

Dev - Dec

all I can do
is to send your
letter to Mr Hannigan
for consideration. I
never make any requests

De Wolf.

7120 Piney Branch Road, N. W.
Washington 12, D. C.
March 3, 1947

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt
Apartment Six A
29 Washington Square West
New York 11, New York

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I want to thank you for your letter of
February 28 and for the interest you have shown
by sending my letter to Mr. Hannegan.

At least I know now that the matter
will come to his attention which probably has
not been the case previous to this time.

Very sincerely yours,

Ralph Y. DeWolfe
Ralph Y. DeWolfe

*Secretary of the
Land Use, Housing &
Farmers Affairs*

7180 Piney Branch Road, N. W.
Washington 18, D. C.
February 18, 1947

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt
Hyde Park, New York

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

To introduce myself I will mention that I had received the Master Farmer degree a year previous to that evening in Ithaca in 1934 that you were called upon to pinsh-hit for Governor Lehman to present the Master Farmer and other awards. You will probably recall that after the program that particular evening you invited the Master Farmers and their families to visit you in the White House. That was the first time I visited Washington and the only time I have ever been in the White House.

Although we saw and visited with the President, you could not be at the White House on the particular day of our visit which we have always regretted. We did have a wonderful time, however, with tea in one of the large dining rooms and the occasion will never be forgotten.

You may remember that I was appointed Chairman of the Triple A Committee in New York in 1941 by Secretary of Agriculture Claude R. Wickard, after having worked in the Agricultural Adjustment Program in one capacity or another since 1934, being on the State Committee from July 1937.

In the late summer of 1944 I was contacted by representatives of the Democratic National Committee and urged to organize and head a committee of farmers in New York State to further the cause of Mr. Roosevelt and help carry the state for him in the coming election.

Such an arrangement meant resigning from the State Triple A Committee, a job which I would otherwise still be holding without much doubt. However, because I was interested in seeing the party successful in New York, on which might well hinge its success in the nation, and because I felt the position would afford an opportunity to inform the rural people of New York of the benefits they had received under President Roosevelt's administration, I accepted the position. In return Mr. Oscar H. Ewing, Vice Chairman of the National Committee, promised me that I would be placed in a permanent position in government at at least a \$1,000 increase in salary over my old job, if the Democrats were successful, and that I would be placed by January 1945.

ORIGINAL RETIRED FOR PRESERVATION

You are as well acquainted with the results of that memorable election as I and especially in New York where all the dogsters predicted easy hunting grounds for the Republicans.

As far as the job is concerned, however, I was not placed until the middle of May 1945 and then only after a good many reminders by myself and others. The job proved to be on a W.A.E. (when actually employed) basis and under such an arrangement I could work only 180 days during any calendar year. It was therefore necessary to make other arrangements so I transferred to the Field Service Branch (formerly AAA) in the Northeast Region but under a War Service appointment.

It has taken quite a bit of pressure from some of my friends to keep me in this spot. They include Sharon Mauns, of Cobleskill, Senator Mead and others, with Jack Ewing coming to the rescue a time or two but not very forcefully.

At the present time, due to another reorganization of the Department and much talk in Congress about cutting appropriations, a drive is on to cut personnel and the axe is falling on War Service appointees without much regard for past experience or service.

Civil Service has not offered any examinations in the higher grades, I am a CAF 18, until just recently so that I might have had a chance to qualify for a straight Civil Service appointment. I have filed an application with the Civil Service Commission and have talked with Mr. Clyde Hall of the Commission at the suggestion and arrangement of Mr. Bob Moore of National Headquarters. Mr. Hall is of the opinion that I will qualify for a regular appointment in due time but it may take three to six months for something to show up.

Five or six months ago I was handed a separation notice and told that it would be extended from time to time. This arrangement was made with Mr. Davidson, Director of the Field Service Branch; and Mr. N. E. Dodd, Under Secretary of Agriculture, is acquainted with the situation. However, the last two extensions have come with difficulty and at the time the appointment or separation notice was extended from February 15 to February 28 no promises were made whatever that further extensions would be forthcoming.

