February 10, 1937

Dear Molly:

Many thanks for your note of the 6th and for the report on Marie Ames.

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

Dear Eleanor:

I have looked up Marie Ames for you. I knew her myself in her early life and consider the enclosed confidential report, made by a very astute and friendly person who does not wish to have her name used, probably gives the picture. I also checked with the Business and Professional women and they seemed to feel more or less the same way. I really think her place is in business.

Affectionately yours,

Miss Mary W. Dewson

February 6, 1937
CONFIDENTIAL

Miss Mary W. Dewson
Vice Chairman
Democratic National Committee
Hotel Filtmore
New York City

Dear Molly Dewson:

Finally answering your note dated January 16th, I am quoting information just received from a woman I consider a better judge of "folks" than I am. This is in answer to your question about Miss Marie Ames, 4951 Lyndale Boulevard, Saint Louis.

"She has many excellent qualities and some pretty poor ones. She is between forty-five and fifty years old probably... rather good looking but a little bold in appearance -- well educated, probably not a college woman."

"She made an unfortunate early marriage ending in divorce... she comes of a very good family, has been comfortable financially until the depression when she lost everything... shrewd business woman, having engaged successfully in several adventures - real estate."

"She is intelligent and thoroughly honest in the broadest sense of the word - - generous to a fault - nothing petty about her... astute and experienced politically." (My correspondent says she would trust her judgement on most political matters.) "She has a flare for organization, is conscientious, energetic, and industrious - writes easily and well, making good, clear reports."

"A few 'outs' - - a strident voice, a too-loud laugh, gets along well with men but women frequently criticize her attitude with men... has served as a lobbyist and was a good one - got results. Though several women's organizations then associated with her were critical of her behavior, the reports were never verified."

My correspondent adds that she believes Miss Ames is really a lady but does not always give that impression. She adds also that many who know her well and can overlook her faults like her very much.
Miss Marie Ames of St. Louis, special representative of the National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs, will come to (Name of City) on (Date) to confer with leaders of the Business and Professional Women's Club.

Miss Ames is a trained speaker and writer and although still a young woman was an organizer for five years with the National American Woman Suffrage Association when that famous organization was campaigning for the passage of the 19th amendment giving women the right to vote. Following the passage of the 19th amendment, she conducted a series of Citizenship Schools in many of the Southern and Midwestern states.

In 1921 and 1923, Miss Ames represented the Missouri Women's Legislative Committee at the Missouri Legislature and helped secure the enactment of child welfare legislation, a new ballot law, reform in registration and election laws and the famous 50-50 law, compelling the political parties to have the same number of women as men on all their committees.

Miss Ames is one of the Missouri women whose name is included on a bronze tablet placed in the State Capitol to commemorate those women who have rendered a conspicuous service to the women of Missouri.

As a special pleader for the advancement of women's interests, Miss Ames has appeared, by invitation, before the State Bar Association of Missouri and the Circuit Court Judges of St. Louis for a discussion on Jury Service of Women.
Marie Ames, cont'd.

As a specialist in political science and practical politics, Miss Ames taught for several summers at Winthrop College, South Carolina, and has been a speaker with the Redpath Chautauqua.

Not content with her mastery of national problems and issues, Miss Ames spent the year 1925 in Europe attending the Council and Assembly meetings of the League of Nations at Geneva, and writing magazine articles on her observations. Later she went to North Africa, again gathering material for magazine articles.

During 1931-1932 she was president of the Business and Professional Women's Club of St. Louis, and conducted a course of parliamentary law at the Federation's regional convention in Arkansas, which attracted a large audience.

For the past five years Miss Ames was associated with a St. Louis advertising agency. Since last autumn she has been a special representative of the National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs and has recently returned from a trip through Iowa, Nebraska, Wyoming, Utah, Arizona and New Mexico.
Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt  
White House  

Dear Eleanor:

I have learned a lot about the Civil Service that I would hate to have the enemies of Civil Service know. The President seems to know everything, and I wonder if he realizes what a revamping of their methods is evidently needed. I suppose it is largely due to the need of a larger appropriation for the Commission so that they could have adequate personnel.

Apparently there is no effort to affect qualitative attributes. What seems to count is the number of papers turned in that can be graded mechanically. Moreover, the ability to grade mechanically seems to be below par, due to the fact that there is no adequate personnel to make the grades.

There also appears to be a Civil Service employee, whose name slips me, who is willing to evade the law from the inside. He does not evade the law for the benefit of either the Republican or Democratic party, but apparently for his own personal satisfaction. This is the story, whether it is true or not.

Another example. An examination has been set for Informational Representative of the Social Security Board, which examination calls for a college education or four years of writing work. There is very little need for any more writers in the Information Department, whereas there is a great deal of need for speakers like Mrs. Fickel. She did not apply to take this examination because she is not a college graduate, and has not done four years of writing for pay.

Of course, the President could make a temporary Executive Order for her to work in the Information Department where they would welcome her with open arms.

Affectionately,
March 9, 1947

Dear Miss Dewson:

Your letter of March 2 asked whether Miss Lenroot's letter about the qualifications for persons interested in federal employment in the program for crippled children was in response to any request of yours. This letter was in reference to Mrs. Struble.

Very sincerely yours,

Secretary to
Mrs. Roosevelt

Miss Mary W. Dewson
Democratic National Campaign Committee
Hotel Biltmore
New York
N.Y.
March 2, 1937

Mrs. Malvina T. Scheider  
The White House  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Malvina:

I am much interested in Miss Lenroot's letter on qualifications required of a person interested in federal employment in the program for crippled children. Is this letter in response to any request I made, because neither I nor the office can for the moment identify it?

It does, however, give me an idea. I think I will get similar information from other departments so that we can answer our girls with less difficulty.

Sincerely yours,

Miss Mary W. Dewson

MWD: HA

SR said Thursday at 3pm for me.
March 22, 1937

Mrs. Emma Guffey Miller
Democratic National Committeewoman for Pennsylvania
2540 Kalorama Road
Washington, D.C.

My dear "Fighter":

My ambition has been to get an opportunity to serve with the Administration for every National Committeewoman and State Vice-Chairman who so desired.

I am very proud of the record of major positions obtained for women and even more proud of the fine work done by these women. (Of course, in some states the men arranged for the women's appointments so that I did not need to do so.) For example:

- N.C.W. - Maine: Mrs. Donahue, Postmaster at Portland
- S.V.C. - N. H.: Mrs. Dunn, no request
- S.V.C. - Vt.: Mrs. Heidal, W. P. A.
- N.C.W. - Mass.: Miss Ward, Immigration Commissioner at Port of Boston
- N.C.W. - R. I.: Mrs. O'Neill, U S Narcotic Bureau
- N.C.W. - Conn.: Mrs. Welch, Collector of Port at Bridgeport
- S.V.C. - N. Y.: Mrs. O'Imy - Member of Congress
- S.V.C. - N. Y.: Mrs. Horton - "n " "n"
- N.C.W. - Pa.: Mrs. Miller, Husband appointed to Federal Trade Commission

Quite a number of women preferred to have their husbands appointed and continue themselves with their own political work. For example:

- S.V.C. - Kansas: Mrs. Parkman whose husband is purchasing agent for the Post Office Department
  In Charge of Women's Activities, Southern California Mrs. Ernest Westerhouse whose husband is I.W.W.
  Engineer at Duchesne, Utah
- N.C.W. - Calif.: Mrs. Henry F. Grady whose husband prepared the Reciprocal Trade Treaties

All prominent women not N.C." or S.V.C. I have tried to take care of. For example:

Ruth Bryan Owen, Minister to Denmark
Emily Hewell Blair whose husband was appointed Assistant
Attorney General, Emily herself served on the Consumer’s Board of W.R.A. but she was sought out for this job as they needed her qualifications.

I have not tried to secure appointments for minor workers because the Democratic National Committee had a whole staff doing this in close cooperation with Senators, Congressmen and State leaders, and moreover were trying to follow the Constitutional requirement that federal appointments be from the States in proportion to their population.

For me to do so would have duplicated work and taken all the time of the slender staff of the Women's Division which was needed to build up the party organization in the States through carefully thought out plans and encouragement. Because the staff was inadequate I, as you know, filled my paid position with Mrs. Wolfe and worked as a volunteer. The President, Mr. Parley and many of the men leaders have expressed themselves as satisfied with the part the women played in our great victory and the women themselves are generous in attributing increased activity and effectiveness to our help.

I know nothing of Mrs. Lucy R. Cullen of Dushmore, Pennsylvania and turned her application over to you following routine, based on the above stated policy.

I shall be glad if Mrs. Dewitt will go along with the national plans for women's work because I believe common plans and terminology make for general understanding and give a sense of a great national undertaking - the establishment of the New Deal. Unquestionably in a highly organized state like Pennsylvania you are doing everything suggested so that making a few adaptations will mean only a generous gesture toward the Women's Division and toward a closely knit Democratic program.

I hope time will justify the wisdom of the selection of Mrs. Evans as Assistant Director of the Women's Division and also the ideas that lie behind that selection.

If "there is a lot more you could say but won't" please remember that I at least have reasons for what I do that are based exclusively on what I believe will work best for Democratic success, and that I am always glad to explain these reasons to you, so do not spare me.

Incidentally you received my telegram saying that I have been doing what seemed to me most effective to insure the repeal of 213 - married persons in federal employ. At the present stage it does not seem to me wise to put pressure on members of Congress.

Good luck to you,

Very sincerely yours,

[Signature]

Miss Mary W. Dawson
March 26, 1937

Dear Molly:

Many thanks for sending me a copy of Mr. Jonson's "Roots of Prosperity". I will try to read it and have put it in with the collection of "things to be read" sometime.

Affectionately,

Miss Mary W. Dewson
Hotel Biltmore
New York
March 12, 1937

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

Dear Eleanor:

Did you ever hear Nan and Marion talk about the Jonsons from 171 West 12th Street, New York City? She is a Christian Scientist and he is an artist.

I solemnly promised to send the President and you each a copy of "The Roots of Prosperity," enclosed, which he believes is fundamental. I can't imagine your having time to read it.

Affectionately,

Mary Dewson

MWD: HAK
Miss Mary W. Dewson
THE ROOTS OF PROSPERITY

By Ernst Jonson

VOCATIONAL training has been officially advocated as the way to prosperity. This is not to be wondered at, for is not the enjoyment of the fruits of labor the essence of prosperity? And the greater the skill of the worker, the more abundant and valuable will be the fruits of his labor. The argument is plausible, but there is hidden in it a radical fallacy. In isolated rural populations where the family constitutes an economically self-sufficient and independent unit, prosperity is directly proportional to the industry and skill of the workers, but as specialization enters into the situation another condition must be fulfilled in order that prosperity may be realized. Specialization entails exchange of product, and exchange of product calls for a medium of exchange; it calls for money. Where money income is inadequate, the product of labor can not be freely exchanged, and production is checked. We have today much vocational skill that we can not use and that therefore does not add to our prosperity. What we need is not more skill but money to pay for the skill we have.

Those who have surveyed our industrial equipment report that we could produce in a year a thousand dollars' worth of goods for every man, woman, and child. We do not produce these goods: we produce barely one half of these goods, because our money income will not pay for more than one half. We submit to this unnecessary and self-inflicted impoverishment because we have been told that the only right and proper way to get money is to get it as wages for work done, or as profits gained in business. Work, we are told, and you will be paid. Get business going and it will bring the money. We accept this idea, because experience seems to confirm it; but it is a careless interpretation of experience that seems to yield such confirmation. Exact thinking would make it clear that we can not sell more goods until there is more money with which to buy them. And what is the use of working if we can not sell the things we make? When there is no market for these things, our wages can not be paid. Consider just this one fact: In the last hundred years work has been greatly reduced, and yet wages are much higher than they were a hundred years ago. This fact alone should suffice to convince us that something is wrong with the argument that money income is a function of work done.

When a nation's business has settled in a rut, and no attempt is made to increase it, the income received from the sale of goods suffices to pay for all the goods that are offered for sale. But in a progressive economy such as ours, where people are trying to do more business today than they did yesterday, with the result that the volume of goods on the market is continually being increased, the amount of money received from the sale of goods will ever fall short of the demands of the market. You can not

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sell seventy billion dollars' worth of goods to a people whose income is only sixty billions. In order to sell more goods the income received from the sale of goods must be supplemented by funds derived from some other source. Hitherto these supplementary funds have been obtained mainly by borrowing from the banks, which means that new money manufactured by the bankers has been injected into the currency. However, the amounts of these funds have not been determined with reference to the demands of the market. They have generally fallen short of these demands, and that is why actual production falls so far short of productive capacity.

II

It is futile to look for permanent prosperity until we have learned to think. We must learn to trace opinions to their origins, to unfold their implications, and to understand their consequences. Only so can we gain their true meaning and the right sense of their value. Our thinking faculties must be so developed that we can find our way unaided through the maze of modern opinion, undeflected from the course of reason by propaganda, radical or conservative. All the people must be encouraged to exercise their powers of thought until they themselves acquire a confidence in these powers that is firm enough to resist the pull of herd opinion and the impact of certified dogma.

For a hundred years mechanized industry has fallen periodically into depressions. These depressions have been occasioned by a variety of circumstances; the essence of them, however, has been lack of popular purchasing power. The people's income has dwindled and has failed to meet the demands put upon it by industry. Why have we not, with all our ingenuity, put a stop to these depres-
sions? It is true that we have increased the people's money income. But why have we failed to increase it sufficiently to enable them to buy all the goods we could produce? These are questions that we have never faced. Finance is guided by instinct rather than by articulate thought. And it is a right instinct, this, that has led us to limit popular income. Had private finance taken it upon itself to keep popular income at par with the productive capacity of industry, chaos would have resulted. Such income would have meant an unlimited market for popular goods; and an unlimited market would, in turn, have meant an unlimited demand for labor in mass-production industry. All, or nearly all, workers would have been drawn into the factories and into other popular services, and there would have been none left to serve the more prosperous classes, the owners of industry. In other words, the profits would have been taken out of business, for the profits of business consist in the services of that portion of the working class that is not engaged in providing for the needs and desires of themselves and other workers. Without profits there would be no incentive to business, and hence no business. It is the restricted money income that has made the continuance of individually initiated and unplanned business possible. An economy motivated by individual desire for gain alone must necessarily be a scarcity economy. An economy of abundance—that is, an economy in which the people are paid enough to buy all goods on the market—could become possible only by basing the scale of wages upon production instead of allowing them to be governed by the operation of supply and demand. It would not be reasonable to expect private industry to pay such wages. The
only workable substitute for the restricted wage, supplemented by money manufactured by private bankers, would be to maintain popular spending power by means of intelligently planned disbursements of public funds. But so radical a remedy no government dares to apply because there is no enlightened public opinion to support it.

Here, then, we are again confronted with the fact that what makes the age of plenty unattainable for us is not the squandering of money by the “wicked and idle rich”; it is our own ignorance and our aversion to thinking. Few of us are rich, and these few spend only an insignificant fraction of the nation’s income. What we lack is the additional income that we might produce if we could overcome our fatal aversion to thinking. This additional income is no insignificant fraction of the total. It probably amounts to some forty to sixty billions a year. That’s what it costs us not to think!

III

Now suppose that we had succeeded in convincing the average man that thinking pays, that it pays better than most activities in which he can engage. And suppose that he should begin to cultivate the art of thinking, would that be enough to initiate the age of plenty? It would not. A much more radical change must be wrought in our economic views. But suppose that even this change had been brought about: that we had come to realize the impossibility of making the sale of goods in a progressive economy, such as ours, yield sufficient money income to buy all the goods we could produce and that we had come to realize also that private banking could not be depended upon to make up the difference. Then suppose we had taken the final step and come to the conclusion that we ourselves through the agency of our government should pay ourselves that residue of our earned income that business cannot afford to pay us. Even then the all-important question would remain: How should the supplementary income be distributed?

At this point we are confronted with an unexplored domain, the domain of economic justice. People talk about economic justice, and they assert that justice is what they want. In reality they want nothing of the kind. What most of them really want is a bigger slice of the product of industry. Here lies the root of our economic troubles: that almost everybody wants more, regardless of justice. And it is precisely because of this grasping attitude that almost everybody is getting less than he has earned.

The realization of the age of plenty, therefore, is not at bottom an economic problem; it is a problem of education. How to implant the idea of economic justice and make it the dominant influence in private business as well as in political economy—that is the problem. And obviously it is not a simple problem. In the first place, a scheme of just distribution of the product of human industry can not be arrived at by calculation or by argument. No class can claim a demonstrable portion of that product, because modern production requires the cooperation of all classes. In an industrialized society, capital, labor, and thought form an indissoluble partnership. No one of these, segregated from the others, would produce any considerable amount of wealth. Without tools labor would be impotent, and tools are produced by invention in combination with capital. The division of the product of industry among the different economic
classes will, therefore, ever remain a matter of judgment. And this judgment can not be formed upon any single principle such as deserts or need; but each of these, together with many other circumstances, must be given due weight and just consideration.

If we are to arrive at a just idea of the scale of distribution of the products of industry, we must acquire some insight into the operation of the economic organism and into its relation to and dependence upon our cultural and political system, for without such insight there can not be any just appreciation of the social value of the functions exercised by the several classes. Without such insight our judgment will continue to be swayed by prejudice. And, above all else, if we are to enjoy true prosperity, it is required that we free ourselves from sectarian prejudice, radical as well as conservative. The present sharp divergence of right and left opinion must be reduced by eliminating the exaggerations that result from the common inclination to look at only one side of the social scene. In other words, economic opinion must be extricated from the entanglement of oratory and subjected to the clarifying light of science. Prejudice is the road that leads to revolution, and all who indulge in it, be they rightists or leftists, are instigators of violence and destruction.

However, the idea of economic justice by itself alone is of no immediate practical value. It acquires such value only as it gains the support of a firm conviction that justice is desirable and that the just thing ought to be done, not because it is useful nor because it will conduce to the greatest good of the greatest number, but simply because it is just. While such a conviction receives considerable support from science, it can hardly be formed upon scientific grounds alone. Viewed from a superficial naturalistic standpoint, justice is a mystery. The demands of justice come from the deeper levels of the human soul, levels to which empiristic thought does not penetrate.

It is possible, however, and even likely, that when we get sufficiently dissatisfied with the sporadic prosperity yielded by rugged individualism, we shall accept the idea of justice and choose to submit to its command as a more wholesome way of life, even though we have not yet become deeply sensible to the inherent value and authority of justice.
April 8, 1937

Dear Molly:

The President will take no interest in Section 213. It is a matter of minor legislation.

I cannot write Mrs. Jaster on a state bill, unfortunately.

The other things are all being taken up. I have written Dr. Stakebaker and will speak to Caroline about Jean Poletti.

Affectionately,
DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL COMMITTEE
NATIONAL PRESS BUILDING
WASHINGTON

April 7, 1937

To: E. R.
From: M. W. D.

1 - Repeal of Section 213 on married women:

The President told me when I saw him about a month ago that the 213 Bill was going to be repealed. Why not now if eventually?

2 - The D. C. Minimum Wage Board:

Will you please suggest to the President as the member to represent the public, Mrs. Wm. Kittlé, Military Road, Washington, D. C. The League of Women Voters would like her, and she has a great many friends in the District, and we hope she would be able to hold up the public's end. We want a woman on the Commission, and Labor is not satisfied to appoint any woman now in the District.

3 - 50 - 50 Bill in Ohio:

This Bill passed the Senate. Pressure is needed in the House. Would you be willing to wire Mrs. Mildred R. Jaster, National Committee Woman, stating that you believe the 50 - 50 plan has been very valuable in utilizing the women's vote getting ability.

4 - Phoebe Omlie:

Greatly discouraged because a College Professor with no commercial experience whatever in aviation has been appointed on the Safety Program in place. She wants...

5 - Jean Poletti:

She is willing to serve as Director of the Reporter Plan for New York. If you think she is good, will you suggest her to Nan in place of Mrs. Leach who resigned.
6 - Jefferson Memorial:

Who is the President going to appoint on the Jefferson Memorial Committee? Could not Mrs. Lyon Childress be given the honor of serving on it?

7 - Mrs. Margaret M. Sullivan of Rhode Island:

Will you speak to Dr. Studebaker about utilizing her in the Vocational Program?
April 20, 1937

Dear Molly:

Franklin says the reason he has let you down on the 213 clause is that he is trying under the reorganization an entirely new arrangement. I will tell you about it when we meet.

I let him read all about Emma and I will do what I can to help the girls. You have been a swell person to work as you have, but I feel as you do that, while I will help these girls down here and perhaps in the future make occasional speeches, my days of organization work in the party are over.

Much love.

