January 14, 1942

Dear Mrs. Bethune:

Mrs. Roosevelt asks me to give you this letter which she has received from Commissioner Mason in reply to her letter to him about Mrs. Marjorie MacKensie Lawson.

Very sincerely yours,

Secretary to Mrs. Roosevelt

Mrs. Mary McLeod Bethune
National Youth Administration
Washington, D.C.

Mrs. Lawson not recommended by leading Negro people - they urge that she not be appointed. Her only endorsements from Mrs. Roosevelt and G.C. Wilkinson.

Mrs. Roosevelt says "give the interested one this letter"
Bethune-Cookman College
Daytona Beach, Florida

January 27, 1942

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt
The White House
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I am today in Florida in conference with representatives of the State Tuberculosis Board. We find that there is still a hitch in the application of the Board for funds with which to construct a 200 bed unit in the State Sanatorium for Negroes. The complication seems to be between the Public Works Administration and the Public Health Service.

Dr. C. L. Williams of the Federal Security Administration has approved the unit as a Defense Project and recommends a 50-50 basis by the Public Works Administration. Col. Gilmore, of the Public Works Administration, has repeatedly promised to request certification of the project from the Public Health Service. The Public Health Service agreed to issue the necessary certification upon the request of Col. Gilmore. Col. Gilmore recently wrote you, stating that projects such as this addition at the State Tuberculosis Sanatorium are not the intention of Congress.

The members of the Tuberculosis Board and I are very much concerned over this project. There is already a great lack of beds for Negroes in the Florida Sanatorium. The waiting list for the available beds has been extended. In addition, the State Defense Council has designated the State Tuberculosis Sanatorium as a base hospital and plans are already under way to evacuate approximately 150 patients. This will certainly congest facilities for Negroes, which are now in deplorable enough state.

Now, Mrs. Roosevelt, will you please ask Col. Gilmore to send in the request for the certification of this project? Dr. Parron is waiting for the request from Col. Gilmore, which he promises will be forth coming every time Dr. Parron requests it of him. These poor people are in such dire need of facilities for the salvation of their lives, that I feel very free in making this additional appeal to you. Do make one more desperate effort to get this project through. We know you will do all you can - we can always depend upon you.

With best wishes,

Sincerely yours,

Mary McLeod Bethune

Mary McLeod Bethune
January 30, 1942

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt
The White House

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

We are dedicating a beautiful little library for Bethune-Cookman College on Sunday afternoon, February 28, and holding our Trustee meeting on Monday morning, March 1. I am just wondering if it would be possible for you to take a week-end of rest at Daytona Beach in order that you may attend the Trustee meeting where we hope to work on plans for the permanency of Bethune-Cookman College. Your presence and interest mean more than can be expressed in words. We are in very deep waters now financially and I am hoping through our continuous efforts that some real relief may come. I hope you were able to make a request of Mr. Baruch and Mr. Field in our behalf.

I am enclosing a memorandum that has just been handed to me with a hope that you may be able to help to speed up things for this young man. He was your escort upon the occasion of one of your visits to Howard University. He is a grand fellow and is most anxious for his appointment. Any delay in his examination may forfeit his appointment.

Sincerely yours,

Mary McLeod Bethune
Mary McLeod Bethune, Director
Division of Negro Affairs
January 29, 1942

The Honorable
Stephen Early
Secretary to the President
The White House
Washington, D.C.

My dear Mr. Early:

It has come to our attention that Congressman
Mitchell of the First Congressional District of Illinois
has wired Chicago that he will not be a candidate for
reelection. I am writing this note to you to ask if you
would be gracious enough to bring to the attention of our
President the very efficient and generally beloved candi-
date for that post, Earl B. Dickerson.

Mr. Dickerson has done an outstanding job for
the Administration. He has the confidence of his people
and we would be most happy if any word can be passed on
to Mayor Kelly of Chicago, recommending him for considera-
tion.

I make this general suggestion in behalf of my
people. I will appreciate any interest you may manifest
personally in this.

Very sincerely yours,

Mary McLeod Bethune
President

cc: Mrs. Roosevelt
February 7, 1942

Dear Mrs. Bethune:

I am terribly sorry, but all my time for the next few months is taken and I cannot possibly go to Daytona. I have written to Mr. Baruch and to Mr. Field; I do not know what their answers will be.

I will see what I can do about the young man who is trying for a commission.

Very sincerely yours,

Mrs. Mary M. Bethune, Director
Office of Negro Affairs, NYA
Washington, D. C.
Mrs. Bethune:

I am terribly sorry but all my time for the next few months is taken and I can not possibly go to Daytona. I have written Mr. Baruch and to Mr. Field. I do not know what their answers will be.

I will see what I can do about the young man who is trying for a commission.

Marshall Field:

I think you sent a representative to the meeting which Mrs. Mary Bethune had, when I had to be away, her Bethune-Cookman college. They are in financial difficulties and I am not urging you to give them anything, but I know of your interest in colored people. She asked me to draw her plea to your attention. I only want you to do what you think wise for I know the many demands and I realize only too well that one can not give to everything that is worthy.

e.r.
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

2-8-42

MEMORANDUM FOR MISS THOMPSON:

I attach a report from Colonel Taylor regarding the case of the young Negro Reserve officer, set forth in the memorandum recently received from you.

E.M.W.
February 10, 1942.

MEMORANDUM FOR MRS. BETHUNE:

Mrs. Roosevelt asks that the attached memorandum from Colonel Taylor to General Watson, be sent to you for your information.

MALVINA C. THOMPSON
Secretary to Mrs. Roosevelt.

VDS

Re: Benjamin H. Hunter, Jr.
now serving as Instructor of Cadets at Dunbar High School.
(See memorandum to General Watson)
February 12, 1942.

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I have lately talked to Mrs. Bethune.

I think her college is a most interesting one, but last year I put up a fairly large sum to help her balance her budget, and I have not felt like putting up anything more until she showed real signs of getting other monies, which I am afraid in these times it is going to be very difficult for her to do. I am in communication with her and will follow the situation.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]

Marshall Field.

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt,
The White House,
Washington, D. C.
February 13, 1942

Dear Mrs. Bethune,

Mrs. Roosevelt is taking up, with the Public Works Administration, the matter of the 200 bed unit at the State Sanatorium for Negroes and will advise you of the outcome of her inquiry.

Very sincerely yours,

Secretary to
Mrs. Roosevelt

Mrs. Mary M. Bethune
National Youth Administration
Washington, D. C.
Dear Mrs. Bethune:

Mrs. Roosevelt has received a letter from Mr. Marshall Field, with regard to the Bethune-Cookman College and has asked me to send you a copy for your information.

