

OCT 15 1940

RELEASE:

CAPTAIN ELLIOTT ROOSEVELT

"Elliott Roosevelt, a son of the president, denies any favoritism was shown him when he was given a commission as a captain in the air corps," says the Denver Post, which adds: "Thousands of other Americans have volunteered and are volunteering. Many of them would not be subject to call under the draft. But are they being given commissions as a captain? Not much! They start in as privates." And the Chicago Daily News recalls, "His commission was granted within a few days after his father had signed the bill conscripting the nation's manpower for military service . . . He is given a post of distinction, authority, and honor by the very authorities charged with maintaining the impersonal impartiality of the draft machinery - the War Department and the President. Inevitably it breeds dubiety, distrust and cynicism concerning a matter on which the nation should be trustingly united."

In the same vein, the Kansas City Times points out that "Commissions as reserve officers are supposed to be made only after examinations and recommendations by an army board. As a usual thing new officers in the reserves begin with the lowest rank of second lieutenant and vacancies in the higher ranks are filled from the lower. For a specialist to come into the reserves with so high a rank as captain usually means eminence in his field. None of these requirements was met in the appointment of the President's son as captain." And the Savannah News says: "In defending his appointment, Elliott Roosevelt is quoted as saying: 'Under the terms of the act I would not be subject to call now under the draft because I have a wife and two children.' Mr. Roosevelt is in error."

On the other hand, the Norfolk Virginian-Pilot raises the point: "Is Elliott Roosevelt in duty bound to enlist as a private or wait for the draft? Of course not. Should the Army Air Corps give him a captain's commission? Of course not - unless this young man has real qualifications. That is the real question. In all the public debate about this issue of Elliott Roosevelt, the real question has received surprisingly little consideration." And William Randolph Hearst in the New York Journal-American writes: "What is all the fuss and nonsense about Mr. Elliott Roosevelt? That gentleman, an elder son of the President, in a spirit of patriotic enthusiasm, volunteers for Army service . . . He is over 31 years old, is a married man with a wife and two children, and would probably never be reached by the draft. He is a very competent executive, and has done well for himself in business . . . Your columnist can speak positively of his qualifications, because we employed him as manager of a radio system, and he performed unusually successful work. When a million citizens are assembled for military duties, some have to be executives. Why not the men who have records of executive ability?"

*Col. Tracy is in the President's cabinet but he takes a*

*Mr. Hearst commends him*

*Ellis #*