

National Conference
National Congress

When the following
symbols are full-rate
messages or cables
sent outside the de-
scribed class are in-
cluded by suitable
symbols above on pre-
ceding the address.

WESTERN UNION

1501

SYMBOLS
DL=Day Letter
NL=Night Letter
LC=Deferred Cable
NLT=Cable Night Letter
Ship Radiogram

CRANE
JOSEPH L. EGAN
PRESIDENT

The filing time shown in the date line on telegrams and day letters is STANDARD TIME at point of origin. Time of receipt is STANDARD TIME at point of destination.

CE387 DL PD=CHICAGO ILL 20 448P

MAY 28 1947

MRS ELENOR ROOSEVELT=

APT 15A 29 WASHINGTON SQUARE WEST NYK=

HAVE WRITTEN YOU IN REGARD TO CHANGE OF DATE OF 1947
CONVENTION. WILL BE SO GLAD AND RELIEVED TO HEAR THAT
YOU CAN ADDRESS OUR MEMBERS ON THE EVENING OF JUNE 3RD
ANXIOUSLY AWAITING YOUR REPLY AWAITING YOUR REPLY. WIRE
COLLECT TO 600 SOUTH MICHIGAN BOULEVARD CHICAGO

=MABEL WILLIAMS HUGHES PRESIDENT NATIONAL
CONGRESS OF PARENTS & TEACHERS.

1947 3 600.

THE COMPANY WILL APPRECIATE SUGGESTIONS FROM ITS PATRONS CONCERNING ITS SERVICE

ORIGINAL RETIRED FOR PRESERVATION

Mrs. E. FLYTE, SECRETARY
BOX 111
SHELBY, SOUTH DAKOTA

Mrs. JOHN E. HAYES, 1ST VICE-PRESIDENT
BOX 71
TWIN FALLS, IDAHO

Mrs. L. W. HUGHES, PRESIDENT
ARLINGTON, SHELBY COUNTY
TENNESSEE

Mr. CHARLES W. PHILLIPS, 2ND VICE-PRESIDENT
WOMAN'S COLLEGE
GREENSBORO, NORTH CAROLINA

Mrs. L. M. HARRIS, TREASURER
WOMAN'S COLLEGE
GREENSBORO, NORTH CAROLINA

National Congress of Parents and Teachers

VICE-PRESIDENTS

Mrs. E. W. EMERT
MOUNT VERNON ROAD, ROUTE 1
ATCHISON, KANSAS

Mrs. R. B. GORDON
313 NORTH AVALON PLACE
MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

Mrs. ALBERT L. GARDNER
R. F. D. 1
PERTH AMBOY, NEW JERSEY

Mrs. NEWTON F. LEONARD
311 SHARON STREET
PROVIDENCE 6, RHODE ISLAND

NATIONAL OFFICE
800 SOUTH MICHIGAN BOULEVARD
CHICAGO 5, ILLINOIS

VICE-PRESIDENTS

Mrs. JACK M. LITTLE
213 PIERCE
DALLAS 5, TEXAS

Mrs. J. S. STEWART
37-17th STREET
LONGVIEW, WASHINGTON

Mrs. JAMES C. PARKER
175 UNION BOULEVARD E. E.
GRAND RAPIDS 7, MICHIGAN

Mrs. O. C. UFFORD
112 WEST HULBERT
FORT COLLINS, COLORADO

February 13, 1946

Mrs Eleanor Roosevelt
Apartment 15 A
29 Washington Square, West
New York 11, New York

Dear Mrs Roosevelt,

It was a pleasure to receive your recent message accepting our invitation to speak to the delegate body at the Tuesday evening session of the 1947 Golden Jubilee Convention of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers.

The date of the session will be June 3 instead of May 27, the date given in the telegram of invitation. Certain complications within the hotel management made it impossible for the Stevens to take our convention on the dates originally planned so it has been necessary to have our meeting a week later, June 2, 3 and 4.

I hope that the new date is a free one in your busy schedule and that you will be able to come to Chicago at that time for the message which you will bring to our members will be so vital and stimulating.