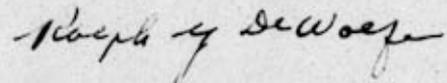
All in all I do not feel that I have had a square deal. I gave up a good job to serve the party and felt the commitment made by Mr. Ewing was a Party rather than a personal commitment. I know I held up my end of the agreement as evidenced by the dozens of compliments received on the good job that was done. It is often mentioned even at this late date.

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Certainly there are accepted jobs for which I would be qualified if the right people understood the situation, and as a last resort I am appealing to you to reach these people. It doesn't seem that it should be necessary to bother a person as busy as you are with this personal matter, especially when commitments were made in good faith, and I am sure if Mr. Roosevelt could have remained in the White House the situation would have been entirely different.

I am enclosing copies of several letters that have been exchanged on this subject if you care to glance over them. I would be glad to answer any questions concerning this matter that may come to you or have you check with any of the parties concerned. I hope you will feel that I deserve further consideration and anything that you can do in my behalf will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely and cordially,



Ralph Y. DeWolfe

1681 Webster St., N. W.
Washington 11, D. C.
November 18, 1948

Mr. Oscar R. Wieg
Democratic National Headquarters
Mayflower Hotel
Washington, D. C.

Dear Oscar:

As there has been much said and written about it you can easily recall our agreement, of a little over a year ago, when you asked me to give up the position I was then holding and accept the chairmanship of the Farmers for Roosevelt Committee in New York State, to the effect that you would see to it, if Mr. Roosevelt was reelected, that I would again be placed in a Government position by January 1, 1948, at a salary at least \$1,000 per year in excess of the salary I was receiving at the time of my resignation.

You did secure an appointment for me as consultant with the Commodity Credit Corporation as of May 14, 1948, for which I again want to thank you. This was a WAE (When Actually Employed) appointment which by regulation can only continue for 180 days in any one calendar year and as I understood at the time was only a stop-gap arrangement. In fact I was told by Mr. R. Douglas Smith, Chief, Personnel Division, CCC, that "something would be done about it" before the appointment expired.

However, the time has expired and absolutely nothing has been done about it. In the meantime I have been assigned to the Field Service Branch of FMA and, in order to keep me on the payroll, they have been kind enough to endeavor to place me, temporarily at least, in a vacant position in that organization. In taking this position it will be necessary for me to accept a lower grade classification with the possibility of around a \$1,000 cut in salary, about which, you may well guess, I am not too happy.

It doesn't seem necessary that I review the conditions under which you asked me to accept this chairmanship. At that time I was State Chairman of AAA in New York and no doubt could have continued on that job indefinitely had I not resigned to accept your offer.

At the time I realized full well the position in which I was placing my own agricultural future in case the election was lost, but I accepted the job at hand at your request, first, because I was interested in seeing the party successful in New York, on which might well hinge the success in the nation, in the 1948 election, which of course would result in the continuation of the administration's policies. Second, because I felt it would afford an

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opportunity to inform the rural people of New York of the benefits they had received under the Democratic administration, and third, because of your promise to see that I was again placed in a permanent Government position as mentioned above.

Of course it is impossible to estimate the influence that our particular part in the campaign might have had on the total vote in New York State. However, in the short time we had to work, we made an honest effort to put the program across. You will remember we put out a million and a half folders to rural people, promoted 100 radio programs and fed the press an endless amount of material both in the form of paid advertising and news items.

The fact that Mr. Roosevelt received a heavier upstate vote in 1944 than in any other election, even in the face of having Mr. Dewey, whom the same voters had seen fit to elect a short time before as their governor, as an opponent, could well be interpreted to indicate that our program had some little weight in the campaign. Not only that, but also we received many contributions from farmers for campaign expenses and hundreds of favorable comments from agricultural people expressing their approval of our campaign in particular and the administration's policies in general.

