The recollections of the meal served by Mr. Clinton - Mr. Stephens are very vague. If they want to write their recollections, that is...
Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt  
Apartment 15-A  
29 Washington Square  
New York City  

7 May 1947  

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt,  

I am now in the process of completing the final version of an article about the Meals for Millions Foundation, Inc., and Multi-Purpose Food. Mr. Clifford E. Clinton, President of the Foundation, and Mr. Donald Stephens, Eastern Director, have given me their authorization and very close cooperation, and there is every reason to hope that Collier's Magazine will accept the article for publication in the near future.

The article is necessarily of a somewhat scientific nature, for the most part, and a Collier's editor tells me that its acceptability would be tremendously increased if it were livened up with a little more human interest. The piece will be vastly improved if it includes a report of the occasion on which Mr. and Mrs. Clinton and Stephens served you a meal of Multi-Purpose Food in your apartment. I would, therefore, appreciate it very much if you would be kind enough to permit this and to write me your recollection of the occasion.

Mr. Clinton reports that you were at first skeptical that two ounces (dry weight) of a single food could contain all but one of the nutritional essentials, and that you said something to the effect that your husband had seemed intrigued by the thought that people would some day be able to subsist on pills, or other food substitutes, instead of regular meals. He reports you as saying that your reaction was one of doubt, and that you questioned what such a development would do to the economy of the farmer. However, Mr. Clinton tells me, you became very enthusiastic about Multi-Purpose Food after tasting it and hearing more about its remarkable qualities.

If I am permitted to report this conversation in direct quotations, I believe that it will so improve the article as to make it acceptable to Collier's. Several million meals of Multi-Purpose Food have already been served to starving people in the devastated areas. However, there has been very little about the product in the national press. An article informing the public about MFF and the magnificent job which the Foundation is doing would certainly arouse considerable support and consequently aid in raising funds to purchase and ship many more meals for millions. That is why I am asking for your help in this matter, even though I know you are one of the world's busiest people. I should also like permission to quote the sentence from your column about Multi-Purpose Food in which you state that it should be useful in school-lunch programs, as well as relief work. I believe the material you can give me will mean the success of the article, if I may use it.

Respectfully yours,

Edward N. Plaut