With all good wishes, I am

Cordially yours,
Mabel W. Hughes
Mrs L.W. Hughes, President

600 South Michigan Blvd
Chicago 5, Illinois

*Livingston had arranged
in a speaking in
annual since
following
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*Mr. Fubler called
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Mabel
26 to 29 to
Mabel I have arranged
Chicago 25 to*

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Number of pages _____ Collect _____

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WESTERN UNION

A. N. WILLIAMS
PRESIDENT

ACCOUNTING INFORMATION
TIME FILED

Send the following telegram, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to:

Mrs. L. W. Hughes
National Congress of Parents and Teachers
600 South Michigan Blvd
Chicago, Illinois

*Pending
May 27th
1947*

I can only accept invitation for May 1947 conditionally
as it is so far ahead

Eleanor Roosevelt -

Page of Service
This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable symbol above or preceding the address.

WESTERN UNION

(29)

SYMBOLS	
DL	Day Letter
NL	Night Letter
DC	Deferred Cable
MLT	Cable Night Letter
Ely Endorsed	

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CQ86 DL PD =DCG CHICAGO ILL 3 223P
MRS FRANKLIN D ROOSEVELT=
APARTMENT 15-A 29 WASHINGTON SQ WEST NYK=

THE NATIONAL CONGRESS OF PARENTS AND TEACHERS WILL OBSERVE ITS FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY AT THE 1947 CONVENTION IN CHICAGO MAY 26-28. WE CORDIALLY INVITE YOU TO ADDRESS THE CONVENTION BODY ON TUESDAY EVENING MAY 26. WE BELIEVE THAT YOU HAVE A VITAL MESSAGE FOR OUR FOUR MILLION MEMBERS BECAUSE OF YOUR BROAD EXPERIENCE AND LEADERSHIP IN WORLD AFFAIRS. ALL EXPENSES PAID. AM COUNTING HOPEFULLY ON YOUR BEING WITH US. WILL YOU WIRE YOUR REPLY COLLECT TO ME AT 600 SOUTH MICHIGAN BLYD CHICAGO.

MRS L. W. HUGHES PRESIDENT NATIONAL CONGRESS OF PARENTS & TEACHERS.

1947 26-28 26 600.

*Receipt - conditional
P. R. ...*

ORIGINAL RETIRED FOR PRESERVATION

Reading 27th
Indy

September 10, 1946

My dear Mrs. Hughes:

I have received your letter of September 7th and as I explained to Miss Williams I shall be glad to speak to your convention on May 27th if nothing happens to prevent my going to Chicago.

With many thanks and best wishes,

Very sincerely yours,

THOMAS E. FLITTE, SECRETARY
BOX 132
SIOUX FALLS, SOUTH DAKOTA

MRS. JOHN E. HAYES, 1ST VICE-PRESIDENT
BOX 71
TWIN FALLS, IDAHO

MRS. L. W. HUGHES, TREASURER
ARLINGTON, SHELBY COUNTY
TENNESSEE

MR. CHARLES W. PHILLIPS, 2ND VICE-PRESIDENT
FOWLER'S COLLEGE
GREENSBORO, NORTH CAROLINA

MR. S. L. MAXWELL, TREASURER
UNIVERSITY OF DENVER
DENVER, COLORADO

National Congress of Parents and Teachers

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313 NORTH AVALON PLACE
MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

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213 PURDUE
DALLAS 5, TEXAS

MR. J. S. STEWART
317-17th STREET
LONGVIEW, WASHINGTON

MRS. JAMES C. PARKER
1725 UNION BOULEVARD S. E.
GRAND RAPIDS 3, MICHIGAN

MRS. O. C. UFFORD
1134 WEST WILBERT
FORT COLLINS, COLORADO

Arlington, Tennessee
September 7, 1946

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt
Apartment 15-A
29 Washington Square, West
New York 11, New York

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I sent you a day letter when I was in Chicago last Saturday, but I had to return home that night and I have not heard from the National Office whether you replied. I sent you an urgent invitation to address the annual convention of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers on the evening of May 27, 1947 at Chicago, when we celebrate our fiftieth anniversary.

