THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 10, 1945.

MEMORANDUM FOR:

MRS. ROOSEVELT

In re: Delmo Labor Homes in southeastern Missouri

Senator Briggs of Missouri is going to offer an amendment to the Agricultural Appropriation Bill now pending in the Senate. The Amendment is as follows:

"Provided, That in liquidating the farm labor community projects known as Delmo Labor Homes, located in southeastern Missouri, the Secretary is authorized, upon application made by the occupant of any unit, to sell such unit together with the site thereof to such occupant, at a price equal to the reasonable value thereof as fixed by the Secretary to be paid in installments within an agreed period of not more than forty years in accordance with amortization schedules prescribed by the Secretary, with interest on the unpaid balance at the rate of 5 per centum per annum, and upon such other terms and conditions as the Secretary may prescribe."

I think this will help solve the problem if it passes.

JAMES M. BARNES
Administrative Assistant to the President.
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 6, 1945

MEMORANDUM FOR:

MR. BARNES

Check the first of the week in re the
Southeast Missouri situation. You contacted
Congressman Zimmerman and Mr. Hudgens of
Agriculture, Ext. 4523.
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 4, 1945

Mr. Barnes:

To give to Congressmen.

E.R.
March 30, 1945

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

Dear Madam:

We in St. Louis who have followed with much hope the F. S. A. developments in Southeast Missouri, are greatly depressed over the rumor that the liquidation of ten F. S. A. Community Projects in that area has been ordered. Without question these projects and the LaForge Farm Community have contributed greatly in setting up corrections of one of the most vicious systems existing in any part of our country. We understand that there is danger in an administration assuming broad controls over the life of a community but we think in this area the necessity is as great as are the controls we have been required to set up in order to win the war. The sharecroppers in this area have been ground down to peonage by the landowners and politicians. We are asking you to use every means possible to keep these community projects from falling into the hands of the large planters and politicians in Southeast Missouri and if necessary transfer the control to some other department of the A. A. A.

Anticipating your help in this matter, I am

Respectfully yours,

John T. Clark,
Executive Secretary.