

4 Editors

Debate On

Negro, War

NEW YORK CITY. — Before a capacity audience, one of the largest of the season, editors of the Chicago Defender, the Survey Graphic, New Masses, and Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science, debated "The Color Question and the War" last Thursday at the book forum of the Schomburg Collection Negro Literature of the New York Public Library.

Explaining the point at issue, Harry McAlpin, chief of the Washington Bureau of the Chicago Defender, stated that the Defender's Victory Edition of September 26 was designed to unite ALL elements in the country — even the Westbrook Peglers and the governors of Georgia and Alabama. His assertion started a cross-fire of questions and comments from the audience and other editors.

A. B. Magil of The New Masses disagreed. He held that there could not be any worthwhile unity with Peglers or other "quislings." The New Masses, he continued, considered the question of Negro rights as important as the opening up of the "second front" and for this reason put out special numbers on both of these topics.

Dr. Alain Locke, who spoke for the Survey Graphic, said that his magazine represented "constructive liberalism," and that their special number of last November had received wide circulation outside of the United States as well as in this country.

Dr. J. B. Shalloo spoke for The Annals. He said that their special number of last September was barred from shipment abroad on the ground that Axis propagandists would pounce upon the accounts of discrimination in this country. He insisted that scholarly, sober, restrained articles in The Annals did the most good.

Members of the audience expressed amazement that four periodicals with such divergent points of view and political tendencies could agree so completely that the extension of full rights to the Negro and other minorities was essential to victory in the war and a real peace afterwards.