Affectionately,

Miss Mary W. Dewson
Hotel Biltmore
NYC
April 17, 1937

Dear Eleanor,

We did get a little involved with Nau but I have promised never to ask you to suggest anything to Nau as if it were your own idea and she is pleased and that is that. We do our best and if it miscarries —!!

Then too as soon as Mrs. McAllister and Mrs. Wann complete the spring regional conferences they will have to paddle their own canoe. But with Emma Guffey Miller that on my trail and theirs they will be sunk unless you help. The men are foolish to tolerate Emma. They could tell Jo Guffey to make her confine herself to Penn.

She has several things on me:

1) "I could have stopped" the adverse criticism on the Judiciary plan if I had spoken out for it (Heaven knows I have done a plenty in what I consid
was over. Now I must keep my promises. Also I told Mrs. Babcock and Samue that "Hte toks" had said it would be repealed so give them a little time. This was said confidentially but Samue has written it to every National Committee woman. Well FOR did say it and poor harassed man he has let me down. It's embarrassing but not fatal. And I should worry but it suits for Samue.

3. She has called all the present and past Natl Com. women together to a fancy fashion show celebration, and I gather the list, but she can't ask me for I was not elected a N. Com. W.

4. From speech I hear she says the honorary Natl Com. women should have been consulted on choosing the director and Asst. Dir. of the Women's Division instead of you and me.

Both doesn't this sound like a B.A.R. Thank God I don't see it my duty to have to participate after June first. I've done all that in me lay to select and reselect Franklin and all his successors that would benefit by any further help I can give. 1931-1937 is enough to give to a cause. And a small organization and
two swell girls - women of experience aged 38 & 36 to build on if the men want it.

Don't worry about my state of mind for it is grand. I am relieved to think of being free and I'm happy at the past.

But I really love you all and would like to share you. As Charlie Nichelson said (but denies) oh those Cuffeys! Pirates sailing the seas in golden galleons.

Mo 42

I'm off to Bridgeport to plan the Regional Conference for here abouts!
April 21, 1937

Dear Molly:

I have been delving into the whole
Phoebe Omalie situation. I gave her telegram to
you to Jimmy and he inadvertently let it be
sent over to the Department of Commerce. Of
course I did not know he would do this and he did
not realize what was being done. Secretary
Johnson is much annoyed because of course he
picked the college professor and it was tacitly
a criticism of his choice.

Jimmy tells me that both he and Secretary
Roper said that Phoebe Omalie had come in with an
attitude of knowing it all and had never been per-
sona grata with anyone. Mr. Vidal came to see me
Monday and said he thought it was going to be im-
possible for her to do any work there. The feeling
was strongly against her before this had come up.
I made the suggestion to both Jimmy and Mr. Vidal
that they try to get her something with an aviation
company. I will tell you when I see you what my
idea is. Both have promised to try to do something
about it and I will keep after them. There is no
use of her trying to work with Commerce people.

Affectionately,

Miss Mary W. Dewson
171 W. 12th St.
New York, N.Y.
Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Eleanor:

Frank Wickhem wants me to urge you to attend the Third Biennial National Convention of the Young Democratic Clubs of America to be held at Indianapolis, Indiana, on August 20th and 21st.

I like the Young Democrats for they have given something for the young people to hold on to and have a real place in the picture, so, of course, I hope you go.

Affectionately yours,

(Miss) Mary W. Dewson
May 18, 1937

MEMORANDUM FOR MOLLY DEBSON:

See Mrs. Roosevelt's note:

"Dear Molly, Will you write James and explain. He says you told him you didn't think it wise to get women in on the court issue. He doesn't see your point. I told him in all probability you don't think democratic women are for it but I don't know. Love, E.R."
May 18, 1937

Dear Mollie:

I think I will not tell the President about writing Secretary Woodring, because they seem awfully touchy about Army and Navy people.

The other two things I will take up right away and let you know.

Affectionately,

Miss Mollie Dawson
May 17, 1937.

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

Dear Eleanor:

I am sending a copy of the enclosed letters to Secretary of War Woodring who has always been very friendly and considerate since I met him in Kansas in January 1932, but if there is anything that could be done from the White House end, I should be pleased because young Mrs. Browning is the only daughter of Mrs. Harold Abrams, a very wealthy and delightful woman from Dallas who has always cooperated with me as much as she could in the unorganized situation in Texas, and who, last week, with her friend, Mrs. Rodgers, put on one of the best Regional Conferences we have ever had. She is a real friend of the President and you.

Affectionately yours,

(Miss) Mary W. Dewson

MWD: B
Enc.
"THE NEIGHBORHOOD"
3215 Jacott Circle
Dallas, Texas

May 11, 1937.

Miss Mary Dewson
Vice Chairman, Democratic National Committee
Hotel Biltmore,
New York City

Dear Miss Dewson:

You were kind enough to suggest that I write you a letter, to be on your desk upon your return to New York, regarding the promotion of my father-in-law, Colonel W. S. Browning, U.S.A. to Chief of Field Artillery.

The fact that father is qualified and deserves the promotion makes me all the more eager to lend a hand and help him secure this well-earned recognition, if I possibly can.

Other than his service record, which is outstanding, and the history of himself which I am enclosing, is the fact that the State of New York has not had her share of military honors. Both Colonel and Mrs. Browning's families have been on the tax rolls of New York State for several generations and although an army officer's family must, of necessity, be on the "move" almost continuously, the Browning family think of New York State as their home.

My mother-in-law was in Washington this past month. She attempted to reach Senator Copeland and although she went armed with a letter of introduction from her district congressman, Senator Copeland's secretary refused her admittance. However, mother reports a very different reception when she called to see you at your office during your absence from Washington. She remarked in a letter to me that your secretary treated her with every courtesy.

Captain Harold Brown, U.S.N. has been in contact with Senator Wagner, I believe, and has been quite successful. I am convinced, however, that you would have more influence with Senators Copeland and Wagner, for we are told that these matters must be presented to the Commander-in-Chief of the Army for approval.

Our own Texas Senator, Morris Sheppard, Chairman of the Senate Military Affairs Committee, was very kind and has recommended the promotion in a letter to Secretary of War Woodring.

I am sure that if I can convince you that ours is a just cause and not an unreasonable request, that you will help
us secure this appointment for one who has given generously of himself and his ability in the service of his country. We children are so anxious to help by securing the support of those whom it has been our good fortune to meet and who have influence where influence is needed.

Bill has been very proud of the fact that through his Texas connections he has had Senator Sheppard's support, and I am proud because I was in a position to bring my cause to you.

We enjoyed every minute of your visit and I regret that red measles developed the day following the dinner at my mother's, and I was prevented from saying "Goodbye" on Saturday.

Let me urge you not to wait fifty years to come back!

Faithfully,

HATTIE LOUISE BROWNING
Colonel Browning was born in Brooklyn, New York, son of Dr. W.W. Browning, one of New York's most prominent physicians, and one of her first orthopedic surgeons; in fact, Brooklyn's first one.

Colonel Browning was reared in Brooklyn, N. Y. and went to West Point from there through competitive examination. He has served with distinction since graduation from West Point in 1901.

He was the Army's Field Artillery representative with the Allied Supreme War Council during the World War, and served with the American Peace Commission throughout the Peace negotiations in Paris.

It is believed that Colonel Browning is the outstanding man in the Field Artillery for appointment as Chief of Field Artillery, when the present incumbent's time expires, normally on March 10, 1938, and in justice to him, the appointment should be his - and New York should have the claim for this representation and honor to one of her sons.

If the records are examined, there will be found no Field Artillery officer senior, or for that matter, junior to Colonel Browning with a record more impressive. There is no officer in the Field Artillery with longer service in the Army.

Senator Sheppard, Chairman of the Senate Military Committee, has on the records, strongly recommended Colonel Browning's appointment. Senator Pepper and Congressman Green of Florida are urging the appointment, also Congresswoman Jenckes of Indiana.

It is felt that if this case could be brought before the President and Colonel Browning's service record, reputation among his brother officers, and special fitness for this appointment pointed out, he would not permit the case to be overlooked. It is felt that the entire Field Artillery would not only approve, but applaud the appointment.

The question has been brought up regarding Colonel Browning's health which may cause some in authority who do not know the facts, to use this in preventing his further promotion. The occasion for his visit to Walter Reed Hospital some two years ago was due to a year of very strenuous duty, which resulted in a need for rest and a thorough survey. He went through this survey and was pronounced by the Disposition Board of Walter Reed Hospital fit for full military duty and the official record in his file so states.

Since that time, he has not only been fulfilling his duties as Professor of Military Science and Tactics at the University of Florida, but has been in addition thereto, assigned duty in connection with Corps Area assignments requiring travel with strenuous field work. This work has in no way affected Colonel Browning's physical condition and he has not missed a day of active duty.
Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Eleanor:

I thought you might like to know what Felix Frankfurter says about Dorothy McAllister's husband who, through you, has been made Assistant to the Attorney General for the rest of the year.

I cannot tell you how much I appreciate it.

Affectionately yours,

(Miss) Mary W. Dewson

MWD: HAK
LAW SCHOOL OF HARVARD UNIVERSITY
Cambridge, Mass

April 29

Dear Molly:

Many thanks for sending McAllister. I liked him very much - he is thoughtful, sensitive to real things, a real democratic and humbly conscious of a judge's job. He is the kind of fellow that gives one hope that America will be true to its special mission.

As ever

FF
May 24, 1937

Dear Harriet:

Mrs. Roosevelt's visit to Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, is not until November, 1937, and we have no detailed schedule as yet. We will be on a paid lecture trip and they are usually so closely scheduled we spend practically every night on a train. Nearer the time we will know more of our plans. It is usually better on these trips to go to a hotel, even a poor one, because the best and kindest hostess in the world can't always protect you like you can protect yourself in a hotel, and usually she must share her guest with her friends at tea, lunch, or dinner. This is, of course, just for your information. I will write Mrs. Scherzinger and say it is too early to make any plans, and thank her, etc.

I am well and my niece is flourishing. I'm looking forward to a more or less peaceful summer in Hyde Park. Next time I am in New York, perhaps you and Gertrude Stevenson and I can have lunch. I'll call you.

Are you going to the State meeting in Syracuse on the 8th of June?

Affectionately,

Mrs. Harriet Allen Kerr
Secretary to Miss Dewson
Democratic National Committee
Hotel Biltmore
New York, New York
May 21, 1937

Mrs. Malvina T. Scheider
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Malvina;

Mrs. H. F. Scherzinger, 40 Champion Avenue, Fond du Lac, Wisconsin would like Miss Dewson's suggestions in reference to the following (when Mrs. Roosevelt speaks there November 11, 1937):

"Miss Frances Thornton would like to entertain Mrs. Roosevelt and I am completely in the dark as to the proper procedure. Mrs. Roosevelt reaches here a little after six o'clock the evening of the eleventh. Our best hotel is the usual small town affair. If Mrs. Roosevelt did accept Miss Thornton’s hospitality she would be so much more comfortable. Miss Thornton's home is very beautiful - she has no family it would be an ideal place for Mrs. Roosevelt to relax before and after her lecture."

Will you write Mrs. Scherzinger, or me, whichever is easier? I am telling her I will try to find out. Many thanks.

How are you and how is the niece? It is ages since I saw you, but maybe we will bump into each other before too long.

My best to you,

[Signature]

Secretary to Miss Dewson
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 24, 1937

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mrs. Roosevelt.

Dear Mother:

Thanks for letting me see this.

I do appreciate it.

J. R.
RURAL ELECTRIFICATION ADMINISTRATION  
2000 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE  
WASHINGTON  
May 27, 1937

Miss Mary W. Dewson  
Democratic National Committee  
Hotel Biltmore  
New York City  

My dear Miss Dewson:

Your letter of May 17 to Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt has been referred to us by Mr. James Roosevelt.

It will be a pleasure to talk with Mrs. Marie McQuire and to go into the possibility of a position with the Rural Electrification Administration. I presume she knows that except for engineers, lawyers and experts additions to our personnel must be made through the registers of the Civil Service Commission.

If Mrs. McQuire will call in order that I may be at hand when she comes, I shall be able to see her at her convenience.

Yours sincerely,

Russell Croft  
Personnel Director
MEMORANDUM FOR: Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt

Dear Mother:

I just received the attached and send it to you for your information.

[Signature]

[Name]

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 28, 1937
May 27, 1937

Mr. James Roosevelt
Administrative Assistant
to the President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Roosevelt:

Mr. John M. Carmody has asked me to reply to your memorandum of May 24 covering a letter to Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt from Miss Mary Dawson about employment for Mrs. Marie McQuire.

The attached copy of a letter to Miss Dawson arranges an interview with Mrs. McQuire.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]
Personnel Director

Enclosure
Letter dated June 11, 1937

From Miss Mary W. Dewson
Dem Nat Comm
Hotel Biltmore
New York City

Re: Recommendation of Mrs. McAllister as a Vice-Chairman in her place.
Copies of letters regarding the work of Emma Guffey Miller
Sent Jim Farley on June 14, 1937.
June 14, 1937.

Dear Molly:

I will not be in Washington on the 25th, and so can not see Mrs. Dockery. I am sorry.

Affectionately,

Miss Mary W. Dawson
Democratic National Committee
Hotel Biltmore
New York City
June 4, 1937

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

Dear Eleanor:

Mrs. Frank E. Johnesse who was State Chairman of Idaho for a couple of years and has been very loyal to us writes:

"Mrs. Dockery who is the Dean of the newspaper women of the northwest, and who has spent thirty-five (35) years on the editorial staff of the largest Republican paper in the state, a Democrat, and has been able to hold this job and still be one, is soon to be in Washington, on her way to Europe. She will be there all day the 25th of June, will register at the Raleigh hotel. She has asked me to write you for her, and ask if it would be at all possible for her to sit in on Mrs. Roosevelt's press conference, if there should be one that day and I am going to ask you if there isn't such a conference could you make it possible for her to meet Mrs. Roosevelt. Mrs. Dockery is in charge of a group going from here on this trip, I believe ten of them, but she felt that while they were touring the city she would like to meet Mrs. Roosevelt. She spends her vacations during campaign years, going about and helping us. She has gone with me a number of times, and in 1932 went to Salt Lake with Mrs. Ross and myself, to meet President Roosevelt. She also met the daughter at that time.

"She plans on calling on the staff at headquarters, also the Digest office. Mr. Dockery will be with her, and for the most part, the group are all good Democrats.

"Mrs. Dockery has done so much for the party and is such a very good friend of mine, I felt I just must do this for her, and Mrs. Roosevelt is so lovely and so gracious I just do love to have our people meet her."
Mrs. Roosevelt - 2

June 4, 1937

If you can see her, I should be pleased because we have not been able to take care of Mrs. Johnese the way we have most of the State women leaders. If the Indian Claims bill goes through, Congress, she hopes to be put on that Commission.

Affectionately yours,

(Miss) Mary W. Dewson
June 4, 1937

Honorable James Roosevelt  
The White House  
Washington, D. C.  

Dear James:

Eleanor sent me your note to her of the 14th asking why I did not want the women to pass a resolution for the President's Supreme Court plan at the Regional Conference in Atlanta, Georgia on April 28th and 29th.

I think you would be thoroughly satisfied with what the women have done for the Supreme Court plan if I could tell you about it in detail. Because I have pretty well established my record as being 100% for the New Deal and your father, I want you to wait until I have a chance to tell you just exactly how I have tried to help his Judiciary plan. It is too long to write, but you know my general idea is based on the principle of throwing a stone in the water and having ripple after ripple follow the impact.

At this meeting in Atlanta, Georgia we devoted an hour to a panel discussion on the Supreme Court, put on by five North Carolina women. This meant that all the women who went to the Conference had a very excellent idea of your father's plan and that the ablest women present at the meeting were for it. We get a lot more ripples:from having a plan presented spontaneously by a group of women than by one resolution which those opposed to the plan could easily say was railroaded through.

I do not think these resolutions weigh very heavily with the members of the Congress. For example, when I went into Alice Foote McDougal's restaurant and was asked to sign a paper against the President's plan I immediately wrote to every Congressman from New York and asked them whether they were affected by such petitions and whether they advised me to get up similar petitions in favor of the plan. All the Congressmen answered and all of them said they paid no attention whatsoever to such petitions. I thought I spiked that gun pretty well.

We have put in a lot of work trying to help, but I am not going into it in detail until I see you. Do you ever come to New York?
By the way, I think perhaps your father should see this letter from Mary Norton. I know he likes to get first hand reactions.

I am returning this letter from Mrs. Jennings and will ask that when you send it to Mr. Keenan you will send it with my note to Mr. Keenan attached.

Very sincerely yours,

(Miss) Mary W. Dewson
June 4, 1937

Mr. Joseph B. Keenan
The Assistant to the Attorney General
Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Keenan:

Mr. James Roosevelt showed me your letter from Mrs. Jennings. You are right. There is no better, more loyal and intelligent follower of the President than Mrs. Jennings.

It seemed to me wiser not to have Mrs. Jennings' motion put before the Regional Conference for the following reason. We hold these Regional Conferences every spring except in Presidential campaign years. They are held for the purpose of discussing ways and means of building up the women's organization. I enclose a copy of the women's plan for building up their side of the Party. These plans are discussed at our meetings.

We also devote one session to panel discussions or speeches on various parts of the New Deal, but we do not ever pass resolutions. You will be interested to know that five North Carolina women put on an exceptionally fine panel discussion of the value of the President's recommendation for changing the Judiciary.

Very sincerely yours,

(Miss) Mary W. Dewson
June 14, 1937

Dear Molly:

I have talked with Secretary Wallace about Mrs. McGuire and something will no doubt materialize.

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

Dear Eleanor:

I wish, as a great favor to me, that you would see Marie McGuire yourself, personally.

I first knew Mrs. McGuire in the League of Women Voters when her husband was the head of the Land O' Lakes Creamery which she helped him start. You see, she is a practical farm woman. I think his death was a terrific personal loss to her, but she plunged into work with the Information Service of the AAA and has been hard at it for three years, but is to be let out this July 1st because Mr. Stedman has decided to abandon this work. I have met all the women farm leaders and I think she is head and shoulders above the rest.

I, myself, got Secretary Wallace to put her on in the beginning and he said he would if he could also have Mrs. Vernon Hatch of Indiana. Well, before long he discarded Mrs. Hatch, but he kept Mrs. McGuire. She is a real student of the New Deal and its tireless exponent. It seems to me pathetic to lose one of the few good women we have who are acquainted with rural conditions and who are deeply attached to the New Deal.

She should certainly be kept in the Department of Agriculture with the Information Service or with the Consumers' Council, or else be placed with Rural Electrification. I can't imagine anybody doing a better job.

I suppose we might get her into the Information Division of the Social Security just as we have Lavinia Engle and Maybelle Fickel and I really think she would be better than either of them, although I think they are both excellent for their work. I think she would also be a great deal better than Emily KneuBuhl in the Rural Electrification because she does know the rural problems.

She feels very unhappy at not being wanted and to talk with you would at least make her believe that she is appreciated. She really has been a brick and when anyone begins to get the run-around from assistant director to assistant director it shakes his nerve.
June 4, 1937

I hope some time this month you will come over and have luncheon with Miss Porter and me in Georgetown, Connecticut and see the dog kennel. We are only a few miles south of Danbury, Connecticut. I am there as much as I can be, but that does not mean all the time. We have a Regional Conference in New London on June 15th and 16th.

Affectionately,

MWD: HAK  (Miss) Mary W. Dewson
I have kept putting off writing to you in response to your note about Mrs. McGuire in the hope, from week to week, that I could report to you a successful outcome to efforts I have been making on her behalf.

As to our freedom of action in this Division Mr. Montgomery has already written you. I am convinced there is both a need for her services and a logical place for them in the Information Service of the AAA, and I have gone every thing I could in the right quarters to persuade them of this. Everyone in the AAA who has had contact with Mrs. McGuire's work speaks very highly of it, but neither the record nor the excellent endorsements of her work which have come in from the field seem to carry any weight. I am convinced also that such a record and such support in the case of a man would have been amply appreciated. Instances of this sort add immensely to my already deep appreciation of the lift which you and Mrs. Roosevelt are constantly giving to women.

When Mrs. McGuire first called on me it occurred to me that in the event we met with defeat here an opening might be found for her with the World's Fair organization. I was able to give her some leads in that direction which she has since very ably followed up. She tells me now that she has considerable hope that something may eventuate from her contacts in New York in this connection. I shall be very pleased if her hope materializes.

