

JONATHAN DANIELS

1938 - 1945

July 30, 1938

100

My dear Jonathan:

Your father tells me that you have been kind enough to send an inscribed copy of your book to the President and to me. I imagine it is being held at the White House for the President's return and since we are both away from Washington I have not seen it as yet. However, I have a copy of it and am planning to read it this week, and every one tells me it is perfectly delightful. I thought the reviews were excellent indeed.

I just wanted to tell you how very much we appreciate your thought in sending the inscribed copy to us.

Very sincerely yours,

Mr. Jonathan Daniels
Raleigh, N. C.

S:LD

August 13, 1938

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I can never tell you how grateful I am for your kindness in mentioning my book in your column. I value your opinion as I know so many other people do and I know your mention of it will bring many to reading it who otherwise would never have seen it.

I am presumptuous enough to hope that the President will read it. Of course I know how little time he has. But I know, too, how interested he is in the South always and particularly at this time.

With all my appreciation again

Sincerely,

Jonathan Daniels

OCT 1 1938

September 28, 1938

Ke 100

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I am deeply appreciative of your very nice letter with regard to the suggestion that I write a sort of discovery of New England. I am very much interested in the idea and hope I can get around to it. I am afraid I shall have to put it off for a while, however, because of the pressure of other writing. To tell you the truth, I want to do a novel, and until I have had a shot at that I don't plan to write the New England book.

I am grateful for your interest. I hope that some time in the near future I may be coming to Washington and may have the pleasure of calling to thank you for all of your kindnesses.

With best wishes always.

Sincerely yours,

Jonathan Daniels

Jonathan Daniels

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt
Val-Kill Cottages
Hyde Park, Dutchess County
New York

July 14, 1942

75 ✓

Dear Jonathan:

I must have used a wrong word or been misquoted, if it appears that I thought civilian defense volunteers could be used to police prices.

I think, of course, they can be used for providing information and for mobilizing sentiment, but I think in providing information, you will find that you have created a corps of people who, after they have explained to a shopkeeper what he is supposed to do, will, whenever they are in that shop, look to see if he is doing what he should.

If they are conscious of violations, they should know where to report them. The OPA should have only a central office with a small staff who follow up on reports of violations. This would eliminate great expense from OPA and be a source of satisfaction to many volunteers who will still be wanting to do something when the information job has come to an end.

Sincerely yours,

0

Mr. Jonathan Daniels
Office of Civilian Defense
Washington

OFFICE OF CIVILIAN DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, D. C.

July 19, 1942

ack
7-14

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

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I was very much interested in a recent story in the newspapers quoting you as suggesting that volunteer women civilian defense workers could be used to police price regulations, rather than to have this police work done by paid staff of OPA. I am wondering if this statement quotes you correctly?

As you know I feel very strongly that our volunteers can be very useful in large numbers in carrying out the whole price regulation plan. I am, however, very doubtful about the use of volunteers to "police" prices.

Without wishing to reflect on those whose primary duty is price control, my own feeling is that the greatest hope for the enforcement of price control lies in the education of the people as to its necessity as part of the war effort and that too little emphasis has been put on this education.

I think that in this educational field volunteers can do their best job. I can think of nothing more tragic than the growth around price controls of the sentiment which grew around prohibition. Unless people feel that the cheater and bootlegger under price controls are in a real sense traitors rather than mere trickers, I doubt that any number of law enforcement agents could enforce the law.

I think OGD and the volunteer civilian defense workers provide the best facilities available for the mobilization of sentiment which will make an army of enforcers unnecessary. I am sure our volunteers could be more useful in such educational activities than they could be in policing. Also I fear that making reporters of violations and policers out of volunteers might bring unhappy results like those we all feared in unofficial spy-hunting.

FOR DEFENSE



Above all, however, I am interested with you in the greatest possible usefulness of civilian volunteers. Already they are helping OPA in numerous ways. If you feel that I am wrong in this feeling with regard to the policing job, I would like very much to discuss it with you.

