

Parroquia de San Juan Bautista

Ave. Ponce de León, Parada 20, Santurce, P. R.

Revdo. Padre Aristides Villafañe
Rector del Trabajo en Español

Comite Financiero:

Sr. Luis Garcia, Tesorero
Sr. Enrique López Bou
Sr. Ramón O'Neill
Sr. Carlos George
Sr. M. A. Rodríguez, Secretario

Actividades:

Coro de S. J. B.
Sociedad de Jóvenes
Sociedad de Damas y Caballeros
Escuela de Doctrina

Saint Luke's Mission
Puerta de Tierra
Puerto Rico
P. O. Box # 5324
July 25th, 1939.

Miss Ruby A. Black
825 Albee Building
Washington, D. C.

My dear Miss Ruby A. Black:

This is to express you my hearty thanks and appreciation for your letter and kind gift of ten dollars (\$10) as your personal contribution for our new Mission at "Eleanor Roosevelt Development", Hato Rey, Rio Piedras. It is a real blessing for us Missionaries to feel that we are not alone, that we have friends who care for us and assist us in our mutual interest in the work of the Church. My brother, Rev. Aristides Villafañe, together with me are in charge of all the Spanish work of the Episcopal Church in the city of San Juan and its barrios.

For about one year now we have been developing this new Mission at the "Urbanización Eleanor Roosevelt", which as you probably know is one of the settlements established through the Puerto Rican Reconstruction Administration. It has been indeed a great blessing for the many families who are benefited by the privilege of living in this new community.

"Urbanización Eleanor Roosevelt" is located in Hato Rey, a place between Santurce and Rio Piedras, our University town. About five hundreds (500) families are already living in this settlement, which is our most modern and up-to-date town in the island of Puerto Rico. There we have a Grammar School, a Dispensary, and a Community Center. With these facilities of an educational and social character the people still need what we Missionaries are trying to bring them, the Church, her teachings and Sacraments; and of course, we are justified in doing so, because some families from St. Luke's Mission in Puerta de Tierra, and some others from St. John's in Santurce moved and are living in this place. We have been holding religious Services from house to house

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and as we saw the need of having a resident missionary I moved last January, and I have been living with my family at the place.

Of course, the Church building is very much needed and it was granted to us by the Administration a concession of a lot of land to build a chapel. Our Bishop, the Rt. Rev. Charles B. Colmore, has been able to raise \$6,000 for the project, but of course, this amount will not cover the total cost of the building. I hope that through the action of the good wills and the love of many christian hearts in the States we will be able to raise about \$10,000, which may enable us to crystalize our ideal of having a church building to worship our Lord, to help, comfort and strengthen the souls of those residing at Eleanor Roosevelt Development, to have for them the preaching of the Word of God, the administration of the Holy Sacraments, and the christian influence in the social life of the people.

With your contribution I have opened a "Saving Account" for the "Construction of a Chapel". I hope that our friends in the States will help us, and will let me know about some individuals I can approach and write to them appealing for their personal help towards this holy enterprise.

Thanks God we are doing in our missionary work our best and the most according to our means, and we know perfectly well that our effort is having success, because our Lord is blessing it continuously. It is a marvelous thing that we all have a Master to serve and the same Lord to worship. He is our point of contact and our relation with Him avoids distances, time and space, and all kinds of human differences; we are all one in Him. The Cross means love, sacrifice and prayer; and these are the marks which distinguish the true follower of Christ. Let us pray and hope that in all parts of the world men may come closer to Him by the holy way of Charity and love, closer to Him by prayer and sacrifice, closer to His Cross on which He died for all men, so as to give us Salvation and eternal life.

Thanking you again and thanking also your friend who told you about me and the Church in Puerto Rico, and asking your prayers in behalf of this new Mission; believe me,

Very sincerely yours,

Domingo Villafaña

Missionary

August 11, 1939
Hyde Park, New York

100

Dear Ruby:

I think that "Washington,
Nerve Center" is a swell book and I am
delighted to have written the foreword
for it.

^{Edwin} I am writing a line to
Mr. Rosskam and am returning the proofs
to you under separate cover.

Affectionately,

Miss Ruby Black
825 Albee Building
Wash., D.C.

DD

RUBY A. BLACK
NEWS BUREAU

211½ PRINCE STREET
ALEXANDRIA, VA.

825 Albee
~~2110 1/2 PRINCE STREET~~ BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Aug. 5, 1939.

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Here are uncorrected proofs of our book, "Washington, Nerve Center." I got them just as Congress quit.

Of course, you are not to bother about typographical errors, which will be carefully corrected, and, naturally, the reproduction of the pictures or the printing on this galley proof is not what it will be in the book, as you know from your own experience in book publishing.

Ed Rosskam, ~~and~~ the publisher, and I sent this to you with the hope that you will look at it to see if you find anything objectionable to you -- since you have written the introduction to the book.

If you find anything wrong, or objectionable, will you write to Edwin Rosskam, 3412 Morrison St., N.W., Washington, with a carbon copy to me at Bethany Beach, Del., or if it seems okay to you, could you let him know, with carbon to me, that the content and the spirit are such that you are willing to have your introduction included?

While I have read copy, I have not read this proof, not having time when I got it while writing the final stuff on Congress and getting ready to go to Bethany in an hour from now (at 8 p.m.).

With my love and best wishes,

Ruby

Ed is now
working for
Farm Security.

Hyde Park, N.Y.
August 14, 1939

Dear Ruby:

I can't imagine how the idea originated
that I am going to be in Puerto Rico August
22 and 23. I have no intention of going.

I am looking forward to seeing all of
you girls on Labor Day.

Affectionately,

Miss Ruby Black
Bethany Beach
Delaware

SO

copy
8-14

1505

WESTERN UNION PRESS MESSAGE

W. B. WHITE
PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

J. C. WILLEVER
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT

Bethany Beach, Del.
Aug. 11, 1939

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I have a letter from The Maternal and Infant Health Assoc. of Puerto Rico saying that you are expected in P.R. Aug. 22-23 for an educational conference. They want an ~~appointment~~ appointment with you while you are there, to talk over the birth control situation. They ask me if you are going to P.R., & to introduce with you for the appointment.

Could you tell me if you are going? If so, when & how? When can it be announced? And, can you see Mrs. Alvarado or someone from the Maternal Health Assoc. if you go?

May, Jane, Herb, and I join in best wishes to you. We are having a good time - wish you were here!

Love
Kelsey

October 12, 1939

100

Dear Ruby:

I will take up the question of formal dinners with Steve, but since we are curtailing the social calendar this year, I doubt if there will be any formal dinners. The only things scheduled are receptions with small dinners beforehand, and by small I mean 24 people!

I could dine with you on November 18 and am glad to have you invite anyone you wish.

Steve says the Gridiron party is tentatively set for December 9, and if that is made definite, we'll have our "widows" party that night.

Affectionately,

Miss Ruby Black
825 Albee Building
Washington, D.C.

211 1/2 PRINCE STREET
ALEXANDRIA, VA.

RUBY A. BLACK
NEWS BUREAU

825 Albee
EXDORAL BLDG
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Oct. 21, 1939.

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Naturally, May and I are happy as can be that you can dine with us at my house on November 18th. And are our maids happy and excited.

I hope you and Tommie can come around 7 or 7:30 p.m., so Jane can see you. Just let me know what hour is convenient for you.

We haven't invited our guests yet, except that I have spoken to Geno and Ruth, and as I happened to see them privately, and I wrote to Emma in the course of writing her about something else. Emma is heartbroken, for her brother is marrying that day, and she must attend the wedding.

Olive Clapper is working on the Gridiron Widows party, as it's the wives' turn this year. That lets me out of one job as president of the club.

Thank you so much for coming to the party for our book. The publisher and the author were still walking on air, when last I saw or heard from them.

Of course you can't invite a lot of newspaper men and women to dinners this year. I should have had the nerve to tell you about it last year, anyhow.

May and I are working on a new radio program for which we are going to get try-outs on the station her papers own and one owned by one of my papers next week. Radio transcriptions, designed especially for women, in the morning hours. We want to tell you about it sometime, and ask your advice, as we are babes in the woods as far as that business is concerned. We've been planning it for a couple of months, but just got around to actually getting records out to stations.

Love to you and Tommie, as always,

Ruby

RUBY A. BLACK
NEWS BUREAU

211½ PRINCE STREET
ALEXANDRIA, VA.

825 41st Building
~~NATIONAL PRESS BUILDING~~
WASHINGTON, D. C.

October 30, 1939.

1000
0-
gale

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Our letters continue to cross each other,
but I suppose you know by now that it will cer-
tainly be no inconvenience to Jay and me to change
the date to November 20. I have sent notes to
all the guests.

Yours with love,

Ruby

Copy to [unclear] 2/1
2/1/31

RUBY A. BLACK
NEWS BUREAU

825 Albee
EXHIBIT BLDG BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D. C.

211 1/2 PRINCE STREET
ALEXANDRIA, VA.

Oct. 25, 1939.

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Naturally, May and I will be just as happy to have you dine with us at my house on November 20 as on November 18, or on any other day. It will cause us no inconvenience at all.

Besides, probably Emma can come, not that it's changed to November 20.

May is now laid up with the flu, but expects to be out by the end of the week.

Much love,

Ruby

*George flowers
to [unclear] [unclear]
([unclear] [unclear]) done
1/31
with [unclear]'s [unclear]*

and 10-12

United States Senate

10-12

used to be

10-12

10-12

PRESS GALLERY

WASHINGTON, D. C., Oct. 3, 1938
825 Albee Bldg.

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

This letter is long because it is about so many different subjects concerning which I never get a chance to speak to you.

1. Henry Koppell, publisher of "Washington: Nerve Center," for which you wrote the introduction, is giving a tea and cocktail party for Ed Rosshan, me, and the book, 5 to 7 p.m., at the Cabinet Room, the Willard, on Wednesday, Oct. 11. Invitations went to you and Tommie today. If it is at all possible for you to drop in for a minute or two, we all hope you can -- Mr. Koppell is dying to meet you. If you can, and care to let me know the approximate time, we'll be all prepared, but won't tell anybody else, unless you yourself choose to tell.

2. Enclosed is the letter giving evidence that I wish you a happy birthday, and lots of them.

3. Enclosed also is a copy of a story I have written. I doubt if any of my papers will print it, but I really do feel that way about it.

4. May Craig and I want to give a simple dinner for you at my house sometime when it is convenient for you. The guests would be You, Tommie, Gene, Bess, Martha, Emma Bugbee if she could come down, and ~~any~~ no one else, unless you would also like to have Ruth Finney included. We have no idea what season to suggest, as we don't yet know when you are to be here, and be least busy.

5. Since last winter, I have intended saying to you confidentially something about the newspaper correspondents invited year after year to formal dinners at the White House. As there is to be a curtailed season, I don't suppose this is a good time to do it, but I'll say it, anyhow. Several important correspondents who are strong New Dealers, are never invited, while the same group seems to be invited year after year, including some who are bitter against the New Deal. This causes some of the President's friends to make cracks such as "You have to be an enemy of the President's to be invited to the White HouseXX to dinner." I personally would like to attend one formal dinner during this administration, just to see what they are like -- and Herb now has tails and white tie. I suppose that, if things were normal, I'd be invited sometime this year, as president of the Women's National Press Club. That also brings up the fact that, so far as I have been able to determine from the lists, no woman correspondent has ever been invited to a formal dinner, except club presidents or women whose husbands were invited. Of course, I personally like the informal

United States Senate

PRESS GALLERY

WASHINGTON, D. C., _____, 193—

dinners much better, but it is worth while to any correspondent to have the experience, once at least, of a formal dinner at the White House. And several of the women do really important jobs as correspondents.

I wouldn't mention this for any personal reason. I mention it only because so many of the administration's friends, both men and women, have spoken to me about it rather sadly, and so I mention it as a friend of the administration.

Yours with love,

Ruby

Oct. 3 9.

825 Albee Bldg.

Dear Carmen:

Enclosed is a check for \$5 as my birthday gift to our mutual friend whose birthday is Oct. 11.

I don't yet know the outcome of the negotiations with the PRRA over their aid to you in furnishing workers. I know that ~~the~~ WPA has set up offices there, and, as I remember it, Mr. Fairbank said he could continue to help you if the WPA ~~asks~~ should take some load off the PRRA.

Soon I shall send you a copy of the book, "Washington: Nerve Center," of which I am co-editor. You will remember that the publisher, at my request, sent you a check for \$100. The book came out yesterday, but I have not yet obtained copies other than those I sent to friends who were to review it or write stories about it. I expect the copies for my personal friends sometime next week.

Yours as ever sincerely,

Ruby A. Black

Sra. Carmen R. de Alvarado
Asociacion pro Salud Maternal e Infantil
El 5 Avenida Ponce de Leon
Santurce, Puerto Rico

mailed Sept. 30, 1939

None of my papers
printed it - but
I see you + Jay
Franklin got over
the same idea
in your columns.
Rudy

RUBY A. BLACK

WASHINGTON -- A scene probably typical of thousands of American homes of educated, public-spirited, fairly comfortable, people seems to your correspondent to hold a vitally important lesson for all Americans.

We all went to a meeting of the local council of social agencies, trying to evolve a workable, sensible coordination of the local charities and social services. The problem seemed as complicated as European diplomacy, so involved were the inter-relations of various agencies. We talked and referred the problems to committees.

Then half dozen of us adjourned to the home of one of us, to talk about other problems of our pre-revolutionary town of 36,000, now a satellite to the seat of the federal government.

After a little, we got into a debate on neutrality, and then the amateur military strategists -- not one of whom had ever planned a battle -- got their maps and worked out the whole strategy of the European war.

Finally, one who is in the top-rank of intelligent, important, well-informed, widely experienced, and non-political federal officials, said:

"Here ~~we~~ we are, settling international relations and fighting a European war, when we can't even clean a slum in Alexandria, or find a way to keep a day nursery open, and can, only after years of effort, ~~change our jail from a occupied~~

black -- 2

effort, change our jail from a cesspool and a firetrap into a comparatively modern jail.

"It's so easy," he continued devastatingly, "to settle world affairs, and forget that we've got internal affairs to settle, affairs at home, which we might settle if we put our minds and energies to them."

For a week, your correspondent has been trying, without success, to find a senator or congressman who can think or talk about our own internal problems. They are all busy on one side or other of the neutrality fence, or on war preparations.

The next morning after that session, across the potomac from Washington, ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ I saw a western senator in the White House lobby, and he said to me:

"After all our work last session to get money for Bob La Follette to finish up the civil liberties investigation, nothing is done."

I find later that Sen. La Follette, the Wisconsin Progressive charged with uncovering the violations of civil liberties and the rights of labor, won't even listen to members of his own investigative staff who want advice and instructions, so convinced is he that this neutrality fight -- he's against repealing the arms embargo -- is the most important thing in his whole senatorial career, the problem to which he must give every waking hour and a lot of hours when he ought to be asleep.

After a week of this sort of thing, I have formulated a new credo for this situation. It is:

I believe Bob La Follette could do more to keep this

black -- 3

country out of war if he would continue the fight for civil liberties, for the rights of all men and women, and would not only expose what is left to expose, but would fight for passage of the bills he and Sen. Elbert Thomas of Utah, introduced in the last session to guarantee these rights and prohibit the abuses they have already found.