May I pass on this further suggestion. Should the New York job fall through, would it not be possible to bring Mrs. McGuire to the attention of whatever administration is set up by Congress to direct the Government's participation in the World's Fair? As you know the bill to create such a Commission General was vetoed by the President. A satisfactory measure will undoubtedly be passed later when a staff will have to be appointed. I realize this is in the future, but it might be a useful line to bear in mind.
I am very glad you wrote to me about Mrs. McGuire and want to assure you of my readiness at all times to help in what way I can in the recognition and advancement of women in government.

Sincerely yours,

Mary Taylor.
June 7, 1937

Miss Monica Walsh
New York World's Fair
Empire State Building
New York City

Dear Miss Walsh:

I am writing you in behalf of Mrs. Marie McGuire who would like to do promotional work for the World's Fair.

No one has done better promotional work for the Department of Agriculture or for the Democratic Party than Mrs. McGuire. She is eminently satisfactory. I have known her for years and recommend her in the highest terms.

I shall be glad to speak to you over the telephone any day about her. You will make no mistake in employing her.

Very sincerely yours,

(Miss) Mary W. Dawson
Call to Democratic Women!

Regional Conference NORTHEASTERN STATES

Sponsored by the Women's Division, Democratic National Committee

PLACE:

PERIOD:
From noon daylight saving time, Tuesday, June 15, to 3:00 o'clock Wednesday afternoon, June 16.

PURPOSES:
To encourage women to be fact-finding and government-minded.
To consider economic and political problems.
To outline the main objectives of the program of the Women's Division.

PARTICIPANTS:
Democratic women from your region, which includes the states of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Delaware.

BANQUET SPEAKERS
Mrs. Mary T. Norton, Representative from the 15th Congressional District of New Jersey.
Mrs. Caroline O'Day, Representative-at-Large from New York State.

PAYOFF:
What will the Regional Conference mean to you?
First hand information as to how Democratic women in your neighboring states are working out their problems, many of which are like your own.
New ways and means of strengthening Democratic organization in your state, county and community this year.
An intimate contact with national headquarters.

Please Make Your Reservation for the Connecticut Conference Through Your State Representative

MASSACHUSETTS—Mrs. Margaret O. Rice, Democratic State Central Committee, Massachusetts Avenue, Boston.

NEW HAMPSHIRE—Miss Helen Hunter, Democratic National Committee, 111 Market Street, Concord.

NEW JERSEY—Mrs. Frank L. Pope, Democratic State Central Committee, 500 Federal Street, Trenton.

NEW YORK—Miss Mary F. Murphy, Women's Division, Democratic National Committee, 111 Madison Avenue, New York City.

PENNSYLVANIA—Mrs. Hattie B. DeWitt, Democratic Central Committee, Harrisburg.

RHODE ISLAND—Mrs. Robert T. Riley, Democratic National Committee, 111 Market Street, Providence.

VERMONT—Mrs. E. M. Estes, Democratic State Central Committee, Montpelier.

CONNECTICUT—Mrs. Fannie Dixon Welch, Democratic National Committee, 111 Federal Street, Hartford.

Please make your reservation early. Only a limited number of rooms are available for the Conference.

RESERVATION BLANK FOR NORTHEASTERN STATES REGIONAL CONFERENCE
New London, Connecticut, June 15-16

Name ______________________________________
Address ____________________________________

I would like a single room for person(s) at $ ______.

Mohican Hotel: Single rooms with bath, $4.00 ap; double rooms with bath, $6.00 ap.

The Crocker House: Rates slightly lower.
June 24, 1937

Dear Molly:

I will see Emma Guffey Miller on the 29th, and tell her that the program has been approved, and, if that is not enough, I think the President will be willing to see her and tell her so himself.

I will not be in Hyde Park for more than a day or two at a time until after July 9, so am afraid you will be gone. However, I shall look forward to seeing you in the fall when you get back.

Much love.

Affectionately,

Miss Mary W. Dewson  
Hotel-Biltmore  
NYC
Dear Eleanor, 

I spoke to Jim about Emma. Guffey Miller's running around stirring up trouble in the states where federations of women's clubs resisted the admission of women into the regular party organization on the 50-50 plan; also joining to her national committee. Women who resisted these efforts were chairmen being responsible for helping the chairman build up the party in counties and precincts. (Of course having two heads in every state, both among the men and women, is an organization anomaly, which, however, the seasoned men have worked out in practice.)

Jim told Emma that while FDR was the semi-leader until 1940, he would choose his own man and woman leader and it was now trying to prove I was chosen by Tammany methods.
or not at all as she claims because Jim did not read my name at
the head of the list as appointed by the nominating committee.
He said he thought you should ask her to see
you and further cinch it. That would be fine
but it would be even better if the President
would. For it seemed to me that at the New
York conference of N. Eastern states that Emma
was the day after I spoke with her.
was busy. She was not holding with Curley's
woman from Massachusetts, vice chairman Margaret
O'Conner (who is against FDR because Curley is)
and Mrs. Dunn, National Committee woman from
N. H. who has always been against me, because
I wanted her to add selling the New Deal to
machine politics. (With Emma silenced I think
we might win Mrs. Dunn).

I don't believe any other natural enemy: the
Nellie Con woman from Michigan has any quality
that could do great harm to our program with
out Emma's support. State Vice Chairman Christine
McDonald is 100% for FDR. Mrs. McAllister and Mrs.
Gov. Murphy will not be any aid to Mrs. Vandekoven.
Outside of Mrs. O'Connor of Kentucky, N.C.W., the
female glad hand for Robert Jackson. I think the rest
would prefer to go along unless some one stirred
them up to be "again the government."

In connection with this please read the extract
from my speech at New London. The part about the
value of individual clubs, attached to county
organization and not federated was omitted.
5 states have federations whose presidents are
not the recognized women leaders.
6 other states have federations whose leaders
are recognized as the women leaders.

Emma's changes are
1. Five good women speakers on the Supreme Court
plan could have made them for it where the President
failed witness the General Federation of Women's Clubs
at Tulsa. The Club Women are reported to be 75-10 3/4
Republicana (She pays no attention to all we did do)
2. I should have made Congress pass 2182.
3. I favor the State Vice Chairman for
organizing over the Natl Com. Women. (This is
true. It is their job. The work of the N.C.W. is important
but different.)
4. I have not gotten patronage for stenographers, etc. and that's what counts not positions for N.C.W. or S. Vie-Chen. (X sent to you. Ben. Natl. Com. did distribution on minor jobs in consultation with the State Leaders. We did not have the staff to do it, and I think the duplication would not have been wise anyway.)

5. The Rainbow Flies in 1937 were not as good as 1932. (Of course I got up both and Mary Chamberlain did them both times.)

Those are the points to remember. There are probably plenty more. Oh yes.

6. We should have a Women's Section Bureau.

(Of course Mrs. McAllister takes care of shakers and

Anyhow this is her line. Nobody would care about Emma's activities except she can make our Women's Division work ineffective and reduce the women from active workers for the New Deal to a bunch of schemers for personal advancement in which none of our type are interested. I do hope the President or you see her. Love,
8.

Although 80-82 per cent of the people of a country vote, it is not possible for women to be state chairman. However, women play a significant role in the choice of the man leader and the choice of the woman leader.

Politics is not a practical affair, and because it is so, it is to the interest of everyone concerned to have the party win at the polls. The seasoned men go along with successful leadership in the selection of state chairman and national committees. It is to the interest of everyone concerned to have the party win at the polls. The seasoned men go along with successful leadership in the selection of state chairman and national committees. Men and women count.

When a party falls on evil times without leadership, as the Republican party in New York state today, a struggle for the state chairmanship ensues, that may, make or break the party.

But ordinarily any woman aspiring to leadership must take into account these governing facts. She does not have a fair share of the patronage or of the distribution of patronage. Nowhere near a fair share. And that is that.

Patronage: Women do not have a fair share of the patronage or of the distribution of patronage. Nowhere near a fair share. And that is that.

What shall we do about it? Can we see that it is possible for women to be part of the decision-making process? Can we see that it is possible for women to be part of the decision-making process? Can we see that it is possible for women to be part of the decision-making process? Can we see that it is possible for women to be part of the decision-making process?

The National Woman Suffrage association re-formed itself into the League of Women Voters to work for legislation and have a seat on our platform. The leaders of these organizations—however, won very little power in their respective parties. In fact, the anti-suffragists perceived much more recognition. The Anti-Suffrage association re-formed itself into the League of Women Voters to work for legislation and have a seat on our platform.
June 28, 1937

Dear Molly:

I have talked to Dr. Altmeyer and he will talk to Miss Armstrong.

Dr. Altmeyer says there are complications.

Affectionately,

Miss Molly Dewson
Hotel Biltmore
NYC
Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt
The White House

Dear Eleanor:

Please read the enclosed. Jim is so slow in getting to things.

Could you find out the status quo on this for me?

Lovingly,

Miss Mary W. Dewson
Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt  
The White House  
Washington, D. C.  

Dear Eleanor:  

If the President is going to speak in Topeka, the Director of the National Youth Administration would be proud as punch to have him stop off and inspect their projects.  

Anne Laughlin, the Director, has done a swell job and she is a grand Democrat and a real asset to us so that, if the President can do nothing more, why not ask Anne Laughlin to come on the train to see him?  

I hope that the President is inviting the National Committee Women and the State Vice Chairmen from the States through which he passes to come on the train for a minute. The women would feel it a great reward for their strenuous efforts.  

Affectionately,  

Molly  

Crazy to see you! Have a house at 3264 N. St. Will you dine with me in familia?
THE NEUTRALITY ACT GOES INTO THE WASTEBASKET

Congress has been overruled by the State Department.

Nullified is the neutrality act which it passed, and which the President signed. That is made only too clear by the persistent refusal of the Administration to invoke that act in the Chinese-Japanese war -- which has been going on now for almost three months, and which reaches a new high point in the air barrage of Nanking.

But Secretary of State Hull made the nullification even clearer in his speech to the American Legion Convention, when he declared that the United States Government -- regardless of the will of Congress or the wishes of the people -- is going to pursue a policy half way between isolation and aggression.

That is, we'll be half neutral -- and half belligerent.

No wonder European nations hail the Hull speech, look forward to American support of the piracy farce now going on in the Mediterranean.

The United States can't be a "little bit neutral."

It's impossible. Either we don't take sides, or we do.

We are taking sides in Spain. We are taking sides in China. And in each case we are taking the same side as the British Foreign Office. All in direct violation of the letter and spirit of the neutrality act.

... 

How does Mr. Hull explain this ignoring of the law? He declares:

"We must make our contribution toward the realization of the conditions upon which peace everywhere can be maintained, or ultimately we shall have to sustain and protect ourselves amidst an outside world ridden by war and force."

Aside from the fact that the American people made a mighty contribution to that end, in 1917-19; aside from the fact that America tried to save Europe from herself and that Europe is in worse shape now than ever before; aside from the fact that democracy
faces as grave problems in this hemisphere as in the other -- as evidenced by suppression of President Roosevelt's Constitution Day speech by our "good neighbor" in Central America --

Aside from all these, we still face the reality -- that we ARE amidst "an outside world ridden by war and force," and that to pretend that our own submergence in that chaos will be an immediate solvent is to fool ourselves at frightful cost.

Force of arms?

Much of the British empire today is held together only by force of arms. At this very moment, British troops are warring on native troops along the northwest frontier of India, in precisely the same fashion as Il Duce's troops warred on the natives of Ethiopia. French Morocco is held by the sword. And why deceive ourselves that the whole present concern of British and France in the Mediterranean is anything save the retention of colonial possessions seized -- by force of arms?

Why, indeed, do we have marines in China? Should China have troops in the U. S. A? It would be as logical to "protect Chinese interests here."

Why, above all, do we have more warships in the Far East than any other nation -- when our stake is smaller by far than that of England?

Why are we sending in 1400 more marines?

****

These facts stare us in the face. That is why Mr. Hull's confusion of the peace ideal with maintenance of the status quo, especially the British status quo, is both unrealistic and dangerous to the best interests of this country.

Yet, so determined is our State Department upon its own will -- that the will of the people lies in its wastebasket.

Let us admit that we no longer have a neutrality act. It is not enforced. It is not even noticed.

*It is one more "scraps of paper."

####
ISOLATION IS BETTER THAN WAR

Secretary of State Hull unquestionably meant well when he declared, in an international peace broadcast on Sunday, that for the United States "a policy of complete isolation from the outside world would, in its ultimate effects, be as ineffective as the opposite extreme of ill-advised and unnecessary intervention in the affairs of the outside world would be unwise."

He was doubtless speaking in broad terms when he asserted that "we must make our contribution toward the realization of the conditions upon which peace everywhere can be maintained."

But the promptness with which his remarks have been seized upon by the British press as holding out the possibility of American aid in tracking down "pirate" submarines in the Mediterranean demonstrates the danger of academic statements on peace and war by ranking officials of a nation that is resolutely committed, by law and by public opinion, to remain strictly neutral in all foreign quarrels.

The people of this country know, and the whole world knows, that a policy of complete isolation is impossible for the United States. Americans can't build four walls around them and stuff their ears with cotton so that they cannot know what is going on in the world. Nor is it conceivable that they would fail to heed the pleas of distressed and suffering humanity. They never have yet.

But what, exactly, does Secretary Hull's statement that "we must make our contribution" mean as it concerns the unflinching resolve of the American people to keep out of foreign wars?

It must be open to confusing interpretation or it would not have inspired the London News Chronicle to exult that "if those words mean action — and Mr. Roosevelt's Administration does not usually speak unless action is intended — they are the most hopeful that have come across the Atlantic in many a year." The paper then suggests that "the United States may be preparing to range itself with other democracies in determination to withstand Fascist aggression."
It is not to be imagined that Secretary Hull had any such idea in mind. He stands for "national and international patience and self-restraint; avoidance of force in the pursuit of policy; the use of peaceful methods to adjust differences" and "cooperation and interchange in the economic field." He has been a persistent worker for peace. His trade treaties with other countries have helped to level off provocative economic inequalities.

None the less, his broadcast declaration against isolation for America was cryptic. There is little danger that this country's solemn commitment to neutrality would ever imprison us in extreme nationalism, such as Germany's. There is little danger that our refusal to help fight other nations' wars would make us blind and deaf to humanitarian needs the world over.

But it is plain that the slightest indication of a modification of our aloofness is hailed with delight in Europe. Of course Great Britain and France would welcome us, and with rousing cheers, to participate in the anti-"piracy" campaign. Of course they would greet us with open arms if we went "over there" once more, with our men and our dollars, to help fight their battles.

Before we entered the World War in 1917 we were wooed with saccharine words by England and France. They appealed to our loftiest impulses. They told us that we, and only we, could save civilization from destruction. We responded to their pleas -- to our everlasting sorrow. It doesn't take much to start them off again. Secretary Hull's disapproval of complete isolation was enough.

A concept of complete isolation for America may not be practicable. But if worse came to worst, complete isolation would be infinitely preferable to involvement in another foreign war. We could afford isolation. WE COULDN'T AFFORD ANOTHER WORLD WAR.

With due regard for Mr. Hull's good intentions, this is not the time to make academic statements and cryptic utterances about relaxing our isolation policy. The Secretary would be better occupied if he kept silently to his tasks, without giving our former Allies or other nations wrong impressions.

The people of the United States are dead set, irrevocably resolved, never again to get mixed up in a foreign war.

# #### #
"Sticking Out Our Neck"

The American Chamber of Commerce in Shanghai is agonizing because America does not do something about the Japanese invasion of Shanghai. Passengers coming home from the Orient are indignant that American warships are not dispatched to convoy them through the danger zone. So much for that war. In the eastern part of the United States a number of humanitarian citizens are very properly deeply agitated over the fate of the Spanish loyalists in the town of Santander which has fallen into Spanish rebel hands. These Americans fear mass executions and are memorializing the President to protest.

The world seems to be on the verge of a tremendous war. It will be hard at best to keep out of it. War is the essence of injustice. The declaration of war suspends all justice, all humanity. It is murder, looting and raping in the mass, and of course our feelings as Americans will be deeply stirred.

But we have two choices in the matter: We can let the injustice go, let our business men in the war-torn areas save their lives and lose their property, let travelers get out the best way they can and let injustice, however rank and horrible, flout itself in every war zone. The other alternative is to get America into the wars. There is no middle course. We cannot protest unless we expect to back our protest. In time of war moral suasion of an outside country has no effect unless that moral suasion is backed by blood and iron. At home we must settle this question: Are the lives of our young men, are the tremendous debts that will pile up on posterity following war, worth the cost of a protest, either to save our own people in the war zone or to stop the injustice inevitable to war?

Shall we stick out our neck and take the common ax of war or shall we shut our eyes to evils even to the loss of the property and possibly the lives
of our own people who are in the war to make money? Or on the other hand shall we save ourselves and posterity and American civilization? This new world war will be no pink tea. America may be the only section of modern civilization that will be saved when the war is started.

Sacramento (Calif.) Bee
August 19, 1937

"American Retirement from China Is Desirable"

According to an Associated Press dispatch from Washington,

the president is known to believe that the American marines and soldiers stationed in China since the Boxer rebellion should be withdrawn completely as soon as it is practical to do so.

The country will be glad to know the president holds to such convictions respecting the withdrawal of American troops from the Oriental war zone.

And that withdrawal principle should be applied to our naval vessels and nationals as well...

Kansas City Kansas
August 24, 1937

"U.S. Ships in China"

General Smedley D. Butler is quoted by a Philadelphia paper as saying the United States ought to withdraw its "warships, soldiers, and marines from the Chinese war zone." He says, "We have no business in China," and that we ought to get out "unless our government wants to get into trouble."

The familiarly outspoken retired officer reflects the sentiment of most of the people in this statement...
"President Must Go the Full Limit"

Finally, President Roosevelt realizes there is an actual, even though undeclared, war in China.

With this awakening late Tuesday, the president placed into effect a modified form of the neutrality law prohibiting any vessel owned by the federal government to carry arms, ammunition or implements of war to either Japan or China and that privately-owned ships flying the American flag carry such cargoes at their own risk.

Chinese officials are reported as dismayed over the ruling, stating that this order "will help Japan so hurt China."

On the other hand, Japanese officials are jubilant over the order.

The effect of America's policy on the combatants is not an important consideration. We are not refereeing their war. The sooner both sides find that out, the better.

The duty of our government is to keep the United States out of the war.

But the government will not keep the United States out of the war by resorting to halfway measures. A full route course must be taken to insure our safety.

Under the provisions of the neutrality law, it becomes the duty of the president — when he is convinced there exists a state of war — even though undeclared — immediately to invoke the neutrality law, which makes mandatory embargoes on munitions to the warring powers.

By his modified order, President Roosevelt admits he is convinced a state of war exists between China and Japan, still he totes aside his official responsibility and goes only part of the way in invoking the power and authority of the American neutrality laws, which were set up by Congress — at his direction — for the express purpose of keeping this nation out of foreign war
Portland (Ore.) News-Telegram (cont.)

Having, by presidential action tentatively admitted his belief that an actual state of war exists in the Orient, the chief executive should without further delay "crack down" on all arms and munitions shipments from this country.

Thereby he would let the whole world know that America will have no part, be it ever so remote, in any more wars of foreign manufacture.

#

Portland (Ore.) News-Telegram
September 8, 1937

"The Hero Cry of Selfish People"

So "Shanghai Americans are not quitters!"

For stubborn impudence and selfishness this boast takes the cake.

These United States citizens left their own country of their own free will and for their own personal advantage.

They may like to pose as pioneers laying foundations for America's foreign trade, but the plain truth is that they expected to collect for themselves a generous commission on the transaction.

They were after money for themselves, and any advantage gained for American business as a whole was a secondary consideration.

Now that danger threatens, they strike a noble attitude and try to appear heroes, while they holler to high heaven for help.

We once saw a small boy take his stand on a stump which already was occupied by a nest of yellowjackets.

When the yellowjackets swarmed out to fight the intruder, that child proved to be a "quitter." Instead of demanding that alarmed and sympathetic relatives
come to his rescue by killing off the insects so he could remain in undisputed possession of the stump, he climbed down as fast as he could. He had a number of stings to show for his adventure, but he was mightily glad to get off as well as he did.

Americans in Shanghai may suffer some financial loss if they heed repeated warnings and obey definite orders to get out of war-torn China, but they ought to thank their lucky stars that American ships are at hand to help their escape.

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The boy who "stood on the burning deck" has been hailed as a martyr to obedience, but a grown man, who insists on sticking to a burning deck of his own free will, is a fool.

If he demands that millions of his fellow citizens come and stand there with him, he is a selfish coward.

That's the best way we can describe the Americans who persist in staying in Shanghai and war-torn China, demanding United States warships and men to protect them and their selfish interests.

