

University: A-W

The University Club
1 West 54th Street

11/6/47

I have just read your
article in today's World
Telegram in which —
in speaking of the approaching
visit of the ministers who
visited Yugoslavia —
you speak of some one who
has assured you that there is
"no interference with religious practices"
in the important country and
that the "only objection has been

to those who have interfered with
political conditions."

In view of the form which
the "objection," as you term it,
has taken — the imprisonment
of the clergy and of those of those
who subscribe to the Roman Catholic
faith — it would be enlightening
if you would make clear just
what type of "interference" with
political conditions" justifies pun-
ishment of the kind or any
punishment.

When the kind of "interference" with
political conditions" which, in the
opinion of your informant, justifies

The University Club
1 West 54th Street

penetration is known, it
can be better decided just
how much weight it is to
be attached to his conclusion,
which has no imposed god,
that there is religious
freedom.

OFFICE OF THE
PRESIDENT
PLEASE REPLY TO
15 BROAD STREET
NEW YORK 5, N.Y.

Frank

The University Club
1 West 54th Street
New York 19, N.Y.

December 3, 1947

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I have just received from Mr. John A. Ryan, Assistant Manager of The University Club, your letter of November 25, 1947, and accompanying it the anonymous letter.

First let me say that I heartily join with you in deploring anonymous letters. I am shocked and surprised that one should have been written on the stationery of The University Club, and especially one to you and of the character of the one enclosed.

We have been very glad to comply with your request and we have made a serious and extensive effort to identify the handwriting of this letter, which is returned herewith. I regret exceedingly that we have not been able to identify the handwriting, nor have we been able to trace the writer. I would have been particularly glad to have been able to do so because I deplore greatly the sending of this anonymous letter. I do not understand it and it is very regrettable that anyone should have written an anonymous letter on University Club stationery, particularly one of the character of the enclosed. I wish very much that we could be of assistance in identifying the individual who wrote the letter. I cannot believe that such a letter could have been written by a member of our Club. We discourage the use of our stationery, but now and then it is improperly used.

With sincere regret that we have been unable to be helpful in the matter to date, believe me,

Respectfully yours,

Emil Gunderlach
President

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt
Apartment 15-A
29 Washington Square, West
New York 11, N. Y.

SCHOOL OF LAW
OFFICE OF THE DEAN

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO

BOULDER, COLORADO

April 7, 1947

*former
covers
affair*

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt
Apartment Six A
29 Washington Square West
New York 11, New York

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I greatly appreciate your letter of April 2, regarding American Youth for Democracy.

A copy of our report to President Stearns is enclosed. The report contained no recommendation as to the attitude which the University should adopt with respect to the organization. President Stearns decided, however, to bar AYD from the campus not, I think, because it is communistic, but because it is not in its underlying purpose the democratic and liberal institution which it purports to be.

The action of President Stearns in banning AYD received the unanimous support of our Board of Regents. Whether or not it was the right thing to do only time will tell. The action has caused a great disturbance here on the campus, the chief actors being the members of the local AYD. A meeting is being held on the campus tomorrow afternoon at which Paul Robeson, President Stearns and Dr. Walter Orr Roberts (the astronomer) will discuss this and similar issues.

As you have not asked that your letter be kept confidential, we probably will use it in the discussions that are almost daily taking place. Your feeling that the organization should not be banned will give some comfort to the "dissident elements", but your statement that the AYD is the old "Young Communist League in new dress" is confirmatory of the findings of the Committee. Our local AYD's will not admit that their organization is communist in sponsorship or motivation.

I was in Rome when the President died. I shall never forget the dismay which was evident in the face of every person I met on the morning when we received the news. I think that British, French, Belgium, Russians, Yugoslavs--all the many peoples that were represented in Rome at that time--felt that the tragic occurrence placed the whole future of the world at risk. I think that everyone agreed with DeGasperi when he said, "A great light has gone out on the horizon of humanity."