Sincerely yours,

Jonathan Daniels
Jonathan Daniels

OFFICE OF CIVILIAN DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, D. C.

July 21, 1942

JUL 22 1942

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

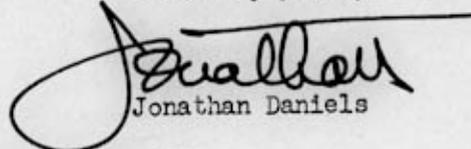
Thank you for your letter of July 14.

I understood your meaning perfectly, and I am very sorry that the papers picked up and misquoted your suggestion concerning the use of volunteers in connection with price fixing. Such volunteers will, of course, attempt to see that regulations are carried out.

I feel sure that your approval of the idea was in no small part responsible for the tremendous number of registrants who crowded the volunteer office, particularly in New York, hoping for such an assignment.

With kindest regards,

Sincerely yours,


Jonathan Daniels

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



August 25, 1942.

70
✓

Dear Mr. Daniels:

I think this editorial should
be answered.

Is it true that Hugh Jackson
is not very keen about including colored
people in the Office of Civilian Defense?

Sincerely yours,

ELEANOR ROOSEVELT

Mr. Jonathan Daniels
Office of Civilian Defense
Washington, D. C.

er

Inclosure: Editorial from The Afro-American
of August 22, 1942, entitled "The OCD is
Very Sick".

Send editorial to
Jonathan Daniels
OCD

Ray - " I think this
ought to be answered -

Is it true that Hugh
Jackson is not
very keen about
including colored
people in OCD?

ER

OPINION

We are Americans, and as Americans we would speak to America.—FREDERICK DOUGLASS.

PAGE 4

THE AFRO-AMERICAN

AUG. 22, 1942

The OCD Is Very Sick

Four of Nine U.S. Regions Have no Race Relations Advisers; Mrs. Roosevelt and La Guardia Are Missed

All is not well in the United States Office of Civilian Defense (OCD) headed by James M. Landis, dean of the Harvard Law School.

This is the Federal organization designed to develop a national defense without exercising direct control over State and local defense councils. It operates in a purely advisory capacity and therefore cannot select members for State councils or insist upon any particular program.

Two Sections

Its work is divided into two fields: (1) development of local protection programs—air raid wardens, shelters, fire watchers, emergency police, etc., and (2) mobilization of volunteers for all war activities outside of the protection area. This section deals with information, education, and morale.

The protection section, directed by General U. S. Grant, 3rd, is apparently functioning without grave criticism.

On the other hand, the mobilization section, headed by Jonathan Daniels, editor of the Raleigh News and Observer, is marking time.

Under the direction of Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt and Mayor La Guardia of New York, mobilization of civilians to build morale created tremendous enthusiasm.

Mrs. Crystal Bird Fauset was named as national race relations adviser and colored regional advisers were quickly appointed in five of the nine areas.

Then the work slowed down and today no colored regional advisers have yet been named in the following areas:

REGION 1. Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts and Connecticut.

REGION 4. North and South Carolina, Tennessee, Alabama, Georgia, Florida and Louisiana.

REGION 7. Minnesota, Iowa, North and South Dakota, Kansas, Nebraska, Missouri and Arkansas.

REGION 9. Washington, Oregon, California, Idaho and Utah.

OCD's Handbook Changed

Assuming that Regions 1 and 9 have such small proportions of colored people that interracial cooperation comes easily, why is it that no race relations advisers have been named in Regions 4 and 7, where millions of colored people live?

The answer to this might be found in the first

OCD's Handbook Changed

Assuming that Regions 1 and 9 have such small proportions of colored people that interracial co-operation comes easily, why is it that no race relations advisers have been named in Regions 4 and 7, where millions of colored people live?

The answer to this might be found in the first draft of the OCD Mobilization Manual (handbook) issued on June 5, as compared with the official manual issued last week.