###

"Let Them Get Out"

The protest of the American Chamber of Commerce in Shanghai is not impressive. President Roosevelt was right when he warned Americans in the war zone that if they remained there it must be at their own risk. It is a dictum in accord with the sentiment of the country.

Americans in China who went there on their own initiative, for their own profit, have no right to stay in the middle of the fray and then demand protection from their government. It is the government's duty to help those get
out who want to come out. Any who reject this opportunity and service should expect to remain only at their own risk and on their own responsibility.

The American Chamber of Commerce of Shanghai tells Secretary of State Hull that the president's warning is damaging to the prestige of the United States. Any such damage will not be permanent. It is not a consideration important enough to risk war over. The United States has shown in the past what it can do in an emergency. It knows what it can do again in case of need. Other nations know it, too, including Japan and China.

Let Americans in the Shanghai area, including the gentlemen of the American Chamber of Commerce, come away from the scene of hostilities. If they do not, they cannot expect that the rest of us will risk being drawn into war on their account.

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"Men Speak Openly
Money Whispers"

Members of the American Chamber of Commerce in Shanghai, trapped between rival armies, have cabled Cordell Hull, secretary of state, demanding that the United States government "adopt a foreign policy with a strong front and keep the American flag waving."

Compared to the great body of 130,000,000 home-staying, home-loving, home-defending people living within the United States, these voluntary exiles are few. However loud they shout, their selfish appeals will not be clearly heard in far-off Washington, because the 130,000,000 of us will drown out their distant clamor.
Labor
August 31. (cont.)

While we are on the subject of this war in the Orient, there is another point that should be emphasized. It is this: Why do we rush warships and Marines to China whenever there is trouble in that region? It's all right to assist Americans to get out of a war zone, but that's as far as we should go...

Let's keep our army and navy at home and stop messing around in Old World feuds.

###

Paterson (N.J.) Call
August 21, 1937

...Without doubt the most certain preventative measure for this country against involvement in the Sino-Japanese war, is the removal of our warships from the danger zone in Shanghai just as soon as our nationals are evacuated.

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Springfield (Mass.) Republican
September 8, 1937

"Americans Who Demand Protection"

......

The predominant sentiment in America sustains the Government in notifying its nationals at Shanghai and elsewhere in China that if they do not leave that country while the going is good, they must stay there at their own risk. This means - whether it is heroic or not - that the United States will not fight Japan in order that China may be made safe for American traders and missionaries.

**
"U.S. Property in China"

It is hard to imagine sympathetically the state of mind of those making up the American Chamber of Commerce in Shanghai (in their opposition to the President's warning to get out.) ....

Americans at home overwhelmingly oppose any step that would risk involvement in the Asiatic war.


"What Kind of Protection for Americans in China"

(Americans in China are entitled to protection but) It would be calamitous if the United States landed an army or attempted to maintain a fleet in the Chinese waters at this time. It would mean war.


...Modern warfare is too costly in every way to be undertaken in protection of nationals abroad...


...if the Government continues to guarantee American lives and property in China the danger of further, more serious incidents is probable.
"More Than Considerate"

(President Roosevelt has told Americans they remain in China at their own risk.)

From where we sit (this announcement) appears the only sound position to be taken by an administration that presumably is serious in its desire to keep the United States out of the Sino-Japanese war...

We believe that the national honor is not in the custody of private citizens who choose to leave the area in which an effort is made to maintain responsible American government. We believe further that popular sentiment in this country would not approve armed intervention to protect Americans who have neglected opportunities to remove themselves from areas where armed protection is or may be necessary.

...One hears occasional remarks about the necessity of protecting the American investments in China. In our opinion those investments are not worth protecting, when the probable cost of protection is considered.

...Unless we badly misinterpret the facts of the situation, therefore, nothing but maudlin sentimentality could drag the United States into that Oriental war. The administration is right in trying to keep the Americans in China from supplying the stimulus for any such foolishness. If there are 7500 Americans in China who wish to stay there, that should not be permitted to obscure the fact that there are some 125,000,000 Americans in this country who wish to stay here.

##

"Americans at Shanghai"

...there can be no doubt that Mr. Roosevelt's attitude (on getting
Americans out of Shanghai) will commend itself to the sanction of American opinion.

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Hagerstown (Md.) Daily Mail
September 9, 1937

"At Their Own Risk"

...The United States had done its full duty by its citizens in distant and troubled lands when it has warned them repeatedly of their danger, urged them to leave and placed at their disposal the facilities for their evacuation. When they ignore warnings and appeals, and insist upon going their own way, they have only themselves to blame when their lives are placed in jeopardy...

This course will meet with the approval of thoughtful public opinion. Under the influence of events of recent years, Americans have become more realistic and have put away their pseudo-patriotism of a more naive day that called for the clanging of arms and the waving of a flag whenever an American oil concession was jeopardized or an indiscreet citizen became involved in difficulties with foreign authorities. It is something to have learned not to risk the danger of war without adequate cause, if there is such a thing as "adequate cause."

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Wilmington (Del.) Morning News
September 5, 1937

"No End In Sight"

...Under the circumstances (Japan cannot now compromise) the efforts of the State Department to persuade Americans to leave China are more than justified. There is no prospect that the situation there will return to normal in the near future.
Brooklyn (N.Y.) Daily Eagle  
September 9, 1937

"The Protest of Americans in China"

What the American Chamber of Commerce in Shanghai wants is the sort of direct protection by American guns that would be almost certain to involve us in hostilities sooner or later. For such a course there is no demand here and probably little sympathy. So far as public opinion has made itself vocal, Americans generally want the Administration to steer a course that will at all costs keep us out of war.

# #

Trenton (N.J.) Times  
September 7, 1937

"Still Going On"

...The United States stands as a huge isolated nation between the two fires (of Asia and Europe) Fortunately there are oceans on either side and peaceful nations above us and below us. Let us remain in this position. Keep 1917 well in mind.

# #

Raleigh (N.C.) News Observer  
September 9, 1937

"Extraterritoriality Is Out"

(Americans have no right to demand protection)

...The President is justified in feeling anxiety but he is also justified in keeping cool and refusing to wave the big stick. Americans can feel thankful in this crisis that their Chief Executive is a Roosevelt who can keep his riding boots in the closet.

# #
"Get Out Of The Way"

...There has been no declaration of war... A war is on, however, and everyone knows it. The best thing for Americans and American interests to do under the circumstances is to get out and stay out.

---

"Comment on Current News"

...We enacted the neutrality law to take a step that would tend to keep us from war. At least that was the argument of the statesmen who advocated it. Well, as we have it and as there is a robust war in the Orient, why not put the act in operation and see if it works out according to specifications?

---

"Critical Days"

...There is warrant for believing that if America does not take definite steps to get out of China at once it will soon be in up to its neck. Getting out is difficult. (It means withdrawing protection to missionaries, loss of trade, letting Britain down, etc.)

...But if Britain fights she will fight alone if America gets out, as a majority sentiment in this country undoubtedly now insists.
Leavenworth (Kan.) Times  
September 3, 1937  

"Keeping Out Of War"  

...It would be far better to sacrifice commerce than it would be to sacrifice the lives of thousands of American boys to preserve our trade with (Japan) or any foreign country...  

It was understood when the law was prepared that there would be hardships to encounter in the strict enforcement of American neutrality; but the people of the United States do not want war. The only way they can be certain of avoiding it is to keep our ships from the danger zone and by the government refusing responsibility for protecting the lives and property of those who for reasons of their own selfishly refuse to stay away from the scene of trouble...  

Portland (Me.) Press Herald  
September 8, 1937  

"Not Too Difficult"  

(Business men and missionaries should not ask American protection in China.)  

Louisville (Ky.) Courier Journal  
September 9, 1937  

"Not A Time For 'Saving Face'"  

The $200,000,000 investment which represents their (American citizens in China) labors can be weighed against the expense of becoming embroiled in another war on the other side of a still broader ocean.
"Americans in the Far East"

The longer application of the neutrality law is delayed, the greater are the hazards we run that American shipping, or our nationals, will become involved in a serious incident.

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"War and War Scares May Force Changes in Newly Formulated American Policies"

As a world war moved in to upset the program which Woodrow Wilson planned, we now have affairs in China and Europe which would weaken or nullify policies and projects which have been close to the heart of the New Deal....

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"Might and Right"

(Quotes New York Times)

...If as the Times informant suggests we want to restructure the have-not powers in the sanctity of international agreements, we have got to wake up our mind to talk their idiom. And that idiom, brutal and direct, is force.
"Let's Keep Out of Asia and Asia's Wars."

The Capital News believes it is time that practical plans for the preservation of peace be made before it is too late....

The flood of propaganda to draw us into the Spanish conflict is as nothing compared with what impends now. This propaganda will be so strong that only loudly voiced strictly national views of Americans will be heard above the din....

Political leaders and our state department have issued statements condemning aggressions and invasions.

This continuous cry of protest has had no noticeable effect on the aggressive nations and the answer isn't hard to find. The area of Japan proper, not including Korea, Formosa, Manchukuo, or outlying islands, is 148,756 square miles. It is smaller than California. In that area there are more than 70,000,000 people.

These are facts. Our own history of national expansion and aggression is also a fact...

The Capital News believes that American citizens definitely do not want to be drawn into military conflict with Japan, Germany and Italy in the Old World, that they will not be "sold" the idea that they should oppose the poorer, more crowded peoples on the field of battle to preserve the boundaries established by the fat ex-aggressor nations....

Montgomery (Ala.) Advertiser
September 8, 1937

"Protection of U.S. Nationals"

While the State Department's policy in the Sino-Japanese war has not been enunciated as clearly as it was at the outbreak of the Spanish revolution, President Roosevelt took pains a few days ago to emphasize the fact that the Americans
have been warned to get out of the Chinese war zone. It represents only a common-sense recognition that there are conditions which demand a higher regard than protection for a few Americans abroad. It is also a timely recognition of the nature of present-day warfare in which there is little distinction between the combatants and non-combatants of the countries at war.

Birmingham (Ala.) Age-Herald
September 8, 1937

"Americans in China"

Mr. Roosevelt having voiced the American policy that our citizens in China remain there at their own risk, it is to be assumed not only that no extraordinary measures will be taken in behalf of their safety beyond a reasonable effort to assist their evacuation....

American business men and missionaries in Shanghai do not like the President's attitude. One can understand their feeling and wish it were possible to do more for them without running the risk of losing more lives than were saved.....

But the cooler view best obtained at some distance from the struggle, is that the President is taking the wiser course.

San Jose (Calif.) Mercury Herald
September 4, 1937

"An International Outlaw"

So far as we are concerned there is nothing to do but meekly submit to Japanese dictatorship, for our interests in the Far East do not justify force to protect them.
"The Wise Course"

(Approves the President's announcement not to send more ships to China)

To detach more modern ships from the fleet in order to strengthen our forces in China would be unnecessary and viewed from the Japanese point of view, possibly provocative. The fleet is where it belongs, at home — and assembled in a body.

That being the case, moving ships about, or for that matter unnecessary talk of moving ships, would be both unnecessary and unwise.

#

"None of Our Business"

.........And whether we ought to apply the provisions of the neutrality law to China and Japan is something to be decided according to its probable effect upon ourselves; and not what effect it may have upon the results of the war between those two nations.

#

(Gives size of navy and federal agencies in China) At first blush it seems a matter of supreme unconcern to America whether or not pirates infest the upper stretches of the Yangtze river; and certainly not a reason for spending time and money and risking American lives in patrolling the stream. And it has possibilities of international dynamite all neatly wrapped up in it.

##
"Get Out - Stay Out"

It is a very general feeling that after American warships and privately owned liners have taken the American citizens out of the war zone in China, this country should get out and stay out; that it should withdraw its naval and privately owned vessels and let the Chinese and Japanese fight it out amongst themselves, regardless of all this talk about freedom of the seas, etc.

The longer American-owned ships, whether naval or private, remain in the waters adjacent to the scene of the conflict the more opportunity there is for trouble.

There is nothing we want in the Orient. We should have no part in the quarrel between China and Japan, even though American munition makers may attempt to convince us that we have a sacred duty to perform....

Chairman David I. Walsh (Massachusetts Democrat) of the Senate Naval Affairs Committee in Washington has suggested that the American Government withdraw all naval and other forces from the war zone as soon as American citizens can be taken to safety. The suggestion is an excellent one. Let us get, and stay out! We want no part in this struggle in the Orient. We should have no part in it.

If American citizens in China, officially warned to leave the arena of war in China, will not quiet and be removed to places of safety, that is their fault, not that of the American Government or the American people. If our battleships remain on the scene, it is to be expected that stray shells and shots may wreck them and take American lives. If all of our citizens in China leave that territory, and our naval craft sail for home, there can be but few, if any, international complications which might involve us in this conflict. If they do not, they are courting trouble, trouble the American people as a whole cannot be expected to approve....
Let the United States get out, and stay out of China! Let other nations meddle if they desire, but let us keep our skirts clean.

If we persist in remaining on the scene, it will be our own fault when something happens, not that of either the Chinese or the Japanese. Let us not court trouble above all! These are days when sanity should prevail, at least on the part of the peaceful citizens of these United States.

Trenton (N.J.) Evening Times
September 9, 1937

"The Second World War"

While Americans find their way everywhere, either on business or on pleasure, and our trade penetrates to the far corners of the earth, we cannot remain remote and aloof. But we can, and should, resist the lures, the enticements and the temptations that are designed to carry us into the second world war, which even now is in the making.

It seems incredible, hopeful though we may continue to be, that the present crisis, which holds all the potentialities of war, can pass without the falling of the spark into the awaiting tinder box.

As the crisis becomes increasingly acute, our duty becomes more clearly apparent. We must be more judicious and more determined, regardless of provocation, and hold steadfast to the purpose of remaining out of it. Our slogan, now and forever, is this: "Never again for Uncle Sam."

Trenton (N.J.) State Gazette
September 7, 1937

"At Their Own Risk"

In the past there have been essentially obdurate and selfish Americans who have insisted, for purely personal reasons, in remaining in foreign lands under conditions of grave danger and then have called piteously for the help of their
government when they became involved in trouble. The old theory that the flag follows every American and every American dollar, regardless of circumstances, has now happily been discarded in favor of the more enlightened and just rule that national welfare shall have precedence over individual interests.

With respect to Americans in China, President Roosevelt has laid down a policy similar to that applied to Americans in Ethiopia in 1935 and in Spain a year ago.... The United States Government cannot assume responsibility for those who choose to remain.

This course will meet with the approval of thoughtful public opinion. Under the influence of events of recent years, Americans have become more realistic and have put aside the pseudo-patriotism of a more naive day that called for the clang of arms and the waving of the flag whenever an American oil concession was jeopardized or an indiscreet citizen became involved in difficulties with foreign authorities. It is something to have learned not to risk the danger of war without adequate cause, if there is such a thing as adequate cause.
International events take their course with the causes thereof so complex that most of us can have but very little knowledge about them. Governments, of course, having far better means of obtaining information, should be much better conversant with the facts.

But in this instance of the undeclared war between China and Japan, the causes which make for the conflict are not so important to us as our desire to steer clear from foreign entanglements which may land us in the midst of war without our hardly knowing it.

To protect us from being drawn into a conflict not of our choosing Congress passed the neutrality law. If that is so, then why not apply it?

*****

MINNESOTA LEADER
St. Paul, Minnesota
August 28, 1937

KEEPS HIS HEAD

Not so many years ago, an incident such as the shelling of the U.S.S. Augusta in Shanghai Harbor, which resulted in the killing of a United States sailor and the wounding of more than a score of others, would have resulted in open hostilities.

During the flurry of excitement which prevailed following the incident, President Roosevelt calmly announced that the matter will be treated as an "unfortunate accident" and will have no effect in altering the Far East policy of this government.

Many a war has followed just such "unfortunate accidents." The President is to be complimented on his attitude, which indicates that he will not permit hysteria or a false sense of national honor to cause us to draw the sword.

That the Sino-Japanese conflict has now assumed the stage of actual warfare between these two countries nobody longer doubts, even though their armies are fighting without an actual declaration of war. The battlefields are far-flung,
and major battles are in progress in at least three widely separated points. It is no longer a localized affair.

In view of this fact, it is rather puzzling why the United States does not invoke its neutrality laws against both sides to the conflict. Are there business considerations which prevent our doing so?

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OHIO VALLEY LABOR NEWS
Wheeling, West Virginia
September 3, 1937

KEEPING OUT OF THE SINO-JAPANESE WAR

One of the great contributing factors to our entrance into the World War was the Lusitania disaster. That incident was used later by the jingoists to arouse the war hysteria in our people. Now again a similar situation presents itself. Our own ship, the "Augusta," has been fired on and one of our sailors killed. This is bound to happen in any war if we have our battleships in the war zone as targets, and thousands of our marines actually within reach of the guns of both contestants.

True, there are many Americans in China, but they went at their own risk, most of them for commercial reasons. Anyone in China during the past five years knows only too well that the powder barrel was ready to explode, but, now that it has exploded, they cry to Uncle Sam to come to their rescue. Our marines did go to the rescue, but several weeks have elapsed since hostilities began, enough time to evacuate all who intend leaving.

We have no right to risk American involvement in a Pacific war to protect a few individuals in the war zone; and, more important, we must not fight to save the investments of corporations which hold immense concessions in China, protected, at the present time, by American gunboats. In 1917, the workers of the United States fought to protect the money loaned to the Allies that was in danger of being lost. Are American workers going to be duped again into fighting supposedly for the integrity of China, but in actuality for the protection of the investments of powerful industrial groups?
Since we are to do the fighting, let us have the deciding of our fate in our own hands. Now is the time to withdraw all marines and ships from Chinese waters, before a few more accidental bombings involve us in war with Japan. President Roosevelt is commander-in-chief of the armed forces of this nation, and has the right to order American ships back into home waters. This he should do at once. Up to now nothing has been done, either to withdraw our forces or to make our neutrality law effective. A great popular demand should be making itself heard immediately so as to force the President to do all in his power to keep us out of another useless war.

KERN COUNTY UNION LABOR JOURNAL
Bakersfield, California
September 10, 1937

THE WORLD FACES WHOLESALE MURDER

Far be it from me to urge the United States to embark on another quixotic venture to make the world safe for democracy. But if we are serious about this neutrality business, we'd better draw into our shell, let American investors assume their own risks in foreign countries, and prepare to set along without about fifty per cent of the foreign trade we are now enjoying. For the old world is on the brink of fratricide, and unless we clear out of the danger zones COMPLETELY we will be in it up to our necks. You can't have neutrality and still assume responsibility for the protection of property, lives and investments in countries involved in war. And we had better make up our minds pretty quick.

It is not a question of when the war will "start." The world war has been getting under way for some time....

BRADFORD UNION
Bradford, Pa.
August 27, 1937

U. S. INVADES CHINA?

The State Department announced that 1200 Marines have been ordered from California to Shanghai "to protect American lives and property."

It will take these marines FIVE WEEKS to land at their destination. It
would take the Americans in Shanghai only a few days to get out.

Yet our State Department plans to move 1200 marines to reinforce our troops in China (in addition to the 39 U. S. warships now in Chinese waters) rather than tell 2500 Americans to clear out of the danger zone.

What are our military service for? When appropriations are requested, the story is that we are preparing to defend our shores. But here we send troops, ships and Marines to a foreign country, 6,400 miles away, to take part in a quarrel that doesn't concern us.

For what? To protect a handful of American business men, adventurers and thrill seekers, all of whom knew perfectly well when they went there that Shanghai is not the safest place on the map.

If they want to take those chances, that's O. K. But they have no right to endanger the lives of our soldiers or the peace of 130,000,000 people who are neither interested in Shanghai profits nor Shanghai night life.

Americans will no longer subscribe to the costly and dangerous theory that we keep an army and navy for the purpose of protecting any reckless American anywhere on earth under any circumstances.

What will our marines do when they arrive? Presumably, protect the international settlement, where Americans, English and Japanese live, against the Chinese, who merely happen to be the inhabitants of the country, the "natives" as they so condescendingly say in the swank Shanghai clubs.

Why should we help Japan conquer China or help China to defend itself against Japan? Why should we put ourselves in a position where friction with the Japanese can easily lead us into a war with that nation -- for the sake of 2500 obstinate American nationals in Shanghai who refuse to get out?

In the five weeks it would take the Marines to reach China, every American could be evacuated. As for American property, we could lose all of it in Shanghai and not miss it. The total U. S. investment in all China is less than the price of four battleships.

Let the State Department rescind its order for an invasion of a friendly
nation and instead tell the Americans in Shanghai to be out of there in one week or accept the consequences.

And if the State Department won't, Congress should step into the picture and forbid the transfer of American military forces to foreign soil.