Sincerely yours,

Edward C. King
Edward C. King

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enc.

From: News Bureau
University of Colorado
Boulder, Colorado

March 15, 1947

President Robert L. Stearns
University of Colorado
Boulder, Colorado

REPORT OF ACTION TAKEN REGARDING THE

TOM PAINE CHAPTER

of the

AMERICAN YOUTH FOR DEMOCRACY

at the

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO

March 15, 1947

President of the University: Robert L. Stearns

Members of the Special Investigation Committee:

Dean Edward C. King, School of Law, Chairman

Professor Earl C. Crockett, Department of Economics

Professor J. W. Broxon, Department of Physics

By personal examination of newspaper files, reports, columns, and articles pertaining to AYD, AYD.

By copying letters of inquiry to interested persons and institutions representing varied shades of political opinion.

Reference to such a plan the following persons generally appeared before the Committee and gave information or made statements concerning AYD: namely, Professor Walter B. Franklin, Professor Earl W. Fugate, Professor Carl E. Berglund (faculty sponsor of AYD), Jerry Goodman (President of the Colorado Tom Paine Chapter of AYD), and Brian Edgworth (President of the local Young Republicans). At the meeting with Jerry Goodman, it was suggested that he invite Leo Kessler, State Inter-Collegiate Director of AYD, and Harold Kaplan, Colorado Secretary of AYD, to appear before the Committee, but he was of the opinion that they could add nothing to the statements which Goodman himself had made.

March 15, 1947

President Robert L. Stearns
University of Colorado
Boulder, Colorado

Dear President Stearns:

In your letter of March 3, 1947, you requested the undersigned committee, which you had appointed to investigate student organizations having a political aspect, to give immediate attention to the organization known as American Youth for Democracy. You asked us to determine specifically:

- 1) Whether or not the AYD is a student organization controlled by regularly enrolled students in the University, and,
- 2) Whether or not it is in fact a liberal organization interested in the progressive ideas expressed in its constitution or is a front for some other and undisclosed ideology which is in fact illiberal and contrary to our system of government.

At its first meeting, held immediately after receipt of your letter, the Committee decided that its investigation should include not only the activities and antecedents, but also the motivations and purposes of AYD. It was also decided that the Committee would conduct the investigation in the following manner:

- 1) By holding hearings at which anyone interested in AYD might appear for the purpose of giving information or making statements regarding AYD;
- 2) By personal examination of newspaper files, reports, speeches, and articles pertaining to AYD; and,
- 3) By sending letters of inquiry to informed persons and institutions representing varied shades of political opinion.

Pursuant to such a plan the following persons severally appeared before the Committee and gave information or made statements concerning AYD, namely, Professor Walter B. Franklin, Professor Carl W. McGuire, Professor Carl W. Borgmann (faculty sponsor of AYD), Jerry Goodman (President of the Colorado Tom Paine Chapter of AYD), and Brian Wadsworth (President of the local Young Republicans). At the meeting with Jerry Goodman, it was suggested that he invite Leo Kaplan, State Inter-Collegiate Director of AYD, and Harold Zepelin, Colorado Secretary of AYD, to appear before the Committee, but he was of the opinion that they could add nothing to the statements which Goodman himself had made.

Denver, Colorado
Honorable, Colorado
University of Colorado
President Robert L. Stearns

President Robert L. Stearns
March 15, 1947
Page 2

Your Committee also examined files of the Daily Worker and the New York Times from the date of the organization of AYD to the present time, and read numerous reports of congressional committees and of others engaged in investigating so-called un-American activities. In addition, your Committee sent letters of inquiry to the following persons and organizations:

National Headquarters, AYD, National Association of Manufacturers, National Chamber of Commerce, Naval Intelligence Service, Army Intelligence Service, Federal Bureau of Investigation, The New Republic, The Nation, Christian Science Monitor, PM, Columbia University, Brooklyn College, Queens College, University of Utah, Michigan State College, University of Michigan, University of Chicago, University of Wisconsin, New York University, University of Washington at Seattle, Life, Eleanor Roosevelt, and University of California.

