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Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

It was so nice seeing
you at the Gul Scout

Mr. Frederick M. Brooke

party. I only wish the
opportunity came often.

The Seign to which
the accompanying letters

refers is truly remarkable
also like all Americans of
his age, he has the urge to
be active in combat. While
those who know him believe
to be possessing a talent which
should be used for morale
building. With affection
Texas Brooks

[Academy]

THE ACADEMY OF VOCAL ARTS

1920 SPRUCE STREET

PENNYPACKER 1685

PHILADELPHIA-3

February 7, 1945

Honorable Franklin D. Roosevelt
President of the United States and Commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

Because you are Sally Moore's President and mine as well, I take the liberty of introducing myself as the founder and president of the school which gave Sally Moore her training. It is a school for the development of the most talented of American singers - without tuition fees. We are proud of Sally Moore - the American 'Schuman-Heink' we call her - and proud, too, of your valuable commendation.

May I ask you, Mr. President, the following questions? What are we to do with the male counterparts of Sally Moore? What is the relative worth of a young American's contribution to the nation at war - as artist or soldier? I am not speaking of the rank and file of singers and actors - worthy though they may be. I have in mind a boy, a colleague of Sally Moore, who was destined to be the greatest singer-actor, not only of America, but of the world; who was destined to proclaim America's coming-of-age in a world of Art where Europe had been preeminent; who would now have been the proudest Ambassador of American culture and goodwill throughout this hemisphere and wherever the short wave might have carried his divine voice, had he not seen fit to enlist in the Air Corps where he has served two years and is now slated for the Pacific area.

To learn if his life's dream and our high hopes had been justified, this boy asked for auditions at the Metropolitan, the New Opera, and the N.B.C. Contracts from all three were literally thrust into his hands. On the next day he enlisted in the Armed Forces of the United States, which carries sufficient commentary upon the character and value of this American citizen.

But, Mr. President, I feel I would be failing in my duty

both as an American citizen and as a patron of Music if I did not ask: Should this God-given talent not be put to some more useful end, such as the service of Art on the Home Front, where music may be both entertainment and a spiritual force - and, through radio, reach the far-flung fighting fronts and Home Fronts of all other nations as well? Could he not be given a deferment, a partial deferment, detailed to the Red Cross, the U.S.O., or the Morale Division - or literally be inducted into a Crusade for American culture? For years the Metropolitan has searched high and low for an American to fill the roles of Wotan, Hans Sachs, Boris, etc. and finally found such a "white hope" in the person of Lt. James A. Pease, O-821070, Pilot Room, L.A.A.F., Laredo, Texas - only to lose him immediately.

Indeed, it would be a stroke of ironic justice if this boy were so inducted. Imagine an American who sings German opera better than any German! An American boy who looks more like Siegfried than any 'Nordic'! An American boy who impersonates outwardly and personifies inwardly Wagner's Ideal German, Hans Sachs, more completely than any German! An American boy - without a drop of German blood in his veins - proving the Universality of the poetic Ideal of Hero-Poet-Singer which a Germany of a former day created! Or, as Mrs. Lytle Hull, sponsor of the New Opera, put it: "James Pease should be kept in cotton for America - he should not even be allowed in an airplane". And his American-born teacher - of German extraction, said: "That boy should have been saved above all others - for there is not another like him. It is nothing less than a cultural crime for that boy to be piloting a bomber when he carries in his own person enough talent to explode forever the Nazi theory of 'superiority' - and on their own ground, too - their damnably great German music!"

Trusting something may be done in this matter,

Very sincerely yours,

Helen C. Warden

Helen C. Warden
(Mrs. Clarence A. Warden)