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LABOR
Washington, D. C.
September 14, 1937

"KEEP CUT!" URGE WAR-WEARY VETERANS

Former Service Men, in Message to Roosevelt, Voice Feelings on American People Concerning Foreign Entanglement

Believing that "the peace of the United States is as seriously threatened today as it was in 1914," 4,000 delegates to the national encompmnent of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, meeting in Buffalo, last week demanded that the Roosevelt administration keep this country out of Old War controversies. There was just one dissenting vote -- one in 4,000!

LABOR ventures the assertion that the American people stand back of the plea in about the same proportion.

"We know war and we hate war," the veterans declared, in a telegram to the President in which they outlined the following specific program:

"We demand mandatory neutrality legislation.

"We demand that the existence of war be recognized, whether formalities of declaration have been made or not.

"We demand the protection of American lives with the full power of the American navy, within a definite, limited period of time for them to evacuate themselves from war zones, and upon their failure to do so to accept the responsibility of the situation into which they have put themselves.

"We demand that the principles of mandatory neutrality should be invoked even to the extent of not permitting the use of the American flag on any vessel violating any of the rules of the American government, pertaining to trading with belligerents."
"We demand that the armed forces of the United States be withdrawn from all foreign soil except such as are needed, at a minimum, to protect American government property."

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The veterans pointed out that we tried "discretionary neutrality" in 1914, with the result that we became involved in the World War, and they insisted we must not risk a repetition of that experience. "So long as neutrality is discretionary there can be no neutrality," they told Mr. Roosevelt, and they concluded with the following "resolve":

"That this encampment go on record as declaring the first and primary purpose of the Veterans of Foreign Wars to be the unceasing efforts on behalf of the peace of the American people, and that preparedness shall be used only to prevent foreign aggression against the American nation."

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While there is not the slightest doubt that the veterans voice the sentiments of the American people, unfortunately there is also not the slightest doubt that powerful foreign influences are at work to make Uncle Sam the "goat" in another overseas war, in China or in Europe, and possibly in both.

And those foreign influences have the support of our militarists, our professional diplomats and many of our international bankers.

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We now know that five years ago, during the Hoover administration, Secretary of State Stimson, without consulting the people or the Congress, assured the British and other European governments that we were prepared to take "strong measures" -- another name for war -- in order to prevent the taking over of Manchuria by Japan. The only thing that saved us then was the refusal of the British government to go along with Stimson's mad scheme.

The fact that we had such a narrow escape from catastrophe five years ago emphasizes the need of being on the alert now.

......
WHEN WAR WILL CEASE

Raymond Clapper appears to think that Secretary of State Hull has the solution of the problem of war and that he is a pathetic figure all alone in the universe seeking the application of that solution.

Mr. Hull is an earnest gentleman whose efforts to make trade treaties with other countries have been mainly to the good. It is desirable that there should not be drastic trade barriers between nations. It is even possible that the removal of such barriers might prevent a war or two. But to look upon this as "the" solution of the problem of war is nonsense.

Mr. Hull's own statement of the foreign policy of the United States in the present administration, issued last June, was not so harmless as his trade treaties. Although advocating peaceful measures, the statement made the pointed assertion that "there can be no serious hostilities anywhere in the world which will not one way or another affect interests or rights or obligations of this country." This looks like a very harmless recital of an obvious fact, but it was made right at the time when the Japan-Chinese situation began to become critical, and some Washington correspondents took it as a warning to Japan that the United States would go to war rather than have its commercial interests in China in any way damaged.

If it should do so, our boys would die for the benefit of oil companies and other industries. And now our country is in the midst of the jam. If it is not seeking trouble, what is it doing?

The recent warning, by the administration, that Americans should come out of China or stay there at their own risk, was timely. Now let it be followed by withdrawal of marines and war vessels.

Of course, the people of the United States believe in peace. Didn't they reelect Woodrow Wilson in 1916 because
he kept us out of the war that we made him go into in 1917?

And make no mistake about the fact that the country forced the
President into that war.

Today, the wars offer fresh markets that will restore foreign trade to
American cotton, and grains; markets for our machinery and war materials;
markets that will re-employ every unemployed man in the United States.

We repel the very thought, hold in contempt the very suggestion of
yielding to the tempting bait of trade.

Aren't we fine idealists and a great people?

Yes, we are!

But it took only three years to change a copy of the present picture, back
in 1914-17.

Watch your step when the war-whoopers develop loud voices -- and swat 'em!

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September 22, 1937

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

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Miss Dewson wants you to have the enclosed copies of her correspondence with Mr. Farley in reference to her resignation as Vice-Chairman of the Democratic National Committee.

Very sincerely yours,

Harlowe Allen Kerr
Secretary
September 22, 1937

Honorable James A. Farley
Chairman
Democratic National Committee
Hotel Biltmore
New York City

Dear Jim:

You said you would be here Wednesday to let me resign to you in proper shape, for my resignation is coming out with the October 1st Digest and I do think it should be brought out in the press in some way that will be satisfactory to the Committee.

I guess you thought my letter to you was too long. Well, I think myself that the press would not carry so much. But I do think some announcement must be given to the press and I should think it ought to be done on Monday, September 27th.

I am willing to go along with you in what I say, but suggest the enclosed.

I saw F.D.R. a few days ago and spoke to him about Emma Guffey Miller. I said, when, after my announcement, Emma asks to be put in charge of the Women’s Division in my place, it can be said that Mrs. McAllister is a very satisfactory Director of the Women’s Division and that no change is contemplated; and, moreover, that there is no reason why a national committeewoman should be Director of the Women’s Division. In fact, the executive staff of the Committee has not usually, at least in recent years, been drawn from among the national committeemen or women. Neither Jouett Shouse, you, nor I were, nor Mrs. Wolfe. Mrs. Miller is already one of the Vice Chairmen of the Committee with the same duties as the other seven women and ten men. The fact that I, a member of the executive staff, was made a Vice Chairman of the Committee after five years’ service I consider was a gesture of approval of my work, but in no way changed my relationship to it.

I was not quite so long-winded as this to the President, but he caught the idea and said I’ll tell Mrs. Miller myself if necessary.
Mr. Farley — September 22, 1937

As numberless political leaders have written me and I have answered their letters it will be no shock to women in general that I am going to be on the political side-lines, although perhaps the most interested spectator.

Faithfully yours,

(Miss) Mary W. Dawson
Mr. James A. Farley,
Chairman of the Democratic National Committee,
The Biltmore,
New York City.

Dear Mr. Farley:

I enclose a copy of my resignation as vice-chairman of the Democratic National Committee. I could not serve as a member of the non-partisan Social Security Board and at the same time be responsible for women's work on the Committee.

The plans of the Women's Division are well established and meet general approval. Mrs. MacAllister, Director of the Women's Division, and Mrs. Evans, her assistant, are carrying on with rare intelligence and enthusiasm. The leadership is able, experienced hands and Democratic women everywhere know what to do and how to do it. I believe the time has come when it is fair to leave those with whom I have labored with such deep satisfaction and return to my old field to help in the administration of a law that will make our dreams of elemental social security a reality and as inconspicuous and effective a part of our life as a pure water supply or an adequate fire system.

Last but not least I want to thank you and also Mr. Michelson from the bottom of my heart for your unflagging helpfulness and generosity toward our work and our ideas. You have taken us into your counsels and thought of us not as women but as workers in the greatest cause our nation has ever known, equality of opportunity for all and at least a minimum of security.

Very sincerely yours,

(Miss) Mary W. Dewson,
Member

September 22, 1937
September 24, 1937

Dear Molly:

Many thanks for your letter of September 22 about Florence Bookle. I do know her and will show your letter to the President.

Affectionately

Miss Mary W. Dewson
Social Security Board
Washington
October 6, 1937

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

Dear Eleanor:

I thought this would entertain you: Mrs. Fred Essary went to Republican headquarters to get a story. She talked to the publicity man who said he was pleased with Miss Martin, and that he had given her one piece of advice - they don't want any old, heavy, dowager stuff; just try to be as much like Molly Dewson as she could.

Affectionately yours,

Mary W. Dewson

Please put a date on your calendar for the first minute you can come to have lunch or drive into the country house in Best.
November 12, 1937

My dear Miss Dewson:

In accordance with Mrs. Roosevelt's instructions I am sending you a copy of a paragraph taken from a letter of recent date from Mrs. Kathryn Van Leuven to Mrs. Roosevelt.

Very sincerely yours,

Miss Mary W. Dewson
Social Security Board
Washington
D.C.
Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt,
The White House,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Eleanor:

I have the excerpt from Kathryn Van Leuven's letter to you of October 28 referring to the youth of the workers in our Legal Department. As a matter of fact the ages of our attorneys are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20 - 30</td>
<td>25</td>
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<tr>
<td>30 - 40</td>
<td>37</td>
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<tr>
<td>40 - 50</td>
<td>19</td>
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<tr>
<td>50 - 60</td>
<td>11</td>
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<td>60 - 70</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Average age - 37

A certain type of our work is well within the ability of the young lawyers to whom we pay a beginning wage of $2,000. An older lawyer who would be satisfied with this remuneration would not compare with the bright young men and women we can get just out of law school. They are not supposed to be "fountains of legal wisdom".

Affectionately yours,

Mary W. Dewson
Member of the Board
Excerpt from letter to Mrs. Roosevelt from Kathryn Van Leuven, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. October 28, 1937

This age idea is also prevalent in Government circles. On the Legal Staff of the Social Security Board where I attempted to serve the Administration, there is a section which boasts that it contains no person over the age of twenty-nine. I am a mother of a son, as you know, and I ask you in all sincerity, with our common knowledge of our sons, do you think the fountain of legal wisdom is embodied in boys under the age of twenty-nine?
December 31, 1937

Dear Molly:

I love the velvet saarf and think your Christmas card is perfectly delightful. I hope you had a very happy Christmas. Mine was a little dislocated but I am very glad that I went out to Anna. She is getting along splendidly and I am not in the least worried, but I was able to do a good many things for her and the children.

I hope to see you before long.

Much love,

Miss Molly Dawson
3264 N Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C.
January 3, 1939

My dear Miss Dewson:

Mrs. Roosevelt asks me to send you the enclosed letter she has received. If, after investigation, it is found that what the woman says is correct, could you suggest any place where she might find employment?

Very sincerely yours,

Malvina T. Scheider
Secretary to
Mrs. Roosevelt

Miss Mary W. Dewson
Social Security Board
Washington, D.C.
January 5, 1938

Dear Molly:

Many thanks for sending the clipping from the Boston Post. I hadn't seen it and it is nice.

Affectionately,

Miss Mary W. Dawson
Social Security Board
Washington, D.C.
December 16, 1937

Honorable Mary W. Dewson
Member of the Social Security Board
Washington, District of Columbia

Dear Molly:

Hurrah! Hurrah! Hurrah! The dear old Boston Post which spends all its time and effort smashing down the Roosevelt administration in spite of the fact that it receives its backing from Democrats has at last been driven to make this nice remark as shown in the attached clipping.

I trust you will get it to Mrs. Roosevelt so that she may realize how profitable are many of her kindly ventures and how even a stupid, hostile press can finally be brought to heel by really decent people.

You have no idea what a kick I got out of this clipping and I am saving it for future reference if the Post gets fresh again.

Cordially,

Mary

[Handwritten note]

Dear Eleanor. You have probably seen this editorial. I share May's wards deep satisfaction that THE WORLD is beginning to see you as those who have always loved and do - Molly.
THE LIKABLE LADY

There is something infectious in the charm that Mrs. Roosevelt has, and something that is slowly but surely sinking into the heart of this nation of ours.

Her trip to the backwoods of West Virginia with Doris Duke Cromwell was a round of fun, and warm, human, simple friendliness.

The reaction to it, even in circles which usually turn a cold shoulder on her, was surprising. She has been smiling her way up and down and across this country for many years. A lot of people have said, "She should stay at home." Others have disparaged her activity.

But as time goes on, she seems to be winning hearts. The press, generally, not in favor of wide-spending or nebulous settlement plans, is turning to her as the one unusual and great character among the women of this age.

High-born, yet intensely humble in her concept of public welfare, her honest smile is something that might well be remembered when the New Deal is history and a new epoch dawns.

"One editor said that she likes people, not in the political concept, but as 'folks.' And her attraction seems to be that she is 'folks' herself."

THE COAL MONOPOLY
January 8, 1938

Letter from Mary Dewson, concerning commodities distribution in Milton, Mass. sent to Aubrey Williams.
January 11, 1938

Dear Miss Dewson:

The only chance Mrs. Roosevelt would have to go to Kansas in the summer would be if the President were making a trip to the coast. She could probably stop there on her return. However, no one seems to know what his plans for the summer are going to be and consequently Mrs. Roosevelt cannot make any of her own.

Very sincerely,

Secretary to
Mrs. Roosevelt

Miss Mary Dewson
Social Security Board
Washington
D.C.
Dear Miss Dewson:

I wrote a letter to Mrs. Roosevelt inviting her out to the school sometime next summer. Her itinerary will not permit her to accept but I want you to intercede in our behalf in case you should find that she was going to have some spare time. Aside from the fact that we want her very much at the school, I know that a visit from her would be most beneficial for the reelection of Governor Huxman.

Kansas in political appearance resembles a leopard. We have some Republican spots over the State that we are trying to combat and the Girls' School is in the midst of one of those spots because this school for fifteen years has been under control of a Republican superintendent.

We had planned that if Mrs. Roosevelt could come, we would have the Governor to introduce her and have a loud speaking system with her speaking from the porch and we have a large campus that would accommodate several thousands of people.

I feel that it would be a great thing for Kansas. The women have been such diligent workers and it would be such a compliment to them.

I wish for you a Happy New Year.

Sincerely,

Blanche Peterson

Superintendent
January 14, 1938

Dear Eleanor:

You certainly came across in Memphis, and I am glad you did, for many reasons. One of these is that, although Judge Kelley is the supreme egotist, she really has been a good friend.

Faithfully yours,

Mary E. Dewson

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt,
The White House,
Washington, D.C.
Miss Mary Dewson
Social Security Board
Washington, D. C.

My dear Miss Dewson:

Your touch is magic. Mrs. Roosevelt came to Memphis
a few weeks ago and delivered one of the finest addresses I have ever
heard. At the close of the address she answered many questions and
everyone commented on the psychology and philosophy, the quick wit and
the fine basic principle involved in the answers.

Our first Lady filled my cup to overflowing by seeing
me at the hotel, expressing her interest in my work, visiting the
Juvenile Court, and mentioning my work in her lecture and in her "My way"
column. It just couldn't have worked out any better and I deeply appreci­
ate your interest and her response.

She stated in her column that I was the only woman
Judge in the South, instead of the first woman Judge in the South, and
subsequently corrected that statement. I will have to get busy now and
do some hard, steady work for the Democratic Party so I will stay on
your Honor Hall.

I am enclosing a clipping to prove that I am on my
toes and watching for ways to increase the interest of the masses in
government. If we can get sixty thousand graduate students in an
auditorium and put on a little play on naturalization, it is going to
hold up the hands of our New Deal officials and carry on the ideals of
our wonderful President.

The General Federation of Women's Clubs has invited
me to be on a program January 20th at 4:30 Eastern Standard Time. The
subject is "Crime Prevention and Parole". Mr. J. Edgar Hoover and
Mrs. Maud Bellington Booth are the other speakers. If you can stage
the first lull in your business activities for the last ten years, you
might listen in. It will be carried over N.B.C. Blue network.

I know you are carrying on in a glorious way in your
new field.
Again let me very sincerely thank you for your interest in my work, and please remember that I am a Southern, Irish Democrat and at your service always.

Cordially your friend,

[Signature]

Judge.

[Handwritten note: CK: 1:1]
Citizenship Mass Meet
Urged By Judge Kelley

‘Pupils and Parents Need Teaching Given To
Naturalization Class,' She Says

Federal Court was packed Tuesday with Memphis citizens to hear
Judge Florence Allen and Judge John D. Martin welcome six for-
eign-born persons and one American-born woman (who lost her citi-
zenship thru marriage) to American citizenship by naturaliza-
tion.

Many Memphians commented as they left the court-
room that these new citizens knew more about the
American government than native citizens.

One making such comment was Judge Ca-
mille Kelley of the Juvenile
Court—and Judge Kelley decided
to do something about it.

Today, in a speech before the
Junior Chamber of Commerce at
Hotel Peabody, she proposed a citi-
zenship mass meeting for public,
private and parochial school gradu-
ates at the Auditorium in June. Ob-
ject would be to give high school
students—and their parents—inst-
uctions along the same lines as
those given the naturalization class.

‘Learn the Preamble’

"Let every child learn the pre-
amble to the Constitution by heart
—and it wouldn’t hurt their
mothers and daddies to learn it,
too," Judge Kelley told the Jay-
cees. "I hate to think that the for-
eign-born citizens learn more about
government than the native

born and therefore sometimes be-
come better citizens.

"Judge Martin has enthusiastically
indorsed the idea, has promised
to participate and to use his in-
fluence to get Judge Allen (Cleve-
land, Ohio, judge now sitting on
the TVA hearing at Chattanooga) to
return to Memphis and repeat the
inspiring talk she made to the
naturalization class. I’ve discussed
it with Commissioner Boyle, who
has promised his co-operation, and
it has been taken up with Superin-
tendent Ball of the city schools, who
has promised his.

Judge Kelley’s subject was "Our
Citizenship in 1938." She stressed
modern day preventive measures in-
stead of curative measures for
elimination of crime and the build-
ing of good citizenship.

Citizenship Helps All

"Citizenship builds cities and de-
velops facilities for better living.
The awakened conscience of peo-
ple who live in a city makes for
good or bad living. Loyalty to what
the government represents, not po-
litically but nationally, is im-
perative. We must seek not for war
but for intelligent peace.

"Tuesday’s naturalization meeting
was a thrilling and inspiring inci-
dent. It inspired patriotism in the
minds and hearts of listeners—the
kind of patriotism that makes one
appreciate freedom, obligation and
ideals, not the kind that stirs ani-
mosity against people or heats blood
to hate.

"It occurred to me there should
be universal training in the minds
of people about what a unified gov-
ernment means—especially in a free
country like America. We’d be more
worthy of what America means and
what its fundamentals promise.

"The answer, I believe, is the
June mass meeting, with talks by
Judge Allen and Judge Martin and
a play or program built around the
naturalization ceremonial."
Dear Malvina:

Harriet tells me you want me to tell you when I think it is really exceedingly worth while for Mrs. Roosevelt to accept invitations. This was in regard to Mrs. Blanche Peterson's request that Mrs. Roosevelt stop at the Girls' Industrial School, Beloit, Kansas.

Mrs. Peterson is O.K. and a good Democrat, but you have in Mrs. Georgie W. Clark, the National Committeewoman, and Miss Helen Houston, the State Vice Chairman, two of the swellest Democratic workers in the country and I would rather Mrs. Roosevelt would write to them if she can ever be in Kansas and ask whether they would like to have her appear at a meeting.

She might say that I have always told her that it was the women who carried Kansas for the Democrats against its own favorite son, Landon. Plenty of Democrats worked hard but these girls carried out our six-point program campaign plans magnificently. They deserve a smile from our First Lady.

Sincerely yours,

Mary W. Dewson

Mrs. Malvina Scheider,
Secretary to Mrs. Roosevelt,
The White House,
Washington, D.C.
SOCIAL SECURITY BOARD  
WASHINGTON, D. C.  

January 20, 1938  

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

Dear Malvina:  

In regard to Rhoda M. Starr, I don't really know of any temporary or non-civil service appointment. We are completely under the civil service law ourselves. So much for opportunity.  

As to Miss Starr's ability to hold a position in a large organization, her New York experience is not very encouraging. I enclose a report from Mrs. Rosenberg about that.  

Miss Starr went to the School of Social Work in Chicago and the Abbots thought quite well of her. In 1929, Miss Lenroot took her on for a few months when they were making a study of the maintenance-of-way workers and she was all right at interviewing families. From there she went to New York and did something in relation to welfare work and the reports Miss Lenroot received were that she was impossible for any job which required leadership, organization or management ability.  

It is terribly hard on a person when she gets out of the main current. I am sorry I am so unhelpful.  

Sincerely yours,  

Mary W. Dewson  
Member of the Board
Office of the Regional Director  
Region II  
11 West 42nd Street  
New York, New York

CONFIDENTIAL

Miss Mary W. Dewson
Member
Social Security Board
Washington, D. C.

January 17, 1938

Dear Molly:

I am sorry for the long delay in replying to your letter of January 6 with regard to Rhoda M. Starr; but, as I wanted to get some definite information before doing so, the delay in writing has been unavoidable.