In each of these letters the addressee was informed of the appointment of the Committee and its purposes, and the desire of the Committee to make a complete and impartial investigation. The addressee in each case was invited to send to the Committee information concerning the origin, motivations, and purposes of AYD. As of the date of this report, the Committee has received replies from all of the letters except those sent to the National Association of Manufacturers, Naval Intelligence, Army Intelligence, The New Republic, Christian Science Monitor, University of California, and Eleanor Roosevelt. The letter to Mrs. Roosevelt was sent only a few days ago. She has hardly had time to respond. In view, however, of your request for a prompt report, we have decided not to wait for this and other possible replies.

From the hearings, our own investigations, and the replies to our letters we have accumulated a considerable amount of material regarding AYD. Some of the information is confidential, and some has been returned to its source, but much of the material will be kept in our files where it will be available if evidence confirmatory of our findings is needed. Certain other evidence has also been micro-filmed and is available in the files of the University Library.

Turning now to your specific questions, our answer to your first question is that the Colorado Tom Paine Chapter of AYD is a student organization controlled by regularly enrolled students in the University. In giving this answer, we feel that a distinction must be made between the word "controlled" and the word "influenced". By the terms of Article IV of the Constitution of the national organization, each club selects its own name, elects its own officers, and is authorized to draw its by-laws in conformity with the National Constitution of AYD. There is nothing in the National Constitution of AYD militating against democratic operation of the local clubs, which are authorized to conduct such activities as may be decided by the majorit.

President Robert L. Stearns
March 15, 1947
Page 3

of the membership in accordance with the principles and Constitution of the organization. In a letter from Lee Marsh, National Inter-collegiate Director of AYD, written to this Committee from New York on March 12, 1947, it is stated that AYD is controlled by no one but its own members; that AYD members decide upon their own program and activities in the most democratic manner they can devise; and that AYD repudiates any statement by any organization, party, club, or individual that infers or implies outside domination of AYD or the use of AYD as the tool for outside interests. In this letter Marsh also states:

"AYD's organization is a model of democracy. Majority decision elects all officers. The only qualification is merit. The highest body is the National Convention to which delegates are elected directly from all the clubs on a proportionate representation basis. The National Council, elected by the National Convention, carries out the policies of AYD between conventions."

It is our opinion that insofar as control is concerned, the above statements are probably correct; but it is also our opinion that in one way or another the AYD and its member clubs are under the influence of the Communist Party. The reason for this conclusion will more fully appear in our answer to your second question.

We think it will make for clarity if your second question is divided into two parts which might be restated as follows:

- a) Is AYD a liberal organization interested in the progressive ideas expressed in its Constitution, and,
- b) Is AYD a front for some other and undisclosed ideology which is in fact illiberal and contrary to our system of government?

Our reason for this division is that we are of the opinion that the two parts need not be mutually exclusive.

Our answer to part a) is that AYD, insofar as its general membership is concerned, is probably sincerely interested in the progressive ideas expressed in its Constitution. By this statement we mean that in our opinion the members in general are interested in full employment without discrimination, free and equal educational opportunities, a lasting peace, academic and religious freedom, racial equality, and the destruction of fascism, for instance, subject to such qualifications as are implicit in our answer to part b) of your second question.

As to such part b), it is our opinion that the organization known as American Youth for Democracy, which has its headquarters at

President Robert L. Stearns
March 15, 1947
Page 4

150 Nassau Street, New York City, and which has a chapter on the campus of the University of Colorado, is in its underlying purpose what is known as a Communist front, and therefore a "front for some other and undisclosed ideology which is in fact illiberal and contrary to our system of government."

This same general opinion is stated by John P. Lewis, the editor of *PM* in a letter to the Committee as follows:

"The conclusion is inescapable that American Youth for Democracy is, in one form or another, used as an instrument by the Communist Party - - whether or not its membership includes non-Communists."

