La Fayette, Ill
March 23-1945

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt,

I am taking the liberty of writing you as a mother whose son is in service. This clipping that I saw enclosing is in my opinion a disgrace and is certainly injurious to the morale of our boys. You have been out in the Pacific and I am sure you know that mail is just the only thing those boys on those forsaken and desolate islands have to look forward to. I know it to be so from my son letters. He has not received any Christmas packages but said they knew where their packages were. Many parents have sent things
of value such as watches and fountain pens. My son said many of his buddies parents had started hoping to them with such things but like my son they have not received theirs either. I just feel as let down when I read the enclosed article for the packages are the only thing and alas Christmas was the only time we can send the boys things.
I have put a lot of thought on the injustice of it and it won't be as long before the papers will again be stressing the point about "mailing packages overseas for Christmas and I suppose again" the promise that the boys will receive them in time for Christmas. I feel that you will make an effort to see that some wheels are started rolling to set the situation right. Surely if the government can spare ships to bring those horrible prisoners for us to feed and care for, some can be spared to at least take the Christmas hope to the boys who are so valiantly
fighting to keep them away.

I also think it very unjust that the ships can be spared to bring those prisoners to our shores to be well fed and well housed and still no ships can be spared to bring our boys from the Pacific unless they have been there 30 months at least.

Very sincerely,

Mrs. Ben Button

La Fayette

Illinois
Fulton Declares
Many Packages
Are Unclaimed

Washington—(AP)—Rep. Fulton
(R. Pa.) said today millions of
unclaimed and undelivered Christ-
mas packages for members of
the armed forces are stacked in
Pacific military bases.
He told a reporter he will rec-
ommend that Congress suggest
turning the packages over to the
American Red Cross to be dis-
tributed to GI's who were forgot-
ten at Christmas.
The packages haven't been de-
ivered, Fulton said, because of
battle casualties, transfers and
various other reasons. Many con-
tain perishable food, candy and
other delicacies.
"There are 32,000 mail bags at
one Pacific base alone," said the
congressman who recently return-
ed from navy duty in the Pa-
ic. "At another base I counted
300 mail sacks stacked right out a
the rain and weather."
April 11, 1945
Dade City, Fla.

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Please excuse my writing in pencil as I am just getting over a very bad sick spell. More or less on the ordinary of a breakdown and am still in bed so please excuse my writing too.

In fact I am very sorry to be writing and disturbing you people at all but am desperate and do not know what to do.

I am a service man's wife with three children to look out for and as I said before am most sick from nerves.

He came here to live nine months ago. I took the present
apartment of three rooms thinking at the end of a couple weeks I could get better and cheaper. We lived in one room and could not cook and I just had to have a place so we came across this three rooms and the landlord ask $35.00 rent but didn't care especially for children. Well, I told my husband when he came in from camp and he said to offer him $40 so I did and the man's great greed for money made him accept. So for nine months that's what I've paid and before two weeks were up he tacked on an extra $4.25 for electric. Well I tried so hard to find another place but everywhere I went and anyone ask where I lived and I'd tell them they'd laugh. Now Mrs Roosevelt what folks had to say or hinted had no bearing on my feeling toward these people but I did find out for myself. Now when we first moved here it was nothing for these people to come tramping through our part as if they still had possession of it and we
were only visitors.

When we came here we had the use of their tubs to wash and their iron and ironing board and we had to furnish our own dishes, bed covers and sheets. All that in these rooms is just a table and 4 chairs - a stove and ice box. An old wicker set in the parlor and a bed and dresser in the bed room. But outside the ugly furniture I'd be perversitating if I said they were not fairly nice room.

We have the use of a pretty
nice bathroom with the back apartment.
Now when I first came here beside my rent and electric
I would buy chicken, eggs and oranges and a little
wood and kerosene off of them. And when my
check came paid them anywhere from nine to
eleven dollars for these services which I could
have gone up town and
 gotten much less a price.
Now Mrs. Roosevelt this stuff is all immaterial, I
guess I am going the long
Fighting every trace. By now and all
as a student, and by your going
and have never touched politics."

"We can understand your position, but
"The moment our duty is to get
"It has not been your fault, but
"Long ago, Long ago do at this age
"Depending on account of my own and
"After that day did have a lock to move
"I am more emphasized in schools
"Inward, inward, no inward, and
"What must I tomorrow fear to grow
"get what is sent for us our
"0.02, or their way was poor
"pound to me do, discourage me-
"By my answer.
Of course I paid her but she didn’t want to take anything but I made her as I appreciated not only the favor but her friendliness. Then later on as she got to feeling worse I did her washing and mine too until I became so sick myself that I’ve been unable to get around which has been about 6 weeks now.