What I have been able to find out is not so good, and I am forwarding it to you for such action as you may wish to take on her letter to Mrs. Roosevelt. The following is a transcript from Miss Alice Webber's report on her investigation of Miss Starr's qualifications:

"I have done some telephoning and have had some confidential information given me by people who do not wish to be quoted since they regard Miss Starr as 'a pathetic case'. She is apparently a person of intelligence and education but ineffective performance. When she worked for the New York State department, she 'left a trail of hostility behind her'. Following this experience, she had a 'nervous breakdown'. Since that time she has appeared to be better but unable to get a job. She is now, of course, working as a volunteer. It is implied that her record with the Children's Bureau in Washington is not particularly good. With regard to the examination which Miss Starr says she has taken for the New York State Department of Social Welfare, these papers have not yet been rated by the State Civil Service Commission."

If there is anything further you wish me to do in the matter, please do not hesitate to write me.

Sincerely yours

Anna H. Rosenberg
Regional Director
January 20, 1938

Dear Mrs. Scheider:

I should have returned Miss Rhoda W. Starr's original letter with enclosure when I sent Miss Dewson's reply this morning. I attach them hereto and hope the delay has not inconvenienced you.

Sincerely yours,

Mary E. Stevenson
Assistant Secretary to Miss Dewson

Mrs. Malvina T. Scheider,
Secretary to Mrs. Roosevelt,
The White House,
Washington, D.C.
Mrs. Franklin Roosevelt,
White House,
Washington, D.C.

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt -

Would it be at all possible for you to refer my name to some one of the social work or social research agencies with which you are in contact? I write you only after two years of unemployment, the first of which was a very expensive one of illness. Yet, as you see by the enclosed summary of my experience, this has been very good and varied. I am told also, by Miss Lillian Quinn, of our placement bureau (Agrim Vocational Service, New York City) that my references are good.

I am willing to go anywhere in the country.

Because you seem to have time and interest to devote to an innumerable number of details unimportant in your life, but of great importance in the lives of others, I have ventured to write this letter. I have applied, during the
Two years, and friends of standing in the profession have written for me, to several of the
emergency Federal set-ups, without result - the
Bureau of Public Assistance, the F.E.R.R., social
service bureaus in Old Age Security etc. It
has seemed to me that you might be in a
strategic position to know of temporary and
non-civil service appointments pending Civil
Service examinations. I might pass later. I
have rated well (among the first few) in several
U.S. Civil Service examinations - in the Indian
Department, the Quin remaining, and the U.S.
Children's Bureau - but the lists are now all
out of date. I have taken two recent
examinations for supervisory positions in the New
York State Department of Social Welfare, belief I
shall grade quite highly - but it is natural
and probable, of course, that the temporary
applicants who have been doing the job the last
several years should also do well and be appointed.

My academic training (acquired when I
was hoping to teach social work courses) as well as
my experience has been unusually broad, and
should qualify me for a wide number of fields, though I am especially interested in either public welfare or social research.

As you will note, my last year's work has been voluntary, as Dr. Beachoff, the head of the Research Bureau, made it plain, from the beginning, that she is not financially able to add to the staff. As I cannot go on endlessly using up my limited resources, I may return, within a month or so, to my mother's home in Rochester, N.Y., unless something turns up.

If you could find the time and interest to allow me to talk with you at any time, I should be very glad to arrange to meet you anywhere in this part of the country, or to come to Washington. However, if you could not be able to devote personal attention to the problem of only one individual in the country, believe me that I shall understand.

Sincerely,

Blanche M. Stare.
January 20, 1938

Mrs. Melvina T. Scheider,
Secretary to Mrs. Roosevelt,
The White House,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Melvina:

In regard to Rhoda W. Starr, I don't really know of any temporary or non-civil service appointment. We are completely under the civil service law ourselves. So much for opportunity.

As to Miss Starr's ability to hold a position in a large organization, her New York experience is not very encouraging. I enclose a report from Mrs. Rosenberg about that.

Miss Starr went to the School of Social Work in Chicago and the Abotts thought quite well of her. In 1929, Miss Lenroot took her on for a few months when they were making a study of the maintenance-of-way workers and she was all right at interviewing families. From there she went to New York and did something in relation to welfare work and the reports Miss Lenroot received were that she was impossible for any job which required leadership, organization or management ability.

It is terribly hard on a person when she gets out of the main current. I am sorry I am so unhelpful.

Sincerely yours,

Mary F. Dewson
Member of the Board

also:ob
Name - Rhoda M. Starr

Address - 19 Monroe Street, New York City, N.Y. 10002
Apartment H 1-6
Welfare Council of New York
44 East 23rd St., New York City

Home Tel. - Drydock 4-7856
Office Tel. - Algonquin 4-9500
Ext. 105

Age - 45 - Unmarried

Education -
University of Rochester

University of Chicago (Graduate School of Social Service Administration)

B.A. Fellowship

(besides an extra year's study toward a Ph.D. degree, 1929-30)

New York School of Social Work, 122 East 22nd St.

1 year Certificate

besides 4 points in psychiatric courses during summer 1937

Professional record -

Nov. 1936 - Present

(Welfare Council of New York City, Research Bureau.
Research assistant, assigned to special research projects for the various divisions of the Council.
Examples:
(1) Housing Division - Collected data and wrote paper, for publication, upon Education for Housing in American colleges.
(2) Division of Regional Organization - Gathered material resources for recreation for children in three sections of city and conferred with the social agencies interested in further plans for analysis of needs and plans to meet needs. Tabulated and summarised data submitted by 80 schools in one section of the city as to the educational, health, social, etc., facilities offered by each. This material is serving as a basis for self-study and planning for a local committee.
(3) Division of Neighborhood Statistics - Consulted social and civic agencies as to material they could provide for a follow-up study of 1,000 children whose records of delinquency had forced the basis for a book on juvenile delinquency in 1926. Read records, visited some of the individual young people, etc.
Assisted with tabulation of population figures for census tracts and health areas in New York City for three successive decades 1910-1930.
1935 - 1936  Rochester (N.Y.) Department of Public Welfare. Assistant case supervisor. Supervised 3-10 case-workers, in addition to clerical assistants. Assigned work, consulted on problems, was responsible for evaluations, as well as monthly reports, etc. In addition, conducted two weekly (one hour each) study groups of 15-20 case-workers each and acted as representative of the Department upon a district conference consisting of representatives of 40 social agencies.

1930-1935  New York State Department of Social Welfare, as Supervisor of the Bureau of Home Relief. This Bureau was a new creation, designed to carry out the responsibility of the Department for advising local public welfare officers of the State (town, city, and county) in problems of home relief. The staff, however, consisted only of two field assistants, and a stenographer, in addition to myself, and, as the legislature set up a large and independent organization the TARA, almost immediately after the Bureau was created, it was deemed necessary to abolish the Bureau. While it existed, we gave advice to local officials through correspondence, interview, visit, etc. As supervisor, I taught a number of classes and round tables at conferences of public welfare officials and at state conferences of social work. Much consultation and coordination with state and local social agencies and public departments was necessary. As the TARA grew, the Bureau was asked to become more of a research organization, and to make intensive studies of local communities in order to define problems and point out needed changes. These studies were submitted to the local officials and the State Board. They covered such phases as general background (industries, population, history), personnel of the public welfare office, salaries, training, qualifications, office records and reports, case records, case-work, relations to other local agencies, legal restrictions in charters, etc.

1929 - 30  1927-28  Student at University of Chicago

Two temporary part-time positions in vacations or while studying.

Supervisor of one Chicago district of 1930 census. Advised census enumerators in methods of collecting data, reviewed the reports they brought in daily.

Research assistant to Prof. William Burke, University of Chicago. Collected material for a book he was writing upon the care of the insane in Illinois. Reviewed old medical journals and daily papers, tabulated statistics from institution reports, etc.

1923 - 29  U.S. Children's Bureau, Washington, D.C. Assistant economic analyst. Employed for special study of conditions affecting children in eight states. Visited homes of individual children, consulted schools, clinics, employers, social and civic agencies.
Professional record (continued)

Jan. 1927-July 1927 Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Children and Children's Aid Society, Rochester, N.Y. Special case-worker. Part of time made special effort to build up homes of a selected group of children in order to make removal by court unnecessary. For several months made study for Commonwealth Fund of New York of patients discharged from Home State School (for the feebleminded) in order to determine whether they were adjusting successfully in the community. Salary was paid by the Rochester agency, which had arranged to be responsible for this follow-up.

1927-1927 Ill part of time, traveling part of time.


1925-1927 United Charities, St. Paul, Minnesota. District Secretary. In charge of district office, with a staff of varying size 4-6 case workers, 1-2 clerical assistants, besides about 15 students and volunteers through 10 months of year. On training committee of University of Minnesota, which planned student training. During second winter, after resignation of Superior, conducted the 2 weekly staff classes (one hour each) one for junior case workers, one for senior workers.

1921-1925 The Family Society, Philadelphia, Pa. Assistant District Superintendent. Carried case load, and assisted superintendent in 5 districts. For four months, in fourth district, was Acting District Superintendent.

1919-1921 Family Welfare Society, New Bedford, Mass. District Secretary of district with no assistants except stenographer and volunteers. For two months, during absence of general secretary, was in charge of the workers in the three districts of the society.

1918-1919 United Charities, York, Pa. Case-worker for a branch of the society dealing with delinquent children. Acted as parole officer for local court, as visiting teacher for problem cases referred by the schools, etc. For a year, after the general secretary left, was in charge of the work of this agency, as general secretary, but left as wished supervision and training.

Previous to 1918 A number of short-time special projects or research studies.

Possible fields -

Social research
Family or children's case-work
Psychiatric case-work
Medical social work
Public welfare
References:

Walter Pettit, Assistant Director, New York School of Social Work,
122 East 22nd Street, N.Y.C.

Dr. Sophia M. Robison, Head of Division of Neighborhood Statistics,
Welfare Council of New York City, 44 East 23rd Street

Mrs. Alice F. Rothblatt, Secretary, Housing Section, Welfare Council
of New York City, 44 East 23rd Street

Dr. Sophonista Ouchimide, Prof, Public Welfare University
Chicago
Welfare Council of New York  
44 East 23 St.  
New York City  

Dec. 21, 1937  

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

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt—  

Would it be at all possible for you to refer my name to some one  
of the social work or social research agencies with which you are in  
contact? I write you only after two years of unemployment, the first  
of which was a very expensive one of illness. Yet, as you see by the  
enclosed summary of my experience, this has been very good and varied.  
I am told also, by Miss Lillian Quinn, of our placement bureau (Joint  
Vocational Service), New York City) that my references are good.  

I am willing to go anywhere in the country.  

Because you seem to have time and interest to devote to an  
innumerable number of details unimportant in your life, but of great  
importance in the lives of others, I have ventured to write this letter.  
I have applied, during the two years, and friends of standing in the  
profession have written for me, to several of the emergency Federal  
set-ups, without result—the Bureau of Public Assistance, the F.E.R.C.,  
social research bureaus in Old Age Security etc. It has seemed to me  
that you might be in a strategic position to know of temporary and  
non-civil service appointments, pending Civil Service examinations I  
might pass later. I have rated well (among the first few) in several  
U.S. Civil Service examinations — in the Indian Department, the prison  
service, and the U.S. Children's Bureau — but the lists are now all out  
of date. I have taken two recent examinations for supervisory positions  
in the New York State Department of Social Welfare, believe I shall  
grade quite highly — but it is natural and probable, of course, that  
the temporary appointees who have been doing the job the last several  
years should also do well and be appointed.  

My academic training (secured when I was hoping to teach social  
work courses) as well as my experience, has been unusually broad, and  
should qualify me for a wide number of fields, though I am especially  
interested in either public welfare or social research.
As you will note, my last year's work has been volunteer, as Dr. Deardorff, the head of the Research Bureau, made it plain, from the beginning, that she is not financially able to add to the staff. As I cannot go on endlessly using up my limited resources, I may return, within a month or so, to my mother's home in Rochester, N. Y., unless something "turns up".

If you could find the time and interest to allow me to talk with you at any time, I should be very glad to arrange to meet you anywhere in this part of the country, or to come to Washington. However, if you should not be able to devote personal attention to the problems of only one individual in the country, believe me that I shall understand.

Sincerely,

/s/ Rhoda M. Starr
February 8, 1938

Dear Eleanor:

You are so much interested in seeing them try to make the Digest pay that I thought you would be interested in the enclosed correspondence.

Affectionately yours,

Mary E. Dewson

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt,
The White House,
Washington, D.C.
February 8, 1938

PERSONAL

Dear May:

I was glad to see the story of the renewals and am eagerly waiting to see whether your new machinery will get a higher or lower percentage of the drive subscriptions than it has of the subscriptions made before the Digest-in-Every-Precinct campaign. I really think we must get at least sixty to sixty-five per cent renewals if we are going to stay at 20,000 without spectacular drives. (You can't have spectacular drives often because there is so much other valuable work to be done also and you are so fearfully short-handed.)

I say 20,000 for I seem to remember that this was the number of total subscriptions which would enable you to deliver them to the reader at seven cents a piece. Are you finding it any easier to get advertisements with 20,000 than with 10,000?

The Digest is not lost if we can't quite maintain the necessary 20,000 by the Digest-in-Every-Precinct method, for you still have the possibility of raising the difference among wealthy Democratic women who will serve as Digest Associates contributing so much a year. But that is a last resort.

You have done a grand job with the drive. Nothing but your imagination, energy and industry could have brought us the 20,000. However, I cannot bear to have you working three nights a week in the office until those ungodly hours. As soon as I get a free moment I am going to have luncheon with you and tell you how I feel about it.

Affectionately yours,

Mary W. Dawson

Mrs. May Thompson Evans,
Assistant Director, Women's Division,
Democratic National Committee,
Washington, D.C.
Dear Molly:

One reason we are so enthusiastic over our kind of organization for The Digest with not only a County Digest Director but Precinct Digest Heads is that these women eventually will be the machinery to get 90 or 100 percent renewals.

Building this machinery for renewals is our constant emphasis.

You will be interested in the attached record of renewals for the last seven months.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

Miss Mary W. Dewson
Social Security Board
Washington, D.C.
MEMORANDUM
February 2, 1938

TO: Mrs. McAllister
FROM: Mrs. Evans
RE: Percentage of Renewals, Excluding New York Subscriptions.
(Since Nancy Cook handles The Digest subscriptions after her own fashion, there is no reason to compute
the percent of New York renewals on percentage of renewals in trying to arrive at our general percent-
age of renewals.)

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Average percentage during last 5 months 21.7
Subscription Goal—

A Democratic Digest in Every Precinct

Democrats—both young and old, and rich and poor, and shy and bold,

enjoy the chance to hear or read—about some noble Party deed.

any, though, the thought prevails, would prefer to have these tales

outlined with something more than praise, so they, in spite of crowded days,

an understand the whys and wherefores, the ifs and ands, the buts and therefore

relating to th' Administration—and the conduct of the Nation.

ill of this—and much more, too, is on hand each month for you

through the Digest Democratic, in which you'll find there's nothing static.

if you want a ringside seat—for a National show that can't be beat,

ough up a Dollar—now and here—and you will get it for a year!

Digest sketches will include—all the Legislative brood;

intimate glimpses you will see, of leaders of Democracy.

d in the drive that will enroll precinct members thousand fold!

ach Vice Chairman cooperates with Digest Directors throughout the States.

subscribe for yourself and for a friend, and thus you'll serve a double end:

to get Party news beneath more hats—and bring to the Digest more Democrats!

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THE DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL COMMITTEE

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Make a personal contribution to your Party and to informed public opinion by securing ten
subscribers to THE DEMOCRATIC DIGEST.
Record their names below and return this list with subscription remittances

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$1.00 BRINGS YOU 12 MONTHLY ISSUES
Please make check or money order payable to The Democratic Digest, National Press
Building, Washington, D.C.
February 8, 1938

My dear Miss Dawson:

The enclosed letter has come to Mrs. Roosevelt and she wonders if you would not know of any place where the woman might have a chance for a job of some kind. Would there be anything under the Social Security, or could you suggest anything which Mrs. Roosevelt could pass on to her when she answers the letter?

I would appreciate your returning Mrs. Stanke's letter as I do not have a copy of it.

Very sincerely yours,

Malvina T. Scheider
Secretary to
Mrs. Roosevelt

Miss Mary Dawson
Social Security Administration
Washington, D.C.

Mrs. Wilma W. Stanke
Castle Rock
Washington
February 17, 1938

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

Dear Malvina:

I was very much interested in the letter which you sent me the other day from Mrs. William W. Stanke, of Castle Rock, Washington. You will remember that you asked whether there would be any sort of a job under the Social Security Board which Mrs. Stanke might fill, or whether there were any other suggestions we could make which Mrs. Roosevelt could pass on to her when she answered the letter.

As you may know, all the positions with the Federal Board are under Civil Service. Since Mrs. Stanke apparently does not have Federal Civil Service status, the only advice we could give would be to suggest that she take all Federal Civil Service examinations for which she could qualify. There might be a possibility of some sort of a position under the Washington State Department of Social Security, which has a merit system for the selection of State and local personnel. Mrs. Stanke indicates that she has taken all the State examinations offered so far, but has been unsuccessful in securing an appointment. According to our information, Mrs. Stanke might qualify, on the basis of education and experience, for admission to examinations for some of the junior county social work positions under the State Department. The Social Security Board has no jurisdiction over the selection of individuals for State or local positions so that the only suggestion we could make would be that Mrs. Stanke write Mr. Charles Ernst, Director of the State Department of Social Security, Olympia, Washington, to ascertain whether there is any possibility of new examinations.

There are several other suggestions which might be made to Mrs. Stanke through which her situation might be somewhat alleviated. If her husband is not too ill, it might be possible for him to secure retraining for a suitable occupation through vocational rehabilitation. Mr. Claude H. Onoa, State Supervisor of Vocational Rehabilitation, State Capitol, Olympia, Washington, would be able to give Mrs. Stanke further information as to this. The interest rate of 7% which Mrs. Stanke pays on the mortgage on her farm might possibly be reduced through refinancing by the Farm Credit Administration, which has an office in
Spokane, Washington. It might be possible, also, for one or more of Mrs. Stanke's daughters to secure part-time employment through the National Youth Administration. The State Director of the National Youth Administration for Washington is Mr. John Binns, whose office is in the Washington Building, Tacoma. There might, likewise, be a chance for some sort of Works Progress Administration employment for Mrs. Stanke, perhaps as a women's project supervisor, if she has aptitude for that type of work. The Works Progress Administrator in Washington is Mr. Don G. Abel, whose headquarters are at 112 Alaska Building, Seattle. Mrs. Hazel W. Dwinell is State Director of Women's Projects for the Works Progress Administration.

I wonder whether Mrs. Stanke understands that the aid to dependent children program under the Social Security Act administered by the State Department of Social Security at Olympia, provides a special type of assistance for families with children under sixteen, in which the father has been disabled. While Mrs. Stanke does not wish to accept relief, it might be well to inform her of the fact that the provisions for aid to dependent children are an extension of the old mothers' pension laws, which were enacted upon the theory that the State had a special interest in seeing that needy families were not broken up because of poverty, and in helping mothers to stay home to take care of their children when the normal wage earner had died or had been disabled. If you wish us to do so, we can send a copy of Mrs. Stanke's letter to Mr. Ernst, Director of the State Department, asking him whether there is any way in which a plan could be worked out for her, either through employment or through some type of assistance.

As you requested, we are returning Mrs. Stanke's letter.

Sincerely yours,

Mary W. Dewson,
Member of the Board

Enclosure
Castle Rock, Wash.
January 26, 1938

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt: Your letter probably
never see this letter — the first such
that I have ever written — so you
will not be affected by it one way
for another, and I shall have
“blown off steam” enough, perhaps, to
keep me, at least partially, sane for
awhile longer.

It is to you I am writing, not
because I expect help — it seems
to be none for such as we — but
because you seem so human, so
genuinely interested in the outcome
of this strange jumble that we know
as the struggle for existence, and
perhaps a little happiness thrown in.

I am beaten. I have tried and I
am still trying but I do not now
expect to win. Perhaps you can
tell me what is wrong.
It will be necessary to give the "case history" but I shall try to be brief.

I was the oldest of four girls, the daughters of an unpractical, high-minded country school teacher. In some manner I managed to finish high school in two and one-half years with good grades, but for me, college was only a wonderful, hoped-for fairy tale whose failure to materialize almost broke my heart.

My smaller sisters and my parents needed all the help I could give them. I taught school for eight years and then married a man of excellent character but of no educational attainment past high school. He has always worked in the
lumber woods; had known nothing else. His earning capacity was average, and by dint of careful planning and plain, thrifty living we acquired a really fine five acre tract near this small town where our daughters have had the advantages of a good school.

