Williams, Charl O.
1946 - 48

NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES
1201 SIXTEENTH STREET, N. W., WASHINGTON 6, D. C.

Williams, C

February 21, 1946

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt
Apartment 15-A
29 Washington Square, West
New York 11, New York

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

It was so good to see your photo in the paper and to actually know that you were safe and sound. We are all looking forward with the greatest interest to hearing your report as a delegate to the General Assembly of the United Nations.

Much enthusiasm has been aroused throughout the city over this dinner for you — already the entire floor of the Grand Ballroom of the Mayflower Hotel and the Chinese Room is filled, and people who were assigned one table are asking now if they may have two or more. We expect to fill the Ballroom and the entire balcony to capacity.

There is an enormous amount of detail in an assignment of this kind. Just to give you one example, let me tell you that I called the State Department no less than six times and conferred with almost as many people to learn your exact title to use on the invitations and the program. I am enclosing a copy of the invitation which will be printed on a heavy white card. I insisted on economizing on the invitations which are quite appropriate in order to make the programs what I thought they ought to be.

I think you will be pleased, too, to know that we are charging only $5.00 for this dinner which is the very minimum. Many women who belong to these organizations have homes, families, and heavy responsibilities and I did not think that we should go over that price, even though numbers of people have thought that we should have charged $7.50. Because so much of the work will be done in my office without expense to the Women's Joint Congressional Committee the minimum charge of $5.00, I believe, will be enough.

This morning I am mailing a mimeographed letter to every member of the Women's Joint Congressional Committee giving them all the information I know at the present time. I can only take charge of this dinner in a business-like fashion. A copy of that letter is enclosed. I cannot imagine telling all these details to any other honor guest <u>except yourself</u>.

I am keenly interested in your speech which ought to stand as the greatest one you have ever made. I hope that you will write it so that the organizations may have copies of it for their files. Our successors will be quoting you down the ages. I should like to have a copy of it printed in the Congressional Record. Some of the things that you have been writing are some of the things that we hope you will say on this occasion — why more women should have been sent to London; what their contribution was and might have been; what the women in this country and throughout the world owe to this organization as the best hope for peace through the years to come; how women should take part in local, state, and national affairs as a partial preparation for work in the international field. These are not new thoughts I am suggesting to you for you have spoken them and written them many, many times.

After talking with Miss Thompson over the phone I made a reservation for a complimentary room, according to her suggestions, for you at the Mayflower Hotel for the day of March 14.

We want to send you some flowers to wear to the dinner and I have thought of orchids. If you have any other preference please let me know.

I shall be writing you again probably before I see you at the dinner.

Affectionately yours,

Charl

Charl Ormond Williams

CCW/b

In honor of

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt

United States Delegate

to the General Assembly of the United Nations

The Women's Joint Congressional Committee

of Washington, D. C.

requests the pleasure of your company at a dinner

Thursday the fourteenth of March

at seven o'clock

Grand Ballroom of the Mayflower Hotel

Please reply promptly

1201 Sixteenth Street, N.W.
Washington 6, D. C.
February 20, 1946

To the Delegates of the Women's Joint
Congressional Committee

Dear Friend and Co-worker:

On Thursday, February 7, upon invitation of our chairman, Mrs. Irwin, I met with the executive committee of the Women's Joint Congressional Committee and with our past chairman, Miss Leeper. This group of women asked me to serve as chairman of the dinner to be given in the Grand Ballroom of the Mayflower Hotel on Thursday, March 14, at seven o'clock, each ticket to cost $5.00.

That evening I wrote an airmail letter to Mrs. Roosevelt in London and, in record time received two replies from her in one mail, indicating her interest in the dinner and her intention to work out her schedule to make it possible.

On Friday, February 15, I telephoned twice to Miss Malvina Thompson, Mrs. Roosevelt's secretary, and asked her secretary to have Miss Thompson call me collect. This she did in a very short time, and she promised to let me know definitely if Mrs. Roosevelt could be here on the date set aside for this dinner. At 8:47 p.m., February 18, Miss Thompson wired me the following telegram:

> LETTER FROM MRS. ROOSEVELT INDICATES HER DESIRE TO BE IN WASHINGTON FOR MARCH 14TH DATE AND LECTURE BUREAU SAYS IT CAN BE ARRANGED.
>
> Malvina C. Thompson

In the meantime, the committee had met three times and I now have given the order to Brewood for the invitations that will go only to the honor guests and certain individuals the committee believes should be invited. The tickets have also been ordered, and the work on the program is practically completed.

