

Mrs. Bethune Rips Home Rule

Urges America Clean Own House First

(Defender Washington Bureau)

WASHINGTON—America has a house cleaning job to do here at home before she can justifiably take the lead in setting up an international agency to promote cultural and educational cooperation throughout the world.

This was the note of sober admonition which Mrs. Mary McLeod Bethune, president of the National Council of Negro women, sounded at a conference called last week by the State Department to study and evaluate a tentative draft constitution for such an organization.

Mrs. Bethune and Dr. Alain Locke, Howard university faculty member and philosopher, were the only Negro representatives present.

"America has the opportunity, now it has never had before of facing its own weak points regarding the participation of all its peoples in the field of educational and cultural development here at home," Mrs. Bethune told the conference.

"Moreover," she added, "America has the opportunity of a life time to set an example for the rest of the world, but she must first demonstrate to the other nations that she has the courage to revamp her own program in a way that all of her people might have a full and just and equal participation in educational and cultural opportunities at home."

Try For Lasting Peace

Recommended by the San Francisco Conference, the Educational and Cultural Organizations propose to increase the understanding between nations and between peoples in order that lasting peace may be maintained.

To this end, it is intended to be an international clearing house for the exchange of ideas and information not merely between governments but between peoples everywhere.

The Constitution considered by the conference will serve as a working document at a United Nations Conference to be held at London in November to consider the new international organization for education and cultural affairs.