The Life of Eleanor Roosevelt

Mrs. Roosevelt's friendship with the late Mrs. Henry Morgenthau Jr. was the subject of many bitter letters to the White House.

By CARL T. ROWAN — Article X

Not long ago a staid old society matron in Newport, R. I., went to the movies with an actor, known to be a close friend of Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, to see "Something of Value," the story of Mau Mau violence in Kenya.

The woman began to squirm in her seat as the Africans opened their revolt against the white settlers.

Finally, when Mau Mau tribesmen were depicted in the wholesale slaughter of the whites, the noted Newport party-giver almost exploded. She grasped her companion's arm and shook it violently as she shouted: "I blame Eleanor Roosevelt for all of this."

A roar of laughter shook the theater.

Yet, either a check of the letters in FDR's personal files or a chat with strangers on a street corner will show that this remark is more than a joke to many people. Whether in praise or criticism, millions view Eleanor Roosevelt as one of the major reasons for the change in status of colored people, particularly American Negroes, in the last quarter century.

"When she resigned from the Daughters of the American Revolution after they refused to let Marian Anderson sing in their hall, she started a lot of people to thinking," said a former top official in the Roosevelt Administration.

"And she added immeasurably to the dignity of minority group members by having the courage to invite them to social functions

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N.Y. POST
EDITION NIGHT EXTRA
DATED MAR 26 1958
PAGE 4
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RE: "THE LIFE OF ELEANOR ROOSEVELT" BY CARL T. ROWAN

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66 APR 2 1958