This dinner is without precedent in the history of our nation. Mindful of this fact, I want you to know that I shall leave no stone unturned to make this occasion worthy of our honor guest. In everything that I try to do, I shall want and need the cooperation of every single member of the Women's Joint Congressional Committee.

In order to facilitate the work which goes with such an undertaking, it seemed to me wise — and Mrs. Irwin approved — to send you this letter. The tentative plans for the program, which are not to be given out, are:

Mrs. Irwin to preside
The President of the United States to introduce Mrs. Roosevelt
(not yet certain)
Mrs. Roosevelt to make the speech of the evening
The Chaplain of the United States Senate to give the invocation
The United States Marine Orchestra to furnish the music
An opera star, we hope, to sing

There will be an array of distinguished persons at the head table, though the list is not yet complete.

We are counting upon the 22 organizations of the WJCC to furnish at least three-fourth of the paying guests for this very big dinner. It will be helpful to you to know of the final plan we have made out for receiving the money for the tables and for seating the guests. Miss Agnes Winn, recently retired from the National Education Association and for years an alternate on the WJCC, has been appointed by the dinner committee as treasurer for the dinner. Please read carefully the attached page of instructions and follow them to the letter.

Although this is a mammoth task for me and my first assignment of this kind, I undertake it with enthusiasm because of the great work Mrs. Roosevelt has done for women, for education, for citizenship, and for human wolfare and peace. For me personally, it is a labor of love because she has done much for me.

Sincerely yours,

Charl Ormond Williams

Charl Ormond Williams
Chairman of the Dinner Committee

P.S. This letter is being sent to the alternates and representatives of the 22 organizations of the WJCC for their information.

IMPORTANT INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE DINNER FOR MRS. ROOSEVELT ON MARCH 14, AT 7:00 P.M. AT THE MAYFLOWER HOTEL

1. Mrs. Ottenberg is in charge of the organization tables, and her telephone number is RANDOLPH 0895. Please keep in touch with her.

2. Miss Agnes Winn has been appointed by the dinner committee as treasurer for the dinner. Therefore, all checks should be made out to Miss Agnes, Winn, treasurer.

3. Each of the 22 organizations has been assigned the minimum of three tables seating ten people at each one. The delegates of the 22 organizations who are filling these tables should, at the earliest possible date, either send or bring to me at my office address below, the following items, allowing a separate envelope for each table:

   (a) The money for each table — $50.00 — preferably in checks — made to Miss Agnes Winn, treasurer.
   (b) The complete list of the full names and addresses of the 10 persons to be seated at each table.
   (c) The delegate's own name as sender of the list.

4. The first 22 tables have been reserved for the 22 organizations, and the executive committee will draw for the organizations as to which table will be assigned to each one. At these tables, the organizations will want to seat their presidents and ranking officers and any important guests they may invite.

5. The tables will be assigned as soon as possible and tickets will be mailed from my office to each person who has purchased a ticket through your organization.

6. Please let us know also if your organization can use an additional table, and — what is more important — whether or not you can fill the three tables assigned. We must have this information not later than February 26.

7. Arrangements have been made with the American Security and Trust Company, less than two blocks from my office, to take care of all funds collected for this dinner for the WJCC. Miss Winn will receive and deposit the money daily and will keep an accurate account of every transaction. When the dinner is over and all bills are paid, this account will be audited by an auditor, as well as by the executive committee of the WJCC, and a report will be given at the following meeting of the WJCC to be made a part of our minutes.

Charl Ormond Williams

Charl Ormond Williams
Chairman of the Dinner Committee
1201 Sixteenth Street, N. W.
Washington 6, D. C.

NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES
1201 SIXTEENTH STREET, N. W., WASHINGTON 6, D. C.

April 25, 1946

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt
Hyde Park
New York

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

The enclosed correspondence with Tiffany and Company will tell you that I shall, within four or five weeks, be the proud possessor of the beautiful silver tray on which I shall have engraved the last letter you wrote me from the White House. I expected the firm to grant my request in view of the letter of explanation of what I wanted to do with this tray.

