

Leah-Led

August 28, 1947

Dear M. Lebeau:

It was more than kind of you to write me about "The Roosevelt Story" and I appreciate all that you say.

I shall look forward to seeing you at the United Nations and if at any time you care to come up here, I shall be delighted to have you.

Very cordially yours,



DELEGATION PARLEMENTAIRE
AUPRES DE COMMISSION DES NATIONS UNIES

NEW YORK 20, N.Y. Le **AUG 26 1947**
BUREAU 3001, 630 FIFTH AVENUE
TEL. COLUMBIEN 6-2677

D. 518 - S/1001 - sp

Chère Madame,

Monsieur l'Ambassadeur van Langenhove, actuellement en vacances, m'a chargé de vous faire part de son vif regret de n'avoir pu assister, jeudi soir, à la première projection du film "Roosevelt Story"; il m'avait désigné pour le représenter à cette séance.

Je tiens à vous dire avec quelle émotion, ma femme et moi, avons revu sur l'écran les diverses scènes de la vie et de l'oeuvre du Président et avec quelle fervente nous avons participé à la manifestation de reconnaissance et de sympathie que les assistants ont dirigés vers vous et vers lui.

Ce n'est pas sans fierté, d'autre part, que nous avons entendu donner connaissance de la distinction que cette bande a reçue dans mon pays, au Festival du Film à Bruxelles. Soyez convaincue que l'hommage du peuple belge va, bien en deà du film et de ses metteurs en scène, à la personne du grand chef d'Etat qui a su préparer son pays à la mission libératrice qui lui était échuë, à l'inspirateur de la grande alliance qui a affranchi l'Europe occidentale, et à celui dont la pensée créatrice a jeté les bases de la future organisation de la paix.

Veuillez agréer, Chère Madame, l'hommage de ma très respectueuse admiration.

R. Lebeau
R. Lebeau
Conseiller d'Ambassade

Madame Franklin D. ROOSEVELT

29, Washington Square

NEW YORK 12 N.Y.

Lebeau, R

Hayk

LeCompte

THE NEW YORK SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
122 EAST TWENTY-SECOND STREET
NEW YORK 10, N. Y.

WALTER W. PETTIT, DIRECTOR

March 4, 1947.

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

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I am returning Mrs. LeCompte's letter
to you together with a carbon copy of my reply. It is
my impression that she is a trouble maker.

Sincerely yours,

Eduard C. Lindeman
Eduard C. Lindeman

ECL:HD

March 4, 1947.

Mrs. Genevieve LeCompte,
14 Hedgeway Court,
Hempstead, L.I.

My dear Mrs. LeCompte:

Your letter of January 27th addressed to Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt found its way to me out in the Middle West where I had been teaching this winter. Unhappily, I have been extremely busy and have only now found time to read your letter with care.

With respect to the first quotation which you use and which constituted a part of my recent address before the New York State Conference of Social Work, the actual phraseology was as follows:

In the scientific world it is well known that plants which grow rapidly are not strong in fibre. This analogy is also suited to institutions.

You no doubt applied this to the general world movement towards racial equality. It is my own impression that this movement has been far too much retarded and that the real question which confronts us now is one which may be stated thus: Knowing that racial equality is a world movement, how rapidly can the United States move in this direction? This is a delicate question and cannot be answered generally for all sections of the country nor even for two cities within a given region.

I have not the least idea where you found the quotation, "Our present relief method is worse than old fashioned philanthropy at its worst". I certainly do not believe this, and if you have found any such statement attributed to me, I wish you would let me know its source.

Sincerely yours,

Eduard G. Lindeman

EGL:ED

CC Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt ✓

Memorandum, F. I.
IN REPLY TO COM. 17,
RE: CONSPIRACY TO OBTAIN

APARTMENT SIX A
29 WASHINGTON SQUARE WEST
NEW YORK 11, N. Y.

February 13, 1947

Dear Dr. Lindeman:

I am enclosing a
letter which I received. Will
you please explain your quotations
in this letter?

With many thanks,

Very sincerely yours,

Thomas R. Bell

ORIGINAL RETIRED FOR PRESERVATION

GENEVIEVE LeCompte
14 Hedgeway Court
Hempstead, Long Island
January 27th 1948

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt -

On Tuesday, January 21st, the Board of Directors of the Adelphi College Alumnae Association met. That group has had as its treasurer for twenty five years, a woman who, I believe, missed her first meeting that night. Being a conscientious person, she telephoned us at about nine thirty to explain her absence.

She had been attacked, knocked down and robbed by a negro on the East New York Station of the Long Island Railroad. She wished to reassure us that only her own purse, containing about twenty five dollars, had been taken. Our purse with money and checks in had been missed. I have seen no news coverage of the episode.

