

HELEN GAHAGAN DOUGLAS

1940 - 1945

January 18, 1940

at 100

Dear Mrs. Douglas:

Thank you so much for your letter.

I know I am to speak in Los Angeles the night of April 1 and I have a luncheon engagement that day which will not make it possible to take a full day's trip. The next night I speak in Long Beach I think, and I may be able to go that day but I will have to wait until my itinerary is complete before I can plan definitely.

Very sincerely yours,

Mrs. Melvyn Douglas  
7141 Genalda Road  
The Outpost  
Los Angeles, Calif.

DD

HELEN GAHAGAN

January 15, 1940

*Added  
1-18-40*

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Just the other day I received word from Mrs. Grady that you would like to see some of the Farm Security Administration Camps when you come to California. May I offer my services to you to be of whatever help I can in arranging as comprehensive a tour as possible. Distances are so great out here that one day makes it almost impossible to get as clear a picture as I'm sure you would like to have of the migrant problem in this state. If you feel that you could give two days we could arrange a wonderful tour for you. But in case your schedule will only permit a one day trip we will do the very best that we can.

We hope the president and you had a wonderful Christmas. Melvyn and I are looking forward to your visit on the coast.

Very sincerely,

*Helen Gahagan Douglas*  
Helen Gahagan Douglas

7141 Senalda Road  
The Outpost  
Los Angeles, California.

*We'll let her know  
when we have a chance*

February 10, 1940

100  
Mrs. Melvyn Douglas

Dear Miss Gehagan:

The wine has arrived safely, and we are so appreciative of your thought. We will enjoy it, I know, and I will let you know what the President thinks about it.

With many thanks, I am

Sincerely yours,

Miss Helen Gehagan (Douglas)  
Los Angeles  
Calif.

0

Miss Thompson-

The wine was delivered  
early in February and was thanked for  
on Feb. 10th. It is in the Steward's  
Room.

Mollie

Send to the Steward's Office  
1/2 to Rec. at England

February 5, 1940

Dear Mrs. Douglas:

Miss Thompson gave me your letter to her and I was very much interested in reading it. I want to congratulate you on all that you have done.

I was so glad to meet one of your helpers and admirers here on the 30th of January and to have news of you.

I shall look forward to seeing you in California in April.

Very sincerely yours,

Mrs. Melvyn Douglas  
7141 Senalda Road  
Outpost Estates  
Los Angeles  
Calif.

50

100  
L. G. T.  
W. H. H.  
S. H. H. H. H. H.

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

FOR THE PRESIDENT

To read marked paragraph on  
second page.

E.R.

*file*

am  
2-1

HELEN GAHAGAN

January 6, 1940

*congratulate +  
let her know how good  
the amount of her  
help was -  
I never knew it to  
be so good*

My dear Miss Thompson:

This letter is being written to you with the hope that in the midst of Mrs. Roosevelt's busy life she may find time to read it.

Our Christmas party in Brawley is over. It was a great success - a triumph of mind over matter and persuasion over prejudice. When we first went in I thought the combined forces of ranchers, mayors, chiefs of police, secretaries of the Chamber of Commerce, the newspapers, ministers and priests of the entire valley were going to throw us out bodily. They were convinced - all of them - that we were coming down with a red flag in one hand, a bomb in the other, with the film, "Grapes of Wrath", under our arms for the express purpose of stirring up discontent the result of which would be a strike in the lettuce crop following our sojourn in Brawley. After days of wooing and persuasion I finally convinced them that no one was paying me, that we wanted to do just what we said - give a party for 8,000 migrants and their children - that quite the contrary to stirring up bad feelings, we were trying to create good will.

I had some very enlightening conversations with these aforesaid gentlemen and have almost come to the conclusion that the Associated Farmers are not as strong in the Imperial Valley as they lead us to believe, that there is a large group of brave and strong liberals there whom it is our duty to contact and morally support. The powers of evil that exist in the valley are desperately trying daily and hourly to separate these good people from their same kind in the rest of the state by a wall of prejudice. We feel that the party was a great success in that we were able to prove that we were honest and meant what we said, that we understood their problems and really wanted to help. The amount of fear that has been created in the valley is a terrible thing to behold. Everyone was convinced down there - good and bad alike - that you couldn't gather 8,000 migrants in one place without a riot resulting. Besides proving to them that this was not so we were able to bring many influential - though badly misinformed - people into a Farm Security Administration camp for the first time. They were very much

Malvina Thompson - Page two.

impressed with many things, not the least of which was their realization that a migrant child looked and behaved very much as their own children.

Each time I make a trip into one of these camps I am more and more convinced of the wonderful work the F.S.A. is doing. Neither money nor time is waisted in the program. It will be a sin and a shame if anything is done to jeopardize the foundation they have laid. For example, they have a Mrs. Hayes whom they have brought from Arkansas where she had the most outstanding record as a home economics teacher. For the past three months she has been working in the camps of Shafter, Arvin and Visallia teaching the women how to live on their limited budgets and even going so far as to show them how they can make pure cotton mattresses for themselves for \$3.50 apiece. You can see without going any further what this kind of thing leads to. It has great constructive value. I could go on and on. The program they have set up on medicine alone where they use a panel of doctors and everyone who is a farm laborer is eligible, even though he may not live in one of the F.S.A. camps, is a benediction.

A clipping has been brought to my attention regarding "Ma Sanders" and her proposed visit to Washington. As she will no doubt make an appeal to the President and Mrs. Roosevelt, I feel I should tell you a little about her. She is believed to be a character created out of obscurity by Mr. Harry Chandler of the L. A. Times as a migrant "front" for such interests as the Associated Farmers and other reactionary groups in California. Mr. Chandler's basic idea, expressed through "Ma Sanders" as his mouthpiece, is to keep the migrants on the move. If they are kept going from Oklahoma to California and back to Oklahoma, or any other place, it will be impossible for them to organize.

Mr. Douglas and I are sending the President and Mrs. Roosevelt some wine in care of you. We hope it has been aged long enough to please them.

Sincerely,

*Helen Gahagan*  
Helen Gahagan  
(Mrs. Melvyn Douglas)

7141 Sinalda Road  
Outpost Estates  
Los Angeles, California.

*done  
2-5  
copy  
H  
Fred  
H. A. Allen*

*Thers  
J. A. P.*

March 15, 1940

Dear Mr. Douglas:

These young people seem to think that their letters may not reach you. I have an idea you have so many appeals you cannot answer them all and you may not be really interested in the work this group is doing.

However, I thought I would send you this letter to me and the enclosure, which went to you, and that it might be worth your while to see this girl and talk to her about their plans.

Youth does need backing these days and I feel there must be people in Hollywood who could not only assist them financially but watch over them a little and give them advice which would be constructive and helpful.

I hope I am not bothering you with something in which you have no interest.

Very sincerely yours,

Mr. Melvyn Douglas  
7141 Senalga Road  
Los Angeles  
Calif.

Send to  
MCT

100

March 27, 1940

Dear Mrs. Douglas:

I am planning to spend most of April and visiting the migratory camps around Bakersfield and I wonder if you and Mr. Douglas would like to go with me. I am planning to fly to Bakersfield from Los Angeles at 9 a.m. and motor back, arriving in Los Angeles by 5 p.m.

I will be staying with Jimmy in Los Angeles.

Looking forward to seeing you, I am

Very sincerely yours,

*Eleanor Roosevelt*  
*per Ruth*

Mrs. Melvyn Douglas  
7141 Senalda Road  
The Outpost  
Los Angeles, California

mlt

M.

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

April 19

Memo. for Miss LeHand

The letter from Peter Douglas mentioned by his mother in this letter was sent down to you recently.

Please see Mrs. Roosevelt's note about sending a photograph of the President.

M.C.T.

HELEN GAHAGAN

March 26, 1940

*Send to  
gang me  
show me  
reference*

Dear Miss Thompson:

Under separate cover I am sending Mrs. Roosevelt a copy of Dorothea Lange and Paul Taylor's book, "An American Exodus". In the opinion of many it is the shortest, clearest and most readable presentation of the agricultural problem from a national point of view that has yet been written. The authors have simplified it to a point where even the most obtuse person can understand it. If Mrs. Roosevelt could see the book and mention it in her column, it would be an enormous help in getting people to understand this vital problem. Whatever attention can be drawn to this book will do great good because of it's enormous educational power and because it is designed for popular consumption. I am sure you know that Paul Taylor is an economist at Berkeley University and is one of the great authorities on the whole agricultural problem in the country.