I feel very happy and proud when I think that a place will be found for them in the President's library at Hyde Park, and I shall be writing you later on about the final disposition of these two great treasures of mine, beyond price.

Faithfully and affectionately,

Charl Ormond Williams

Charl Ormond Williams

Very good
Fde

TIFFANY & CO.
Fifth Avenue & 57th Street
New York 22
Telephone, PLaza 5-6000

April 25, 1946

Miss Charl Ormond Williams,
National Education Association of the U.S.
1201 Sixteenth Street, NW,
Washington 6, D. C.

Dear Madam:

We are pleased to inform you that under the conditions you explain in your letter of April 16th, we have entered your order for a silver tray pattern #21298.

About one month to five weeks will be required to complete the work.

Respectfully,

TIFFANY & CO.

ZS/DMP

This will be the fourth historic and commemorative piece of silver which I have bought and had engraved by Tiffany's. I do not need to tell you that I am very proud of them.

Yours truly,

Charl Ormond Williams

w/e

April 25, 1946

Tiffany and Company
Fifth Avenue and 57th Street
New York 22, New York

Gentlemen:

I want to thank you very much for your letter of April 23 which was sent in prompt reply to my special request of April 16.

I am writing in this mail to Mr. Barry, asking him to notify me when the tray is ready so that I may plan a trip to New York at that time to see about having it engraved.

This will be the fourth historic and commemorative piece of silver which I have bought and had engraved by Tiffany's. I do not need to tell you that I am very proud of them.

Yours truly,

Charl Osmond Williams

w/c

April 24, 1946

Mr. W. R. Barry
Tiffany and Company
Fifth Avenue and 37th Street
New York 22, New York

Dear Mr. Barry:

Your suggestion to me during my last vi
was followed through imm
the enclosed letter from
I am assuming that you ha
that the tray I want, $21
the next four or five weeks.

If you will be good enough to notify me when it is ready, I may be able to plan a trip to New York at that time. In the meantime, will you please send me the price of this tray.

I appreciate very much your interest in this and the three other historic and commemorative pieces of silver which I have bought from you.

Yours sincerely,

Affectionately,

Charl Ormond Williams

Williams, C

November 9, 1946

Dear Charl Williams:

Your two letters of November 7th, arrived together and I am delighted to know you saw Jimmy and perhaps prepared him for the defeat which was coming. At least Helen Gahagen Douglas was re-elected and re-elected in spite of her service here on the United Nations, which I think speaks very well for the fact that she made a clear record which counted.

You sound as though you had had a tremendous amount of travelling and you must be worn out. In spite of that, you are a staunch Democrat and a good fighter. I like to feel that you will pick up the pieces and go on. It is true that we lack leadership, but perhaps we will pull ourselves together and keep going.

Let me know when you come to New York. At the moment every minute of my time is taken up by the United Nations. The work seems to move slowly, but I feel something is being accomplished.

Affectionately,

NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES
1201 SIXTEENTH STREET, N. W., WASHINGTON 6, D. C.

November 7, 1946

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt
Apartment 15-A
29 Washington Square West
New York 11, New York

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

The hunter is home from the hills and much the worse for the hunting. I left my office August 10 and traveled to Arizona, California, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Utah, Kansas, Washington, D. C., New York, and back to Wichita, Kansas, from which I returned to my office on Monday, November 4.

I was just in time to send my ballot to Tennessee, via air mail, special delivery. My state was not in danger, but I felt I should vote anyway. The Democrats suffered a smashing defeat yesterday. I listened over the radio until 1:00 in the morning, but I do not yet know the final results. Undoubtedly the story tonight will be much worse than last night.

During this long trip I saw enough people and heard enough talk to convince me that the Democrats were in for a record defeat. The party and the nation have been without leadership — this includes the President of the United States, the chairman of the Democratic National Committee, and party leaders in Congress. Loyal rock-ribbed Democrat as I am, I could feel no sense of enthusiasm as in former days. I sent my check as a matter of course, but I was powerless to make any other contribution.