Very sincerely yours,

[Signature]

Secretary to

[Signature]

Mrs. Mary M. Bethune
National Youth Administration
Washington, D. C.
Two Fifty Park Avenue
New York

February 12, 1942

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I have lately talked to Mrs. Bethune. I think her college is a most interesting one, but last year I put up a fairly large sum to help her balance her budget, and I have not felt like putting up anything more until she showed real signs of getting other monies, which I am afraid in these times it is going to be very difficult for her to do. I am in communication with her and will follow the situation.

Yours sincerely,

/s/ Marshall Field

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt,
The White House,
Washington, D. C.
Bethune-Cookman College
Daytona Beach, Florida
February 21, 1942

Miss Malvina C. Thompson,
Secretary to Mrs. Roosevelt,
The White House,
Washington, D.C.

My dear Miss Thompson,

You were so lovely to send me a note regarding Mrs. Roosevelt's efforts in the matter of the 200 bed unit at the State Sanatorium for Negroes at Orlando, Florida. I thank you for this information.

I am dictating you this note from my bedside - my doctor has ordered me to bed for at least ten days of complete rest. I earnestly hope that within that time, I will be in fit condition physically to do the big tasks ahead of me.

We are having the dedication of our new Harrison Rhodes Memorial Library on Sunday afternoon, March 1st at three o'clock. Since it is impossible for Mrs. Roosevelt to be present on this occasion, I want you to have Mrs. Roosevelt write a nice letter, over her signature to be read that day. She saw our little Library and she knows what this new one will mean to us. We have just received a lovely letter from Dr. McLeach of the Library of Congress which will be read also.

I know just how busy you are these days, Miss Thompson, and I hope that I am not asking too much of you - you are always so gracious in complying with requests.

With best wishes,

Sincerely yours,

Mary McLeod Bethune.
February 23, 1942

Dear Mrs. Bethune:

My congratulations to all of you on the dedication of the Harrison Rhodes Memorial Library.

With my good wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

Mrs. Mary McLeod Bethune
Bethune-Cookman College
Daytona Beach, Florida
Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt,
The White House,
Washington, D.C.

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt,

Thanks for your recent letter.

I am sending this note to inform you that I am not well. I have been here about ten days and most of the time has been spent in bed. My doctor ordered me to bed for about ten days of complete rest and relaxation. I am feeling better already. I hope that within a few days I will be myself again.

I am so happy to know that you have written Mr. Baruch and Mr. Field. I pray earnestly that they may do something to help our work. The load is so very heavy and I must get some financial assistance to meet our daily needs. My faith has never failed me and it will not fail me now. You were gracious enough to send us some help from your fund last year - I hope this can be done again this year. Our need for funds is urgent and immediate.

I am so sorry that you cannot come down for the Trustee Meeting. Please send your proxy.

A group of Negro citizens of New York City are putting forth an effort to secure a Cabin in the upper Berkshires to be used for Negro children in case bombing is started in that section. They have in mind a lovely Cabin with spacious grounds located near the Herald Tribune Camp. I have visited the place and I think it is beautiful and ideal for such a site for children.

They are desirous of having the government take it over and make whatever changes necessary so that it could be set-up for the purpose they have in mind. They have written me that they plan to contact you concerning it and to solicit your cooperation in making this possible. Please give this matter your favorable consideration.

You know how grateful I am always for all you do. My thoughts are of you and my prayers are for you. You are a great symbol in this world for the spirit of good. Please don't over-tax yourself. When you are through organizing Defense programs, retire from its leadership and continue to do the world-wide general things
you have been doing that have been such a blessing to all of us.

Please, Mrs. Roosevelt, I would like to make another request of you. Please send us a letter or a telegram to be read at the dedication of the Harrison Rhodes Memorial Library on March 1st. We have just received a letter from Mr. McLeish of the Library of Congress, which will be read on this occasion. We will be honored to have a communication from you.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely, gratefully

Mary McLeod Bethune.
March 15, 1942

Dear Mrs. Bethune:

I am willing to be Honorary Chairman of the committee to raise funds for your school, but not Chairman.

Every good wish for success.

Sincerely yours,

Mrs. Mary McLeod Bethune
Bethune Cookman College
Daytona Beach, Florida
March 10, 1942

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt,
The White House,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt,

I am sending this note to inform you that at the annual meeting of our Trustee Board last week, we launched a campaign for endowment for $1,137,000 to insure the permanency of this Institution. This is a bold plunge at a time like this, but we are going to put forth every possible effort to raise this amount. We are planning to take three years in which to do it culminating the Drive at our 40th Anniversary in 1945.

We are now getting together the literature which we will use in connection with this effort—our slogan is "A Drive to Victory—"Fear Not I am with Thee". In drafting the committee and the literature, I am wondering if you will serve as our Chairman? We will not call upon you for any extra work—we will do that from this end. We want to conduct this drive in a quiet manner—small group meetings, contacts, etc. I know you will help, as you have always done.

Please send me a note, stating that you will consider the above request. I know I may depend upon you.

With every good wish,

Sincerely yours,

Mary McLeod Bethune

Mary McLeod Bethune
March 19, 1942

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt,
The White House,
Washington, D.C.

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt,

I do want to thank you for your letter of March 13th and for your willingness to serve as Honorary Chairman of the committee for the endowment campaign. We are so happy over this.

Dr. M.S. Davage of the Board of Education of the Methodist Church, Dr. Frank H. West, who is the General Director of our Drive, and I would like very much to have a conference with you in the near future to discuss various items in connection with the campaign. Any time convenient to you after March 26th. Please inform me if such a conference can be arranged.

With best wishes,

Sincerely yours,

Mary McLeod Bethune

Mary McLeod Bethune.
April 1, 1942

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt
The White House
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I do want to have a brief conference with you as soon as possible. Will you be kind enough to receive me and two men, Dr. M. S. Davage and Mr. Frank West of the Board of Education of the Methodist Church for about twenty minutes? If you will notify me I will then notify the two men to come. They are now in Nashville, Tennessee. Any date you can do this, please let me know.

If you will O.K. the attached statement or a similar one, please mark it "O.K." and return it to me.

Sincerely yours,

Mary McLeod Bethune
Mary McLeod Bethune, Director
Division of Negro Affairs
Following are the testimonials which are already set up for the front cover as having been said by the parties concerned:

Here is something unique, intriguing, inestimably valuable. I would that all my friends, indeed all men, knew of it as I do.  
Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt

Very few if any enterprises in Florida have so great value for the people of this race. Its growth has been remarkable. Through all its work runs the heart-throb of a great woman.

Spessard Holland,  
Governor of Florida
April 3, 1942

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt
Hyde Park, New York

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

We are getting ready for our campaign for funds for our endowment and a piece of literature is waiting on the press for your statement. The following statement was sent to you on Wednesday for your approval:

"Here is something unique, intriguing, inestimably valuable. I would that all my friends, indeed all men, knew of it as I do".

