

RETURN TO MRS. ROOSEVELT
(THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN)

Handwritten notes:
S. J. [unclear]
[unclear] to [unclear]
[unclear]

OCCIDENTAL COLLEGE
LOS ANGELES 41, CALIFORNIA

May 30, 1944

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

To the parents of Naval Trainees
at Occidental College.

Dear Friends:

The Naval trainees at Occidental College we consider are also students of Occidental. Therefore I regard it appropriate that the letter which follows, which is sent to Occidental College parents, shall also be sent to you. I am glad to say that Commander Wanglin and his associates share this opinion and give approval to this procedure.

Of course you are deeply concerned by the recent outbreak of poliomyelitis at Occidental College. I am sure that you want to be informed as to what has happened and as to what measures we have taken to prevent the spread of the disease.

On May twelfth appeared the first case of poliomyelitis. To date there have been six cases in all, two women and four men.

As soon as this disease manifested itself on the campus, our college and naval medical officers in consultation with the City Board of Health and other specialists met to determine our course of action as a college community. While little is known by the medical authorities as to how the disease is contracted or how it spreads, one fact, however, is agreed upon, namely, that the susceptibility to the disease is related to fatigue.

In view of this fact a modification of college routine has been put into effect. Students have been required to get eight hours of sleep each night; organized physical education for women has been suspended; physical education for men has been modified; and strenuous or fatiguing extra-curriculum activities have been cancelled. Every student has been told to report at once to the Health Center any indisposition, cold, or sickness, and head residents have been asked to watch for signs of fatigue as well as ill health. Normal college life has been continued in all other respects. Our students have responded to these measures with understanding and complete cooperation.

In regard to our relationship to the public in general, we have gone beyond the recommendations of the City Board of Health and medical advisors. The City Board of Health has not recommended that the college be quarantined, or that there be any curtailment of normal contact with the outside community. We, however, have imposed upon ourselves certain restrictions. We have cancelled for a period of twenty days, dating from May 16th, all events on the campus to which the general public is invited, and have called off off-campus functions which would be attended by any large number of our students.

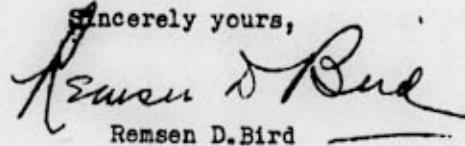
To the parents of Naval trainees -2.

There is at present a research study being undertaken on the campus by Dr. William Hammond of the Hooper Foundation of the University of California who is an authority on communicable diseases, especially poliomyelitis. All aspects of the college and student life are being studied in an effort to discover the causes of the disease.

We want to assure you that we have placed the health of your son above all other considerations at this time. We share with you a deep concern for the welfare of each student. It has been reassuring to feel the confidence which parents have had in the college when they are fully informed of the expert medical counsel we have and of the precautionary measures which we have taken. We sincerely hope that we are past the crisis of this dreadful disease.

With kindest regards, I remain

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Remsen D. Bird". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Remsen D. Bird

OCCIDENTAL COLLEGE
LOS ANGELES 41, CALIFORNIA

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9/23/44
MIG 30 1944

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

August 24, 1944

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

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

May I write you at considerable length? Please forgive me for doing so but I want to present a matter where I am sure you can be helpful.

There is a man in Pasadena, one of our most distinguished Americans, one of our most humane scientists. His name is Max Mason. He is a native son of Wisconsin. He has held professorships at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Yale, University of Wisconsin; he was president of the University of Chicago from 1925-28; he was director for natural sciences of the Rockefeller Foundation, lecturer at Harvard, member of the National Academy of Sciences, and president of the Rockefeller Foundation until 1936 when he came to Pasadena in the development of the California Institute of Technology and the Mount Wilson Observatory especially in connection with the grant made by the Foundation for the Palomar Observatory. He is chairman of the Observatory Council and a member of the Executive Council.

He is a very dear personal friend of Helen and Remsen Bird and we have been especially close to him this last week.

Five years ago he married a very wonderful woman. His life had had many stormy experiences and there came in these five years an unbelievably beautiful experience.

His Helen Mason immediately found a great place in our community and in our hearts.

In an environment that had been extraordinarily conservative, to put it mildly, Dr. and Mrs. Mason have constantly held up the banner of democracy, the support of our President and all that he has sought to do in making the mechanism efficient for the people.

