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The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People

Proposes to make 10,000,000 Americans
Physically Free from PEONAGE, Mentally Free from IGNORANCE,
Politically Free from DISFRANCHISEMENT, and
Socially Free from INSULT.

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Field Secretary
**70 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK CITY
TELEPHONE, CHELSEA 7481**

May 7, 1917.

Dr. J.E. Spingarn,
Officers' Training Camp,
Madison Barracks, N.Y.

Dear Dr. Spingarn:

Inasmuch as I shall not know whether I will be called for a few days yet and you could not be here anyway, we decided not to call a special meeting of the Board.

Your letter of resignation will come up next Monday. Miss Ovington says that all will desire that you retain the chairmanship at least until you become an officer in the U.S. Army, and that she is perfectly willing to take charge in your absence as vice-chairman providing you are willing to stand for her policy.

She would like, for instance, to run a series of articles in the Crisis to be distributed as reprints thereafter drawing the deadly parallel between our enemy abroad and the enemy in the South. Both practice plural voting. The German military man is a snob who struts down the avenue elbowing people out of his way or off the sidewalk even as the southern white treats the Negro. Nothing is more undemocratic in social organization of the Central Powers than the thing we shut our eyes to in our own body politic.

This is all more or less a criticism of our government; the N.A.A.C.P. must remain in a position where it can frankly criticise the government; and Miss Ovington's only question is whether you, as a prospective officer thereof, can stand as chairman of a Board which will be carrying on that sort of a propaganda?

When you receive your majority three months hence she feels your resignation might be more in order than now

Follow the Record of the Darker Races in *The Crisis* — Circulation, 38,000

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when colored papers might say, however unjustly, that the Association had differed with you on the matter of the separate camp.

I write this so that there may be no misunderstanding when the Board meets next week.

Very truly,

Ray Nash

Secretary.