

# The PEOPLE'S TOWN HALL



## Press Meeting with Navy Heads a Milestone

THE CONFERENCE being held this week between the United States Navy and the Negro Newspaper Publishers Association is one of the most important forward steps taken during this crisis. Meeting at the Great Lake's Naval Training Station in Illinois, the Negro press along with the authorities of that station will discuss the general policy of our government as it affects Negro navy men. It is imperative that these discussions be forthright. While they must be conducted with dignity, there should be no punches pulled. The morale of Negro people will never radically be changed until the undemocratic policies of the United States Navy are radically altered. Not many years ago during this century Negro men fought and worked in all branches of our naval forces. There has been a proud tradition from the days of Negro seamen under Commodore Perry to the days of Miller and Harmon. Many backward steps have been taken during the past years but since Pearl Harbor we have begun to move forward again.

Not all of our men are fighting to make the world safe for democracy with frying pans, tray or mop. There are some, all too few, who are manning the guns. We welcome enthusiastically the news of last week that 22 Negroes will be commissioned as ensigns and lieutenant-commanders. We were further pleased to learn that fighting ships will be manned by Negroes and whites under Negro and white officers. This is the kind of integration that we

are fighting for and that democracy stands for. There still remains much to be done.

These questions must be considered this week as we of the Negro press meet the authorities of the Navy:

- The immediate inclusion of Negro women in the WAVES and SPARS. Regardless of rumors and stories to the contrary there are no Negro women in either of these two services now.
- The admission of Negro nurses. There is not one Negro nurse serving in the United States Navy.
- The appointment of more than token commissions of Negro doctors, dentists and chaplains.
- The gradual increase of the mixing of Negro and white fighting men on all of our ships from the capital class on down.

This war can come to a close this year if America in its heart will let democracy win. Negroes are not fighting at their best in this conflict; first because they are not allowed to, and second, because many of them haven't got their heart in the battle. Give Negroes full and equal chance and they will whip every fascist in Rome, every Nazi in Berlin and every militarist in Tokyo.

When the Negro gets his Negro up, hell breaks loose.

*John C. Calhoun*

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

PRO: *Lula Diggs*  
Housewife  
NYC

### QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Edited by EWELELYN RANSOM  
A girl writes PV: "Facing what I believed to be racial discrimination on my job in a war agency, I resigned. Should I have stayed?"



CON: *Thelma Hayes*  
Florist  
NYC

NO. I THINK the girl should have done as she was inclined to do. After all, we are not professional race leaders. Her resignation was a personal protest. Many Negro people meet unhappy situations by simply removing themselves from the cause or source of the unhappiness. They do this because they have too often learned that they have no rights, or what rights they have are not respected—not even by those in charge. They see their whole world controlled by white men who connive with each other against the Negro, whether it be in law, business or politics. Too many of us become pessimistic, hopeless and mistrusting. I believe this girl did appeal to higher ups. If she did not, as most any intelligent girl would, then it was because she believed it would be useless, because her word would mean little against her immediate superiors. Many of us have learned to feel it is a waste of time to appeal to Negro leaders and organizations. This attitude is wrong today for we see church, labor and civic organizations, both black and white getting together and making it hot for underhanded individuals and prejudiced institutions. It seems to me that the burden of insuring democracy in a war agency rests upon the government, and not upon a poor girl. If we are asking our men to give their lives for the preservation of and extension of democracy over the world, the government should guarantee it here.



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### NEW MOTTO FOR NEW NEGRO

Editor: Now that the new Negro is on the march towards a better way of life, this would seem to me to be a good motto: Dum vivimus, vivamus ("while we live, let us live"). This new Negro fights against all forms of inequality so that some day he will be able to extricate himself from the swamps of injustice and be a free man. The last two years have made a profound change in the black man. He has entered the fight wholeheartedly with his soul full of militant hope.

The new Negro strives now for a better status in the post war world to come, that the next generation may develop with strength and in peace. We don't need four freedoms—just one that includes the rest—and that is human freedom.—JOSEPH WALLACE, 122 W 114 st, N. Y.

### NEGRO HEAD FOR RIVERDALE SCHOOL

Editor: It has occurred to me, as a frequent contributor to the numerous drives for funds for the Riverdale Orphanage, that since the city of New York maintains a public school on the premises of the institution, a competent Negro

should be assigned as principal of the school.

Such a person would be an inspiration to the many youths who pass through the institution. The man selected for this position should have close contacts with the Negro community to effect

proper placement of the children who leave the institution to enter adult life. I believe there are many Negroes who could qualify for this position.—A. JENSON, 2000 SEVENTH AVE., NEW YORK CITY.

