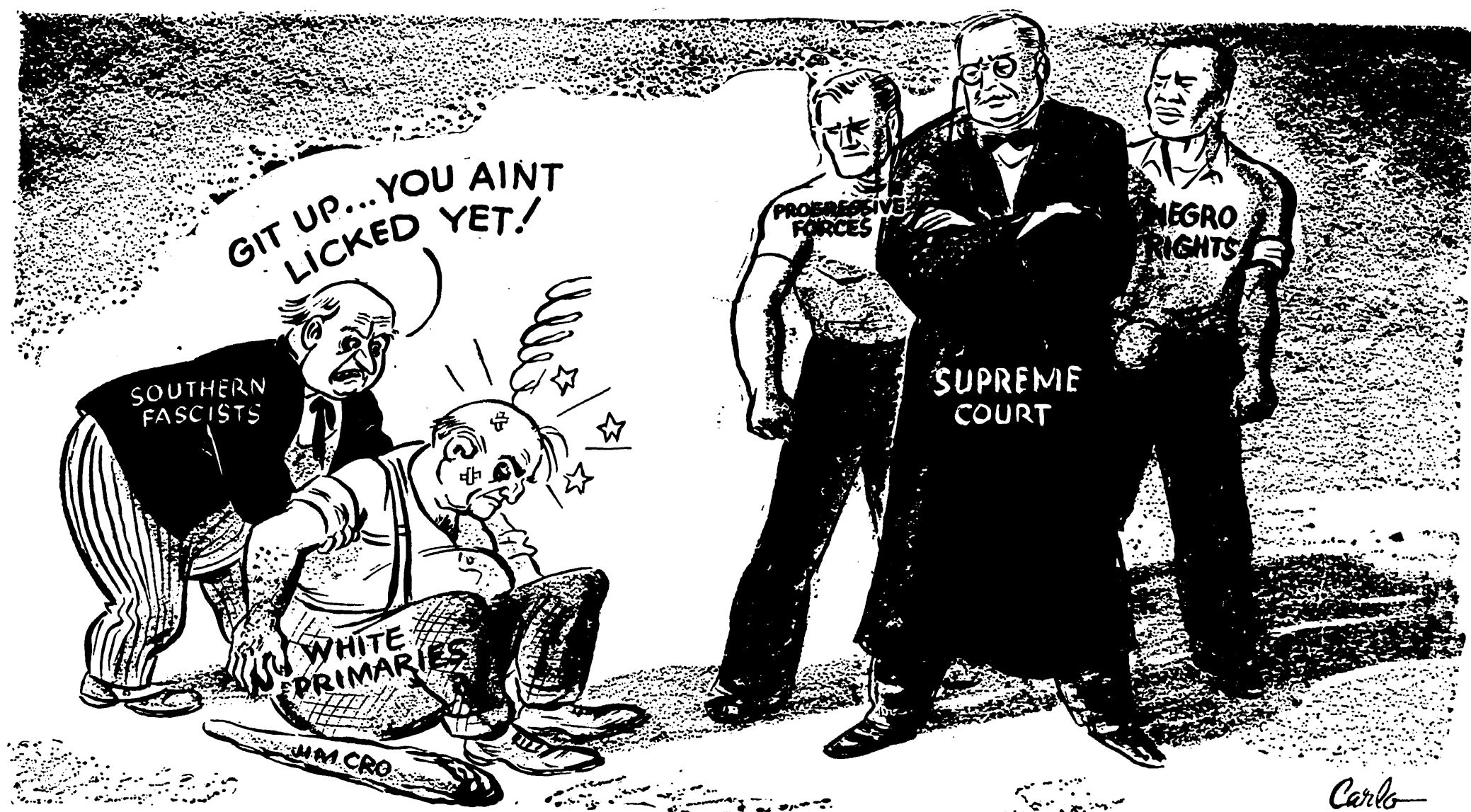


The PEOPLE'S TOWN HALL



USA 1944 — Solid South Splits!