Here's what the first draft of the manual said and it's so important we quote an entire section:

MINORITY GROUPS AND THE DEFENSE COUNCIL

We have gone to war to assure the continued existence of democratic principles and ideals. We cannot let the strains of war make inroads on our essential freedoms here at home. Defense councils can do much to see that no American anywhere is denied the democratic rights we fight to preserve.

Over one-third of our people are either first or second-generation Americans. They are as loyal as any other group in the population. In fact, those who have escaped dictatorship and tyranny abroad may value our American liberties even more than many of us who, never having been denied these liberties, may tend to take them too much for granted.

Throughout the country instances of unthinking discrimination against many of our minority groups indicate the need for added effort on the part of defense councils to promote unity and understanding. We are American, all, and one of our most precious heritages is our constitutional affirmation that color, race and creed will never divide us.

Most communities will find no need to establish a separate committee to assure fundamental civil liberties and rights, for every defense council committee should be the guardian of those rights. It can, by providing for full community participations, promote the unity of all groups.

That's great stuff. It talks about freedom and democracy for minorities at home, unity, understanding and no need of jim crow committees.

The Revised Handbook

But all of the above in the final draft of the manual, now the official guide for OCD, has been boiled down to a single sentence. It says of a defense council:

It should include community leaders from various professional, economic, social, labor and racial groups.

Why has all of the hurrah for democracy at home been deleted from OCD?

Our guess is that two elements of the population have done this expert surgery.

Two Enemies of OCD

One is a Northern group, represented by such wealthy capitalists as Mrs. William J. Clothier of Philadelphia. This group says there is a difference between war work and social improvement, and OCD is not designed to improve social conditions among the common people.

The other is a Southern group, represented by the Connallys, Rankins and Bilbos, who are opposed to Federal or, as it terms it, radical interference with States' rights. They trimmed the OCD budget in Congress and bullied Landis with threats.

Both groups unite on preserving the status quo for the common people. So that after the war nothing will be changed. Meantime, during the war they want civilian defense to be directed by the "right people."

The net result of the whole business is that many an OCD worker who began with enthusiasm to mobilize the local communities for an improvement in morale is sitting on his hands and wishing Mrs. Roosevelt and La Guardia were back at the helm.

Public Opinion Will Bring Changes

But the Clothiers and the States' rightsers are rid

l
n
e
o
d
d
a
a
u
n
h
t
h
u
u
u
i
D
D
O
B
O
A
B
T
T
A
I
T
W
A
J
A
F
N
ter
we
C
des
for
sta
Pl
th
pu
it
me
wr
C
M
w
y
N
h
h
c
s
p
s
e

velt and La Guardia were back at the helm.

Public Opinion Will Bring Changes

But the Clothiers and the State's righters are riding to a fall. The first time any city is raided, and with destruction comes a break in civilian morale, when casualties result from a lack of medical stations or of plans for evacuation, the need for Federal control of civilian defense will be established.

The States' righters and business as usual elements have been opposing President Roosevelt at every turn. They can't believe that we are losing the war, any more than they can foresee the blood and sweat and tears to be shed before we can win it four years from now.

Not until Axis victories come closer to our shores will public opinion rise in its might and give Mr. Roosevelt the united support our country sorely needs.

s
p
s
f
i
l

th
cc
th
br

OFFICE OF CIVILIAN DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, D. C.
August 28, 1942

h/c

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

*1062-502 Sandy
Haw - Lake
will go
Lorraine*

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I saw this editorial and was, of course, disturbed by it. But recognizing it as written from the point of view of the colored people and the whole minorities question, I cannot see how we can seriously question the statement that we are "marking time". You will remember that I wrote you on July 10 about this matter:

"Also, I would like to add that I am disturbed by the apparent slowness in working out some plans among Negroes and other minority groups. I know that Justine talked with you at some length about this matter when she was here and I hope very much that something will be done soon. While we wait for determination of responsibility a great many disturbing things are happening.