Eleanor Roosevelt

If you will endorse this statement or submit a similar one, please let me know. Simply wire "Yes" to 1812 Ninth Street, Northwest, Washington, at my expense.

I hate to press you but I am being squeezed to death to get the statement from you.

Sincerely yours,

Mary McLeod Bethune

Mary McLeod Bethune
MEMO FOR MR. CRIM:
MR. TOLLEY:
MRS. HELM:
MISS THOMPSON

Mrs. Roosevelt will see Mrs. Mary McLeod Bethune at 11 o'clock, Wednesday morning, April 22, 1942. Thursday

D.D.
WASHINGTON DC APR 7 1222P

MRS ELEANOR ROOSEVELT

THE WHITE HOUSE WASHDC

IMPORTANT THAT I SEE YOU BEFORE YOU LEAVE

WILL YOU SEE ME

MARY MCLEOD BETHUNE.
April 7, 1942

Dear Mrs. Bethune:

Confirming my telephone conversation,

Mrs. Roosevelt says the statement you quote in your letter of April 3 is all right.

Very sincerely yours,

Secretary to
Mrs. Roosevelt

Mrs. Mary McLeod Bethune
1612 Nineteenth Street N.W.
Washington, D.C.
April 10, 1942

Dear Mrs. Bethune:

I am afraid the plan which you left with me would meet with objection in certain quarters from Negroes, because this is segregation and what they want is an opportunity to work in the newly established plants with other people.

If it were proposed simply to meet situations in the South and as a temporary way of meeting that situation, with an eye to later shifting of the personnel, I think it is a good idea, but the people who are concerned in it will have to get a certain amount of local backing and then come up and discuss it with Mr. Jones of the R.F.C. That is the only way in which it can be accomplished.

Very sincerely yours,

Mrs. Mary McLeod Bethune
NYA
Bethune:

Mrs. Roosevelt can have the meeting which you wish here at the White House May 14th, at 4 p.m. Will you be good enough to let me know who is to attend?

Bethune:

I am afraid the plan which you left with me would meet with objection in certain quarters from the Negroes because this is segregation and what they want is an opportunity to work in the newly established plants with other people. If it were proposed simply to meet situations in the south and is a temporary way of meeting that situation, with an eye to later shifting the personnel, I think it is a good idea, but the people who are concerned in it will have to get a certain amount of local backing and then come up and discuss it with Mr. Jones of the R.F.C. That is the only way in which it can be accomplished.

e.r.
A plan to utilize in defense industry the now unused available
Negro manpower, thereby increasing the production of war material and at the
same time furnishing Negro craftsmen and technicians employment.

INTRODUCTION

The federal government has used its resources through the depart-
ment of education to establish and maintain vocational training schools for
Negroes.

These schools, especially in the South, have trained hundreds of
Negroes in mechanical pursuits such as welding, blacksmithing, iron workers,
electrical wiring and boat building. This training and the expense incurred
in giving it has gone for naught for the reason there is no employment
available in the South for these Negroes.

In order to facilitate the government in using this available man-
power in the production of defence material and at the same time stimulate
the vocational training of Negroes in the South and the placing of them in
gainful employment, we submit for your consideration the following plan:

THE PLAN

We propose to erect with funds made available by the RFC or any
other available government lending agent a complete shop suitable to build
for the government small water craft units, such as torpedo boats, speed
boats, landing barges, tug boats, etc.

We propose that when this plant is complete to employ all available
trained Negro mechanics and craftsmen to build the units above referred to.
This plant will be a small boat and shipbuilding plant dedicated to the employment of the now unemployed but trained Negroes.

We propose further to obtain contracts from the various branches of the armed service upon competitive bids, cost plus or negotiated contracts just as any other competitive builder, and to pledge the revenues above cost of production to the retirement of the loan obtained for plant construction.

This plant will have a management personnel comparable in experience and education to any in the United States, its personnel is as follows:

1. Bernard J. Schriner
   Superintendent of Delta Ship Yards - New Orleans
   Former foreman Norfolk Navy Yard
   Thirty years experience as ship builder

2. Walter Currie
   M.E. Glasgow University
   Twenty-five years experience as a ship builder

3. Dr. Andrew Triche
   FHD University of Pittsburgh
   Director of Vocational Education for state of Louisiana
   Former Lieutenant Commander United States Navy

4. Max Yarborough
   M.E. Georgia Tech

5. A. L. Lee
   EE Louisiana State University
   District Coordinator for defense training

6. Louis La Fleur
   EE - Twenty-five years experience as a marine electrician

7. B. S. Lallet
   Master mechanic from General Motors with fourteen years experience.

8. Stanley Gross
   Director of Baton Rouge defense school
   Fourteen years experience as a ship builder

FACILITIES

The floor plan of the proposed building with its assembly line containing the required tools and equipment can be furnished if the plan in
the opinion of those in authority is acceptable.

**COST**

The cost will be between $750,000 and $1,000,000, which cost includes the overall of buildings and tools.

**PERSONS EMPLOYED**

Engaging in production twenty-four hours a day for a forty hour week, we will employ approximately 3500 Negroes.

**LOCATION**

Scotland, Louisiana, adjacent to or in the vicinity of Southern University, Louisiana's largest colored University.

**PRODUCTION**

Production will be dependent upon the size of the units awarded in contract, but we have every reason to believe, based upon the training and experience of its management and the skill of its employees, it will be comparable to any shop of its size in the United States.

**RECOMMENDATIONS AND APPROVAL**

This plan has been submitted to those in the department of education charged with the responsibility of Negro vocational training and it meets with their unqualified approval.

It has likewise been submitted to those in Washington charged with Negro relationships, Negro NYA, and it has their approval.

**CONCLUSION**

It is, in our opinion that this is the only practicable plan that
has been advanced that is the solution to problems now confronting the
government, its educational facilities and its workers themselves, and
certainly the only plan that is acceptable to all who are interested.

Respectfully submitted,

[Signature]

R. S. Gross, President
Capital Iron and Ship Building
Company
April 17, 1942

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt
The White House
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I am so happy to have your reaction to the plan I left with you for study, and I appreciate the wisdom of the suggestion you made.

I have conveyed the gist of what you have said to the people who were here in the interest of the plan.

Sincerely yours,

Mary McLeod Bethune
Mary McLeod Bethune, Director
Division of Negro Affairs
April 27, 1942

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt
The White House
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I have just reached my desk and found a call from Mrs. Clifford Durr, calling my attention to some very important problems regarding our Southern Conference, and a few vital things that she feels the two of us should take up with you immediately.

She called up to say that she was ill in bed today, and wondered if it would be possible for you to receive us some time Wednesday afternoon. We are having a conference with Dr. Rainey, and a luncheon Wednesday noon. We are hoping that he will accept the Chairmanship of our Southern Welfare Conference. I wish you would put in a little word to spur his acceptance of it, because he is the real man to do the job.