This leads me to wonder whether this is one of many such incidents of which one does not hear; there is coverage of enough of similar and other anti-social activity to fill the papers, of course. My own feeling is one of sympathy for the negro, without knowing anything about him; if caught he will rightly be punished as an individual offender, I presume. However, I have strong feeling that it is the persons like yourself and other philosophers who should receive that punishment because of the degree of hysteria, self-pity, ideas of persecution and delusions of grandeur which are being aroused in an emotional people, which prevents their thinking clearly - the things we read about are related to behavior which the ignorant of a quite nice race interprets as what they are expected to do. It is my belief that many of the white outrages against the negro at the moment are related similarly to race hatreds and frictions being aroused by propaganda, mob psychology treatment, dealt by self-interested groups and personages.

At the State Conference of Social Work in November, Dr. Lindeman of the N.Y. School of Social Work made a telling remark, which I believe may be related to similar judgment by him. "A forced growth is never a good or a strong development". The negro race when unmolested by your kind of interference had made remarkable strides in a comparatively short time; some of this was in manners and customs. Some of that was from the natural channel of such education - domestic service. Some were badly treated, as were some of those of other races - in contact with crudity in such service.

An Englishwoman whom I met on a train recently, came to this country as a factory worker and to take factory work. She could neither endure nor understand our labor conditions so gave it up for domestic service. She is completely content in an excellent job, where she was taught many things. She fails to understand how we can have so maligned this kind of work as to shut it off from those who formerly performed it - and now do nothing but await checks. My own family used to employ college bred women from Sweden, Denmark, Norway, Germany, who took this way of learning about the customs and manners of the country which they expected to make their home. I can think of many bobby soxers whose minds might be improved by this form of life rather than in the pursuit of Frankie, et al. His propaganda value had much recognition, didn't it.

May I call your attention to a letter by Joseph Jordan of Harlem, in the Tribune 1/25/47, beside a telling cartoon, which I think indicate some of what I mean.

14 Hedgeway Court
Hempstead, Long Island
March 7th 1947

Dr. Eduard C. Lindeman
New York School of Social Work
122 East Twenty Second Street
New York City

My dear Dr. Lindeman:

It was interesting to hear that a letter of mine to Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt had found its way to you - but not surprising since there were references to you in it.

About the first - I remember my own immediate reactions at the State Conference to your remarks about rapid growth lacking strength of fibre and wondering whether you, too, like so many others, including many negroes, were feeling the reactions of regret at the fact that the effort to compel emotions between the races was creating barriers between the races at places where they have not been felt before. In fact, one resident of Harlem has expressed his own regret at what is happening to many of the children and the young people in that area as a result of this. It has seemed to me that some of this is in the thinking of Grant Reynolds in his effort to redirect the approach of his people there.

Certainly, as one reads the article in the March issue of the Reader's Digest on Booker T. Washington, one is impressed that his approach furnishes a pattern which is good. A young negro woman who feels much as I do and who is able to detach herself thoughtfully from race feelings, has made the same comment.

On the second point, I quote your remark to me in your office on an afternoon when we discussed the talk of the New York City Department of Welfare In-Training Supervisor at the Conference. The purpose of my call was to discuss this. Your ~~SSSSS~~ threw your hands up and said just that. You then gave me two articles which you had written, not on this subject, as we talked of several things, and suggested the possibility that we might, perhaps, talk again sometime.

The two subjects which interest me most just now - and have since the fall of 1945 - are race relations and labor relations. It has seemed to me that we are all doing much rationalizing in both areas.

On the assumption that you have sent Mrs. Roosevelt a copy of your letter to me of March 4th, just received, I am sending her a copy of my reply. Thank you very much for writing me about it and may I say that I would be a far more comfortable person if I might find the place at which minds might meet on these two subjects. At this point I feel that people are being damaged and I am concerned.

Sincerely yours,
Genevieve LeCompte

IT RESEMBLES THE OTHER QUALITIES UNDER WHICH THE
M. WESTON-STAR AND OTHERS MAY BE "LARGER" THAN THE FIELD IS

This is the woman to whom you said
first
her/letter was confusing

Said the letter
Kendallman
Kendallman
can replace
Kendallman

January 27, 1947

Handwritten notes on a small piece of paper:
Dear Mr. [unclear]
[unclear] [unclear] [unclear]
[unclear] [unclear] [unclear]

Typing may improve that longhand letter I sent you, which you may have found difficult to read. On re-reading it myself, I could find little to confuse.

Sorry for the length. There is much for many to say.

Handwritten note:
Letter sent
to Mr. Lundenon
New York School of Social Work
122 E 22 St. NYC.
asking to explain question

14 Hedgeway Court
Hempstead, Long Island
February 3, 1946

Le Compte

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

When there is much to say it should never be said longhand. No machine available that evening.

If it seemed confused the main idea in some of today's thinking would seem to have been achieved.

However, many think I remain among the few are who are neither confused nor fooled. Perhaps a later message sent yesterday will seem less so.

Sincerely yours,

William Le Compte

please type - so
Mrs B. can read
more easily

You like it so much that I
am unable to understand if you are
an artist. I got your disapproval.

