Woodward, Ellen
1946-52

Woodward, E

FEDERAL SECURITY AGENCY
SOCIAL SECURITY BOARD
WASHINGTON, D. C

ARTHUR J. ALTMEYER, CHAIRMAN
ELLEN S. WOODWARD
GEORGE E. BIGGS

July 10, 1946

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt
Val-Kill Cottage
Hyde Park
Dutchess County, New York

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Your note enclosing a question that you propose to answer in the LADIES HOME JOURNAL did not reach me promptly on account of the July 4 holiday week-end. I hasten to reply.

Your proposed answer to the question is correct but I believe that it might be misinterpreted by some persons. I am attaching a suggestion which has been checked carefully. I don't believe it can be misinterpreted. I hope it will be useful to you.

Personally, I think the coverage of domestic workers and farm workers is most urgent. However, I believe that when the Congress finally acts, it may find it even less difficult to extend coverage to all workers than to any special groups on account of the various pressures.

I appreciate so much your letter of June 30 telling me that you will say something about the legislative items I proposed to The National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs. I also appreciate deeply your concern about the Social Security Board being abolished. We think that all signs point to the fact that the President's Reorganization Plans 1, 2 and 3 will go into effect on July 16. If so, the Board will be abolished as of that date. Many people feel that President Roosevelt in establishing the Board felt that a program of such far reaching importance to the lives of our people could be more objectively administered by a "bi-partisan Board" than by one administrator. At the present time, in our insurance program alone, there are approximately 83 million men and women who already have credits towards their Old-Age and Survivors Insurance. This is the largest insurance program in the world and of course will be much larger when coverage is extended to something like 20 million more persons. Confidentially, some of the group down the line in the Bureau of the Budget recommended the abolition of the Social Security Board—in fact, practically all of the recommended changes came from people within the Bureau of the Budget, many of whom have never had responsibility for the administration of any program. Personally, I don't think President Truman was fully aware of all of the proposed changes—he is sincerely in favor of better integration and the cutting out of duplicating functions. We all agree to the soundness of this position and the need for some of the proposed changes. Since the Social Security program

is still in its infancy and has made excellent progress during its short life toward the goals set forth by President Roosevelt, I felt that its energies should not be taken up with reorganization at this time but should be used to press harder than ever for the expanded program which is before the Congress.

It is the plan of Mr. Watson Miller, the Administrator of the Federal Security Agency, to set up directly under him an "Office of Social Security" which will have the responsibility of directing and supervising the insurance programs and the Public Assistance programs. Arthur Altmeyer has been asked to stay and become the Commissioner of this "Office of Social Security." I have urged Arthur to remain and to do everything possible to keep our program intact. After all, Mrs. Roosevelt, I cannot be selfish and worry about not having continuing responsibility for these programs, even though I have the deep satisfaction of feeling that I have made a real contribution to Social Security. No other person on the Board had the opportunity that I had to see and to know what insecurity does to people. We worked with this problem daily Nation-wide during the depression years and I have worked diligently as a Member of the Board to bring a realistic approach to all Social Security problems. It has given me great satisfaction to have a part in making the policies for this program.

Mr. Miller has asked me to remain in the Federal Security Agency and while the details of the position have not yet been completely worked out, I understand that I will be asked to direct what is tentatively called the "Office of Inter-Agency and International Relations." As I understand it, I would have responsibility for establishing relationships between the Federal Security Agency and all other Federal agencies (to work out related programs and to cut out duplication of effort). I would also be expected to be responsible for establishing proper liaison between this Agency and international agencies, foreign governments and organized groups that are active in the fields of health, education and Social Security. This could be a very challenging assignment—again I would be pioneering, since this would be the first effort of the Federal Security Agency to establish an Office in which all such relationships would be coordinated. Of course, my opportunity to be really effective will depend on the way the job sheet is written up and the authority that is given to me. Frankly, I will not accept this or any other position where my responsibilities would be great and my authority small. Life is too short and there are too many places for one to serve these days to take a position that would be continuously frustrating.

Since I can't see you immediately I am writing you very frankly about this matter because you were good enough to ask what the change means as far as I am personally concerned. You have always been so understanding and such a tower of strength to me. I always feel better after talking with you even through the medium of a letter.

Please forgive me for writing at such length—I know your hours are precious.

Much love and I shall hope to see you before so long.

Affectionately,

Ellen

I have again been asked by the State Dept. to be a member of the U. S. Delegation to the coming Unrra Conf. in Geneva to advise on welfare -

The young couple moved to New York where Franklin studied law. In addition to these studies he took an ever increasing interest in maritime problems, perhaps because since his childhood he had made many trips on the Hudson and perhaps because the interest in the sea was in his blood for he was descended through his mother from seafaring ancestors.

