

Oscar — Oswald

1/28/47
Return
note - office
your letters
me see
Osborn

TO: ER

FROM: LAH

RE: Two letters and manuscripts from W. G. Osborne, Shenandoah, Iowa.

I think your friend Mr. Osborn is a bit cock-eyed.

The first manuscript, mailed to you on October 14th, 1946, is all about how in this distressed world the wimmin should take pver.

No practical suggestions, of course. Lot of hot air, laboriously presented. Very heavy, dull stuff. Nothing in it for you that I can see.

Manuscript No. 2, sent on October 19th, sets forth Mr. Osborn's belief that what the world needs is some sort of standard for democracy

I think the guy may have something there, but it is very badly presented. I don't see what you could do about it. And if you tried to take his idea and develop it, he would probably accuse you of plagiarism.

I assume you will want to return his manuscripts, so I'm mailing them back to you.

spont work in manuscript met.
The first manuscript from Mr. C. G. Osborn is a pit of
I think about 1.5 m. deep and manuscript from Mr. C.
of the letters and manuscripts from Mr. C.

FROM: IVH

TO: EB

W. G. OSBORN
GEOLOGIST
SHENANDOAH, IOWA

October 14th, 1946

Mrs. Elenor Roosevelt
Hyde Park,
Duchess County
New York

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

On June 7th, last, I wrote you asking for your personal address, and received your reply. For your convenience, and because of the extended delay in my present response, I am enclosing a copy of my previous letter.

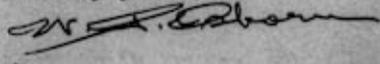
You will find enclosed herewith a manuscript entitled "It Can Be Done," which suggests, in a limited manner, what I had in mind in my previous letter.

I will not burden you with further remarks thereon, except to say that should you, or any of your friends, be interested I would be pleased to extend my observations on that subject.

If I properly judge the "times" I am sure that something can be done in the desired direction. I believe, that should the matter be properly formulated and presented to them, at least fifty per-cent of our youths, between the ages of sixteen and twenty-two, could become almost violent in support of its objectives, and as a man living so long in reactionary Iowa (although born in New York City) such prejudices as I might naturally acquire here should not be excessively favorable to such estimates.

However for any attention that you may give this matter, I thank you. You have done so much for our country, both in example and deed, that it seems an imposition to approach you with anything which might draw on your time or strength, but, I am risking such a possible fault, for, while we elders might tolerate existing conditions, even with a smile sometimes, yet, really, the children of the world need a New Deal.

Sincerely yours,



COPY

Box 264
Shenandoah, Iowa
June 7th, 1946

Mrs. Elenor Roosevelt
c/o United Nations Organization
New York, N. Y.

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

This letter is sent with the single purpose of determining as to where I can address you, in a matter of fundamental democracy, which I would wish to have reached you personally.

Would you please send me the proper address.

Long years ago I wrote a book entitled "Democracy, -Mr. President." It was intended for the purpose of interesting our dearly beloved friend, Mr. Roosevelt, in a new approach to the problems of democracy. It was never printed, and the matter was never brought to his attention.

It is not my purpose to burden you with the perusal or criticism of that manuscript, but I do have in mind the effort to say something worth while in the matter of woman and the democratic effort. I believe that there is nothing that the United Nations effort needs more than an intellectually unassailable comprehension of fundamental democracy. I believe that womankind can assist toward producing such a conception.

Sincerely yours,

W. G. Osborn

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
WASHINGTON, D.C.

COPIES

W. G. OSBORN
GEOLOGIST
SHEMANDOAH, IOWA

✓ 2464
Rep 5609

October 19th, 1946

Handwritten signature

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt
Hyde Park
Duchess County
New York

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

About a week ago I sent you a copy of a manuscript entitled "It Can Be Done," and now, without waiting your possible response to the first one, I am enclosing herewith another manuscript, which is entitled "Toward Democracy." I am again risking the burdening of you by calling this second one to your attention, and it is because of your position in the United Nations, and the quality of your daily columns, that causes me to take that risk.

