6-19 (Rev. 9-7-56)

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As Pegler Sees It:

Did FDR Willingly Sign Bias Clause?

By WESTBROOK PEGLER

ELEANOR ROOSEVELT has been trapped in another glaring false statement in McCall's Magazine for November. She writes a feature called "If You Ask Me." Some of the questions published there permit her to create impressions favorable to herself and her family.

In the present case, she wrote that Georgia law required her husband to insert in all deeds a clause forever forbidding Negroes from ownership or occupancy of any of the land in his Warm Springs real estate promotion. She said he did this unwillingly. That statement was immediately challenged by R. Carter Pittman, of Albany, Ga., a lawyer who has had many years of real estate practice in the region. He served on the (Georgia State) commission to manage the Franklin D. Roosevelt Warm Springs ("perpetual") Memorial.

PEGLER

On the telephone, he was much more blunt than he was in the text of his challenge addressed to McCall's. In his text he said her statement was "unfortunate and without basis in fact." On the phone he said she told a lie.

Mr. Pittman said Roosevelt arranged a sneaky scheme to accomplish exclusion without assuming personal responsibility. Roosevelt and his mother, Sara, spotted the region as a promising site for a luxurious colony for rich people. Their motive was to make money. She put up the capital and Roosevelt formed a Delaware corporation called Meriwether Reserve, which sent agents around buying up abandoned land for $5 an acre or less and dilapidated houses at anywhere from $500 to $2,000. Roosevelt was president of the corporation.

Wash. Post and Times Herald
Wash. News
Wash. Star
N. Y. Herald Tribune
N. Y. Journal-American
N. Y. Mirror
N. Y. Daily News
N. Y. Times
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