President Truman lost, needlessly, the women's vote. I gave him a wonderful opportunity to speak to women and to win their support when I invited him to introduce you at that historic dinner on March 14, 1946. Did I ever write you that a friend of mine was called to the White House about March 24, during which time this dinner was discussed? The secretary admitted that a mistake had been made — but that they couldn't be expected to be right all the time. All that we can do now is to hope and pray for the best. There may be dark days ahead of us.

I do hope, my dear, that you are not feeling any ill effects of that accident. I saw in Life Magazine two very nice photographs of you — before and after the accident. I do hope the new teeth are pleasing to you. I never saw anything wrong with the others.

I must tell you that I called to see James in Los Angeles — in large part to get a personal report of you since I had failed to see Anna in Phoenix. James was having a committee meeting of Negro men and women when I went into his office, and then he and I had a very nice visit. He has a very delightful personality. We discussed the political outlook and he seemed a little startled that many old-line Democrats were not going to vote the Democratic ticket. They had told me so, and there was nothing I, or anybody else, could do about it.

Tomorrow I shall write to you about one or two other important things.

Affectionately,

Charl Ormond Williams

Charl Ormond Williams

COW/b

NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES
1201 SIXTEENTH STREET, N. W., WASHINGTON 6, D. C.

November 7, 1946

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt
Apartment 15-A
29 Washington Square, West
New York 11, New York

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

You do not know how grateful I am that, in spite of all the urging, the rumors, and the publicity, you definitely decided not to run for any office in your statement in Look Magazine, July 9, 1946. You can imagine, as well as I, what the anti-Roosevelt papers and forces in this country would be saying now if you had run, and gone down with the party. I never thought you would consent to run for governor, senator, or vice-president, or any other office, but, nonetheless, I was glad to have that forthright, wise statement from you published about four months ago.

I looked yesterday to see what you said about the election, but I realized that the article had been written the day before. Today at luncheon, I borrowed the Washington Daily News from a stranger to see if you mentioned it in your column. You wrote as if no election had been held. There isn't much you can say about it, and I suspect that you would not want to record your inner-most thoughts.

Many factors entered into the Democratic defeat, but some of those factors would not have loomed so large, or they might not have been in the picture at all, if our leadership had been dynamic, forceful, onward-going. In this country, it is recognized by everybody that the President of the United States is the leader of the political party that put him in the White House. It was pathetic to read in various papers the reasonswhy the President did not make an utterance during the campaign.

I still feel that the White House is vacant, as I have written you before. I am going there for luncheon on Wednesday, November 14, and I shall have this feeling intensified while I am there. I am to pour at a tea for Mrs. Truman on the afternoon of November 15 — the occasion sponsored by the Business and Professional Women's Club of Washington.

This is no time, however, for Democrats to give up the ghost. Well do I remember, when I came to Washington in 1922, that there were not enough Democrats in this city to hold a good-sized Sunday school picnic. The leaders in the party were absolutely without spirit. They have said, and the women know it, that the organization of the Woman's National Democratic Club brought the party to life. At that time, our clubhouse was an old, run-down residence on 17th Street, just across from the United States Chamber of Commerce building. The surroundings counted for nothing, but the spirit of the women was high and determined, and there and then the resuscitation of our party began. Every effort should be made now by Democrats everywhere to build again for the future.

Affectionately,

Charl Ormond Williams

Charl Ormond Williams

COW/b

National Congress of Parents and Teachers

NATIONAL OFFICE: 600 S. MICHIGAN BOULEVARD
CHICAGO 5, ILLINOIS

Yearly Grade

Well, I go to see her on Wed, the corner of Lafayette & Pennsylvania Ave. Wed. at 3

Lucy Randolph Mason

December 5, 1946

Mrs. Franklin Roosevelt
Apartment 15-A
29 Washington Square, W
New York 11, New York

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

After a hectic week here in Chicago with fourteen hundred 4-h Club Boys and Girls, with their state and national leaders, I am ready to fly to Tennessee and Arkansas early tommorow morning.

I shall return to Washington on December 18th and shall have ready for our conference on January 3rd, all the things I want to show you, and a memorandum of things I want to talk over with you on that day.

You will please let me know where and when I may see you. I shall make no appointments for that day until I hear from you, for I want to adjust my schedule to fit into your own.

I am looking forward with so much pleasure to seeing you again.