When I wrote you that I had been feeling for some time that we had been marking time. I think I told you some time ago about a plan for a full activity in this field which I proposed to the Director in April. Mr. Landis felt, however, that the activity should not be expanded in OCD but should be carried on by some other agency with an "overall consultative concern" for the relationships of all departments and agencies with minority groups. He took the matter up with Governor Cramer of the FEPC and we were placed in the position of marking time until that could be worked out. Mr. Landis told me recently that he has not yet determined exactly what he wishes to do with our own operations in this field.

I still feel that OCD is the most effective mechanism the Government possesses for dealing with this problem since it should be able to deal with difficulties in the communities where they occur and before they grow into serious issues. In every community - even the most backward - there are people of good will who have the respect of their communities and as natives could be more effective than any other people could be in maintaining decent relationships with minority groups. The development and effectiveness of such groups in local defense councils, however, would depend on a unified and determined attitude in our own national and regional organization. It would also depend upon adequate staff. At present there is some strong resistance against any real activity in this field in the OCD organization particularly in the Fourth Region where the greatest need exists.

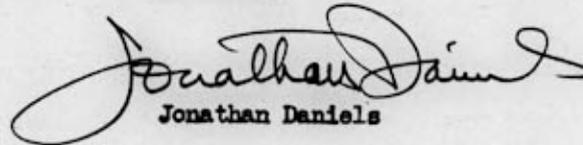
FOR DEFENSE



I do not think it could be fairly said that Hugh Jackson "is not very keen about including colored people in the Office of Civilian Defense". I think this impression may have grown from a mistake which I feel he made in connection with a survey with regard to discriminations against Negroes in civilian defense which Miss Dublin's division was instructed to make. Quite unnecessarily, I thought, he brought the plan rather tactlessly to the attention of our regional people in Atlanta who presented the plan in the same manner to the civilian defense officials of Southern States. The result was that the study was stymied, for the time being at least. I expressed myself pretty sharply on this occasion. But I am convinced that his fault was inexperience rather than wish to create difficulties in this matter. While I think he is often conservative in this and other matters, I feel sure that his attitude does not represent prejudice against the Negroes.

I know how strongly you feel about this matter of race relations in the United States at this time when good feeling and unity are so essential. I am also deeply disturbed. Indeed, I have never known a time when well informed friends of the colored people in the South and elsewhere were so alarmed about the situation. I hope some time soon to have an opportunity to talk with you about it.

Sincerely,


Jonathan Daniels

*I am returning the editorial as I have another
copy of it.*

February 1, 1944

Dear Jonathan:

I talked to the President this morning and he agrees that we should find something for Mrs. Bethune, as soon as possible, because her salary is now stopped from the NYA.

The National Council of Negro Women has voted her living quarters in the house which they have for life, but she has nothing on which to live. I am writing Dr. Will Alexander and trying to find out whether, through the Rosenwald Fund or Mr. Marshall Field, we might get her an allowance to cover a \$2400 a year salary for a secretary and travel money, so that we could use her to go around the country improving race relations with such groups as she would be suitable to go to; but that still leaves the question of a regular salary for her and the status she feels she should have to carry weight with her own people, unsettled. Can you think of anything? Her old salary was \$8200, but I suppose something between \$5600 and \$6200 would have to be found.

I understand that the Women's Division of the Democratic National Committee is recommending Anne Laughlin as the woman to work with the man executive who may be appointed to do the work under the three Cabinet members on this new effort to save refugees. The President tells me that the man has not been decided on, and that it will be left to the man to choose whom he wants working for him and under him. As soon as the decision on the man is made, I hope you will make the suggestion of Anne Laughlin, because I think she would do a very good job.

Sincerely,

Mr. Jonathan Daniels
The White House

100

April 4, 1944

Memorandum for Mr. Jonathan Daniels

After reading the enclosed clipping I searched my files and find this correspondence about Mr. Gerth, which seems fairly unimportant.

