Dear Sirs:

I can not set a definite date at this writing for my visit to the Institute. I have heard indirectly and unofficially that I may be appointed as delegate to the UN Assembly which meets around the middle of Sept. It is not possible to know in advance how long the Assembly will last. I think later in November one may be safer.

In any case I'll tell you as soon as I know.
Je m'excuse de vous escrire
WEST VIRGINIA STATE COLLEGE
INSTITUTE, W. VA.

20 June 1947

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Following your letter of May 4th, copy of which is enclosed, I beg to submit herein a series of dates on anyone of which a special convocation might be called.

Possible convocation dates here are as follows: October 5th; October 12, October 19, 1947. The following dates in November, 1947 would be acceptable as convocation dates: November 2 and November 9, 1947. Please know that the dates herein submitted are for your consideration. They may be of value to you in deciding on a date to visit this college.

Let me hear from you.

Sincerely yours,

JOHN W. DAVIS
President

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt
Val-Kill Cottage
Hyde Park, Dutchess County
New York
Val-Kill Cottage
Kyie Park, Duchess Co.
New York

May 4, 1947

Dear President Davis:

I do want to come to Institute some time and I would much prefer that you hold the honorary degree until I can accept it personally.

It is not possible for me to set a date now until I know how much time I will have to give to the work of the Human Rights Commission, but I will set a definite time as soon as possible.

Very truly yours,

Eleanor Roosevelt
A college that is alert and alive to current and post-war problems. Students are trained to live vigorously and serve efficiently. A member of the North Central Association of Colleges for 19 years. High scholarship and character receive major emphasis. Practical and cultural courses meet the needs of enrolled World War II veterans.

A Co-educational Institution.

A Land-Grant College.

For additional information, write President John W. Davis, Institute, W. Va.
May 4, 1947

Dear President Davis:

I do want to come to Institute some time and I would much prefer that you hold the honorary degree until I can accept it personally.

It is not possible for me to set a date now until I know how much time I will have to give to the work of the Human Rights Commission, but I will set a definite time as soon as possible.

Very sincerely yours,
WEST VIRGINIA STATE COLLEGE
INSTITUTE, W. VA.

29 April 1947

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

We have most carefully tucked away here an honorary degree and a beautiful hood which have been voted to you by the Executive Committee of this college and the West Virginia Board of Education. I am writing to ask if it will be all right to make awards in this connection "in absentia" on May 25, 1947. This is the date of our regular convocation this year.

Let me hear from you.

Sincerely yours,

JOHN W. DAVIS
President

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt
29 Washington Square, West
Apartment 15-A
New York City 11
A college that is alert and alive to current and post-war problems. Students are trained to live vigorously and serve efficiently. A member of the North Central Association of Colleges for 19 years. High scholarship and character receive major emphasis. Practical and cultural courses meet the needs of enrolled World War II veterans.

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A Land-Grant College.

For additional information, write President John W. Davis, Institute, W. Va.
February 21, 1947

Miss Isabel Smith  
United Nations  
250 West 57th Street  
New York City  

Dear Miss Smith:  

Perhaps you will recall that a few Saturdays ago, you received a telephone call from this writer just as you were about to leave your office for the day, and that I indicated a desire to get some material before the Civil Rights Commission of United Nations. I also recall that you indicated you had been a secretary to Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, who is chairman of this Commission.

In regards with our conversation, and in view of your kindness in giving me the name of Dr. John Humphrey, secretary of the Commission, I have sent him certain material bearing upon the subject matter in mind, and he has been kind enough to acknowledge same.

However, there are certain unusual circumstances which prompt me to wish to bring to the direct attention of Mrs. Roosevelt certain facts in connection with this writer, and accordingly, I am taking the liberty of asking you to kindly arrange for the enclosed letter to be delivered to Mrs. Roosevelt, as I am sure you will have channels through which this may be effected.

Thanking you cordially for your kindness to me for the above and for whatever consideration you may be able to give this request, I am

Sincerely yours,

W/B
Encl

P. O. Box 393, Monmouth Beach
Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt,
Miss Isabel Smith,
United Nations,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Through the courtesy of Miss Isabel Smith, I wish to bring to your attention certain data regarding this writer for your consideration, as Chairman of the Human Rights Commission of the U.N.O., in connection with some data which I have recently sent to the Secretary of the Commission, Dr. John Humphrey.