As you know, the scientist in speaking has prestige in the field of the social sciences and the interests of humanity far more than the rest of us who are variously classified, generally as "visionary mortar boards".

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt .. page 2

A few weeks ago Mrs. Mason, who had apparently been very well, suddenly died. The tragedy has come down heavily upon all of us and especially upon her beloved husband.

We spent the evening with him and her daughter who, by the way, is the wife of Eugene Reynal of Reynal and Hitchcock. In the course of the conversation, in his feeling that life has fallen down around him, we talked about the possibility of his greater usefulness as a man of scientific reputation in the service of his country. He was not unmoved.

As you explore him and his usefulness you will discover that he has been one of the outstanding men of science assisting in this and the earlier war efforts. His work in discovering the mechanisms to meet the submarine menace you will find has been one of the most important in both wars. That will thrill you when you find out just what he did in both wars in this very important service.

I have nothing particularly in mind. I want you to explore him and his usefulness. There is some spot for him that is very important. He feels now that he wants to give everything he's got to the good cause of a better society.

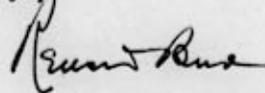
We love him, as you see, very dearly. We know all of the stories of his complicated life and recognize that he has come through to this glorious person not just by smooth sailing down a pleasant valley.

Our Helen Cahagan and Melvyn know him very well. We have, the six of us, been together many times and she can add her word of appreciation of what I have written. In fact, I am going to send her a copy of this letter.

We have been entertaining here at the college this last week Mr. Kenneth Lindsay of the British Information Service and he made the comment that perhaps the most useful person in the Office of War Information, from his corner, in England at this time was our Louise Morley. That was pretty good, wasn't it?

With affectionate regards and best of good wishes for you and yours,

Always,



P.S. If this letter strikes fire and you want more precise information, let me know.

September 7, 1944

Chief of the Bureau of Naval Personnel
Navy Department
Washington 25, D.C.

My dear Sir:

I have heard informally that there is the possibility of increasing the number of Navy Reserve Officer Training Corps.

Our experience here at Occidental with the Navy has been of the very best. We would like to record our interest and would like very much to have the opportunity for consideration of this matter as may be appropriate.

I beg to remain, with readiness to enter into this matter as may be suited, and speaking for the college authorities,

Very sincerely and cordially yours,

Remsen D. Bird

States that ~~Dr. Max Mason~~ is actively connected with the Program of the Office of Scientific Research, etc.

September 23, 1944.

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My dear Dr. Bird:

Mrs. Roosevelt has asked me to send you the enclosed letter from Mr. Carroll L. Wilson, Executive Assistant to the Director, Office of Scientific Research and Development.

Very sincerely yours,

Secretary to
Mrs. Roosevelt.

Dr. Rensen Bird
Occidental College
Los Angeles (41), California.

VDS

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OCCIDENTAL COLLEGE
LOS ANGELES 41, CALIFORNIA

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

September 30, 1944

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

My dear Miss Thompson:

Thank you for your letter of September 23rd in response to my letter to Mrs. Roosevelt and in reference to my very dear friend, Dr. Max Mason.

I am fully aware that Dr. Mason is used to the limit of his energy in the service of the country as a scientist. That is a very wonderful story which Mrs. Roosevelt may someday wish to explore for herself. I know of no one in my acquaintanceship who is more devoted and more intelligent and more useful in the field of science.

But Dr. Mason is not primarily a scientist as great as he is in his chosen field. He is a man of deep concern for human beings and their welfare. He is strongly moved in these times, and very properly so, to the responsibility that is upon us in education to make the scientific method effective in areas where it is either misunderstood or unknown. Violent prejudice obtains among people who should have been taught from the time they began to emerge on how facts are known and how one goes about estimating them. He is "a hot gospeler" on this subject.

Furthermore, he is in no way held back by personal interests, pride, status or anything else. My enthusiasm for him, which I am sure you felt in the last letter and discover again in this one, is for Dr. Max Mason beyond his immediate precise services as a scientist. That's the point. That's the point I am stressing and I know Helen feels the same way about it.

We need a complete new study of our schools and colleges in the face of propoganda, prejudice, false notions, greed, malice and all the other foxes that are eating at the roots of our beautiful vineyard.

It is in this connection that I want Mrs. Roosevelt to explore Dr. Mason.