Professor Borgmann, the faculty sponsor of the local chapter of AYD, expressed the opinion that the circumstantial evidence of Communist party sponsorship of AYD is very persuasive. He agreed with your Committee that as the Young Democrats are related to the Democratic Party, and the Young Republicans to the Republican Party, so it might be said that AYD is related to the Communist Party.

We understand that Professor Borgmann's sponsorship of AYD did not result from any sympathy with Communism, as such, but rather from his belief that problems of Communism and Fascism can best be dealt with by permitting free organization and discussion, rather than by driving such organizations underground.

We have used the expression "Communist front". By this expression we mean that AYD was Communist in its origin, has Communist sponsorship, and, we are convinced, is used for the purpose of furthering certain objectives of the Communist Party.

The evidence that AYD is such a Communist front, while circumstantial, is convincing beyond any reasonable doubt. One does not need to rely for his opinion upon the published statements of J. Edgar Hoover, or upon evidence produced at congressional hearings. An examination of the files of the Daily Worker, for a period beginning sometime prior to the middle of October, 1943, when plans for the dissolution of the Young Communist League were being considered, up to the present time, seem to us to show conclusively:

- 1) That the Communist Party, or members of the Young Communist League, decided to dissolve the YCL and to replace it by another organization which would be less vulnerable to attack and more attractive to the non-Communist youth of America, with the idea that the Communist youth movement would be carried forward through the medium of the new organization;

President Robert L. Stearns
March 15, 1947
Page 5

2) That on October 16, 1943, the Young Communist League, an official organization of the Communist Party, was dissolved, and that on the same day or the following day in the same meeting place, the AYD was organized by substantially the same persons who had been the leaders in YCL. Evidence of the truth of these statements can be found in the files of the Daily Worker, particularly in the issues of October 15, 16 and 18, quotations from which are attached;

3) That since its organization, AYD has been under Communist Party influence, and has commonly followed the Communist Party line. There is much to substantiate this view in the Daily Worker, which on numerous occasions has carried advertisements of AYD meetings, reports of AYD conventions, and letters and articles discussing the shortcomings, the progress, and the future of AYD. A considerable difference of opinion apparently existed in the Communist Party as to the advisability of the continued use of AYD for the purpose of influencing the youth of America rather than returning to the YCL. The attitude of the Party in this regard is illustrated in a report from the April 3, 1946, Daily Worker, a copy of which article is attached hereto, and from which the following is quoted:

"In the days of the YCL the Communists in the youth movement were confronted with the constant dilemma of how to reconcile the fact that they wanted to build the YCL in such a way that it would unite both the Communist and non-Communist youth and yet in its name, in its activity, in its program, the YCL could not help but make it a condition, in actuality, that Communism be accepted by the youth before joining. That dilemma which existed previously, grew out of an incorrect conception of what kind of youth organization the Marxists ought to build in the United States. That is why we are against a return to anything which smacks of the rebuilding of another Communist Party of the youth.

AN IMPROVED AYD

"The task, as we see it, is to help build the AYD along the lines proposed, constantly improving, on the basis of the experience and discussion, the content of its work and education. The fulfillment of this task is in a direction which leads away from and makes a decisive break with any sectarian concept of the reconstitution of the YCL, of the building of a youth section of the Communist Party or a Communist Party of the youth in the United States.....

"Therefore, our policy opens up two perspectives: one, that the party will become a party with mass influence

From Daily Worker, Friday, October 15, 1943

"Earl Browder, general secretary of the Communist Party, will be the principal speaker tonight at 7:30 o'clock in Manhattan Center, 34th St. and 8th Ave., at a public rally, which marks the opening of the special national convention of the Young Communist League.....

".....it will consider a proposal calling for the dissolution of the Young Communist League as the "first step" toward the establishment of a nation-wide, non-partisan, anti-fascist youth organization.....

