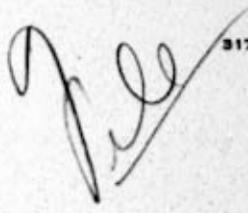


M. 170



MILO R. MEREDITH
317 NORTH WABASH STREET
WABASH, INDIANA

April 6, 1945.

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt,
c/o The White House,
Washington, D.C.

APR 9 1945

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:-

You will pardon me for infringing on your valuable time, but I am anxious to get your appraisal of a book I have written and which has just been published entitled, "Practical Politics and Democracy", a copy of which is going to you today under separate cover. I hope I am not asking too much of you or imposing on your generous nature.

I am a constant reader of your newspaper column "My Day" and met you once in the Oklahoma-Biltmore Hotel, Oklahoma City, which, of course, you will not be able to recall, and I first met your distinguished husband, the President, in the 1924 New York Democratic Convention in which I was a delegate from Indiana. Incidentally, Mrs. Meredith and I each have voted for him five times and would gladly do it again if we had the opportunity.

My purpose in writing this book was to have it adopted as a text for additional reading in our High Schools in civics and good citizenship classes. As a former teacher and as a member of our local School Board for nine years I recognized the need for this kind of information. It is strictly non-partisan. It is an exposition of our American political system and our politics, a phase of education notably omitted and wanting in our High Schools and institutions of higher learning.

The rising generations of voters should be taught the supreme importance of and fundamentals of our political system. Oldsters also may learn thru this book how our freedoms are protected and preserved thru our political inheritance.

Your reference to the origin of the Democratic rooster in your "My Day" column published last Tuesday, April 3rd, gave me the idea of writing to you about my book.

Ex-Governors Paul V. McNutt, Clifford Townsend and Henry F. Schricker and former U.S. Senator Sam Jackson know me as I have been one of their loyal supporters during their entire political careers.

This letter has assumed an unusual length for which I beg your indulgence.

With assurance of a Hoosier's sincere best wishes for the good health of you and yours, I am,

Yours truly, *Milo R. Meredith*

PRACTICAL POLITICS
and
DEMOCRACY

by
Milo R. Meredith

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The author of this book is a well-known former Hoosier editor and political worker familiar with every phase of party organization, political practice and history.

He was born at Rochester, Indiana, and at the age of twelve his family moved to Eldorado, Kansas. As a lad he served a newspaper apprenticeship with the late William Allen White on the Eldorado Republican under the ownership of Benton Murdock. He edited the Leon (Kansas) Indicator a part of one summer while the owner was on a vacation, but after inserting one hot democratic editorial in the Indicator, a republican paper, he was fired before the owner returned from his vacation.

He obtained his education in the Kansas common and Teachers' Schools and his newspaper work. After teaching school in Kansas four years and doing newspaper work on the side, he returned to Indiana where he worked on newspapers at Peru and Wabash. At the latter place he edited and managed the Times and indulged his taste for politics. He picked a choice Wabash girl for his wife and settled down to domestic life. He served his party as precinct committeeman, county Chairman and delegate to numerous State and National conventions.

He has never held elective public office as he has always lived in a republican neighborhood. The nearest approach to this kind of service was as president of the Wabash City School Board for nine years when he slipped in while the republicans were not watching. He continues to live in Wabash in Wabash county on the Wabash river on the Wabash railroad and on North Wabash street.

He is a member of the Methodist church, the Kiwanis Club, Masons, Knights of Pythias and Elks lodges and various civic and community bodies. He comes from a writing family, having had three first cousins in the newspaper business in Indiana, and, on his mother's side, he is remotely related to the late George Barr McCutcheon and the eminent cartoonist, John T. McCutcheon. On his father's side he claims relationship to Meredith Nichols on, but Nicholson, whose mother was a Meredith, stoutly refuses to admit the allegation.

His book is the most illuminating defense of our two-party political system ever written. It is strictly non-partisan and is sustained by a spirit of optimism and spontaneity of expression that are refreshing and fascinating. He tells in a dynamic way the things every voter should know.

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 12, 1945

My dear Mrs. Merriam:

Mrs. Roosevelt understands your desire to go to your husband, but regrets she cannot make requests of the army. Whether or not the men will receive furloughs when the European War is over must be decided by the army according to the exigencies of the service.

Very sincerely yours,

Malvina C. Thompson

Secretary to
Mrs. Roosevelt

Mrs. Alvan Merriam
Box 242
Geneva
Ohio

WHITE HOUSE
OFFICIAL BUSINESS

PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE TO AVOID
PAYMENT OF POSTAGE \$300

Mrs. Alvan Merriam

Box 242

Geneva

Ohio

April 12, 1945

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Very sincerely yours,

Secretary to
Mrs. Roosevelt

Mrs. Alvan Merriam
Box 242
Geneva
Ohio

Pacific - ^{made} 4/12/45 April 9-1945

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt **APR 11 1945**

I am writing this to you instead of your husband (the Pres.) because you being a wife, like myself will understand better. - This Thurs. I've been married 4 yrs. - April 12-1941 - Al's & mine wasn't a war marriage we went together 3 yrs. before but had to wait till I graduated. - of that 4 yrs. Al has been away 2 yrs. & home once. (over seas - a year.) - he's in a building outfit (Engrs. C. En.) ^{subst.} & I know he won't likely be one to get home - before going to

the Pacific - but couldn't we
wives have a rendezvous over
there with our husbands -
We have a little girl 2 yrs
old. I try & try to write
her all about her - but Joe
if only I could tell him - I
know he would go on to future
battle that have to be fought with
a lighter & happier heart. - Money
is being spent for so many
things - we could even pay
our own way - if it wasn't so
much - a part of it. - I
don't think it would be asking
too much - all the news

3.

papers say we're ahead of
 schedule over there + if necessary
 I'd stay over + help work - I
 know there is something I could
 do. - Please take this matter
 seriously - I guess you receive
 lots of foolish mail - but to
 me this is the most important
 thing there is + to Al also.

If possible maybe you could
 answer. I would be happy
 - if you could.

address
 Mrs. Alvan Merriam
 Box 242
 Geneva - Ohio.

Sincerely
 Mrs. Alvan Merriam
 wife of
 Sgt. Alvan Merriam
 3506 85-41
 Co. A-249 Eng. C. Co.
 A.P.O. 403 - NY - NY.