September 3, 1947

My dear Mr. Nickerson:

I received the copy of the paper which you sent me and I read your article.

What you say about your interview seems to be correct and well written, but what you say about the Duke and Duchess of Windsor is completely wrong. I have no idea whether they were in the vicinity of Campobello or not, but I never saw or heard from them and I can not imagine whom you saw and thought was the Duchess of Windsor.

I hope for your own sake that your reporting in the future will be more accurate.

Very cordially yours,
Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Under separate cover I am sending you a copy of the paper for which I write. This week I began a new column, "The Roving Reporter", of which I spoke to you at Campobello.

Had I known at the time part of your conversation was to provide the material for the column, I surely would have taken notes. As it is, I am certain that everything is alright, and I hope it will meet with your complete approval.

You might also be interested in noting the feature "Veteran of the Week", in the lower left hand part of page one. I have been writing this since June and will continue it after I have entered college. I'm now making all the interviews for it.

I will also continue my other column, writing from college on various local and international subjects - by international I of course mean things I have come in contact with while overseas, and nothing of current politics.

Yours very truly,

[Signature]
Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Your communication about the Duchess of Windsor has disturbed me greatly. The case was, everyone in Lubec was certain that she and the Duke were your guests, and the item I wrote about concerning her "40 pieces of luggage" was taken from a report at the place we stayed the night before.

It was commonly believed in Lubec that they were there, and I met whom I evidently mistook for the Duchess in a car bearing a New York license plate, as we arrived from the ferry at Campobello. We met them again on the return trip, and I heard someone say "that's the Duchess of Windsor."

It has taught me a lesson which I suppose is well I have learned so early in my journalistic career: be certain of my facts! Of course, that's the first thing my editor on the STARS AND STRIPES had told me, but now I think it has really "taken."

I am glad you found the report on my visit with you correct and satisfactory. I really should have asked you first if it was agreeable with you to write such an article, and I hope you didn't mind. I hope I wasn't taking advantage of your kindness.

I sent you a letter before the one concerning the paper, though as you didn't mention it, perhaps you didn't receive it.

As I told you, because of the opening date of the University, I would not be able to take advantage of your gracious offer to go to the opening session of the United Nations. I wonder if I would be imposing on your generosity to suggest the possibility of my taking advantage of your offer during my spring vacation, in late March?

I realise that this is quite long range planning, but if at the time you find it convenient, I would like very much to be able to do it. I feel that the experience would be a great one for me considering the career I hope to follow, and the contacts I might be able to make, valuable. My paper I am certain will pay at least a part of the expenses, as it would make desirable material for my "Roving Reporter" column, which I shall continue from college. Any expense my paper couldn't pay, I would well be able to bear myself.
I am sorry that I had to make the mistake at the expense of the Duchess; gosh knows the poor woman has taken enough averse publicity in her life as it is!

Your comment on my writing itself is very encouraging from a person such as yourself, and I appreciate it very much.

Yours most sincerely,

Roy W. Nickerson
Many thanks for the models.

Cannot tell now what may be going on in March, but there is always something!

Best wishes.
Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I would like to apologise for my tardiness in writing you, but I just returned yesterday from my Maine Coast trip and haven't seen a typewriter for two weeks!

Again let me thank you for the kindness you extended me in permitting me to see you at Campobello.

Since I talked with you I visited the University of Maine and found that I must be at college on September 16th for "Freshman Week", and that I cannot be excused. Therefore I will be unable to accept you gracious offer to visit the opening sessions of the United Nations.

My paper is interested, however, in having a "local man" see the U.N.C. in action, and also I think it would be a wonderful experience for me personally, considering the career in the Foreign Service I hope to follow before being able to make an independent living as a writer.

Therefore I wonder if it would be possible to come for a couple days, what ever you think best, during my Spring Vacation? This is from March 26 to April 6th (1948.) I realise this is quite "long distance" planning, and I really cannot expect a definite answer now. However if you are there then and not on some foreign mission, do you think it might be possible? If so, you could let me know when to come at a later date.

I hope this will not be an imposition on your already extensive kindness.

Thank you again for your graciousness; both my friend and myself enjoyed meeting you very much and you were quite helpful to me.