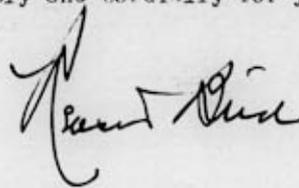
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add Helen to what to write -
allowance to be made that of the
to be had
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Reserve
W. H. Y.
Reuben B...

Miss Melvina C. Thompson .. 2

Recently, as I wrote her, his great sorrow in the loss of his beloved wife has added to the intensity of his desire to make his life valuable to the "great cause".

Will you please slip this note on the dear lady's table some time at your convenience and when she is not too burdened with many things. I am sending a copy of it to Helen and I am sending a copy of the two letters which you have sent me to Helen.

Affectionately and cordially for you all,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Pauline". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed text.

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September 25, 1944.

My dear Dr. Bird:

Mrs. Roosevelt has asked me to
thank you for your note of September 20th.

Mrs. Roosevelt was interested to
to know of the possibility of increasing the
number of Navy Reserve Officer Training Corps
and glad to see your letter to the Chief of
the Bureau of Naval Personnel.

Very sincerely yours,

Secretary to
Mrs. Roosevelt.

Dr. Rensen D. Bird
Occidental College
Los Angeles (41), California.

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OCCIDENTAL COLLEGE
LOS ANGELES 41, CALIFORNIA

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9/25/44

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

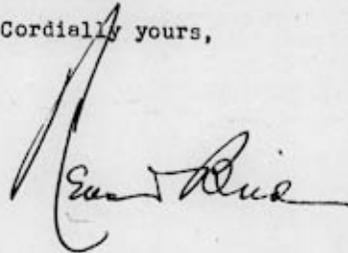
September 20, 1944

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

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Because of your gracious interest in our experience with the N.R.O.T.C. and for other reasons, I am sending you a copy of a letter addressed to the Chief of the Bureau of Naval Personnel.

Cordially yours,



What do you think of
ms fine
Max Mason!

OCCIDENTAL COLLEGE
LOS ANGELES 41, CALIFORNIA

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OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

October 6, 1944

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

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I am enclosing herewith a letter which
I have just received from Mrs. Hervey who came
to me at your suggestion. Her letter and my
answer are self-explanatory. She is a very nice
person.

IRENE

Cordially and sincerely,

W. E. Rouse

Box 126.
Route 1.
Fairfax.
Calif.

October 10th.44;

My dear Dr Bird

You will hardly remember our interview of some eighteen months ago, when Mrs Roosevelt so kindly wrote to you to know how I was getting on!

I spent a year with Dr Titcomb as housekeeper, and was very happy with her, but last July feeling myself to be utterly worn out as I had not had a holiday for two years and a half, I decided to leave and came north to miss the hot summer.

I have been staying at the above address since July and in return for my keep did four hours a day watering the garden. I also got a small salary to keep me going.

This job finishes end of October as there wont be any more watering to do! I have very very much appreciated the change and light work, and having a little time of my own, to catch up with various matters of interest to me.

Our home in London has been badly wrecked for the second time, this time by a robot! As there are millions of people now homeless, my husband being just about worn out and very nervous with all the strain that he has been through, is anxious that I should not return home after the war, so we have arranged to meet in South Africa as soon as it is possible for us to get there.

From what I hear from a South African friend, it seems that Cape Town and all the ports are so congested with refugees and visitors, that now nobody extra is allowed to land. So it wont be for sometime after the war, before we are allowed to go there!

I am returning to 2965. Waverly Drive.

Los Angeles. 26.

on November the 20nd, where I shall be staying with a former employer Mrs Lattin, who very kindly allows me to make her house a headquarters, where I can keep my extra belongings. I cannot go back to her because her gardener's wife now does for her, also I am frankly sick of kitchen work!

I found Dr Titcomb's housekeeping too much for me, owing to a spinal injury caused by a fall winter sporting many years ago, I have never been strong, and its always difficult for me to do any standing, and I ought not to lift things etc. So you can imagine that it was not easy from the beginning to do domestic work, where so much is always expected of one.

As I reckon to have to remain in this country for some six months or even longer after the war (German war) has finished, I am anxious to find some kind of a light job with a good home attached to it. Have you got enough people to keep the college gardens watered?!

I dont really mind what I do, as long as I can work sitting!
I cannot take on any kind of secretarial work, as I

am suffering from a good deal of eye strain, so would not like to do anything to intensify that condition.