I believe Sen. David I. Walsh, Massachusetts Democrat who is a new member of the La Follette Civil liberties committee and is the chairman of the Senate Naval Affairs Committee, could do more to keep this country out of war if he would devote himself to the civil liberties fight and to the quiet, orderly development of our defenses at sea.

I believe the President could do more to keep this country out of war if he would devote himself to restoring its internal economy, putting some ten million jobless to work, cleaning the slums from our cities and our farms and villages, training our young people for available jobs, building up the health of our people, conserving all our natural resources.

I believe that the ordinary citizen could do more to keep our country out of war if he would settle down to his local economic, ~~and~~ health, educational, social and political problems, instead of writing to his senators and congressmen about neutrality and international relations.

I believe that the radio commentators, the columnists, the editorial writers, could do more to keep this country out of war if they would set out, with dispassionate, non-political, intelligent determination to clean those slums, get those jobs for people, to train those young people, wipe out tuberculosis, venereal disease,

typhoid fever, and malaria -- all of which can be wiped out with comparative ease -- save that soil and those forests and that oil and copper and coal, harness that water power and control those floods, clean those streams of filth and ⁱⁿ put those sewers and pure water supplies, electrify those farm homes, and cut out any remaining stupidity or corruption in local politics. Or state or national politics, for that matter.

I believe all this for three reasons:

1. I am convinced that, the healthier this country is, physically, economically, mentally, socially, and politically, the less likely it is to go to war.

(It's terrible to hear youngsters say, "I don't see how we can ever get jobs unless there's a war," or to hear middle-aged men say, "Well, if we go to war, I can get a job," or to hear women thrown out of jobs because of marriage say, "We will be welcome to work, come a war," or to hear big business men say, "Better turn in that old car now, and get a new one, for if we go to war, the cars will cost more and will be worth less.")

2. I am also convinced that the international relations and the national defense of this country must be, and inevitably will be, handled by the experts who know how to do it; that, while they ought to make public their policies in a democracy, the techniques are up to them, just as the technique of wiring a house up to the electricians, not to the householders; and that these techniques can be put into operation quietly, without warlike ballyhoo.

3. I am further convinced that the best way to save democracy is to make democracy work, for all the people in this country

black -- 5

although I also am convinced that this country cannot live in a
vacuum.

--(B)--

free
November 30, 1939

Miss Thompson
MEMO FOR ~~MR. GRIM~~

Mrs. Roosevelt goes to
dinner tonight at Miss Black's
home, 211½ Prince Street,
Alexandria, Virginia.

M.T.L.

*Richard
don't know - March 9*

*Card
12-11-39*

WOMEN'S NATIONAL PRESS CLUB
WASHINGTON, D.C.

825 Albee Bldg.
December 4, 1939.

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Tommy says you have only one free date in February or March, and that is March 9.

We have reserved the Willard Ballrooms for that date, and we hope we can count on you to come to our stunt party that night.

Again, let me thank you for coming to Ray's and my party, and for the gorgeous flowers you sent me while I was in the hospital.

I'll see you Saturday evening at 7 p.m.!

Yours with love,

Ruby

Handwritten notes and signatures:
MR
1-1-40
Ruby
Katherine

March 2, 1940

MEMO FOR *Miss Harper*

Mrs. Roosevelt will attend
the Women's National Press Club
Stunt Party on March 9th, at
7:15 p.m. It will be held in
the small ballroom of the
Willard Hotel.

M.T.L.

jes

WOMEN'S NATIONAL PRESS CLUB

March 1, 1940

Dear Member:

The small ballroom of the Willard will be open at 7 p.m. March 9 for the stunt party.

The club officers will be lined up at 7:15 p.m. to receive members and guests.

The honor guests will arrive about 7:15 to meet members.

It is not to be publicly announced yet, but the Marine Band orchestra will be there at 7:15 p.m. to provide music before and during the dinner, so there will be pleasant entertainment in addition to the honor guest, before dinner.

The doors of the large ballroom will be opened at 7:45 so that everyone will be seated before Mrs. Roosevelt arrives at her place at the table at 8 p.m.

Thus, the party really begins at 7:15. Please come in time to hang up your wraps and be in the small ballroom by 7:15, so the receiving line will have guests to receive, and so that you and the honor guests will have a chance to meet each other.

Yours for order and pleasure,

Ruby A. Black

President.

P.S. I meant to say on my last post card that there would be no luncheon or business meeting on March 5.

Received

December 7, 1939

max 9/100

Dear Ruby:

Mrs. Roosevelt says she will
be at your stunt party on March 9.

We will see you Saturday night.

Affectionately,

Miss Ruby Black
825 Albee Building
Washington, D.C.

DD



211 1/2 PRINCE STREET
ALEXANDRIA, VA.

RUBY A. BLACK
NEWS BUREAU

825 Albee
EXCHANGE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D. C.

December 11, 1939.

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I feel like an infected heel to has you for anything -- even three signatures -- at this time.

Nevertheless, I want your name on the special copy of "Washington: Nerve Center," made for me, which is like the special copy made for you, and I want your name in the special copy for Jane, in which is pasted the picture of her and me made for publicity use by the publisher, and in which are already the other signatures, and I want your name on the picture of you, me, and Ed, looking at the book.

Jane's special copy is to go with her Christmas presents.

So, here are the two books and the picture, with requests for three autographs.

I will call for the package, if the switchboard will tell me when they're ready, or I can get them at press conference Friday, if Tommie will kindly bring them in, or if they can be placed in the usher's office for me.

I thought your stunt was swell. I wish I could have, as a private souvenir, the script! And you looked about 25 years old in that medieval headdress, and so pretty. A dozen women have mentioned it to me. If you weren't so tall, I'd recommend that you wear that kind of hat all the time.

Yours, with love,

Ruby

December 14, 1939

100

Dear Ruby:

Here is a copy of the "Ivory Tower"
skit. Mrs. Roosevelt had the idea and Mrs.
Morgenthau wrote the whole script.

Affectionately,

Miss Ruby Black
Albee Building
Washington, D.C.

DD

46

RUBY A. BLACK
NEWS BUREAU

100

TELEPHONE DISTRICT 7039

225 ALBEE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D. C.

December 19, 1939.

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Here is the evidence of my having sent you a Christmas present -- the usual.

With it goes my deeply-felt wishes that some day the world can have, at its Christmas time and at all other times, all the conditions you wish that its people could enjoy. Few in the world have done as much as you, in the big things and in the little things, to bring Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to many, many people.

Thank you, too, for the signatures, and for the beautiful inscription in the book for Jane.

See you Saturday -- virtually all day!

Love,

Ruby



RUBY A. BLACK
NEWS BUREAU

TELEPHONE DISTRICT 7039

625 ALBEE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D. C.

December 19, 1939.

Sra. Carmen R. de Alvarado,
Asociacion pro Salud Maternal e Infantil de Puerto Rico,
Ave. Ponce de Leon No. 215,
Santurce, Puerto Rico.

Dear Carmen:

I'm sorry to be so late with the Christmas present to our dear friend. Christmas crept up on me.

But, at least in time for New Year's or Three Kings, here is a check for \$5 which represents my wish for a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year both to her and to the Asociacion.

Do let me know from time to time how your work is progressing. I can pass the information on to our friend here. Just to show you how interested she is, I want to tell you that, after I give her my birthday and Christmas presents for her, she always tells me that she gets no nicer gifts.

With best wishes to you, personally, as well as to the Asociacion, I am

Your friend,

Ruby A. Black

9:12
L. J. ...
Miss Ruby Black

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL ADJUSTMENT ADMINISTRATION
WASHINGTON, D. C.

December 26, 1939.

100 full

Miss Ruby Black,
National Press Building,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Ruby:

The connection of Good Housekeeping magazine with the J. B. Matthews blast on consumers began in August when the Federal Trade Commission issued its complaint against that magazine and against Hearst Magazines, Inc., which owns it. At that time Richard E. Berlin, executive vice-president, issued a statement to the press saying that the action was the result of communistic activities both outside and inside the Government, and that these activities would now be publicly exposed.

This was followed by Stanley High's article, "Guinea Pigs Left March," prepared for Readers Digest and printed in full in the October issue of The Forum. I have reports, but no proof, that Berlin inspired this move.

Before the Matthews report was released by Martin Dies, some 15 or 20 people in N.A.M. and the Association of National Advertisers met in Sokolsky's home in New York to plan the campaign which would be built upon the Matthews report when released. I know that Good Housekeeping people had previously urged such action upon A.N.A. I know also of extraordinarily intimate connections between Hearst and Matthews in the preparation of this release.

On the day after Matthews gave his report to the press in Washington, Berlin issued it in full in New York City accompanied by a statement in which he pointed out that it "sets forth precisely the facts I had in mind."

With information coming to light showing the close connection between Good Housekeeping and Matthews, I thought Mrs. R. would want to be informed.

Sincerely yours,

for
D. E. Montgomery,
Consumers' Counsel.

War on Consumers

by **GEORGE H. TICHENOR**

THE WAR IS ON. Objective: to exterminate or discredit active groups in what is known as the "consumer movement." Before passing harsh judgment on Grandmother, whose name may suddenly appear on a proscribed list of "dangerous agitators," the consumer had better take more than a hasty glance at the battle lines now forming, the issues involved, and the composition of the various factions.

An article by Stanley High in the October FORUM ("Guinea Pigs Left March") said, in effect: Consumers who were formerly docile and knew their place are now an "army with banners." Misguided by sinister forces in government, educational circles, and the various consumer groups, they're marching left as one guinea pig, bent on overthrowing everything that the profiteers hold dear.

Reader's Digest reprinted this piece. *Good Housekeeping*, still smarting, perhaps, under the Federal Trade Commission's disapproval of its "Seal of Approval," sent reprints of the article, with a supplementary discourse, to consumer educators in all parts of the country. The Crowell Publishing Company has taken to the air, and its editorials are strenuously wooing the consumer. The U. S. Chamber of Commerce some time ago issued a special bulletin on the good services of advertising; textbook vigilantes have been suggested by a director of the Advertising Federation of America, for keeping a sharp eye on "destructive doctrines" in school textbooks. Spokesmen for the advertising clubs of New York, St. Louis, Boston, Atlanta, St. Paul, and Minneapolis have already expressed the opinion that action will probably be taken by their respective organizations along the lines suggested. As this is written, the Dies Committee has just issued a blast at communists allegedly boring from within consumer organizations.

Those onslaughts just begin to tell the tale.

In addition to the ordinary attacks on consumer groups, co-operatives are subject to a special kind of attack. (The co-operative movement is a distinct aspect of consumer activity which warrants separate treatment later in this article.) Little old ladies tending "co-op" shop have been besieged by "patriots." Activity against consumer organizations has been intensified since consumers began to stir in protest against price hiking; and a great influx of new members and business is coming into the co-operative movement. The attacking strategy is simple: any group which seeks factual information about consumer problems or challenges the divine rightness of any operations of the economic system is to be labeled Red. And wouldn't it be nice if a "consumer network" could be "discovered," led by sinister secret agents?

And who is behind this crusade? None other than our old friend Paternalistic Business, who, having assumed the role of shepherd of the Lord's sheep, feels entitled to a free hand at the fleecing — he and his mouthpieces in the advertising trade.

WHAT THE CONSUMER 'MOVEMENT' IS

THE MAJORITY of consumers have no consciousness of belonging to a "movement." The East Side mother trying to get graded meat and cheaper milk through a depot; the intelligent buyer who would like grade labeling of canned goods and other products; the subscribing members of a consumer testing agency; the member of a women's club working for an effective food-and-drug law; and many an average citizen with a small share of idealism and a large antipathy for being gypped, who finds succor in his co-op store — all these are members of the consumer movement. It is in large part a rather bemazed section of humanity and, significantly, it appears terrifying to the consciences of some, who hear it just be-

WAR ON CONSUMERS

ginning to speak. It is not Red-led. It is moved chiefly by millions of housewives who are beginning to look to various agencies for the information they need to find their way about in an economic system increasingly complex and bewildering.

Werner K. Gabler, distribution consultant, in an extensive study for the American Retail Federation, points out: "The best proof that the consumer movement is not made by professional consumers as leaders but that it actually lacks leadership is the multiplicity and variety of expressions and plans."

There are technical organizations like Consumers Union and Consumer's Research which test competing brands and report findings to their members (naturally incurring the wrath of those advertisers who feel that steak should be sold on the basis of sizzle). There are other groups which seek legislation for standards and other consumer aids. And there is the co-operative movement, with two million members and a program so extensive and unique that it must be considered in a class by itself.

Outside the co-operative movement, the three largest organizations with a consumer program have a total membership of approximately 2,400,000 women — the sex traditionally opposed to curtailment of religion and infringement on the identity of the home — and such groups offer small encouragement to the most ambitious Red.

The General Federation of Women's Clubs studies methods of decreasing economic waste through inefficient shopping practices, works for voluntary adoption of standards by producers, broadcasts weekly discussion of consumer problems over — horrors! — N.B.C.'s *Red Network*.

The American Association of University Women similarly encourages study of consumer problems and works for informative labeling. The Association reported twice as many local units conducting consumer programs in 1938 as in 1937.

The National League of Women Voters directs its consumer activity solely to legislative programs. The League worked for some five years, with research and testimony at government hearings, for an improved food-and-drug law.

Professional groups like the American Home Economics Association and the National Fed-

eration of Business and Professional Women's Clubs are active, and the former reports twice as many requests for speakers on consumer problems in 1938 as in 1937. The A.H.E.A., with the Association of University Women and Federation of Women's Clubs, joined with retail trade associations to form the National Consumer-Retailer Council for study and action on common problems.

The article by Mr. High in *THE FORUM* gave no idea of the varied activity of the different consumer groups. He failed to mention the Consumers National Federation, which represents a score of interested organizations. There is also the credit-union group, with two million members. Mr. High made it easy to infer that all consumers are in the same bag and that all endorse the doctrines which he extensively quotes from individual authors connected with certain consumer organizations who by no means speak for the whole consumer movement. By proximity, he suggests that all consumer groups should be smeared with one big hammer and sickle. This is like saying: "I saw Tom Jones today. Lots of murderers are running around loose."

Mr. High uses statistics as a drunk uses a lamppost — for support instead of illumination. No instance is too isolated to serve as a glaring example of the case he makes. There are so many outraged consumers straining to get at Mr. High that it would be a shame not to let one of them have a morsel.

THE BATTLE FRONT

EDWARD REICH, editor of the *Consumer Education Journal* challenges Mr. High's statement: "By 1938, courses in consumer education were compulsory in two thirds of the nation's high schools. Nearly three hundred thousand college students gave some curricular consideration to consumer problems."

Consumers' Counsel Division of the AAA. has found 420 high schools with a consumer-education course, says Mr. Reich. Further:

There is not one State in which a consumer education course is *compulsory*. In twenty-two States, such courses are recommended. In one or two States, courses in consumer co-operation are required in some public schools. In New York City, with its school population in excess of a million, there is no course called "Consumer Education." And in Chicago? And in Philadelphia? Mr. High has given us no figures. Why?

THE FORUM

Mr. Reich estimates that less than one hundred thousand high-school students are exposed to a study of their chief function in economic life. There are only ninety-seven colleges in the United States where consumer courses are given, and these are small, chiefly junior, colleges, says Mr. Reich. "Most of our schools haven't gotten around to vocational education — let alone consumer education."