I am enclosing a letter from our son Peter which, realizing how busy you are, I hesitate to send. However, it is a completely spontaneous effort on his part and in fairness to him I feel I should at least send it on to you. He decided to write to the President following a question which was brought up at school, namely; Who is the President of the United States? Peter volunteered to say, "I know because he is a friend of my mother's and dad's. His name is President Roosevelt and he is the greatest man in the country because he has to take care of all of us!" The letter is exactly as he dictated it to his teacher and later copied in his own hand. Please disregard the picture (it is already framed so I won't send it) for I know what a nuisance all that sort of a thing is.

With very best wishes to the President and Mrs. Roosevelt as well as yourself, I am

Very sincerely yours,

*Keep it in an  
envelope please  
to President*

*Helen Gahagan*  
Helen Gahagan  
(Mrs. Malvyn Douglas)

7141 Sanalda Road  
Los Angeles, California.

TELEGRAM

21WU,19

The White House  
Washington

Los Angeles Calif 1238pm April 30 1940

Mrs. J M Helm

The White House

Arriving 940 am tomorrow by plane American Air Lines Mercury.  
Mr. Douglas will be with me for the day.

Helen Gahagan Douglas

351pmd

*Placed in  
Washington  
7:05 pm 4/30  
A137*

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

May 3

Memo to Miss Thompson-

Mrs. Melvin Douglas  
sent in some wine which Mrs. R.  
thanked her for and said the  
President would taste. The  
wine has not been brought to  
Mrs. Nesbitt's attention as yet.  
What are your wishes?

*Wishes -  
to be in it ->*

Mollie

*Mrs. Nesbitt  
Mrs. D. says when she  
came to the room after  
the night she  
...*

HELEN GAHAGAN

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt,  
The President and I discussed  
California wines - We both  
lamented that they were not  
allowed to properly age -  
This wine is supposed to  
have been hidden away  
a long time - Melvyn and  
I are giving ourselves the pleasure  
of sending some on to you -  
Very cordially,  
Helen Gahagan

Mrs. Nesbitt

The President and Mrs.  
Roosevelt especially want to try this.

M.C.T.

*h*

100  
DOUGLAS

June 3, 1940

My dear Miss Cahagan:

Mrs. Roosevelt wrote to Dr. Paul Radin at the University of California to thank him for the book which he sent to her through you. Her letter to him was returned and I am asking if you will be so good as to have it properly addressed and mailed to him.

Mrs. Roosevelt thanks you for your part in giving her this book.

Very sincerely yours,

Secretary to  
Mrs. Roosevelt

Mrs. Mel J. Douglas  
~~Miss Helen Cahagan~~  
7141 Senalda Road  
Outpost  
Hollywood  
California

RWM:bwm

June 14, 1940

160  
Mrs. M. L. Douglas

Dear Miss Gahagan:

I loved your letter and I wanted to send you a wire at once to tell you not to be worried when they accuse you and Mr. Douglas of being communists. I hope the Legion heads will shortly be more apologetic than ever.

I heard you did a marvelous piece of work at Senator Pepper's hearing. Everyone said you were exactly right and that you touched everybody there and yet were very restrained.

Mr. Altmyer told me that you were excellent at the Social Workers meeting. So you can feel that you are doing very good work.

I am sorry to hear that Jack McMichael made a speech that was only half true. I am quite sure, however, that he believed what he said was true. He is occasionally misguided, but I think he is honest. I feel sure you will not mind my telling him what you have said, because I think he needs to be told.

The President sends you both his kindest regards. I hope your appeal from Oklahoma will bring some good results. Do not kill yourself, because we need good people alive.

With my best wishes to your husband,  
I am

Affectionately yours,

SO

Miss Helen Gahagan  
7141 Senalda Road  
Los Angeles, Calif.

am  
B-14

HELEN GAHAGAN

June 6, 1940

Dearest Mrs. Roosevelt:

Thank you for all your kindness and generous hospitality. But thank you most for being you. I could go on and on about how Melvyn and I feel about the President and his beautiful wife but you are so wise in so many things that I am sure you know and understand all we would like to say. It seemed so lonely leaving the White House without being able to catch a glimpse of you.

The last day I was in Washington I spoke before a Senate sub-committee on Senator Pepper's bill - I hope I said the right things. One gets kind of panicky. Sometimes it seems as though one is swimming in a sea of words - - empty and inadequate words that convey no meaning - just frothy, foamy things that make a loud noise but in no way do what they were meant to do - pave the way for a better understanding. I think maybe we should invent something else to take their place.

Mr. Jack McMichael (Youth Congress) made a speech at the National Conference of Social Work, half of which was true - the other half was completely lacking in an understanding of what is happening in the world today or of what this administration has been trying to do for the past seven years. I was so upset by it that I tried to answer some of the implications Mr. McMichael made in my speech a day later. I was afraid my knuckles would be rapped any moment by the chairman and told to stick to agriculture - and migration. But I took my courage in my hands and talked against time. I came out of the meeting kind of weak to be told by Mr. Hodson, President of the New York City American Public Welfare Association, in a laughing tone, that the forces of evil were getting on their horses and starting to ride, using the present cloak of hysteria to cover them - and that the first person they had set off after - with a cry of Communism - was Melvyn. I didn't take it really very seriously (although that kind of thing always makes me a little seasick - for a few moments you get the feeling someone has given you a swift kick in the diaphragm) but when I returned home a great deal of excitement had been stirred up. They found that they had picked the wrong man to start on - there were so many good, honest citizens who rose up in righteous wrath that I thought we were going to

*copy  
sent post*

Mrs. Roosevelt - Page two.

have a small civil war on our hands. The American Legion was all mixed up in it too. It seems that there was a radio broadcast about two years ago which Melvyn said he would be on and some Legion members were connected with it. When he got to the station and read the script, he considered it such a distortion of fact that he walked out (oh dear its all so silly) - the script called the Spanish Civil War a Communist uprising, completely damning the Loyalist forces which, of course, was unjust. From all we had read and heard from authentic sources, the Communists came into Spain after the Civil War had started and the Spanish Loyalists were forced to accept their help because no one else in the world would come to their aid. We feel that the defeat of the republican government in Spain was a great tragedy. Well, to make a long story short, in California some are still arguing about the Spanish Civil War and others, the politicos, will use anything they can get hold of as a club to clear their path of the bothersome liberals who keep getting in their hair. But, as I say, it has all gotten a little bit too hectic and we are beginning to receive letters from the Legion heads and others stating they are in no position to control statements made by individual Legionaires throughout the State. Well, there is never a dull moment.

I arrived home three days ago. Oklahoma City was my last stop. I made a speech there to the heads of the Federal and State Agencies. There are thousands of people camped around Oklahoma City living in unbelievable conditions. I am going to try to go back in July and drive through the State.

Mrs. Fayerweather was so kind as to send me a snapshot of you - I love it.

Again thank you for letting me be so close to you for so long. We pray for the President and you in these troublesome days and we are grateful that we have been given such honest and devoted leadership.

Affectionately,

Helen Gahagan

7141 Senalda Road  
Los Angeles, California.

100

July 1, 1940

Dear Mrs. Douglas:

I have been trying to help a girl, Otha Mae Lee, who is very much in need of employment, and I wonder if you know of anything she might get for the summer. She wants to go to college in the autumn.

Her address is 221½ 6th Avenue, Venice, California. I know her brother very well and am sure she is worthy of help.

Very sincerely yours,

Mrs. Melvyn Douglas

0

Please address for me

Please get me address  
0  
02424

7141 SENA PA  
LOS ANGELES  
CALIF.

150  
190  
6-5

*Write Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt  
ask of the of a job for  
a summer job - she wants  
to go to college in the  
fall*

221 1/2 6th Ave.  
Venice, Calif.  
June 20, 1940

JUN 26 1940

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

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt;

I received a letter June 16 from George Creel, Commissioner of the Golden Gate International Exposition, to whom you wrote in regards to my getting a job at the Fair during the summer months.

He informed that he could do nothing whatsoever for me up there, since there were more than five thousand people on file already.