I shall not write at length in order to describe each of the inclusions as they will really explain themselves, but shall simply point out that while most of the activities referred to therein were being engaged in, the charges which I have reported to Dr. Humphrey were being kept alive by those who ultimately sought to further injure me and -- as a result of these unfortunate and demoralizing experiences -- I have sincerely endeavored to promote the enactment of legislation which will hereafter protect others (and at least seriously disabled persons) from having to undergo such experiences without FIRST having had an opportunity to a FAIR AND OPEN TRIAL where they would have an opportunity (in open court) to set forth their side of whatever story may be told by others.

Also, it may be observed that -- whereas, for many years while these charges were being held over my head, I worked untiringly in the interest of the Government's side of the Muscle Shoals enterprises in N.E. Alabama, it remained for your late husband to come forward and REALLY MAKE SOMETHING OUT OF THE PROJECT and expend it far beyond what either the late Senator Norris of Nebraska or this humble writer had ever envisioned therefor. (I was always on the side of Sen. Norris in his battle for Government operation of the project). Thus, from a photoprint from a RECENT issue of the Congressional Record, you will see that my interest in TVA continues to this time and thus I sincerely hope that you and your associates on the Human Rights Commission of the U.N.O. may find some merit in my report and recommendations in this other controversial field to the end that something thereon may be included in whatever report and recommendations the Commission makes.

Very sincerely yours,

W. Benjamin West
BROOKLYN EDISON TOPICS

Elec. Constr. Bureau

By W. T. Hatter

Every man, from the division head down, in the Consumer Apparatus Division is attending some night school this year. All but one man are attending the Company School.

W. Benjamin West has just recently returned from the American Legion Convention in Paris. West is a member of the World War Amps. He spent much of his time abroad in visiting power plants and electrical equipment manufacturing plants. The result of his visits is a collection of very interesting photographs of foreign methods and machines. He visited and obtained a technical description of the New Barking Station of the County of London Electric Supply Co., located just outside of London. No technical information concerning this station has as yet been issued to the British engineering world.

Hennel has gradually been acquiring
NAME: West, W. Benjamin  AGE: 51

HEIGHT: 5'9"  LOCATION PREFERRED New York, N.Y.

WEIGHT: 190  WILL YOU LEAVE CITY? No.

MARRIED: Yes  CITIZEN? Yes

CHILDREN: One  PHYSICAL DISABILITY:
Leg Amputation (Disabled U.S. Veteran, wears an artificial limb.)

EDUCATIONAL RECORD
Alabama Poly. Inst.—Hydraulics and Elec. Engrs.—B.S. degree 1918.
Correspondence Course under a Mem., A.S.C.E. and A.I.E.E.  Hydraulic and hydroelectric engrg.
Post graduate course at Bklyn. Poly. Inst.
Honorary Societies: Acad. of Polit. Sc., Foreign Policy Assn., etc.

EXPERIENCE RECORD
U.S. Army Signal Corps
Duties: Writing, revising, rewriting and technical editing manuals for the forces of the U.S. Army Signal Corps and associated agencies. This work includes collating and otherwise preparing manuscripts for the printer. I have to do with the selection (sometimes drawing), captioning and arranging illustrative material—including drawings and photographs—to the end that these may be properly placed in the finished text. Since August, 1945, "Editor Final Inspector" of all manuscripts issued by the Signal Corps Publications Agency. This work includes especially checking all details for compliance with standards in every respect.


Duties: Locating and obtaining data from which technical articles were written on various engineering projects and equipment in the United States, Canada and Africa. This work involved considerable travel and contacts with thousands of people in various states of this country and those of several other countries abroad. During this period, I reported technically on all National Powers Shows held at the Grand Central Palace New York, from 1929 to 1938 inclusive, on many
government projects and numerous large privately constructed engineering works in the U.S.A.


Duties: This work involved checking drawings in the drafting room, making hydraulic computations (in the office of hydraulic engineers), looking up and tabulating computations, stream flow data, checking the location of waterpower sites, writing technical articles for one of the company publications, interviewing applicants for engineering employment and keeping a record thereof. I also made studies of water power data at libraries in Boston and New York and reported to superiors on same.