"Asserting, however, that the Young Communist League alone cannot bring about the formation and growth of this newly proposed organization, Mr. Weiss announced that the convention is merely intended to take the "first step" in this direction....."

From Daily Worker, Saturday, October 16, 1943

"Over 5,000 young Americans, many coming from various parts of the nation, packed two halls at Manhattan Center last night despite a driving rain as the Young Communist League opened its historical national convention to consider its own dissolution and the building of a new national anti-fascist organization of youth.....

"'You are undertaking in this convention to reach out for a broader unity among the young peoples' organizations,' Browder told the rally, 'to reach over and to dissolve old and outlived barriers which have hitherto kept apart too many youth organizations which should have been working in harmonious cooperation, to find new roads toward the united efforts of millions of our young people who are facing the future with a firm determination to mold it into something better than the past.....'

PROPOSE TO DISSOLVE

"President Weiss informed the delegates and visitors that the convention tomorrow 'will consider a specific proposal of its National Council to dissolve the Young Communist League in order that those youth at present associated with the Young Communist League may collaborate with youth and youth groups not associated with the YCL in taking the first step toward building an entirely new organization, a new type of non-partisan organization which will be capable of uniting in its ranks masses of patriots, anti-fascist youth, regardless of party affiliation.....'

"Weiss took to task 'two distinguished liberals and progressives,' Deans Gottschall and Bergstrasser of City College, who recently warned students to stay away from the projected anti-fascist youth organization because it is a 'red front.' Their concept of American youth as 'dupes' who can be fooled into joining an organization 'like some Yokel' is false, he said....."

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF SECURITY
AND INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20535
RECEIVED
OCT 20 1943

From Daily Worker, Monday, October 18, 1943

"A new American anti-fascist youth organization was born at Mecca Temple yesterday as 332 delegates, representing 190 community clubs, and 150 guests and observers ended an organizing convention initiated by the Young Communist League and by several score non-Communist youth leaders.

"The convention was called into session Saturday evening immediately following the decision of a special national convention of the Young Communist League to dissolve that body.

"Yesterday the new convention decided to name the new organization "American Youth for Democracy," and to place it 'on the side of all that is democratic, just and progressive.' It also proposed 'to join hands with all youth in opposing everything that is reactionary and oppressive....'

"Chosen executive secretary was Carl Ross, who was chairman of the New York State Committee of the Young Communist League.....

"Weiss explained that he had not accepted the nomination for office in the new organization because he plans to retire from activity in the youth field....."

Fullly Worker - April 3, 1946

Sectarian Danger In Youth Movement

By MAX WEISS

(These are extracts from a report to the National Committee of the C. P. This report is available in its entirety to all Party Clubs in the various State offices. The National Board memorandum referred to was endorsed by the National Committee.)

In the past there has been almost a complete disappearance of the close attention paid by the party to the youth movement. Our party is the vanguard of the entire working class, and therefore it is the vanguard of the youth just as of all sections of the working class and the people.

There is a definite connection between the liquidation of the Communist Party as a result of our revisionist mistakes and our abandonment of the leading role which the party must play in the fight to win the masses of the youth. We must re-establish attention to the youth movement as a prime concern of the entire Communist Party and its leadership.

"1. Aid in establishing joint action and unity of the broadest sections of youth on specific issues and a broad common anti-fascist democratic program.

"2. Support and build the organization and activity of the most advanced anti-fascist youth for Democracy.

"3. Develop systematic Communist Party work and Marxist education among the youth and give party guidance and direction to young Communist active among the youth."

NOSTALGIA

Do we have anything even approximating this in the party today? Obviously we have not. To a large extent, concern is expressed with the present state of the youth movement in the form of a nostalgic yearning for the "good old days" when we had a Young Communist League and its workings on the part of some comrades for the re-establishment of a very one-sided nostalgia, because, while the comrades express a desire to return to the good old days of the YCL, they do not, somehow or other, express any equivalent desire to return to the good old days when the party really concerned itself with the problems and activities of the youth movement.

