In answer to your letter, I thought I should say that some of the important issues in national and international affairs today are:

- National
- The Cost of Living
- Law Relations
- Race Relations
- Religious tolerance
- Protection of Civil Liberties
- International
- Peace

Economic and Political relations between USSR, USA, Latin America, USA
August 13, 1947

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Next year, as part of our General Education program here at Iowa, it shall be my pleasure to preside over a course for seniors in the Liberal Arts college which is to deal with the great national and international issues facing the American people. It will be a one-year course and will be offered with the cooperation of a number of our own faculty members from the social studies area and a group of lecturers who are directly concerned with the problems to be discussed. Two or three weeks will be devoted to the consideration of each major question. The course will be organized in such a way as to challenge superior students who have completed a substantial amount of study in the social sciences.

I would appreciate it very much if you would help us in the planning of this course by listing what you consider to be the twelve most important issues in national and international affairs at the present time. I am asking a number of other leaders in adult education, business, labor and public affairs to cooperate in this way. If you are interested, I shall be happy to send you the results of my inquiry.

With best personal regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

Virgil M. Hancher

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt
Hyde Park,
New York
I am afraid I do not know enough nor understand just what you want. Therefore, I think we had better wait until I can talk with you some time when I am in Wash.
Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt
Apartment 15-A
29 Washington Square, West
New York 11, N. Y.

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Many thanks for your very kind efforts to assist us in providing reading material for our new magazine HANDICAP.

I enjoyed reading the splendid article you prepared but then had to take on the position of the hard boiled editor who put the article on his desk and remarked "this wasn't the kind of stuff I wanted".

It was my thought that in your position you could generalize on the nationwide situation as it concerns the physically handicapped, that is, both the veteran and civilian handicapped group. Such things as the need for improved educational benefits for young children and for improved rehabilitation efforts on the part of the States involved in such programs.

I think the last war has taught us that unpreparedness in our rehabilitation efforts were realized when wounded veterans reached our hospitals and subsequently returned to civilian life. Fortunately, however, this situation has awakened the entire country to the need of getting action for all the physically handicapped and it is gratifying to learn that the States are awakening to this fact.

Some effort has been exerted to impress upon employers the need to employ handicapped veterans and civilians but it is disappointing to learn that after a yearly drive is conducted, figures concerning employment of the handicapped dropped off in large numbers. In other words, programs should be designed so that a year-round program is in effect and that a one month intensified drive can actually take place in every month of the year instead of the one month per year idea that now exists.

From the News Capital of the World
I read your article to about 100 men at Walter Reed Hospital and asked them for their opinion, and it boils down to this.

The average disabled veteran feels that he already has received too much attention and that millions of other handicapped persons could and should benefit by legislation and other efforts to improve the status of the handicapped of the nation. Since many of them are back to civilian life, they feel that only by a coordinated effort they can be restored to a normal position in life and that by functioning as veterans they can only benefit a small group and then, perhaps, can antagonize the other handicapped persons who are not as fortunate as the veterans have been in getting the expert care which was provided in our military hospitals and Veterans Administration facilities.

Your words carry a lot of weight with these veterans and with the handicapped people of the nation and anything coming from you is extremely important to them and to the officials who administer aid.

I know that you are awfully busy and I hesitate about bringing up the matter again, but I do hope you can spare just a few minutes of your time to reconsider the matter and approach the subject on a nationwide scale effecting all handicapped groups.

Many thanks, again, and with kindest regards and best wishes, I remain,

Very truly yours,

William H. Bayne, Jr.
January 10, 1947

My dear Mr. Bayne:

I am sorry I can not write a long article for your magazine, and I hope the enclosed may help a little.

Very sincerely yours,
Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt
Hyde Park, New York

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

On 1 April 1945 — the first day of my new Army assignment at Walter Reed — I was one of your guests at the White House, when you were honoring the Glee Club of the "Winged Victory" cast.

I came to Walter Reed to serve in the revitalized Information and Education section. During that period I learned much about the heartaches and the difficulties of the men who were disabled. Following this service I went to the Veterans Administration as Chief, Instruction and Education Division of the Prosthetic Appliances Service. Last month I resigned from that position to start a monthly news magazine for the handicapped — the civilian and the ex-military.

My decision to enter this field of reporting was brought on by a desire to provide the handicapped with information they should have, regarding the activities of their municipalities, states and the national government. I think the magazine can help to serve as a clearing house and also be in the position of offering a much needed service. In addition to the news from the government agencies I will publish articles of interest about other disabled persons and their attempts to get along in the world, news of the developments of various aids and information about the government's efforts to aid in placing the handicapped into worthwhile jobs.

The first issue will appear in February, and it will contain 32 pages. It will contain the annual report of the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation and a story about its activities and plans, a report of the results accomplished, nationally, in the 1946 "Employ the Physically Handicapped Week" A report on the Kelley Committee's final report to Congress and a review of its findings over a two year period. Harold Russell and his part in the new movley "The Best Years of Our Lives", will be written up and the activities of a blind man in Iowa, who has lived a successful life in political life, will be presented for human interest slants.