Affectionately yours,

Charl Ormond Williams

Charl Ormond Williams

COW/ap
dictated but not read

National Congress of Parents and Teachers

NATIONAL OFFICE: 600 S. MICHIGAN BOULEVARD
CHICAGO 5, ILLINOIS

December 5, 1946

Mrs. Franklin Roosevelt
Apartment 15-A
29 Washington Square, W.
New York 11, New York

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Your letter of November 26th telling me of your resignation from the President's Committee on Higher Education intrigued me. I must say that I felt a certain sense of relief, knowing as I do the problems that will have to be faced in that group. I do not see why, at this late date, you should become entangled in an issue that the National Education Association has not faced squarely itself, and seems so reluctant to discuss in the open.

You have faced enough difficult questions in your time and have been courageous, and even daring, in the stand you have taken on many issues. And now, I think you are entitled to take your place on the sidelines and watch those more deeply concerned that you are show the stuff of which they are made.

I have never sent the information I promised you about the American Council on Education soon after your appointment to that Commission, and now, it will not be necessary for you to have it. I wanted you to have a complete list of its membership, and a record of the money received from that membership. It was not available in our office at the time I searched for it--and I intended to write direct to the A.C.E. for it, but to date I have not done so.

However, from people who have been members of the Council for years, I learned that the total receipts from the membership would not maintain their headquarters' staff. Thus, you see the Council keeps itself going by funds from foundations or from the government. Hence these studies and survays.

Colleges--private and sectarian make up a large part of this membership, and this interest must be cared for. Knowing these facts you can readily discern the reason for placing on the agenda for discussion the question of federal financial aid to private and sectarian institutions.

This question will have to come into the open some day--and in my judgement, the sooner, the better.

If we had a federal department of education with a Secretary in the Presidents Cabinet, many of these studies could and should be made by that agency. It is a fact that the American Council on Education, the National Education Association and the Office of Education are all lukewarm to the proposal that such a department be created. I think the reasons are obvious but they certainly do not serve education.

If, as the work of this Commission develops, I hear of things that I think would be of interest to you, I shall still write you about them.

Affectionately,

Charl Ormond Williams

Charl Ormond Williams

COW/ap
dictated but not read

National Congress of Parents and Teachers

NATIONAL OFFICE: 600 S. MICHIGAN BOULEVARD
CHICAGO 5, ILLINOIS

December 5 1946

Mrs. Franklin Roosevelt
Apartment 15-A
39 Washington Square, W.
New York 11, N. Y.

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Soon after my arrival here a good Republican friend in Indianapolis' the "Gossip Column" contacted me about you.

Only one of the rumors had reached me, though I also heard Drew Pearson on the air the Sunday night before I left Washington on November 23 that, "Mrs. Roosevelt's friends were very much concerned about her health". I must say that I could not read even between the lines that you were in a state of decline and for that I am greatly relieved. I am more than grateful that I have never heard that you were dying of "Cancer", that would have shocked me because it could happen to any of us.

In my wildest dreams I would not have thought of you as planning another marriage, not that your age would be any barrier to that step. The question that would consume my thoughts would be, who on this earth would make any appeal to you after all you have had. That is certainly one question that I was not worried about.

While we are on the question of your age, I must tell you that when I got back from that ten weeks trip, I went through the accumulated issues of the Washington Daily News and tore out the pages which contained your column, I read them too, and you know to go through a stack of papers like that is some chore. I have never tried to keep a scrap book of your doings through the years, for that would have been impossible. Only a government agency could handle a job such as that; but I have tried to keep the things you have written since you left the White House. The column you wrote on your birthday was charmingly done and I meant to write you long before this about it. In that column and several others, as well as at the dinner in Washington, you dwelt on the fact that you were an <u>old lady</u>. Now I venture to make a request that you "cease and desist" for obvious reasons snce we are practically the same age and I am trying my best not to be old, I think it might help me if you do not periodically call attention to the fact! When I see you on January 3rd, I shall take a good long look at you and try to see whether there is some hidden malady that I know nothing about.

If both of us would only have the wisdom to take care of ourselves, we have a right to expect to live to an advanced old age. I am just egotistical enough to think that this old world might be a little bit better if we were to remain on deck for a good many more years.

Affectionately,

Charl Ormond Williams
ap.

Charl Ormond Williams

COW/ap
dictated but not read