I thought perhaps you would care to mention my position to your secretary and if she thinks that there is any kind of situation that I could fit into, I would be very glad if she would kindly write and let me know. Then on my return I could come and see her, first week in November. I do not want to start work again before the middle of that month.

Please tell her, that I really don't mind what I do, provided the hours are not too long.

With kindest regards and hoping to hear from you.

Yours sincerely

June Hervey

P.S. By the way my father was the patristic scholar and armenian expert at Oxford. I think you mixed him up with a great uncle who was joint author along with Howson of the Life and Epistles of St Paul!

My husband is Lt Colonel G.C.I. Hervey. O.B.E. (professional soldier, now retired)

My brother is Dr J.J. Conybeare of Guy's Hospital, whose "Conybeare's text book of medicine" is in its fourth edition in America. He is at present Air Commodore in the R.A.F.

October 6, 1944

Mrs. Irene Hervey
Box 126, Routel
Fairfax, California

My dear Mrs. Hervey:

Thank you very much for your informing letter. I wish that I could give you peace and the kind of a life that would free you to be your own good self in the general living and services of the good society.

You certainly are not conditioned by experience as a gardener and mechanic of the kitchen.

Take care of yourself and when you get back, drop in and see me and we can talk things over and I shall be very happy to talk with you, I assure you.

With best of good wishes,

Cordially yours,

October 31, 1944

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Dear Dr. Bird:

I gave the President a memorandum on the contents of your letter, which is all that I can do.

I agree with you that Helen has done a wonderful job and she is a grand and rare person.

Sincerely yours,

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Dr. Remsen Bird
President
Occidental College
Los Angeles, Calif.

OCCIDENTAL COLLEGE
LOS ANGELES 41, CALIFORNIA

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

October 23, 1944

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

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I am enclosing herewith copy of a note I wrote Helen after the great address in New York. She could not have done a finer job.

We were over there yesterday afternoon and spent the afternoon talking things over with her. Helen entered into the services of her country, as you know, first of all through the experience with the migrant children. Out of that experience her vision, her devotion, her amazing quality, there has grown a person who is not only able but is great in the innermost being.

You will note in my letter to Helen that I expressed a personal very great desire. When the war is over and there is a gathering some place of people concerned with the way we shall behave, I want very much to be there.

In the days preceding the war, a very great friend of mine who is a pacifist and with whom I was in France in the last war told me that he would have nothing to do with this war. He bears the honors of great courage in the last war and he gave himself with complete devotion at that time. He said to me, "When the war is over people like you, Remsen, who are idealists and who see this war on the side of right and justice and peace will have nothing to do when they sit around the green table. The tough guys will be there then and you will not be considered."

I said to him, "Not only will my kind be there but I shall be there myself."

Will you help me to fulfill this destiny?

I thought the President's address before the Foreign Policy Association was in every respect just what it should be. God bless him and take care of him.

Affectionately and cordially,

Remsen B. [Signature]

October 20, 1944

My dear Helen:

Well, your address was perfect! What you said, the way you said it, the quality of emotion that was in you, the depth and richness of your compassion, the freedom from any kind of unfairness or discourtesy or hitting out under the stress and strain, all this sort of thing that could hurt the goodness of faith and devotion conspicuously absent.

Thank you. What a wonderful girl you are.

We are now ending a college year in this strange time. By the acceleration program we close semesters at the oddest moments.

I think a great deal in the midst of the context of our world agony of the college and its young people and the immediate pressing fact to me that this evening I shall graduate the sons and daughters of the sons and daughters I have graduated. I have come to that time. It is a time of much soul examination, you may well imagine.

Helen dear, I am very much moved by the desire to have some part in the settling of the peace. I have said to myself through this time of storm that I wanted very much, even if I were only an onlooker, to be at the peace table. I think I have my life and circumstances worked out so that I could be there if it were possible.

When you go back to Washington and you sit around, you and the other great wigs of the government, please think of me and of this statement.

In the meantime, take good care of yourself and know how deeply you move all of your friends at that great moment in your life when you spoke for the indispensable philosophy of righteousness and humanity and real democracy and the foundations of a worthy peace.

God bless you and yours always.

