My dear Mr. Martineau:

I read your letter with much interest and I like the photograph which you sent me.

What group suggests buying it and where do they want to put it?

I am so busy at the present time, it is hard to make appointments, so I hope you will write me.

Very sincerely yours,
Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Attached to this letter is a photograph of our late President. You will recall that when Mrs. Martineau and I were invited to the White House for a luncheon, we showed you a number of photographs of this large head. At that time it had not been placed as yet upon the New York Post Office steps, where Mayor LaGuardia unveiled it to usher in the Infantile Paralysis Campaign of 1945. The photographs you saw were made just before the final touches had been applied to the huge portrait, and when you suggested that the mouth was not entirely satisfying, I made some alterations before placing it before the New York public, and before this enclosed photograph was taken. The Mayor congratulated me and numerous letters came from all parts of the country to express appreciation for this solemn interpretation of the man directing their destinies. Even when my first model was made of the President in 1937, the response was very unusual. It was given the widest and finest type of publicity. The New York Herald Tribune, although Republican, gave it an entire page, and letters came from everywhere, which convinced me that I had succeeded in interpreting the man shaping all our lives through love and devotion to the very cause of life itself.

Today, like all the artists who were given the magnificent opportunity of studying the President at first-hand, I am the recipient of all kinds of requests for my original portrait. Business men, politicians, theologians, crack-pots, etc., offer all kinds of advice and make as many requests. Since the final erection of my heroic head involves the memory of our late President, I feel that the most careful and profound decision should be made before acting upon a matter so gravely important. I don't feel that it should be a project of a political party. The President today is worshipped by many of those who at one time did not understand the significance of his actions and who actually opposed many of them which are so universally acclaimed today. A non-partisan group should be allowed to express themselves in the formation of this enterprise. I do need advice on this and the kind way in which you received Mrs. Martineau and me makes me feel that I can approach you for your opinions on a matter so very close to you.
Before allowing it to become a political project, however well-intended, my wife and I would rather erect this portrait somewhere in the nation ourselves, paying all costs. Mrs. Martineau is well able to do this, since her father, the late George F. Baker, New York Banker, made it possible for her to do things of this nature. This, however, would make the project a too personal one and is not, I think, the proper solution.

Would it be possible, Mrs. Roosevelt, to meet with you sometime for a complete discussion, at which meeting I could hear and be able to incorporate your views. I am not sure of your address at the moment and I shall first try the Village.

Yours respectfully,

Stanley Martineau

SM:a
Encl.
Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt,

Dear Friend:

"If I cannot do big things in a big way, I can do little things in a big way. That is why I am writing this letter.

Having been a bed patient now for seven years straight, and dreaming from a tube in my side once not a set of time to think. One of my hobbies has been writing poetry and I have received a great deal of enjoyment from it.

The day the President passed away was a sad day for all as everyone felt worse as though the President was one of the family. We all loved him, and can imagine your loss and sympathy with our own. I do not need to open wounds, but know
You are a woman with great understanding. I too have suffered much.

This little magazine we have published once a month and in it is a poem I have written in memory of the late President. Hope it will be of some comfort to you, and that you do not think me bad, as if we knew we have a duty of time to think here, and I just felt as though I wanted to send this to you.

God Bless you!

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Spunk - May 1945
August 27, 1945

Mr. James Roosevelt
137 South Doheny
Beverly Hills, California

Dear Jimmy:

Enclosed find the letter about which I spoke to you, written by my son. You will note the top has been cut off. That is where it was torn before we knew what it contained.

Kindest regards.

Sincerely,

-Gummo Marx

GM:b
Enc.
Mrs. Franklin Delano Roosevelt
White House
Washington D. C.

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt,

I wish to express my sincerest sympathies and regrets to you on the passing of our beloved President. He was one of the greatest men this world has ever known.

I being only a boy of fourteen years cannot express my bereavement in words fitting. Your husband has been, and will be my idol. I just hope to become as great a man as he was. Not in the respect of becoming a president, but in his ways and beliefs. Although I have never actually seen him, I loved him and respected him as he was one of the family. I worked for him in the past two elections and have had many an argument in his favor.

I hope you don't take this letter as one that is sent by a person who is trying to build himself up in your eyes. I do not want this in any way at all. I simply cannot say what I want to in this situation, I will always miss him as I know you will, and also love him.

I hope this bit of awkward loyalty, you may call it has in any way taken you away from something more important or prolonged something in the same manner.

Sincerely yours,

Bob Marx