Regardless of any other phases of the situation regarding democracy, it remains, in my opinion, that we should do something for the children and youth in such respects. As to the great majority of our population which represents what we know as Maturity, very little can be done, by any means, to change their workaday convictions, but the children deserve at least the availability of the principles and theory of practice of democracy,

Regarding this manuscript "Toward Democracy," one copy each was sent to three university presidents, Hutchins, Conant, and Butler. Dr. Butler, whose infirmities are great at this time, sent me three volumes of his writings in response, but from Drs. Conant and Hutchins, who were in the South Seas at the time, I have heard nothing and now do not expect to. As judged from his writings, Dr. Hutchins is aware of this situation regarding our ignorance of democracy,—very much aware of it. But who is going to do something about it?

Increasingly, I suspect that it is the mothers, the wives, and the sisters of men, who are going to see to it if it is done.

Very truly yours,

W.G. Osborn

~~file~~

Oswald

Richard Oswald
6831 Odin Street
Hollywood 28
California

August 2nd, 46.

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I thank you very much for your letter of July 24th, though it was, in a way, quite a disappointment to me. I have always been and still am the most ardent admirer of your late husband for, in my conception, he was not only the greatest statesman of our time, but also the most brilliant personality. And the cooperation and the interest which you both have shown in the welfare and for the wellbeing of humanity - and especially the american people - have given me reason to hope for your ideal support of my project.

All my life I have fought for the things I believed necessary. In this regard it is not important then, to ask: "Will this picture be good?" but: "Will this picture help the people?".

And as soon as one affirms this question - and the subject which I do intend to make under the most complete professional medical guidance and supervision should render the best and broadest education - one must fight those people, to whom the subject is still 'taboo'. When I wrote to you, I trusted in your great personality and hoped fervently for your cooperation in this great fight.

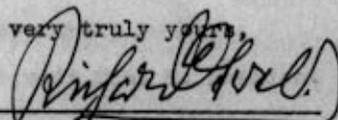
A few days ago I received a letter from Mrs. Edna R. Sheldon, of the "Board of Education of the City of Los Angeles", of which I enclose a copy for your convenience.

I regret to bother you again with this matter, but I have been looking forward for your ideal support so intently, that I took this liberty.

Looking forward of hearing from you soon,

I remain,

very truly yours,



Richard Oswald.

C o p y .

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES - Los Angeles 15, Cal.

July 18, 1946.

Mr. Richard Oswald
6831 Odin Street
Hollywood, California.

Dear Mr. Oswald:

Your script "Taboo" has been read by the State Chairman of Parent-Education and myself. We think the story is both instructive and dramatic and believe that, with some additions, it should become one of the outstanding films. However, we are strongly of the opinion that there should be greater emphasis on moral values; that moral values should be the most important point of the film rather than the progress of science and medicine during the last twenty years.

We believe that the character of Dr. Parker should be made somewhat more dynamic and attractive. Most any normal girl would be attracted to the dissolute brother because of his charming manners.

The danger which we discern in the story as it is presented now is the interpretation which many young people may give to it. The interpretation would be that in the old days (1924) before modern discoveries and methods of treatment were in use, the situation regarding venereal diseases was superlatively serious. But now since modern methods may be employed to effect cures, infection of that sort becomes less terrifying. We are convinced that more definite emphasis should be given to a high standard of living in order that this film may become of greatest value to the youth of our country.

You will realize I am sure, Mr. Oswald, that young people of today mature socially about four or five years earlier than they did 15 or 20 years ago. They have been given more freedom by thousands of parents, and they discuss subjects which the parents of 1924 would have considered shocking. Because many adults of today are indulging in loose living and therefore present an undesirable example to young people, we believe that it is doubly important for this film to lay greater stress upon moral values. If you will pardon the personal reference, I wish you to know that young girls in their teens have come to my office and said, "Well, suppose I do run around nights and suppose I do get syphilis, I can get cured in a few days by that heat process or by other kinds of quick treatment that they know these days!" That is one of my reasons for urging more emphasis upon moral values and clean living. I am sure that my reaction to this script would represent the feeling of many members of Tenth District Parent-Teachers Association.

Very truly yours,

signed: Edna R. Sheldon.