I was very disappointed to hear that, especially since neither my sister nor myself is employed, or eligible for unemployment compensation. I lost my job at the theatre where I was working because I wear glasses, and the employment situation in our family, to put it mildly, is rather desperate.

Thanks very much trying to help me. Let me know about the scholarship, if one is available for me. I still want to go to college next fall.

A letter from Howard this week. He is coming out here this summer, he tells me, in company with a former professor of his, John B. Thompson. The California Youth Legislature and Senator Geyer are arranging speaking engagements for them. It will be good to see him.

Sincerely,

*Gatha Mae Lu*

August 6, 1940

Dear Miss Gahagan:

How kind you are to send me such a grand message. I appreciate it very much.

I think you were splendid in all you did at the Convention and I am delighted that you are National Committeewoman for California. Congratulations and good wishes.

With many thanks,

Affectionately,

*Mr. H. G. ...*  
Miss Helen Gahagan  
7141 Senalda Road  
Outpost Estates  
Los Angeles  
California

ds

*See Mr. J. + C. ...*

TELEGRAM

12FOD14 LRT

The White House  
Washington

*ack  
8/6/40*

BX Brooklyn NY 1109cm July 20 1940

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt  
The White House

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt I love you everyone loves you and we are happy today.

Helen Gehagan

1141amd

*Hagan*

August 20, 1940  
Hyde Park, New York

100  
Mrs Melvyn Douglas

Dear Miss Gahagan:

A friend of mine tells me that Miss Katherine Huntington, 1921 North Highland Avenue, Hollywood, California, is very anxious to do some work in the campaign and I thought perhaps you might find time to see her and assign her wherever you think she would be most useful. I am sure she wants to volunteer.

With all good wishes, I am

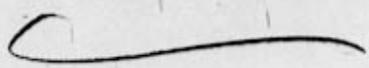
Very sincerely yours,

W. Douglas  
W. Douglas?

Miss Helen Gahagan  
7141 Senalda Road  
Los Angeles, California

DD

Miss Katherine Huntington  
1921 North  
Highland Avenue  
Hollywood  
Cal.



Monday...

Tommy dear:  
Here is that  
address - Thank  
you darling.  
Just dashing for  
New York -

Kate

over

HELEN GAHAGAN

August 13, 1940

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

On behalf of the Democratic Women of Southern California, I want to thank you for the greetings and good wishes which you sent to the luncheon for me last Monday. We were all very pleased to hear from you. Particularly, I want to say how much I appreciated your kind reference to me.

Melvyn joins me in warmest regards to the President and to yourself.

Affectionately,

*Helen Gahagan*

7141 Senalda Road  
Los Angeles, California.

September 11, 1940

100

My dear Mrs. Douglas:

Mrs. Roosevelt wants me to tell you that Mrs. Ellen S. Woodward, who is a Commissioner on the Social Security Board, is to be in Los Angeles for about a week or ten days after September 14. She wants to make as many contacts as possible and if you would like to get in touch with her she can be reached in care of her son, Albert Y. Woodward, 5410 Angelus Vista Boulevard.

Very sincerely yours,

Secretary to  
Mrs. Roosevelt

Mrs. Melvyn Douglas  
Hollywood  
California

DD

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

*File*

August 27, 1940

My dear <sup>Helen</sup> ~~Miss Gahagan~~:

I do not know, of course, whether Mr. Jones will accept the post of Secretary of Commerce even though it has been offered.

I will, however, pass your letter along.

Affectionately,

*Cancel all others*

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON



Miss Helen Gahagan  
7141 Genalda Road  
Outpost Estates  
Los Angeles  
California

HELEN GAHAGAN

August 16, 1940

ack. B  
8/27/40

Dearest Mrs. Roosevelt:

A letter arrived today saying that Secretary Hopkins is resigning and that Henry Grady is being considered for the post of Secretary of Commerce.

If this is true and he is being considered for the post, may I just say it would make every Californian proud and happy because he is one of the most loved and respected of all California citizens.

The women of California are starting the Campaign in earnest. I am already making speeches all over the State.

Thank you again for your letter.

Affectionately,

Helen Gahagan

7141 Seneca Rd  
Outpost Station  
Los Angeles, Cal.

100

MRS. MELVYN DOUGLAS  
Full Sent  
9/25/40

wife Miss Helen Gaborian  
Hollywood - Calif

~~What you mentioned~~

will be in Los

Angeles on Oct 14<sup>th</sup>

→ suggest you use your

judgment about

announcement.

EP

TELEGRAM

100

The White House  
Washington

*Wm*  
*Sept 9/27/43*  
*Thank you to file*  
*please send*  
*generally*  
*ER*

2wuk1 43 NL

Los Angeles, Calif., Sep't. 27, 1940

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt.

The broadcast was magnificent again I want to say how happy we are to know you are coming to Los Angeles. Of course you know I would love to have you and Miss Thompson stay with me if you can while you are here.

Helen Gahagan.

*Mrs. M. G. D.*

HELEN GAHAGAN

September 14, 1940

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I have seen Miss Katherine Huntington as you asked me to do, and put her to work. She is a volunteer and will be very helpful. I am sure.

The President's speech was magnificent -- it did wonderful things out here in California.

With all good wishes,

Affectionately,

Helen Gahagan

100

Mrs. Melvyn Douglas

September 26, 1940

Miss Helen Cahagan  
Democratic State Committee  
Los Angeles, California

Mrs. Roosevelt regrets she cannot stop in San Francisco.

MALVINA C. THOMPSON  
Secretary to  
Mrs. Roosevelt

✓

TELEGRAM

The White House

Washington

over  
Reginald 7-26  
slapping in  
Helen  
Ached  
9-26-46

7.U.RA. 46-D. L.

Los Angeles, California, September 25, via Hyde Park, N.Y. 26  
Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Thank you for your wire We are delighted to know you are coming. Are you planning to visit San Francisco during same trip? If so, the women there want to plan something for you. Please let me know so I can notify them.

Helen Gahagan.

November 8, 1940

100  
Douglas  
Cl.

Dear Miss Gahagan:

Thank you for your telegram.  
Both the President and I appreciate more  
deeply than we can say all that you did  
in this campaign.

Many, many thanks and all good  
wishes.

Affectionately,

Mrs. Melvyn Douglas

Miss Helen Gahagan  
7141 S. Enalda Drive  
Los Angeles  
Calif.

0

**CLASS OF SERVICE**  
 This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable symbol above or preceding the address.

# WESTERN UNION

1201

SYMBOLS	
DL	Day Letter
NT	Overnight Telegram
LC	Deferred Cable
NLT	Cable Night Letter
	Ship Radiogram

R. B. WHITE  
 PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON  
 CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

J. C. WILLEVER  
 FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

The filing time shown in the date line on telegrams and day letters is STANDARD TIME at point of origin. Time of receipt is STANDARD TIME at point of destination

NBL14 12=LOSANGELES CALIF  
 MRS FRANKLIN ROOSEVELT=

NOV 6 AM 12 15

*11-11-15*

JUST LEARNED CALIFORNIA THREE TO TWO IN FAVOR OF THE  
 PRESIDENT AFFECTIONATELY=  
 HELEN GAHAGAN.

*Thank  
 Best interest  
 after this  
 don't we now  
 all of it  
 with many  
 still going  
 11-6-15*

THE COMPANY WILL APPRECIATE SUGGESTIONS FROM ITS PATRONS CONCERNING ITS SERVICE

E.R.

Jimmy has obtained studio sound stage for October 14th  
We are planning a gala reception for the celebration  
of the close of the women's fund raising campaign.  
Are you free to come then if so may we announce this  
or should we keep it as a surprise

Helen Gahagan

FROM

The White House  
Washington

# TELEGRAM

OFFICIAL BUSINESS—GOVERNMENT RATES

\*\*\* 10-5481

September 30, 1940

*Miss Helen Gahagan*  
MISS HELEN GAHAGAN  
7140 SENALDA ROAD  
HOLLYWOOD CALIFORNIA

THANKS FOR WIRE. WILL HAVE TO STAY WITH JIMMIE.

ELEANOR ROOSEVELT

TELEGRAM

The White House  
Washington

7140 Several  
Ed  
H. J. ...

LOWU.RA. 23-

Poughkeepsie, N. Y., September 30, 1940

THE WHITE HOUSE - Attention Mrs. Lund:

I haven't Heleh Gahagan's address. Please wire her as follows: Thanks for wire. Will have to stay with Jimmie. Signed.  
E. R. Unquote.

