I have your letter of the 20th.

I have condemned the American communists many times both in writing and in speaking. Communism is not a menace to us here in the United States unless we do not make democracy work for all of the people.

I do not remember condemning the 28 seditionists you mention. I have no hate for Pastor Neimoller or for anyone else for that matter. After the First World War we allowed ourselves to be lulled into a false security by believing that the German people were not to blame, that the Kaiser forced them into war, and I do not want to see us make the same mistake again. The German people were to blame for the Hitler government and a man like Pastor N. speaking to American audiences can possibly make us forget that.

It just so happens that my son, Elliott, did not say any of the things he is alleged to have said.
December the 20th, 1946

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt,

I admire your courage in challenging the Russians on the floor of the United Nations Assembly, regarding the refugee problem. Your statements at the time however leave a bit of wonderment in my mind.

For instance, you said: "We believe here in America in free speech, permitting anyone to have his say, providing he doesn't advocate the overthrow of our government." Now, that is surely a principle upon which all fair people will agree; it is a basic part of our American tradition of fair play.

Yet, while you enunciate this principle you fall short of being willing to practice it in all cases. You did, as I recall from your speeches, condemn the so-called 28 seditionists, who were imprisoned for more than four years and persecuted unjustly, when in not one single instance was proof adduced which ever established that they advocated overthrow of our government. If the principle above quoted is good now why wasn't it good for those 28 Americans, who were merely exercising their constitutional rights of free speech, even tho' their ideas were unpopular?

Furthermore, every sane person knows that every Communist, every member of that party, not only openly and violently advocates overthrow of our government but actually works with his fellows toward that end. When have you ever said one word against that? Tell me, frankly and honestly, do you not think that the Communist menace, with its millions of spies, its unlimited funds, its diabolically clever propaganda and underhanded methods, is a thousand times more dangerous than the feeble and innocent efforts of 28 uneducated and ineffective so-called seditionists? That being true, why have you failed to point out that menace?

Still further. The other day you went far out of the way to pour your malice and vicious disapproval upon the head of a visiting Christian clergyman, Niemoeller. You didn't want Americans to listen to him. You called him a Nazi. You were indignant at his presence. You apparently
held hostility and animosity toward him and his
message.

This to me is a very clear revelation, not of
Niemoeller's shortcomings, but of your own. You are
constantly attacking intolerance and bigotry. Yet you
are in this instance guilty of a very offensive kind of
intolerance and bigotry. Niemoeller was imprisoned by
Hitler. Niemoeller was a courageous leader of Christian
forces in Germany, and still is. You attack a Christian
clergyman who is a leader of the new Germany, because
you are still so saturated in hate that it is impossible
for you to see or speak straight. You were loud in your
protestation against the hate Hitler and his friends
had for the Jews. Now your hate is proving how shallow
and hypocritical was your protest, and that of all Jews.

But even worse is this point, which you cannot
and dare not deny. At the very moment when you were
opening your vial of hate on the head of a Christian man
Communists and fellow-agitators in Madison Square garden
were bitterly attacking our government as "imperialist"
and "blocking the peace". Did you raise your voice
against these hate-mongers from Moscow? Of course not.
Because like your fool son, Elliott, who in Moscow the
other day chose to condemn his own flag and his own
people to curry favor with the tyrannous clique of the
Lenin-Stalin axis, you are at heart disloyal to the
two basic foundations of America: number one, its great
Christian heritage, and number two, its great principle
of equality of justice to all.

The American people are not fooled by your
pro-pagan propaganda. Nor do they need your advice as
to whom they will listen to. As between your Communist
crackpots and Rev. Niemoeller I think they would have an
overwhelming preference for the latter, whose message
would carry with it the Christian spirit, without which
there can be no peace and no true goodwill on earth!

Yours very sincerely,
112 Tower Rd.
Minneapolis, Minnesota
Nov. 16, 46

W. M. Holmes

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt,

Something has come to my attention which I want to tell you. A friend of mine censored letters from the soldiers to their homes in Florida, and she told me that after the President's death letter after letter said "we felt as if there had been a death in the family." That was exactly how we felt in my home at White Bear Lake in Minnesota.

It was as tragic for the country as Lincoln's death and also tragic for the world. I feel that you must have a lot of knowledge that the world needs. I am so glad you have a chance to work in the United Nations, the hope of the world. Yours Sincerely,

Margaret J. Burt