Yours very truly,

Roy W. Nickerson
Debute your

artistic en the Portland
Telegram is good.

Those heart of the
Mexico Col. College,
but I know machines
about its plantsine, your
Mexico College could tell
you same sure.

your makers advice
is one I agree.
Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Two weeks ago I had an article, and two photographs, published in the Portland Sunday Telegram. Though the information in it is probably not new to you, I thought perhaps you might like to see it.

The Portland paper is much larger than the Presque Isle paper for which I write regularly, so of course whenever I have something accepted by them, it gives me a boost. As you know, it is not my intention to make my career in Presque Isle, and the more I can write in larger papers, and the Portland paper's Sunday edition is smaller only by some of the Boston papers, in all New England. So far, they have published all I have sent them, which totals four articles, with my own photographs. I've written another article on Italy, one on bull fights, and one, published a month ago, about Ecuador. (The recent revolution there provided a good opening for a story from my experiences there last Spring.)

I recently read in NEWSWEEK Magazine about a school in Mexico, the Mexico City College. I wonder if you happen to have heard of it? It sounds like a good opportunity for a person such as myself, studying for the Foreign Service, to make more effective studies than I might here at Maine. In case you did not see the article, it is one recently started by two American professors who had been teaching elsewhere in Mexico. It had been in existence only a few years, and this year I understand the enrollment is 500, mostly veterans studying under the G.I. Bill. They give B.A. degrees, and the school is approved by the Veterans' Administration. However, it seems that if one wishes to transfer from there to another school, in the States, he would have to take entrance examinations. Therefore, I wonder if it is perhaps such a good school.

If I went there, I could certainly learn Spanish well, and they should have good courses on Latin American economics, politics, history, etc. That would be what I want for the Foreign Service, but perhaps their other subjects are too weak, and counter-balance their good points, making it that I am better off where I am. If you have any information on it, I would be very glad to hear your opinion. I was thinking of transferring there for my last two or three years of college. (My mother thinks it's best I stay here my first two years at least.)
As you may have judged, my enclosed article, with the exception of a few historical facts, is mostly personal opinion. I hope some day I may be able to write a regular syndicated column where I can express my opinions such as these, as well as write on other topics. If I could get a foreign correspondent job, or write a column about my travels, and travel all the time to get the material, that would be my idea of a profession.

The Foreign Service is my second choice, however, and undoubtedly the one I shall follow. I'll not ignore my journalism, but I'll be studying with the Foreign Service in mind. In that job, I'll not only get my desire to travel and be able to do some writing on the side, but be doing a job of some importance as well.

I should think a person having a position such as yourself would have a great sense of satisfaction at being able to make your life work in that way. I hope someday I will be able to do so myself.

We have all been reading about the UN sessions. When reading reports of the talks by Russian, and Russian-controlled delegates, such as the war monger charges, I wonder just how patient a diplomat I will be!

Yours most sincerely,

[Signature]
This man's letter seems to me to differ in only minor details from Mr. Renach wrote me.

"I hope you feel that Pastor N. has accomplished the good you hoped for -\n\n\n"
Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt
29 Washington Square West
New York 11, New York

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Some weeks ago, in a franked envelope bearing your name, I received a copy of a letter addressed to you by George Klein, I wrote to the gentleman he referred to in his letter, and requested verification of the statements made. I am enclosing a copy of the letter I received from Dr. Hans P. Mayer. You will note there is considerable difference between the two letters. I then made inquiry of Dr. E. E. Turner, a thoroughly competent newspaper man and also a clergyman, who has made a special study of the Niemöller situation in Germany. I am enclosing herewith a copy of his letter. It is long, and you may not have opportunity to read it in its entirety. I would like, therefore, to quote one or two pertinent paragraphs:

"Before and since the war in Germany, I have talked to his wife, his doctors, as well as American military authorities: the facts are that for 3½ years, at Sachsenhausen, he lived almost literally on a diet of bread and water. He was occasionally allowed to receive a piece of chocolate. He was in absolute solitary confinement for those 3½ years, not even being allowed to speak to his guards, for at Sachsenhausen, dark except for a tiny window way at the top under the eaves. His physicians reported his condition so serious after these 3½ years that if he had been kept there even three more months he might have lost his faculties beyond any hope again of integrating them.