Charl was kind enough to write you on August 7 giving you all the details and expressing our hopes that you would accept. You can imagine my delight when a letter came from Charl yesterday saying she had received a letter from you which stated "You would be very glad to make the speech May 27, 1947". I very much appreciate your gracious acceptance of this invitation to speak to our convention on this, its fiftieth anniversary. We shall have the largest delegation in the history of the Congress and we wish to make this convention program measure up to the occasion. I feel that we have largely achieved this goal when we have secured you. Will you write me so I may have your acceptance on file for our fall Board meeting, when the Convention program will be an important item of business?

Sincerely yours,

Mabel W. Hughes

Mrs. L. W. Hughes
President

LWH/mh

NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES
1201 SIXTEENTH STREET, N. W., WASHINGTON 6, D. C.

August 7, 1946

next time

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt
Apartment 15-A
29 Washington Square, West
New York 11, New York

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

In 1897 the National Congress of Parents and Teachers was organized. It was then known as the National Congress of Mothers and the name has been changed twice since then. In 1947 this organization, which has grown to 4,000,000 members, is going to celebrate its fiftieth anniversary in the city of Chicago. If hotel space had been available, the city of Washington would have been the scene of this celebration, because it was here that the Congress was organized.

My sister, Mrs. L. W. Hughes, the president of the organization, is planning the program now and both of us would like to have you speak on this anniversary program. There are two reasons for this desire on our part. First, because you are you, and second, because you are the only person who can really speak for your "Uncle Ted" who contributed greatly to this organization in the days of its infancy.

I have had copies made of articles which appeared in the Washington Post on the dates of March 1, 1902, and March 11, 1908. Another article comes from the American Motherhood Magazine of May, 1908. These articles tell of the contribution made by President Theodore Roosevelt and his wife to the meetings of this organization. The article of March 11, 1908, tells of a meeting which the organization held in Albany when your uncle was governor of the state of New York. The details of the meeting with him there I have yet to get together.

It is worthwhile to record that Mrs. Cleveland gave the Congress of Mothers a reception at the White House on February 17, 1897. President and Mrs. McKinley gave a reception for the delegates, May 5, 1898. All of these incidents are recorded in a book published by the Congress under the title, "Through The Years." A movement of this kind certainly would have attracted the attention of President Theodore Roosevelt and would have called forth his support.

This anniversary celebration will be of nationwide interest, not only to the 4,000,000 members of this organization, but to other large organizations of men and women also. With few exceptions the 28,000 local parent-teacher associations will have an anniversary observance of their own. Each state convention will take notice of it also. It seems to me that here is one speech that you would like to make.

Let me repeat that you are the only one who can carry on the Roosevelt tradition in this regard. Your speech would be carried in the permanent literature of the organization and would leave for those who come after you a record of the things you stood for and the things you said. I hope very much that your time and your strength will permit you to accept this invitation when it is extended officially by my sister.

President Truman will be invited to address the Congress and I hope that he too will find it possible to accept.

Glad to speak if anything happens to please!
next time

Mr. Roosevelt

-2-

When the next fifty years have passed and an anniversary observance like this takes place those of us who are now concerned with this anniversary will have passed off the scene of action. I should like to think that at that time, 1997, that 10,000,000 members in 50,000 locals will be citing the words which you spoke in 1947.

I should add that the meeting will be held at the Stevens Hotel in Chicago and that the night of May 27 has been reserved as the time the convention committee would like to have you address the body. You will be the only speaker on that evening's program. Of course, all of your expenses will be paid.

Do accept if you possibly can, please.

Affectionately,

Charl Ormond Williams

Charl Ormond Williams

CCW/b

P.S. In the mail this morning came the enclosed letter which is priceless, I think. I knew that Governor Theodore Roosevelt had made an outstanding contribution to the National Congress of Mothers in its very first years. This letter tells the story. I am so glad it came in time to include in this letter.

C.W.

Three articles published in the Washington Post and printed in a small volume, "Through The Years," published by the National Congress of Parents and Teachers in the early thirties follows:

WASHINGTON POST -- March 1, 1908

WOMEN'S AT WHITE HOUSE

National Congress Entertained by Mrs. Roosevelt—Mrs. Blaney Declines From Presidency.

For the first time in the history, the national Congress

of Mothers has a new president. Mrs. Theodore V. Blaney, the founder of the organization and its first president retires today with adjournment of Congress. It was not easy for the Congress to accept Mrs. Blaney's decision to retire, having had her faithful service for six years.

