

Cohan / COHEN

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May 9, 1947.

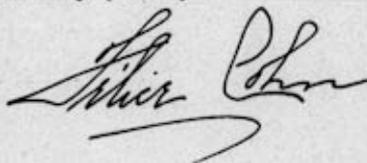
Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt  
Hyde Park, New York

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I am enclosing herewith an editorial which appeared in the Nevada State Journal on April 24 regarding our late beloved President, your husband, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, which, I believe, will be of interest to you. His fine record will always serve as a guiding light to Americans of all ages.

With all good wishes for your continued success as the foremost woman of America,

Sincerely yours,



Enclosure

FC:BSC

Cohn

# Nevada State Journal

Established November 23, 1870

A Newspaper for the Home

Merritt C. Spelde, President  
Joseph F. McDonald, Editor  
Joe F. Melcher, Advertising Manager

The Nevada State Journal is a member of Spelde News-  
papers, Inc., a national service organization promoting  
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interests of the community and the home.

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By Carrier, 50c per week, in Reno and Sparks.	
By Mail in Nevada and Northern California:	
One Year .....	\$9.00
Six Months .....	5.00
Three Months .....	2.50
One Month .....	1.00
By Mail to points outside Nevada and Northern California:	
One Year .....	\$11.00
Six Months .....	6.00
One Month .....	1.00

## COMPLIMENT TO ROOSEVELT

Opponents of the constitutional amend-  
ment limiting to two terms the tenure of  
office of the President of the United States  
say that it is a Republican slap at the late  
President Roosevelt.

Thirteen states have approved the amend-  
ment in the month since Congress passed the  
resolution but since few legislatures are in  
session now it will be nearly two years before  
further action will be taken.

The amendment is not a slap at President  
Roosevelt, who is the only man that ever  
served more than two terms. It might be  
construed as a compliment to him on the basis  
that the Congress and the people, repre-  
sented by legislatures, are afraid that no  
future president will have all the qualities  
that President Roosevelt possessed.

In seeking a third term and then a fourth  
term Mr. Roosevelt shattered tradition,  
precedent and an unlimited number of pol-  
itical objections and won.

Why did he win? Because of national and  
international conditions peculiar to his time  
and because he held the confidence of the  
great majority of the people. A master pol-  
itician, he retained the confidence of the  
voters by being two or three jumps ahead of  
his opponents at all times in dealing with  
domestic and international problems and  
furthermore because his opponents, both in  
his own party and in the Republican party,  
devoted their opposition to criticism only.  
They failed time after time to present a con-  
structive program and thus failed to attract  
votes.

We believe the amendment should be ap-  
proved by the states but it may take five  
years to obtain ratification by the necessary  
36 states. If 13 states fail to ratify within  
seven years the amendment will die.

It is not a partisan political issue in any  
sense.

Despite Mr. Roosevelt's fine record as  
president for more than three terms we be-  
lieve that two terms are enough. The pace  
is too great for any ordinary man to endure  
for more than two terms and furthermore a  
situation might develop in the future which  
would be less fortunate for the country than  
the tenure of Mr. Roosevelt.

Those who think the move is a slap at  
Mr. Roosevelt should console themselves with  
the thought that he will go down in history,  
if the amendment is passed, as the only man  
who ever spent more than eight years in the  
White House.

COPY

*Not sure Hall whether  
that about?*

June 27, 1947

Miss Helen Hall  
265 Henry Street  
New York, New York

Dear Miss Hall:

Unfortunately we were unable to reach each other by telephone and I am leaving the city early tomorrow.

Mrs. Keyserling informed me of your "decision", based upon what you state was a poll of ten board members in the New York area, to abandon the Washington office for the summer. This, of course, is contrary to board action establishing the office and to recent board action continuing the office for the summer. It was also done despite the fact that arrangements had been made for guaranteeing the financial support of the office in Washington during the summer.