THE IDEALS OF FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT

Since the days of his childhood, Roosevelt engraved on his conscience and heart the following words:

> "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. That, to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed; that, whenever any form of government becomes destructive to these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or abolish it, and to institute a new government, laying its foundation on such principles, and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem likely to affect their safety and happiness."

These principles served as the basis for even the smallest actions and intentions of his life up to and during the period that he was President. Perhaps these ideas were part of his whole being, for one of his ancestors was Robert Livingston, who was one of the committee which composed the Declaration of Independence on May 7, 1776.

When he undertook his first electoral campaign, he became a Senator, he knew men, and was aware of the injustices that surrounded them. He was awake to their wishes and felt that he was capable of giving them what they wanted, for he was convinced that to reach this goal it was only necessary to work on the basis of the principles which had inspired the Declaration of Independence, namely, that "all men are created equal." To this his conscience added "and the governments are there only to protect these rights which the Creator has given man."

Retiring to private life after losing his campaign for the Vice-Presidency, he was stricken by a terrible sickness, infantile paralysis, which had not been well explored at that time, and therefore was difficult to cure--but after three years, through his will power and the care of his unselfish wife, he was able to overcome his handicap.

In 1929 Roosevelt triumphed and became Governor of the State of New York. He immediately directed an attack against the great monopolies. That year saw a fateful economic crisis and his measures were immediately resisted by the great trusts and millionaires, who said that he wanted to interfere with their businesses.

Soon afterwards, Roosevelt (who in the meantime had been elected to the Presidency), convoked a Pan American conference at Buenos Aires, known as the Interamerican Conference for the Consolidation of the Peace. In the inaugural address he made the following statement:

(abridged)

> "While expressing faith in the Western Hemisphere, we affirm that we will maintain and defend democratic, representative, constitutional government. We also will reaffirm our belief that through this form of government we shall be able to offer to the people the greatest extension of culture, education, ideas and free thought as well as the greatest measure of security and equality of opportunity for dignified living. In affirming these verities we shall be able to avoid rivalry in armaments and the rise of ill will. This form of government offers hope for peace and a more abundant life for the whole world. The faith in the Americas, therefore, is a spiritual one. Brotherhood in the Americas will be invulnerable as long as the American nations maintain that spirit."

This speech of Roosevelt became the cornerstone of Pan American unity. It initiated the real co-operation of the Latin American Republics with the Washington government. Franklin Delano Roosevelt was the one who really inspired all America with a feeling of solidarity through the good neighbor policy.

Of equal importance was the Interamerican Conference on World Peace, held at the Castle of Chapultepec in February, 1945. Its most important result was the Act of Chapultepec. It agrees with Franklin D. Roosevelt's ideas which he developed in 1934 at Chicago in his acceptance speech for the Presidential candidacy. Then he said, "I make you depositaries and I make myself responsible for a New Deal for the American people. I believe that the individual should have full liberty of action to develop in the measure of his or her abilities but I also believe that a few powerful men should not have the right to sacrifice half of the population of the United States as industrial cannon fodder for their notion of individualism."

THE PAN AMERICAN WORK OF FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

One of the first actions of his government was, and still is, of the highest benefit to the American people, because it founded and initiated the Good Neighbor Policy. The government of Roosevelt refused to yield to the influence of the Wall Street millionaires who up until then had dominated hemisphere policy, and through the mouth of Vice-President Wallace, Franklin D. Roosevelt said:

> "The stronger nations will have the privilege of helping the younger ones, but any kind of imperialism will have to cease. The men of America

must unite for defence, and still we can realize the dream of Bolivar, the dream of International co-operation with Justice, and respect for the rights of our fellow man."

Thus began the work of President Roosevelt for Pan American unity. He had declared that nations cannot live in isolation and that spiritual and moral unity in the Western Hemisphere was convenient and useful to the United States and therefore maintained the Good Neighbor Policy. The first practical action he took in favor of Pan Americanism was the acceptance of an agreement at Montevideo for the United States to abolish the so-called Platt Amendment in the treaty with Cuba.

The declaration of Chapultepec contained the ideas expressed in a speech Roosevelt had delivered two years before in Monterrey, when Mexico and the United States extended a cordial hand to each other. Said he: "We know that the time is definitely over, when exploitation of the resources and people of a country for the benefit of another country was the general rule. The hour has come when each citizen of each American country will have to recognize the fact that the Good Neighbor Policy means that damage to one country is damage done to each of them. We have finally recognized the principle of independence and now is the time to recognize that the interdependence of our countries constitutes a privilege."

On the 12th of April, 1945, the world was shaken by the news that Franklin Delano Roosevelt had died in his "Little White House" in Warm Springs, Georgia. But this great man has not died, his spirit throbs, lives and will live eternally in the entire Western Hemisphere.

