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Irvin

120A Bainbridge Street
Brooklyn, New York
February 27, 1947

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Reference is made to your letter of February 20. Please be good enough to re-read my letter of January 31. You will ascertain the following:

1. My file was not sent to you, but at the direction of Mrs. Goode was left at the office of the Democratic State committee, with an oral and written memo - "not to be taken from the office". A letter to Mrs. Baetjer accompanied the file.

(The understanding was if you were interested, photostatic copies of any part of the material would be made for all if necessary, but the original file was not to be removed from the office).

2. Since the material was taken, regardless of the oral and written

request that to be removed from the office. I feel justified in making this request, for the following reasons.

1. Original data pertaining to a very serious injustice, imposed while in Federal Service.
2. Decisions by Civil Service and the Department of Interior - confirming the fact an injustice had been imposed.
3. I am under pressure from persons who are attempting to adjust this matter, who know from the Inter. Office memo that you took the file and it was not returned.

(My file was orderly arranged in folders, Mr. Keith's brief in the folder, all in a large manila envelope).

After re-reading my letter and a few moments reflection you will readily appreciate, my file was not dashed out. The feeling of interested persons is that your Secretary must have had some device of keeping track of material in your possession.

3. I have not been negligent in this matter, repeated requests at the office, brought the response that the material was in "safe hands" and it would be returned.

There was also and is an emotional angle. I could not do my best work, if I had to keep ever in my thoughts my government had imposed an injustice that had thwarted a professional career of service to the government and its citizens.

At the time a decision was made, I had two alternatives, legal or political approach. No good citizen would ever sue their government - I do not have any political friends. I worked in campaigns during my leisure time for re-election of Mr. Roosevelt because of his interest and your interest in minorities and their problems.

I am very sorry that I must

keep this problem before you, because persons interested are insisting that I get this material. For the last two months I have been unemployed devoting my time to this effort. The financial cost of maintenance is great as you know, for that reason it is important not to have long delay. The tension under which I live is great. When I came up in December I was placed not to find the material as a result I was ill about two weeks. (Dr. bill & extra)

Again may I say I am sorry, but I am under pressure to get this material and I have no claim in the matter.

Sincerely Yours
Emma MacDuwin

I am sorry there is
nothing further I can
do about the letters
you mention.
I explained my position
regarding mail sent to

the while I was in
the N. H. I cannot
be held responsible
for anything I did
not request. + I can
~~How~~
not understand why

you let so many
years elapse before
making your request.
as I said above
there is nothing I
can do further

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

The enclosed letter was returned to me, possibly through error. Miss Thompson's attention was called to the matter - no response from her.

At a conference yesterday it was suggested that I re-submit my letter to you as following - through from another source might be confusing.

With kind personal regards.

Sincerely yours
Emma MacDuvin

120A Bainbridge St.
Brooklyn, N.Y.
February 15-1947

I am to remain here until I recover this material.

Irwin E.

127 Bainbridge Street
Brooklyn 33, New York
January 31, 1947

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

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

After reading your letter of January 13, 1947, I am persuaded from some statements you made therein concerning the White House Archives, and unrequested material, that you do not have my file in mind.

At the request of Mrs. William H. Good, after working in the Roosevelt campaign, I left my file at the office of the Democratic State Committee here in New York, with the specific oral and written memo that the file was not to be taken from the office. When I called for it a few days later, the Secretary stated that you had come in and seen the material, and that she could not prevent your taking it. She, however, assured me that you were reliable and that the material would be returned.

Until I went to the West Coast in the war effort, repeated efforts were made by me to recover the material. I was always assured by the Secretary that I would get the material as "it was in reliable hands." You must also realize that it was no small effort, to work, study, earn two degrees -- B.S. and M.A. -- and at the same time to keep below the level of my attention a serious injustice that had caused me loss of home and which is thwarting my whole career.

Inasmuch as a specific request was made, both oral and written, that the material in question was not to be removed from the office, I feel justified in making this request at this time for your interest and assistance in recovering this material from the White House Archives. I would appreciate it very much if the following material could be returned to the office of the Democratic State Committee in New York where I could call for it:

All original copies--

1. Last Civil Service Rating (95 for efficiency; 95 for physical fitness).
2. Decision of Civil Service Commission (After removal from service in which I had advanced on merit to highest position):

"Dismissal not without prejudice; the whole problem is one

of administration over which she had no authority or control, therefore, not in the least responsible." Adding she has been very badly treated in the whole matter. (Upon advise of Commission, I have not cashed my last salary check, deductions for retirement are intact and I have classified Civil Service Status, eligible for any position in Federal Service for which I have the qualifications. On my own initiative, I am not able to locate an executive position.

3. Decision of Department of Interior--(Judge Robert McMurdy, Chicago reviewed files with Mr. Dixon and committee. I was also present):

"You were made "the goat" in a matter that developed political aspects. Your government committed a crime in removing you from the service. To make just amends, another crime would have to be committed (explaining that incumbent in my position should be removed, etc.) a crime the government would be reluctant to commit." (Correspondence with Judge McMurdy and Mr. Dixon in regard to above).