They forget what the party used to do in those days; that there were tremendous party mobilizations in support of the masses around which the masses of the youth were organized; that there was an extensive party training of Marxist cadres among the youth; that there was an integration of the party members in the youth movement into all leading committees of the party; that there was general and constant party political assistance to the youth.

PARTY LEADERSHIP

In order to re-establish it, there must be fundamental clarity in the leadership of the party on the character of the youth movement and on the relationship of the party to the AYD. We cannot say that there is such clarity today. In fact, this uncertainty has existed for some time. It was for this reason that, toward the end of November, the National Board, in consultation with the Youth Commission of the party formulated a memorandum which was sent to all districts.

The main questions which arose in connection with the memorandum referred first of all to the character of the AYD. What does the memorandum say? It describes the AYD as follows:

"They are the most important and effective channels for organizing and promoting effective action of the advanced anti-fascist youth in the American Youth for Democracy. It would be the gravest mistake to minimize the importance of this organization or to fail to give it effective assistance in strengthening

its present critical situation. The party, like the labor movement, must help it to develop as an organization of substantial membership and influence.

"The program and activity should be based primarily upon militant struggle for the needs of youth which are closely linked to the problems of labor and the people generally and upon education of the youth in an anti-fascist, anti-imperialist working-class spirit."

AYD AND YCL

I think that one of the results of this discussion should be to establish clearly on what the character of the AYD is, and to put a stop to the continuation of the discussion of whether or not the YCL should be reconstituted. This demand for the reconstitution of the YCL is, in the first place, a sectarian proposal. Secondly, a continuation of such discussion has the practical effect of diverting the party from its real tasks and responsibilities to the AYD.

The National Board is opposed to the proposition that the Young Communist League shall be reconstituted.

I said that the proposal to reconstitute the YCL is a sectarian proposal. Why? Those of us who know the history of the youth movement know that ever since 1933 the constant preoccupation of the Communists in the youth movement, even during the time when the YCL existed, was with the problem of how to change the character of the YCL and how to reconstruct it into a youth organization of mass proportions which would unite in its ranks not only Communists, but non-Communists, thus putting an end to the sectarian approach of building the YCL as a Communist Party of the youth. The working class in the United States needs only one Communist Party, which leads the youth as well as the adults.

In the days of the YCL, the Communists in the youth movement were confronted with the constant dilemma of how to reconcile the fact that they wanted to build the YCL in such a way that it would unite both the Communist and non-Communist youth and yet in its ranks be the activity, in its program, the YCL could not help but make it a question, in actuality, that Communism be adopted by the youth before joining. This dilemma which arose previously grew out of an incorrect conception of what kind of youth organization the Marxists sought to build in the United States. That is why we are against a return to anything which smacks of the rebuilding of another Communist Party of the youth.

AN IMPROVED AYD

The task, as we see it, is to help build the AYD along the lines proposed, constantly improving on the basis of the experience and discussion, the content of its work and education. The fulfillment of this task is in a direction which leads away from and makes a decisive break with any sectarian concept of the reconstitution of the YCL, of the building of a youth section of the Communist Party or a Communist Party of the youth in the United States.

The second question in connection with the memorandum on which there has been some discussion, made as follows:

"Party youth people's clubs or youth clubs should be established where advisable. Such clubs may be formed in a few cities, composed largely of leading young Communist active in the youth movement. These clubs should be open to any young people joining the Communist Party if they prefer to meet there instead of the regular mass county clubs. At the present time, pending further consideration and experience, these clubs apparently serve a useful purpose in bringing

(Continued on Page 14)

Sectarian Danger Among Youth

(Continued from Page 11)

our active youth forces together, in giving them guidance and Marxist education. At the same time we strongly warn against permitting such clubs to hamper the development of other new forms of activity or organizations; against allowing these clubs to become an excuse for avoiding full responsibility for youth work by other party organizations; and against a tendency to remove young Communists from mass work by involvement in party work related to these specific clubs.

