

Army Asked Not To Play In Louisiana

Special To Journal and Guide

New Journal and Guide (1916-2003); Nov 10, 1956;

ProQuest Historical Newspapers: Norfolk Journal and Guide

pg. 1

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NEW YORK—Citing Louisiana's new Jim Crow law which would impose segregated seating of Negro Army personnel and other colored spectators, Roy Wilkins, executive secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, has urged Secretary of Army Wilber M. Brucker "to order withdrawal of the Army team" from a game with Tulane scheduled for Nov. 16, 1957, in New Orleans.

In a telegram dispatched Oct. 31, Mr. Wilkins stated "that several seasons ago Navy football team refused to appear in New Orleans unless segregated."

(See ARMY, P. 2)

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(Continued From Page 1)

gation was waived. In view of these precedents, Army appearance would be conspicuous endorsement of racial segregation. Because armed services policy of no segregation would be violated, we call upon you to order withdrawal of Army team from Tulane game."

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THE TELEGRAM was sent in protest to several statements made, by Coach Earl Blaik of Army's football team, during a newspaper interview, in which he is quoted as saying "the game with Tulane will be played Nov. 16 in New Orleans regardless of the new Louisiana law enforcing strict racial segregation of players and spectators."

Coach Blaik is quoted as having commented that "Army has no Negro players on its team and therefore can proceed."

He was also quoted as having said that "the decision on segregation of spectators would be one of policy to be settled on higher level."

At press time, the Army had indicated that Mr. Wilkins telegram was received, but declined further comment.