We wonder if you would see us after the luncheon. The luncheon is at the Interior Department. Mrs. Durr and I could run in for a few moments of discussion with you. If you will advise me when it will be convenient for you, I will contact her.

Sincerely yours,

Mary McLeod Bethune
Mary McLeod Bethune, Director
Division of Negro Affairs
Bethune-Cookman College
Daytona Beach, Florida

Mary McLeod Bethune, President
Bertha L. Mitchell, Secretary-Treasurer
Cynthia M. Besslow, Endowment-Treasurer

1812 Ninth Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C.
May 8, 1942

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt
The White House
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

We are so deeply concerned about the two approaching meetings. We just must get the right start and we realize it is going to take real effort to get it. We consider Mr. Sarnoff, Mr. Lasker and Mr. Beruch most important people. A direct word from you to them before this meeting as to the importance of them giving us the right start will have the kind of effect that none of the rest of us can give. You must, for my sake this time, forget that it looks like pressure. They want to give to the thing that they can be definitely sure you want supported. If you feel that you cannot make a direct approach to the three of them, then leave Mr. Sarnoff to Mr. West and me.

I will reach New York Sunday night and will be there all day Monday. Please let me know how I may reach you by phone when you get in. I shall be stopping at the Y. W. C. A., 179 West 137th Street. Let us concentrate on this meeting.

Always gratefully yours,

Mary McLeod Bethune

Mary McLeod Bethune
May 16, 1942

My dear Mrs. Bethune:

I am returning this telegram as there is no address given on it and we do not have any address in our files which seems to be correct.

Will you please tell Miss Corrothers that any letter addressed to Mrs. Roosevelt at the White House will reach her and that she will be glad to give it consideration. However, it is impossible for her to make any more engagements for June, so if that is what Miss Corrothers wished to write about, I am afraid she will receive a disappointing reply.

Very sincerely yours,

Secretary to Mrs. Roosevelt

Mrs. Mary McLeod Bethune
National Youth Administration
Washington, D.C.

Rachel Corrothers
Caricature

Mrs. Prentice got
your new dress
letter address'd to the.

at the U.S. it will reach
her. My respect, &c. to

day tomorrow that she
cannot make answer
the eggs for June.

Ray — Do we have any address?

DD

July 3
Bethune-Cookman College  
Daytona Beach, Florida

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt  
The White House  
Washington, D. C.  

May 16, 1942

Our meetings in New York and at the White House were to me grand examples of what our success will be when we have the right leadership and the right setting. Your leadership and the setting you have given to this project will bring us friends we would not otherwise get. I just want to thank you and ask you to be patient with it and use all the creative ideas you have in getting groups here and there who will respond, my good friend, if you can. We have touched people in these two meetings that I have not been able to reach in the thirty-seven years of my activities. To think of those outstanding men and women giving their time graciously to the cause we represent! 

Your presentation was so fundamental and far reaching that you tied their interest at the start. The appreciation of the people for your excellent service will give you full cooperation in this undertaking. I was startled at Jesse Jones and Mr. Benedum. Mrs. Harriman and Mrs. Moors will be glad to open their homes some day when we may need them. You will have to be the central figure in this. I thought the Postmaster General was so gracious. They all were.

Mr. Benedum gave $1,000. The Postmaster General will send in some money and will get some friends to do the same. Mr. Cromwell promised a contribution by July 1. Mr. Barber says he will contribute. I do not know Mr. Ely's plan for the 5th of June but it would be a grand thing if it could be worked out. He said something to me about it but he did not outline the plan. The musical we had planned at the Uline Arena for that date has been postponed for the reason that we would not have time to work it up. Sometime we may be able to get one of these beautiful gardens in the city where we could charge an appreciable admission fee, and the invitations coming from you would draw together the most influential people in the city. These are little plans I am just thinking through.
Did you see Mr. Baruch after the meeting in New York? Mr. West was to have a conference with Doris Duke. I have not heard from him. Is Mrs. Levy Julius Rosenwald's daughter? Yes.

I will try to get in touch with you again within the next ten days.

Always gratefully yours,

Mary McLeod Bethune

Mary McLeod Bethune
May 21, 1942

Dear Mrs. Bethune:

Mrs. Roosevelt has asked me to send you the enclosed check for $1,000 which Mrs. Mary Woodward Lasker has sent her to help defray the current expenses of Bethune-Cookman College.

Very sincerely yours,

[Signature]

Secretary to
Mrs. Roosevelt

[Address]

Mrs. Mary M. Bethune,
National Youth Administration,
Washington, D.C.

Mrs. Albert Lasker
May 22, 1942.

My dear Miss Thompson:

I have your letter of May 15, 1942, stating that Mrs. Roosevelt wants you to let me know that if any colored people are being considered for appointments, Mrs. Mary McLeod Bethune, National Youth Administration, has prepared a list of people whom she thinks should be considered.

In this connection I should like to state that since December 7, 1941, I have received something like 7000 applications for commissions from lawyers all over the country, including several colored lawyers, at least one of whom submitted with his application a recommendation by Mrs. Bethune. When new officers are called for in my department I have a board of three officers which considers the qualifications of the candidates with respect to the particular duties for which the officer is desired. This board makes its recommendation and if it meets with my approval I recommend the appointment.

I shall be glad to consider any recommendations Mrs. Bethune may desire to make but I suggest that she first advise the lawyers who are desirous of obtaining commissions to file in this office their formal application on the proper form which will be provided on request. These lawyers will then have their qualifications on file in this office for consideration of the board along with such recommendations as Mrs. Bethune may care to submit.

Very sincerely yours,

Myron C. Cramer,
Major General,
The Judge Advocate General.

Miss Malvina Thompson,

The White House.
May 26, 1942.

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I know you will be happy to know of the splendid returns which have come to Bethune-Cookman College as a result of the meetings held in New York and Washington, in the interests of the college.

Mrs. Henry Pfeiffer contributed $7,500 to apply on the current maintenance deficit and $5,000 toward permanent endowment; Mr. L. M. Benedict contributed $1,000 to current maintenance; Mr. and Mrs. Lasker contributed $1,000 to current maintenance; Mr. Jesse Jones sent $500 to apply on current maintenance with a pledge to donate a like amount one year from date; Mr. John Hammond contributed $75 to current maintenance.

May I express to you, on behalf of the Trustee and Advisory Boards, our faculty and students, deepest gratitude for your real interest and help in the program of the college. This material aid comes to us at a time of great need, as you know. It makes it possible for us to think in terms of closing the fiscal year without a deficit. Mrs. Pfeiffer's additional gift to endowment will serve as a stimulus to others to help in this effort. It means so much to us to have these votes of confidence from these friends.