Last week, two different neighbors took me out in their cars and the change did wonders for me. I felt much better and was beginning to regain some of my lost strength when day...
before yesterday I went down to this one neighbor's house that had seemed so nice as I was not feeling so well and thought a little diversion would kind of pick me up a little. You know, kind of forget myself. Well, everything went alright until on my way back I had to pass over this landlord's land just a few feet and I honestly thought it was a street as a neighbor woman had told me it was. Well, the old landlord was out and he turned the hose across from his house to the chicken fence so I couldn't pass and proceeded...
To order me not to cross there to my neighbors and I told him I wouldn’t and started on for home. Then his wife ran out and headed me off. She wanted to really fight and as I wasn’t feeling well I couldn’t. But we had a few words and when she saw she wasn’t working me up she spit out the words and said this neighbor woman where I had just came from had asked her to order me away from her house. So naturally I went back and ask the lady so I could apologize for being a nuisance and the lady told me no she had never make the remark and then the landlady flew at her and used both profane and vulgar language at her and the lady said for her and I to fight it that she had nothing in it which was well and right for her and her own privilege. And I started to come on, hound and we had a few more words as the neighbor woman (the landlady’s wife) called the other neighbor a very undignified name and I told her and her husband right to their face that I found them to be the ones who were the first
of the name and turned to come on home. As soon as I had my back turned this landlady took her most hand and punched me in the back with it to such an extent that it put me back where I was a month ago. Sick and nervous, I had her arrested because you see Mrs. Roosevelt, I've had so many operations and on account of them my back is very weak and sore. Especially over the spot where I had my gall-bladder out and that is where she kept punching me, at the time fully aware of the fact that I am not well.
I haven't been exercising, I've been here. And do you have any idea what these Southern folks did for me? They all stuck together and laughed right in my face and made fun of me. The Chief of Police and another man (both Southerners) tricked me all they could for me but after it left their hands I got railroaded and in a place where an oath was taken to God, our Maker it was turned into a little short of being a free ride. My husband did not even bother to testify. But I was ordered to leave their apartment by the first of the month and pay costs.
or be haled into court by May 2nd. And the old guy said he'd make me smart. He'll tell the judge to make me smart. Well, as far as I am concerned, it will go down. I want it to. Both the neighbor woman and her step sister admitted to the chief that they saw and heard it all. And if I don't get far I sure hope what read way I do make that other soldier's wives will benefit by it. For I'm not the only private man's wife suffering. There are millions. You'll never know.

But I sure need help and badly Mrs. Roosevelt. If there is anyway. Please let me know. Sincerely and with respect Mrs. Joe C. Byerly.
P.S. Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I must surely have seemed irrational as I struggled along writing this letter but every word is from my heart and the purest of them as if I'd been under a sacred oath. But I've slept on it all night. But I still didn't get at what I really meant. I didn't write it to make myself out sanctimoniously personified. I am just as human and ugly as the next fellow to gain a point. But I'm not unfair.

And my main point of writing is to ask about this O.A.A. Rent Control. Does it not apply to all cities and towns etc., in the U.S.A.?
At present right here the landowners are going crazy raising their rent. I went up here inmade City to see about my place and was told to go to Tampa. I went to Tampa last Friday and was told there is no rent control in Pasco Co.

The other folks that lived in their three rooms paid $5.00 rent. The place isn't really worth that. Three of their other tenants have moved out on their account. I mean their gossip and insinuations, they even stand outside our windows and look in. Even in broad daylight and have been in my house and the two neighbor houses while we were absent. Last Sunday was the first time since Aug. 16th when I moved in here that I could lock my three rooms air tight. As soon as my neighbors left with their last load of furniture (this is suppose to be a double house) I left the landowners think I was leaving too. The other folks hadn't gotten all block away until they man and his wife hurried into their apartment (of 4 rooms that rented to anyone without
without children for $35.00 plus $4.25 for electric) and instead of inspecting that apartment they made a dash for my kitchen door and tried to gain entrance.

Again please forgive me this interruption especially since there are so many more important things going on! But as my poor children and I are in direct need. Please guide me. You may think I waste my money. I get $20.00 a day $11.25 rent. From $10.00 for lunch at school for my children. $2.50 at least for ice, about the same for kerosene. And Try
To give a storekeeper at least five dollars out of that for a bill he said good enough to let me run when I lost $600 in Nov.

And may I add here too. I gave $600 to my husband when I got my check last week and someone stole it. We do not know who.

But my money was in an Army wallet with both my name and my husband's name written and typed. I mean what else I will close now.

Please forgive me for annoying you so. And also
Thank you kindly for following me this far. I surely wouldn’t blame you if you hadn’t. Whatever your answer to me is, Mrs. Roosevelt, if any (but I hope I do get one) I will abide by it. You are the mother of our country to me, and if I’ve blundered and acted impertinent, I am sorry and will try to make right my wrong. And if I’m right, I’ll thank God and you too that I’ve proven to myself that I am fitter than I’ve credited myself to be.

Best regards. Sincerely,

Mrs. Bryce
I have some thing to
tell you, we had a visitor from
the good old U.S.A. and it happened
to be Mrs. Roosevelt. I think it was
good to have some one from the
States to visit us.
Letter from soldier in I. W. Pacific dated Sept. 8, 1943