Through the generosity and interest of Mrs. Phoebe Hearst the first Congress was made possible, and met in Washington six years ago. Since that time the National Congress has steadily gained in membership, and the work carried on by mothers' clubs in state organizations covers a wide field, growing more and more practical in results and helpful in the home and the school, bringing the two together on the common ground of the best mental, moral, and physical training for children.

The election of officers gave the only day of excitement in the Congress. "But even that," a mother declared, "was nothing compared with the Daughters of the American Revolution election day." Nevertheless when it became known that Mrs. Blaney positively declined to be candidate for president, there was some lively caucus work in the interest of other candidates. The chairman of the nominating committee said, before announcing the ticket that her committee has passed a sleepless night in the effort to make a choice for president of three women, all equally able to fill the office and equally popular in the Congress, Mrs. David O. Hearst, of New York; Mrs. Frederica Schott, of Philadelphia; and Mrs. Robert Goitem, of North Carolina. After careful consideration the committee placed the name of Mrs. David O. Hearst at the head of the ticket. Mrs. Hearst declined the nomination, and Mrs. Schott was elected . . .

The new president, Mrs. Frederica Schott, is actively interested in the Juvenile Court Law. Through her efforts the first Juvenile Court was established in Pennsylvania.

Yesterday afternoon at 3 o'clock Mrs. Roosevelt received the officers and delegates of the Congress at the White House. A trip to Mount Vernon today will bring the Congress to a close.

WASHINGTON POST -- March 11, 1908

PRESIDENT MAKES HIT

Talks to the National Congress of Mothers.

Metropolitan Church

Thronged with people to hear the Chief Executive.

Question of Family Life an Important One—Welfare of State Dependent Upon It.

President Roosevelt last night made an address before the National Congress of Mothers which aroused the greatest enthusiasm and which set people of all classes to thinking.

A large audience greeted the President when he arrived at the Metropolitan

M. E. Church accompanied by Secretary Loeb. Fully three thousand people packed the church. They sat on the steps of the flower-decked altar, perched on window ledges, jammed the aisles, packed the corridors, and three thousand who couldn't get in went home. The President was given an ovation as he, with some difficulty, made his way through the crowds, and a second one when he was presented to the Congress by the National President.

"This meeting marks an epoch in the history of the children of the world because to it comes the President of the United States," said Mrs. Schaff. "It is a great honor to have him with us, but he honors himself too, when he honors the children and the home of the country. I may add that he is our nominee for the presidency, for we placed him in nomination at a meeting held by the mothers in Albany when he was governor of the state of New York."

President Roosevelt responded to the applause that greeted him with an expansive smile and an air of at-homeness which completely captured the audience and brought another enthusiastic outburst.

When he began to speak it was remarked by many who knew him well that he seemed to feel more perfectly at ease than usual, and it was the commonly expressed opinion that the "mother cause" lay nearer to the President's heart than any other, because, as he expressed himself later, "Into woman's keeping is committed the destiny of the generations to come after us."

When the President was at last permitted to speak, he said: "In our modern industrial civilization there are many and grave dangers to counter-balance the splendors and triumphs . . . But far more important than the occupations of our citizens is the question of how their family life is conducted. No matter what that occupation may be, as long as there is a real home and as long as those who make up that home do their duty to one another, to their neighbors, and to their state, it is of minor consequence whether a man's trade is plied in the country or the city, whether it calls for work of the hands or work of the head."

"But the nation is in a bad way if there is no real home, if the family is not of the right kind; if the man is not a good husband and father, if he is brutal, or cowardly, or selfish; if the woman has lost her sense of duty, if she is sunk in vapid self-indulgence, or has let her nature be so twisted that she prefers a sterile pseudo-intellectuality to that great and beautiful development of character which comes only to those whose lives know the fullness of duty done, of effort made, and self-sacrifice undergone."

"In the last analysis the welfare of the nation depends absolutely upon whether or not the average family, the average man and woman and their children, represent the kind of citizenship fit for the foundation of a great nation; and if we fail to appreciate this we fail to appreciate the real material on which all healthy civilization is based."