Walter Reed's new hearing clinic will be presented along with the complete Veterans Administration's artificial limb procurement program permitting a free choice of appliances. Dr. Kessler, whose work for the Navy in cinestonic research and orthopedic surgery will present an article relating to his findings of activities going on around the country. He is now a consultant for OVR, and his recent six month's trip is packed full of information of interest to everybody concerned about the handicapped.

From the News Capital of the World
Two amputees are assisting me in the organization and will continue to serve as advertising and circulation managers. At least thirty other amputees are serving in various parts of the country. Jimmy Cohen, one of the willingest workers for the Bi-Lateral Amputees of America — and an amputee (bi-lateral, above knee) himself is doing much to arouse interest in the New York City area. The advertising and circulation managers are hard-hitting Irishmen. My ancestors came from England and Scotland in 1890.

I have attempted to bring you up to date on the plans. Now for the important part of the letter. Could you possibly, within the next few months, find enough time to prepare an article of 1500-2000 words about your observations in respect to the situation affecting the handicapped of the nation. Such things as the encouragement needed by state and municipal organizations; the need for directed effort and the need for additional training facilities to assist the handicapped in recovering their earning power. Perhaps, it might be a wise idea to take a slap at some of the states whose rehab directors have been sitting comfortably and accomplishing nothing for so many years.

I think, too, that Mrs. Perkins might be prevailed upon to prepare an article. Her observations during these many years should be brought to the attention of every civic-minded American.

If you would prefer to discuss the possibility of an article with a member of the staff, I could arrange for our Mr. Larry O'Neill to call upon you at some future date. If that isn't necessary, I do hope you can provide us with a story.

With many thanks and with kindest personal regards, I remain,

Very truly yours,
I have just heard of the new magazine, Handicap, which is to be published in the interests of keeping our veterans up to date, particularly those who have come out of the war with some physical handicap. These particular veterans, first of all, need training in how to get on in the world with the least difficulty occasioned by their particular handicap.

Next comes the question of earning a living. If they were in some kind of work before the war in which they can continue once they have mastered how to adjust themselves to it in view of the physical handicap that will present very little difficulty. If, however, they have to be retrained and given a new skill, or an entirely different type of education, then there is a long pull, first to become prepared and that is often the hardest part, because they have to combat a fear that they will not be able to do a good job and if that fear prevailed, it would prevent them from making the necessary effort to become very well prepared.

Then comes the next hurdle, the education of the employer so he will be willing to employ handicapped veterans after they have been trained.

It seems to me that states and localities have not only an interest but an obligation to cooperate with the federal agencies and with any private agencies, in working on every possible angle of veterans' rehabilitation.

Every man who is able to handle himself, feels that life is more worth living, and if he can keep a job and make as much pay as a well man, he will not only be an asset to
the community but usually a citizen of very high type. He has learned that his government is doing something for him and in return he will want that government to function for the benefit of other citizens, and he will want to know how he can participate as a citizen to improve it.

I have never been able to understand why people appointed to do work with the veterans in any field, could be content to sit back and not develop their jobs into something that showed tangible results for the handicapped veterans. That was my one real complaint against the advisory committee appointed in the State of New York. I simply could not see anywhere any evidence of their beneficial actions.

I hope that instead of forgetting what we owe handicapped veterans which is what happened after the First World War, more and more people will become increasingly conscious of the need for making life worth while living to all human beings where it is possible to do so. We should never give up the effort to improve the lot of those suffering from some kind of handicap because of the past war.

Eleanor Roosevelt.
I have just heard of the new magazine, Handicap, which is to be published in the interests of keep our veterans up to date, particularly those who have come out of the war with some physical handicap. These particular veterans, first of all, need training in how to get on in the world with the least difficulty occasioned by their particular handicap.

Next comes the question of earning a living. If they were in some kind of work before the war in which they can continue once they have mastered how to adjust themselves to it in view of the physical handicap, that will present very little difficulty, but if they have to be retrained and given a new skill, or an entirely different type of education, then there is a long pull first to become prepared and that is often the hardest because we have to combat a fear that you will not be able to do a good job since that fear would prevent you from really becoming very well prepared.

Then comes the next hurdle, the education of the employer so he will be willing to employ handicapped veterans after they have been trained.

It seems to me that states and localities have not only an interest but an obligation to cooperate with the federal agencies and with any private agencies, in working on every possible angle of veterans' rehabilitation.

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I hope that instead of forgetting what we owe handicapped veterans which is what happened after the last war, more and more people will become more and more conscious of the need for making life worth living to all human beings where it is possible to do so, and will never give up in the efforts to improve the lot of those suffering from some kind of handicap because of the past war.