

Gray: A-2

Gray, W

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT
BUREAU OF THE CHIEF INSPECTOR
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR

C. A. Battles
INSPECTOR

New York 1, N. Y.
October 8, 1946.

CASE NO. 53153-F

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JLB

Mrs. F. D. Roosevelt,
Val-Kill Cottage,
Hyde Park, Dutchess Co.,
New York.

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I have your letter of September 2nd in response to mine of August 14th, in which you advise that you do not find a copy of the letter sent to Mr. William C. Gray, President of the National Associated Services, Inc., 701 Seventh Avenue, this city on March 19, 1946.

Mr. Joe W. Savage, Executive Director of the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis, Inc., this city, advised me on September 19th that he does not find a copy of the letter. I note that the date listed in my letter to you was March 14th.

I am forwarding a photostatic copy of the letter from you to Mr. Gray. I note that you have not, at any time, endorsed any song or plans for collection of money. I have been advised by Mr. Gray that the advertising of the song has been discontinued. I am sending the copy of your letter for inclusion in your files.

Sincerely yours,

C. A. Battles
Post Office Inspector.

Enclosure.

MRS. F. D. ROOSEVELT
342 MADISON AVENUE
NEW YORK 17, NEW YORK

March 19, 1948

My dear Mr. Gray:

I appreciate very much your sending me the original manuscript of "America Mourns for You." Please extend my thanks to the author, Mr. Daviso.

It is most kind of the composer to donate part of the earnings of this composition to the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis.

With many thanks and best wishes,

Very sincerely yours,

Eleanor Roosevelt
ER

Battles

NATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR INFANTILE PARALYSIS, INC.
FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT, FOUNDER
120 BROADWAY
NEW YORK 5, N. Y.

HABIL O'CONNOR
PRESIDENT

66

September 19, 1946

Mr. C.A. Battles
Post Office Inspector
Post Office Department
Bureau of the Chief Inspector
New York 1, New York

Dear Mr. Battles:

Your letter of August 14th to Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt with reference to the song, "America Mourns for You," published by Mr. William C. Gray, has been referred to us for reply.

We have checked our files and those of the Georgia Warm Springs Foundation thoroughly and regret that we cannot help you as we do not have Mrs. Roosevelt's letter of March 14, 1946 nor any other correspondence referring to this song.

Yours very truly,

Joe W. Savage
Executive Director

cc Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt

mm

COPY

[Gray, W. J.]

7 November 1946

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt
Hyde Park, New York

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt,

Before getting into the body of my letter let me introduce myself and let you know something about me. I have been in the Army almost six months now and have received much good from my experiences from dat to day in associating with all types and levels of humanity. Before entering the Armed Forces I spent two years at Baylor University in Waco, Texas, studying for the ministry. At the time of my enlistment I had a ministerial deferment but felt led to serve my country mainly for the own personal benefit that I shall receive upon my discharge and also during the term of my enlistment.

I realize only too well now that in the past I have limited my knowledge to those facts concerning the field of work ^I was most interested in. I did not keep up with current events and the affairs of the world nor was I particularly interested in the affairs of alien peoples. Strange as it may seem, I did not follow the progress of the war just past. I celebrated V-J day and V-E day with the other people in Waco and I was thankful that the fight was over and we could once again share the luxuries of our lack-a-daisical existence with each other and not have to worry with rationing and the like.

Not until about a year ago did I begin to take an interest in the world and those about me. Now I realize that the world is still in a chaotic condition and that it is up to the U.S., working hand-in-glove with the other nations of the world, to set up the pattern for peace and disarmament. Now I realize that more than ever before we need the wisdom, the experience, the sound judgement, and the genuine love for humanity that President Roosevelt stood for. He was inaugurated as President of the United States for the first time when I was only a child of five. I loved him; I admired him; and as all my age I worshipped him. As I grew older I came to rely on his wisdom, his judgement, and his decisions. It was he who the country turned to in time of need. It was he who was criticized and it was he who withstood it all and came out victorious in the end.

Perhaps you have wondered just why I came to write this letter. I went to a show last night and in the newsreel I saw a portion of the reception held for the delegates to the United Nations peace conference being held in New York. In that portion of the newsreel I saw you, as a representative of the U.S., shake the hand of President and Mrs. Truman and greet them. At that moment all the things that President Roosevelt ever did that are retained in my memory were flashed for a brief minute before my eyes. It was he who counseled the country at large in his fireside chats; and it was he who comforted the whole country in a time of crisis and chaos.

Also, I remembered very distinctly the battles that you have fought against racial discrimination, especially among the peoples of the U.S. At times it has seemed like a losing battle and other times you have come out on top. There has been so much ludicrous joking about the efforts you have made to liberate the Negro from his apparent and yet concealed yolk of bondage. True, we have liberty and equality for all in America today and yet the prejudice that has been carried over from the days of slavery is still present and the embers of that great Civil War are still smoking. Yes, America believes that "all men are created equal" and the people of America advocate liberty, freedom, and justice for all! Ah! What a mockery! While trying to solve the problems of the world we are not able to control ourselves. "A government by the people, for the people, and of the people"

phrased "A government by a few, for a few, and of a few" would be truer.

Why can't the people of the world see their mistakes and turn back the pages of time to correct them. We pray to God for guidance and then refuse to allow Him to take a free hand. We fail to love our neighbors as ourselves and the motivation behind all our actions is that of selfishness. Gain for ourselves! If we can better ourselves in the eyes of some so-called important associate by hurting another member of God's large family why should we think of the other person? That is the philosophy that we live by. God Almighty is no longer the God of the American people. They have chosen a new god--the almighty dollar sign and power. What are we to do in planning for world peace with chaos knocking at the very foundation of our nation and our democracy?

Rather than working with each other we are working against each other and defeating our purpose for fighting. How can we expect the other nations of the world to look to us for leadership and guidance when we can't even control our own affairs? It is indeed discouraging at times to look back and recall all of the hard work that such men as President Roosevelt did to better the country only to see it trampled underfoot in the hurry and bustle of progress. Progress--change--a faster, more dangerous mode of living--that is what we think of; not of a world wide peace. Mr. Jones worries how he can get a new car like the Smiths have to compensate his own ego. Mr. Thompson can't see how Mr. White got a promotion at the office when he, Mr. Thompson, has been doing all of the work. It is these petty and trivial things that hamper the steady, ever forward tread of humanity to a better, cleaner, more peaceful way of life.

I must beg of you to forgive me for unburdening my heart to you but I thought that of all people who would understand, who had the experience and knowledge, who would be able to look at both sides and see both the mistakes and the steps toward the right goal, you would understand and sympathize with my feelings. I have missed our President, as have all the peoples of the world, but feel proud in knowing that his life was worthy of his death. My sincerest desire is that I might emulate him in so many ways; that I might acquire the love of all mankind that he had; that I might cultivate wisdom and knowledge and understanding; and that I might forever remain tolerant of all people of all races of all creeds, in order to live with my neighbors and myself in a spirit of peace and brotherly love.

Sincerely yours,

William H. Gray Jr.
WILLIAM H. GRAY JR.