In view of your apparent willingness to act unilaterally and in disregard of the by-laws of the Association and in view of your support of the New York Consumer Council, I herewith tender my resignation from the board and from the Association.

I take this action with real regret and only because it seems to me futile to attempt to support an organization which is hopelessly enmeshed in struggle for authority, personality difficulties, and ideological disagreement.

Very truly yours,

Wallace M. Cohen

cc Members of the Board of Directors  
Mr. David Ginsburg  
Mr. Isador Labin  
Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt  
Mr. Leon Henderson

1400

COPY

Cohen

July 10, 1947

Miss Helen Hall  
265 Henry Street  
New York, New York

Dear Miss Hall:

This is in reply to your letter of July 7, 1947, concerning my resignation from the N.A.C. and its Board. This bickering is distasteful to me; but I cannot permit your personal attack, based upon misstatements and distortions, to go unchallenged.

You state that Mrs. Keyserling informed you that I was "appointing a friend of Mrs. Rohr's at a salary of \$60 a week for three days a week" and that I "had made these plans for the summer - and the candidate seems to have felt that he was hired - without consulting the Chairman of the N.A.C." You state that "most people would agree that this alleged act was "unilateral and undemocratic." You imply that my willingness to assume any operating deficit for the summer led me to believe that I could presume to appoint a new executive. You state that "this lack of responsible team play (on my part) destroyed our confidence in leaving things at loose ends at the Washington office."

Let's look at the plain, unvarnished facts.

When Mrs. Rohr refused to accept the position of Executive Secretary for the summer, I looked around for a worthy successor whom you might appoint in her place. Robert Martin was recommended to me by a person in whom I have confidence. Whether he is Mrs. Rohr's friend I do not know, and I do not see what that has to do with the matter. I did not appoint Martin to any position. I did not offer him a salary. I have never seen Martin but have only spoken to him on the telephone. I asked him to arrange to see Mrs. Keyserling and Mr. Montgomery, both board members, with a view to obtaining their opinions before recommending him to you. I also would have interviewed him had I not been called out of the City. Far from appointing him, I left the determination entirely to other Board members and to yourself. I have just talked to Mrs. Keyserling, who confirms the above facts. She stated that, when she received a copy of your letter to me,

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Miss Helen Hall

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she called you and told you that I had not appointed Martin, and that she had not informed you that I had. I do not believe that your misstatement of fact was not deliberate. I believe that you were seeking an excuse to abandon the Washington office despite Board action to the contrary.

You admit in your letter that your action in polling those members of the Board who were present at the June 11th meeting was predicated upon the assumption that I had appointed Martin. Since this assumption is false, your action, irregular on other scores, was improper in that it induced Board members to act upon a matter concerning which the facts and circumstances presented to them were false.

You state that the decision to close the Washington office was made after you had polled those Board members who had been present at the June 11th meeting and that the vote was by two-thirds majority. There were only 13 members of the Board present at that meeting. You did not poll all of these. Why? Why weren't the entire thirty members of the Board polled?

As to Elisabeth Rohr and the Consumer Advisory Committee, my opinion was and is that she contributed substantially to its success; but that was not my sole reason for supporting her for the position of Executive Secretary, and I so stated. It is apparent to me that your judgment of Mrs. Rohr has been primarily emotional.

Very truly yours,

Wallace M. Cohen

cc Members of the Board  
Mr. David Ginsburg  
Mr. Isador Lubin  
Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt ✓  
Mr. Leon Henderson



# NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CONSUMERS

1822 JEFFERSON PLACE, N. W., WASHINGTON 6, D. C.

TELEPHONE-EXECUTIVE 8444

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### CONSULTANT

Leon Henderson

Henry Street Settlement  
265 Henry Street, New York City

July 7, 1947

*Handwritten signature/initials*

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

It has reached me that Mr. Wallace M. Cohen of Washington has sent you, as a member of the Advisory Council of the National Association of Consumers, a copy of his resignation from our Board.