If someone feels a mission to discredit Niemöller, he can overlook the awful facts of the Sachsenhausen era.

"For over 3 years Else Niemöller saw her husband sinking physically. She could see it each month. He was gradually breaking mentally and emotionally. He came out of the 8 years by a miracle with his organs intact, but his nervous system is badly shattered. I can know
something of what Else Niemoller feels when she reads
a flippant statement that her husband didn't have it
so badly after all. She remembers that during his last
six months at Dachau he had to have treatments regularly,
he was regularly hospitalized, because of lack of proper
diet. During the three months of his American trip, I
was with him. At Portland we worked on him for a half-hour
just before his mass meeting, for a heart-flutter and
dizziness to which he is subject came upon him with severity.
Several days he was so fatigued he ate almost nothing. In
Chicago he was constipated for four consecutive days. He
suffered from splitting head-aches. Mrs. Niemoller, Miss
Boggess, and I worked hard to keep him going, and it was
almost amusing when our reward for bringing him a bit re-
freshed into each new city would be an occasional reporter
who denied he looked too ill to give a press conference in
each one of the 53 cities visited."

I am not at all eager to trouble you further with this
matter, but in the light of your letter I thought it wise to send this
additional word.

Ever sincerely yours,

[Signature]

G. Bromleyธรรม
March 7, 1947

H. F. Mayer
TNOAD, Wright Field
Dayton, Ohio

G. Bromley Oxnam
Bishop of the Methodist Church
150 Fifth Avenue
New York, New York

Dear Bishop Oxnam:

This is the reply to your letter of March 3, 1947.

In 1943-44, I was prisoner No. 50708 in the concentration camp at Dachau. There I learned that Dr. Martin Niemöller was also in the camp, as a prisoner of honour.

These prisoners of honour, mostly high ranking officers and politicians, had nothing common with the ordinary prisoners. Although they were living inside the fence, they had their completely separated quarters. Each prisoner had his single room, well equipped, and excellent food from the SS-kitchen. They were exempted from any work, and could spend their time as they liked. Their heads were not shorn as was the case with the common prisoners, and they did not wear prisoner uniforms, but clothes of their own.

With other words, they were persons with limited liberty to move, but not exposed to the terror of the concentration camp.

With reference to the letter of Mr. Keinath, some statements concerning Dr. Niemöller are not quite correct:

1. He was a prisoner of honour, with the privileges stated above.

2. He was not living in the quarters of the SS officers, but in special quarters for prisoners of honour.

3. He had food from the SS kitchen, which means not necessarily that it was SS officers food.

4. There were common prisoners in these special quarters who had to clean the rooms, etc., which does not necessarily mean that he had his own servant.

In 1944, I left Dachau and was transferred to the concentration camps of Gross-Rosen, Buchenwald, Mauthausen, and Sachsenhausen.

I hope this information will help you. With many thanks for your good wishes.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) H. F. Mayer.
I have just been able to secure the facts about which you write. Theoretically, the special prisoners in the cell block at Dachau were to be given the same food as the SS guards. An orderly did clean Dr. Niemöller's cell daily; his was the only cell that I know of in the cell block which had this service.

What interests me is that two such facts as these should be seized on hopefully as evidence that Martin Niemöller really has been over-rated and that he "really didn't have it so badly after all." In fact, I have been disturbed and saddened that Americans in public life should allow their subjective political convictions to distort their perspectives about historical fact and just ordinary honesty in presenting a picture.

Every honest student of conditions in Nazi concentration camps knows that there were varying degrees of cruelty and torture. At the time Hitler was still in power, all his enemies were so united by common danger and common suffering that attitudes were different from what they are now. Then, inside Germany, any anti-fascist rejoiced at any cleverness or good fortune which would enable a fellow prisoner to escape some punishment or privation common to most of the rest. Now, with the danger of Nazi world conquest gone, attitudes are different and a pettiness of retribution and inmendo has crept in which amazes me in an American, though I am not surprised at Europeans sharing this point of view.

