First Lady Urges Negroes To Fight For Full Equality

La. Weekly 10/2/43

(By The Associated Negro Press)

Chicago, Sept. 29.—That Negroes should continue their fight for complete equality and full rights under our democratic government is urged by Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt in an exclusively written article appearing in the October issue of Negro Digest, published in Chicago at 3507 Southparkway.

Writing on the subject, "If I Were a Negro . . ." the First Lady in direct, non-evasive style gives her ideas on what she would do about discrimination, social inequality and army jim crow. "If I Were A Negro," says the First Lady, "I think I woud have moments of great bitterness. It would be hard for me to sustain my faith in democracy and to build up a sense of goodwill toward men of the other races.

"I think, however, that I would realize that if my ancestors had never left Africa, we would be worse off as natives today under the rule of any other country than I am in this country where my people were brought as slaves."

Continuing, Mrs. Roosevelt says: "In a comparatively short period of time the slaves have become free men—free men, that is, as far as a proclamation can make them free. There now remains much work to be done, to see that freedom becomes a fact and not just a promise for my people.

"If I Were A Negro, I would still feel that I ought to participate to the full in this war. When the united nations win, certain things will be accepted as a result of the principles which have been enunciated by the leaders of the united nations, which never have been part of the beliefs and practices of the greater part of the world.

Eleanor Roosevelt

INDEXED 99

jml 100-193384-A

NOT RECORDED
85 NOV 20 1943

CONF. INFT.

HA-4 New Orleans La

La Weekly 10/2/43

34 NOV 24 1943