Molly Somerville.

2:55 p.m.

November 22, 1940

100  
Mrs. Ale/ryn Daughter

Dear Miss Cahagan:

I have had the additional four letters written and all of the letters will go out as soon as Mrs. Roosevelt has time to sign them, which I imagine will be today.

I am always happy to hear from you. I feel very smug at the moment. I bet (theoretically) some of my pessimistic friends that the President would carry forty states, and thirty-eight is near enough. The Michigan people insist that a recount will give us that state. In one of the cities the voting machines failed to record 11,000 votes.

Mrs. Roosevelt and I have just been on a ten-day lecture trip, and I thought the enthusiasm for the President and Mrs. Roosevelt was greater than ever.

I hope you will be coming east soon and will let us know ahead.

Very sincerely,

Miss Helen Cahagan  
7141 Senalda Road  
Los Angeles  
California

also see Walter Fish

100 11 19 40

HELEN GAHAGAN

November 19, 1940

Dear Miss Thompson:

With apologies I am enclosing four more names to add to the list of California campaign workers. I debated a long time before including the name of Mrs. Mattison Boyd Jones on this list. However, due to the fact that she has headed the Women's Division for Southern California and remained Chairman (after much persuasion) throughout the campaign, it will avoid difficulties if she is not ignored. Just a very perfunctory note will do.

I know you are terribly busy and none too happy to hear from me again. But in closing I just want to send my love and say aren't you glad its all over and isn't it wonderful!

Sincerely,

*Helen Gahagan*

7141 Senalda Road

Los Angeles, California.

✓ Mrs. Mattison Boyd Jones - 727 Kenneth Road, Glendale, California  
Head of the Women's Division for Southern California (has  
just now resigned) Headed campaign activities of the Women's  
Division during the campaign.

✓ Mr. George Creel - For many years a very influential Democratic  
Party figure in California. Address: 2671 Divisadero St.,  
San Francisco, California.

✓ Mrs. Robert McWilliams, Stamford Court Apartments, San Francisco.  
Former head of Women's Division, Northern California. Now  
giving her time to the migrant problem in California. Has  
been a most efficient Party worker and did a great deal to  
help in this as well as past campaigns.

✓ Mr. W. T. Dollar, Editor Publisher, SUTTER CREEK NEWS, Sutter  
Creek, California.  
This paper has given much space to the re-election of  
the President. It has also given much attention to  
the activities of the Democratic organizations in this  
part of the state..

December 2, 1940

100  
MRS. Mc... Done

My dear Miss Cahagan:

The enclosed letters have been returned to Mrs. Roosevelt. Will you please readdress them properly? I am enclosing envelopes for your use.

Very sincerely yours,

Administrative Officer  
Social Correspondence

Miss Helen Cahagan  
7141 Senalda Road  
Los Angeles  
California

RWM:bwm

December 3, 1940

100  
Mr. - Mrs. - Douglas

My dear Miss Cahagan:

The enclosed letters have been  
returned to Mrs. Roosevelt. Will you please  
readdress them?

Very sincerely yours,

Administrative Officer  
Social Correspondence

Miss Melvyn Douglas  
~~Miss Helen Cahagan~~  
7141 Senalda Road  
Los Angeles  
California

EM/JEG

December 31, 1940

Dear Helen:

Many, many thanks for the beautiful little watch which you and Mr. Douglas sent to me for Christmas. I think that its being in the shape of a grandfather's clock is such a clever idea and I am perfectly delighted to have it. You were more than kind to remember me.

I hope you had a nice Christmas and that the New Year will be a very happy one for you both.

Affectionately,

Mrs. Melvyn Douglas  
7141 Senalda Road  
Los Angeles, Calif.

DD

100

January 14, 1941

Dear Miss Gahagan:

Mrs. Roosevelt asks if you will please look into this case and let her know about it.

Very sincerely yours,

Secretary to  
Mrs. Roosevelt

Miss Helen Gahagan  
7141 Senalda Drive  
Los Angeles  
California

0

4  
John Yakasovich, 515 Norumbega Drive, Monrovia, Calif.  
Tubercular in Dore Sanitarium - three years on his back - in room alone  
with no interests except reading and his eyes won't stand much. Has no  
family - wants a small radio

HELEN GAHAGAN

January 16, 1941

*file*

*100*

Dear Miss Thompson:

Thank you for the beautiful pictures of the President and Mrs. Roosevelt.

We love them.

All good wishes to you.

Sincerely,

*Helen Gahagan*

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

HELEN GAHAGAN

February 18, 1941

*file*

*100*

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

Dear Miss Thompson:

Thank you for the \$2.00 which was sent  
to Mrs. Roosevelt for the migrant children. It  
will be added to our fund to buy pre-school books  
for the nurseries in the F. S. A. camps.

Sincerely yours,

*Helen*

Los Angeles, California

April 7, 1941

File

100

Dear Helen:

Thank you so much for your letter.  
I could go to you for the night of the 28th  
and the party could be held the afternoon of  
that day.

I am looking forward to seeing you.

Affectionately,

Miss Helen Gahagan  
7141 Senalda Road  
Los Angeles  
Calif.

0

ack  
4-7

HELEN GAHAGAN  
CALIFORNIA DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL COMMITTEEWOMAN

March 31st, 1941

*been Helen  
Psd. P. J. M. B. K.  
28th  
What day  
ER*

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

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

It is getting close to your California visit and Melvyn and I are hoping it will be possible for you and Miss Thompson to stay with us. I understand you will arrive here the 24th of April, be in San Francisco the 25th, return here and remain in Los Angeles the 26th, 27th and 28th. We would love to have you with us all the time you are here.

Mr. Robert Burns, State Administrator for the N. Y. A., is very anxious to have you hear the N.Y.A. Youth Orchestra while you are in Los Angeles. The plan would be to have the orchestra play in our patio. Twenty to forty men and women from the fields of education and public service, and who are outstanding in the community, would be invited to meet you. An effort would be made to make them aware of the fine work the N.Y.A. is doing with young musicians. Mr. Burns intends, in the near future, to invite this group to serve in an advisory capacity, and I am sure he feels that contact with you would make them all see the light. He would like you to say a few words after

Mrs. Roosevelt - Page two.

the orchestra has played, stressing the importance of the Community Service Projects. The concert could be arranged for any of the days you are here from 3:30 to 5 in the afternoon. Will you let me know if you care to do this and, if so, which day you can fit it into your schedule?

I have just come back from a trip up the coast and have seen the N.Y.A. Resident Projects at San Luis Obispo. They are doing perfectly magnificent work in California.

We sent a radio to the boy, John Yakasovich, who wrote you from the Dore Sanitarium in Monrovia. He was enormously pleased and, when he was given the radio, he said, "I knew Mrs. Roosevelt wouldn't forget me." This institution is one that has to operate on limited means and most of the patients are without funds. The marvelous thing is that all of the people in the same ward will be able to enjoy the radio. They were so delighted that one of two of the patients had tears in their eyes. John Yakasovich, besides having tuberculosis, has some sickness which has made him muscularly uncoordinated. That is why, from his hand writing, I expected he would be a much younger person than he actually is.

I have the President's campaign hat in the top of my closet. Melvyn and Eddie Robinson

Mrs. Roosevelt - Page three.

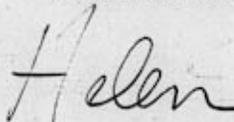
couldn't bear to trust it to the careless hands of the Republicans. We will consult with you when you come as to what would be the best thing to do with it. I have a feeling it should be sent to the President's Library.

Senator Wheeler stopped the Lease Lend Broadcast but we sent telegrams from practically everybody in California to Senator Barkley.

I am enclosing Mr. Burns letter so that you will fully understand the purpose of the musical afternoon they have planned.

Melvyn joins me in warmest regards to the President and to you.

Affectionately,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Helen".