"No piled-up wealth, no splendor of material growth, no brilliance of artistic development will permanently avail any people unless its home life is healthy, unless the average man possesses honesty, courage, commonsense, and decency, unless he works hard and is willing at need to fight hard; and unless the average woman is a good wife, a good mother, able and willing to perform the first and greatest duty of womanhood, able and willing to bear, and to bring up as they should be brought up, healthy children, sound in body, mind, and character."

THE INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS

From American Motherhood Magazine—May, 1908
Nettie Barker Fernald

The gathering held March 10 to March 17 of the present year was the first International Congress. The beloved founder of the first Congress had gone to the heavenly home to rest. A most beautiful service was held for Mrs. Theodore W. Riney on Sunday evening at the Metropolitan N. E. Church and attested the devoted love of the officers and members of the Congress for her whom we missed at every turn.

The opening of the present Congress was at the White House where President Roosevelt addressed the officers and members. The large company met at the Sheraton, the headquarters of the Congress, and marched to the East Room of the White House. Forming a semicircle, they waited but a few minutes when the President entered, was introduced by Mrs. Frederic Schoff and spoke in happiest vein to the listening mothers. After the brief address there was a reception and each shook hands with the President and Mrs. Roosevelt.

A surprise came in the shape of a buffet luncheon served in the banquet hall. It was altogether one of the most brilliant of the White House receptions.

In making the Congress International much time during the seven days was given to the papers and addresses of the foreign delegates. In addition to this new feature on the program, there were reports of the work done in the various states by delegates appointed by the governors of those various states. . . .

. . . To the many local mothers there was no session so full of deep interest as the one held Thursday morning. Added interest centered around the fact of the presence of Mrs. Theodore Roosevelt, who occupied the front seat and had her share in the enjoyment of the fine papers and talks. . . .

. . . No session during the whole Congress came quite so close to the ideal held by the founder and generous helper, Mrs. Phoebe Hearst, as this morning session. It was a good indication of its worth that this was the time chosen by the wife of the Chief Executive of the Nation to be present and to show her enjoyment by frequent applause. When others hesitated to voice their appreciation of Mrs. Bolton's witty manner of suggesting the substitution of the Teddy Bear for the old fashioned doll baby by the little girls, Mrs. Roosevelt clapped her hands and laughed heartily.

NATIONAL PARENT-TEACHER

Official Magazine Of The National
Congress Of Parents And Teachers

600 South Michigan Boulevard
Chicago 5, Illinois

August 3, 1946

Miss Charl Ormond Williams
National Education Association
1201 Sixteenth Street, N.W.
Washington 6, D. C.

Dear Miss Williams:

Since we are operating on a skeleton staff during the vacation period, we have therefore been unable to release someone to do the research required to fulfill your request. I have asked one of the girls in the editorial division to check whatever data are available. Meanwhile, I shall try to tell you what I remember about Theodore Roosevelt's interest in the Congress.

You will probably recall that according to Congress records the first Congress had not closed before a group of women from New York broached the subject of forming state branches. It was in the autumn of 1897 that the New York assembly of Mothers formed the first state branch in the Congress. In 1899, two years after the first meeting, Mrs. Birney made her first appearance on the program of any state branch, that of New York. There goes a story with this meeting that brings Theodore Roosevelt's name into the picture.

The main meetings of the convention were held in the Assembly Chamber of the Capitol, but one important feature was a reception given by Mrs. Theodore Roosevelt. Governor Roosevelt attended the reception and with characteristic impulsiveness invited Mrs. Birney and several others to desert the receiving line for a moment in order to visit Quentin in the nursery. They accepted, and, since the opportunity was perfect, they suggested to Governor Roosevelt that he serve on the Advisory Council of the National Congress. He agreed and held the chairmanship nearly to the end of his life. A letter written sometime later by Theodore Roosevelt tells what he thought of the Congress.

"I feel that your Congress of Mothers is the association for which I care most among all the associations of either sex with which I have been brought into contact in the last six or seven years. You are all dealing with the really vital things of life, and you are dealing with them in such a fine, sane, healthy way. I count my acquaintance with the leaders of the Congress as among the real prizes that have come to me during the past few years."

I trust this story will be of help to you. I have always enjoyed it. If we find any other information concerning his specific activities, I shall send it out immediately.