Lovingly,

File

OCCIDENTAL COLLEGE
LOS ANGELES 41, CALIFORNIA

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OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

November 6, 1944

*received
(throw away)*

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

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Under separate cover I am mailing you the Annual Report of Occidental College. Attached to this report is the list of names of those who have made so good a report possible.

Among others there is your own and we express again our very sincere appreciation to you for your confidence, cooperation and support.

We are now in the year 1944-45. We continue our war services but we look to the new responsibilities of peace and the strengthening of the traditional college.

In this effort we have set for ourselves the goal of \$100,000 for the current need of the year, for the renovation of our residences, and for the building of the very much needed water mains to supply the increasing campus.

We have great hopes that it will be our experience once more to carry the college through with the expenses of the year met and the work of the year accomplished.

We are among the most fortunate of all colleges in the steady increase of the number who enter into the care of the college year by year.

We thank you again for your part and shall appreciate whatever you may be able to do in the year 1944-45.

With kindest personal regards,

Cordially yours,

Ernest Bird

November 21, 1944.

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My dear Dr. Bird:

This will acknowledge the receipt
of your letter of November 8th, which was
given to Mrs. Roosevelt.

Very sincerely yours,

Secretary to
Mrs. Roosevelt.

Dr. Rensen D. Bird
Occidental College
Los Angeles (41), California.

VDS

OCcidental COLLEGE
LOS ANGELES 41, CALIFORNIA

11/21/44

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

November 8, 1944

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

NOV 15 1944

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Thank you very much for your letter concerning me and mine.

I wrote a note to Dr. Guy Snavely in which I sent him a copy of my letter to you and my letter to Helen.

What concerns me is that there may not be at the so-called "peace table" adequate representation of the educational forces that can work together for the rehabilitation of the institutions of the world like this one.

I also know that it is so easy at a time when appointments are made to pick those who are known on the Atlantic Seaboard. That is generally what happens and understandably.

I have, as I wrote you, special reasons why I want to be there and I think I have something to contribute to the conference, should a conference take place.

We spent election night at Helen's. Very soon it was clear that the President would be returned but it was not so clear that Helen would be elected. She trailed for a while and we did not know until just a few hours ago that her election was sure.

As you know, her campaign was an exceedingly "holy" one. She said nothing about her opponent; she pled for the President and all that he represented. She held the campaign to the high purpose and that was all done in a district that was accustomed to the slam-bang.

And, besides, there were many new people in the district. She did not live in it. She was the victim of a very soiled, smear campaign .. but she's won and she will come back to Washington a very great addition.

I talked with Tom Ford several times during the evening and he spoke of Helen as one who was destined for many reasons immediately

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt .. 2

to be a very real force in Washington on the side of the great purposes of our times.

You will miss him in Washington I know and I know also how much personal satisfaction you will have in Helen's coming.

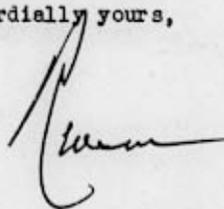
It was a great gathering. Sometime I'll tell you about it from my point of observation. I doubt if there ever has been quite the same kind of a group meeting in so spacious a home mindful of our democracy and sitting in unity for its understanding and promotion.

I thank you for keeping me in mind and taking the trouble to put the memorandum on the President's desk. If nothing comes of it I shall fully understand.

Thank God our President continues and the angry young gentleman has not displaced him, for that would have been a very great tragedy.

With affectionate regards,

Cordially yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to be "Eleanor", written in dark ink.

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November 28, 1944

Dear Dr. Bird:

Thank you for sending me a copy of
your letter to ~~Dr. Snavely~~. I am glad to hear
you are not being persecuted and are not seeing
your college suffer because of personal beliefs.

Sincerely yours,

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Dr. Remsen Bird

OCCIDENTAL COLLEGE
LOS ANGELES 41, CALIFORNIA

NOV 27 1944

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

November 21, 1944

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

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Here is a copy of a letter which
is what it is:

The best to you this Thanksgiving
time.

Cordially yours,

Eisen

*I am enclosed to you
you are not being persecuted I think
in college I hope
personally
etc*

November 20, 1944

Dr. Guy E. Snavely

Association of American Colleges
19 West 44th Street
New York, New York

My dear Guy:

People say to me, "Are there any other college presidents except yourself who supported the President?" I haven't been very much use to the President in reference to the power of my support. As you know I have a theory that as president of this college I am one who should not endorse candidates. I got my fingers terribly burned in early years when I did endorse candidates and the endorsement was looked upon as a college endorsement and not as a personal one.