7141 Senalda Road  
Los Angeles, California.

FEDERAL SECURITY AGENCY  
NATIONAL YOUTH ADMINISTRATION  
FOR CALIFORNIA

2328 WEST SEVENTH STREET, LOS ANGELES

BRANCH OFFICE  
MONADNOCK BUILDING  
861 MARKET STREET  
SAN FRANCISCO

March 28, 1941

Miss Helen Gahagan  
7141 Senalda Road  
Hollywood, California

My dear Miss Gahagan:

Confirming our telephone conversations, the National Youth Administration is very anxious to have you invite Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt to be the guest of honor at a tea for some thirty to forty prominent men and women who serve on the State Advisory Committee for the National Youth Administration of California. Mr. S. Burns Weston, Assistant to the Chairman of the National Advisory Committee, recently personally informed us that Mrs. Roosevelt is rendering a distinctive service in the development of advisory committee service for the National Youth Administration throughout the country. Consequently, we feel that she will be happy to meet briefly with this group and to make a short talk, outlining her hopes for the development of this type of voluntary service.

When Mrs. Roosevelt visited California in 1940 she very generously assured us that, while she could not take time that year to visit any of our projects, she would definitely plan to allocate some time to us on her 1941 tour.

The Honorable Culbert L. Olson will invite Mrs. Roosevelt to dedicate either (1) our large work center financed by the City and County of San Francisco, or (2) our new resident center at North Sacramento, serving the army air depot. Concerning the latter exceptional project, Dr. Remsen D. Bird, President of Occidental College and Chairman of the National NYA Committee on College Work, on March 18, wrote directly to Mrs. Roosevelt, describing the North Sacramento resident center project, and conveying to her the combined hopes of the Commandant of the depot, the National Youth Administration, and himself, that Mrs. Roosevelt would allocate time for a visit to this project.

March 28, 1941

We are confident that through your personal invitation Mrs. Roosevelt will be glad to render this service to the youth of California. The allocation of 1½ hours to the tea at your home and a similar amount of time at one of the two proposed Northern California dedications, would cover the time requirement.

For the occasion at your home, our Los Angeles youth orchestra is very anxious to play two or three numbers under the baton of Mr. Alexander Steinert, - this is the orchestra which Mr. Stokowski directed over a nationwide CBS broadcast early in February. For either the San Francisco or Sacramento occasion, our San Francisco youth orchestra under the baton of Mr. Van Den Burg covets a similar privilege.

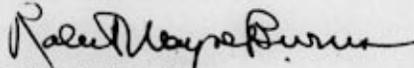
Elizabeth McClave, of the Leigh Lecturers, generously provided us with the schedule of Mrs. Roosevelt, which at that date was listed as follows:

April 24, Los Angeles; April 25, San Francisco;  
April 26, 27, 28, Los Angeles; April 29, Hanford;  
April 30, Eugene, Oregon.

We will greatly appreciate it if you will mention to Mrs. Roosevelt our hopes for 1½ hours of her time at one of the two Northern California points suggested, in addition to your invitation for the Los Angeles tea at your home. In view of the prominence of the people who will attend these events, it is important for us to know exactly when Mrs. Roosevelt can give us the time, so that invitations can be sent out as soon as possible.

With genuine appreciation for your kindly assistance, I am,

Sincerely yours,



ROBERT WAYNE BURNS  
State Administrator

RWB/fs

April 17, 1941

Dear Helen:

Many thanks for your wire of Easter greetings which we both appreciated.

I am so sorry I did not see you when I was in Los Angeles for Jimmy's wedding, but I was only there for a few hours. Miss Thompson and I will be delighted to stay with you if you do not think it will be too much of a burden. We will be there the night of the 24th and again the 26th, 27th, and 28th, and that does seem to me a great imposition.

As you know, when I am in a place for a paid lecture, it is not possible for me to make any other public appearance. I will be glad, of course, to do what I can that will not conflict with the lecture contract, and I would like to see the Maurice Benjamins and as much of Jimmy's wife as possible.

Affectionately,

Miss Helen Gahagan  
7141 Senalda Road  
Los Angeles, Calif.

T:DD

100  
C-shogder  
✓

April 18, 1941

Dear Helen:

I entirely approve of the program as outlined in the letter from the colored woman.

In regard to the United Americans, I joined because I knew several of the people and felt they might do good work. I am enclosing for your information the release they sent me and I would like it back for my files.

Affectionately,

Mrs. Melvin Douglas  
7141 Senalda Road  
Los Angeles, Calif.

0

am  
4-18

**HELEN GAHAGAN**  
CALIFORNIA DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL COMMITTEEWOMAN

April 1st, 1941

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

Dear Miss Thompson:

Will you please show the enclosed letter to Mrs. Roosevelt? It was sent to me by a very educated colored woman here who came to feel that such a program was necessary because she was disturbed by certain tendencies which began to show themselves in the schools.

cut ↓  
A Mr. Edward Hart, Executive Secretary of United Americans, has recently been out here. I noticed Mrs. Roosevelt's name listed as one of the sponsors of this organization. Can you tell me anything about Mr. Hart and this organization?

Thank you for all your help.

Affectionately,

7141 Senalda Road  
Los Angeles, California.

Helen Gahagan

COPY

Los Angeles Cal., Mar. 20 1941

Miss Helen Cahagan  
7141 Senalda Road  
Los Angeles, California.

Dear Miss Cahagan:-

Please permit me to thank you again for so kindly granting an interview to Mrs. Allen and myself.

Enclosed you will find a copy of the matter we discussed in our interview. I trust it will not be construed as criticizing the great work of the present administration. I am a staunch supporter and ardent admirer of our president and his farreaching programs, and feel with the majority of Americans and other nationalities that at no time hitherto has so much been done for the good of humanity. This plan presented is offered only because of a desire to help in any possible way.

This plan, revised and adjusted to fit the local school system, has been accepted by the Los Angeles board of education, and is being initiated next week.

I appreciate your forwarding this to Mrs. Roosevelt, and trust she will see some merit in it.

Very sincerely yours

Dr. Eva W. Young.  
4522 Wall Street

### Foreword

Defense is the most important word in the American vocabulary today. Defense of our land, our possessions, our government, our way of life. There are many "First lines of defense"; but there can be no line of defense so important as the attitude of the people. I am sure there is no argument on this point, as recent world events confirm this.

This attitude, if it reflects understanding, intelligence, courage and unity is the real bulwark both in front of and behind all national defense. Any weakness in this mental armor will nullify all defense preparations.

This country, made up as it is of so many different elements --racial, cultural, economic, political, and religious, has attempted and succeeded in welding its parts into one great whole. However, because of the many elements which compose it, constantly there generated frictions and irritations which at times tend to weaken the bonds of sympathy which should temper the relations of the groups.

It is therefore necessary constantly to remain on guard against any cause of friction or animosity which might tend to alienate any group or faction from the straight line of true democracy.

This is especially true where our youth are concerned. Youth problems are great, and much is being done to solve them. In fact, never before in our history has so much been done for the welfare of our youth. Appreciation of this great work, along with appreciation of American principles, and a genuine love of American liberty, are not always so evident as they should be. Problems, friction, and antagonism among our youth offer many opportunities to subversive elements which proceed to tear down the very things we are trying to do. These young people, voters and statesmen of tomorrow, must be rooted into the very life of our democracy, and cemented into a firm democratic whole, in order to preserve our principles.

A generalized program, as well as those carried on by private groups cannot always reach the people most in need of these programs. In times like these the need of a program specializing in this particular activity, sponsored and directed by our federal government, can readily be seen. It is clearly our obligation to perpetuate our way of life by building a citizenry trained to appreciate it.

This type of program is not only the first line of defense, but is the very ground work of all defense preparations.

*Dr. Eva W. Young  
4522 Wall St.  
Los Angeles Cal.*

## Education for Defense.

### Problems

1. General lack of knowledge of democratic background.
  2. Negative attitude toward rights privileges and responsibilities.
  3. Need of training as to duties of citizens.
  4. Lethargy on part of parents in their attitude toward their responsibility for the development of democratic ideals in their children.
  5. Prejudices
    - Sectional
    - Economic
    - Religious
    - Racial
- Lack of appreciation of the American way of life.

### Suggested plan

1. A department or a group of persons in some department to carry on the work.
2. This division to act as clearinghouse for all private or separate activities of this nature.
3. Definite work program to promote
  - Awareness of undemocratic tendencies
  - Appreciation of opportunities
  - Understanding of responsibilities
  - Realization of rights and privileges
  - Study of American ideals
  - Thorough interpretation of principles of American democracy.
  - Psychology of preparedness.
4. Study of component groups of our country to promote appreciation of contribution each has made to society.