## This Is Why Negroes Fight

Editor: Today, we ask ourselves the question, what is the Negro fighting for? We are fighting today more than ever—for the things we fought for yesterday . . . the God-given right to live and share equally the joys and sorrows of life.

But why should a person give his life for his country only to return to "under-dog" treatment? Today we fight an aggressor who would make ALL Americans slaves in the true sense of the word. So we are in this fight so that our children may live in a world truly free from hatred and fear; free from doubt. We fight to give our children the opportunity to achieve racial equality through education and other peaceful means—rather than through destruction. We want future generations to have advantages that we, in our childhood, never knew.

Through past historical years we, the Negro people, have always fought this battle. Now we have joined hands with all mankind against an enemy who would blot out forever the goal of human dignity and freedom towards which we march. We have determined to throw our whole weight into this battle, because we know that therein lies our sole chance to continue our own struggle for equality.—PAUL BASS, JR., 211 W 14th st, New York City.

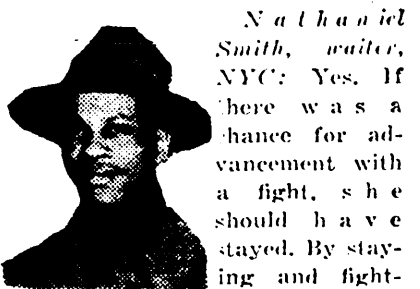
### THAT MAN AGAIN, FOLKS!

Editor: Westbrook Pegler sees fit to attack the owner of PM and the *Chicago Sun* as a believer in Negro equality in some directions only. Negro-hater Pegler is conspicuous as a hater of many things. He seems to have developed from a chronic fault-finder into a hater of everything and everybody. He need not bother us for a man who hates everybody has no friends—even among whites.—ED PETERSON, 3542 CARROLL AV., CHICAGO.

### A WAR WIFE SPEAKS

Editor: As the wife of a soldier, I would like to protest the change of Army Emergency Relief to the Red Cross. I know little of the Red Cross work except that it has insisted on separating the blood of American Negroes from that of the white man's, and that in one Florida seaport, Negro merchant marine men who had been torpedoed were told by Red Cross attendants that there was no accommodation for them in a white hospital. Is this to be typical of the way the dependents of Negro soldiers are to be treated by the Red Cross?—MRS. ALICE ROAN, 105 Broadway, NYC.

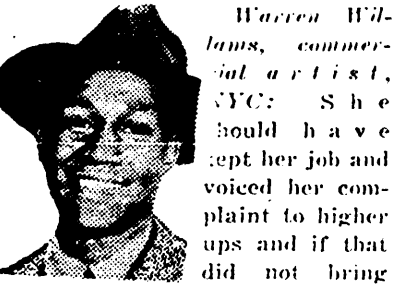
## The People:



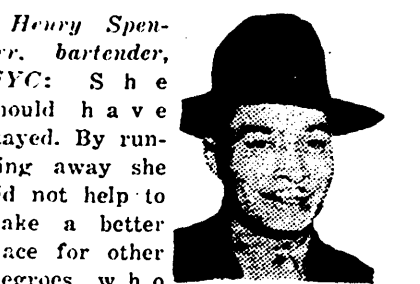
Nathaniel Smith, waiter, NYC: Yes, if there was a chance for advancement with a fight, she should have stayed. By staying and fighting she might have bettered conditions for others. Running away seldom pays. Cowards are easy to fight, and these people she ran from are cowards.



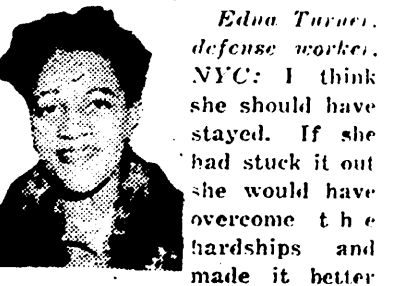
P. Albert Dade, mortician, NYC: It seems to me that she should have stayed. This girl represented her race and her race doesn't run away; it stands its ground and fights. Every fight it makes, the more respect it gains. She should have called for help.



Warren Williams, commercial artist, NYC: She should have kept her job and voiced her complaint to higher ups and if that did not bring results, she could have appealed to the FEPC or some other protective organization. Quitting in war-time is unpatriotic.



Henry Spencer, bartender, NYC: She should have stayed. By running away she did not help to make a better place for other Negroes who might follow. Race-haters must be stopped, and the best way is to expose them.



Edna Turner, defense worker, NYC: I think she should have stayed. If she had stuck it out she would have overcome the hardships and made it better for her colored girls coming in. She could have gotten help from the NAACP, the Urban League and other organizations.