I HAVE JUST RETURNED from that part of the South which is neither deep nor far. It is deepest and farthest. After you have been where I have been Georgia becomes the Mason-Dixon line and North Carolina is North. I could have no keener feeling of being a foreigner in Berlin than I had in Bolixi, Mississippi.

There is a revolution taking place in the South. The Northern press doesn't print it because the Southern press consistently hides it. The issues are rapidly being pointed up. The lines are being carefully drawn. It isn't a fight of black versus white. It is the fight of the new South against the old South. On the side of the new South is the new Negro and the new white man. On the side of the old South is not only the old white man, but unfortunately, the old Negro as well.

For the first time in the history of America the white South is split on the Negro question. The black millions have taken their stand and with them are standing new allies. These new allies are not only drawn from the trade union movement, the church and the farm, but great voices in high places are being raised in protest.

Above the rantings of the demagogues there rise the clear voices of people like Lillian Smith of Georgia, Frank Graham of North Carolina and Homer Rainey of Texas. The new journals of the white supremacy league, such as the "Alabama Sun" and the Gulf Port, Mississippi "Dixie Guide" are unfortunately not by themselves in trying to stem the flood tide of the new South. The old line papers in more carefully veiled language are shouting the same language.

The press of Alabama is calling for the defeat of United States Senator Hill, because "he consorts with those New Deal people who believe in social equality." The press is unanimous in its abuse of Eleanor Roosevelt and Franklin Roosevelt. On the other hand the Negro is fighting mad and fighting not by himself. Whether it's Houston, Texas, or Columbia, South Carolina, the Negroes have made up their minds to see this through. They will accept neither the status-quo nor second class citizenship. They are preparing to vote this year as they have never voted before.

If the white supremacy demagogues could be stilled, two generations of white young people would reconstruct the South. Seemingly, they cannot be stilled. I believe that the white womanhood of the South is going to swing the tide nevertheless. They are sick and tired of being made the scapegoat of the Negro problem and some of them are ready to go to the cross.

The Negroes in the South are unanimously in back of Franklin D. Roosevelt for the fourth term or 40 terms and the thinking white South agrees with the Negroes' political views.

The only freedom left in the South is the freedom of speech. I think that was a temporary courtesy granted me—a damn Yankee from New York.

John C. Calhoun

The Voice Selects As the Most Important Question of the Week:

PRO: Cecelia C. Saunders
Executive Secretary,
Harlem YWCA, NYC

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Edited by LLEWELLYN RANSOM

Conference on social hygiene was held in New York City last week. Do you think there should be more public discussion on venereal diseases and sex education?

WE ARE OUT of the Mid-Victorian era and we should act accordingly. Social diseases have killed more people than have wars and all because we have failed to face the problem realistically by freely educating those in danger of their ravages. Fear and ignorance go hand in hand with poverty, and the greatest sufferers from social diseases have been and are the poor. That is why the Negro people have been burdened with the stigma of a high rate of disease. Public discussion as a form of education, is most important to health and health is most important to our efficiency in winning the war. Education is a preparation for living and should include sex. Our crime in the past has been the hush-hush attitude toward sex and disease that has driven our youth into dark alleys and pool halls and gangs for their information about sex and social diseases. Medical science and progressive educators and social workers have done their part in developing the information to save and to salvage the unfortunate victims of ignorance, now it is up to the people to demand the dissemination of this knowledge. We have got to have open, frank and intelligent discussion of sex. We must let our youth understand its place and function in their lives so that they may be fitted to live normally, wholesomely and without fear. They must know the causes, preventions, cures and dangers of venereal diseases.



of freeing people of all the shame and fears that surround it today after years of evil association by ignorant moralists. Unless we treat social diseases simply as diseases and not as punishment for sin, we will only be handicapping a sane approach to sex. We will also be guilty of preventing the development of a proper approach to disease that will lead to its cure. Sex has been made so much a subject of fear and shame that when many young people contract a venereal disease they avoid telling those who could help them and save them years of unhappiness, simply because sex is tied up with the disease and sex has been made a terrible thing. This does not mean that one should not explain how the diseases are contracted. It simply means that one should not make a full course of instruction on social diseases a part of sex education nor should the converse be attempted. Sex education should lead us to more intelligent living in love and marriage and should be freed of sordidness. On the other hand, venereal diseases should be kept in the category of a danger to be understood, not just feared.



