

McClay, John S. Ellen  
1945-52

May 29, 1945

Dear Mr. McCloy:

I very deeply appreciate your kind letter and I am happy to know from so many different sources how much my husband was beloved and appreciated by people throughout the world. It is wonderful to go and yet feel that your work will go on because you had touched the hearts of so many people.

If anything comes up which I feel you ought to know, I will of course, send it to you, but on the whole, I think it wiser to send to the White House direct because I think people have more confidence when they feel that the answer comes to them through action taken by people in the White House.

With many thanks and my warm good wishes, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

Dear Mrs. Rowell -

At the time of  
your husband's death I was abroad  
and all that I could do was to  
send a brief message to you by  
cable - I wanted to supplement  
that cable by writing you now that  
I have arrived back in this country  
to tell you how deeply I admire  
your courage and spirit. The entire

We shall always be glad to look into  
any situation you may feel we would  
like to know about - you are so  
close to the people that only benefit  
can come to the Army by your continued  
interest -

I also want to convey to you just  
how the profound sense of personal loss  
the people of France and England felt  
at the passing of the President - I attended  
the service at St. Pauls and heard the  
Prime Minister in parliament - Both were

County and particularly all those who  
have been treated by the ravages  
of this war have been inspired by  
the example you have shown -

We have had occasion to write to  
each other over a rather long period now  
and I hate to think that our correspondence  
has come to an end - I hope that  
you will continue to feel free at least  
as long as I am in Washington to continue  
to give me the benefit of the matters which  
I am sure will come to your attention  
from time to time.

most moving - The singing of the Battle Hymn  
to the Republic at St Paul was as great an  
emotional experience as has taken place  
in history - But the wide sense of personal  
loss of the people of Paris and London as shown  
by their whole demeanor as they went about  
their daily business was perhaps the most  
eloquent of all the expression that the news  
provided -

Again I wish to send you my  
deepest sympathy and admiration -

sincerely,

J. D. D. C.

April 25 1945

McCloy, John J.

Mr McCloy (

I am sending  
you this because to  
me it seems frightening

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Egerman

I read your  
letter & have sent it  
to Mr McCloy who is  
the only person who  
can do anything  
about the situation  
you describe

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UNITED STATES HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR GERMANY

*former  
attached*

*Thompson's report*

*used in  
Columbian  
publication of  
Dec 14*

Frankfurt, November 19, 1949

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

The comments of Mr. Eyerman in his letter to you present a more frightening picture than is warranted by the facts so far available to us. There was a certain amount of factual truth in his letter, but there are many balancing factors which he does not mention and the conclusions which he draws, in my opinion, are not sound. There are certainly individual Germans who are biased against outspoken anti-Nazis or in favor of former Nazis, and some of these individuals are in a position to make their bias effective. But there is no evidence at the moment that such practices are in any way official governmental policy or that they are so widespread as to constitute a general course of action.

I believe that the majority of the leading German governmental officials are themselves anti-Nazi, because most of them suffered disabilities if not actual persecution under the Nazi regime. But I also believe most of them are loyal to their old official associates, and whether or not those official associates were Nazis is unimportant as far as these leading officials are concerned. It is quite true that many Nazis are getting back into positions but, in my opinion, they are coming back not because they were Nazis but because they belonged to the official caste. Nor do I believe that all of these officials who were members of the Party were active Nazis. They were bureaucrats; they were caste-bound; they were servants of the state and not of the people. They were subject to pressure to become

members

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt,  
Val-Kill Cottage,  
Hyde Park, Dutchess County,  
New York.

members of the Party and they became members so as to hold their positions. From our point of view they are not admirable characters, but their defects are those of the German bureaucrat rather than those of the convinced Nazi. We are carrying on a battle to get civil service reform which will break the old caste system, and I must say that we are meeting the united opposition of all German officials. Here lies the long-term danger which fronts us rather than a revival of Nazism.

We find another illustration of an undesirable trend in certain police departments or certain local governments where an undue number of ex-Army officers turn up in the personnel. On investigation this turns out to be the result of the caste loyalty of the man at the head who is making the appointments.

There are isolated instances of localities where Nazis as such have been brought back into power. Again they are attributable to the fact that the Nazi gets into the principal position and re-appoints his old friends. Fortunately these cases are so far few in number.

We find the same situation in business. Many businessmen joined the Nazi Party, some by conviction and more from opportunist motives. They are getting back into business partly through property, partly through ability, and partly through the sympathy of former friends and associates.

As against all this, I find a very encouraging support of democratic principles by large numbers of those in public life. For example, the Executive Council of the Bizonal Administration permitted the appointment of a considerable number of Nazis to official positions. Where they were really objectionable, that is more than nominal Party members, the Economic Council made a political issue out of these appointments and rejected them under a law which it passed providing for review of political acceptability of such appointees. I cannot tell you whether or not the Bundestag will do the same thing, but it is interesting to note that before they would consent to the appointment of Mr. Storch as Minister of Labor (Storch having been the greatest offender in the Bizone in appointments of this character), they insisted on a gentlemen's agreement with the government

that

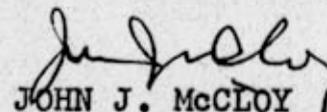
that an acceptable State Secretary would be appointed under Storch to keep an eye on him.

There are presently a number of former so-called "collaborators with Military Government" who have been appointed to high office. I might cite the case of Dr. Koranski, one of many examples. Dr. Koranski, who was until recently the Minister for Political Liberation for Land Wuerttemberg-Baden, in charge of the implementation of the denazification laws, is now President of the Supreme Court for that Land. Dr. Koranski, fearing persecution because of his Jewish ancestry, fled Germany during the Nazi regime and was self-exiled in Holland.

It is undoubtedly true that many people who worked for or with Military Government have not been able to get new jobs. It is quite possible that a considerable amount of prejudice exists because of the former work undertaken by these people. It is also true, however, that many of them had no previous experience in business or government and therefore lack the qualifications which would justify their appointment to new official positions.

I have been so much aware of the problem presented in Mr. Eyerman's letter that I am having a special study made out of the subject. To the extent that it indicates corrective action, we will take that action. But I do wish that the American people could appreciate two important facts. One is that they must distinguish between Nazism on the one hand and ultra-conservatism or even reaction on the other. The latter problem may be equally serious, but it is not the same problem. The second fact is that a nominal Party member to his German neighbors is no different from an adherent of Huey Long or Father Coughlin or Frank Hague to one of his neighbors in the U. S. This may not speak well for German discrimination but I am afraid it is human nature. People judge their neighbors on their own contacts with and impressions of those neighbors and not on what the outside world thinks of them.

Very sincerely yours,



JOHN J. McCLOY

U. S. High Commissioner for Germany

UNITED STATES HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR GERMANY

APO 757 - Frankfurt

October 29, 1949

Dear Mrs Roosevelt:

I have your note of October 4th and will naturally look into the matter of the so-called university officer at Heidelberg at once. I am going down to Heidelberg next week to meet with the Rektor and I shall try to get to the bottom of it and wire you the results of our investigation. Thank you for writing me.

It is very difficult to get the proper quality of educational people over here. So many want to come for just a short time, and so many have just theories with no power to apply them that we do not get the results that we might if we could draw on more so-called indispensable people at home.

On the other hand I think we are all aware of the importance of moulding the German youth in the right direction and some of our results are definitely good. It is difficult to measure the progress one makes in this field but in spite of this I have every confidence that substantial results will emerge, perhaps a number of years hence and that in the meantime it is important to press the work just as far as our resources will permit.

Sincerely,

*John G. Clug*

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt  
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