God bless you, dear friend, for all you are doing for us.

Always gratefully yours,

Mary McLeod Bethune

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt,
The White House,
Washington, D. C.

b-j
May 29, 1942

Dear Mrs. Bethune:

I am delighted that you have had such splendid results of the meetings in the interest of the college. Thank you for letting me know.

Sincerely yours,

Mrs. Mary McLeod Bethune
National Youth Administration
Washington, D.C.
June 1, 1942.

My dear Mrs. Bethune:

Mrs. Roosevelt has asked me to tell you to advise the candidates you have in mind, who are desirous of obtaining commissions in the Judge Advocate General's department, to file their formal applications on the proper forms which will be provided on request. Then, when their applications have been filed in Major General Cramer's office, if you will let her know, Mrs. Roosevelt will send word to Major General Cramer.

Very sincerely yours,

Secretary to
Mrs. Roosevelt.

Mrs. Mary McL. Bethune
National Youth Administration
Washington, D. C.
June 3, 1942

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt
The White House
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I have been asked to find out if you would consider signing this petition. Before sending it to you, I have made inquiry of Walter White concerning the Union for Democratic Action. I quote Walter White:

"The Union for Democratic Action is a first-rate organization which is made up of wise and honest people who are particularly concerned about the treatment of the Negro. One of its chief sponsors is Alfred Baker Lewis who is a member of the Board of the NAACP."

If it is in your judgment that you would like to sign this, it will be appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

Mary McLeod Bethune
Mary McLeod Bethune, Director
Division of Negro Affairs

enclosure
June 5, 1942

My dear Mrs. Bethune:

Mrs. Roosevelt asks me to acknowledge your letter and to tell you that she never signs petitions of any kind and, therefore, cannot sign the one which you sent to her. I am returning it as Mrs. Roosevelt feels she cannot make an exception in any case.

Very sincerely yours,

Secretary to
Mrs. Roosevelt

Mrs. Mary McLeod Bethune
National Youth Administration
2145 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C.
June 8, 1942

Miss Malvina Thompson
Secretary to Mrs. Roosevelt
The White House
Washington, D. C.

My dear Miss Thompson:

I wrote Mrs. Roosevelt a letter sometime ago regarding a number of matters. I am now writing to ask that you confer with her and give me a statement as to what I may say to the several people concerning honorariums, expenses, etc. when she accepts invitations from them. This is quite delicate to me. I would like to be able to answer Livingston College when they ask what they should offer Mrs. Roosevelt for her services. Will you tell me, Miss Thompson, what to say to them.

In the early fall of the year, the women of Brooklyn are wanting Mrs. Roosevelt to appear in the Academy of Music in Brooklyn. This will be in November, I think. A church in Chicago with about 4,000 members want her to speak there in the interest of Bethune-Cookman. This church is going to take the College as a project and sort of adopt it. That will be an interesting thing for the people in Chicago. She is going to be asked to speak for the dedication of the Health and Physical Education Building at West Virginia, a State College. This is a building that the State has erected at a cost of about $40,000.

I do not think that Virginia State College has sent her anything. They asked me several times what to send and I could not tell them. Of course I did not offer her anything for going to Bethune-Cookman because she is a part of that work. (smile) How you think these things through and talk with her about them and let me know.

Sincerely yours,

Mary McLeod Bethune
Mary McLeod Bethune, Director
Division of Negro Affairs
June 9, 1942.

My dear Mrs. Bethune:

I do not of course know at this writing how many of the engagements you mention, Mrs. Roosevelt will be able to keep. However, that can all be determined later.

Mrs. Roosevelt is not taking any fee from any group, and has not since last fall when she fulfilled commitments made by her lecture manager. She has given up lecturing for fees for the duration. However, at no time did Mrs. Roosevelt take a fee from a colored group and would not consider it. She has always been more than glad to ask when it was possible.

The lecture manager was extremely careful not to make any engagements with any group except those which regularly has paid lecturers, or colleges which had a fund specifically marked for this purpose. Two or three times when the lecture bureau made engagements with groups which Mrs. Roosevelt felt should not pay, Mrs. Roosevelt returned her share of the fee.

I know of your devotion to Mrs. Roosevelt and therefore have gone more fully into your question, knowing you want facts.

Very sincerely yours,

Secretary to
Mrs. Roosevelt.
June 15, 1942

Dear Mrs. Bethune:

Mrs. Roosevelt would appreciate your advice as to whether she should send the message requested by Mr. St. Clair Bourne in the enclosed letter.

Will you please return Mr. Bourne's letter?

Very sincerely yours,

Secretary to
Mrs. Roosevelt

Mrs. Mary McLeod Bethune
National Youth Administration
Washington, D.C.

wants message for The People's Voice
210 W 125, NYC

P.S. There is enclosed a similar request from Mr. Mason Smith of the Texas Negro Citizens Association.
June 15, 1942

Dear Mrs. Bethune:

I have your letter of June 12 and am sorry that I cannot invite anyone to act as treasurer for you. I cannot ask things of this nature because it is not fair to place people in that position, where they feel they must comply because I ask.

I cannot sign letters for the same reason.

Sincerely yours,

Mrs. Mary McLeod Bethune
President, Bethune-Cookman College
Care NYA, Washington
Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt
The White House
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

We have now made arrangements to promote our campaign actively. Mr. West has been appointed the Director to complete our campaign organization. You have graciously accepted the honorary chairmanship.

We would like to secure an outstanding person as treasurer. Would you suggest someone and be gracious enough to invite such person to join in this effort? Do you think Jesse Jones would do it? Or Marshall Field, III? Or Mr. Baruch? Or Mr. Lasker? I think any of these you would invite would be likely to accept. The name of such person along with your own would inspire confidence in our effort.

Of course, no detail work would be expected of the Treasurer. Mr. West's Secretary is an accountant and will keep all the records which will be audited from time to time. If desired an assistant treasurer can sign the few checks which will be drawn as funds are turned over to the regular Bethune-Cookman College account.

Also in sending out letters to prospective sponsors, we would like your signature. We must do everything, Mrs. Roosevelt, that will contribute to our complete success. People are anxious to help you to do this. You know how greatly I am depending upon you and how deeply I appreciate the marvelous help you are giving.

Sincerely yours,

Mary McLeod Bethune
Mary McLeod Bethune
PRESIDENT
6/23/44

Sent to Mrs. Bethune

Mr. MacLeish writes June 16 - will consider T. Arnold Hill, but no likelihood that an additional Negro adviser is needed.
June 23, 1942

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt
The White House
Washington, D.C.

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

This is the matter which Mr. T. Arnold Hill discussed with Miss Thompson yesterday. You will note that the conference is asked for the following people:

Virginius Dabney, Editor of the Richmond Times-Dispatch; Will W. Alexander; William Agar of Freedom House, New York City; John Finerty, Counsel for the Workers Defense League who is representing Wailer; Walter White of the NAACP; A. Philip Randolph and Mary McLeod Bethune.

