H Hun

[Hunter, J.]

Hunter

It was very kind of you to write me & I appreciate it very much.

I hope you will surely tell the story. It will keep any way you can tell it best & most vividly

E S

The Rectory
Gibbsboro, N.J.
April 9, 1946.

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

A year ago my wife and I were only two of the world's people depressed and saddened by the world's loss. Our impulse was to extend to you our sympathy – but you were doubtless overwhelmed by such messages.

On the first anniversary of our loss, however, we want you to have the message that is as real now as then – our heart-felt loss is as real as then. As my Harvard classmate your husband's friendship was always sincere and our contacts were one of my greatest privileges.

The world misses his hand at the helm; but his influence will steady and guide the nations into the haven of peace

Perhaps you remember the day that he and you spent with us in Delhi, N.Y., and the dinner that night at Miss Berry's home, Governor Roosevelt told our hostess the circumstances of his re-entry into public life: the bigotry that, encountered in Georgia, led him finally to say "Yes" to Gov. Smith's urging to be a candidate for the Governorship.

I do not believe that "inside story" has ever been published. It's a thrilling tale of how a resolve to combat racial prejudice started your husband on the career that meant our country's victory and the world's debt to him.

I would like to tell that story — the world should know it — but only if you permit it to be known. And, if you be willing, I would be guided by your wishes as to the vehicle through which it should be told.

As through the year past and in the years to come, our prayer for you and your family.

I conduct here on Friday evening a memorial service. That night a year ago I was in the Academy of Music, when the Boston Symphony Orchestra played the Eroica Symphony, in memoriam.

Remain,

Sincerely Yours,

(Rev) John M. Hunter '04