Inspector-Estimator—Bklyn. Edison Co. Utility

Duties: (a) Cost estimating on industrial power apparatus, e.g. substations, etc.

(b) Specifications and magazine articles writing on power plants visited abroad.

(c) Inspecting large consumer equipment prior to drawing plans and estimating.

(d) Investigating and comparing actual costs with estimated costs of work.

(e) Keeping records and making reports on the amount of high tension cable pulled each year.

Technical writer—free lance—writing technical articles for various publications.

Duties: Throughout the entire period (with some exceptions) since the middle of my senior year at college, I have been writing and contributing technical articles to various engineering magazines in the United States and England. Among the publications which have published one or more of my articles may be mentioned: "POWER", "ENGINEERING NEWS RECORD", "SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN", (many) "PR. PL. ENGR.", "ENGINEERING" London, England—hundreds accepted; and "ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS". (For 10 years, Editorial Representative, "Engineering", London, England. Now "Editor, Final Inspector" Publications Agency, Signal Corps., U.S. Army, Ft. Monmouth, New Jersey).
PARTIAL LIST OF ARTICLES
By Benjamin West


VI. "Hat Brush Scores a Success at Hog Island," Boston Sunday Herald, June 20 (?), 1920.

VII. "Revising High Bridge," Scientific American, October 20, 1920, (See cover picture)


IX. "The World's Largest Shipping Terminal," Scientific American, December 11 (?), 1920 (See cover picture.)

X. "Plans and Purposes of the Super-power Survey," Power Plant Engineering (Chicago December 15, 1920. (See also Industrial Management, December 1920.)

XI. "America's Greatest Dam," Scientific American, May 7, 1921. (Cover photo of Wilson Dam).

XII. "Muscle Shoals Active at Last," Scientific American, October 1933.


XIV. "Livingstone's Last Tramping Ground," World Outlook, March 1942.


Note the above dates of publication and compare with the story of my experiences as recounted by the N.C.O.
October 4, 1933.

Dear Mr. West:

I received your letter of September twenty-seventh and want to thank you for your kindness in sending me the July twenty-eighth issue of "Engineering", the October issue of "Scientific American" and the page from the September eight issue of "Engineering".

I shall be glad to call the articles to which you refer to the President's attention at the first opportunity.

Very sincerely yours,

LOUIS K. HONE
Secretary to the President

William Benjamin West, F.S.A.,
20 East Avenue,
Valley Stream,
New York.
CONGRESSIONAL RECORD

EXTENSION OF REMARKS

OF

HON. ALBERT RAINS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 28, 1947

Mr. RAINS. Mr. Speaker, under leave to read my remarks in the Record, I submit the following letter addressed to the Editor of the Red Bank Register, a newspaper published in Red Bank, N. J., the letter is written by Mr. W. B. West, member of the Society of Civil Engineers, with reference to TVA:

THE RED BANK REGISTER

Red Bank, N. J.

January 21: The editorial entitled "TVA "More Favors" in your November 21 issue was read with interest, and whereas the "urgency to us on this subject, it remained for me to write to the Register in the official to my attention before I resolved to do so.

First, as a reader of the Register and one of your customers, I do not believe that, at least, you would have to wait for anyone to publicize these remarks, for in the absence of any objection from the Register, I would be willing to do so.

Second, I must confess complete lack of knowledge of the merits (or lack of merit) of the claim of the TVA for exemption from the order of Reorganization Director John R. Steelman curbing all nonessential contracts; nor do I wish to write or think of such general references to the bureau of alcohol in public work.

Third, I do wish, however, to standingly challenge your statement that, "The Authority (TVA has principally distinguished itself by its work in the TVA, and on the industries therein, as a result of its policies in the field of the TVA) and wrote extensively about not only that project, but also about the TVA and its activities for publications in the United States and Europe, so that surely I should be in a position to challenge such a statement as that quoted above, (if so, then the TVA has not been a success)."

Fourth, because of other duties, I have not been able to keep abreast of the progress of the TVA for the last few years, but have—on the other hand—been able to glean, from every possible source of information from the public press, and especially from professional and scientific publications which—so I am convinced, prove your statement, as above quoted, to be in error.