Mexico, D. F. on the 8th of August, 1946

Tara Parra McNair, (signed)

14 years old, 2nd year, Group 12,
Day High School 11.

(countersigned) Director A. Garcia Corral.

Good to join
sponsoring comm
but doubt I can
attend the dinner

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October 30, 1946

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt
29 Washington Sq. West
New York, N. Y.

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

The Protocol Division of the United Nations has officially set aside the evening of November 27 for the "World Friendship Dinner". It will be given in behalf of the children of the world, in the Grand Ballroom of The Waldorf-Astoria. Your name has been selected to join the Sponsoring Committee.

The 51 United Nations will be represented. It is impossible to announce the full list of speakers today, but we are assured that the outstanding leaders of the United Nations, and the leading foreign ministers will speak at this truly significant dinner.

We have put great expectation into this event. We feel strongly that the cause of young people can provide us with a touchstone that will furnish inestimable help to the United Nations and the World.

Help us make this the important occasion it deserves to be. Please join, without obligation, our Sponsoring Committee.

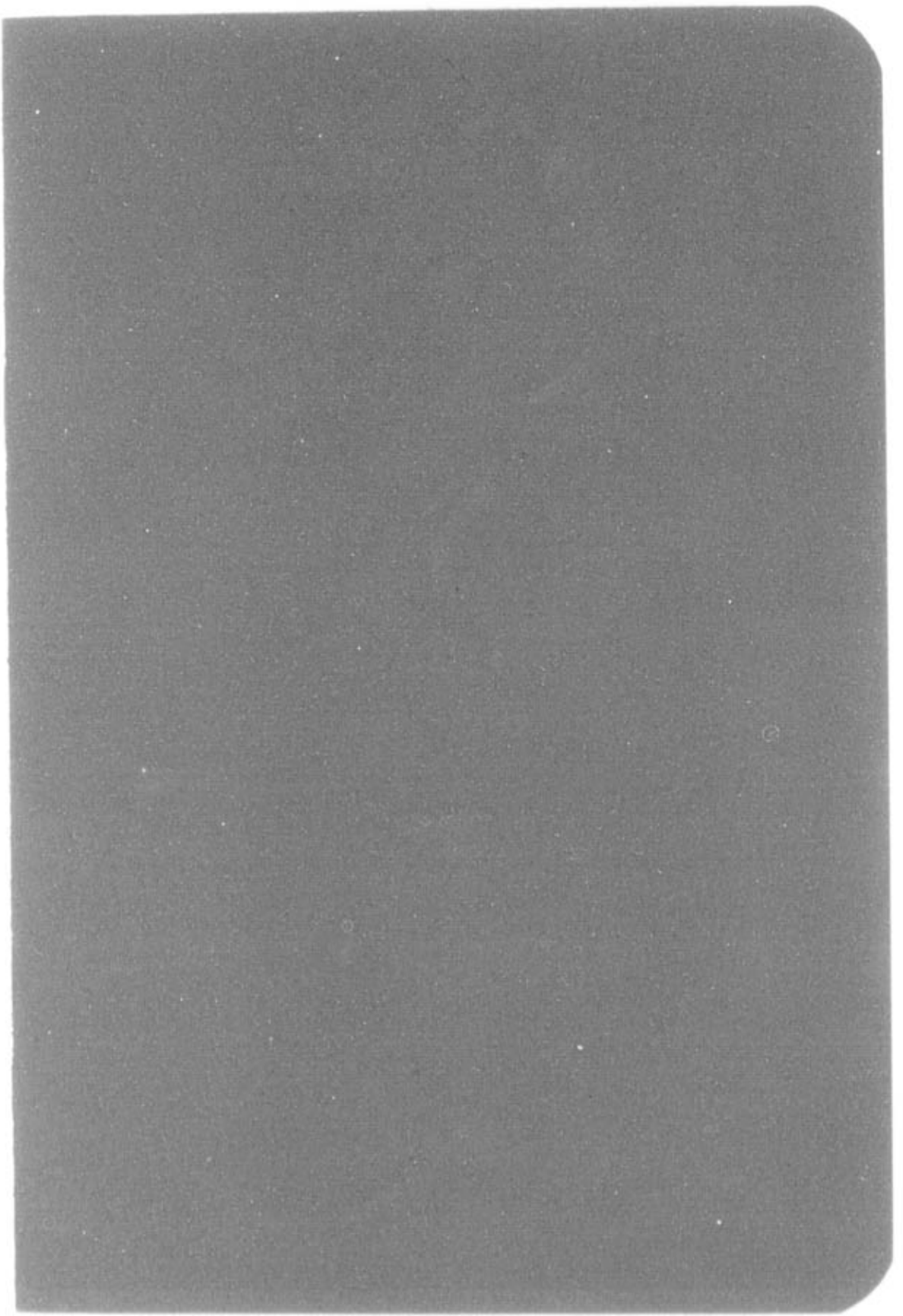
Most sincerely,

Helen Gahagan Douglas

cw

Helen Gahagan Douglas
Chairman
Member of the American Delegation
to the United Nations.