The above plan would systematize, correlate, and unify all efforts in this direction

*Dr. Eva W. Young  
4522 Wall St.  
Los Angeles Cal.*

MAY 3 1911

7.6  
1/1

Carmel  
10 May 27<sup>th</sup>

Dearest Mrs. Roosevelt,

at night I keep  
waking - something  
wories me - then suddenly  
I remember. I haven't  
yet written to Mrs. Roosevelt  
And there is no excuse  
that is adequate - except  
perhaps that I have  
forgotten how to write

2.

I pray for Jimmy and  
hope you are not too  
anxious about him.  
as soon as I return to  
Los Angeles next week  
I will phone Mrs Roosevelt

I haven't seen her since  
you left as I left Los  
Angeles almost immediately  
Walter Disney phoned  
the day after you left

3

but he was a little  
hesitant and bashful  
about doing so - so I  
promised to tell you.

We opened the Del Monte  
Summer Theatre here with  
great success. We are  
doing the 'Constant Wife'.  
It is still a very amusing  
play. And the soldiers  
have really enjoyed it.

4

planning to house  
about 30,000 people  
at Vallejo and intend  
to use prefabricated houses  
instead of trailers -  
they have put Bill  
Wurster one of our really  
fine and gifted architects  
in charge - This would  
certainly seem to be a step  
in the right direction

Bill Wurst is going to  
look at the J.S.A.  
pre fabricated house.

Everyone is eagerly awaiting  
President's speech to night.  
Radio goes with the  
the theatre is that I  
and miss it -

And I had better go now  
there won't be a performance  
up here to you dear Mrs -  
most affectionately  
Helen

There are a great many  
interesting things going  
in the camps here.  
I understand that Charles  
Mitt has made a  
private report to Mr.  
Mitt.

I thank you for sending  
- Mr. Palmer's letter.  
- am sure your letter to  
- bore some fruit -  
- cause they are now

and I promised to remove  
(after a little discussion)  
not only the President, <sup>voice</sup> but  
also the Capitol from  
the picture that we saw.

He really was very very  
sweet about it all -  
I promised to write and  
tell ya that the end  
of the picture had been  
changed - I asked him  
to write to you himself

long hand -

We loved having you  
and Miss Thompson -  
The memory of your visit  
is something that we  
shall always cherish.  
I felt so very lonely the  
day you left. And we  
almost ~~eat up~~ "my day"  
to keep from having the  
feeling that we have  
lost you all together from  
our lives -

A  
Elsie Waterbury Morris, 284 Madeline Drive, Pasadena, California- wants job.

May 29, 1941

100

Dear Helen:

I am sending this letter to  
you as you may know of something Mrs. Morris  
can do. I do not believe she is a Democrat.

Affectionately,

Miss Helen Cahagan  
7141 Senalua Road  
Los Angeles, Calif.

DD

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

June 10, 1941.

MEMORANDUM FOR

MRS. ROOSEVELT

It would help if you could  
send this to Helen Gahagan to  
check up on and for any recommen-  
dation she may care to make.

F. D. R.

*I know this is substantially true.  
let J. J. W. Pomeroy hold the record for  
same - ER*

June 12, 1941

100

Dear Helen:

The President suggested that I send this to you to see if you would have any suggestion to make. I know that the letter is substantially true as Mr. J. T. O'Connor told me much the same thing. However, I don't know what to do about it and we thought you might know of something she could get to do.

Sincerely,

Letter from Senator James E. Murray to General Watson,  
enclosing copy of letter from Margaret Caffey Kilroy.

Miss Helen Cahagan  
7141 Senalda Road  
Los Angeles, Calif.

DD

Copy

My dear Senator Murray:

A few weeks ago when I read of the President's dedication of Woodrow Wilson's birthplace, I wondered if it would not be possible to let him know that Wilson's daughter Eleanor McAdoo is leading rather a desperate time. Last night I had a long chat with her - she was so discouraged that I have been turning over in my mind just how I might bring the matter to the President's notice. A letter from me would hardly reach him and bear little weight.

The situation is briefly - McAdoo left no estate and Eleanor has a little more than one hundred dollars a month to support herself and her daughter Faith. She is talking on the radio, but has not been able to get a sponsor and the talks for which she is paid very little will soon be discontinued. She has been given permission to live in the McAdoo house in Berkeley Square, a great empty herd of a place, that has been taken over by foreclosure, and where she will have to live in the few rooms she will be able to furnish until the house is sold. As you may imagine, it will be a most unhappy experience.

Many people believe that she has an income from royalties on the book, "The Woodrow Wilsons", which I wrote with her but as a matter of fact the book was a failure and the publishers have not earned the money they advanced to us.

Eleanor and I have been close friends for years and though she has many other friends who would, of course, try to help her if they knew the situation, she would not ask for help and of course she must not know that I am asking this of you.

You must forgive me for writing you, but I know your great kindness in matters of this sort and I am hoping you will not consider it too great an imposition.

I hesitate to suggest what she might be able to do, but perhaps something in connection with the Defense Bonds and Stamps.

Deeds (?) tells me that you have promised to bring Mrs. Murray with you to \_\_\_\_\_ when you get out again to California. It would be a great pleasure to have you both and you might find the sleepy peace of this place pleasant after the hectic days I know you are having in Washington.

We are recovering from the excitement of the visit of the South American Admirals and my mother was particularly happy to find that her favorite story about the great grand-father's ship La Reina de Los Angeles, with all the silver and the purple sails on which the first of the family came to California is a legend in Peru.

I will be so grateful if you can do something for Eleanor. Deeds and I are as always -

/s/ Margaret Caffey Kilroy

May 23, 1941

My dear Senator Murray

A few weeks ago when I read of the President's declaration of Woodrow Wilson's birthday a procedure, it would not be possible to let him know that Wilson's daughter, Eleanor, the Adas is being called a desperate time. Last night I had a long chat with her - she was so discouraged that I have been writing over as my mind just how I might

<sup>2</sup>  
bring the matter to the  
President's notice. A letter  
from the women's society would  
be a big help.  
The situation is briefly  
McAdoo left no estate and  
Gleason has a little more than  
one hundred dollars a month  
to support herself and her  
daughter's family. She is talking  
on the radio, but has not been  
able to get a sponsor, and the  
checks for which she is paid  
very little will soon be discontinued.  
She has been given permission  
to live in the McAdoo house

3  
in Berkeley Square, a great  
empty bare place. That  
has been taken over by fore-  
-closure, and where she was  
have to live in the few rooms  
she was able to furnish—  
until the house is sold. As you  
may imagine I was a least  
unhappy & penniless.

Many people believe that she  
has the claim for royalties  
on the book (The Woodrow  
Wilson) which I wrote with her,  
but as a matter of fact the  
book was a failure and the  
publisher has not earned

4  
The money they advanced to  
us?

Please and I have been  
close friends for years and  
that's the last thing these  
friends who would of course  
try to help her & they know  
her situation - they would  
never ask for help and of  
course she must not believe  
that I am asking her for you.  
You must give me for her  
you, but I know you great  
kindness & health, the best  
and I am hoping you will  
not consider to get on

<sup>5</sup>  
impression. I hesitate to  
suggest what she might be able  
to do - but perhaps something  
in connection with the Japanese  
Bonds and Stamps.

Deeds tells me that you have  
promised to bring Mrs Murray  
with you to So Paulo when you  
are again in California. How  
was that pleasant to have you  
both and you might find the  
sleep, peace & the place  
pleasant for the best days  
I know you are having a hard lot.  
We are recovering from the  
excitement of the visit of the

South America Admirals  
and my mother was particularly  
happy to find that her favorite  
story about the great grand  
father's ship La Reina de  
Los Angeles, with all the  
selves and the purple sails  
on which the quest of her father  
came to California is a  
legend in Peru.

There is so great  
you can do something for  
dearer. And well and  
one as always - dear a  
best orders -

Margaret Jaffey Helroy  
La Rambla → 25 Mar - 41

10

September 16, 1941

Dear Helen:

Thank you so much for your wire. I do hope I will be able to accomplish something definite. I made up my mind to do this job because, from all sides, I had complaints about the lack of progress and I may be able to push things along.

Affectionately,

Mrs. Melvyn Douglas  
7141 Sonalda Drive  
Los Angeles  
California

K/HY

TELEGRAM

The White House  
Washington

37WUKI 7 6:45 P.M.