When it comes to co-operatives, Mr. High is upset by the idea of government agencies distributing information. Co-operatives do not want cash subsidies. It is impossible to condone government educational aid to consumers, if one considers it the function of a democracy to serve limited special interests. Even public health service is highly suspect. But, if the government is to serve everybody — and "everybody" happens to be the exact definition of a consumer — the amount spent to allow the citizen some defensive armament is pitifully small compared with subsidies to private business in the shape of tariffs, departments of the interior and commerce, and a world-wide consular service.

Insurance men see eye to eye with Mr. High on the subject of co-operatives. It is asserted in a widely circulated booklet, *The Road to Ruin*, that co-operative theory comes straight from Russia. Excerpts from this book, without credit, have been incorporated in numerous letters to newspapers. Agents in convention have resolved against co-operatives. A scrapbook (not for public distribution) has been placed in the hands of agents of stock companies to display material published about or by co-operatives.

The outbreak of the war in Europe coincided with especially venomous attacks on co-operatives over here. As in Great Britain, where a million people joined the movement during the last war and where \$408,000,000 were paid in patronage dividends between 1914 and 1918, there was renewed impetus given the movement here when the prices of staple foods rose 17 per cent in the first eight days. (More recently, Mrs. Roosevelt advised housewives to use honey instead of sugar, until retail sugar prices come down again — wholesale prices already having done so.) In the face of chattering consternation, the simple fact was advertised that "Co-operatives CAN'T Profit," because:

A co-operative is owned by the same people who buy from it. Therefore, no matter how high prices go, the consumer-owners of a co-operative are protected, because the savings between the operating costs and selling price are returned to the consumer-owners in proportion to each one's patronage. The various co-operatives are joined together to operate their own wholesale, which also serves without profit. Since there is no place in the co-operative movement for profits, there can never be profiteering.

Central Co-operative Wholesale, twenty-year-old pioneer, had an increase of 40 per cent in its business for the month, compared with the same period of the year before. Eastern Co-operative Wholesale had an increase of 100 per cent for September, as compared with the year before (owing to other factors as well as the war), and growth for the whole year was 47.5 per cent ahead of 1938.

Large increases in number of policyholders were reported by the Farm Bureau Mutual Automobile Insurance Company, which started thirteen years ago from scratch, now has 270,000 policyholders in nine States and the fifth largest business of its type in the United States. Wherever it has gone the co-operative has held down premium rates. Small wonder that rival insurance companies find the co-operative movement "insidious."

At the convention of the National Association of Insurance Agents, Walter H. Bennett, general counsel secretary, declared: "These co-operatives have been seized upon by a number of professional agitators whose organization would put to shame the best political machine."

Wallace J. Campbell, Assistant Secretary of the Co-operative League of the U. S. A., summarizes the situation thus: "The people who want to make a profit on insurance are attacking those who want to insure themselves."

Ray ("Road to Ruin") Murphy, whose little pamphlet has fathered a whole sheaf of newspaper clippings attacking co-ops, announces:

This co-operative theory comes to us bearing the seal, "Made in the U.S.S.R." . . . Perhaps one may surmise that the "co-operators" propose to "liquidate" one-third of our population economically after the fashion of Europe's totalitarian states.

The well-known facts that co-operatives started in England nearly a hundred years ago and that *genuine* co-operatives are liquidated in totalitarian states do not daunt a stalwart soul like Mr. Murphy. He asks the clergy not to barter its freedom to speak the "truth of God" and the farmer to avoid a system which

WAR ON CONSUMERS

"seizes" the fruits of his labor. He's asking two very tough customers. Farmers make about 65 per cent of total co-operative purchases and turned to co-operation to save mortgaged homes. The Pope, the Federal Council of Churches, and the Central Council of American Rabbis have all approved this insidious movement. The famous Nova Scotia movement is sponsored by a Catholic university.

STEADY PROGRESS

CO-OPERATORS are meeting these and other attacks by intensively minding their own business. Wherever co-operation is taught in the schools, they prefer to have it taught along with the classical economics — as a picture gains perspective by a darker side. But there is such a difference in the attitude of co-operators toward business life that special schools are maintained by all the large wholesales, where managers learn that there is no longer any war across the counter because, in a co-operative, buyers and sellers are the same persons. And for the same reason there is no incentive for cheating or serving inferior merchandise.

Other businesses are doing well to show small gains; co-operative stores are growing faster than the movement can supply trained managers. Consumer Distribution Corporation, with other organizations, will direct a training course for managers, beginning February 5, limited to students who give promise of being able to fill existing vacancies. Classroom work

in New York will be alternated with "internship" in selected stores.

Most important in co-operative education are advisory councils composed of six to a dozen families who meet regularly to plan (not plot) projects for their co-op societies. Here is a typical program put through last year by several Ohio councils: organize twice the number of councils; organize a mixed chorus and a youth band; set up another distribution point for co-operative service; raise \$5,000 additional capital for the local co-op; build a community hall; organize thrift clubs; learn about co-operative (not state) medicine.

Tonight "in our neighbor's home we build," say Ohio farmers — a slogan echoed in the oil towns of Kansas; in Minnesota, where red barns stand in solid blocks against the white snow; just off the slushy streets of New York City; in South Carolina, where gardenias still are fragrant; in fishing shacks near the pounding surf of Nova Scotia.

Consumers are learning. A Gallup survey showed that 64 per cent of those interviewed believe there is too great a spread between manufacturing costs and retail prices; 56 per cent favor grade labeling; and 45 per cent favor the establishment of a Department of the Consumer in the government. The war against the consumer has started a trifle too late. The little man, endowed with that "terrible obstinacy of the meek," is beginning to know there are certain simple things he wants that he can get for himself.



December 19, 1939

My dear Mrs. Bromley:

Some one called my attention to your article in Harpers. I do not think I saw the full proof of this article because the paragraph which was pointed out, makes me feel there was a misunderstanding on your part.

I never said that I thought we would be drawn into this war because of our sense of outrage at what was being done, and that if we did not fight, it would do harm to our integrity, or words to that effect.

I do not question that you thought I said this, but I must make my position clearer than you have made it both to you and to the public.

If the rank and file of our people become so outraged, at any time, that they felt this was something for which they should go to war, and then did not go, I think it would do our sense of integrity as a nation harm, but just as long as we felt that we are doing our job better in other ways, I did not feel there was any compulsion to go to war.

I hope and pray that we may never reach
a point where we think it necessary to
go to war.

I am distressed that I gave you so little
understanding of my real position. It
just shows how two people can talk together
and really get very little understanding
between them.

Very sincerely yours,

100

December 29, 1939

Dear Ruby:

I am returning this article by Mr. White.
It is a gem and I can hardly bear to read it.

Affectionately,

Miss Ruby A. Black
Albee Bldg.
Washington

0

RUBY A. BLACK
NEWS BUREAU

TELEPHONE: DISTRICT 7039

1200 ALBEE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D. C.

*Sent Aunt & Mary
this year
last year
I read it*

*ack
12/29*

Dec. 27, 1939.

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I wish to thank you in writing, as well as in person, for the grand raisins and almonds you had sent to me from California for Christmas along with the rare Presidential Christmas Card, and likewise for Jane's book, although I hope Jane finds time to write to you about the book and the Christmas card.

Just in case you missed seeing it, I'm enclosing a clipping from the Washington Star of Dec. 16, written by W.L. White, son of William Allen White of Emporia, which I think is the most magnificent literature I've seen in news or feature writing.

If you have nothing else to do with the clipping, ask Tommie to hand it back to me at press conference some day. If you have use for it, keep it, and I'll get another copy.

I'm going to the Washington Newspaper Guild meeting, boresome as they are, tonight, just to see if anybody pulls a fast one and brings up your name. I told the man who telephoned me last night that he must guarantee that there will be no leaks to reporters or columnists about the proposal that you succeed Heywood Brown as president of the American Newspaper Guild. I can guarantee the leak, if any, will not come from me. Honestly and off the record, I don't entirely trust our local officers, who are creatures of the New York Guild, and who have brought us, by their own admission, to the lowest state we have ever suffered in Washington. Love, Ruby

RUBY A. BLACK
NEWS BUREAU

TELEPHONE: DISTRICT 7039

825 ALBEE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D. C.

February 13, 1940

Send money to Mrs. Roosevelt

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

The fragrance and beauty of the pink roses and pink carnations were very cheering while I was in the hospital. I am at home now, but in bed until the end of this week. I hope the doctor will release me Friday, but the fact is that I would not be able to do anything now even if he told me I could.

It simply breaks my heart that I have missed all the exciting events of the last two weeks. Herb, Helen Fuller, May Craig and Bess Furman have been giving me sidights but that's not the same as being present. It also pains me that I have not felt enough confidence in my future working speed to sign the contract with Duell, Sloan and Pearce for the book about you --and to cash the check for advance royalties they have sent me. I still hope to get strong enough to do the book.

I hope you have a good rest in Florida.

Yours with love,

Ruby

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

March 4, 1940

Dear Ruby:

Nothing will help me for that horrible last speech, but I am grateful to you for telling me the general theme.

I think if this should happen to be the final party as "First Lady" for me, that I would be grateful, so that in the future I can just enjoy myself and not have to be thinking of things which I can pick up.

Of course, I would rather go and sit in front with you because I can hear so much better. I will arrive at 7:45.

I haven't been able to send in the names of my guests because two of them have written me that they are going to be away. I have just asked two others. You certainly have a great number of eminent guests.

Affectionately,

WOMEN'S NATIONAL PRESS CLUB

WASHINGTON, D. C.

825 Albee Building

file

March 1, 1940.

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

We thought it might help you to know in advance the general theme of the stunt party this year. It begins with "Mrs. Smith Comes to Washington," showing a new woman senator arriving. While she does not go on through the show -- indeed, she comes and sits by you and me and watches the rest of the show -- she is the thread on which the show hangs.

We hope that you can arrive by 7:45 and meet the other honor guests in Suite 901 of the Willard, just downstairs from the ballroom, before you and I go on to the ballroom to our places. The other honor guests will be escorted upstairs and seated after being presented to you. Of course, we'd like your guests to come with you, and, indeed, if they wish, they can come earlier and have a cocktail with me and three of the committee chairmen there.

We are arranging the tables in gridiron shape this year, and they will not be removed, each person staying in her seat at the table. But you and I will leave the head table and go to chairs right in front of the stage, if you prefer, as I assume you do. Although we have a loud speaker system, and the head table is elevated, I think both you and I would hear better down front, unless you prefer to stay at the table.

I hope we'll all have a grand time. Right now, I'm wondering how I'm going to get 43 eminent ladies introduced during dinner! It's the largest number of honor guests we've ever had, and I'm afraid I can have so little to say about each that I shan't be at all entertaining!

See you Monday at press conference.

Yours sincerely,

Ruby

RUBY A. BLACK
NEWS BUREAU

100

TELEPHONE: DISTRICT 7039

225 ALBEE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D. C.

March 15, 1940.

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I am a little confused about the exact names and relationships of some of the aunts and other relatives you mention in "This Is My Story," and who, doubtless will enter in some way into my story of you. So, I am attaching a questionnaire which Tommie may be able to fill in to straighten it out for me.

I have also put some other questions there, and there will be no hard feelings if you do now wish to answer them. I simply thought you might not mind letting some one else tell the story when you yourself would not. I shall, of course, say in the introduction of the book that this is not an authorized biography, that its sources are your book, your press conferences, your public appearances, some of your friends, and my observation of you.

You may remember that you told me, when I was doing some magazine articles in 1936 (which no one would buy because it was campaign year), that I could not then use the story about your talk with Myrton Taylor about unionization of the steel industry. You said I might use it sometime, but not then, when the negotiations were still going on or the agreement was just in its beginnings. I had written the story as you had told it to me, but apparently I was too faithful to the "off the record" injunction, and completely destroyed it instead of keeping it for history. I can't find it anywhere, although I find a page with two lines of it carefully marked out -- and not the rest of the story. I am not at all sure I have remembered it correctly, but I have tried to write it from memory, and have attached it here. If you can't let me use it this year, just don't read it. If you can, I hope you can tell me, in writing, in person, or on the telephone, what is correct and what is incorrect in this account. The story as I have written it here is just an outline of what I remember the facts to be, not the way it would appear in the book.

I'm going to ask your husband if he will be willing to talk with me, and tell me some things about you I'd like to know. I also would like to talk with Nancy Cook, Esther Lape, and Elizabeth Read about the years between 1924 and 1932. Perhaps I should talk with Marion Wickerman, too. I'll write them all and ask if they can see me on some trip to New York for the purpose. And I want to talk with Caroline O'Day, too.

Yours with love,

Ruby

P.S. I enclose stamped addressed envelope for reply to questionnaire.

questions from
Ruby A. Black
211 1/2 Prince St.
Alexandria, Va.

Who is "Aunt Tissie" -- Mrs. Stanley Mortimer? Your father's
sister on ~~your~~ mother's? ✓ What was her
full maiden name? *Elizabeth Livingston Hall*
Is she related to "Maude" and "Pussie"? *Sister*
"Maude", as I understand it, is your mother's ^{youngest} sister, and she first
^{LAWRENCE} married Larry Waterbury, then divorced him and married
David Gray, now minister to Eire. Is this under-
standing correct? *yes.*

~~What ever happened to "Uncle Eddie"?~~

"Pussie," as I understand it, was your mother's sister, and married
Forbes Morgan and died when her house burned. What
was her full maiden name? *EDITH LIVINGSTON*

What ever happened to "Uncle Eddie"? *died*

What was the operation about which you tell in your book? - *some internal trouble*

What were the "Orange Christmas parties"? *Home parties at my aunt's -
Edith's house at Potomac's house in Texas holidays - She had on mountains in
Orange, D. C. for some years as her kids were young -*

What was your "foolish behavior" before Elliott's birth? *I thought on the
last of the just baby Franklin + felt I had been to blame for not
taking more personal care of them + watching the nurse more carefully
before I was put to bed of that being 6 or 7 yrs old -*

Who told you not to go to the slums because you might bring diseases
to your children? *Mrs. Mortimer - law + cousin, but I believe*

What was the cause of your partial deafness? *The doctor thought children's ears
by either or typhoid or*

Is the following information about "Cousin Susie" correct: She is Mrs. *living
Potomac*

Henry Parish, your godmother, at whose home you were
married, whom you visit in Newport ^{occasionally} once a year and
who visits you here. What was her maiden name? *Susan Ludlow*
Her relationship to you? *Cousin* Where does she live? *N Y City*

*Mrs. Mortimer's house
just across -*

questions from Ruby A. Black -- 2

What is your height? *5' 11"* Your weight? *160 lbs*

What was the cause of your loss of self-confidence in the early years of your marriage? *The loss of training in housekeeping & child care.* The ability of your mother-in-law and/or your husband to manage everything? *My mother-in-law's ability to manage things.* Or is it too intimate to mention? *No*

Didn't your ~~young~~ husband ever put "love" in his letters and telegrams to you from hunting trips, or did you just leave those words out when you quoted his communications in your book? *Left them out*

Do you mind naming the little group with whom you used to lunch regularly here in the early days -- Isabella Greenway, Frances Ferkins, Caroline O'day, ^{yes} Lady Lindsay? Wasn't Alice occasionally among them? *No*

Do you still do it? *No* With whom?

Why was it considered necessary to keep the cause of your husband's illness so secret in 1921? (Neither your book nor Ernest Lindley's reveals why it was considered so important to keep it out of the papers. I may not have any reason to use this, but I'm curious, and both books leave an unanswered question.)