Regardless of what the effect of our part in the campaign may have been, the fact remains that your commitment to me has not been satisfactorily fulfilled. I think you will agree that I have tried to be patient about the whole thing and, since the commitment came from one in your high position, I have always considered it a party rather than a personal obligation. Perhaps I should have considered the whole matter rather lightly but somehow I can't help but feel that such commitments should be and are made in all sincerity and that something reasonable could be expected in this case.

I think I can offer authoritative evidence that I never did expect or want something for nothing and neither is that the case in this instance. Neither do I feel that my capacity for work or ability has depreciated materially since a year ago, and all I expect is an opportunity to prove my worth in a position for which I am fairly well fitted. Under the circumstances I don't feel that I am asking too much in requesting that you give this matter immediate consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Ralph Y. DeHoffe

C O P Y

Washington, D. C.
October 1, 1946

Hon. James M. Mead
Washington, D. C.

Dear Senator Mead:

Miss Keefe has been very kind in getting word to you about my present predicament, and I only wanted to put these facts in writing for her use and yours.

As you know employees going into government service these last few years were not given regular civil service ratings but instead were given war service appointments. I have been able to hold my job up to the present time because of my experience and qualifications, but now, due to another shake up in the department and the elimination of many job classifications, of which mine is one, I find myself, along with a lot of others, being entirely out of a job and will probably receive my separation notice by the last of this week. Under the circumstances, I feel this treatment is hardly fair to me. I certainly did my best a couple of years ago to keep the administration in power and feel that I should be due some consideration for the job I did especially when I am sure that I am capable and am also willing to give value received in the way of work for any salary that I am paid.

However, those things are being given no consideration. Mr. Manchester has gone to bat for me without success, and he advised me to ask you if you would be willing to call or write the Assistant Secretary or the Secretary in my behalf and make it very plain that you wished me to remain on the payroll of the Department of Agriculture. It seems there are jobs that do not require civil service status, according to Mr. Manchester, and if you could possibly find time to intercede for me, I can assure you I will appreciate it very much. The Assistant Secretary, Mr. Chas. F. Brannan, seems to be heading up the group that is arranging for changes in personnel and can be reached by calling Republic 4142, extension 3306. The Secretary is on extension 3631.

To review the circumstances, you probably remember that I headed up the Farmers for Roosevelt movement in New York two years ago, resigning my job to do it, and taking a chance on his re-election. We made a good showing in upstate New York, and the state could well have been lost without the gain that was made in the rural areas.

Not only that, but on the strength of what I thought was a more or less permanent position, I rented my farm this past spring for three years

Dear Sirs: Please

Mr. DeWolf

COBI

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which leaves me in a rather bad situation if I lose out at this time.

I want to extend my very best wishes for a successful campaign for you and the Democratic party in New York.

Sincerely,

Ralph Y. DeWolfe

eng the Democratic Party in New York
I want to express my solid belief
which I believe we in a letter per v

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WM 78 14 - COBLESKILL NY 4 155P

RALPH K DEWOLFE-

7120 PINEY BRANCH RD NORTHWEST-

HAVE YOUR LETTER DAM SHAME HAVE SO ADVISED BANNEGAN

EWING FITZPATRICK BY LETTER TODAY-

SHARON

U S GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1943
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LAW OFFICES

S. J. MAUHS

Cobleskill, New York

October 4, 1946

Hon. Oscar Ewing
1 Wall Street
New York, N.Y.

Dear Jack:

I have just heard about Ralph De Wolfe's predicament. It will be a damn shame if we all do not try to do something for him.

Here is a fellow that sacrificed a good job, security and independence to put Roosevelt over in '44. In my opinion it will be many a day before you will see the up-state Republican majority held down as low as it was held in 1944, and I believe that most of the credit for this showing belongs to Ralph De Wolfe. If Dewey carries up-state New York by 900,000 as the GOP leaders are now predicting, then we will know damn well that it was De Wolfe to a large degree who kept Dewey's up-state majority down to 450,000 in 1944.

These are the things that try men's souls. I hope you will find some way, with the help of others, whereby we can live up to the oral commitments we made to this man a couple of years ago.