I am sorry to have you burdened with this at all - but feel I should send you a copy of my reply as Chairman.

Sincerely,

*Helen Hall*

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt  
342 Madison Avenue  
New York, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Coburn:

This will acknowledge your letter of June 27th re-  
signing from the National Association of Consumers and from our Board.

It is hard for me to understand how you could not write as you have without once getting in touch with me before or after our Board meeting on the 11th.

Following prolonged discussion at that meeting your resolution was adopted to ask Mrs. Elizabeth Rohr to withdraw her resignation as Executive Secretary, and to work until October 1st. This action, embodying a vote of confidence, was taken only after it was thoroughly understood that the Chairman should at once appoint a committee to look for an executive to succeed Mrs. Rohr.

When I sent her the resolution affecting her resignation, I asked her to let me know her intentions, but had no answer directly from her. I was to learn over the telephone from Colston Warren that she was not going to continue.

The next word I received from Washington on the matter was from Mrs. Keyserling to the effect that you had telephoned her that Mrs. Rohr was not taking the position and that you were appointing a friend of Mrs. Rohr's at a salary of \$60 a week for three days a week. You had made these plans for the summer - and the candidate seems to have felt that he was hired - without consulting the Chairman of the N.A.C. I think most people would agree with me that this was extremely irregular organizational procedure and afforded hardly a sound basis for operation for either a chairman or an executive.

Your was the unilateral and undemocratic action. It was entirely outside any authorization made to the committee (Mrs. Keyserling and yourself) appointed by the chair at the Board meeting, to work out with Mrs. Rohr the program she would carry out in continuing as Executive Secretary over the summer.

We had appreciated your offer to assume any operating deficit for that period, but surely you could not have felt that this gave you the right to appoint a new executive. There has been no such assumption of authority on the part of those who hitherto have raised our funds.

I naturally did not lean on my own judgment in the matter but canvassed that of other members of the Board, in and outside of New York. It was this complete lack of responsible team play on your part that destroyed our confidence in leaving things at loose ends at the Washington office. Under the changed circumstances, a two-thirds majority of those board members present at the June 11th meeting concurred in closing the present office during the summer.

As for ideological differences, another member of the minority at that meeting attacked the New York City Consumer Council. In the previous meeting of the Executive Committee he had attacked even more intemperately the Economic Advisers Report to the President, the reading of which had been recommended in our first Bulletin. The question of the New York City Consumer Council was referred by the Board to a Committee on Chapters, and will be reported back by them with recommendations to the Board for action - which accords with our by-laws.

From the beginning I have held that it would be harmful to the whole consumer movement to have the N.A.C. controlled by communists. I still feel so. My stand over the years in respect to this issue is thoroughly established.

I was surprised to find you so ready to defend or attack situations in which you did not apparently have all the facts. You asserted that the reason you thought Mrs. Rohr well equipped for the job was because the Consumer Advisory Committee of the OPA had been so successful and that she had been the means of making it so. This was an amazing statement to many of us. We could not understand how anyone could have given you such a misconception nor why you yourself had not gone into the matter enough to learn that she had joined the Consumer Advisory Committee late in its existence and had been on the staff as Esther Cole Franklin's assistant only shortly before the Committee came to an end. It was Mrs. Franklin, of course, who, as Secretary of this OPA Committee was responsible for its success; and who we had hoped would bring her experienced leadership and expert skills to bear as chief executive of the N.A.C. Her going to Europe intervened.

This makes me feel all the more strongly that had you taken pains to get all the facts in relation to this and other situations, you might have acted more wisely and constructively.

Sincerely,

Chairman,  
National Association of Consumers

Mr. Wallace H. Cohen  
1822 Jefferson Place, N.W.  
Washington 6, D.C.

cc Members of the Board, Mrs. Roosevelt, Mr. Lubin, Mr. Henderson, Mr. Ginsburg