My husband was a check-sealer (a "paper and pencil" job) for the big Neyerhanzer Co. where we knew he was giving satisfaction, so we felt justified in mortgaging our land to build a house. We had lived for 8 years in a garage-house.

We planned well and built carefully. Our home is a simple Cape Cod cottage - 7 rooms with full basement. All of the essentials are there although all of the expensive "refinements" were omitted. It cost $3200 which was to have been paid off at $35.00 per month.
To make a long story short—our house was no more than finished when it became apparent that my husband was developing an artery trouble. A few trips to the company doctor—an application for the sick period compensation provided by their compulsory insurance—and our fate was sealed.

Such illness, it seems, is seldom remedied and the company rapidly needs out such cases. My husband went, with no hope of reinstatement unless a miracle of health restoration should take place—to be financed by us, of course.

That was two years ago. We have existed, but I can't say we have lived. The mortgage holder has been patient. What we had paid on the house has been nearly eaten up by the accumulated interest at 7%. At present we owe $3000. At present prices the house could not be built for less than $7500, so with five acres
of choice land and the improvements.

Mr. Mortgage holder has very fine
security. He can afford a few months
more waiting.

Last year my husband picked
up about ten weeks' work. Most
of the time he was unable to work.

Believe me it is not easy for
an untrained woman of my age
to start out to make a living for
a family, especially in a small
town where opportunities are few.

But I have acted as nurse and
companion for an insane girl,
nursed a long severe case of
streptococcia, taken boarders, cooked
in a hotel, until they found that I
was no cook (it was an adventure
even if it only lasted one month) and
now I am conducting a nursery
school for eight babies, at $3.00 each
per month.

You see, I have some ability and
adaptability, but no "orthodox" education.

My husband is in south eastern
California, on the desert, where we have hoped the climate might benefit him. He has not had a day's work and I do not know how he is living. We never discuss money matters anymore. We try to keep our chins (and courage) up by ignoring our troubles and putting on a bold front.

Our oldest daughter will finish high school this year. She picks up a few quarters by typing for people. Both she and I go out evenings to care for children at $0.35 each. Occasionally I get an afternoon's work for some friend. But the women of the town who can afford it need it. I hesitate to ask me to do their work, as I would be thankful to get it to do. We are mostly dressed. I sew well and there are always things that can be made over. I try hard to feed my children properly, but you know it cannot be done on my income.
I have been trying for months
to get a start in the Social Service
work. I have taken all the exams
offered; I have filled out one identical
blank five different times. I know
that I am capable of doing, and
doing well, the work of a field
visitor but I have no college
credentials and no Social Service
experience and I can see that I
shall never be placed.

Please tell me, if you can, what
there is in all this scheme of
economies to keep me? We cannot
live indefinitely on $40 per mo. More
sickness may come. Our insurance
policy (our last bit of security) calls for
a $50 premium in June and we
dare not default. Picture my sweet
girl graduate in her made over
graduation outfit! Thank goodness
our girls are sporting. They never
whine.

Some day, someone is going to
tactfully suggest that we seek relief. So
for no one has dared suggest it. And when that time comes, I am afraid of my reaction. But never, never charity for my girls while I live.

I am 72 yrs. old; in normal health. I have enjoyed life. Books, music and gardening are my "hobbies." I would be happy if I could stay home and care for my family, make rugs and quilts etc., but since I cannot why am I denied the chance to keep my family? All day my thoughts whirled around the question, "What, what can I do?" At night I wakened in a cold sweat to lie hours trying to think of some way out.

We have tried to sell the new house for enough to raise the mortgage and thereby save part of our land to the old house. Every thing fails.

What to do? Wouldn't it be jolly to lose one's pride and become a relief grasper? Or find a way to earn an honest living?

Particularly after reading your autobiography and Mr. Ludvigs' Splendid...
biography of the President, we seem to feel that the Roosevelts are friends and neighbors, of course. But this is a problem that I doubt that even they can solve although we do represent a certain strata of society.

Forgive the great length of this letter. I shall not repeat the offence. I am appreciative of the great work you are doing and I am

Sincerely yours,

Wilma W. Stanke.
Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt,
The White House,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Eleanor:

Grace Abbott writes me: "I should like to say something to you about the relief situation. There is in Chicago and in a very large part of the country, more suffering than there was in 1933 when the President came into office. It is a common sight to see children salvaging food from garbage cans. Many of them are kept home from school because of the lack of proper clothes, and there is the greatest insecurity because of the rent policy. Our relief has been paying half a month's rent, no allowance for clothes, and is now reducing from eighty-five per cent of the food budget to something like sixty-one per cent. Even with this limited budget, the families are under absolute necessity of taking some of the money for rent and clothes with the result that children are seriously under-nourished. While there has been an increase in the WPA quota, they have been taking people who were not already on relief but who can prove need so that it is not reducing the relief load.

"I feel very strongly that we must have an emergency plan for federal assistance in direct relief. While I should like to see the development of an unemployment assistance program to supplement unemployment compensation and invalidity assistance rather than grants made for general relief, the emergency at present is so serious that it seems to me we cannot wait for the development of a long-time program. I am wondering if it would not be possible to sponsor an emergency general grant and at the same time appoint a committee or set up some machinery for approaching the problem of a long-time program. I am in favor of continuing WPA but I should like to see it accepted as caring for only a part of the program which is all that it has ever done even for employers. It would be enormously useful as a permanent program, for the older workers especially, those over forty-five, say, who find themselves unemployed and cannot get back into industry. The present uncertainty of numbers, leaving to mayors the bargaining for increases, and then arbitrary contractions being decided upon in Washington, is very demoralizing.

"I know that Mr. Hopkins and Mr. Williams think that a Works program can take care of the whole problem. I think that they have demonstrated that it cannot, and that there has been an amount of suffering of which the President has been quite unaware and which would keep him awake nights if he really knew about it. I am quite clear that the administration of such an assistance program belongs in the Security Board,"
and the fact that the whole unemployment compensation scheme is going to be almost destroyed if there is not a supplementary relief or assistance program, seems to me to indicate that the Board ought to take the lead in this matter rather than Works Progress.

"We are doing everything we can here with the Mayor and the Governor, but the feud between them makes it extraordinarily difficult to accomplish anything. This seems a very difficult problem to me, but I know that it will be easy for one of your resourcefulness and drive!"

I wish RFC or some agency would loan Chicago enough money to pay a decent budget to the families without employables, and if not that - what?

Affectionately yours,

Mary W. Dewson
February 10, 1938

Miss Grace Abbott,
The School of Social Service Administration,
The University of Chicago,
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Grace:

I thought Mrs. Roosevelt would be very much interested in your letter to me and sent it over to her. The President seems to realize the necessity of an increased quota for W.P.A. I have not gathered that he is planning to help the states finance general relief to the unemployed, and as that is the important point in your letter, I am underlining the need of it to Mrs. Roosevelt.

I am not sure that I agree with you that this is the time for a committee to thrash out the whole question of relief for the unemployed and unemployable. A plan is not much without good administration. I think we need to assimilate our present laws before we press ahead. It seems to me that the next step is invalidity assistance and that we must start the trends running that way, so that when we get into an era of prosperity, the country will feel that the government must do something about invalidity.

I think the President and Congress will accept the fact that W.P.A. is an unemployment assistance program, and will not be particularly eager for a re-discussion of whether this is the best thing to do as a long-time program.

You may think that I am looking at this with the hard-boiled eye of a Congressman, but in fact that is what I am trying to do. I think Congress tolerates a given next step better than it does the all-over plan which each of us has in the back of his mind. Of course at the same time I am glad enough that the University of Chicago is talking about the all-over plan and the relation of the parts to the whole.

I am making a speech in Boston on Wednesday which is expressed in abbreviated terms. I am going to send you a copy for your comments.

Affectionately yours,

Mary W. Dewson
February 15, 1938

Dear Molly:

Emma Guffey Miller has just been in to see me and has brought me the enclosed. She says she finds a good deal of dissatisfaction that Mrs. McAllister has announced herself as a Republican in 1932 and also that some people object to the type of letter which she writes. They think they are a bit brusque and rude. I think I could correct this by checking over some of the letters if her feelings would not be hurt.

Also, Mrs. McAllister tells me that she took Mrs. Van Auken to task for not distributing material at a meeting when she had sent the material to the chairman who was negligent, thereby making Mrs. Van Auken have a real reason for being annoyed.

Do you think you could tell Mrs. McAllister to be a little more careful? I am sorry to bother you.

Much love,

Miss Molly Dawson
Social Security Board
Washington, D.C.
Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt,
The White House,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Eleanor:

Dorothy McAllister is a mature and rational woman. Don't hesitate to ask her to come to see you and bring with her the last letters she has written to the leading women in each of the states. She would really appreciate your advice and criticism.

I also prefer that she should speak to you about her early politics. When I first knew her she was Michigan director of the Reporter Plan, chosen by Christine McDonald, acting chairman of the Michigan Democratic State Committee. By her work as director of the Reporter Plan and her speeches, she satisfied me that she was one hundred per cent with the Democratic Party, although there was no question in my mind as all I knew about her past was that she had strenuously aided her husband to run for Congress on the Democratic ticket a couple of times and that earlier she had been very active as Michigan head of Mrs. Charles H. Sabin's repeal group, the leaders of which, as you know, were drawn from both parties.

Since then I have learned that her family, like mine, is a Republican family and that her father ran in April 1937 for re-election as the Republican candidate for Regent of the University of Michigan, while her husband ran as Democratic candidate for Justice of the Michigan Supreme Court.

The one thing that stamps her conclusively as a Democrat, to my mind, is that she had more than sufficient support to elect her National Committee woman of the Democratic Party in 1937 until Governor Murphy traded her off for the present National Committee woman, Mrs. Clara D. Van Auker, who comes from Detroit.

Governor Murphy told me afterwards that he had the highest esteem for Mrs. McAllister. He did not hesitate to say that he thought she was more valuable to the Party than the present National Committee woman but his argument to me ran as follows: "Was it not better for me to sacrifice Mrs. McAllister in order to be sure that I should receive the nomination as Governor?"
Since her election Mrs. Van Auken has joined Mrs. Miller and has done what she could to embarrass and hinder the work of the Women's Division. In strained relationships like this almost any communication is apt to be unsatisfactory.

Do please see Dorothy just as soon as you can.

Affectionately yours,

Mary E. Dewson

Molly
February 28, 1938

Dear Molly:

Miss Juengling could submit her plan to the American Friends Service Committee. However, at the moment I have no radio program and know that all the money which the Committee has is pledged for things in which I am interested.

I am writing this to Miss Juengling and am returning her letter to you.

Affectionately,

Miss Mary W. Dawson
Social Security Board
February 25, 1938

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

Dear Eleanor:

I thought very poorly of "The Humane Appeal of the New Deal" and did nothing about it. However, I wrote Miss Yuengling that I would send you her letter to me, because, being a New York woman, I thought you might want to answer it.

Affectionately yours,

Mary W. Dewson

I am so glad that you are going to see Dorothy this afternoon. She may not be perfect but I'd like to know where you can approximate her equal.
THE HUMANE APPEAL OF THE NEW DEAL

A NEW DEAL WITH ROOSEVELT, OUR NEIGHBORS AND OURSELVES
ECONOMIC SECURITY
SOCIAL JUSTICE

Let us have full recognition and participation of women with men in our government and cooperate to solve the problems of the home, of children, of food, and the affairs of government.
THE ACE OF DIAMONDS stands for
THE NEW DEAL IN MONEY, INTEREST, TAXES, POWER.

Getting the money out of the vaults,—so it can circulate. Public works does this.
Interest and charges high for people to borrow—too low for people to save.
A fiscal policy founded soundly and securely upon the Science of Economics?
When one player has all the chips the rest are out of the game.
Taxes equitably distributed and scientifically collected.
Power. 90% of farm homes without running water, without electric lights, electric irons, washing machines, vacuum cleaners, refrigerators.
Farm barns without running water, electric milkers, silo fillers, corn cutters.
Farms without machines that operate by power of other and varied types for farm needs.
Villages 60% without electric power and cities 30% without electric power.
Power—cheap and widespread—is money and business in this Age of Power.
Think of its uses when harnessed for the benefit of mankind.
T.V.A. Muscles Shoals Boulder Dam Columbia River
PROJECTS THAT FURNISH LIGHT AND POWER AT REASONABLE RATES TO OUTLYING COMMUNITIES.
THE ACE OF HEARTS suggests
THE NEW DEAL IN HOMES, CHILDREN, WOMEN, INDUSTRY.
Toward homeowning the government did its part.
Where in this program are the savings banks entrusted with the people's money?
2% when you loan to them; 6% when they loan to you. Money idle.
How come these do not function in home owning, slum clearance, subsistence?
Children needing milk, vegetables, whole grains, rest, a chance to work,
a chance to play a genuine education for life and living?
19-year olds filling jails. Cracking at the threshold of manhood and womanhood.
What happened to these young folks following their birth during the days of the war?
The Great War—that was to end war. To make the world safe for democracy.
Appalling conditions of malnutrition, nervous disorders, tooth decay, eyestrain,
physical under-development, heart conditions. Children OLD while still young.
A healthy, happy childhood is the foundation of a useful satisfying future.
The NEW DEAL eliminates slums, provides homes, saves youth, builds character.
SAVE THE NEW DEAL. "CONFIRM THY SOUL IN SELFCONTROL; THY LIBERTY IN LAW."

From the song—"America."
WOMEN AND THE NEW DEAL.

Where is woman's viewpoint, her gentleness, creativeness, vision?

Coffee, doughnuts, bandages, the Ladies Aid, puttering around, bridge playing, fashion shows, clubs and more clubs.

Ruskin tells us that Shakespeare has no heroes—he has only heroines.

Where are the women on the school boards, the town boards, the church boards, the university boards, city, state and national councils, congresses and courts?

Were they welcome? Underpaid work offered,—volunteer service accepted.

The pioneer home was a factory; the industrial center of life. Woman was the manager.

She taught the art and science of living to the growing family, the family which she herself fabricated and nourished. Woman is the homemaker.

"There is need of the woman viewpoint in every department of public affairs because women see things from a different angle from men"—says Ida Clyde Clark in her book—"Uncle Sam Needs a Wife." "We are picking our way step by step through No Woman's Land." "Who will lead us to a better understanding in political and civic activities?"

The NEW DEAL is woman's opportunity for inventiveness, ingenuity and genius.

Mrs. Perkins, Secretary of Labor; Mrs. Ruth Bryan Owen, Minister to Denmark; Miss Roach, Assistant Secretary of the Treasury; Mrs. Ross of the Mint.

THE NEW DEAL INSPIRES WOMEN, NEEDS WOMEN AND WELCOMES WOMEN.
THE ACE OF SPADES stands for the NEW DEAL in

AGRICULTURE, FOODSTUFFS, DISTRIBUTION, ADULTERATION.

Agriculture—the handmaid of Industry—the helpmate of the Creator.
The soil is the bedrock of prosperity. Life comes from the earth, the water, the sunshine, the air, and is sustained by them in the struggle to maintain life.

Grains, vegetables, cattle, fishing, lumbering, metals, oils, iron, coal, leather, hides, horns, tallow, tar, pitch, turpentine, cotton, wool, pulp wood, chemicals, radio, wireless, electricity, air forces.

Transportation by land, by sea and by air. Ours a truly marvelous Age.

Distribution withholds it and diverts its natural flow from producer toward consumer.

Adulteration, Cold Storage, Warehousing, foul fiends of a hunger hell.
Coal tar derivatives, chemicalized substitutes, processing, demineralization.
Eggs, butter, brought out of storage to compete with fresher stuff, to control price.

The food situation—the STORY OF STORIES—fiction, farce, comedy, tragedy.
Producer and Consumer the JOKER IN THE PACK,—but the joker takes the tricks.

Cooperation of buyers and of sellers point the way toward a solution.

Producer Cooperatives and Consumer Cooperatives as elsewhere our need.

THE NEW DEAL ENCOURAGES PROGRESS AND MAKES FOR SUCCESS.
MODERN INDUSTRY NEEDS MODERN GOVERNMENT

We voted ourselves a NEW DEAL. We were reminded that we were FORGOTTEN.
"The Thane of Fife had a wife. Where is she now?"—Shakespeare asked.
In a card game someone grabs them up, shuffles them, deals them out.
You start all over again. You can in a game with cards.
In the game of Life it is not so easily accomplished.

A NEW DEAL IN GOVERNMENT.
Relief? Reform? Recovery?

Perplexing situations in every field of human endeavor.
Restiveness, restlessness, eagerness for fuller and more complete living.
A clarion call to DEMOCRACY to meet modern needs in a modern way, with Modern Government. To meet modern speed, modern efficiency in the modern Electrical Age.
Streamlined methods and policies for efficient mechanical production.
Someone one time said that the governed exist to govern themselves.
THAT IS TRUE UNDER THE NEW DEAL.
A NEW DEAL.
A FAIR DEAL.
ACEs KINGS QUEENS JACKS DEUCES
DIAMONDS HEARTS SPADES CLUBS

Pegging prices? Balancing Production? Regulating business and industry?
Bolstering up the Old Deal. Times of transition are difficult and confusing.
Pioneering New Reforms. Public works, Youth, the Land, the Forests,
Power development, Better banking, Safeguarding of Investments, Social Security, Retirement.

It cannot all come at one time. Humanity is patient—yet "time and tide wait for no man".

"What we need now is a great collective comeback, a return to honesty of effort and of thinking." says Vash Young in his book "A Fortune to Share."

"Victories that are won in the mind and in the heart," he says in "Let's Start Over Again."

"Our recovery must be first moral, then financial."

In thinking and in feeling, then in doing. That is the NEW DEAL way.
The problem WITHIN one's own walls and WITHIN one's own self remains the biggest problem of all.
For the NEW DEAL requires a sincere, up to-date, unselfish, fair and square point of view.

THE NEW DEAL CALLS FOR MORAL REFORM IN THE U.S.A.
THE SPIRIT OF 1936.

"THE LAWS OF NATURE AND OF NATURE'S GOD—AMONG THESE ARE LIFE, LIBERTY AND THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS."

From the Declaration of Independence
The Birth of the Nation 1776

IDEALS OF GEORGE WASHINGTON AND OF THOMAS JEFFERSON

"establish Justice,
insure domestic Tranquility,
provide for the common defence,
promote the general Welfare,
and secure the Blessings of Liberty
to ourselves and our Posterity."

From the Preamble to the Constitution
for the United States of America.

1787 Commemoration of the 150th Anniversary of the Constitution 1937
Establishment of these fundamentals will BALANCE THE BUDGET

THE NEW DEAL IS A MODERN CRUSADE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
A FIGHT FOR DEMOCRACY A STRUGGLE AGAINST SPECIAL PRIVILEGE
THAT THIS NATION UNDER GOD SHALL HAVE A NEW BIRTH OF FREEDOM
AND THAT GOVERNMENT
OF THE PEOPLE, BY THE PEOPLE, AND FOR THE PEOPLE
SHALL NOT PERISH FROM THE EARTH.

Abraham Lincoln in the Gettysburg Address

NEW DEAL LEADERSHIP WITH FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT
IS A BIRTH OF FREEDOM
VOTE DEMOCRATIC

Regina Amy Fredericka Juengling
Eden Valley    Erie County    New York
March 4, 1938

Dear Miss Dewson:

I am enclosing a letter from Mrs. Flora M. Campbell, of Schenevus, New York. Will you let us know what part of the Social Security law, if any, applies to the group about which Mrs. Campbell writes?

Very sincerely yours,

Secretary to
Mrs. Roosevelt

Miss Mary W. Dewson
Social Security Board
Washington
D.C.
March 8, 1938

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

Dear Mrs. Scheider:

This is in reply to your letter of March 4 transmitting a letter from Mrs. Flora M. Campbell, of Schenevus, New York, with reference to the applicability of social security taxes to services performed by women in their own homes in sewing gloves. Mrs. Campbell obtains the material to be sewn from a glove company and distributes it among her neighbors.

The tax provisions of the Social Security Act are under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Internal Revenue and a decision concerning the applicability of these provisions in the circumstances cited can be made only by that Bureau. Therefore I am referring a copy of your letter and Mrs. Campbell's letter to the Commissioner, Bureau of Internal Revenue, Washington, D. C., with a request that he reply to Mrs. Roosevelt.

Very sincerely yours,

Mary W. Dewson,
Member of the Board
March 9, 1933

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

Dear Mrs. Scheider:

This is in reply to your letter of March 4 transmitting a letter from Mrs. Flora M. Campbell, of Schenevus, New York, with reference to the applicability of social security taxes to services performed by women in their own homes in sewing gloves. Mrs. Campbell obtains the material to be sewn from a glove company and distributes it among her neighbors.

