the three agencies above mentioned I thought you may want to allow President William Green to take up the case with Mr. Daniel Tobin, President of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Chauffeurs, and Helpers, to clarify and correct this situation within the union organization. So far Mr. Hoffa, the business agent, has considered Mr. Hairston's complaint an intra-union matter and he denies that the vote against him was based on race or color. If this situation is not corrected soon the local teamsters union will have to be called in our public hearing despite the fact that the International Union, as I understand it, is favorably disposed towards Negro members and has a large number on its membership rolls.