"LETTERS TO THE EDITOR"

APOLOGY FROM US

Editor: The caption of a paragraph printed from a letter to Doctor Powell was published in PV April 1, and stated: "Too Many Applications." This is contrary to the facts, for although we have received many applications through PV publicity, we still need many more homes for children. The caption gives the community an unreal view of the situation and hampers both of our own and other agency's efforts to find homes for children.—MRS. MARGARET STUART, CASEWORKER; Colored Orphan Asylum and Assn. for Benefit of Colored Children in the City of New York.

A NEW SPECIE

Editor: In New York's Harlem a man has been born, and he is going to fight his way into every state of the Union. He is no longer the docile baby of yesteryear; he is mature, militant. He is now busy on all fronts fighting for freedom of all mankind. He no longer feeds on one certain stale brand of political hash; he is demanding a more

balanced diet. Still again he is primarily interested in one model of journalism—fighting model like PV. He is the New York Negro.—CECIL EUBANKS, PINE, TEXAS.

A GOOD IDEA

Editor: In a recent issue of PV, a writer requested the paper to furnish miniature copies of PV, to be sent to the men overseas. This writer apparently isn't fam-

The Old Song and Dance

Editor: Congresswoman Clare Boothe Luce has gotten a good deal of favorable notice among race organizations and papers because she has introduced a bill for a committee to investigate the failure to make adequate use of Negro manpower in the war effort, particularly the failure to use colored women in the WAVES and SPARS.

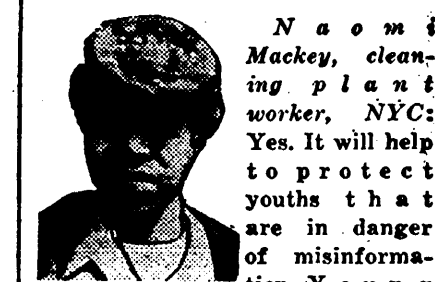
Those who have given her praise for this action overlooked the fact that, "a committee to investigate" is one of the time honored devices of politicians to avoid taking action on some hot issue. For example, when Governor Dewey threw out the statesmanlike recommendation of his interracial committee for the creation by law of what amounted to a state fair employment practice committee, he appointed another "committee to investigate" the whole subject.

The failure to use Negro women in the WAVES and SPARS is not a matter needing investigation, since the facts are not in dispute. The Navy makes no pretense that it enlists Negro women in these branches of the service, it flatly refuses them. Another "committee to investigate" is not the answer; what genuine friends of the Negro should do is to introduce a bill to end this admitted and continued discrimination.—ALFRED BAKER LEWIS, P.O. Box 662, Grand Central Annex.

CON: Beulah Sherrod
Student
NYC

MORE PUBLIC discussion of venereal diseases and sex education, its dangers, especially if the two are linked together. Of course, we need more knowledge of social diseases which are among the greatest enemies of society, but why burden sex education with this horror? Sex education should serve the purpose

The People:



people will not thank their elders for keeping from them the knowledge that science and common-sense were meant for their health's safety.

Vernell Bartlett, student, Miami, Florida:

Yes. Our race has too long been stigmatized by association with venereal diseases. We know that race has nothing to do with it. Poverty and ignorance are the controlling factors here as in most human ills. Knowledge never hurt anybody.



Grace Parvis, grocery clerk, NYC:

Yes. Heretofore, fear and shame have been the only education for victims of social diseases. Now it is time we give positive helpful instruction both for prevention and cure.

Florence Mosby, student, NYC:

Yes. There is no greater need today for youth and the ignorant, through wholesome public discussion of this great social menace. Disease knows no race and morals know no race. Fear, ignorance and poverty are fertile ground for any social evil.



health and social principles. I would say yes. But we must avoid the danger exploiting sex and tying it up too much with disease.

Dorothea Baybour, Va., student: If we avoid sinking to the level of dirty pictures and cheap sex movies, and base our discussion upon