ROLE OF YOUTH CLUBS

What were the reasons for the formation of these youth clubs? They were formed to fulfill certain specific needs: First, the inability of the AYD at the present time to satisfy the desire of the party members working in the AYD for Marxist education, an inability which was a heritage in the AYD of the ravages of revisionism in the party; secondly, the party, in order to make at least a beginning in overcoming its complete neglect of work among the youth, needed special forms for work among the youth and for building the party among the youth. In these respects the youth clubs of the party have proven their value in many phases of our work. They have been real spark plugs for party activity generally, and have specifically shown their value in stimulating recruitment among young people into the party.

It is not the purpose of the party to reestablish youth clubs to lay the basis for the reestablishment of the YCL. These youth clubs do not

represent a permanent form of organization for the party; they are established and exist for the accomplishment of a specific purpose. The real situation which must prevail in the party is that the development of the party's activity and independent role in the struggle for the needs of the youth must not be the property of a handful of youth clubs, but the property of the party as a whole. When that is achieved, then we will need new organizational forms in the party.

PERSPECTIVES

Therefore, our policy opens up two perspectives; one, that the party will become a party with mass influence among the youth, a party of and for the youth, with masses of youth joining the party, with the party really fighting for the youth; and, secondly, the party will help develop the AYD as a mass, advanced anti-fascist youth organization in which the Communists play a leading role.

These perspectives can be realized only if we succeed in bringing into the ranks of the Communist Party thousands of young people who have shown themselves to be among the best fighters in all the struggles of labor and the people. The present recruiting drive should be the starting point of our renewed efforts to begin this process. Hence special attention must be paid in all districts to include this objective, with all the political and organizational prerequisites for its attainment, in the plans that are worked out at every level of organization of the Communist Party.

King

American Youth for Democracy is the old
Young Communist League in new dress.

I dislike banning organizations because ~~it~~
the members go into other organizations and
try to gain recognition under a new name and
it gives the communists the reason they
have for being deceitful.

I do not know, however what your board
would feel. Personally I think the best
thing to do is not to ban an organization
but to give complete~~x~~ information to
the students, both as to its nature and
purpose.

245 WEST 11TH STREET
NEW YORK 14, NEW YORK

Monday -

Dearest ER,

American Youth for Democracy is indisputably the old Young Communist League "in a new dress."

The question of what a college administration's attitude should be toward it is more difficult. To ban it from the campus is a violation of academic freedom, and an ineffective precaution, because ~~it~~ its members then go into other organizations or try to get recognition under a new name. It is difficult, however, to advise a college administration to recognize an AYD chapter when that might jeopardize its funds and its good standing with the community.

Perhaps the solution might be allowing the group to function with full information being given simultaneously to the student body on the nature of the organization.

Love,



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

March 27,
1947

Dear Joe,

I have enclosed a
letter from the University of Colorado
concerning an organization known as
American Youth for Democracy. Is ~~this~~
the old Young ~~Democratic~~ League in a
new dress? *(revised)*

Sincerely,

Love

E.P.

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO

BOULDER, COLORADO

March 10, 1947

SCHOOL OF LAW
OFFICE OF THE DEAN

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt
Hyde Park
Duchess County
New York

Dear Madam:

President Stearns of the University of Colorado has appointed a committee consisting of three members of the faculty to make inquiry concerning the objects and purposes, at both local and national levels, of an organization known as American Youth for Democracy. I am chairman of this committee.

It is our desire to make our investigation as complete, fair, and impartial as possible. To this end we are seeking to obtain information from all sources suggested to us by anyone having an interest in the question.

We have written letters regarding this problem to persons in institutions in the United States reflecting every shade of political opinion, and already have received some very interesting replies. This morning it occurred to me that your personal interest in American youth may have led you to form an opinion respecting American Youth for Democracy which might be very helpful to our committee. I wonder if you would tell us what you think of the organization, and perhaps suggest what attitude the administration of a liberal, tax-supported, educational institution should take with respect to American Youth for Democracy.

