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WHAT THE NEGRO REALLY ASKS

In recent years, particularly since the advent of the war, great strides have been made in the direction of incorporating the Negro more fully into the economic, social and political structure of the nation. This has been due in no small measure to the increased awareness of the Negro himself that he must consolidate his forces and demand and fight for what he considers his birthright. The Negro of today is no longer the subdued long-suffering and patient individual the nation has considered him in the past. He is cognizant of the fact that only by closing his ranks and organizing his forces is he able to achieve his proper place in society. He has been fortunate in having the support of many enlightened members of the white race who before, and since the inception of this World War, which is being fought for the democratic ideals based on the four freedoms, have realized that these very principles for which they are fighting abroad must of necessity be first achieved at home in order to accomplish a full and complete victory. We have, for example, the F.E.P.C. instituted by President Franklin D. Roosevelt to help prevent discrimination against any individual because of race, color, creed or national origin. This committee has done much to alleviate the injustices which have been practiced against the Negro.



The heroism and devotion to duty of the Negro in the several theatres of this international conflict are rendered almost pointless by the stubbornly unintelligent treatment visited upon him and his kin at home. He is in very truth fighting a war on two fronts, for the local practitioners of white supremacy are no less his enemies than Nazi exponents of Aryanism and Japanese proponents of "Asia for the Asiatics."



The logical conclusion would therefore be that it is to the advantage of America as a Democracy to incorporate, with full status of citizenship, all minorities who make up this vast nation. There are two sayings which come to mind that seem apropos regarding this problem. The first one is Abraham's Lincoln's most famous statement: "A house divided against itself cannot stand" and the second is: "A chain is only as strong as its weakest link." The sooner it is realized that when the Negro is allowed to assume full citizenship, which actually is all he asks, the sooner will America take her place as a world power and as the leading proponent of Democracy in the world.

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