

Was

Washington

October 3, 1947

My dear Mrs. Washington:

In answer to your letter, I think there is a good deal that the women can do in their own communities these days to stop the talk of an inevitable war. They can stiffen the backbones of organizations that are trying to back up the UN.

I think we can strengthen that organization and keep our own government from forgetting its existence and doing things which create antagonism among other nations.

The Russians are vastly annoying but we can do business with them and somehow it must be achieved.

Very sincerely yours,

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MRS. WHITING WASHINGTON
TRAIL'S END
NORTH EDGECOMB, MAINE

9/28/47

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt

I write to you because I admire you greatly as an altruistic & fine citizen, and because I am thankful you are in the U.S. - I wish there were more women, because there never was a woman who saw any sense in war. What can we women do to stop what seems to me a hideous drive for war?

I, in common with many, many U.S. citizens, feel sick at the way

things seem to be going. Badly as Russia seems to be behaving, I do not wonder that she does not trust us. One has a horrible feeling that powerful interests in this country are pushing us into a war - the constant talk of "the next war," the constant boasting of our new weapons, the irresponsible statements by public officials, the constant effort of the press to condition us to hate & war - is all absolutely heart-breaking - & somehow we must stop it. But how?

MRS. WHITING WASHINGTON
TRAIL'S END
NORTH EDGECOMB, MAINE

In the first world war my husband was on the staff of an admiral - in this war I was women's personnel director at the Bath Iron Works - & these experiences have left me with very little faith in the real & honest thinking of most men - power & money & self-glorification blind them to any thought of the consequences of some of their acts. Many of them have even told me they

want war. But certainly the
present mess in the world should
convince any one of the futility
of war - it only brings more
suffering, hate & chaos -

women are a powerful potential,
if they could be organized -

what can we do to stop this insane
hysterical drive toward war?

Can you, who are close to the heart
of all this, tell us?

Sincerely yours

Dorothy Clinton Washburn

~~Mr. HORACE LEE WASHINGTON~~
S. Horace Lee Washington.

2200 R STREET

~~Handwritten initials~~ ~~Handwritten initials~~
629, Foster Street,
Evanston, Illinois.
Nov. 25th, 1947.

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt,

Knowing you would remember my Parents (my Father being so long with the Department of State, and my Mother a distant relative of Senator Garrison), I have ventured to write you a brief memoir on the general subject of Legal Insanity! It may be inferred that all historians are ignorant of lunacy, and that most psychiatrists are equally ignorant of legal history; but I believe I can claim the ignorance of neither, since I am both M.A. Cantab., Fellow of the Soc. of Antiquaries (London) and of the Royal Historical Society, and Associate in History at Harvard, as well as (and I add this with a certain insouciance!) veteran of several "Asylums" during the past few years. As I am a great admirer of the proposal for Socialized Medicine, I felt that "Legal Insanity" might equally well become a subject for discussion - and, I hope you would agree, for renunciation - in the not far distant future.

The main point about Legal Insanity is this: - it isn't "legal" at all! The vileness of our credulity that the Insane (sic) exist is only, - as in the ominous parallel of (Legal) Witchcraft, - due to the survival of a Law on our statute books dating, in effect, from the Middle Ages. Our basic law, authorizing the certification, etc. of Lunatics and Incompetents, dates from its original inception by an English Parliament under King Edward II. in 1310 (see Statutes of The Realm, Vol I; and cp. Hazelton and Gillespie's Manual of Psychiatry [London], p. 22).

As our superb modern asylums and even Bedlam didn't exist at that date (1310), one can appreciate that the framing of such a Law was for some legal reason other than simply "commitment" purposes: and, in fact, the creation of work-houses and county lunatic asylums in England took place - barring Bedlam - in the late eighteenth century (as it did over here, e.g. the first public asylum at Richmond), and Bedlam itself was an affair of the post-Stuart epoch. Consequently, it is only necessary to consider why such a Law should have been passed at such a time, to understand what 'Lunacy' is about.

The intention of the Law was to regulate feudal matters; since its inception in 1310 was co-extensive with the existence of a host of other anachronistic feudal Laws, the majority of which (for example, 'knight service') were repealed in England as the price of restoration of the English monarchy in 1661 (Similar* repeal in France only took place in 1789). Thus, there was at one period a valid reason for appointing sanity commissions

* As U.S. Consul-General in London, at 18 Kenilworth Square, London, etc. - S.H.L.W.

P.T.O.

