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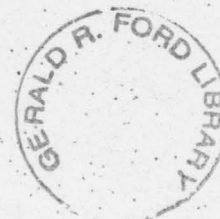
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FOR DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE



PROGRAM A.M. Washington

STATION WMAL TV

DATE October 15, 1971 6:50 AM

CITY Washington, DC

AN INTERVIEW WITH GENERAL JAMES

KEITH MCDEE: We're very honored to welcome Brigadier General Daniel James -- Chappie James of the Air Force. I'll make him wince right away by calling him a famous fighter pilot, which he is. He was one half -- rather a substantial half of the fighter pilot team in Vietnam with Colonel Robin Olds. And they were known as Blackman and Robin, I believe.

GENERAL JAMES: Dynamic duo.

MCDEE: He is now Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs.

General James, we read especially in a recent series of articles in the Washington Post that there is a great racial strife in the services. Is this confined to the Army, the Navy, or all of them?

GENERAL JAMES: We have it in all of them. And I think that the degree has been over-emphasized. But we reflect the same ills that society does. And to about the same degree. However, I think we have a better framework for handling these and we work on them harder within our own organization to eliminate them. I think we've made very great strides in this direction. We don't profess at all that we've got the problem solved. We've got quite a way to go. But we're working on it and I think we're making progress. And if you just assess that progress. The word's come --

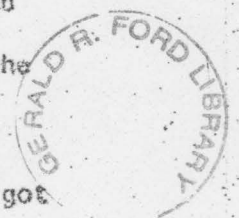
I can very easily. Word's come since I came into the armed services in 1943 when I was arrested, for instance, in 1944 - 45, for going into a white officers club. Well, that's unthinkable today. In fact, a lot of people don't realize that we used to have separate clubs. We used to have separate barracks, separate companies, separate mess halls, the whole thing. We've come a long way since then and we've made -- the strides have been rapid.

Now, the problem is on both sides. It's not only from the majorities person, the minorities -- It's from the minorities sometimes we find launching specific campaigns within their own ranks that they're going to take things in their own hands. And this is what we're trying to get away from because the -- there used to be a time when we used to, to get the attention or get somebody to listen to us, we had to take extreme means. That's no longer necessary because this Secretary of Defense has said that we're going to lead the way to equal opportunity in the armed services. And he's made no bones about it. And everybody's working toward that end.

MCBEE: If race trouble is a reflection of society in the armed services, that obviously denotes prejudice, does it not? Do you think the black man is prejudiced against in the service?

GENERAL JAMES: To the same degree that he is outside. We've got bigotry in -- out here in the streets -- on the Main Street, USA. And as long as we still have it, we get the same people. The source of our people is right from the community in the United States of America.

And as long as we have bigotry and prejudice out there, then we're going to have it in here. And as long as we have militancy and people who have given up on the system and have decided to react violently to what they call-unfair and unequal treatment out here, we're going to have it in the



services. When they come in with their prejudices already within them and then it's up to us to show them that in this society, which is rather a closed society, in the military that we make sure that our regulations -- and all of our regulations are for equal opportunity across the board.

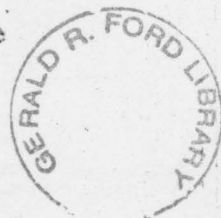
We try to recruit the best people we can find and then make sure that they're able to operate and allowed to progress based on one thing, and that's their ability alone.

And so then we try to take out all of the attitudes that have caused these people to react in this way back in the community. And that's what we're about right now.

For instance, let me give you just one example here of how far we've come. Just last spring six star ranks black people were named to star ranks. One Navy admiral, four regular Army generals, one Reserve general, one National Guard General. That's more than in an entire history of the United States Armed Forces. And this is because of the positive effort that we're making right now to even things up in equal opportunity.

GAIL SCOTT: How about in the recruits, the new men coming in -- do you have as many black men interested in military life as have been in the past?

GENERAL JAMES: Well, yes -- yes and no. I don't know what the figures are here. But I know that, you know, we've had some people who've talked about having a little fear of what would happen if we had the volunteer force, they say it'll be an all black force, an all Chicano force, and all Puerto Rican, of minorities mainly. But I think they're wrong because



they reason without taking into consideration the tremendous strides that have been made out in society to equal opportunity for these people.