Sincerely,

SM:M

Hon. Robert E. Hannegan, P. O. Dept., Washington, D. C.
Hon. Paul E. Fitzpatrick, Hotel Biltmore, N.Y.C.
Hon. James M. Mead, Hotel Pennsylvania, N.Y.C.

C O P Y

UNITED STATES SENATE
COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

October 4, 1946

Mr. Ralph Y. DeWolfe
7120 Piney Branch Road, N. W.
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. DeWolfe:

I know you will be pleased to know that I spoke with Senator Mead when I was in New York, and he is anxious to do everything possible to be of assistance.

Mr. Brannan said that he would give every consideration to your retention.

With best wishes,

Very truly yours,

(signed) Claire Keefe

C. L. Keefe,
Secretary

REPLY TO THIS OFFICE
CONFERENCE OR TO
C C E E

C O P Y

2120 Piney Branch Rd., N.W.
Washington 12, D.C.
October 5, 1946

Mr. John A. B. McElveney
Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C.

Dear Jack:

I want to thank both you and Miss Keefe for the good work you have done in my behalf. It means a lot to me, and I am exceedingly grateful to you for your willing assistance.

Sincerely,

Ralph G. Sawyer

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DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL COMMITTEE

Oscar R. Ewing
Vice-Chairman

Address Reply To
1 Wall Street
New York 5, New York

October 10, 1946

Honorable Sharon J. Mauhs
Cobleskill
New York

Dear Sharon:

I have your letter of the 4th inst. but I have heard nothing of Ralph D. Wolf's predicament. If there is anything I can do for Ralph, I shall be only too glad. You might suggest that he get in touch with me.

Cordially and sincerely,

(signed) Oscar R. Ewing

Vice Chairman

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7120 Piney Branch Rd., N.W.
Washington, 12, D.C.
October 15, 1946

Mr. Oscar R. Ewing
No. 1 Wall Street
New York, 5, N.Y.

Dear Oscar:

Sharon Mauhs sent me a copy of his letter to you and said that you had replied, and suggested that I get in touch with you. I did call headquarters here in Washington a couple weeks ago but you were not in, and as I needed some action in a hurry I got in touch with Senator Mead's office and Sharon.

As I have explained to you, I am working as a war service employee rather than under a straight Civil Service appointment and due to a contemplated reorganization of the Production and Marketing Administration, which carried a drastic cut in personnel, war service employees without some protection were due to be ousted. It was that "protection" that I needed.

The reorganization was called off last Thursday due to pressure on the Secretary of Agriculture and the President from various sources, which will ease the pressure on war service employees, temporarily, at least. However, until Civil Service prepares exams for war service employees which will give them a chance for a regular Civil Service appointment the thing will probably bob up again from time to time.

It works about this way: A regular employee receives a separation notice from the job he holds and he then starts looking for a war service employee in a similar job that he can "bump". Without protection, a war service employee is always in danger of losing his job.

With the help of Sharon and Jim Mead, I seem to have weathered the current storm, but I don't know how long it will last. I believe you could help me a lot if you cared to contact the Secretary or the Ass't Secretary, Chas. F. Brannan, or Under-Secretary, N. E. Dodd, and anything that you do will be appreciated very much.

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If you have a few minutes when you are in Washington, give me a buzz.

Sincerely,

H. Y. Dawolfe

It has been a long time since I have written you

COBI

7120 Finny Branch Rd., N.W.
Washington 12, D. C.
December 12, 1946

Hon. Sharon J. Masha
Gobleskill, New York

Dear Sharon:

I can't help but feel that you must be pretty well disgusted with the topic I am going to bring up. I am, too, but I still feel that I deserve consideration, 'till December 31, 1946 at least, and it seems that the only way I have been able to get it is to appeal to you and others who have helped in the past.

It was about the middle of October, I believe, that I wrote you that pressure on my job had been relieved for the time being. I was handed a 60-day separation notice effective December 13 and told that it would be extended at least a time or two until things quieted down a bit in the Department. It has been extended to January 13.

The November 5 election didn't help matters as you can well understand, and it is anticipated that when the New York congressman begins wielding his paring knife on appropriations the whole thing will reach a climax and unless something of a more or less permanent nature is done, I will find myself standing on a street corner.