Because there was talk at the time of just found evidence of the fact that he would have probably been able to

Did you observe that Alice and her hostesses (the Poe Sisters) did not arise when you entered the ballroom for the stung party, and then had to stand ~~up~~ for "The Star Spangled Banner," which they had not expected? (I ask this just for fun, not especially for the book.) *No*

from
Ruby A. "lack
211½ Prince St., Alexandria, Va.

Outline of the Myron Taylor -- U.S. Steel story as I
remember it:

"Cousin Susie" invited you to ~~dinner~~ dinner at New-
port. Myron Taylor sat beside you. /He started out to tell you
in 1934 or 1935.
the horrors of unionism, the beauties of U.S. Steel's company
union, the reasons why, despite NRA, he couldn't sign up with the
~~union~~ union.

- You told him about former employees of his you
had seen living in abandoned beehive coke hives (or furnaces),
exactly what unionism meant, the living conditions of families
in U.S. Steel's company towns. He didn't know about the things
you told him. He went and found out.

Then he signed with the union. Of course, there's
another story that Mrs. Taylor saw John L. Lewis in the Mayflower
dining room, asked her husband to introduce him, was impressed,
told her husband it couldn't possibly ruin the company to make
an agreement with such a reasonable and well-informed man.

Now I'd like to get these stories streightened out,
for publication in this book if you will permit, for history,
anyhow. I'm sorry I threw away the account I wrote when it was
fresh in my mind.

There's also the story that Taylor saw the resident
about labor problems in U.S. Steel, that the resident told
him things he didn't know about his own industry, including the
habitation of the beehives by former work~~ers~~es, and conditions in
company towns, that the resident had known this because you
told him, and that Taylor then went and found out for himself.

What's true in all these stories?

Aunt Tissie - Mrs. Stanley Mortimer is mother's sister
māāden
Full/name - Elizabeth Livingston Hall

She is sister to Maude and Pussie

Maude first married Lawrence Waterbury, then divorced him
and married David Gray

Pussie was Edith Livingston Hall, married to W. Forbes Morgan
and died when her house burned.

Uncle Eddie died several years ago.

The operation was some internal trouble.

The Orange parties were house parties at my aunt, Mrs.
Douglas Robinson's house during Christmas holidays. She
lived on Mountain in the Oranges in New Jersey for some
years when her children were young. (Mrs. Robinson was
as you know, Corinne Roosevelt)

About Elliott's birth and before - I dwelt on the loss
of the first baby Franklin, jr. and felt I had been to
blame for not taking more ~~care~~ personal care of him and
watching the nurse more carefully whom I suspected later
of not being too good.

My mother-in-law and my cousin, Mrs. Parish were the ones
who told me not to go to the slums.

My partial deafness the doctors thought was having children
close together or typhoid or probably catarrh.

Mrs. Parish was mt mother's double first cousin. She was
Susan Ludlow. Her father and my grandmother were brother
and sister, and her mother and my grandfather were brother
and sister. She lives part of the time in New York City,
part of the time in Llewlyn Park, Orange, N.J. and part
of the time in Newport, although lately she hasn't been
going so much to Newport. I visit her occassionally in
Newport - did not go for last couple of years.

My height is 5' 11" Weight 160 lbs.

My loss of self confidence was due to too little training in
taking care of children and in housekeeping and the
competence of my elders; my mother-in-law's ability to
manage and to pay. Not too intimate to mention.

My husband always added "love" - I simply left it out

The group which lunched together in early days was

Isabella Greenway-King
Frances Perkins
Caroline O'Day
Lady Lindsay

Alice Longworth was not among them.

I think Mary Russey was present once or twice

We do not have these lunches now.

As to keeping cause of my husband's illness secret in 1921
No one was sure at first. Then Louis Howe felt it
might effect the future and he hoped, I think, he
could completely overcome any effect.

Did not observe the Poe Sisters

As to the Myron Taylor story - none of those versions are
exactly correct. It was the Pres. who told that story
not to Myron Taylor but to Joe Grace and I think you had
better try to get it direct from the Pres. Myron Taylor
already knew John Lewis, how I do not know and had made
his first agreement with him before I sat next to him at
Mrs. Parish's. I think what I told you was simply that
~~me~~ I had repeated to him some of the things which Franklin
had heard and told and that Myron Taylor had said he would
look into conditions. As you know the Quakers got some
support from the U.S. Steel in their homestead in Pa.
Mr. Pickett could tell you more about that.

The ooke oven story was something which Hick told me
and I told the Pres, but he got some of his information
from another source.

He says he will see you so you can verify anything more
directly with him.

March 23, 1940

100

Dear Ruby:

Many thanks for your letter.

It was nice of you to write me as you
did and I am glad that you liked my
talk.

Affectionately,

Miss Ruby Black
825 Albee Bldg.
Wash., D.C.

DD

1940
WOMEN'S NATIONAL PRESS CLUB
WASHINGTON, D.C.

825 Albee Building

Thanks

Card
3-23-40

March 13, 1940.

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I just want to tell you that many members and guests of the Women's National Press Club have expressed to me what I myself was already feeling -- that your talk on Saturday night was something unforgettable.

One member said she thought it was the most beautiful thing she had seen you do in Washington. I saw tears in several pairs of eyes as you spoke.

Guests from out of town who did not know you before were deeply touched, and felt they had learned something about you they never knew before.

And was it adroit in being a farewell speech and not a farewell speech!

Furthermore, just between us, I hope -- in case it WAS the last time you'll have the last word at our party -- it will really be a help to your successor! But you know what my more dearly cherished hope is.

When Gov. and Mrs. McNutt were congratulating me the next day, I asked Mrs. McNutt if she could face with pleasure the thought of having the last word for eight successive years at our party, after having seen what it's like. "Why, it never occurred to me to think I might have to," she replied.

I want to thank you for this year, and for all the other years, for all you have done to raise the prestige of newspaper women in Washington.

Yours with love,

Rudy

100

May 17, 1940

Dear Ruby:

I have talked to the President about
the suggestion made in your letter of May 10,
but he says that he could not go to a party.

I am sorry.

Affectionately,

Miss Ruby A. Black
825 Albee Bldg.
Washington

0

5/17

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 16, 1940.

MEMORANDUM FOR

MALVINA

I am returning herewith
Ruby Black's letter to Mrs.
Roosevelt. Steve said that he
had spoken with Mrs. Roosevelt
about it and that she understands
that the President cannot go.

G. G. T.

Tex. R. G.

RUBY A. BLACK
NEWS BUREAU

TELEPHONE: DISTRICT 7039

625 ALBEE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D. C.

May 10, 1940.

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

This is no time to be asking that the President of the United States spend any time away from his job. But ---

Steve says you have never given him a date when you could attend the inauguration of the new president of the Women's National Press Club between the election June 4 and the time when some of us will be going to conventions -- around June 15x -- although you may have told the President in conversation.

Steve implies by reading the President's engagement list, in confidence, that the President could not attend our inauguration between those dates. But Steve also says the President suggested he might give a dinner in the West Room for active members and their escorts, and view the inauguration ceremonies there. While we would gladly accept the honor of the President's invitation at any time, I invited him to the club's inauguration, and I could not take the responsibility of barring from our inauguration the 18 non-active members in Washington, who are non-active just because they now have no newspaper, magazine, or publicity job, although they may be book-writers or government employees. Nor could I ever face such non-residents as Emma Bugbee and Kathleen McLaughlin, and others, if they were barred from inauguration and such a White House party.

If the President could give us a party, why could he not, on the same date, come to a party we give at the Willard or somewhere nearby? We could make it informal, if he wishes, and could limit guests to a certain number according to his wishes.

After all, he attends the inaugurations of the National Press Club (men's), the Gridiron Club, the White House Correspondents. The men in the White House Correspondents' Association refuse to let the women who belong and pay their dues attend their dinner. The President does not like that, and says he's going to "get you girls in." Every male correspondent in Washington has the opportunity to invite his boss or bosses to at least one dinner attended by the President, while no newspaper woman has that opportunity -- and believe me, it means something to those editors and publishers! There's a \$50 a week ~~for the man and his boss~~ a man has just so the boss can be invited to the Gridiron, and the man gets lots of the news for that paper from me. But he gets the \$50.

I want President Roosevelt to be the first President to recognize newspaper women in the way Presidents, for years, have recognized newspaper men. He's already been grand to us, but one thing more we want. Through the years, we are increasingly doing the same kind of jobs the men are doing. I ask this, not for me, but for all the newspaper women of Washington. And, confidentially, I think Steve is giving me the run-around.

Yours with love,

Ruby

June 3, 1940

Dear Ruby:

Mrs. Roosevelt will be in Hyde Park on June 10 and is sorry that she will not be able to attend the inauguration of the new president of the Women's National Press Club.

Affectionately,

Miss Ruby Black
825 Albee Building
Women's National Press Club
Washington, D.C.

WOMEN'S NATIONAL PRESS CLUB
WASHINGTON, D.C.
825 Albee Bldg.

MAY 20 1940

May 28, 1940.

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

We all hope very much it will be possible for you to attend, this year, the inauguration of the new president of the Women's National Press Club.

The ~~initiation~~ inauguration will take place at a dinner at 8 p.m. on Monday, June 10th, at the Willard.

I cannot tell you who will be inaugurated, as the election takes place June 4th. Helen Essary and Esther van Wagoner Tufty are the candidates. The polls will be open at the Willard from 10 a.m. until 8 p.m. Any member leaving town before 10 a.m. can arrange to cast her ballot before that time by communicating with Lily Lykes Shepard, Wisconsin 3619-J.

Yours with love,

Ruby Black

June 6, 1940

100

Dear Ruby:

I found in the files no such letter as the one you mentioned in your letter of May 31.

Affectionately,

Miss Ruby A. Black
511 1/2 Prince Street
Alexandria
Virginia

ds

May 31, 1940.

Dear Tommie:

When a Fascist newspaper attacked Mrs. Roosevelt for accepting the Goya prints in February 1939, it said she thanked Premier Negrin in a letter which said in part:

"I accept with profound thanks and gratitude the gift which was offered by the Spanish people. All that I know of the Loyalist Government convinces me that it deserves to be considered by America as a true democratic government."

Did ~~she~~ write that? I saw it nowhere except in the United Press story from Rome.

Ruby

envelope enclosed

Don't you love going
to live with me —
just us & Herb?

June 18, 1940

Dear Ruby:

Many thanks for the copy of
"Handbook for Youth". I will read it
as soon as I get a chance.

Affectionately,

Miss Ruby Black
825 Albee Building
Washington, D. C.

United States Senate

MEMORANDUM

Mrs. Roosevelt:
my publishers
asked me to give
you this book,
which may
interest you.

Ruby Black

Thank
you & thank H. A. ^{in closing}
Black

RUBY A. BLACK
NEWS BUREAU

TELEPHONE: DISTRICT 7039

211½ Prince St.
Alexandria, Va.

825 ALBEE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D. C.

July 1, 1940.

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Ever since the major typing of the biography of you was completed last Friday, Jane has been having a grand time writing on the fine new Royal I bought with the publishers' advance. Today she wrote her daily letter to Aunt Nina, who is in Texas, ~~about~~ chapter of her continued story about her new kittens, a mathematical summary of her financial standing after counting the money in her various banks and pocketbooks, and a page of good advice on HOW and HOW NOT to write a letter. Then she asked me what she should write next. ~~xxxxxxx~~ - Noting that it was 15 minutes until her bedtime, I suggested: "Write four -- only four -- sentences about Mrs. Roosevelt." I copy herewith what she wrote, including her punctuation, her spacing, the ~~slug~~ line in which she evidently imitated my slug lines on the pages of my book, ~~etc~~ and my chapter end-lines, which are my initials in lower case:

little-Mrs. Roosevelt-1

Mrs. Roosevelt-intelligent, able, known by both the rich and the poor. A true Christian, ~~etc~~ sympathizing with Jews, Catholics, and people of all other religions. A woman who has good taste and a good sense of humor. And one who can share other people's ~~xxxxxxxxx~~ sorrows and joys.

--cjh--

That last x-ing-out is my fault, not Jane's.

Maybe Jane should have been chosen to write the biography instead of me. But I assure you it's not my fault she ~~xxxxxxxx~~ implies that Catholics are not Christians.

We have to be here through the week-end. I still hope you will let me bring the ms. along ^{to Val Kille} so I can ask you some questions about what others have told me.

Yours with love,

Ruby

*There has been a letter to Val Kille
for Ruby's letter*

100
Hyde Park, N.Y.
July 2, 1940

Dear Ruby:

Mrs. Roosevelt has answered your questions, which I am returning. She has also O.K.'d the quotes. As to your table of contents, she has approved all of the titles except No. 10, so I am afraid you will have to change that.

Mrs. Roosevelt will be away a good deal, but she will be here the 10th and the 14th, so if you can come here one of those days and will let us know, we will both be glad to see you.

Sincerely,

Miss Ruby A. Black
825 Albee Building
Washington, D.C.

0

*Pearl said a w. that in the morning
I want to go to the law
Mrs. Roosevelt right out of the house
White House, no matter how long
it takes.*

RUBY A. BLACK
NEWS BUREAU

TELEPHONE: DISTRICT 7039

825 ALBEE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D. C.

311 1/2 Prince St.
Alexandria, Va.
June 22, 1940.

*See above for
reference
perhaps 10/4/40*

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Thank you for your note about the book. I don't mean MY book -- I mean "A Handbook for Youth." I have not read it.

I think you ought to know what my maid just said to me. She is Negro and Catholic, and follows national and international events ardently. She also asks me lots of questions about you, as she cleans up while I am working at home on the book. Today, after I had answered one of her questions, she said earnestly, "She is a really Christian woman, isn't she?" Yesterday she said something reportable, too. I got a telegram from NEWSWEEK asking my interpretation of John L. Lewis's Philadelphia speeches. Pearl was cleaning up, and Jane was playing around. Jane read the telegram out loud, and asked, "What are you going to answer?" I said, "I don't know what to answer, except to say that John L. has gone nuts." Pearl laughed as only Negroes can laugh, and said, "I wish somebody would say that in print!"

I have finished the book, except for the summarizing chapter at the end. I can't write that until I finish the tediousness of revision, and then read through the book without having to think of details. That should be by Friday, unless the publishers want drastic re-writing of the 15 chapters about the White House years which I sent them two weeks ago today and which they have not returned with their suggestions.

Your decision not to read the ms. seems to me wise, from both your point of view and from mine and the publishers. Nevertheless, I have reported a few things which others told me or which I read in newspapers -- things which I did not see or hear myself. I wonder if it would be possible for me to come to Val Kill with the ms., when the publishers and I have completed our revision, and ~~xxxxxx~~ go over certain spots with you. I think it would be easier on both of us to do it that way than to send you copies of certain pages, because I could briefly tell you what goes before and after so those particular pages would not be entirely outside their context. Since I have not heard from the publishers, I cannot propose an exact date, but it would doubtless be sometime between July 1 and July 15. I have tried very hard to follow your injunction -- your sole injunction -- not to tell any lies about you, but I may have inadvertently done so. I have omitted even good stories which seemed doubtful. I at last got my date with your inimitable spouse, and some good stuff from him.

Love,

Ruby

RUBY A. BLACK
NEWS BUREAU

TELEPHONE: DISTRICT 7039

825 ALBEE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D. C.

June 29, 1940.

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I am enclosing another list of questions, the answers to which I think you or Tommy can pencil beside the question and return to me. I am also enclosing a stamped envelope for the reply.