The tax provisions of the Social Security Act are under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Internal Revenue and a decision concerning the applicability of these provisions in the circumstances cited can be made only by that Bureau. Therefore I am referring a copy of your letter and Mrs. Campbell's letter to the Commissioner, Bureau of Internal Revenue, Washington, D. C., with a request that he reply to Mrs. Roosevelt.

Very sincerely yours,

Mary W. Dowson,
Member of the Board
April 16, 1938

Dear Molly:

Thank you for sending me the letter from Mrs. Crowlie, of South Dakota. I wish I could go to the Regional Conference on May 20, but it is out of the question. My time is so filled that I cannot make any more engagements this spring.

With many regrets, I am

Affectionately,

Miss Mary W. Dewson
Social Security Board
Washington
Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt,
The White House,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Eleanor:

I am sending you a letter from Leone Crowlie, one of our most able young Democratic women, who is doing a simply superb job in South Dakota. She is backed one hundred percent by the State Chairman, A. W. Powell, who seems to me A No. 1 also.

How I wish you could go out there to the regional conference and make a non-political speech on the need of women to understand and participate in public life. I believe there are no political rows going on which would make it disadvantageous for you to appear at a regional meeting of the women which is based on knowing the facts about the administration's program and telling them to all those who will lend their ears.

Affectionately yours,

Mary W. Dewson

April 14, 1938

SOCIAL SECURITY BOARD
WASHINGTON, D.C.

ARThUR J. ALTMEYER, CHAIRMAN
MARY W. DEwSON
GEORGE E. BIGGE

April 16
April 18, 1938

Dear Molly:

Raymond Kenny told me about his new job. He also said he would like to have the privilege of meeting you before he takes up his new duties.

Affectionately,

Miss Mary W. Dawson
Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt,
The White House,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Eleanor:

You will remember that we have had an envious eye on Mr. Raymond Kenny, and that you said you were willing to release him from Arthurdale if he finished up what he was doing there.

I talked with you about this on February second and I want to tell you that he is going to report to us for training on April twenty-fifth and thereafter will assume his duties as manager of our Clarksburg, W. Va. office.

Affectionately yours,

Mary W. Dewson
May 2, 1936

PERSONAL

Dear Molly:

I was so pleased to read the letters to Mrs. McAllister and have sent them back to her. I have never had any doubts about either of those girls - they are young and new but that is what we want.

I do hope you are right about Persons. I shall be delighted when it comes about.

Affectionately,

Miss Molly Dewson
Social Security Board
Washington, D.C.
PERSONAL

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

Dear Eleanor:

I want you to read the two enclosed letters about Dorothy McAllister's talk at the Maine State Convention, and the letter from Mrs. Musser about the regional conference of Democratic women at Oklahoma City. Oklahoma and the Oklahomans presented a real problem to Dorothy, but evidently she handled it in good shape.

Will you please return these letters to Dorothy after you have read them. I think the President might like to see them. He was enthusiastic about Dorothy on Tuesday night. Hi! hoons!

I was so glad to see him. Wednesday morning he told Arthur and me that if no reorganization bill went through during this session, either general or the one Senator Byrnes and Senator Clark are behind, he was going to do what we suggested and remove Persons. He told Frances Wednesday. She said can't we do something for him to save his face. For years this was Frances' idea but there was no place to boot him up to something real done. I do hope that the President will hold us up again. BUT the President was firm, so I guess it's OK.

Affectionately yours,

Mary W. Dewson

Enclosures
SOCIAL SECURITY BOARD
WASHINGTON, D. C.

PERSONAL

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

Dear Eleanor:

Did you ever ask the Attorney General if he would give some good cases to Dorothy Straus? It is a custom of the Department of Justice to farm out certain cases. For example, when Harry Blair stopped being Assistant Attorney General at $9,000, he was given a special case to work on which, I understand, netted him something like $9,000 or $10,000 and left him a lot of free time to carry on his regular practice.

Needless to say, if the Attorney General should see this letter, it would not help Dorothy Straus at all.

You held out a hope that you might spend another evening with me at 3264 N Street. I am going up to New York to speak to the Young Democrats the end of next week, so that time is out.

Affectionately yours,

Mary W. Dawson
March 11, 1938.

Miss Mary W. Dewson,
Social Security Board,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Miss Dewson:

This acknowledges receipt of your letter of March 8 which has come in the absence of the Attorney General. As you may know, he is in Florida and not expected to return for several weeks. I shall, however, call your letter to his attention immediately upon his return.

Sincerely yours,

Executive Assistant to the Attorney General.
SOCIAL SECURITY BOARD
WASHINGTON, D.C.

March 8, 1938

The Honorable,
The Attorney General
Washington, D.C.

My dear Mr. Attorney General:

Stella Akin, one of your special assistants, showed me a copy of her paper on the Department of Justice. I am ashamed that I did not know how many women attorneys you have appointed on your legal staff. Twenty-five since 1933 is great progress, particularly since there were only seven on the staff when you came in. I really am tremendously pleased.

Now if you would give Dorothy Straus of New York, who with her partner takes care of my law business, a heavy case to work on at an adequate salary, it would fill my cup of joy to running over. She did a lot of work for Mrs. Roosevelt and me in the last campaign. Whenever we need someone to debate with one of the smart opposition men, we send Dorothy Straus. She not only has brains, but she is very attractive, which is no stumbling block.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

Mary W. Dewson
May 16, 1936

Dear Molly:

There aren't many requests you could make which I would refuse, but I am adamant on the subject of being preserved for posterity in oil! I have refused dozens of offers and shall continue to do so. I have to submit to photographs although I hate them!

Affectionately,

Miss Mary W. Dewson
Social Security Board
Washington, D.C.

mlt

Elizabeth Brunner
MAY 14, 1931

SOCIAL SECURITY BOARD
WASHINGTON, D.C.

MAY 13, 1938

Dear Eleanor:

I am enclosing a leaflet on the work of the Brunners who want to paint your picture. They are Hungarians on a world tour and only temporarily in New York. The daughter is making a record for history of outstanding women. Admiring unique accomplishments for women, Miss Brunner would consider it an honor to paint your portrait. Very little time is required for the actual painting. Miss Brunner's address is 222 Riverside Drive, New York.

It was grand of you to let me take my little movie camera to the party yesterday. I took pictures of a lot of the women eminences.

Affectionately yours,

Mary V. Dewson

Enclosure
EXHIBITION OF PAINTINGS

by

SASS BRUNNER

and

ELIZABETH BRUNNER

DELFhic STUDIOS

44 WEST 56th STREET • NEW YORK CITY

April 11th to 24th, 1938
The Hungarian artists, Mme. Sass Brunner and her daughter, Elizabeth Brunner, culminated a world tour of Hungary, Germany, Italy, Africa, Egypt, China and Japan in a five years sojourn in India. As a guest of the great religious leader and philosopher, Rabindranath Tagore, they were afforded a rare opportunity of studying the more intimate aspects of the country: its religions, its social significance, the strong influence of nature upon its peoples. The resultant work now being shown at the Delphic Studios constitutes their first New York exhibition.

"Mrs. and Miss Brunner have in my opinion artistic gifts of a high order. I am sure their sensitive brushes have caught the life and colour of our landscape and the spirit of the human nature in India."

—Rabindranath Tagore

"Mme. Sass Brunner is an accomplished artist and has a very sensitive outlook towards Nature. She has a definite style of her own which is purely realistic of modern technique. Her imaginative compositions are in a class by themselves and her colours have a transparency and purity that are inimitable, reflecting not only her genius as an artist but the beauty, simplicity and purity of her life."

"Elizabeth Brunner has the power of catching and fixing upon canvas a momentary pose. The portraits are characteristic and strong. She has painted some of the foremost personalities of modern India. Her presentations of Indian types and character study of Indian beauty are colourful and decorative."

—The Bombay Chronical
— by Mrs. Sass Brunner

INDIAN SCENES

1. Himalaya
2. Tai Mahal
3. Tai Mahal by Sunset
4. Goldmohur Tree
5. Himalaya in Spring
6. Lotus Lake
7. Banyan Tree
8. Himalaya at Sunset
9. Ganges by Moonlight

COMPOSITIONS

10. Power of Cohesion
11. Sun of Love
12. Face of the Full Moon
13. Gleanings in Purity
14. Shiva God of Himalaya
15. Thirthankars
16. Trimurti Brahma-Vishnu-Shiva
17. Enlightenment
18. Guatama Buddha

HUNGARIAN SCENES

19. Autumn
20. Old Peasant's Room
21. Cradle Song
22. Village House
23. Homeward
24. Winter

— by Miss Elizabeth Brunner

PORTRAITS OF INDIAN LEADERS

25. Rabindranath Tagore
26. Tagore at Painting
27. Mahatma Gandhi
28. J. Krishnamurti
29. Uday Shankar
30. Princess
31. Playing Sitar
32. Zenanna Lady
33. Padmaja
34. Young Indian Lady
35. Tibetan Dancer
36. Lady with Light
37. Young Mother with Child
38. Swami

HUNGARIAN NATIVE LIFE

39. The Sower
40. Hungarian Girl
41. “Csardas” National Dance
42. Vintage
YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO VIEW A COLLECTION OF OIL PAINTINGS EXHIBITED BY THE FAMOUS HUNGARIAN ARTISTS

MRS. SASS BRUNNER
ELIZABETH BRUNNER
THIS exhibition contains the results of a five years’ pilgrimage during which the artists were absorbed in speculative artistic studies. They are represented by paintings which reveal the significant lines of religions and lead us to the maxims of philosophy, which even now are to be found as a feature of the races. Mme. Sass Brunner throws light into every hidden corner of India, and her meditation comes to the surface in her colour compositions—as symbols of the Hindu deity, Buddha and cosmic conceptions, the natural light effects and items of the people's life.

Meanwhile, her daughter, Miss Elizabeth Brunner, presents various remarkable records of mental impressions in her portraits of world-famous spiritual notabilities, after considerable personal study of Mahatma Gandhi and Rabindranath Tagore; also portrayals of Indian life among the masses, as well as the aristocracy and in the interesting variations of the races.

Nine years ago Mrs. Brunner with her daughter Elizabeth started on a World tour from Hungary, Germany, Italy, Africa, Egypt, India, China and Japan. Most of their time was spent in India, where they remained as guests of Dr. Rabindranath Tagore at Santiniketan for two years.

They traveled throughout India for three years and studied the life and philosophy of the people in an endeavour to catch the atmosphere and colour which forms the background of Indian life and thought. They traversed the length and breadth of the country to see and study the composite elements which make India so different from other countries. They climbed the Himalayas to catch the inspiration of those lofty mountains. They rose before dawn to watch and sketch the sun rising over the ranges, and waited till sunset to sketch it sinking in the west. They watched the moon and the stars and saw how the atmosphere of the country gave the universe a different aspect. Then they descended among the great masses and saw how their philosophy was nurtured by their environment.

This twofold activity, with the help of the artists' intuitive feminine spirit, interprets India through the effects of artistic lines in a way which is unprecedented.
Catalogue

By Mrs. Sass Brunner

Characteristic Scenes of India
HIMALAYA
TAJ MAHAL
LOTUS LAKE
BANYAN TREE
GOLDMOHUR TREE
GANGES BY MOONLIGHT

Characteristics from Imagination
POWER OF COHESION
SUN OF LOVE
EVENING PRAYER
SYMBOLIC MEDITATIONS
OF BUDDHA
HINDU GOD
TIRTHANKARS
TRIMURTI
BRAHMA-VISNU-SHIVA

Portraits and Personal Studies of
Great Leaders of India
RABINDRANATH TAGORE
MAHATMA GANDHI
J. KRISMAMURTI
UDAY SHANKAR
LADY WITH LIGHT
ZENANNA LADY
PRINCESS
TIBETAN GIRL
TIBETAN DANCER
YOUNG MOTHER WITH
CHILD
PADMAJA
LADY WITH SITAR
YOUNG INDIAN LADY

Hungarian Native Life
THE SOWER
CORN SHOCKING
THE REAPERS
HUNGARIAN GIRL
CSARDAS, NATIONAL
DANCE

These paintings are shown in an Art Book, "Mystic India Through
HIMALAYA
By
Mrs. Sass Brunner

"PORTRAIT OF RABINDRANATH TAGORE"
By
Elizabeth Brunner
May 18, 1938

Dear Miss Dewson:

Mrs. Roosevelt is taking up this question with the W.P.A. She asks if you will find out if anything can be done about unemployment insurance for the people.

Very sincerely yours,

Secretary to
Mrs. Roosevelt

Miss Mary Dewson
Social Security Board
Washington, D.C.
Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt,
The White House,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Eleanor:

This letter is in response to your note of May 18, in which you inquire about the possibility of giving unemployment compensation to individuals referred to in letters addressed to you by James Dombrowski, Secretary of the Highlander Folk School, and by Paul D. Phipps, Recording Secretary of the Local Union of the United Mine Workers in Coalmont, Tennessee.

It is stated in these letters that the company employing these men avoids the payment of the unemployment tax by contracting for the digging of its coal, and by calling those who do the work "operators" or "independent contractors" rather than employees. Consequently these individuals find themselves excluded from the coverage of the unemployment compensation law.

With respect to whether the men in question are in fact employees in the accepted sense of the word, the Tennessee unemployment compensation law, in Section 19(g)(6), provides that:

"Services performed by an individual for wages shall be deemed to be employment subject to this Act unless and until it is shown to the satisfaction of the Commissioner that:

(A) Such individual has been and will continue to be free from control or direction over the performance of such services, both under his contract of service and in fact; and

(B) Such service is either outside the usual course of the business for which such service is performed, or that such service is performed outside of all the places of business of the enterprise for which such service is performed; and

(C) Such individual is customarily engaged in an independently established trade, occupation, profession or business."
So far as the records in the Bureau of Unemployment Compensation indicate, no interpretation of this section has been made by the State unemployment compensation agency which could be applied directly to the facts stated. While we cannot, of course, give an official interpretation of the State law, the intent of the statute seems plain.

The Bureau of Unemployment Compensation has today called this situation to the attention of the State unemployment compensation authorities and suggested that immediate steps be taken to ascertain the status of these workers under the Tennessee unemployment compensation law.

Very sincerely yours,

(Miss) Mary W. Dewson,
Member of the Board
No reply has come yet from the letter to Mr. Aubrey Williams on this subject.
June 1, 1938

My dear Miss Dewson:

Mrs. Roosevelt asks me to send you this letter. She would appreciate your looking into the matter to see if anything can be done.

Very sincerely yours,

Malvina T. Scheider
Secretary to
Mrs. Roosevelt

Miss Mary W. Dewson
Social Security Board
Washington, D.C.
June 11, 1938

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

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

In accordance with your request of June 1, we have written Mrs. Arthur W. Fleet of Youngstown, Ohio, regarding the unemployment compensation provisions of the Social Security Act.

A copy of our letter is enclosed for your information.

Very sincerely yours,

(Miss) Mary W. Dewson,
Acting Chairman

Enclosure
June 11, 1938

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

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

In accordance with your request of June 1, we have written Mrs. Arthur W. Fleet of Youngstown, Ohio, regarding the unemployment compensation provisions of the Social Security Act.

A copy of our letter is enclosed for your information.

Very sincerely yours,

(Miss) Mary W. Dawson,
Acting Chairman

Enclosure
June 11, 1938

SOCIAL SECURITY BOARD
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Mrs. Arthur W. Fleet,
Route 2,
513 North Meridian Avenue,
Youngstown, Ohio

Dear Mrs. Fleet:

Mrs. Roosevelt has asked us to reply to your recent letter with respect to unemployment compensation benefits in Ohio.

Each State enacts and administers its own unemployment compensation law covering its own workers and employers. While State laws vary considerably, they are alike in certain fundamental respects. They all establish special unemployment funds out of which benefits are paid to eligible unemployed workers. These funds are made up of contributions collected from employers in the State, and the amount of benefits payable is limited to the amount of money in the funds. In order to safeguard these funds and to make certain that enough money has been accumulated to meet claims for benefits, the Social Security Act provides that a State may not begin to pay benefits until two years after contributions have begun to accrue under the State law. Contributions under the Ohio law did not begin to accrue until late in December, 1936. Accordingly, the Ohio law does not provide for benefit payments until January 1, 1939.

The reason that Pennsylvania is able to pay unemployment benefits in 1936 is that contributions under the Pennsylvania law began to accrue on January 1, 1936. Therefore, the two-year period which must elapse before benefits are payable was over at the beginning of the year 1936, at which time Pennsylvania began to pay benefits.

The Ohio law provides that a worker is eligible for unemployment benefits only if he has been employed during at least twenty weeks within the year before he claims benefits. All unemployment compensation laws have provisions either like this or very similar to it. The purpose of these provisions is to limit the payment of unemployment benefits to workers who are customarily fairly regularly employed, but who are unemployed through no fault of their own. If eligibility for benefits were not limited in this way, the State funds might be forced to pay out so much in benefits that they would be completely exhausted.
SOCIAL SECURITY BOARD

Mrs. Arthur M. Fleet - WASHINGTON, D.C.

The questions raised in your letter come up for the most part under the Ohio unemployment compensation law. We suggest that for any further information, you may wish to write to Mr. Fred L. Biechel, Executive Director, Unemployment Compensation Commission, 33 North Third Street, Columbus, Ohio.

Very truly yours,

J. Reed Carpenter, Chief, Communications & Review Division

Enclosure
August 9, 1938

My dear Miss Dewson:

Mrs. Roosevelt has asked me to send the enclosed copy of letter from Mr. L. J. Horton, Macon, Georgia, to the Social Security Board, and to say that she will appreciate an investigation of the case of Mr. James Roosevelt mentioned therein.

Very sincerely yours,

[Signature]

Administrative Officer
Social Correspondence

[Signature]
Miss Mary W. Dewson
Social Security Board
Washington, D.C.
August 3, 1938

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

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I am taking the liberty of writing you in behalf of Mr. James Roosevelt, a distant relative of yours and of President Roosevelt.

Mr. Roosevelt is about 86 years of age, and while he is in fine physical condition for a man of his age, he is incapable of earning a living in his line of business, which is buying cotton, and he has no fund of any kind or any means of support. He has just left our office to go to lunch and he expressed himself as being very much disappointed because he is unable to get anything from the Social Security fund or for aged people.

I am writing you because of your great personal interest in people generally, and because I feel so sure that if you knew of his financial condition, you would do something for this relative of yours and the President, who at best, hasn't many more years to live, but who, on account of pride, would not appreciate this appeal to you, if he knew it was being made.

If I have erred in writing you so frankly, I hope you will pardon me, but I am very fond of him personally, and if I were financially able to help him, I would certainly do so. He is so loyal to you and the President and all the family that he never misses an opportunity to commend you.

With best wishes,

Yours very truly,

L. J. Horton
Malvina,

The President asked if this report had come through, and so I telephoned the Social Security Board yesterday, and the attached is a copy of the report received this afternoon. The original has gone to the President.

Attached also is another letter received from Mr. Horton.

Mollie
Mr. Ralph W. Magee  
Administrative Officer  
Social Correspondence  
The White House  
Washington, D. C.

Attention: Mrs. Somerville

Social Security Board  
Washington, D. C.

September 1, 1938

Dear Mr. Magee:

You will recall that on August 12 I acknowledged your letter of August 9 to Miss Dewson, with which you enclosed a copy of a letter from Mr. L. J. Horton, Macon, Georgia, concerning the old-age assistance application of Mr. James Roosevelt of that city. We have just received the following report from our representative concerning the information which the Georgia State Department of Public Welfare, the Agency responsible for the administration of old-age assistance in Georgia, has concerning this application.

Mr. James Roosevelt applied for old-age assistance in Macon in the autumn of 1937. The application was denied on January 22, 1938, because Mr. Roosevelt had an income of $480 per year. For some years past Mr. Roosevelt has been employed by the Juliet Milling Company of Macon in connection with the cotton brokerage business which that company conducts. The company regards the salary which they have been paying Mr. Roosevelt somewhat as a pension for his past services. Mr. Burch, who is an officer of this company, apparently had suggested that Mr. Roosevelt apply for old-age assistance, expressing his belief that the company should be relieved of the payment of this salary. However, when Mr. Burch learned that old-age assistance was granted only to individuals who were in need, he agreed that the company should continue to carry Mr. Roosevelt on its payroll. The county office of the Georgia agency explained both to Mr. Burch and to Mr. Roosevelt that under the Georgia law the maximum old-age assistance grant was $30 per month and that an individual who had an income of more than $360 per year was not eligible for aid.