For example, consider the following quotation from an article by Theodore B. Parker, head of the Department of Civil Engineering, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, as published in the Journal of the Society of Civil Engineers for November 1946:

"The TVA development represents a very great investment by the people of this country who should be vitally interested in the success of this investment. The responsibility of expending such a huge sum has been from the start very happily appreciated. Those who have been concerned with this responsibility are naturally anxious that the essential accuracy of the whole project be clearly understood.

"Let us resume the work now completed or under construction there will be made available:"

1. Six hundred and fifty miles of 9-foot navigable channel from the mouth of the river to Knoxville.

2. Control of destructive floods along the Tennessee River and the lower portions of the principal tributaries.

3. Reduction of maximum flood crests on the Ohio below Paducah and on the Mississippi River at Cairo, by at least 3 feet.

4. Total power generation capacity of approximately 3,000,000 kilowatts, capable of producing 1,400,000 kilowatts of continuous power.

"This is without doubt an exceptional example of the merits of multipurpose development, where several and vast benefits are derived from the construction of a single set of structures.

"Thus, it will be seen the TVA has also distinguished itself in flood control and navigation, to mention but two of its extensive benevolences, and it would require a long time and many pages of copy to enumerate all of its distinguishing accomplishments.

"Again, several foreign governments have sent agents to these shores to study the organization and operation of the TVA in order that similar schemes may be applied to one or more of their states. Because modern science has come to recognize the necessity of thinking of and working on a whole river system (tributaries) instead of just some particular point or portion of a stream when attacking flood control, navigation and hydroelectric power development problems.

Finally, the TVA made valuable and significant contribution to the recent war effort. For example, my friend who resides in France, has recently informed me that the TVA has been responsible for the following facts which are known to him as a resident of one of the hundreds of communities served by the TVA: Large numbers of naval landing craft and even ocean-going vessels were constructed on a large TVA lake at Decatur, Ala., from which were able to pass out to sea—thanks to the TVA (and Mississippi river) navigation systems. He also says there was a great arsenal at Redstone near Huntsville, Ala., where thousands of rounds of ammunition were made during the recent war and that the abundance of TVA electric power was a contributory reason for locating this plant in that area.

This was, of course, in addition to the tons of explosives turned out at the Muscle Shoals nitrate plants, the power supplied to aluminum factories for airplane materials manufacture, and even the atomic-bomb plant at Oak Ridge, Tenn.

With these facts before you, surely you will agree that when problems of national interest and concern are being discussed, it is not accurate or truthful to seek to confuse the issues and to misrepresent TVA, and taking private property for the good of an area or the Nation in war (with frequent resultant working of his life) and taking over private property for the good of the nation in the present peace or war? On the other hand, many of the private power companies which had been operating in the Tennessee Valley and contiguous areas prior to 1933 are yet operating there, some in competition with TVA, so the "fight goes on".

Very truly yours,

Member, Boston Society of Civil Engineers.

W. B. West.

EXTENSION OF REMARKS

OF

HON. MELVIN PRICE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

February 4, 1947

Mr. PRICE of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, under leave to extend my remarks in the Record, I include herewith the following editorial which appeared in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, February 2, 1947:

EDITORIAL

The reason the United States is doing a poor job in teaching democracy to the
May 14, 1933.

Mr. [Redacted],

Lakeland, Fla.

Dear Comrade West:

I have just finished reading your "The Tyranny of Psychiatry", and found it to be very interesting, and convincing. Contact with several other individuals who have had similar experiences convinces me that the assertions in the first two pages of your manuscript, as well as in the last few pages, thereof, are absolutely correct, but — what is the remedy? I have discussed that question with a couple of Senators and Congressmen, and others, and have had no adequate practicable suggestions to remedy conditions which you point out, and which have been duplicated many times over, throughout the country. I am convinced, not only as among veterans, but as among civilians, whose relatives wanted to put them out of the way."

I am returning your manuscript to you herewith, via registered mail, as per your previous request.

Why do you not put the whole thing in the form of an affidavit in the first person, and then file it with the Veterans Administration?

With best wishes, I am

Very sincerely yours,

[Signature]

Millard W. Rice.

mwr/hs

enclosures.