The problem is in the first point: Niemöller's health, his diet during incarceration. Before and since the war in Germany, I have talked to his wife, his doctors, as well as American military authorities: the facts are that for 3½ years at Sachsenhausen, he lived almost literally on a diet of bread and water. He was occasionally allowed to receive a piece of chocolate. He was in absolute solitary confinement for those 3½ years, not even being allowed to speak to his guards, for at Nöbit he had been known to have undermined the 'faith' of some of his guards. I have seen his cell at Sachsenhausen, dark except for a tiny window way at the top under the eaves. His physicians reported his condition so serious after these 3½ years that if he had been kept there even 3 more months he might have lost his faculties beyond any hope again of integrating them.

If someone feels a mission to discredit Niemöller, he can overlook the awful facts of the Sachsenhausen era. He can put forth a lot of distortions and half-truths and sheer fabrications.

At Dachau, the cell-block prisoners were in theory offered the same food as the guards. But the guards have had appetites when they
came from their walks with their families, their sports activities, their
day of busy schedule. They ate their food and asked for more. The prisoners
came from a routine where most of their hours were spent in tiny cells, very
little exercise was granted them compared to the physical needs of the
body. I have been in Niemoller's cell at Dachau and in the cells of the
other special prisoners. I can understand what American officers told
me there; that when the special prisoners were brought their food, they
had little appetite, they systems didn't respond; what food they did have didn't
taste good.

For propaganda purposes some fact can be used: NIEMOLLER
AND OTHER SPECIAL PRISONERS GOT SAME FOOD AS SS TROOPS. But there is an
overlooking of the true facts of involved in this statement which can only
come from deliberate determination to subordinate objective historical
judgment to the political expediency of the moment, when the Great Cause
justifies the distortion of truth because it serves some utilitarian end.
This is not to mention the ingratitude that this involves for a family
such as the Niemollers. For over 3 years Else Niemoller saw her husband
sinking physically. She could see it each month. He was gradually break-
ing mentally and emotionally. He came out of the 8 years by a miracle
with his organs intact, but his nervous system is badly shattered. I can
know something of what Else Niemoller feels when she reads a flippant
statement that he. husband didn't have it so badly after all. She remembers
that during his last six months at Dachau he had to have treatments regu-
larly, he was regularly hospitalized, because of lack of proper diet.
During the three months of his American trip I was with him. At Portland
we worked on him for a half-hour just before his mass meeting, for a
heart flutter and dizziness to which he is subject came upon him with
severity. Several days he was so fatigued he ate almost nothing. In
Chicago he was constipated for four consecutive days. He suffered from
splitting headaches. Mrs. Niemoller, Miss Boggess and I worked hard to
keep him going, and it was almost amusing when our reward for bringing
him a bit refreshed into each new city would be an occasional reporter who
denied he looked too ill to give a press conference in each of the 53
cities visited.

As to the "orderly". It was a game amongst lager prisoners,
and they had indeed few games, to see what favors or privileges they could
get, by any means whatsoever. ...bribery, friendship, appeal to the fear of
Hitler's losing the war, falsehood, any means was called blessed. There is
nothing to the "orderly" story except the fact that on arrival in Dachau
Niemoller sought to do as well by himself as possible. He had cleaned his
own cell for 3½ years at Sachsenhausen, but he intimated that of course
Hitler's personal prisoner would have no such work to do, and the silly SS
fell for his bold manner. In the camp it was locked upon another way
Niemoller made cases out of the Nazis. It is only in the peace-time camp
of political opposists (where humor and tragedy are never found sharing the
same bench) where such a fact would be dug up and prized as an index of a
pro-Nazi aspect to Niemoller's incarceration.

Faithfully,
(Signed) Ewart E. Turner
February 2, 1947

My dear Rev. Ziarko:

I happen to feel that it would be better of the Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America had not brought Pastor Neimoller to speak in this country.

If Pastor Neimoller had been consistently anti-Nazi, I doubt if he would be alive today. He has over and over again stressed the fact that he was a patriotic German and opposed Nazism because of its attacks on the church.

I think in this country we have to remember and not be too soft hearted about the Germans. They started two world wars. They must live and they must be given hope, but they must not have a chance to appeal to us for rehabilitation to the point of becoming a war menace again.

Very sincerely yours,
January 25th, 1947,

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt,
Hyde Park, New York.

