

---

## CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE

---

In suggesting that colored citizens resort to civil disobedience in order to win their rightful demands for equal rights, A. Philip Randolph is guilty of the most dangerous demagoguery on record.

The "March-on-Washington" plan was bad enough, but alongside a call to civil disobedience, it seems quite sane.

For a stated period Mr. Randolph is suggesting that colored citizens disobey all jim-crow laws as a demonstration of their dissatisfaction with them (and pre-

sumably he is prepared to lead the way) but there is to be no violence!

Those who are foolish enough to follow Mr. Randolph's advice may not resort to violence, but the prejudiced white people of the jim-crow States where over three-fourths of the colored citizens reside will be under no compulsion to refrain from violence.

They will regard such a campaign as the opening of the race war which every Southern demagogue has proclaimed as imminent since the end of the Civil War; and how they will react, everybody who knows anything about the South well knows.

Mr. Randolph is suggesting that we follow the example of Gandhi's followers in India on the assumption that there is some similarity between conditions here and in that unfortunate country.

In India there are 390 million colored folk and about 250,000 white people; while in the U.S.A., there are 120 million white folk and 13 million colored folk.

Nevertheless, every civil disobedience campaign in India has not only ended in bloodshed and imprisonment of tens of thousands of Indians but has failed to win Indian independence. It may succeed in the future, but it has not done so in the past, either in India or South Africa. What makes Mr. Randolph or anyone else think it would succeed in this country, except in offering irresponsible and vicious elements an excuse for slaughtering thousands of colored citizens?

We would be much more alarmed by this latest Randolph bid for leadership, if we were not aware of the sound judgment and cynical sense of humor of the masses of colored people.

If Mr. Randolph calls for such a campaign at the scheduled spring conference of the March-on-Washington committee, we predict that thirteen million loyal American colored citizens will repudiate him with a loud and firm "NO!"