LOS ANGELES, CALIF., SEPT. 15, 1941

MRS. FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT:

AT LAST WE ARE SO HAPPY LOVE.

HELEN GAHAGAN.

*Mrs. Melvyn Douglas  
7141 Senalda Dr  
Los Ang -*

*Acc 10  
9-16-41*

100

September 24, 1941

Miss Helen Gahagan  
7141 Senalda Drive  
Los Angeles, California

Secretary Morgenthau has arranged through Procurement Division of Treasury to allow Department of Public Works of Los Angeles County to use 1500 sewing machines for indefinite period if they provide maintenance and insurance

Eleanor Roosevelt

100  
**HELEN GAHAGAN**  
CALIFORNIA DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL COMMITTEEWOMAN

*File*

September 25, 1941

Dearest Mrs. Roosevelt:

Thank you for the telegram regarding permission from the Procurement Division of the Treasury Department to allow the Public Works Department of Los Angeles County to use 1500 sewing machines.

Melvyn and I are distressed to hear about your brother's illness and want you to know we are thinking of you.

Affectionately,

*Helen*

7141 Senalda Road  
Los Angeles, California.

100

Miss Helen Cahagan  
7141 Senalda Drive  
Los Angeles, California

September 27, 1941

Hope you will come directly here and stay at White House. Let me know time of arrival

Eleanor Roosevelt

September 29, 1941

MEMO FOR MR. CRIM:

MR. TOLLEY:

MISS THOMPSON:

Miss Helen Cahagan is arriving on Wednesday, October 1st, and has been invited to stay at the house. Time of arrival will be known later.

M.T.L.

TELEGRAM

The White House  
Washington

90wuk1 31

LOS ANGELES, CALIF., SEPT. 25, 1941

MRS. FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT:

ARRIVING WASHINGTON WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 1, FOR WPA  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETINGS. I HOPE YOU CAN SPARE ME A FEW  
MINUTES OF YOUR TIME TO TALK OVER CIVILIAN DEFENSE. WE LOVE  
YOU AFFECTIONATELY.

HELEN GAHAGAN.

TELEGRAM

The White House

100

34WUKI 20 7:51 P.M.

Washington

LOS ANGELES, CALIF., Oct. 21, 1941

MRS. FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT:

REGARDING MEETING SPONSORED BY LEAGUE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS AFTER  
INQUIRIES MY ADVICE IS HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH IT. AFFECTIONATELY,

HELEN GAHAGAN.

file

Jill

m c T  
100

Miss Helen Cahagan  
7141 Senalda Drive  
Los Angeles  
California

October 21, 1941

Have been asked by Ramon Welch to urge John Garfield to speak at big dinner October 26 for American All Week. Meeting sponsored by AFL and League for Civil Rights. What do you know about this and what is your advice?

Eleanor Roosevelt

Wire Miss Helen Gehagan - Los Angeles, Calif.

by Ramon Welch

Have been asked to urge John Garfield to speak at big dinner

Oct. 26th for Americans All Week. Meeting sponsored by

AFL and League for Civil Rights What do you know about

this and what is your advice love

ELEANOR ROOSEVELT

TELEGRAM

The White House

Washington

1POH 116NL.

TDS, PASADENA, CALIF., Oct. 19, 1941

MRS. FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT:

AMERICAN ALL WEEK IS BEING CELEBRATED IN POMONA, SITE LOS ANGELES COUNTY FAIR, BY BIG DINNER DANCE OCTOBER 26 SPONSORED BY AFL AND LEAGUE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS. CELEBRATION SHOULD DO MUCH TO COUNTERACT LOCAL ANTI-SPANISH-AMERICAN DISCRIMINATION IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND PLEDGE, PROMOTION NATIONAL UNITY IN POMONA AND LOS ANGELES COUNTIES. APPEARANCE OF A HOLLYWOOD STAR AS YOUR REPRESENTATIVE SPEAK IN BEHALF UNITY OF ALL AMERICAN MINORITIES TOWARDS NATIONAL EFFORT, WOULD AID GREATLY. BELIEVE ACTOR JOHN GARFIELD WOULD BE PLEASED TO PRESENT YO'R MESSAGE OF SUPPORT ON RECEIPT OF WIRE FROM YOU TO SCREEN ACTORS GUILD, HOLLYWOOD. WOULD YOU KINDLY REPLY BY RETURN WIRE TO RAMON WELCH, 1075 NORTH CATALINA, PASADENA, SO WE MAY PROCEED WITH PLANS?

EDWARD GREENWALD, POMONA AMERICANS ALL COMMITTEE.

*Write John Garfield  
Say his name in the  
place he stands up  
for -*

*Believe  
W. J. Welch  
now*

100

October 27, 1941.

Dear Helen:

Thank you so much for the plate,  
which is very good. The President seized  
upon it for his library. It was such fun  
having you here.

Affectionately,

~~Miss Helen Cahagan~~  
~~7141 Semalda Drive~~  
~~Los Angeles, Calif.~~

Miss Helen Cahagan  
7141 Semalda Drive  
Los Angeles, Calif.

VDS

W. HARRY SIMMONS, PRESIDENT  
T. W. PERRY, VICE-PRESIDENT

J. BETTS SIMMONS, TREASURER  
EDITH B. SIMMONS, SECRETARY

**MHIAZARUS Co.**  
Hardware Etc.

BUILDERS' HARDWARE, HOUSE FURNISHING GOODS  
SPORTING GOODS, CHINA AND GLASSWARE  
KING AND HASSELL STS.  
CHARLESTON, S. C.

Dearest Mrs. Roosevelt -

Have you seen any plates  
with the Presidents' picture on them?  
This is the first I have seen -  
Thought it might amuse you -  
They are sold in a hardware  
store - they were <sup>made</sup> in Holland -  
Helen

Monday - Oct 20<sup>th</sup>

HELEN GAHAGAN

Dearest Mrs. Roosevelt -

That last day with you  
was so beautiful - Every night before  
I go to sleep I have been talking  
with you telling you all the things  
I think - it's more difficult to  
get them down on paper -

Your radiant smile stays with  
me - and that wonderful look  
that comes into your eyes when  
one of the "Mr. Twittys" of the world  
tell their forward looking story -  
I love you and I love the President.

It's perfectly silly  $\frac{2}{70}$  to keep on saying  
the same thing - but there it is -  
But there maybe it isn't silly - so  
often - too often, we go rushing through  
life never stopping to tell how sweet  
we find it - and too often never  
stopping to properly catch hold of  
any given hour and hold it to  
us - that Saturday - your birthday,  
was that way - the wheels seemed  
to stop - even though you kept  
pouring over that endless mail - (and  
even that was sweet - your endless  
devotion struck at my heart -)

Thank you for letting me come and  
stay with you - and thank you for being  
you -

Lillian and I went to Charleston to stay with my brother and his wife who have a plantation outside of Sumner. It seemed as though we had gone to another planet - of course the moment you get on to the highway and see soldiers moving - the dream is over -

We learned to drive the tractor and pitch hay - and I have decided that learning to be a Farmerette is not an impossible thing for any one who is well - It's fun too -

The day we went to Charleston to have luncheon with all the people who are still worshipping their ancestors, admitting it, and receiving it -

2

we passed by a store - "debris and hardware" and saw a plate with the President's picture - the one I sent to you. <sup>By the way</sup> it was supposed to be your birthday present - But I thought it was rather interesting & think it had been made in Holland.

Are you coming to Los Angeles in

December or just San Francisco?

Mr. Page, our regional director, has resigned - They phoned this morning from Washington - (I hadn't been home five minutes) \* Ask about a Mr. Belgiano - former commander of the American Legion - I checked on him in San Francisco & he one seems to know him - he apparently

5

has never concerned him self with  
any civic affairs - the regional  
director certainly should understand  
something about state and local  
government or he will annoy <sup>everyone</sup>  
so much they won't work - I understand  
that Richard Graves, who is our state  
director of civilian defense appointed  
by the governor was being considered  
& fill Mr. Page's place - He would be  
perfectly wonderful - but and there is always  
a but it seems he must work for a  
salary - and I don't know if that is  
out of the question - And way I shall  
answer Mayor Womsey's question about  
Mr. Belgrand -  
good-bye dear Mrs. Roosevelt  
with deep devotion  
Helen

HELEN GAHAGAN  
CALIFORNIA DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL COMMITTEEWOMAN

November 4th, 1941.