I and two assistants are working steadily on the book to get final copy to the publishers by the 5th of July, but of course I can make essential changes after that if I can see you. As soon as the book is finished, I will copy all references to your children which are not taken from your own book or your column and send to them.

You told me during the hour's talk I had with you one afternoon that you would permit me to use in the book the picture of you and the President which Harris and Ewing made for your personal use. Harris and Ewing would like to have a letter from you authorizing them to sell me a print of that picture for use in the book. They would also like for you to send a carbon of that letter to Steve Early so he will know the conditions under which publication of the picture was authorized. I very much hope we can use the picture.

direct to them

Yours with love,

Ruby

July 8, 1940

file 100

Dear Ruby:

Mrs. Roosevelt says she will be delighted to have you and Herb and Jane stay here. We leave on Saturday night for Ohio for a lecture, but you can stay over Sunday, even though we are not here. Mrs. Roosevelt can see you Saturday during the day.

Affectionately,

Miss Ruby Black
211 $\frac{1}{2}$ Prince Street
Alexandria
Virginia

0

RUBY A. BLACK
NEWS BUREAU

TELEPHONE: DISTRICT 7039

825 ALBEE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D. C.

211 $\frac{1}{2}$ Prince St.
Alexandria, Va.

July 5, 1940.

Dear Tommy:

Because I am trying to combine the trip to Val Kill with a rest for me and Herb (who's so tired he talks in his sleep about NYA), I should like to come to Val Kill to talk over a few items in the book on July 14. Herb can get away only during the Democratic National Convention, when nothing is happening in Washington. We are invited to rest at Rockwell Kent's farm in the Adirondacks, at Ausable Forks. So, we should like to leave here by automobile (Herb, Jane, and I) on Saturday, July 13, spend Saturday night, Sunday, and Sunday night in the vicinity of Val Kill, and then drive on to Ausable Forks. *(a single bed --*

-- or one room with a double bed and ~~one~~
Can you reserve rooms for us at Kelly's for July 13 and July 14? Then I can, whenever during the day it is convenient for Mrs. Roosevelt, go over with her the few paragraphs and pages about which a question remains in my mind, while Jane and Herb can play around in the country. *Wishes
RF*

Thank you for the answers and notes. I have changed the title of the NYA chapter to "Inspiration of the NYA" because "inspiration" is the only word I could find in the dictionary and the thesaurus which had the double implication of a part in causing something to exist, and in keeping it on its toes. And Mrs. Roosevelt needn't be modest about her part in causing the NYA to exist, because both Harry Hopkins and Aubrey Williams, without my even asking them, told me emphatically that Mrs. Roosevelt was responsible for the creation of NYA. I have not said it that bluntly in the book; I have simply outlined the events leading up to the executive order, *and the events thereafter*

Nevertheless, if Mrs. Roosevelt has a better title to suggest for that chapter, I'll gladly accept it.

Please tell Mrs. Roosevelt that I today sent to all her children copies of everything I wrote about them in the book except what I quoted or re-wrote from "This Is My Story" or "My Day."

Have you seen Duell, Sloan and Pearce's catalogue announcing the book?

"Final copy" was expressed to the publishers on July 3, but, of course, I can make any changes Mrs. Roosevelt or her children suggest.

Love to you and her,

Ruby

WAL-KILL COTTAGES
HYDE PARK, DUTCHESS COUNTY
NEW YORK

July 14, 1940.

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I took it that you ^{free} did not intend for me to tell, in the book, that the daughter of the late Sen. Schall asked you to help her get a job — or was it money she asked? — you said she asked you to help her. Of course, remembering not only the doubly-blind Senator's attack on you, but ^{also} his

VAL-KILL COTTAGES
HYDE PARK, DUTCHESS COUNTY
NEW YORK

2)
harpic-ish attacks on
many other things
and ~~things~~
I hold dear, I'd
like to record that
fact about his
daughter - and
what you did
about it - if I
can. I didn't even
ask when you told
me, because I'm
accustomed not to
write anything you
tell me about
people outside press

3)

VAL-KILL COTTAGES
HYDE PARK, DUTCHESS COUNTY
NEW YORK

conference or public
speeches. But I am
beginning to realize
that a book is a
little different, since
the author can
state something on
her own authority,
and since the
author is bound to
the release date,
just like all the
reviewers and other
reporters to whom
the book is sent
or who buy the book!

4)

VAL-KILL COTTAGES
HYDE PARK, DUTCHESS COUNTY
NEW YORK

Criminal as I feel
whenever I take your
time for a personal
reason (like getting
facts straight in
the first biography
of you), I felt less like
a thief of valuable
time when you
admitted you would
probably read
George Marvin's ma.
written 25 years ago.

It's a terrific responsibility,
and a glorious privilege,

5)

VAL-KILL COTTAGES
HYDE PARK, DUTCHESS COUNTY,
NEW YORK

to write this book. If
I'd only had a
year instead of
four months! But
I, too, want it to come
out ~~at~~ before election day,
"under any circumstances."

Much love, and
many thanks for
a grand day and
night, and ^{for} many
other never-to-be-forgotten-
days and nights,

Ruby

100

Hyde Park, New York
July 19, 1940

Dear Ruby:

This is the letter from Peggy Schall, but Mrs. Roosevelt says you cannot use it unless the girl agrees.

Will you please return it when you have finished with it?

Affectionately,

Miss Ruby Black
211 1/2 Prince Street
Alexandria
Virginia

0

WOMEN'S NATIONAL PRESS CLUB

WASHINGTON, D.C.

211 $\frac{1}{2}$ Prince St.
Alexandria, Va.

July 23, 1940.

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I want to tell you what a good time I had at Val Kill -- as did Herb and Jane -- and to thank you for giving me so much time. We had a grand drive to Ausable Forks and back, although both trips were made on Sunday, and a good rest there. But was I startled to find you went to Chicago, after all! I wanted to stop by to see you on the way back, but I knew you were busy, and I had to spend Monday at Tarrytown with my publisher to work on the book, so we regretfully drove on down the road.

Despite my personal wish that both of you might have a chance to rest and to do all the other things you want to do, freed from the restrictions of public life, I am nevertheless glad for my country that the President accepted the nomination. But isn't the Lame Duck Club wonderful? A chance talkative companion on the train last night said he thought all the front page stories about the Democrats who have come out against the President are the best pro-Roosevelt campaign publicity he has seen.

But the convention requires additions to the book -- and maybe a complete rewrite of the last chapter. We got the news so inadequately at Ausable Forks that I am not at all clear on the background and purpose of your trip to the convention. Can you tell me, for use in the book, just why you went, who asked you to go, and so on? If it is handy, I should also like a copy of the statement you sent to the platform committee, as there were lines left out in the early edition of the New York Times I got at Ausable Forks. Of course, if it is not convenient, I can get it out of the Times files in Washington.

Can I tell of the intensity and constancy of your work for admission of the refugee children, without mentioning the gentleman who was holding it up? Did the Department of State ever issue the order you and the President were seeking? In other words, what came of it?

Yours with love,

Ruler - more on next base

WOMEN'S NATIONAL PRESS CLUB
WASHINGTON, D.C.

P.S.: One more thing: Winchell says today you are "resigning" from the American Youth Congress, whatever that means. Are you withdrawing your support in any open statement or action?

I have written Peggy Schall. I shall return her letter to you soon.

Love to Tommie and to the President, if he is still there.

Ruby

file

RUBY A. BLACK
NEWS BUREAU

7/25/40

TELEPHONE: DISTRICT 7039

825 ALBEE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D. C.

July 25, 1940.

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Mrs. Schall telephoned me tonight to say that both she and Peggy are willing for me to use anything out of Peggy's letter to you. I am therefore returning the letter, having quoted a few phrases and summarized the story.

Mrs. Schall said that Peggy is an entirely different person since you wrote to her, that, although she has no job yet, she has the courage to face producers and she has appointments from which she hopes to get ~~some~~ a job. She is no longer discouraged, because you "treated her as a human being." The Schalls will keep me informed on Peggy's progress.

I read to you most of Anna's letter about what I said about her in the book. Jimmy sent me a correction on two lines. Johnny wrote me everything said about him and Anne was okay. I have not heard from Franklin Jr. and Elliott. I am wiring them both for answers as soon as I learn from you or the White House where to wire them.

Jim Farley, the sweet thing, telephoned me from New York City yesterday to tell me what a magnificent job you did in Chicago.

I get scarer and scarer as what I have written, and what I must write within a week about your appearance at the convention, goes to the printer. For two obvious reasons: How can I do you justice? How can I write something which critics who don't know you will characterize as merely a eulogy?

My love, as ever,

not

Ruby

August 2, 1940

100

Dear Ruby:

Many thanks for letting me see
Anna's letters. I was interested in all
the enclosures and am returning them.

Affectionately,

Miss Ruby Black
211 $\frac{1}{2}$ Prince St.
Alexandria, Va.

DD

RUBY A. BLACK
NEWS BUREAU

TELEPHONE: DISTRICT 7039

225 ALBEE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D. C.
211½ Prince St.
Alexandria, Va.

Black

July 30, 1940.

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I am enclosing the two letters Anna wrote me about portions of the book she read, and I am enclosing a carbon copy of the letter I have written to Anna. When I read to you portions of Anna's letter dated July 10, I had not seen the other letter which was attached at the end of the carbon copies she had returned to me. I thought you might like to see them, but I should like to have them back when you have finished. Apparently the undated letter was written before she received the carbons.

I still have not heard from Franklin, Jr. or Elliott. I have made the change Jimmy sent.

Thank you and Tommy for Tommy's latest letter. I had no intention of mentioning individuals in the State Department in connection with your work for refugee children. I simply wanted to tell enough in detail of your work to show that your title of "Honorary Chairman of Committee" was a misnomer -- that you are one of its hardest working members.

You will see in a paragraph in my letter to Anna the results of my investigation of your appearance in Chicago.

Yours with love,

Ruby

Enclosures 3

Dear Ruby:

I am very grateful to you for what you said at the end of your letter and I showed it to the President. He feels that the real trouble with the Phelps Adams' story was that it did not tell the whole truth, and, in not telling the whole truth, one sometimes misrepresents as much as if one really lied. It is true that all these contracts wait for final signature for the passage of the tax bill in Congress, but many of the people are saving at least six weeks of time by ordering their materials and their machine tools. This is not standing still but it is actually moving ahead.

As to the relationship with the press - I have realized that for a long while and I would gladly do anything I could to change both the press's feeling and the President's feeling, but I do not know how to do it. I will think it over and keep it in mind. Of course it is largely due to the people around the President.

If I do anything political I will surely let you know as I feel that the press would be entitled to know. However, I do not expect to do anything out in the open. Eddie Flynn is a very old friend of mine and I think, in some ways, we are even closer than I have ever been with Jim.

I am sending you a letter I have just received from Elliott. I did not read what you said about him, of course, but I do hope that as long as he and Ruth feel so strongly, that you will take out anything to which he can object.

Affectionately,

Miss Ruby A. Black
825 Albee Bldg.
Wash., D.C.

T:DD

RUBY A. BLACK
NEWS BUREAU

TELEPHONE, DISTRICT 7039

325 ALBEE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Aug. 2, 1940.

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Look Magazine has tentatively asked me to write an article about you as the President's No. 1 Asset (besides himself). If the New York office and the Des Moines office get together next week on plans, and make financial arrangements acceptable to me (and I'd do a lot of work for a quarter in these busted days), they will probably want me to go with you on any possible campaign or semi-campaign trips you might make before the last week of September.

Of course, I know that you have said there will be no campaign trips, and that you won't campaign. But you also said you would not be going to Chicago, and they took you there! I know that a lot of people feel that you ought to make some speeches, etc.. And they may prevail upon you.

Look has promised orally to let me have complete and final say-so on any re-writing and on captions with pictures, and I'll have that in writing before I agree to do the article. The editors love you, but you can't tell what they might do.

The point is: If you should suddenly go somewhere on a campaign trip, could you get somebody to wire me when you start from where, and when you arrive where, so I could telephone the magazine for authorization and money for the trip?

Or, if you have any campaign plans at all, I'd like to know what they are. And does Eddie Flynn appreciate your political ability as much as Jim Farley does?

One thing has me worried, Mrs. Roosevelt. In 1936, the President had the newspaper publishers against him, but the Washington correspondents -- all but the died-in-the-wood (not a typographical error) Republicans -- ~~again~~ for him. Now he is continuing to quarrel with the correspondents. Today he had Bob Horton hold a session correcting a story by Phelps Adams and Walter Trohan on national defense. Phelps was able to prove that every statement in his story was literally true when it was written and published. And the assembled reporters took the opportunity to jump on Bob for the difficulties of getting any news about national defense. It all turned out very badly for the President and the Defense Commission and the Army and the Navy. I wish he would not do things like that. Of course, the implications of the Adams-Trohan story were that the defense program was bogged in red tape, but Bob could not assail any fact in Phelps's story -- although Trohan had added some inaccurate statements. But the way to answer such things is by positive statements of facts, not by negative denials and quarrels with newspaper men -- even with

*Added
7-6-40*

*or make a political radio speech
or when
and
where
you
beef-
cast,*

men who work for the Chicago Tribune and the Baltimore Sun. For when "corrections" only prove the facts written, other newspaper correspondents who still are sympathetic with the New Deal and still for the re-election of the President, get a bad taste in their mouths. I have just come from a luncheon with May Craig and Hick, in which we talked about this, so, it is fresh in my mind. Both May and I were at the President's press conference, and at Bob's "correction" session in the Cabinet room.

Of course, nobody ever asked me to advise the President on his relations with the press, and, as I remember it, I have never before offered voluntary advice. But a lot of friendly people think this is important, and I'm taking my nerve in hand.

Sincerely with love,

Ruby

P. S. You always
handle any
correction most
happily.
R

RUBY A. BLACK
NEWS BUREAU

TELEPHONE: DISTRICT 7039

825 ALBEE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Aug. 7, 1940.

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I thought you might enjoy the enclosed clippings from my hometown weekly newspaper, on which I had my first newspaper job.

Callie Cayton seemed old to me when I, as a child, stood beside his forge as he hammered out a wagon wheel rim for my father, or in front of his blacksmith shop as he shod our horses. He was the very incarnation of the village blacksmith, even if there was no spreading chestnut tree.

He has been writing letters like this to the paper occasionally for months. Always true New Deal, always with some highly entertaining quirk. He was, when I knew him, a pillar of the Church of Christ, which is rather fundamentalist, and he has no education. Thus, his letters were a surprise to me, and are a delight.

This letter requires no answer.

I hope to see you next Wednesday.

Yours with love,

Ruby

The Thornton Hustler

Entered as second-class mail matter, January 28, 1910, at the postoffice at Thornton, Texas, under Act of March 3, 1879.

Subscription Rate: \$1.00 per year

A. M. (Gus) STEWART,
Editor and Publisher

Friday, July 26, 1940

OUR OWN COLUMN

By The Editor

When we cast our ballots in this year's elections, we should be sincerely thankful for the privilege of living in a nation "of the people, by the people and for the people." Too often we take freedom too much for granted.

The right to vote is a privilege. "We, the people" elect our representatives to manage the nation's affairs, and it is our duty to elect wisely.

Let us be thoughtful and diligent in our choice of representatives. Let us be sure that the man we elect is a man of integrity and ability.