Sincerely yours,

Mary McLeod Bethune
Office of Negro Affairs
June 22, 1942

Mrs. Mary McLeod Bethune
Director, Division of Negro Affairs
National Youth Administration
2145 C Street, Northwest
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mrs. Bethune:

With reference to my telephone conversation with you this afternoon, this is to advise that it will be necessary to secure pressure from the White House upon Governor Colgate W. Darden, Jr., of Virginia in order to insure commutation of Odell Waller’s sentence. The Governor has granted Waller an additional reprieve until July 2nd, and is holding a commutation hearing on Monday, June 29th.

Would you be able to arrange a conference with Mrs. Roosevelt for the following persons composing a committee: Virginius Dabney, editor of the Richmond Times-Dispatch, Will W. Alexander, William Hager of Freedom House, New York City, John Finerty, counsel for the Workers Defense League who is representing Waller, Walter White of the NAACP, yourself and myself.

The purpose of this conference will be to explain fully to Mrs. Roosevelt the implications of this case and to secure her promise to speak with the President about the case, in order that he will speak with Governor Darden before June 29th. The conference must be arranged almost immediately, as Waller has only until July 2nd to live.

Thank you for your splendid cooperation in this matter. I am

Very sincerely yours,

A. Philip Randolph
International President

P.S. I understand the President is receiving hundreds of letters daily urging the appointment of a Commission of Inquiry into the case.
August 20, 1942

Dear Mrs. Bethune:

Mrs. Roosevelt asks if you think "War and the Post War World" would be a good subject for her speech at the evening meeting of the entire convention in Salisbury on August 13.

Sincerely yours,

Secretary to Mrs. Roosevelt

Mrs. Mary McLeod Bethune
National Youth Administration
Washington, D.C.
July 20, 1942

Miss Malvina Thompson
The White House
Washington, D. C.

My dear Miss Thompson:

I am enclosing a letter I have received from Mrs. Addie W. Hunton, President of the Women's Service League of Brooklyn, New York. Please read it and confer with Mrs. Roosevelt and see what time she can do this.

I hope it will be possible for her to appear in Brooklyn. The people are anxious to have her. Please let me know so that I can send the information on to her.

Whenever it is convenient, I hope to have a conference with you regarding the meetings we are planning for the fall.

Sincerely yours,

Mary McLeod Bethune
Mary McLeod Bethune, Director
Division of Negro Affairs
July 5, 1942

Dear Mary,

I am writing to beg that you give me some help in a very important matter.

You have been a guest of the Women's Service League and know something of its strength and importance in New York. However, as we are very anxious to have you help us secure Mrs. Roosevelt's assent to speak for us here in Brooklyn, I will send you a few details.

The League was organized about four years ago to do for the community just what its name implies. Later the members decided that, apart from a general interest in city affairs, they would like to work for some specific project. To that end, a year was spent in studying pressing community needs. Questions were asked of various civic organizations, members of their staff were sent to speak to us, studies made of various institutions and city officials consulted. The result of all this was that the League decided to use its efforts for the establishment of a home for pre-delinquent girls. This was a very large undertaking but not an impossible one if we could get the help and influence of the Borough officials.

We have been successful in getting Judges and others to break down discrimination in existing institutions so that a few of our girls are admitted, but too many by far have to be committed to the Women's House of Detention or to Hudson.

We have been working very quietly but faithfully thus far raising funds in our own group first before approaching the general public.

Mrs. Roosevelt has been desired by a Brooklyn audience for a very long time and it would be grand if she would let us sponsor a meeting. We could get the Academy of Music or Central Y. W. C. A. and the backing of Mrs. Goode and others who know of our effort. We do not ask that she speak on our work but on any subject of interest to her.

We would be glad to arrange for such a meeting at her early convenience preferably a Sunday, as most of us are not going away this summer.

Feeling sure you will use your influence in our behalf and with love,

Faithfully yours

Addie W. Hunton

[Handwritten note: "Dear Mr. Some mentioning this, I note by the press that Mrs. Roosevelt will be in town this week, but this would not affect our meeting at all.""]
July 25, 1942

Mrs. Malvina C. Thompson
Secretary to Mrs. Roosevelt
The White House
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mrs. Thompson:

I am sure that the subject, "War and the Post War World," which Mrs. Roosevelt is considering for her speech at the evening meeting of the entire convention in Salisbury on August 13, is a fortunate choice.

I have no doubt that the treatise she will give such a subject will provide food for thought to all who listen to it or read it.

Sincerely yours,

Mary McLeod Bethune
Mary McLeod Bethune, Director
Division of Negro Affairs
July 27, 1942.

Dear Mrs. Bethune:

I have just been up to Quoddy and they are particularly anxious to have you up there sometime this summer, and I hope you will be able to go.

I feel that I am going to so many colored groups that it would be unwise for me to make any more engagements for a while, therefore I think I shall have to refuse this invitation.

Very sincerely yours,

Mrs. Mary McL. Bethune
Division of Negro Affairs
National Youth Administration
Washington, D. C.
August 24, 1942.

My dear Mrs. Bethune:

Mrs. Roosevelt has asked me to send you the enclosed copy of a letter from Miss Ethel Levine.

Mrs. Roosevelt will appreciate it if you will let her know how you feel about this subject.

Very sincerely yours,

Secretary to
Mrs. Roosevelt.

Mrs. Mary McI. Bethune
National Youth Administration
Washington, D. C.
Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

The Inter-Racial Association of the University of Michigan, composed of 150 townpeople, faculty members, and the students is petitioning for a Mixed Brigade of white and colored peoples. It is part of the campaign now being undertaken on a nationwide scale by the Council Against Intolerance.

As a prominent American woman, your sentiments on this subject will carry great influence.

Kindly send a statement, telling us how important and vital you consider a Mixed Brigade at the present time.

Sincerely yours

/s/ Miss Ethel Levine
Inter-Racial Association
August 29, 1942

Miss Malvina Thompson  
Secretary to Mrs. Roosevelt  
The White House  
Washington, D.C.

My dear Miss Thompson:

Thank you for the letter from Mrs. Roosevelt and for the copies of letters from Miss Ethel Levine and Mr. John A. Lapp.

I will try to make it possible to see Mrs. Roosevelt early on the morning of September 17. Please let me know the earliest hour I will be permitted to see her. Realizing that she has a luncheon in the afternoon I thought it would be better to come in the morning.

I am sending to you, for Mrs. Roosevelt's information, a copy of a report I have been able to get on the alleged discrimination in the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps. I made this a very definite request of a very outstanding newspaper man telling him I wanted it for you.