E. R.

Mrs Magee -

Please recd
this + give me
any letters

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 4, 1944

Miss Thompson:

Here are the letters about Arthur Gerth. If you will remember, I told you he had asked me if there were any possibility of getting a letter saying that he had worked at the White House, as I knew him personally and knew that he ~~was~~ not only a fine person but that every one in Mr. Sanderson's Office had thought a great deal of him. You said O.K. and so I wrote the attached which you signed. Mr. Slattery sent the reply which ~~was~~ attached. It seems like a perfectly innocuous letter to me and no more than has been done for hundreds of others.

DD

June 12, 1944

100

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. JONATHAN DANIELS:

A Conference on "How
Women May Share in Post-War Policy-Making"
is to be held at the White House on
Wednesday, the 14th. I wish very much
that you and Judge Rosenman would divide
the day and come in as observers.

Will you let me know if
you can do this?

E.R.

2

*Letter from ~~Mr. Samuel F. Cooper~~, 546 Johnson Avenue, N. E., Atlanta, Ga.
Mother of Negro extraction but no one could judge that he had colored blood.
Has worked near all life in the handling of beverages. Is 58 years old.
Wants job as government inspector of alcohol, etc.

DA

July 7, 1944.

Loxiana
MEMORANDUM FOR MR. DANIELS:

100
✓

Mrs. Roosevelt asks if there
would be any Government job?

Malvina C. Thompson.

VDS



AUG 22 1944

Atlanta Biltmore
The South's Supreme Hotel
ATLANTA, GEORGIA

7

August 18, 1944

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

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I received the blanks sent me by Mr. Wm. H. McReynolds, Administrative Assistant to the President, and have this day filed same as per instructions.

I wish to thank you for your kind interest in assisting me to properly place my application in an effort for Federal employment.

Very truly yours,

Samuel Fredrick Cooper
Samuel Fredrick Cooper.



File
Miss Dow
note of file
notes DD

100

Jonathan Daniels says your friend Alfred Bergman is being dismissed from the War Dept. They have finally caught up with the fact that he was dismissed from the army previously because of dementia precox. He has maligned many innocent people and is considered to be just plain bad in addition to being crazy.

of June

*Re Telegram from Major George C. Vournas, Supreme President of AHEPA.
Wants Mrs. Roosevelt to attend mass meeting any date between October
20th and November 1st. Meeting of War Service Unites, etc.

September 30, 1944.

JONATHAN

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. DANIELS:

I am going to Chicago on November
20th for the Rosenwald Fund and hate to
make a trip there now when I could go to
New York or Baltimore.

E. R.

VDS

*Letter from ~~X~~Mrs. R. J. Ellis, Box 355, Dublin, Georgia. Re ~~X~~Will Guyton, Negro, married and has large family. . ~~X~~Carlos Gay (white) and ~~X~~Robert Cullen (white) Gay being newly elected sheriff and Cullen a contractor, These two took Guyton when he got off work and put in in car and beat him up and robbed him. Then told him to run and shot at him hitting him in heel., Gay has threatened everybodys life who interferes, etc.

November 27, 1944.

JONATHAN
MEMORANDUM FOR MR. DANIELS:

The President told me to give this to you and asks if we could find a way to put under Federal jurisdiction and ask Mr. Biddle to put a very good man on it.

Eleanor Roosevelt.

VDS

Feb. 9, 1945

Memorandum for Mr. Daniels

JONATHAN

Will you find out for
Mrs. Roosevelt whether any
Federal aid can be given
in this case?

M.C.T.

Telegram from John P. Reed
Dryden, N.Y.

Find out if any Federal
aid can be given - Mr
Danaher could find out.
Then write him hope he
soon hears how it
improved

WASHINGTON

February 15, 1945

MEMORANDUM FOR MRS. ROOSEVELT:

I am returning to you the attached letter from Congressman Mundt.

I asked Miss Thompson the other day at the luncheon to tell you that I thought it would be best for you to continue to withhold your letter to Congressman Mundt. In other words, I think Congressman Mundt should do as you requested him to do -- treat it confidential.


JONATHAN DANIELS

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

February 9, 1945

MEMO FOR MR. JONATHAN DANIELS:

Cong. Mundy wants to
publish my letter about the Dies
Committee which is attached.