January 27, 1947

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt,

On Tuesday, January 25th, the Board of Directors of the Adelphi College Alumnae Association met. That group has for twenty five years, had the same treasurer. I believe Tuesday's meeting was the first in that period which she missed.

Being a conscientious person, she telephoned us to explain her absence about nine thirty. She had been attacked, knocked down and robbed by a negro while waiting for a train at the East New York Station of the Long Island Railroad to take her to Garden City. She wished to reassure us that only her own purse containing about \$25 had been taken. The Association money and checks were in another bag. I have seen no news coverage of the incident, which leads me to suppose that the problem may be even bigger than the daily news coverage of similar and worse incidents would lead one to suppose.

My personal feelings are without knowing the individual, that he is to be pitied. If caught he will probably be considered for individual punishment for the offense. But it is bigger than that. The persons who rate suitable correctional treatment are those like yourself who are involved in the biggest crime possible against the negro race... playing on an acknowledgedly emotional people in the arousing of race hatred, built around self pity, ideas of persecution leading to delusions of grandeur for many among the less adequate of the race. In other words, a quite nice people is being hurt and many of their more intelligent know this, resent it and are heart broken by what is happening to their young people. It is my feeling that many of the outrages by the white against the negro are related also to this... and the related fear now existing between the races in some areas.

Also we find the same tools used among the less well developed whites, in the philosophies of relief administered. Dr. Edward Lindeman of the N.Y. School of Social Worker describes it as "old fashioned philanthropy at its worst." Dr. Lindeman made a telling remark in an address before the State Conference of Social Work, "That a forced development is never healthy, strong or good development."

The negro race when unmolested by your kind of interference had made remarkable progress in a comparatively short space of time... some of this was in manners and customs of living learned through the natural channel of living with people who taught them much, who went beyond that with individuals in their ~~stagnant~~ desire for personal development in education and achievement. Some were badly used as were some of the white race when exposed to crudeness.

My own family engaged Scandinavian College graduates as domestics who were anxious to live with the manners and customs in this their land of adoption before branching out on their own.

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without dignity. She mentioned the great educational opportunity lost to so many because of this... many now engaged in rabble activity or sitting at home (cashing checks paid them from the earnings of others) while today's paper carries 21 columns of jobs and agencies having jobs for women... 20 for men.

The letter of Joseph Jordan of Harlem in the Tribune 1/25/47 "Harlem Finance" will tell you first hand, or from source, what I mean.

One wonders what the Creator of the design for differences in race, intelligence, adequacy, initiative, imagination and achievement must be thinking as he watches the efforts of some to streamline his handiwork into a mass issue of Indian pennies. He made the oaks and the maples, the redwoods, the cocker spaniel, the great dane, the blood hound. He also designed the Bill of Rights contained in 10 simple rules for decent living. I doubt that you can improve his handiwork. The only one who can improve any part of what he created is each man from within. Your treatment is like the oldfashioned chest plaster.

Did you see George Creel, page 25 of World-Telegram 1/24/47.. you were on page 27 which makes me wonder what makes you think the A.F.L. or C.I.O. et al are representative of economic freedom. Simon Legree might have envied the leaders. The law put him out of business. It controlled practices by industry which are identical, not original, with those of labor leaders, protected by law.

The cartoon of page 26 of that issue of Tribune fittingly illustrates a combined reading of your message and that of George Creel.

It might surprise you to talk with some of my negro friends; to have heard the response of one when I said to him "It seems such a shame that the first thing I think of now when we meet is that you are a negro". "I know", said he... going on to say that the worst discrimination the negro feels comes from those of his own race who have succeeded or are of other shades of color and trying to escape from race identification. Defeating the dignity of the negro. He said much more.

In contemplating it one feels as though she had the lead in "Alice in Wonderland."

X One is reminded of the little boy who came down the rode on his bike with his hands in the air, shouting; "Look Daddy, No hands". Daddy gives him a dollar for being a smart aleck. The organized worker today might be shouting "Look Reuther, no brains." He then gets two dollars more and punches the time clock a little later in the morning and a little earlier in the afternoon. But buys no more. Or you suppose he will ever catch his tail? Do you think the millenium will come when all we need do is sit at home and cash checks? Harlem seems to be achieving it.

But as someone else said "Isn't it about time that those who work and carry their own and others load up the mill and ~~ask~~ take a rest and let the others see how it feels to work for a living?" Of course referring to your 1/24 article.. had the Red Cross been used internationally there was far less chance of the tangled political and racketeering mess that feeding our hungry in the world became. That agency is the trusted messenger of all nations and believers in the principle of helping people to help themselves. No axe to grind.

Genevieve Le Compte (Mrs. Oliver)

You decide what in this long letter could have gone unsaid
X One fine old business is almost on the rocks. One worker after employment got the place organized. She, now, punches the clock at 9A^m then retires to rest room to eat breakfast.

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My dear Mrs. Roosevelt,

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