We have just as hard a time recruiting the young blacks that we need who have the skills that we need as we do the white, these days, because if he has these skills then he's in demand in society more, too because strides have been made towards equal opportunity and towards fair play for him.

So we have a tough time recruiting all of the people. You see, our standards for the people that we need haven't gone down. We can't relax the standards. We still need the quality individual for our job. We recruit according to our requirements, or our needs. And so these people now, since there's more equality that's being promoted by the government in the United States to make sure that the unions let these people in that have the same skills that we want, where they were systematically excluded before. It makes it more difficult for us to recruit. It isn't a fact of them not wanting us anymore.

MCBEE: Could we carry this one step further from the state of the black to the state of military morale generally. We read of fragging attacks in Vietnam and short-timers and the problems that apparently are taking place in Vietnam. What is the state of the military generally?

GENERAL JAMES: All right, here again you read of the fraggings and -- in a specific unit in Vietnam. You'll read of a riot in a service club. That same day, naturally, you don't read about the thousands of units and the bases and the guys that are out on the front line fighting together giving a very good account of themselves. He was talking about our unit that we had in Uban (?) where we had Robin Olds and myself had the Eighth Wing over there, and we had some problems but we attacked



them as they arose. And our people did, too.

And generally, speaking -- we had a minimum of this sort of friction because everybody was doing his job and everybody had pride in his unit.

Now this is the large case in all of our armed forces.

You see, you read all of the time about just about every incident -- negative incident that we have. And naturally, if they wrote all the positives you wouldn't have any room in your newspaper or any room on this program because we've got so many of them. And let nobody doubt that we've still got the greatest fighting force in the whole world and we can provide for the security of this nation like it needs to be provided for.

MCBEE: Have these reports hurt your ability to recruit the kind of men you need, do you feel?

GENERAL JAMES: No, I don't think so because I think the kind of men that we need are the kind of thinking men that we need, that investigate and read below the surface to see what kind of a fighting force they'll be entering. And they see that all of our forces, the Navy, the Army, the Air Force and the Marines still provide an opportunity for young people today that's unparalleled in any other segment of society.

MCBEE: General James, I think there's a very real fear that because we are so anxious to conclude this war in Vietnam and get out of it, if you will, that our prisoners of war will be given short shrift and maybe even sold down the river. Do you think we should make any deal with Hanoi without the release of these men?

GENERAL JAMES: I feel that the President of the United States and the Secretary of Defense have -- are on the right track towards getting our people back. It's the only track available to us.



You know when they were first captured we went the low profile route hoping that they would provide -- that they would control themselves by the provisions of the Geneva Convention. When they didn't do this, we went public to make sure -- to try them in the court of world opinion. And in the meantime, parallel to that, according to the President's plan, we were withdrawing troops from Southeast Asia. However, he has stated time and time again that he will not forget the men over there and that he will not end this conflict or make any deal that ends this conflict without the consideration of the prisoners of war and that the men will be returned. That is one of the points that he made long before the seven points that everybody keeps emphasizing that the other side laid.

I would like to make sure that everybody remembers that the President made his six points in October a year ago, in which he asked for a ceasefire, a stand in place, that would stop all of the killing and all of the injuries and everything else, and then release all prisoners. All of what we have for all of what they have. And then let's engage in meaningful negotiations to end the war. And it's the other side that has consistently refused to institute -- take these points and to abide by them and to engage in these meaningful negotiations. We've been trying to get them to sit down at the peace table, which is the only place to solve all of these things.

And I think if they would take the President's six points that he put up first to eliminate this war and to get the prisoners back home, then we would have had this war over a long time ago. And if we could get all of the people of the United States to unite behind this position instead of reaching out for the other side's positions, I think that's part



of the problem, too. Because if they see us all divided here and shouting for their side, they figure why should I sit down and engage in meaningful negotiations, all they've got to do is wait you out.

MCDEE: Thank you, sir.

Brigadier General Chapple James, Jr., we are honored that you came by to see us.

GENERAL JAMES: Thank you. It's a pleasure.

