

Basil O'CONNOR  
1945-52

April 12, 1945

Dear Mr. O'Connor:

Thank you so much for forwarding  
the "Hanson" bag to me. I am writing to  
thank Mrs. Rubenstone today.

Very sincerely yours,

cah

Hon. Basil O'Connor  
American Red Cross  
Washington, D. C.

**FROM:** Basil O'Connor  
120 Broadway  
New York 5, N. Y.

**MRS. FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT**

**THE WHITE HOUSE**

**WASHINGTON, D. C.**

April 12, 1945

Dear Mrs. Rubenstone:

I am delighted to have the  
"Hanson" Red Cross bag which you asked  
Mr. Basil O'Connor to present to me,  
and deeply appreciate your thoughtfulness  
in sending it to me.

Very sincerely yours,

cah

Mrs. Rubenstone  
American Red Cross War Fund  
1320 Walnut Street  
Philadelphia 7  
Pennsylvania



AMERICAN RED CROSS  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

APR 7 1945

*recd  
4/12/45*

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN

5 April 1945

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I am sending you under separate cover a "Hanson" bag which was given me for presentation to you by Mrs. Rubenstone, American Red Cross War Fund, 1320 Walnut Street, Philadelphia 7, Pennsylvania.

Sincerely yours,

*Basil Olaus*

Chairman

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt  
The White House  
Washington, D. C.

## The HANSON Bag

Conceived during the 1945 Red  
Cross WAR Fund Campaign

Dedicated to Mrs. Richard E.  
HANSON ~ the first woman Asso. Chairman.

By  
One of the many privileged to  
work for Red Cross with Mrs. HANSON

for

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt

O'Connor, B

June 21, 1945

My dear "Doc":

I have had a long talk with Dr. George Draper who feels very much upset over the fact that a study which was being made with a small grant from the Foundation had to be stopped because the grant was stopped. He is, I think, making application for another and very much more comprehensive study.

I know, of course, that the business part of the Foundation can not be expected to have any judgment on the type of work that is undertaken, but I have heard from several sources that the scientific people are not happy over the way the money raised is spent and considerable rumor is about that the advice of Dr. Fishbien is largely controlling the medical policies of the Foundation. This, of course, would be ruinous to any progress. Is this true? I would be very much interested in any information which you could give me because I have been much disquieted by the various things which have been brought to my attention in the course of the past few weeks.

Very sincerely yours,

June 29, 1945

Dear "Doc":

I have both of your letters which I read with interest. I have known George Draper for a long time, and years ago he made Franklin continue in active life. He may be wrong, but he is a scientist and he doesn't think Dr. Rivers is opposed to him.

I am sorry I can not believe very much in Dr. Fishbein.

I am enclosing a copy of my answer to Dr. Draper.

Very sincerely yours,

Mr. D. Basil O'Connor  
120 Broadway  
New York, N.Y.

O'Connor, B

I really have known Draper for a long time & know how much he likes Draper's letter. I think Dr. Beavis is opposed to him - I don't think much of it. I think it is a matter of opinion. The document is very interesting & contains a good deal of information.

THE NATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR INFANTILE PARALYSIS  
INCORPORATED  
120 BROADWAY  
NEW YORK 5, N.Y.

BASIL O'CONNOR  
PRESIDENT

June 27,

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt  
Hyde Park  
New York

Dear Eleanor:

I am responding separately to the letter which Dr. Draper sent you under date of June 20th. It was Josh Billings, I think, who said, "Ignorance doesn't consist of not knowing, but in knowing what ain't so!" Draper's letter to you is a fine example of "knowing what ain't so." He just doesn't know how the National Foundation proceeds.

Sometime I think you'll be interested in getting Major Hooker's opinion of Dr. Draper.

I am returning Dr. Draper's letter to you of June 20th.

Sincerely yours,

Basil O'Connor  
President.

Dr. Draper who says all together - They are apparently all present. I have of course only the form of Draper's letter to you. I don't think you will be interested in it. I don't think you will be interested in it. I don't think you will be interested in it.

RECEIVED  
JUN 22 1945

**Columbia University**  
**College of Physicians and Surgeons**

620 WEST 168TH STREET  
NEW YORK 32, N. Y.

JUN 22 1945

DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE

June 20, 1945.