I would advise her sincerely to make no statement regarding the Mixed Brigade. Opinions on this are varied and I do not think she needs to make any statement concerning it, whatever her opinions may be.

They have invited her to dedicate an NYA building in North Carolina sometime in the future. My advice is that she declines the invitation. She has met a sufficiently large group of people in that section for a while. She did a marvelous job at Salisbury.

Please let her see the enclosed newspaper clipping.

Sincerely yours,

Mary McLeod Bethune
Mary McLeod Bethune, Director  
Division of Negro Affairs
OIL MAN'S BIRTHDAY RECALLS HOW NEGROES FORGOT LINCOLN AND VOTED FOR DEMOCRATS

Too busy ripping holes in old mother earth to supply the crying and exasperating need of gas and more gas to wipe out Nazism and the Jap menace, cause Michael L. Benedum, the world's wildcatter, to soft peddle and even sweep aside, a well intended birthday party.

It was on the occasion of his 73rd birthday that this world renowned gas well promoter and driller got wise to friends who were industriously planning to celebrate his 73rd birthday even in a most fitting fashion but incidently catching on, the famous oil man whom President Roosevelt affectionately salutes as "Dear Mike" hastily issued a plea to: "cut it out, boys, cut it out. What is needed most today," said he, "is gas, more gas. Birthday celebrations are off for the duration."

If any one is entitled to a birthday party it is this prospector, explorer and the world's greatest adventurer after oil and gas. When you hear of Hitler and the Japs driving toward oil fields, and Britain, Russia, and the United Nations fighting to protect these, you may be certain "Dear Mike's" name is associated with the discovery of gas in the fields abroad. He knows them, has been on the ground, has mapped them.

It is not to be wondered then that dear "Mike" was more absorbed in getting more gas to the Eastern seaboard and across to the boys at the fighting front than in a birthday party. This, however, was no obstacle to the messages of congratulations and gifts that poured in upon the oil man by the hundreds.

More than 500 had already been recorded and were still rolling in. They came from President Roosevelt, Democratic Chairman Edward J. Flynn, Jim Farley and not to be outdone the toiler, the man with the hoe was there, a railroad watchman from Bridgeport, W. Va., also John Lewis, whose genius built up the CIO that in a few years was able to contribute $7-
000,000 to others to establish collective bargaining, which Mr. Benedum had made possible through his new deal support.

Many other labor leaders sent their congratulations among them Patrick Fagan, president UMWA District 5, Pittsburgh.

Clergymen were not to be omitted as Bishop James H. Straughn and other nationally known church dignitaries of many denominations recalled the benevolences of this internationally known oil man. Among these felicitations the colored folk were not to be missing. It was well known that Benedum had been a great factor behind the scenes in the Democratic National Convention in Chicago in 1932 which first nominated Franklin Roosevelt; that he met the bills to keep the delegates financially supplied in that stubborn convention.

Benedum still remains a mighty power. It may be interesting to carefully observe the role Benedum might pursue prior to the approaching November election.

With his candidate Roosevelt nominated and out of the way, the perpetuation of Democracy was next in order to this end the oil man turned to the forgotten man, the Negro, to lift him out of the slough of despond. Advising these to forget the dead past of Lincoln to which the Republicans continued to point without prize or profit. Benedum became the invisible angel of the colored people. He began the uplift of the Negro in Pennsylvania, giving them a new vision. He contacted the influential colored leaders, with whom he had become acquainted through many benevolent acts in an effort to encourage the colored race.

Another outstanding colored Republican which Mr. Benedum took over to the Democratic party was Police Magistrate Edward Walter Henry, Negro boss of Philadelphia, who came from "Mike's" county in West Virginia.

Fully realizing the Republican politicians had done but very little for the colored people Mr. Benedum pointed the way, financed them, patted them on the back and crashed the doors of Democracy, leading them into the pastures of abundance.

The colored people were a great factor in changing Pennsylvania, that gave a million majority for the Republican party, candidates to 500,000 majority electing Joseph F. Guffey, the first Democratic United States Senator, in 50 years.

It was the oil man who brought about this transformation in party politics. Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt later rebuked the Daughters of the American Revolution for their refusal to let a colored woman make a public appearance and now Wendell Willkie has been lauding the colored people and seeking their praise and support.

But it was Benedum who pointed the way and led the colored people into recognition in public office.
August 24, 1942.

My dear Mrs. Bethune:

Mrs. Roosevelt has asked me to send you the enclosed copy of a letter from Mr. John A. Lapp, Chairman of the Union for Democratic Action.

Mrs. Roosevelt will appreciate it very much if you would let her know whether or not you have heard of any such discrimination.

Very sincerely yours,

[Signature]

Secretary to Mrs. Roosevelt.

Mrs. Mary McI. Bethune
National Youth Administration
Washington, D.C.
August 12, 1942

Mrs. Eleanor R. Roosevelt
White House
Washington D.C.

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Disturbing information has come to us about the treatment of the negro women in the Women's Auxiliary Army Corps now in training in Des Moines, Iowa. We are writing to you in the hope that you may have an opportunity to investigate this situation and set in motion those influences which would remedy it.

It was a fine thing, to be sure, to have women of all races admitted to this new corps. Many of us hoped at the outset that the discriminations which have plagued the other armed services would not be present here.

Unfortunately, this hope appears to have been utterly disappointed. Segregation is the rule both in living quarters and in dining accommodations, according to our information. Discriminatory rules apply also to the use of the U.S.O. center and swimming pool and to other features of the training plan. While bad enough for any one, such treatment seems especially shabby when accorded these well educated and highly trained negro women.

We are deeply concerned by these reports, as we know you must be also. They are bound to do irreparable harm if they continue. We do hope you can determine their truth and let us know if we can in any way help in the situation.

Sincerely yours,

John A. Lapp, Chairman
August 26, 1942.

Dear Mrs. Bethune:

It is very difficult for me to give any dates for meetings because I am so very uncertain about my plans. If you want to talk to me, I expect to be in Washington on September 17th and could see you alone, or with a group, late that afternoon, or really early in the morning as I have a luncheon engagement in Annapolis that day.

I could not hold any meeting or attend any until rather late in October, and even then I am not certain of my time.

Very sincerely yours,

Mrs. Mary McI. Bethune
National Youth Administration
Washington, D. C.
August 25, 1942

Miss Malvina Thompson  
Secretary to Mrs. Roosevelt  
The White House  
Washington, D. C.  

My dear Miss Thompson:

I wonder if you would get with Mrs. Roosevelt and give to me, as early as possible, a date when she may be free to be with us on some matters concerning Bethune-Cookman. I would also like to know when she plans to go to California.

Sincerely yours,

Mary McLeod Bethune

Mary McLeod Bethune
September 5, 1942.

My dear Mrs. Bethune:

Mrs. Roosevelt has asked me to acknowledge the receipt of your letter and thank you for the report on conditions at the NAAC camp at Fort Des Moines.