In your response will you please tell us what portion of your letter you wish us to treat as confidential, and what portion, if any, we may use in our public report.

I would not bother you with this request if it were not for the fact that the question with which we are confronted is one of deep concern to all of us who are interested in the preservation of democratic ideals.

Sincerely yours,

Edward C. King
Edward C. King

eck:ahn

Univ of Mich Lec Course

for [unclear] att
University of Michigan Lecture Course

3211 ANGELL HALL • ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

June 3, 1947

Miss Malvina C. Thompson
Apartment Six A
29 Washington Square West
New York 11, New York

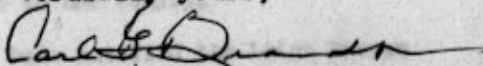
Dear Miss Thompson:

I am grateful to you for your note of May 20 replying to my inquiry as to whether Mrs. Roosevelt would be available for lectures next fall or winter. I have since had a letter from the Leigh Bureau stating that they are scheduling dates for Mrs. Roosevelt on the basis of if and when she can fulfill the dates.

I showed your note to President Ruthven, and he suggested that I write to you again. We find ourselves in a difficult dilemma. We try to satisfy the wishes of our student body in the scheduling of our lectures, and our students have voted overwhelmingly for Mrs. Roosevelt as their top preference. We are, therefore, most anxious for her to come. On the other hand, if we announce her lecture and later disappoint them, we will find ourselves in an awkward position.

I realize that Mrs. Roosevelt can not commit herself definitely at this time; but, we would go ahead with arrangements through the Leigh Bureau and take a chance on her not being able to come, if the speculation were not too great. If there is a reasonably good chance that Mrs. Roosevelt will fulfill her lectures dates, we are perfectly willing to make the announcement at our own risk. I do not know whether you can answer this question, but I should very much like to know: Is there a reasonable probability that Mrs. Roosevelt will be able to fulfill the tentative arrangements now being made by the Leigh Bureau? I should be grateful for any information that you can give me.

Cordially yours,



Carl G. Brandt
Secretary, Committee on
University Lectures

CGB:mm
Air mail

Handwritten note: M. J. [unclear]

June 10, 1947

Dear Mr. Brandt:

In answer to your letter of June 3rd, I think it would be unwise to announce the probability of Mrs. Roosevelt's speaking at Ann Arbor this fall or winter.

Mrs. Roosevelt's definite and possible commitments which are as follows make it impossible to promise:

In late August and early September, the Human Rights Commission meets at Lake Success for about three weeks. As you know, Mrs. Roosevelt is Chairman of the Commission. She has heard unofficially that she may be reappointed as delegate to the United Nations General Assembly which meets immediately after the Human Rights Commission meetings end. The last General Assembly met for two months and it is hard work from 9 A.M. to 6 or 7 P.M. with frequent evening meetings.

In February the Human Rights Commission will probably meet in Switzerland and Mrs. Roosevelt has promised to go to London in April, 1948 for the unveiling of the statue of the late President. Added to all this are personal commitments to her family.

We have notified the Leigh Bureau that it is not possible now to offer any dates for Mrs. Roosevelt on any basis.

I have written fully and

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the present situation & no lack of
interest which makes it impossible
to make even a tentative promise
Very Sinc. yrs.

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Carl G. Brandt
University of Michigan Lecture
Course
3211 Angell Hall
Ann Arbor, Michigan

May 20, 1947

My dear Mr. Brandt:

It is difficult for Mrs. Roosevelt to say now what she can do in the fall and winter. Her work with the United Nations may take up most of her time.

In any case, the Leigh Lecture Bureau handles all engagements where she receives a fee. I will refer your letter to the Leigh Bureau in the event that Mrs. Roosevelt can set aside any time for lectures.

We both have very pleasant recollections of our previous visit.

Very sincerely,

Secretary

cc: Mrs. Beatrice Grant
W. Colston Leigh, Inc.
521 Fifth Avenue