However, I have voted four times for Mr. Roosevelt and that gets breezed around!

In fact, I have some tales which in the long view are a bit amusing. One of our generous benefactors turned the gaze away from the college because I am what I am and held the position that I have held.

The other day she wrote me a little note, now after many years intervening, and arranged to send me quite a generous check on condition that I wouldn't give it to the President or to Helen Gabagon.

So it is like that.

And the other day Mr. Herbert Hoover's very best friend, Mr. and Mrs. Homold, for they are like one person, sent me a thanksgiving check .. so it is like that.

Hold your grounds, be frank and fair and compassionate and you will inherit the earth.

Affectionately and cordially,

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OCCIDENTAL COLLEGE
LOS ANGELES 41, CALIFORNIA

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

December 5, 1944

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

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

When I get your kind letters such as this one of November 28th, and I realize that you have taken the trouble to read my documents, you overwhelm me a bit.

I enjoy thoroughly writing to you from my corner but I do not wish to be a nuisance. Please don't let me be a nuisance.

I have had an interesting correspondence with an old friend in Washington named Robert LaFollette. I am going to take the liberty of sending you my letter to him and his to me.

Senator LaFollette comes of liberal stock and had a father of great vision and great humanitarianism. Is there work to be done here?

I have just been talking with Helen. We are having a farewell party at the house on Saturday night. Why don't you fly out for it?

Affectionately and cordially,

Reuben Bird

REMPEN BIRD

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Dear Mr. Coover:

DEC 9 1944

Mrs. Heineman brought me
your more than thoughtful
greetings. Helen Bird and I
hope to be in the East in April -
There must be some business which
justifies - We have a very demanding
conscience in this Rantwood Business -
There are many matters I want to
talk over with you - Helen G. leaves
on the 14th by station wagon - She
will stay with friends until the loan
is complete - I hope the Christmas
time to spend happiness to you -

affectionately

Rempen

Dec. 2. 1944

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OCCIDENTAL COLLEGE
LOS ANGELES 41, CALIFORNIA

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

December 11, 1944

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

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

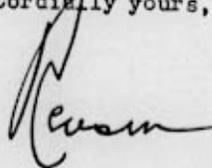
Thank you very much for your quick understanding and sympathy with the work which Zlatko and Joyce Balokovic are doing. Joyce writes me frequently of your understanding. In her letter received today is this sentence: "Mrs. Roosevelt is one of the great people of this world, as you know. She arranged for us to see Secy. Stettinius on the day of his appointment and Mr. McCloy, the Assistant Secretary of War, etc."

I have the following interesting letter from Jerry Voorhis which is self-explanatory. I have sent it to Guy Snavely, seeking his counsel.

Really, the more I think about it, the more I am impressed with the solemn fact that unless our schools are rebuilt throughout the world we shall very soon drift into the kind of when people are not trained in their minds and in their hearts.

With affectionate regards and best of good wishes for the Christmas time,

Cordially yours,



P.S. We had a farewell party for Helen Saturday night. She is leaving for Washington on the 15th. Mary Helen goes today with Mrs. Gahagan and will stay with her in New York until things are worked out.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C.

December 5, 1944

Dr. Remsen D. Bird
Occidental College
Los Angeles 41

Dear Remsen:

I have your good letter of November 16th and also copy of your letter to Mrs. Roosevelt which I appreciate your letting me see.

I am deeply impressed by your suggestion for a conference on education and feel that it is something that is very badly needed indeed. I am not sure, however, that the government ought to sponsor such a conference. On the contrary I am inclined to think that it would be more successful if sponsored by some of the school people themselves. For one thing, I think there is a crying need for the college people especially to get together and discuss the problems that are going to arise in connection with the G.I. Bill and helping returning veterans to take advantage of it.

Now I would be mighty glad to contact Dr. Studebaker of the Office of Education and try to encourage his setting up such a conference as you propose, if on mature consideration you think that is the way to go about it. As I say I was just wondering if it would not be more fruitful for the school people to go ahead under their own head of steam. Please let me know what you think about this angle of the situation and whether or not you want me to contact the Office of Education about the matter.

I hope I have made it clear that I most decidedly agree with you and that such a conference should be held.

Sincerely yours,

JERRY VOORHIS