Mrs. Roosevelt will be glad to see you at 10:00 a.m., Thursday, September 17th.

Very sincerely yours,

[Signature]

[Position]

Mrs. Roosevelt.

Mrs. Mary Mc. Bethune
Director, Division of Negro Affairs
National Youth Administration
Endeavu'll Me
Beauine was not
led - please let her
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

September 14, 1942

MEMO FOR MR. CRIM:
MR. TOLLEY:
MISS THOMPSON:

Mrs. Roosevelt will see Mrs.
Bethune on September 17th, at 10 a.m.

M.T.L.
Memo for Mr. Crim;
Mr. Tolley;
Miss Thompson:

The following people will accompany
Mrs. Bethune when she comes to see
Mrs. Roosevelt at 10:00 a.m.,
Thursday, Sept. 17:

Dr. M. F. Davage
Mr. Frank H. West
Mrs. Virginia Durr
Miss Thompson:

There seems to be no invitation from N.A.A. in North Carolina in our files upon which to base a reply. (See Mrs. Roosevelt’s note, last para. Mrs. Bethune’s letter) Perhaps it has not reached here yet.

Is there Mrs. Bethune’s file? Nothing in Mrs. Bethune’s file. Shall we ask what occasion she refers to?

Just file it. If request comes we will try to remember.

Miss Thompson —

Did Mrs. Bethune get this date for Sept. 17? M/2
My dear, dear Mrs. Roosevelt,

It was so lovely of you to write me so tenderly and sincerely concerning my illness.

May I speedily greet you on your safe return to our wonderful America and tell you how happy we all are to have had the representation you gave to America across the Seas. Our prayers have followed you in your travels for protection every step of the way. You have made glad the hearts of the people there as everywhere. You are like a guiding Angel for the people of our land during these dark days of unrest.

I have been nestled in my bedroom for the past three weeks wrestling with severe attacks of Asthma. One morning I found myself surrounded by five doctors, nurses and a noted Asthma Specialist. They were fighting to bring me out of one of those dreadful asthmatic attacks. My tired worn body, coupled with low vitality made it very hard for me to throw off the attacks. My doctors are demanding that I take a period of complete rest which they hope will restore me to my old self again. I have fully decided to obey their orders. I will remain here until I have regained my strength before returning to Washington. I have given of myself so fully and freely for others that I have neglected the nursing of my own strength. I am feeling very much better and stronger already.

Love to dear Miss Thompson – no one could be better suited to fit into your life of service with the serenity, and obscurity when necessary and the strength of helpfulness than she – I bless her for all she does for you and through you for all mankind.

May God bless, keep and inspire you always, my Friend. Please know that I am most grateful for your thoughts of, and your prayers for me.

Sincerely yours,

Mary McLeod Bethune

Mary McLeod Bethune

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt,
The White House,
Washington, D.C.
November 23, 1942.

Dear Mrs. Bethune:

I have just heard that you are ill, and I am sorry because I know how it must annoy you to be ill at this time. I do hope that you are well on the road to recovery. Please have someone let me know how you are.

Very sincerely yours,

Mrs. Mary McI. Bethune
1812 9th Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C.
My dear Mrs. Roosevelt,

It is in the wee small hours of the morning. I am feeling better, but sleepless.

I have been thinking of you—all that you and our Beloved President mean to us all. God grant both of you strength and multiply your kind.

Yesterday, they brought a gorgeous bunch of red roses to my room and said "guess from whom these came?" I said Mrs. Roosevelt—they said "No, Pearl Buck." Now don't send roses, but come yourself on December 15th—I need you. The called meeting of the Trustees on that day will be very, very important.

Lots of love and great patience and faith.

Always sincerely,

Mary McLeod Bethune

Mary McLeod Bethune

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt,
The White House,
Washington, D.C.
To Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt

The White House

If absolutely impossible for you to be present at called meeting at Bethune Cookman Board of Trustees Tuesday December Fifteenth 1942 please wire proxy

Mary McLeod Bethune.
Dec. 17, 1942

MRS. WESBITT:

Will you please send a Christmas box to Mrs. Mary McLeod Bethune at Bethune-Cookman College, Daytona Beach, Florida.

M.T.L.
Bethune-Cookman College
Daytona Beach, Florida

December 31, 1942

Mary McLeod Bethune, President
ATTY. THOMAS T. COBB, CHAIRMAN, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE TRUSTEE BOARD
BERNA L. MITCHELL, SECRETARY-TREASURER
HERBERT DAVIDSON, ENDOWMENT TREASURER

My dear Friend:

For thirty-eight years I have given untiringly of myself, with the fine, loyal cooperation of the faculty and students who have worked with me during the years, in the building of Bethune-Cookman College - a beautiful Christian Institution on the East Coast of Florida. This school stands as a beacon light for the thousands who are yet to pass this way.

We are bringing to you now our gratitude for your confidence and help during these years and assure you again that the investments you have made have paid high dividends in the lives of our young people who are rendering service throughout the state and nation. This task has not been an easy one; but a glorious opportunity for service.

Because of the exacting demands upon my strength during the years, I felt that the time had come for a younger, more vigorous leader to direct the work of Bethune-Cookman College - to meet the new and ever-changing phases of our educational system in this war-torn world. I felt that I could not stand in the way of the advancement of the College. With gratitude to God for the opportunity of service which had been mine for so long and for the realization of my dream, on December 15, 1942 I requested of my Trustee Board a retirement as President of this Institution and asked for the appointment of Mr. James A. Colston, a well-trained, forward-looking young man, as President. Mr. Colston is a graduate of Morehouse College and holds his Master's degree from Atlanta University. He has ten successful years of experience as an educator, five of which have been given to service as Director of Ballard School, Macon, Georgia. Mr. Colston has splendid educational background, administrative experience, creative ability and a vision of conscientious service. He served for two summer sessions as Consultant for the Curriculum workshop of Atlanta University Summer School, and as Director of the Hampton Institute Summer School in Jacksonville, in 1942.

My retirement as President does not, in any measure, indicate any lessening of my interest in, and influence for the College. I therefore call upon you, my friends, to extend to Mr. Colston the same confidence, cooperation and help that you have given to me during the years. During this strategic period I earnestly request of you a double portion of interest in our program, for we find our financial situation to be at a low ebb. I am most anxious, as I turn over the responsibilities of President to Mr. Colston, to have him begin his work without the handicap of an operating deficit. A threatened deficit can be avoided if all of our friends will contribute to the work now as they have done in former years, knowing that we will gratefully receive donations of any size to help meet the current emergency.

May the New Year bring to you the blessings of good health and prosperity, and to our country victory and peace.

Sincerely yours,
Mary McLeod Bethune
Mary McLeod Bethune, President-Emeritus.