P.S. Will you kindly address all communications to our dinner headquarters, 14 West 49th Street, New York 20, N. Y.



This passport contains 8 pages

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促進世界友誼護照

PASSEPORT D'AMITIE MONDIAL

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世界友誼促進會預備會

CONSEIL D'AMITIE MONDIAL de L'Avenir

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U. S. A.

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No. de Passeport 1

Name of Bearer
Имя предъявителя
姓名
Nom du Titulaire FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

Citizen of
Гражданин
國籍
Citoyen de U.S.A.

Member of the United Nations
Член Объединенных Наций
聯合國會員國
Membre des Nations Unies

●

Photograph
Фотография
照像
Photo

●

Signature
Подпись
簽名
Signature

WORLD FRIENDSHIP PASSPORT

Description
Описание
Signalement FATHER OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Profession
Профессия
Profession FRIEND OF MANKIND

Head
Голова
頭
Tete HONEST

Eyes
Глаза
眼
Yeux DEPENDABLE

Hands
Руки
手
Mains SKILFUL

Special Peculiarities
Особые приметы
特別標識
Signes Particuliers WORKS FOR THE GOOD OF THE WORLD

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Страны и цели для которых этот паспорт действителен
前往之國家及其目的

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All Peace-loving nations
Все миролюбивые нации
凡往所有愛好和平之國家
Tous les pays aimant la paix

To promote friendship and the well-being of youth of all races, creeds and nations, to serve the United Nations and humanity as a whole
Способствовать дружбе и благосостоянию всех рас, всех вероисповеданий и наций. Обслуживать Объединенные Нации и человечество как целое.
目的在於促進不分種族，信仰及國籍青年之友誼與幸福，與時贊助聯合國及全體人類服務。
Pour propager l'amitie et le bien-etre de la jeunesse de toutes les races, croyances, et de tous pays, et de servir les Nations Unies et l'humanite

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Visas et Notes

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促進世界友誼護照

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Member of the United Nations
Член Объединенных Наций
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Membre des Nations Unies

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簽名
Signature

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Signalement

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Head
Голова
頭
Tete DEPENDABLE

Eyes
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All Peace-loving nations
Все миролюбивые нации
贈往所有愛好和平之國家
Tous les pays aimant la paix

To promote friendship and the well-being of youth of all races, creeds and nations, to serve the United Nations and humanity as a whole
Способствовать дружбе и благосостоянию всех рас, всех вероисповеданий и наций. Обслуживать Объединенные Нации и человечество как целое.
目的在於促進不分種族，信仰及國籍青年之友誼與幸福，同時為聯合國及各種人類服務。
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WORLD FRIENDSHIP DAY, MAY 8
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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
MRS. GERDA SCHAIRER

December 24th, 1946

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt,
29 Washington Square West,
New York 11,
N. Y.

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

May I send you enclosed your World Friendship Passport with the warmest wishes for 1947.

The members of the World Friendship Council of the Future were deeply moved by the speech with which you accepted the Passport for the late President. They intended to give your Passport to you on the occasion of the World Christmas Festival on December 15th but you were prevented by the Assembly to be present. Twenty five hundred children and students, selected by more than two hundred New York schools were present at this Festival.

The young members of the World Friendship Council of the Future, speaking for the New York schools, outlined again a number of projects for which they hope to get your support in 1947.

With best wishes for 1947, I remain,

Yours very sincerely,

Gerda Schairer
Executive Director

GS:SG

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

November 26, 1946

Dear Mrs. Douglas:

It is particularly gratifying to me to congratulate the youth of America and of the world on the occasion of their World Friendship meeting. I subscribe, and I know that every American parent subscribes to your own axiom: "War is the children's worst enemy."

It is heartening to know, then, that you are commencing your fight as young people to achieve a permanent peace, that you are waging peace now in the strong determination that waging war in the future will not be necessary. You are choosing the right weapons — the weapons of sincere friendship, common understanding, and mutual confidence. Your deeds will give practical expression to the high principles of the United Nations.

I commend your far-sighted program to break down the barriers of mistrust and suspicion. May God give you the strength, the courage, and the growth in wisdom, to build that better world we all so fervently desire.

Very sincerely yours,

Harry Truman

Mrs. Helen Gahagan Douglas,
Chairman,
World Friendship Dinner,
2 West 45th Street, Room 1704,
New York 19, N. Y.