I talked yesterday with the personnel director who is one of three or four that are in on the deal that was made in my behalf. He tells me that sooner or later the thing just wouldn't stick and that, if possible, I should do something as soon as convenient. He said further that the Secretary of Agriculture could make about whatever appointments he wished and that they were about the only "untouchable" jobs in the Department. Also, that real pressure on the Civil Service Commission might produce a permanent Civil Service appointment, but the chances were rather remote.

There are jobs, of course, that can be filled by presidential appointment in other than the Department of Agriculture, he told me, but he was not acquainted with the possibilities and had no access to anyone that was. It seems that Oscar ought to be able to do something along this line if he would.

I'm not sure just where our friend fits into the picture since election, but he probably will be at a bigger disadvantage after January 1, so

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all in all I thought we should try to do something soon. I'd certainly like to get the thing straightened up for once and all.

I have not made any other contact and will hold off for advise from you.

With holiday greetings,

Cordially and sincerely,

Ralph Y. DeVolve

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WESTERN UNION

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WM 28 14-COBLESKILL NY 16 935A

RALPH Y DEWOLFE-
7120 PINEY RD NORTHWEST-

RE LETTER SUGGEST YOU COMMUNICATE JACK EWING IMMEDIATELY
SEND ME COPY. WASTE NO TIME-

S J MAHRS

REF ID: A66111
COPI

7120 Pines Branch Rd., N.W.
Washington 12, D.C.
December 15, 1946

Honorable Oscar R. Ewing, Acting Chairman
Democratic National Committee
Mayflower Hotel
Washington, D. C.

Dear Jack.

I was glad to get the opportunity to talk to you a few minutes this morning by phone, and if the time comes when we are both in town at the same time, and free, I'd like to talk with you in person. In the meantime, I will give you the situation as it pertains to my job and I feel sure you will be able to do something about it.

On October 15, I wrote you explaining what had happened up to that time, and I am enclosing a copy of that letter. A few days after writing you I received my separation notice, effective December 13. I was told at the time that it was a stopgap arrangement to get my name off the list of war service employees so that other employees with civil service status who are in apparent danger of losing their jobs would not be trying to "bump" me. Also, that it would be renewed or extended, a time or two at least, in the hopes that things would eventually settle down and my job would not be selected.

As we said this morning, the November 5 election didn't help matters any and although my notice has been extended to January 13, I was also told by the Chief of the Personnel Division of FMA, who is one of three or four that is acquainted with the arrangement, that sooner or later this arrangement would not stick. This may be especially true when the New York Congressman begins wielding his paring knife on appropriations, so it is quite apparent that something be done in the near future.

Mr. Smith also told me that other arrangements could possibly be made if done in time but that it was not within his power to make them. It seems that the Secretary of Agriculture can make some appointments which are virtually "untouchable". Such an appointment would probably terminate if the Secretary resigned unless Mr. Dodd was appointed for that position. Also, that in a few cases, the Civil Service Commission has granted civil service status to certain people with or without a formal examination.

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In addition to these possibilities, he stated that the President no doubt had spots outside the Department of Agriculture that he could fill if the proper people could contact him. I guess there just isn't anyone in a better position to make such a contact than you.

I might explain that at the present I am satisfied with the job I have and Mr. Manchester, the Director of the Northeast Region, FWS, says that he would like to have me remain with the region. No one in the Regional office has had training in the work that I am doing, but he doesn't want me to stay on in this position and take the chance of losing out entirely just for his convenience.

I certainly would like to get this matter settled for good, and I know you would too. Last spring when I thought I was all set for three years at least, I rented my farm until April 1949. This is another reason why I would like to receive favorable consideration through the present administration. After that, I would be willing to consider the matter closed.

I will make every effort to be available to confer with you or any other person, and you can reach me at the office by calling Republic 4142, Extension 6147, or at home Taylor 6775.

With best wishes for a pleasant holiday season,

Sincerely yours,

Ralph Y. DeVolve