Let us be sure that the man we elect is a man of integrity and ability. Let us be sure that the man we elect is a man of integrity and ability.

Let us be sure that the man we elect is a man of integrity and ability. Let us be sure that the man we elect is a man of integrity and ability.

tation as a black-eyed pea center. A large delegation of CHAMBER OF COMMERCE members came down from Mexia Monday to look over this new industry, and see how it is working out. They came, they saw, they asked questions. They absorbed some of the enthusiasm of local farmers and citizens. And when they left they said they were going home to tell the folks of the Mexia territory about it.

Don't forget to come out to the Election Party on main street Saturday night. A large blackboard will be clearly marked off, and the returns from all Limestone County voting boxes will be posted as fast as they are reported to the election bureau. Everybody is welcome, and the more the merrier.

PRAIRIE VIEW H. D. CLUB

The Prairie View H. D. Club met Tuesday afternoon, June 22, in the home of Mrs. Carol Fen-ton.

The meeting was called to order by the president, Mrs. Arnold Jackson, at 2 p. m. We had a short opening exercise. Each member answered roll call by telling what piece of furniture she was tired over to refresh. No business; Mrs. Jackson, who gave a moving old picture of the meeting.

Precinct Convention To Meet Saturday

The Precinct Convention for the Thornton voting precinct will be held at two o'clock Saturday afternoon in the Thornton Master Office. Precinct chairman, W. T. Wright, will preside.

The purpose of the convention is to elect a precinct chairman for 1942, and elect delegates to the county convention, which will be held at Groesbeck on August 3rd.

LETTERS

Editor Hustler:

Well the Chicago convention now is history. And as some predicted Wendell Willkie was not nominated as President. I thought I would wait and see if I was so badly fooled as to think the Democratic party would do so foolish a thing. It is true they did break a precedent. Nominated Roosevelt for a third term and it was not his asking. He notified them in advance "he had no desire for the honor." This all honorable men knew to be so. Turned loose to vote for whom they pleased. Yet he was overwhelmingly nominated; in spite of the boos of disapproval. He would have been worse than an ingrate to have turned down the wish of the convention un-

der the conditions that exist in the world today. I realize we have some so narrow between the eyes a mosquito could sit on their nose and kick both their eyes out; at one kick; who are fighting him on that account; they are to be pitied. Right now as the streets of Berlin maps are being sold showing the U. S. as being one of Hitler's provinces. Yes it is pitiful the ignorance we sometimes display—to think we cannot see farther ahead, or remember of what has passed. You can subscribe it to nothing short of SELFISHNESS. That is all. His speech of acceptance was the grandest I have ever heard in life I think that if ever a patriot lived it is Roosevelt. He is the grandest, most unselfish, greatest humanitarian that ever graced the White House at Washington. It is true his running mate was a Republican and with the winking might hurt him. But Paul the apostle once laid waste to the Church; and was shunned by them for awhile. He became one of the greatest of the Apostles. So you see it will not do, to deny the right of reform. So exercise some sense in this matter as in others, don't be silly. It is true I wanted Bankhead; but his pole was not long enough. So I bow, and Wallace will have my hearty support. The Republican platform did not demand the repeal of a single one of the new deal major laws, or items.

All they want is to turn us back to Wall Street and the money interest where we were under Hoover, when everything was in a chaotic state. Cotton bringing three cents per pound; farmers

losing everything—being foreclosed; leaving them in destitution. Oh would they not wish we would forget. But some yet remember.

W. C. Cayton (Blacksmith).

Week-End Specials

- | | |
|---|-----|
| 50c size Z-L Antiseptic Mouth Wash and Gargle | 39c |
| Grove Chill Tonic, large size | 89c |
| Grove Chill Tonic, regular size | 45c |
| Wine of Cardui | 89c |
| Black Draught | 19c |
| \$1 Hinds Honey and Almond Cream | 49c |
| \$1.20 Syrup Pepsin | \$1 |
| 60c Syrup Pepsin | 50c |
| 3 25c tubes Listerine Tooth Paste | 49c |
| 75c Lucky Tiger Shampoo and | |
| 75c Lucky Tiger Hair Tonic, both | 69c |

BLACK BROS.

Delivery Service Until 9:00 a.m.

The Thornton Hustler

Entered as second-class mail matter, January 28, 1910, at the postoffice at Thornton, Texas, under Act of March 3 1879.

Subscription Rate: \$1.00 per year

A. M. (Gus) STEWART,
Editor and Publisher

Friday, August 2, 1940

Texas' No. 1 hit tune of the week was "There Aint Gonna Be No Runoff."

Well, the voters didn't turn out here as they did in 1938, but even so, it looked like the fall of the year on Thornton's streets Saturday. Folks had a little money from picking and selling black-eyed peas, and the Trades Day crowd was the largest of and year, up to now. We hope all these folks will be back for the next Trades Day.

Welton Black drove up from College Station Saturday to cast his vote here. He said he has heard about Thornton's black-eyed pea crop all the way down to College Station. As Welton so aptly put it, "I believe we've got something here."

Prairie View

Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Taylor and family of Beulah. Mr. and Mrs. Herman Sadler and daughter, Patsy Helen, of Beulah, spent Sunday in the R. M. Cox home.

Mildred and Norsuida Dokupil have returned home after a visit in Mezia. Ebbie Mae Bozeman returned home with them.

Mr. and Mrs. Riley Cox of Lott spent Sunday in the J. F. Hudson home.

Mrs. Lela Hunter is spending the week with Mrs. A. P. Moss.

Mrs. Lester Tillie and children of Neneva visited in the Arnold Jackson home Sunday.

Visitors in the Dokupil home Sunday were Mrs. Blake Erskine of Tehuacana, Mrs. H. G. Turner and J. H. Teer of Mezia.

Visitors in the Bill Schmidt home Sunday were Mrs. A. P. Davis and children, and Mrs. L. M. Lumpkin and baby of Thornton.

Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Jackson and children, Mr. and Mrs. L. G. Fox and Mrs. Lester Tillie and children spent Sunday with Mrs. Bert Winn of Seal.

Mr. and Mrs. E. B. Forrest of Houston are visiting in the Brack Austin home.

Margie Wilkie has returned from a visit in Crockett. Mr. and Mrs. Herde Crow visited in the Joe Wilkie home Sunday.

Callie Cayton Gives Advice To Voters Who Didn't Win

Editor Hustler:

Our State election has come and gone and I hope we all will survive. I have heard of no violence. I feel we are more civilized than our neighbor across the Rio Grande, where several hundreds were killed. Many hard things are said in the heat of the campaign, but we have learned to take it on the chin and go along. Am sure some have said things they truly are ashamed of, and feel badly over it and wish they had been unsaid. But we are human and do not like to lose our point. Let the wounds heal, they will get well. Don't die so hard. You are disappointed I know. Do not be like some we could name—

boil your party because you failed to have your man nominated. That alone shows you are not a good sport or American. It is Hitlerism pure and simple. Don't be intolerant. That is hateful, and you don't want to be that. Take a dose of Mrs. Winslow's soothing syrup; it may ease you. But enough. Now we switch off to National politics.

I see there is some talk of a Jeffersonian Democratic ticket for the disgruntled rulkers who wish to plunge a dagger in the back of their own party to satisfy their own selfish ends, rather than go along in harmony with their own party to victory. They cannot be classed otherwise than

enemies in our own party. They are playing to the hands of the Republican party, this they know. They are no fools. The fifth columnist is no fool. They have to be shrewd to get by. We are the fools to allow ourselves to be led by them. They have to have followers to get anywhere. So be on the alert. Think of what you are doing and where it leads to. I cannot understand an isolationist. He is only a monkey wrench in the cogs of our government, playing to Hitler pure and simple from my view point. If I am wrong set me right and I will thank you.

W. C. Cayton (Blacksmith)

1/20
TELEPHONE: DISTRICT 7039

RUBY A. BLACK
NEWS BUREAU

211 1/2 Prince St.
Alexandria, Va.

225 ALBEE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Aug. 9, 1940.

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I thought you might be interested in a quotation from a letter I got from George Carlin yesterday. He had told me that, in 1936, some Republican newspapers took on "My Day" to show how fair they were, and some canceled it after election while others continued it because their readers wanted it. I asked him if the third term nomination had similar results, or opposite results. He said the campaign has so far had no perceptible effects on the sale of the column, except some suggestions from subscribers that you "lay off politics while the campaign was going on."

Then he said:

"The suggestions are made, not with a notion of censorship, but in the belief that Mrs. Roosevelt has, since the last campaign, become more and more loved by Republicans as well as Democrats. She has managed to achieve a place in the affections of readers that puts her above the storm and outside the battle. These editors feel that the use of MY DAY for partisan purposes would rob it of its unique distinction. While other columnists are snaffling and yammering and going into daily frenzies, it has always been pleasant to find in MY DAY a spirit of grace and kindness."

And what, may I ask, is better politics than a touch of grace and kindness daily? And don't think that, by this, I am suggesting that you not use the column to tell the truth, and correct lies and false impressions, in your own graceful and kindly way. I was just entertained by the way George put it. Maybe the sub-title of my book should be, "Above the Storm and Outside the Battle" -- except that I know you breast the storms and engage in the battles, bless you.

Speaking of "breasting the storm" reminds me that I liked very much that line of Sen. Barkley's, in introducing you in Chicago, about how you did not think it necessary to stop your work for humanity because you were the wife of the President. It was correctly put.

Yours with love,

Ruby

No answer required. I never want you and Tommy to do any work you don't have to do.

Rx

August 11, 1940

*Received
Date*

1-10

Dear Ruby:

Thank you for taking so much trouble.
I would not worry too much about it, but I
do appreciate your efforts and what you have
done to make Elliott and Ruth feel happier.

Affectionately,

Miss Ruby Black
825 Albee Bldg.
Wash., D.C.

DD

RUBY A. BLACK
NEWS BUREAU

TELEPHONE: DISTRICT 7039

211½ Prince St.
Alexandria, Va.

825 ALBEE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Aug. 9, 1940.

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I am enclosing a copy of the telegram I received from Elliott yesterday morning, and my airmailed answer. I also return his letter to you. I cannot send copies of all the stuff about the children, inasmuch as I have no corrected copies because I made the corrections at the publisher's home a week after I saw you.

As I read Elliott's letter and his telegram, all I could think of was what you once told me: That he always thought anything he didn't like, or anything that inconvenienced him, was a conspiracy specifically aimed at him. After all, Mrs. Roosevelt, I did not get that divorce. I'm just a reporter. Ruth seems to me sensible. Has she said anything specifically about what she has seen of the book?

I thank you deeply for your letter of August 6. As I told you, I thought Phelps Adams's story gave a wrong impression. Even though I am not working in my bureau, I stopped my assistants from sending out a similar story because it, by omission, lied. My only point is that it doesn't help the administration to hold a spectacular correction session in which the reporter can prove the truth of every fact written. The false impressions conveyed are just what people have to ignore except to make public, by positive statement, the truth. This incident was not like your proof of the inaccuracy of Sen. Shull's lies about you.

About the LOOK article: I think it will undoubtedly be helpful in the campaign. They intend to play it up big. You know that I will make it favorable. I have it in writing that I have final say on every word in the article and in the captions on pictures. The magazine has 5,000,000 readers. But Mr. Pope, the editor, insists that LOOK make its own pictures, and that they be fresh pictures. Since you are doing so little publicly before the article must be completed by the end of next week, this is going to be difficult. I have telephoned them to deal with Flynn and Dorothy McAllister on getting pictures of you at headquarters. They want some informal pictures, and are very sad about your saying you won't have any at Hyde Park -- or Val Kill. They would at least like one of you getting in the car, or talking on the telephone, or something. Honestly, after all the pictures of Missie in the White House, for which Steve must have given permission, I think I ought to have the privilege of an informal shot or two of you for this article.

I'll see you Wednesday.

Much love,

Ruby

August 21, 1940
Hyde Park, New York

100

Dear Ruby:

Mrs. Roosevelt had several photos taken today including some at the pool here and some at the picnic grounds. The President was not willing to have a photo taken because he cannot give an exclusive and he feels he has already had all the photos he wants.

Affectionately,

Miss Ruby Black
211½ Prince Street
Alexandria, Virginia

DD

FROM

The White House
Washington

TELEGRAM

OFFICIAL BUSINESS—GOVERNMENT RATES

*** 10-6481

Circle 40
P. 3.

ED SAMMIS OF LOOK MAGAZINE AND PHOTOGRAPHER
WILL BE THERE TEN THIRTY TUESDAY I ESPECIALLY
WANT PICTURE OF MRS ROOSEVELT WITH PRESIDENT TO
ILLUSTRATE MY POINT IN ARTICLE OF HPR REPORTS TO
PRESIDENT ON CONDITIONS IN NATION PRESIDENT
DESCRIBED TO ME THIS PROCESS

LOVE

RUBY

2

(RUBY A. BLACK)
NEWS BUREAU

TELEPHONE DISTRICT 7039

825 ALBEE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D. C.

211½ Prince St.
Alexandria, Va.

August 10, 1940. 100

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Ed Sammis of LOOK sent me this tearsheet of your story in the next issue, with the suggestion that I send it on to you after I had read it.

I think it is a swell article.

I don't know what the columnists would do without you. It seemed that nearly half the Washington Post's "opposite editorial" page today was taken up with you, what with Pegler's diatribe on the Guild and you, and Mark Sullivan's reply to your column mentioning your debate with him at Odessa. As I remember your account of the events, he seemed a little inaccurate, and as I remember the memorable scenes before the Dies Committee, he was certainly inaccurate. He was likewise inaccurate by omission in selecting the more raucous bits of the testimony instead of the serious testimony of everybody but Jack McMichael. Also, my word from inside the Dies Committee's preparation of its report was that it toned down its report on the AYC, not out of respect to you, but because it could not prove, with the facts on hand, that the Communists actually dominated the AYC.

Yours with love,
Ruby

P.S. I'd have dashed off to cover the Democratic women's meeting with you if Dorothy had not forgotten to telephone me about it. LOOK's photographer got there too late, too. P-

MY ADVICE TO AMERICAN YOUTH . . .

by Eleanor Roosevelt

WHAT are the difficulties which confront you young men and women? You worry about insecurity in the present and in the future. You wonder if you can earn enough to provide not only decent housing and food and clothing, but also

the medical care which every family needs and the recreation which is a part of normal life. And overshadowing these worries is the fact that you face a world where war is a constant threat. These are your problems. What can you do to solve them?



YOU MAY ASK ME to give you one concrete thing which might start you at once on your program as citizens. My suggestion is drawn from my own experience. Not long ago I visited this group of 60 young men and women at an experimental camp in West Park, N. Y. Called a "Work Camp for Democracy," its purpose is not unlike the purpose of our National

Youth Administration, our Works Progress Administration, or our Civilian Conservation Corps.

I suggest that all young men and women give one year of their young lives to performing some government service in democratic work camps, receiving food, shelter and clothing, and transportation at stated intervals to other parts of the country. At the end of

the year, they will all know something of their nation. And perhaps they will have shown some skill which can be called upon in their own community in time of stress—a disaster brought about by natural forces, an epidemic, or a period of war.

I make this suggestion purely because our democracy depends on voluntary good citizenship.



