

THE TULSA RIOT AND THE AFRICAN BLOOD BROTHERHOOD

The African Blood Brotherhood has been accused by the Oklahoma State and military authorities of having "fomented and directed the Tulsa riot" and of being a "highly aggressive" organization "seeking to foment unrest among Negroes."

As pretty nearly everybody knows that the Tulsa riot was fomented by the malicious misrepresentation by the Tulsa white press as an attack, with the implication of rape, an exchange of words between a Negro man and a white woman, there is no need to answer the charge that the A. B. B. fomented the riot.

As to whether the Tulsa Post of the A. B. B. had any part in *organizing* and *directing* Negro defense once the riot had started—that is another matter, and something that the Oklahoma authorities can find out for themselves.

The accusation that the A. B. B. seeks to foment unrest among Negroes is false, and the white authorities of Oklahoma and all of their cracker brethren in other southern states know it to be such. The A. B. B. is organized not for aggression, but for protection of otherwise defenceless Negroes. We do not have to foment unrest among Negroes when unrest already exists among them. Agitation is not needed, since the white man's many acts of injustice and malicious cruelty serve the purpose all too effectively. The trouble with the white man is that he forgets that the Negro is human and will accordingly react in much the same manner as other humans to wrongs and injustices. Cruelty and kindness need no interpretation, but are their own interpreters. It is not necessary, as the white man seems to believe, for Negro "agitators" to interpret and explain to the Negro masses the white man's acts of injustice against them. Negroes do not have to be told that lynchings and mob murders are barbarous acts of injustice. Where there is injustice, what need to seek for other agitational causes?

As a matter of fact, however, the accusation against the A. B. B. comes not of an honest belief on the part of the Oklahoma authorities that this organization had any part in fomenting or starting the recent riot, but rather from a belief that we are responsible for the organization and tactics which enabled the attacked Negroes to defend themselves so effectively and elimin-

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ate the easy massacre of leaderless Negroes which in earlier years regularly featured the so-called race riots of that time. As to that, we neither deny nor affirm. We merely hope that all Negroes in the United States will be wise enough to emulate the national policies of the United States and prepare in event of wanton attack to sell their lives dearly. For this defensive and

essentially non-aggressive purpose we call upon all Negro men and women to enroll with the African Blood Brotherhood, a peace-loving but protective organization of red-blooded Negroes.

THE AFRICAN BLOOD
BROTHERHOOD,

Cyril V. Briggs, *Executive Head.*