*Dear Eleanor:*

*Send for -*

You were a good sport indeed to respond so promptly to my telegram and to listen with such understanding and friendly interest to my notions about disease. I appreciate your graciousness sincerely.

As the train takes me back the thought arises as to why it seems so hard for U'Connor to spend money on anything but the most obvious and orthodox types of investigation, but the skill of the successful collector is not often combined with an equal art in spending. The highest qualities of expert businessmen seem to be strangely helpless in the face of nature's mysteries. Moreover, the ancient trial and error system which man has been forced to use in his slow, arduous and determined climb from the primeval ooze is not acceptable to those who can buy things readymade by a mathematical formula. If you could read the questions which the Foundation requires applicants to answer, you would see this attitude at once. Information about plan of research and intimate details of method are insisted upon to such a minute degree that the scientist finds himself in a straight-jacket. He cannot move quickly, to follow some new and unexpected whim of nature. Many false trails are opened on the explorer's quest and they are discouraging and costly. The business man dislikes to face them, hesitates to take a chance with the money he has raised for the purpose. He is unfamiliar with the fact that nature is jealous of her secrets. The National Foundation, like all such institutions, still have to learn how to spend with high courage on what may be a lost cause. And then be prepared to do it again. The "feeling" for the biological problem as well as reason and scientific training demand equal support in biological research. The way of the natural historian should be flexible and untrammled, but he should be <sup>held</sup> responsible for his work, after he has been given a free opportunity to carry out his ideas. If he achieves nothing, then he should not be reemployed, and the Foundation's contribution written off as one of the unproductive investments.

I hope that you realize that what I have had to say is not intended as criticism, but merely as suggestion for a change in point of view. Again many thanks.

Sincerely  
*George Draper*  
George Draper, M.D.

GD:hd

O'Connor, B

C  
O'Connor

July 6, 1945

Dear "Doc":

I have just received another letter from Dr. George Draper who is very much troubled because he feels that it is because of his being involved as a person and that the research that he is doing could go on if it were done by somebody else. I am enclosing two paragraphs from that letter, and since I sent you a copy of the letter which I wrote him, you do not need any further background.

Will you please return to me the letter from Dr. Draper which I sent you?

Very sincerely yours,

Columbia University  
College of Physicians and Surgeons

620 WEST 188TH STREET  
NEW YORK 32, N. Y.

DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE

July 3, 1945.

Dear

Eleanor: —

Your note rather took my breath away. It had not been my intention that my projected, but withheld, letter to the Times should be sent to Mr. O'Connor. My object in letting you see it was to follow up what I had reported to you at Hyde Park. Having written it last February, following the refusal of the cell culture grant, it expressed how my colleagues and I had been thinking. Incidentally, your secretary probably overlooked the fact that I requested that the letter be returned to me and that I had enclosed a self-addressed envelope for the purpose. I hope you can retrieve the letter for me sometime without too much trouble.

Your statement that "They are apparently against you," astonished me. For who am I to block an effort in scientific research? I personally have nothing to do with the point at issue. The object of the research is to find out about the differential susceptibility of human beings to polio virus infection. Won't you please inform Mr. O'Connor about this, and assure him that I am delighted to resign from taking any part in the plan for research which I sent to the Foundation last week.

If in the judgment of his medical advisers the plan which I sent is not biologically valid, why there is an end of it. But please tell him also that if some of its implications may justify further looking into, I shall be only too glad if the Foundation selects other people to work at it or any modification of it. Moreover, tell him that all the experience and data which we have collected here at the Constitution Clinic are at his disposal at any time, without any strings attached. Until you mentioned that "they" are against me, it never occurred to me that I personally had been obstructing research in the differential susceptibility of human beings to infantile paralysis.

It has been very good of you to help me in this matter, and I appreciate your good offices.

Yours sincerely

George Praper

George Praper, M.D.

GD:hd

BASIL O'CONNOR  
JOHN C. FARBER  
ARNOLD T. KOCH  
HENRY K. URION  
WILLIAM F. SNYDER  
KENNETH L. HOFFMAN  
EARLE R. KOONS  
LEWIS D. SPENCER

O'CONNOR & FARBER

COUNSELORS AT LAW  
120 BROADWAY  
NEW YORK 5, N.Y.