I do not think any purpose
would be served, but I would
appreciate your opinion.

Eleanor Roosevelt

Long editorial by Sgt. William Calhoun Hope, Ward #14, Walter Reed Hospital.
Re statements about conditions at Walter Reed which were made by Drew Pearson
in his column.

February 13, 1945.

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. DANIELS:

This was brought to me yesterday
by one of the boys who came here. He
had already written me a letter which
I sent Drew Pearson asking him to print
it in his column in the interest of
showing that he is fair minded.

This, the boy wants to have
printed and if you can think of
anyone who would be willing to use
it, he would be delighted.

Eleanor Roosevelt.

VDS

February 28,

MEMORANDUM FOR JONATHAN DANIELS:

I spoke to the President about this matter and he would like to see him. Will you please get in touch with Lt. Newton and make an appointment for him to see the President?

E.R.

Ensign

Mrs. E. W. Newton, 828 N. Stafford St., Arlington, Va.

*Letter from Ensign Earl Williams Newton, Historical Section, Bureau of Supplies and Accounts, Navy Department, Washington (25), D. C.

Wants to straighten out with the President ~~his~~ the status of his History of the Roosevelt Administration.

March 1, 1945.

TO: V
MEMORANDUM FOR MR. DANIEL

Mrs. Roosevelt says the President said he would see him and to make an appointment.

Malvina C. Thompson.

VDS

100

March 29, 1945

Memorandum for Mr. Daniels:

Many thanks for looking
into this case. Mrs. Roosevelt
will do nothing further about it.

M.C.T.

X Fred E. Beal

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

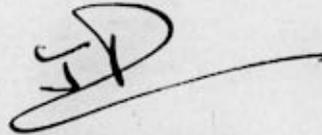
March 28, 1945

MEMORANDUM FOR: Miss Malvina Thompson

After Mrs. Roosevelt referred to me the attached letter from Fred E. Beal, I wrote to the managing editor of our paper in Raleigh, The News and Observer, asking for information about Beal's case. Williams and I were both active in securing Beal's parole.

I am attaching a copy of my letter to Mr. Williams and his reply. I believe Beal should be released from parole and may be able to affect it unofficially, but I doubt very much that Mrs. Roosevelt should write to Governor Cherry, making the request suggested by Williams.

*Mr. Daniels
Tell him*



Jonathan Daniels

March 20, 1945

Dear Fleet:

Mrs. Roosevelt got a letter from Fred Beal, our old Gastonia friend, who is anxious to be released from parole and have his rights of citizenship restored. I don't know how long it has been since Beal was paroled, but it seems to me that it must have been almost four years.

It seems to me that if Beal's record under parole has been all right that Governor Cherry, particularly as a man from Gastonia, would be showing the proper forgiveness if he gave Beal his final release. At any rate I would appreciate it if you would look into this matter and let me know what the situation is.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Daniels
Administrative Assistant
to the President

Mr. Robert L. Williams
The News and Observer
Raleigh
North Carolina

JDaniels:amb

100
March 31, 1945

MEMO FOR SECRETARY DANIELS:

X Mrs. Anna Rosenberg called to say that Admiral McIntire had sent her a very carefully prepared report on the psychiatric work in the Navy and has promised to send her a report about the Army as soon as he has consulted with Gen. Kirk.

X Mrs. Albert Lasker's address is 29 Beekman Place, New York.

E.R.

Anna Rosenberg called to say that since her conversation with you and the President about psychiatry - she received a very careful report from Adm. McIntire, who said the President had asked him to gather information from army and navy and prepare a report.

Adm. Mc. has sent the Navy report and promised Anna to consult Gen. Kirk and send one on the army as soon as possible.

Anna thought you ought to know this since Johathan Daniels is now being given the same assignment.

See Jonathan

150
April 12, 1945

John
Memorandum for Mr. Daniels:

Mrs. Roosevelt asks if it would be wise for her to write the article requested in the attached letter from the National Council of Industrial Editors' Associations.

M.C.T.

0