4. Brief compiled by Edwin D. Keith for Judge McMurdy as vehicle to present step by step the problem involved. (Conventional brief in a blue folder)

APPRECIATING your awareness of the problems and injustices encountered by minority groups and because of the importance of material withheld, we rely fully upon your cooperation in recovering the material from the Archives and seeing that it is returned to the office in New York.

With kind personal regards

Sincerely yours,

Emma Mae Irwin

(Miss) Emma Mae Irwin

P.S. A letter from Mrs. Good to Mrs. Boettiger accompanied the file. I have a memo of above from inter office file in New York.

Copy sent to Mrs. Good

Irwin Sent 2-4-47

ask ~~Dr Solon~~

Mr Fred Shipman

if files are accessible.

These papers were sent us, presumably in 1936. It is possible we turned them over to Civil Ser. The corres may be in files of letter I signed

Irwin -

I of course do not now have any ~~your~~ papers which might have been sent me as all of my files compiled while I was in the W. H. are now the property of the Archives. & I do not know what I can do about your papers.

I should think you might get duplicates from the Civil Service dept. So many thousands of letters came to me while I was in the W. H it is entirely impossible for me to remember any individual case & you should have not let such a long time elapse before making inquiry & I can not be held

responsible for anything
that was sent me unless
requested it —

127 Bainbridge Street
Brooklyn, New York
January 1-1947

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt
29 Washington Square West
New York City, New York.

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Following the direction of Mrs. William H. Good. The following data was left in the office of the Democratic State Committee (Mrs. Stevenson) November 24, 1936, with the specific request oral and emphasized in writing, Not to be taken from the office. Mrs. Good felt reading material as she did would give a clue to the problem. If it so happened you were interested and needed any part of material presented photostatic copies could be made.

* 1. Last Civil Service Rating (95 for efficiency 95 for physical

* 2. Report of Civil Service finding, "Dismissed not with out prejudice, The whole problem is one of administration over which she had no authority or control - therefore not in the least responsible." Adding she has been very

badly treated in the whole matter.

*3. Report of Secretary Dixon - You have been made the goat in a matter that developed political aspects. A crime has been committed that will require the government to commit another crime to make just amends, which the government will be reluctant to do.

Correspondence with Judge McMurdy relative to above.

4. Brief compiled by Mr. Keith for Judge McMurdy. (to be presented at hearing in Department)

Repeated visits have been made in an effort to obtain the above. Mrs. Stevenson stated she could not prevent you taking material - An inter-office memo of above material was given to Klaw that above material was given to you - Mrs. Stevenson also assured me that you would carefully guard material and see that it was returned.

Please understand I have not neglected the matter - At time of delivery to office, I was in College - (B.S. & M.A - Columbia). To "study" and "work" I have the problem of seeking an injustice below the level of my attention - as a consequence I could only call attention to material still in your hands.

Three urgent requests have come for

* All of above original copies.

the above material, all of which are original copies. These requests were presented to Mrs. Stevenson, when I called Monday, December 30.

My future and persons dependent upon me are at stake and I must have this material at once. Senator knows from file you have this material from the inter-office memo.

I will remain in New York until this material is made available. The cost of maintenance is more than I can afford. (I have to keep room where I live as well as here). I am of course upset over the whole problem. However, I am sure with sons and a daughter you appreciate my problem and will cooperate in seeing that I have return of my material.

With every good wish for your health, success and happiness in the New Year.

Sincerely yours,
Emma MacLaren

Please understand I am sending registered to insure your personal attention. As you no doubt appreciate by my letter I am awfully upset.

127 Bainbridge Street
Brooklyn, New York
January 9-1944

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt
29 West Washington Square
New York City, New York.

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

At a conference January 7, Mrs. Cecilia C. Saunders, Executive Director, Harlem Branch Y.W.C.A., directed that I write to you again requesting prompt return of material left at office of the Democratic State Committee for you to read, but because of importance of material a request was made for it not to be taken from the office, to prevent loss or mis-placement. Mrs. Saunders also suggested your Secretary might help to get this material to us with out further delay.

1. Best Civil Service rating 95% (95 for efficiency and 95 for physical fitness)
2. Report of Civil Service finding
3. Report of Secretary Dixon - after a review of my case in Department of the Interior. Correspondence with Judge McMurdy relative to abou-

All above original official copies-

H. Brief compiled by Edwin D. Keith for Judge McMurdy.

Year after year I worked for the re-election of Mr. Roosevelt Presidential Campaign. Mrs. Good felt you might be interested in adjusting a problem that should never have been allowed to develop.

In conference the question also arose as to what you had done to adjust the problem. I could not answer as I had never heard what disposition had been made from time to time until I was sent to the West Coast I would call at the office for my material-

Please may I have above material with out further delay. All of my plans are upset and I can do nothing until I have the above material-

With kind personal regards-

Sincerely yours,

Emma MacLaren

Do hope I have made the situation clear, but am terribly upset-