WE HAVE UNEMPLOYMENT. Yet there are endless things which need to be done in this country of ours. It is a great country, still with many undeveloped resources, limitless possibilities for use and for elimination of waste. But it requires capital, imagination and a special kind of courage to develop them. What we need today is this courage—

and patience—to work out a new type of civilization which makes the most of all we have in the place we are. The thinking individual must use his intelligence and skill—studying his nation as a whole, concentrating on the development of every possible resource, for the good not of the individual, but of all the people of the nation.



THE CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORPS (above is a group of CCC workers), the Works Progress Administration, the National Youth Administration are among the efforts made to help those who have suffered during these last few years of painful climbing upward from the depths of depression. We hope that in years to come this entire group will be absorbed in the normal industrial and rural ex-

istence. Many of the services they have rendered, however, will still be needed—and that is where the work camps described on the preceding page come in. I have watched the results accomplished by these agencies which many consider just a weight on the taxpayers. And I wager we will find they have paid many times over for every penny spent on them. **CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE**



Faster Grease-Cutting
... Faster Sparkle
New 50% Faster
OLD DUTCH
CLEANSER

What a thrill to bring out the sparkle of your bathtub, washbasin, sink, pots and pans, and glassware, with the new Old Dutch Cleanser! There's no hard rubbing. For this amazing new cleanser cuts grease lightning fast. It's kind to your hands. Kind to surfaces, too, because it is made with Seismotite and doesn't scratch. Get the *New 50% Faster* Old Dutch (in the same familiar package) at your dealer's today. A little does a lot of cleaning!



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Shears only **50¢**
and the windmill pictures
from 3 Old Dutch labels



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Strong blades of best steel—largest and strongest Old Dutch shears. The blade edge cuts—good for fine graining. Order safety for yourself, for friends, for company.

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OLD DUTCH CLEANER, Dept. 83-740
271 No. La Salle Street, Chicago, Illinois

I am enclosing _____ and the windmill pictures from _____ Old Dutch labels (complete labels not required) for which please send me _____ Glass Sturdy Utility Shears.

Name _____
Address _____

A DEMOCRACY CAN MEET FORCE AS EFFECTIVELY AS A TOTALITARIAN DICTATORSHIP



YOU YOUNG PEOPLE will be the champions of the civilization. Your weapon will be the ballot box. Your votes and your choice of representatives will decide the plan of development of America. You will

set the new standard of values. You must have the courage to take hold of your country, conserve it physically and own it for yourselves. It must not be owned by financial interests. It must not be owned

by politicians. Finance and government were designed for the use of the people, but the people must be worthy or they become enslaved. You—the young people—must be worthy to inherit this great nation.



WHAT CAN YOU young people do about war? Protest marches like the one pictured above do little good. Simply saying that you do not wish to be dragged into a war is a very inadequate way to meet a situation in which a philosophy of force is sweeping victoriously through one part of our world.

We all know that war is futile and settles no questions happily or constructively. But it is the natural outcome of a doctrine of force. All there is left for us to do in the present situation is to hold

to our ideals and try not to lose the hard-won gains of civilization. We must show that a democracy can meet force as effectively and as efficiently as a totalitarian dictatorship. The difference is that the people in a democracy discipline themselves and impose upon themselves any needed restrictions and sacrifices through their elected representatives.

We can only hope to keep out of war today if our strength seems too great for any attack. It has been proved that a nation with mechanical strength can

mow down men. But arms, munitions, planes, ships are not our only defense, though they are an important part of it. Arms will not inspire real respect unless a determined, unified people is back of them. We must give our young manhood that protection.

You young people are the backbone of our real defense. I hope that you will be courageous enough to face the realities of the situation and that you will not fall into the error of wishful thinking which has led so many other nations to their doom. **END**

RUBY A. BLACK
NEWS BUREAU

TELEPHONE: DISTRICT 7039

825 ALBEE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D. C.

211½ Prince S.
Alexandria, Va.
(Telephone Temple 2571)

August 24, 1940.

*Mailed
2:00 PM
8/24/40*

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I am addressing this to the White House, because May said you would be here Monday.

I need an answer as soon as possible, for I must finish reading galley proofs within a week.

I find in the book, in the chapter on the press, the following sentence:

"She even, in 1940, spoke out in favor of permitting birth-control information to those who cannot afford, for reasons of health or economics, to have more babies."

I know that this represents your view, but did you say so publicly, in a press conference here or somewhere else? I vaguely think I heard you say it publicly, but if you have not done so, I can easily remove this from the book. Or, if you think it best for me not to mention it, although you may have given the answer in response to a question at a lecture, please let me know.

The book looks better in galley proof than I expected. It was written so hurriedly, and so many cuts, inserts, and changes or corrections were sent to the publisher after the manuscript had reached him, that I was afraid the whole job would look like a badly-edited running story by United Press-- or INS or AP.

Do you still think there will be a picnic on the Saturday before Labor Day?

Much love,

Ruby

September 6, 1940
Hyde Park, New York

100

Dear Ruby:

Thank you very much for your letter. I did not even remember that I had asked Aubrey Williams about Molly Yard, although I do remember telling him that I thought she was very intelligent. I certainly did not want any girl put out for another one and I have written Aubrey that I had heard from some one about it.

I am sorry Miss Ware is not working out well for Dr. Elliott because they ought to do a swell job as they are under such tremendous criticism from the men.

I do not know when I shall see Nelson Rockefeller, but I will tell you anything which might be of use to you.

I love the cartoon. I am sorry I had so little free time when you and May were here, but delighted that you felt you had a good time.

Affectionately,

Miss Ruby Black
211½ Prince Street
Alexandria, Va.

T: 10

WOMEN'S NATIONAL PRESS CLUB
WASHINGTON, D. C.

211 1/2 Prince St.
Alexandria, Va.

September 3, 1940.

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Maybe my reaction to the enclosed "Believe It or Not" will amuse you.

We had a grand time at Val Hill and on the train. It was generous of you to give us so much time on the train, when Tommy wanted you to work.

The President's speech at Chickamauga ^(a) sounded fine on the radio. I could not listen to the New Found Gap speech, as our radio went on the blink, but it read swell.

Yesterday, when Jane lost one of her hair-ribbons somewhere around the house, having ~~just~~ put it down and forgotten where she put it, and was demanding that everybody else find it for her, I sent Helen Fuller and Theola McKelvie into hysterics by ending my lecture on responsibility with, "...and if you keep on being so irresponsible, you'll grow up to be like those kids in the Youth Congress, and no earthly use to anybody." Of course, that was an exaggeration, for I guess some of those kids are rather useful to the Communist Party.

I'll try to see Miss Elliott soon on whether I can be of use to her. I'm told that she sees almost nobody (especially if they are looking for jobs), that her office is most disorganized, and that Caroline Ware is chiefly responsible for the disorganization and disunity and slowness. I am told that Miss Ware can't delegate, and advises Miss Elliott not to see people.

Anything you get from Nelson Rockefeller on his plans with regard to Latin America, which is not confidential, would be most helpful to me in trying to find something to do in connection with Latin America, either in government or out of it.

This letter requires no answer, unless you have some new information on the defense program or the Latin American program.

Yours with love,

Ruby

100
September 13, 1940

Dear Ruby:

See
I have heard from Aubrey Williams about the Helen Fuller-Molly Yard affair. The following is what he says about the matter:

"I have your note of September 6 with regard to my replacing Helen Fuller with Molly Yard. I don't know where such an idea got started. I have never had any such thought. My plan is to continue to use Helen in organizing these youth unemployment conferences and also in connection with the development of civic education work in our resident centers and to employ Molly in our Division of Information under Herbert Little where she will give special attention to the youth groups as such and do a broad general program of providing information with respect to and for that group."

Affectionately,

Miss Ruby Black
211½ Prince Street
Alexandria, Va.

DD

Just for fun - + for your information - Ruby

"MY DAY" -- May 7, 1940.

By Ruby A. Black

At the telephone before breakfast to get a chairman to handle mechanics of election of new officers of Women's National Press Club, and a chairman to arrange club's inauguration dinner, which I hope President and Mrs. Roosevelt will attend.

Breakfast luxuriously in bed, except for telephone at hand, which occasionally interrupted hot bakes and bites of honey ~~xxxxxxxx~~ with Mrs. R. sent from Fla.

Thence, after more telephoning, to attic, where I wrote for hour and half on "Eleanor Roosevelt, A Biography," with special reference to her comments and activities re peace and international relations through the years, impressed with her gradually increasing forthrightness -- so gradual we hadn't much noticed ~~how~~ how far she had gone. Telephoned Bill Bay to see why he had not arranged that date with Jim Farley to talk about Mrs. R. as politician. ~~Out of town.~~ Bath and hair-wash, but couldn't get hair dry

before I had to go to bank and catch bus to Washington for lunch with Josephine Roche at Carlton. Wish all people in world had her honor, decency, character and intelligence. Read January 1937 "My Days" on bus going in, but doubt if I can read the notes I made, as the bus was bumpy. Laughed to note Gen. Johnson's column, after 1937 inauguration, saying he's "first, last, and always for Eleanor," as I remembered his 1939 admonition to her to retire to her Ivory Tower, and Tommie's impersonation of Old Ironpants at Gridiron Widows.

Much pleasant ^{and illuminating} conversation with J. and May Craig, and good food. Thence to office, where wrote letter in connection with book, telephoned Don Montgomery to clear a confusion I found in my chapter on her and consumers,

MY DAY -- 2

and off to meet Helen Duggen and introduce her to other press ladies so she could help them get social news of the Latin American ladies coming tomorrow for the scientific congress. Much side-talk with Lucretia Grady on Mrs. Wheeler's to-do over the ^{Women's} National Conference on Unemployment. Couldn't understand how some people could be so petty, especially with Mrs. R.'s example of courage and generosity, but promised L. to write nothing about Mrs. W..

Downhearted all day about whether I can ever write book RIGHT, and completely discouraged about getting it done by July 1. Maybe the subject's too big and varied for my abilities. Anyhow, wish her husband would hurry up and talk to me about her, so I can start on some chapters and complete others. Everybody else has loved talking about her, and he said he would love to, but I know he's too busy for me ^{him} /to bother ^{him} /- well, to bother/very much. After all, it's the first book written about his wife, except the one she wrote herself.

Anyhow, much as I love to see her whenever I can, and much as I'd like to talk with her half an hour about a few things to go in the book, or to keep out of it, I'm glad she's not going to be doing anything in Washington from today until next Tuesday at 10 a.m., so I can have ^{uninterrupted} five/days (I rest on Sunday, even if she doesn't) with her in the attic -- I mean, with stuff about her. Unless the President invites me to come talk with him, and I hope he interrupts me.

Now off to the Women's National Press Club, where five applicants for membership are to be voted on, and candidates are to be nominated for next year. Looks like a bitter, and maybe close, race between H. Essary and E. Van Wagoner Tufty for president. --rab--

country.

At first I was not very sympathetic to giving the time to these receptions and teas because there was so much else to do, but I feel now that there is a real purpose to be served

September 26, 1940

100

Dear Ruby:

Many thanks for your letter.

I was really commenting on
lives which are remote from the realities
of the present world.

I am sure your biography of me
is as good as it is possible to do it at
this time. In any case, don't worry
about it.

Affectionately,

Miss Ruby Black
211¹/₂ Prince St.
Alex., Va.

DD

You're a wonder. I can never tell when you're being sweet -- just sweet -- and when you're quite subtly, and yet effectively, commenting upon lives remote from living, lives which really have nothing to do with what is going on in the world today.

I'm scared to death every time I think that the book ^(I mean, The biography of you) is coming out soon. I hope there's nothing wrong in it. I hope it tells the story, as well as the limitations of today and the limitations of my writing ability can tell it. But I wake up at night scared, and I want to go hide while people are reading the book! Maybe I bit off more than I could chew... Love, Ruby

I meant
the book

I'm
bit
scared
to
death

TELEPHONE: DISTRICT 7039

RUBY A. BLACK
NEWS BUREAU

225 ALBEE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Oct. 8, 1940.

Sra. Carmen R. de Alvarado,
Asociacion pro Salud Maternal e Infantil de Puerto Rico,
Ave. Ponce de Leon 215,
Santurce, P.R.

Dear Carmen:

I hope this is still your address, as I have not heard from you since ~~last~~ July, 1939.

I regret that my customary birthday present to my friend -- and yours -- cannot go to you in time to reach you on her birthday this year. I simply have not the money.

Last March, I gave up all my other work, except the part-time United Press job, to write a biography of Mrs. Roosevelt, which will go on sale Friday, October 11 -- the subject's birthday. The expenses of writing the book took more than the advance given me by the publishers, Duell, Sloan and Pearce, and the time taken in writing it made it impossible for me to earn additional money during this time.

I hope, however, that the book will sell well enough for me to receive royalties above those advanced in time for me to send the customary Christmas present, and to add to it an augmented birthday present for our friend.

Do let me know how your work is progressing.

I had hoped to get to Puerto Rico this year, but lack of time and money made it impossible. I still hope that the time and money may be available during November. On the other hand, I now have to find a job of some kind, as I have had to give up my news bureau as unprofitable, and I might find a job which would keep me at work during the only period I can be out of Washington -- November 10 to December 1, when Mrs. Roosevelt will be away.

Anyway, I hope our friend has a happy birthday, and that your work is going along well. And that the present will yet be forthcoming.

Yours sincerely,

Ruby Black
Dear Mrs. Roosevelt: This explains
itself. Happy birthday, and love
Ruby

100

October 9, 1940

Dear Ruby:

I am glad that you thought so well of the radio program, and am much interested in your comments. Thanks so much for all you say.

Affectionately,

Miss Ruby A. Black
825 Albee Building
Washington, D.C.

at
10-9

RUBY A. BLACK
NEWS BUREAU

TELEPHONE: DISTRICT 7039

625 ALBEE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Oct. 1, 1940.

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

We really should have wired you Friday night, and at least I should have written to you Saturday, to report what Herb, our three guests, and I all spontaneously and simultaneously said after your radio program:

"That was the most entertaining and intelligent radio conversation I ever heard, and the best campaigning!"

After reading your column revealing that you got brickbats, I herewith transmit five handsome and rare orchids. I have already written Hazel Reavis for the script, as I want to keep it for history.

I think I'll write Edna Ferber how swell she was, too. They all were swell, but Edna especially appealed to me. Rex Stout was better ~~xxxxxx~~ on the Sunday night writers' debate, and put it all over [^]elland, better, [^] mean even than on your program.

Martha has written me that the traditional birthday party will be held late in October, and I have accepted. She also congratulated me on the Look article, which she said was "very good," and it means something for Martha to compliment an article. I hope all this will soften her hard feelings.

Yours with love,

Ruby

Thaule
ER

*Mrs. Roosevelt: I she
this in connection*

*you can read
this in a long
letter to you.*

RUBY A. BLACK
NEWS BUREAU

TELEPHONE: DISTRICT 7039

222 ALBEE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Ruby

File

Oct. 22, 1940.

Al Stedman,
Albee Bldg.,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Al:

I regret more than I can tell you that my condensation of the story about Consumers' Guide should have caused you to feel that I had misrepresented you. There was so much to write about Mrs. Roosevelt -- so much more than I had the space to write -- that I could not always go into the motives and actions of others who were concerned with what she did.

I very much doubt that Mrs. Roosevelt had any knowledge of your proposal of a transfer. She probably knew only what I wrote -- that the publication was threatened with discontinuation, and that various women's organizations felt that it should be continued. Certainly she has never mentioned your name ~~with~~ to me in connection with it.

