(...ing from Norfolk Ledger
Date 9/22/42

Eleanor Club Quest Fails

First Lady Says FBI Can Not Find Them

Washington, Sept. 22.—(AP)—Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt reported today that the Federal Bureau of Investigation had failed to find any "Eleanor Clubs," reportedly being organized among Negro servants and being named for the first lady.

Mrs. Roosevelt told her press-conference reports were that such organizations were being organized in Mississippi, North Carolina, Alabama and Florida, but that the FBI said its inquiry had been negative in producing any definite evidence.

The President's wife said she had received many letters—even telephone calls—telling her of such so-called clubs, but that no one thus far, when asked to give the definite name of a club member or the meeting place of such a club, had been able to do so.

The FBI investigation followed reports such clubs were being organized for several purposes, including improvement of Negro welfare, with such slogans as "All Negroes out of the kitchen by Christmas." One of the reports was that members had agreed to quit their jobs if, for example, they are serving dinner and derogatory words are spoken by the family or guests about the Roosevelts.

While Mrs. Roosevelt was out of the room to answer a call her secretary, Miss Malvina Thompson, said she (Miss Thompson) had personally asked Negro maids employed at the White House and by the Roosevelts at New York and Hyde Park and had inquired among Negro leaders and educators without finding one belonging to such a club.

NOT RECORDED