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ON TO VICTORY!

Editorially Speaking

"Eleanor Clubs" And The Negro

The most dastardly, the most pernicious, the most fiendish, the most cowardly attack ever made on a first lady of this country, and its Negro citizens is that now going on concerning the organizing of what is known as "Eleanor Clubs" by Negroes in North Carolina and other southern states. It is claimed that Negroes, inspired by the doctrines preached by Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, are organizing these clubs for the purpose of obtaining "social equality," forcing all Negro women out of domestic employment, bringing about an uprising against white people with the intent of overthrowing the government and God only knows what else.

So contemptible is this malicious lie that we hesitate to even devote time and space to set at rest those who, when they hear it, permit their blood pressure to run up when there is absolutely no need of it. Were it not for the fact that our country is now engaged in a bloody conflict to overthrow foreign instigators of just such propaganda, we would let the lie come to death at its own miserable hands. Since there is too great a possibility that this fiendish act is the offspring of fifth columnists within our midst, we are going to hang the culprits editorially before they have a chance to do any more of their dirty work.

Now we do not claim to know everything that is going on among Negroes in the South, but we do claim to know what is going on of importance among them in North Carolina, the principal territory in which this newspaper circulates. We defy any man or group of men in this state or anywhere else to prove conclusively that there exists in North Carolina or anywhere else in the south an organization among Negroes, such as that described above. We not only defy them to do it, but we offer a reward of \$100 for conclusive proof that such an organization exists in this state or any other southern state.

We think our readers, friends and those who may not be classed as either, will agree that the CAROLINA TIMES has never cringed on any issue of importance that confronted it. We have kept the record clean for just such an occasion as this, and we are willing to stake all that we have ever stood for in defying those who would bring about disunity among the people of the South in this hour of national crisis. If there was any evidence of the existence of one such organization in this state we would not hesitate to admit it and that without fear or favor, as we have always done on any and every occasion. This is our way of life, this is our creed and upon it we have staked our destiny and our journalistic future.

On this matter of social equality. The time will never come anywhere on the face of the earth when wholesale social equality will exist. It does not exist within the white race, nor does it exist within the Negro race. It is purely a matter of personal choice and when successfully engaged in by individuals it is by mutual consent of all parties concerned. Likewise it cannot be successfully enforced nor can it be successfully prohibited. For in spite of our laws and other barriers, established for the purpose of prohibiting it, our streets are crowded with Negroes, the color of whose skin bears testimony to the fact that there are individuals in both races who have been engaging in the highest point of social equality.

Social equality is the age-old scarecrow that is always brought out of the attic and dusted off to frighten the weak minded whenever Negroes ask for better jobs, better wages, better schools and other improvements that will tend to raise their economic standard to the place where they may become respectable citizens instead of liabilities. We believe there are enough sensible white and colored people in North Carolina and the rest of the south to scotch these rumors and prohibit them from destroying the unity of our people during these

times of national crisis.

Of this matter of overthrowing the government. If after more than 200 years of existence in this country, more than 200 of which were spent as chattel, if after faithfully serving in every war in which this nation has fought for its rights as a free people if after serving as maids-cooks, washer-women, nurses (both wet and dry) if after our unblemished record of destroying every attempt to make the Negro disloyal to his country; do not stand us in good stead during these times, then may God have mercy upon the hearts that beat in the breasts of those who would accuse our humble group of wanting to overthrow the government of the only country we know anything about.

Has it ever dawned upon these nervous, suspicious people that there are only thirteen million Negroes in the United States and that they are outnumbered by white people about ten to one? Has it ever occurred to them that every strategic place in the government, both armed and unarmed, is held by members of their own group? Are they unmindful of the fact that even Germans and Italians are accepted for important positions in government, defense plants and the armed forces of this country in preference to Negroes?

We think the raising of the "Eleanor Club" issue is but another attempt to bring about national disunity and civil strife in this country, at a time when every loyal citizen of the United States should have one and only one purpose in mind, the winning of the war. We think it is a dastardly attempt to besmirch the name of the devoted helpmate of our war-burdened president, both of whom are doing all they can to make the Negro feel his responsibility to his country by giving him an opportunity to share in the benefits of democracy and render his best service to the nation in one of its darkest hours.

Whatever have been the misdeeds of both races toward each other in the past, for God's sake let's forget them now, and come to our senses long enough to realize that a foreign enemy threatens to take away our rights to criticize the president, to "cuss" and discuss his wife, to write free and untrammelled editorials like this one, to think out loud on the shortcomings of our government and to walk with human dignity upon our highways and byways, afraid of no man or group of men.

In this hour of national peril, when American blood of both white and Negro boys is being spilled to preserve our way of life, the Negro extends an outstretched hand to his white brother in this country. It is not a hand in which there is a hidden dagger, it is not a hand whose owner's heart is filled with hatred, deceit, revenge and distrust. It is a hand hardened and calloused with felling the trees of our forests, plowing our farms, digging in our mines and tunnels, paving our highways, working in our factories and other places where he may find honest labor. It is the hand of a loyal, true, tried and trusted American citizen, who is begging for an opportunity to work, fight and die, if need be, for his country—our country. So that when peace is once again established in the land, he may fish in its streams, hunt in its forests, shout at its ball games, laugh and cry in its theaters, worship as he pleases in its churches, rear his children and nurture his old, enjoy the benefits of his labor as other free Americans, and look unafraid at the eventide of his life when time shall wrap its mantle of old age about his shoulders and tuck him to sleep in the sacred sod of his native land.

That is all the Negro has ever asked, that is all he asks now and that is all he will ever ask. Those who would deny him these rights are themselves unfit to enjoy the benefits of a democratic form of government.

Alustin
EDITOR.