My information was furnished by people I have known for a long time, as friends, as co-workers on earlier occasions, and as sources of news for years, whose information furnished me for newspaper publication had never been questioned. I re-checked this particular incident with several people.

If the book goes into further editions, I shall be glad to re-phrase a sentence or two to show what your exact attitude was -- although, of course, I cannot go into details.

I think if you will look back at pages 190-191, you will realize that I said nothing which would indicate that Mrs. Roosevelt had a "critical attitude toward (your) conduct." As I said before, I doubt that she knew your position in the matter. I used the incident to illustrate the way she works with government departments -- not by interference, but by questioning or by furnishing information.

I am sending a carbon copy of this letter to Mrs. Roosevelt, and I hope to be able to mention the matter to her on Friday, when I expect to see her for a little while. I just wanted you to know that she did not tell me this story. I knew a little about it at the time, and took much time checking the details when I was writing the book.

Yours sincerely,

Ruby

RUBY A. BLACK
NEWS BUREAU

TELEPHONE: DISTRICT 7039

825 ALBEE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D. C.

File
October 24, 1940.

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

For two more things I have to thank you --
the grand comment on the book in MY DAY, and the delicious
beach plum jelly. The jelly arrived just as Herb had eight
teeth out and four more operated on, and it was something
he could eat and enjoy, as well as get nourishment out of. *and, of
course, I love it.*

Reporting that a book store had asked if
we could get you into the store to autograph the books
with me (which I told them would be an impertinent imposi-
tion on you), the publisher wrote: "Wasn't the job she does
in MY DAY today better than a flash with a flash -- swell."

I'm looking forward to seeing you again
tomorrow night, as I always look forward to seeing you.

Yours with love,

Ruby

RUBY A. BLACK
NEWS BUREAU

100
825 ALBEE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D. C.

TELEPHONE: DISTRICT 7059

11.6
November 6, 1940.

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

It is not you and the President I congratulate today. It is the people of the United States, and the fighters for democracy in this deeply troubled world that, in all solemnity, I congratulate because he and you are to continue your work for us all.

Please give my best wishes to the President.

Herb, Jane, and I are sailing for Puerto Rico tomorrow, with joy in our hearts that democracy goes on, and with hope that we shall all come back ready to work heartily and with strength.

Please give my love to Tommy, too. I'm sorry to miss tomorrow's press conference.

With love and admiration,

Ruby

~~Herb~~

November 13, 1940

100

Dear Ruby:

What I thought I had already written you was that in reading the whole book, I felt you had done a remarkable job, but that I was rather shocked to find that so many people thought I was actually responsible for things which I believe were really mere coincidences or largely done by other people.

I felt you had written the last chapters as a challenge. I confess that sometimes I have a very great desire to become Whistler's Mother, sitting by the fire with a cap and my knitting, but you give me a feeling that as long as there is much that ought to be done, any of us who had any kind of capacity to be of use should keep our shoulders to the wheel as long as we are physically able. If anything particularly useful is chalked up to me in the next years, I think you can rightly feel that you had a part in urging me on. Of course, I do not object to any part of the book.

Affectionately,

Miss Ruby Black
825 Albee Building
Wash., D.C.

4
Ad. 2
11-13-40

RUBY A. BLACK
NEWS BUREAU

TELEPHONE: DISTRICT 7039

825 ALBEE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Nov. 1, 1940.

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

A few items before election, and before Herb, Jane, and I depart, on Nov. 7, for Puerto Rico, not to be back until Dec. 2. Most of these require no answer, so I have just put an asterick * at the beginning of each paragraph which I would like to have answered sometime, not in a hurry.

*1. I still have not that letter, which you told me at Martha's party you had dictated and which you would again dictate, recording your feelings after reading my "Conclusion" -- the chapter which won't let you become a counterpart of "Whistler's Mother."

*2. After the President's press conference today, I remained to show Lowell Mellett the editorial in the United Construction Workers News (the UCWOC is headed by A.D. -- Denny--Lewis, John L.'s brother) in which there was the priceless line, "The issue is no longer Roosevelt against Willkie. It is Roosevelt against John L. Lewis." As I was walking over to show this to Lowell -- who took the sheet away from me and thus I may have quoted the priceless line slightly inaccurately, although truthfully -- the President stopped me and said, "Ruby, I like your book." I gasped, "You don't mean to say you've had time to read it." "Yes," he said, "and it's a grand job." I asked, "Did you find any news in it?" "Yes, I really did," he answered. Then, looking very solemn, he said, "But the Missus did not like it." Because two or three other newspaper people were around, who might have got a gossip column line out of that, I said, "Then she's been deceiving me. Why didn't she like it?" Your husband replied, "She said you found out too much." Wasn't that swell? Tell me, honestly, do you object to it, in any way that does not arise from your inherent modesty?

*3. A member of the Washington Bureau of the Buffalo Evening News had first called me and then told my husband that he thought the book was swell, and the best job of objective reporting he had seen. He asked me to autograph his copy, sent by the publishers for review. I told him that, in good clean fun, I would autograph the free copy only after I had seen the review. Today he told me he was waiting until after election to write about the book in his column, because he thought he couldn't get a favorable report published before election. This, of course, is confidential.

*4. The highly confidential project -- my favorite one -- that you visit Latin America is receiving most favorable consideration, but it appears that no decision ~~on inviting you until after~~

can be made until after election on

whether the Defense Commission (through Nelson Rockefeller) and the Department of State (through, of course, Hull, but with Charles Thomson and Larry Duggan being important in the picture) can jointly suggest ~~that~~ to your husband that you make the trip.

*Inasmuch as the decision on whether you are asked to make the trip may be made while I am in Puerto Rico, I definitely ask that there be no publicity on it before I get back to Washington on Dec. 3, inasmuch as I started the whole idea. I simply can't get scooped on that, even by a gossip column, when I'm out of town, because the UP has paid me all summer when I had almost no news from you, and if a big story broke in my absence, it would be too bad for me.

5. Herb, Jane, and I sail on the ^eBorinquen, ~~DN~~ at Pier 15, East River, on Nov. 7, the boat sailing at 3 p.m.. We get back to NYC on Dec. 2. I'm asking Bess to cover for UP (as she did when I was sick last February) in case you have a press conference here on ~~DN~~ Nov. 7, or at any other time before I return.

My only excuse for such a long letter is that I have refused the request of ~~dozens~~ dozens of people that I ask you to autograph the book.

Yours with love, and with best and heartiest wishes for the re-election of the best President and the best First Lady we have ever had!

Ruby

December 9, 1940

100

Dear Ruby:

I loved the letter from Maggie
Wilson, and I want to see you and hear
about the trip. I am so glad you are back.

Apparently your book about me is
very well known in Texas - so many people
spoke of having read it.

Affectionately,

Miss Ruby Black
825 Albee Building
Washington, D.C.

DD

RUBY A. BLACK
NEWS BUREAU

TELEPHONE: DISTRICT 7039

825 ALBEE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D. C.

I have been to the school I have about 1000 of
to see you
Thank you
12-9-40

December 4, 1940.

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I thought you might be interested in the enclosed copy of a letter from Maggie Wilson, whom I failed to teach English grammar, spelling, and punctuation when she was in the fifth grade 25 years ago. She's sturdy and staunch and faithful. She is just one year younger than I am, and she walked five miles across a mountain to school daily to school, while working on the farm and being a mother to her younger brothers and sisters. No wonder she didn't learn!

Your letter to me about the book is a real treasure. But I am sure you need no prodding from me to make you go on with whatever you can do, as long as you are able. On the contrary, you prod others, by example and by advice, to keep on. Such as me.

We had a grand time in Puerto Rico. There is much improvement there in the last seven years -- but still more to be done. The lift which the election gave the people is marvelous. For the first time, the people really spoke. For the first time, the sugar companies could not buy the votes of the very poor. The amazing incidents which happened in that connection will give you laughs and perhaps tears.

We also had a rest, despite our public appearances and our participation in the general celebration.

The celebration was dampened, however, by Gov. Leahy's transfer to Vichy. The people feel that he is the best Governor they ever had. Jane's comment, when she read the story in the papers, was: "I don't see why anybody would want to quit being Governor of Puerto Rico to be Ambassador to a puppet government." I told Leahy, and he said, "Neither do I!"

I'll see you Monday.

Love,

Ruby

COPY

Rout 4.
Cisco, Texas
Nov. 12, 1940.

My Dear:

I extend to you my right hand, in a grip of heart felt admiring love, in congratulation! I thank you done a great work in such a short time. The book is wonderful! I thank you for sending it to me. My heart swell's with joy to read a book of such a great Lady, written by my teacher of long ago. I have always been an admirer of Mrs. Roosevelt. ~~After reading of her great work, that she had the "guts" to get out among all class of people, shoes that she was Bornd to be a leader. that she has Proved to be a success in the gift in life. I trust that she may live to a ripe old age, and continue her work. and that you, may live to see the day when you can write a 3rd cond book of her life.~~

Your imagination was runing straight for one time! For when I received your letter, I was doing the work of three People. I was acting as house wife, chor boy, and a field hand. for we was digging Peanuts, and if you don't know it, that's a job! and for three week's after, we were Picking cotton, thrashing Peanuts. Not only ours. where there are reanuts in the country, they swap work. We are through gathering the crop now, and my time is my own. or that is, there isn't such a rush. of which I'm proud.

Do you remember the Fosters. that lived by your family in Limestone co. if so they live with in a mile of us (as the crow flies) when I received your letter, I ask John Foster (the baby boy) if he remembered you. after "yes" I told of receiving the letter and book. you could see the gladness in his eyes, as he related how the families helped each other. and what good neighbors your Parents were. old Grand Pa, as they call him, John's (dad) is still living. if he lives to see the 29 of Dec. he will be 96 years old. Seamingly he is in good helth and is still blessed with a good mind. of whitch very few people at his age have.

From return of the Election, we have the "oosevelts four more years. of whitch I'm glad. We had enough of the Republicans when old Hoover was in! May I ask a question? How ~~doe's~~ doe's the Roosevelts Pronounce their Name? some here Pronounce it Rusevelt, is that the way they Pronounce it? I thank the "oo" is a ~~ax~~ stress on the Roose. If you answer this in the next 4 years, I'de like to have it explained. Please? I know you are busy, and don't have time to write often, but I do get hungry to hear from you.

Mr. Roosevelt seemed pleased with the returns of the election. for his picture that come out in the Paper showed him grinning like a Jack ass "eat'n" corn. Give them my congratulations.

You should have been here and heard the ques. when I taken your letter for them to read and told them I had received the book that day. They thought I should have brought it, so they could read it first. I just cocked my head to one side and said "oh yeah?" I entended to take it to them last week, but it rained, and I didn't go to town, as we have unemproved road's, and ~~it~~ it isn't funny ~~tryz~~ to try to drive a car and push out of the mud, tco. I will take it to them when I go. for I hant them to read it! for it paints out what one can do. Not only Mrs. Roosevelt, but yourself! there was two thangs lacking of the book. That, was a picture of the one described, and the author. Any way, I'm waiting patiently for the one you promised me 45 years ago. of whitch is two more than I'm old.

Write me again when you have time.

Love.

(signed) Maggie

RUBY A. BLACK
NEWS BUREAU

TELEPHONE: DISTRICT 7059

825 ALBEE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Dec. 16, 1940.

Dear Tommy:

Because Rep. Parsons called Mrs. Roosevelt "America's No. 1 Migrant," a large newspaper for which I have, on various occasions, written feature stories, wants me to get a map, show Mrs. Roosevelt's major travels, ~~and estimate~~ estimate her mileage, and write a brief, sympathetic story showing her purpose in traveling -- "for the education of Eleanor Roosevelt;" to learn about this country; to tell about it, etc...

The paper would syndicate the story, or would allow me to syndicate it.

How much help could you give me? Could you give me a mileage estimate for the years beginning March 4, 1933? Could you outline the big trips each year? (I have, of course, one schedule you sent me for a lecture tour which, in itself tells a story). Do your records show every town in the United States in which Mrs. Roosevelt has stopped for a lecture, a reception, a press conference, an inspection, a conference of any kind, a visit with members of her large family, etc.?

Does Mrs. Roosevelt's diary have datelines, at which I could look, without reading what she said?

Out of my own files, I could do some kind of a story, with about as much searching of the files as it would take to write a book less difficult to write than "Eleanor Roosevelt, A Biography," and it would be fairly accurate. I know about LIFE'S map. I have it. I criticized it as inaccurate, and incomplete.

I think I have made this look too hard. If I could get the annual mileage estimate, the states visited each year, and the major trips, it would be enough, I'm sure.

Also, of course, I'd want the foreign travels. I have the Gaspé mileage, and I remember she went to Montreal to a welfare conference. "as she been across the Rio Grande any time except the visit to Nuevo Laredo? I won't ask you for anything on the Puerto Rico trip, as I have ~~been~~ bastante on that trip.

Merry Christmas, and love,

Ruby Benson



Puerto Rico

Coamo Springs
Franksgiving 1940

~~Postage~~ fee

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

There's deep thanksgiving
in this island for democratic
victories here and on the
continent.

You really should come
back - to see how much
improvement there has
been since you were here
and how much is left to
be done, - for which there
is more hope because of
the first outstanding victory
of the first real democratic
process here - not to men-
tion aspects of life here
which we did not see
before. Jane has had the
most marvelous experience
today - seeing all processes in
coffee from the tiny seedling
through to the canning. We, too.

J



Puerto Rico

The flight to Mona Island to see the Maya resident center there, and the completely different, the utterly unique, and entrancing virgin tropical forest on El Yunque - which the Roosevelt administration made available to the public - were other unforgettable adventures.

Please ask me to tell you about it - and about The Eleanor Roosevelt housing project.

The slums are still with us. So in the dignidad.

A week from today we sail - all too soon.

Love

Ruby

P.S. when we are in the mountains, as we are most of the time, Jane asks, "Ruby, why is it so cold in the tropics?"

JL

December 23, 1940

MEMO FOR MISS THOMPSON:

Mrs. Roosevelt will see
Ruby Black and Mr. J.T. Pinero
and Dr. E. Fernos Isern today
the 23rd, at 8 p.m. for tea.

M.T.L.

Mrs Lund

Here Mr. Crum

a memo

Ruby Black + these

2 men - tea 5 P.M. -

Monday 7th I

telephoned her + also

Esco Chapman

Handwritten: [unclear]

RUBY A. BLACK
NEWS BUREAU

TELEPHONE: DISTRICT 7039

Handwritten: [unclear]

ALBEE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Handwritten: [unclear]

11:45 p.m. Dec. 17, 1940

Handwritten: [unclear]

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

An hour ago, you told me that you might be able to receive, at tea, at 5 p.m. on Monday, December 23, two Puerto Ricans, and you told me to remind you in writing of the names and the date.

The men are: J.T. Pinero, whom you have met before, an independent cane farmer, a member of the first board of the Puerto Rico Reconstruction Administration, who will be chairman of the appropriations committee in the Puerto Rico House of Representatives in the new Legislature; and Dr. E. Fernos Isern, who was health commissioner -- and a very good one -- until the Coalition threw him out in 1932, and who was the candidate of the Popular Democratic Party for Resident Commissioner, apparently, on the face of present incomplete returns, defeated by a small margin by Bolívar Pagan.

They have an interesting story to tell. So, I hope that they, and I, can be there on Monday, December 23, at whatever hour you say. Let me know at my office, the telephone number and address of which are above.

Yours with devotion,

Handwritten: Ruby A. Black