

# MRS. ROOSEVELT PLEADS FOR JUSTICE, EQUALITY

## HAMPTON INST. HEARS ADDRESS BY FIRST LADY

### Cites Danger to American Democracy From Denial Of Minority Rights

HAMPTON INSTITUTE, Va.—Four things are necessary for maintenance of a democracy, Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt said Friday night, April 10, in an address at Hampton Institute, equality of all persons before the law; equal opportunity at education; equal employment opportunity in ratio to ability; and equal chance to participate in the government.

If anyone is barred from these four equalities, the President's wife said, the "obligation of democracy cannot be fulfilled." This followed a statement that it is "the job of civilians at home to set certain patterns for the soldiers to find when they return home."

Mrs. Roosevelt presented to Isaiah Grant, of Hopewell, Va., the National Youth Administration award offered to "the youth most valuable to war production" on the Hampton Institute NYA defense project.

Earlier in the day Mrs. Roosevelt and other members of the Julius Rosenwald Fund board of trustees, at Hampton for a two-day session were taken on an inspection tour of Langley Field.

The First Lady said that if the nation can say it has proved that a democracy can be made to work, it has something with which to go to other nations and make a peace.

The United States has not treated other races in other countries on an equal basis, she said, adding that Americans have an idea that whites are set apart.

"Then suddenly," she added, "the nation is at war and finds itself allied with the Chinese and the Filipinos."

Mrs. Roosevelt said that after the war, when the country starts to make a peace it has to realize "we are in a world growing closer daily. If we are going to live in peace, we must have respect for each other. If we hope to keep the peace, we must face world problems that affect everybody," she said.

This country, the First Lady said, is fighting so it can establish cooperation with all the world in order to remain at peace. There is only one way of being at peace, she said, and that is "by having love and respect for our fellow man."

"We cannot rightly talk about American Negroes after the war, or any of us after the war, without considering the war itself and its effects," Mrs. Roosevelt said. "We are all going to be affected by what happens during the war; what happens now has a lot to do with the situation after the war."

The war must be won, she told the students, because it is basically a war between two opposite philosophies—totalitarianism and democracy.

"I am not saying we have a perfect democracy," she said, adding that as long as this country can hold on to that philosophy "that is what we must fight for." In many places, democracy has not achieved the things it set out to do, she said; but to win the war the people must think of the objective, of what democracy stands for, and work toward that goal.

There is every evidence that people are gradually becoming educated to a more democratic way of life, Mrs. Roosevelt said, adding: "We need as individuals, to win

the war and the peace afterward, to face the problem of what democracy really means to us as equal citizens, not as minorities. Through this we must clarify many things in democracy at home and abroad.... Before this war is over we are going to be one people, allied to and fighting with other races. We must respect them and treat them with as much consideration as any other of our allies." People must learn respect for each individual as a human being, she said.

In a world rapidly growing closer together, she remarked that, "if we are going to live in peace we can't have contempt for each other. We must have respect for them and think of all our problems as world problems."

Civilians "left behind" have an obligation to make this country one for which it will be worthwhile to die; and it will be only worthwhile and a better country if the soldiers know those they love have a better place in which to live, the speaker said.

As the whole basis for peace and planning, "we must say we have proved that democracy can be made to work," Mrs. Roosevelt said, and this country must be made a living example to the rest of the world of what can be done. The post-war American policy, she said, should be one of "enlightened selfishness," designed to open new ways of intercourse between nations and help other nations develop.

It is evident, she said, that there is a better spirit of cooperation in the land. This nation, she said, is fighting "for more than self-preservation; it is fighting that we in the future can establish cooperation with all the world. In the last war we failed; thousands gave their lives thinking they gave them for something they did not get."

Mrs. Roosevelt's citation to Grant was presented because of his outstanding work over a nine-month period on the war production project at Hampton Institute.

Young Grant is participating in a woodworking project at the Tidewater Virginia college, making necessary furniture for the Norfolk Navy Yard and for various United States Housing projects. His group is now preparing for a program to turn out gun racks for the United States army.

He was selected as the most outstanding of 65 young men of the project and probably will begin work at the Norfolk Navy Yard within the next month as a ship joiner. The award is similar to 10 that will be given in each state April 15, to outstanding youths on the 10 largest NYA defense projects of these states.

The National Youth Administration has announced that awards will later be presented to the youth most valuable to war production in each state, and eventually a national winner will be selected.

The project at Hampton Institute began December 1, 1940 and has had enrolled 178 young men. According to local authorities, 68 percent of those who have finished the course are actually working directly in

defense industries, the largest group being at the Norfolk Navy Yard.

Grant was picked for the Hampton project by the NYA, directly after graduating from Carter G. Woodson high school.

Aubrey Williams, head of the National Youth Administration and T. Edmund Burke, state administrator, signed the certificates.

Other members of the board of trustees of the Julius Rosenwald Fund who were present at the annual meeting on the Hampton Institute campus and guests were: Marshall Field, III, of the Chicago Sun; Mr. and Mrs. Richard Frank, of Chicago; Leonard Rieser, of Chicago; Edwin R. Embree, president of the Julius Rosenwald Fund; William C. Haygood, director for fellowships for the Rosenwald Fund; Dr. M. O. Bousfield, director for Negro health for the Rosenwald Fund; Fred G. Wade, director for rural education for the Rosenwald Fund; Mark Ethridge, of the Louisville Courier-Journal, and member of the President's Committee on Fair Employment Practice; Dr. Franklin McLean, Mrs. David Levy, Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Stern, of New Orleans; Lessing Rosenwald, of the War Production Board; Charles S. Johnson, of Fisk university; Will W. Alexander, of the War Labor Board; Mrs. Dorothy Roosevelt, Robert C. Weaver, of the War Production Board; Miss Lillian Smith, Miss Paula Snelling, Raymond Paty, Miss Margaret Utley, and Miss Mary Elizabeth McKay.