July 19, 1945.

Miss Malvina C. Thompson,  
Val-Kill Cottage,  
Hyde Park, Dutchess County,  
New York.

Dear Miss Thompson:

I have delayed replying to your recent letter enclosing letter dated June 27, 1945 to Mrs. Roosevelt from Exclusive Feature Co., Inc. until I had an opportunity to carefully consider your question as to whether there was any special way to handle the matter.

The difficulty in trying to lay down any general rule to be followed in these cases arises out of the fact that the law does not afford much protection against the reproduction of a person's likeness. Such protection as we do have is based upon the conception of a right of privacy. The legal remedy is by way of injunction and damage where there has been an unlawful invasion of that right of privacy. The law, however, is well settled - at least in New York by statute and the cases - that such right of privacy is a purely personal one and does not survive death. Moreover, in the President's case because he was such an eminent public personage it is doubtful whether he was protected by the doctrine of the right of privacy even during his lifetime.

There seems to be no escape from the conclusion that there is no way of preventing people from doing just what the Exclusive Feature Co., Inc. is doing. The only alternative seems to be to try to discourage it as much as possible. This is especially true in the case of the plaques of Exclusive Feature Co. which you say are quite bad. I am returning the letter in question with the suggestion that you consider the advisability of writing Exclusive Feature Co. and frankly stating your opinion of their sculptural work of the late President and let it be known that you are definitely opposed to the project. In this way you can be sure that your letter will never be used as an endorsement and it may have the desired effect.

O'Connor

Miss Malvina C. Thompson

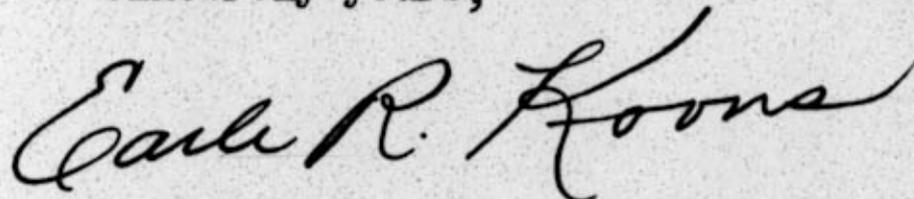
#2

July 19, 1945.

I have tried to discourage projects of this nature by pointing out that during his entire period of public life the President uniformly turned down all proposals of a commercial nature for the use of his name or likeness and indicating that it is now the hope of the family and the executors of the estate that the President's wishes in this respect will be continued to be respected.

If I am able to find anything more helpful on the entire problem I shall let you know.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Earl R. Hoona". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name "Earl R. Hoona".

Encl.

O'CONNOR & FARBER  
120 BROADWAY  
NEW YORK

COPY for  
Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt

1 October 1945

Roosevelt National Memorial Committee

Mr. President:

Since the meeting of the Roosevelt National Memorial Committee which was held in Washington on September fifth, my obligations as Chairman of the American Red Cross and President of the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis and of Georgia Warm Springs Foundation, and my duties as executor of the estate of Franklin D. Roosevelt have increased to such an extent that I feel reluctantly compelled to resign from the Roosevelt National Memorial Committee as Temporary Chairman and as a member, which I now do.

I feel certain that I need not say that no one could be more interested in the creation of an appropriate memorial to the late President than I, and I should therefore have some misgivings in resigning from the Roosevelt National Memorial Committee if I did not feel that in performing my public services as Chairman of the American Red Cross and President of the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis and of Georgia Warm Springs Foundation I was doing the things that the late President Roosevelt wanted me to do and the things in which he was so keenly interested.

Respectfully yours,

(Signed) Basil O'Connor

The President  
The White House  
Washington 25, D. C.

COPY

*file*

October 26, 1945

Dear "Doc":

Mrs. Edwin Watson is troubled because she gave Franklin before he went away, an envelope of her husband's papers. Franklin told Tully to put them away for his return from "arm Springs.

In the mix-up in putting his papers away, this envelope was stored with Franklin's papers in the Archives, and it now requires an order from the trustees of the estate to allow Tully to take out the envelope marked "General Watson's personal papers" and return them to Mrs. Watson.

Will you have this done as soon as possible as Mrs. Watson is really concerned.

Very cordially yours,

*ocoum*