

### People Of South Termed Afraid

The white people of the South are fundamentally afraid of the negro. That is the opinion of Adam Clayton Powell, radical editor of a New York negro newspaper called the People's Voice. Powell is also pastor of a large negro church and a member of the New York Council. He claims that the white people of the South are fundamentally afraid of the negro, and at the same time, he regards the sending of Northern negro troops into the South as a splendid step in the defeat of what he calls "Southernism."

"The Battle of Southernism against the new negro, while it began in the South, is not reaching its greatest intensity in that section," says this New York negro.

"Fundamentally, the leadership of the South is afraid. For years it has been afraid of the masses of negro people. Today it is afraid of the new spirit of the new negro and more than that, the new spirit of the new white man. Make no mistake about this—there is a new South being born. Despite what the organs that mould public opinion would have us believe, there is a new white man in the South. The recent conference in Atlanta, Ga., of white leaders was a last-minute stop gap measure to try to keep the negro on the side of Southernism. These last minute offers were a price that they tried to pay to keep the Northern negroes and whites out of the South. The key to the whole statement was that sentence, 'We do not desire any interference from Northern negroes or whites.'

This is the one thing that has kept Southernism alive: Bitter resentment against any form of intrusion. In the midst of this type of anxiety that Wendell Wilkie has aptly termed One World, the day of isolationism is dead. Southernism cannot succeed for no form of sectionalism can carry over into our post-war society.

#### Negro Soldiers Help

"The efforts of the new negro began during the depressing thirties. It was then that negro and white sharecroppers came together to form the Southern Tenant Farmers' Union. The Scottsboro and the Herndon cases stiffened the backbone of the Southern negro. They brought new allies to him from the North and started the Southern white masses to thinking. The fight to save Odell Waller helped the movement along. The greatest boon, however, to the development of the new negro has been the vast number of negro troops sent South. These negroes were sent South in large numbers, probably to break their spirit! Instead, the Northern negro became the 'intruder' that Southern leadership had so bitterly fought. The negro soldiers throughout the South in every army camp is fighting Southernism. Many of them have

died. The number will probably never be known. This marks the first time since slavery that the small plantation class has come face to face with thousands of negroes who are willing to fight abroad to defeat Hitler and also, at home to defeat Southernism.

"The one thing that has made the problem of race relationships so difficult in the South is that the South has no minorities. Ruling classes have always used minorities to not only carry their burdens but also to be their scapegoats. In the South the only minorities are the negro and that misnamed group—po white trash." Today that po white trash knows that there is no such thing as 'trash' in terms of human personality. They also know, however, that they will be considered no more than 'trash' until they take their black brothers with them.

"There are manifestations all over the South of the new negro and the new white defeating Southernism at every turn, but there is much more to be done. Unfed, barefooted, black and white children still roam the Tobacco Roads' of the South. Even in so-called prosperous city like Durham has a large slum area that has not felt the boom effects of this war. In Raleigh, N. C., domestic workers are still being paid three dollars a week top wage. The United States Employment Service continues to send negro workers on jobs but finds that they are being turned away en masse.

#### Radical Magazine Praised

"There are many signs of awakening. The magazine 'South Today' is the voice of the new white South crying for the abolition of Southernism. The students of St. Augustine College striking for a negro president is the voice of the black South crying out for the abolition of Southernism.

"Southernism will go because it must.

"I do not expect a complete change in the South in my lifetime but I do know that the day of domination of any particular race by any group, by section, 'master' race or nation is on its way out. It is just as futile to try to hold back the rendezvous of the common people—black and white—with their common destiny.

"The new negro is marching forward—one people, one purpose, one leader, one fight, one victory and one world."

#### QUESTIONNAIRE

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ned to help destroy the racial segregation which the South demands:

1. Do you have a radio?
2. What sort of things would you like to hear more on the radio?
3. What are your three favorite radio programs now?
4. Have you heard anything over the radio about what colored people are doing to help in the war effort? What? Did you like it?
5. Have you seen any of the ne-



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