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:-

Not believing the statements made in the enclosed article, I am here-with sending it on to you that you consider a defense of such charges, in your own personal column.

Should you elect to answer it, I would deeply appreciate notice of the answer, as I would like to lay the same before our church officials who have taken up the issue, in their respective pulpits.

With kindest cordial respects, I remain

Very much concerned,

Albert A. Ziarko, Jr.

Rev. Dr. Albert A. Ziarko, Jr.
Good Morning

By Malcolm W. Bingay

PASTOR NIEMOELLER

A lot of left-wing sharpshooters are aiming their guns at Pastor Niemoeller who is touring the United States as the guest of the Federal Council of Churches.

One of the leaders of this sniping operation is—of all people!—Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt. When the famous clergyman, who defied Hitler and his horrid gang, arrived in this Country Mrs. Roosevelt cracked off: "I cannot see why we should be asked to listen to his lectures."

Coming from the peripatetic lady who has never missed an opportunity to make a speech for cash on the line, this is not without its amusing element. It is not on record that she was ever "asked" to listen. I would rather listen to him than I would to her or any of her sons.

He has something to say.

...
WHEREVER he goes he is hounded by the parlor pinks of the press who seem to delight in misrepresenting him. He has been so misquoted and misrepresented that he has deliberately limited his interviews, feeling that what he has to say can best be told to those who are interested from the platform.

But because he declines to give forth on these casual interviews we read screaming headlines that he has been "gagged." By whom? Well, the hint is that a muzzle has been put on him by the United States Government. The State Department, we read, has forbidden him to discuss politics during his tour on the ground that "he is still an enemy."

I thought we went to war to fight Hitler and his gang who had first conquered Germany. Well, the man who fought Hitler hardest and at the risk of his life was Pastor Niemoeller.

"The Ten Commandments," says Niemoeller, "were political opposition to the Nazis. For repeating them I was deprived of my ministry."

Because, like thousands upon thousands of other men of God of all denominations, he fought against the whole Nazi philosophy he was sent to a concentration camp where he was a prisoner for eight years. The last five of these were spent in solitary confinement at Dachau.

I was at that horror camp a few hours after it had been captured. No maniacal murderer could have dreamed of a more horrible place. The S.S. Elite Guard had rushed Niemoeller into Italy before the troops came. But we saw his cell. It was about twice the size of a telephone booth.

All freedom loving people of the earth owe Pastor Niemoeller a debt of gratitude. As early as 1933 he was battling in Germany against the nihilism of Hitler; fighting against his racial and religious persecutions. His was a mighty voice in those early days in fighting for the Jews.

He and other clergymen and the heroic priests of the Catholic Church remained at last the only opposition left.

* * *
ALBERT EINSTEIN, himself a
pantheist, noted this in the early
days of the war. He said then
that the business and professional
men gave in to Hitler. He was able
to crush the newspapers. But the
men of God alone had the divine
courage to stand by their faith,
even though it meant prison, star-
vation, torture and death.

When Niemoeller was finally
freed he explained that he fought
Nazism for religious reasons. He
pointed out that some fought the
regime for political reasons, others
for economic reasons and others
for sociological reasons.

"My opposition," he said, "goes
deeper than any of these and
includes them all. National Social-
ism violated all the Ten Com-
mandments. Every time I
spoke I thought it would be last.

They must be afraid to arrest me
at first because I had powerful
friends. Later they said I was a
"Jew lover" and dangerous to the
state. My underground activities
were discovered and I was sent to
prison."

Pastor Niemoeller is a German
with a passionate love of his native
land. He made himself a world
figure in the first world war as a
daring submarine commander. But
he was never for Hitler. He fought
him in the early days when the
United States and Great Britain
and France were willing to accept
him.

The other day the United States
officially granted amnesty to 800-
000 Nazis in Germany. But we are
told that our State Department
considers Niemoeller "an enemy." There is something screwy some-
where.

Niemoeller's enemies say that he
offered to join the German Navy
if released. If you had been at
Dachau this would be understand-
able. But Hitler knew the man's
unconquerable courage and re-
jected the proposition. He might
have led a revolt.

This man was fighting Hitler
when we were doing business with
him.