Our parent-teacher leadership course begins at Northwestern on Monday, August 5. Wish us luck in this all-important venture.

If you do not hear from me personally again before August 9, please know that I hope you will have a most satisfying vacation.

Cordially yours,

Eva Grant, Editor

Office of Liaison & Conference
Council of National Education
1200 Sixteenth Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C.

NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES
1201 SIXTEENTH STREET, N. W., WASHINGTON D. C.

August 7, 1946

*I was instructed by
Dr. Zook to write you
I will be here in his
State before I study*

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt
Apartment 15-A
29 Washington Square, West
New York 11, New York

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

The long letter that I "threatened" to write you will not be forthcoming for sometime for the reason that I have not been able to get the information I wanted to send you. Upon my return from a Pacific Coast trip around the middle of October, I shall begin again on this matter, and by that time we shall be better able to judge the trends of the Commission on Higher Education.

On the morning that the Commission met here in Washington, Dr. McDonald tried to contact every member either at the hotels or with a letter to them after the Commission assembled. He found out that you were not registered in any hotel and that you had no reservation here. He assumed that you were staying at the White House. I thought that unlikely.

Imagine my feeling when I read your column that night and learned that you were off to Campobello! It seems to me that was a very good contribution for you to make to the initial session.

I have tried to find out what took place. Five areas of work were set up, a steering committee was appointed by Chairman Zook who appointed himself as Chairman of the steering committee. From those who were present we learned that the discussion on the part of a number of members showed an attitude of sympathy and understanding toward the point of view that Dr. McDonald expressed not only in the first communication which you have already received, but in the second one delivered that morning to the members at their hotels. It was evident that these Commission members had read thoughtfully his communication.

I asked Dr. McDonald to let me send you, confidentially, a copy of the letter which Mrs. Eugene Meyer wrote him in answer to the statement which she received. Dr. McDonald conferred both evenings with several members of the Commission who lean heavily to the point of view he had expressed.

Furthermore, the committee appointed by Dr. Zook to steer the proceedings is made up of people representing private institutions with one exception. I understand that Time Magazine will have an article on the Commission in an early issue.

I shall send you any information that I think is important.

Affectionately,

Charl Ormond Williams

Charl Ormond Williams

SEVEN SPRINGS FARM
MOUNT KISCO
NEW YORK

August 1, 1946

Dear Mr. McDonald:

A good many of us on the President's Commission for Higher Education were very glad to get your statement outlining the criticisms of your organization of the restricted membership of the Commission.

Let me at the outset give you my own history as to the Commission. I heard of its appointment only when I read the President's statement as given to the press and was not a little surprised to find myself a member. I still do not know who suggested my name. I find that this was the experience of most of the other members.

As I am very concerned about the point of view not only of the NEA but of all important educational groups I anticipate that our Commission will meet at different times with such groups to study their wishes and to incorporate them as far as possible with the ultimate findings. It seems to me that that is the only thing we can now do to remedy the limitations which the Commission membership represents.

As far as I am concerned, my public record will indicate that your point of view and mine are not very far apart and you can rely upon me to do all that is in my power to uphold my own point of view as to the fundamental need for increasing public education on the college level.

At this present moment I am indeed/more concerned about the millions of veterans, both Negro and white, who never finished grammar school for they are the ones whose needs are being least met except, possibly, in such well equipped cities as New York.

My plans permitted me to stay in Washington only two days during this trip. Otherwise I should have made an attempt to see you before leaving town. I do not expect now to be in Washington again for several weeks but I shall try to get in touch with you the very next time that I am there.

Please be assured that there are many other members on the Commission who feel more or less as I do about our common problems and that these other members as great an effort as I shall to keep in touch with the NEA and the other educational groups.

In the meantime I should be glad if you would send me the minutes of the meetings which you held in Chicago on the problems of the veteran's education. If you could send me these at once I am sure they will be of use to me for the article I am writing on the problems of the veteran for Collier's Magazine. In the future these reports would also be helpful in my thinking upon the whole problem of veteran education.

Yours sincerely,
(signed) AGNES E. MEYER
(Mrs. Eugene Meyer)

Mr. Ralph McDonald
Executive Secretary
Department of Higher Education, NEA
1201 Sixteenth Street, N.W.
Washington 16, D. C.