*Handwritten initials or signature*

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

In answer to your letter of October 31st, I regret very much that I will be unable to attend Miss Davison's meeting, to which the heads of the National Women's Organizations have been called on Saturday, November 8th, as I will be on the West Coast at this time.

I regret very much that I can't be with Miss Davison, as I am sure the meeting will be of value to all those who attend.

Very sincerely yours,

*Handwritten signature: Helen Gahagan*

Mrs. Franklyn D. Roosevelt,  
Assistant Director,  
Office of Civilian Defense,  
Dupont Circle Apartment Building,  
Room 1025,  
Washington, D. C.

1003  
November 10, 1941

Dear Helen:

Mrs. Roosevelt has received the enclosed request for a message in connection with the First Annual Hollywood Thrill Circus being sponsored by the Columbus Association for the Blind, Inc.

Before complying with this request, she will greatly appreciate any information you can give her regarding the Columbus Association.

Very sincerely yours,

Secretary to  
Mrs. Roosevelt

Miss Helen Cahagan  
7141 Senalda Drive  
Los Angeles  
California

PLF/HY

5

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

November 10, 1941

Dear Helen:

Mrs. Roosevelt has received the enclosed request for a message in connection with the First Annual Hollywood Thrill Circus being sponsored by the Columbus Association for the Blind, Inc.

Before complying with this request, she will greatly appreciate any information you can give her regarding the Columbus Association.

Very sincerely yours,

*Marguerite Thompson*  
Secretary to  
Mrs. Roosevelt

Miss Helen Cahagan  
7141 Sonalda Drive  
Los Angeles  
California

HELEN GAHAGAN

November 17, 1941

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

Dear Miss Thompson:

I am returning the letter received by Mrs. Roosevelt, and your letter to Miss Gahagan. Unfortunately, we can tell you nothing about the Columbus Association for the Blind -- it is located in Columbus, Ohio. The address of the Circus Headquarters is 103 East Long Street, Columbus, as noted in the margin of the letter.

I hope this reaches you in time for you to take appropriate action.

Sincerely yours,

*Nelda Salinger*

Nelda Salinger  
Secretary to  
Helen Gahagan

HELEN GAHAGAN  
CALIFORNIA DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL COMMITTEE WOMAN

100

November 18, 1941

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I am enclosing my correspondence with the Attorney General, so that you may know what is happening out here about our Federal Judgeship. I think the appointment ought to be made for many reasons. It is making for great confusion in Southern California at a time when we can't afford the luxury of confusion.

I follow your activities daily, and am so terribly disappointed that you will not be out here for the 27th.

My love to you and Tommy.

Affectionately,

*Helen*

Helen Gahagan

HG:ns  
Encl.

November 18, 1941

The Hon. Francis Biddle  
Office of the Attorney General  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Biddle:

In regard to the United States Federal Judgeship in Los Angeles, I still feel that John Packard ought to have it. Opposition to him revolves around the lowest kind of political chicanery. His getting it or not getting it involves so many things in our community that it becomes much more than a matter of just one Federal Judgeship. However, if you feel that giving the appointment to John Packard is impossible because of certain opposition, then certainly something should be found for him in recognition of his past contribution.

If Mr. Packard's candidacy is hopeless -- and I say this with deep regret -- a solution has presented itself. Miss Marion Harron, a member of the United States Board of Tax Appeals, has presented herself as a candidate. She is brilliantly qualified, as is evidenced by the enclosed letter from Justice Justin Miller of the United States Court of Appeals, whose opinion I consider more highly for such an appointment than that of anyone else from this State.

If Miss Harron were to be given the appointment, it would be a magnificent gesture toward all the distinguished women we have in the country, and a recognition of the contribution that women have to make. Her appointment would meet with real and approbation from the Women's Division in Washington and in California.

The Hon. Francis Biddle

-2-

Her appointment would meet with none of the violent opposition that has greeted all other candidates. It would lift the President and yourself out of the bickering, pulling, and rancor which would be heaped upon you with the appointment of any one of the candidates now in the field. She is a candidate that one can be justly proud of, and she is the only candidate outside of John Packard who is worthy to fill such a high office.

With kindest regards.

Sincerely yours,

Helena Gahagan

HG:ns



United States Court of Appeals  
Washington, D. C.

November 15, 1941

Miss Helen Cahagan  
7141 Sonalda Road  
Los Angeles, California

Dear Miss Cahagan:

Enclosed is a summary of the educational and professional career of Miss Marion J. Harron, now a member of the United States Board of Tax Appeals. I have known Miss Harron for more than ten years and have had occasion to appraise her qualifications as a lawyer and as a Judge on many occasions. For several months we were fellow-members of the United States Board of Tax Appeals. The procedure of that Board requires that when a Member has completed the preparation of an opinion he shall present the opinion at the next weekly meeting of the Board. On these occasions not only the opinion but the background of the case is subjected to intense critical and unrelenting scrutiny of the entire membership. Only one of very real ability, adequate training, mental and emotional poise and judicial temperament in the finest sense can well survive these searching sessions. I have seen Miss Harron on many occasions hold her own in admirable fashion with that group which, incidentally, is composed otherwise entirely of men.

During recent years I have had occasion, as a Judge of the United States Court of Appeals, to appraise Miss Harron's work when it has come to this court on appeal. Here her opinions must bear comparison with those not only of other Members of the United States Board of Tax Appeals, but of Judges of the District Court of the United States for the District of Columbia, and of the many administrative agencies whose headquarters are in Washington, including the Patent Office, the Federal Trade Commission, the Interstate Commerce Commission, the Federal Communications Commission, the Securities and Exchange Commission, and many others. I can assure you without reservation that Miss Harron's work meets this comparative test in admirable fashion.

You realize, as do I and every other informed person, that a woman who engages in the practice of law is under serious handicap because of the prejudice which exists in the minds of fellow-professional people, as well as the general public. This is even more true as applied to a woman who occupies a judicial

November 15, 1941

position. In saying what I have said, therefore, concerning Miss Harron, I have paid her a much higher compliment than if I had written the same things about a man. Of course, the State of California is probably more hospitable to the professional activities of women than is any other State in the Union. The great law schools of California have admitted women as students for many years, while some of the Eastern schools still refuse them admission, and some have conceded admission only very reluctantly and during very recent years. Similarly, I would say that Southern California and the city of Los Angeles have a larger percentage of women lawyers in practice, and a larger number of women on the bench, than is true of any other part of the country; but as concerns judicial office, this is true only in the State and local offices. In a time and under an Administration in which the rights and privileges of all members of society have been so emphasized, it would seem entirely proper, therefore, that serious consideration should be given to the qualifications for appointment to judicial office of outstanding women members of the bar. Moreover, it would seem an obvious and appropriate promotion to advance Miss Harron from membership on the United States Board of Tax Appeals -- which is in every sense a judicial office -- to the District Court bench.

You will understand, of course, that everything which I have said above is said without first-hand knowledge of the situation now existing in Southern California, and without the slightest intention of urging upon you any action which, from the strategic position which you occupy, may seem inappropriate. In other words, I am reporting to you facts which are available from the record and an estimate of temperament, character, ability, and training which it has been my opportunity to observe, and which it is my privilege to report to you.

With all good wishes to you and Mr. Douglas, I am

Sincerely yours,

Justin Miller

FROM

The White House  
Washington

# TELEGRAM

OFFICIAL BUSINESS—GOVERNMENT RATES

December 9, 1941

Miss Helen Cahagan  
7141 Senecada Road  
Los Angeles, Calif.

Regret we do not know time of Mrs. Roosevelt's arrival.

R. W. Magee

TELEGRAM

The White House  
Washington

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Airlines  
1/30*

94WUKI 30 3 Ex.

RF, LOS ANGELES, CALIF., DEC. 8, 1941

MALVINA THOMPSON: OR LORENA HICKOK:

DEAR TOMMY WE ARE OVER RUN WITH CONFLICTING REPORTS AS  
TO WHEN MRS. ROOSEVELT IS TO ARRIVE. WE WANT TO KNOW AT ONCE.  
PLEASE ANSWER BY WIRING ME AT MY HOME.

HELEN GAHAGAN.

*air mail*

*100*

February 10, 1942

Dear Helen:

Mrs. Roosevelt received your letter of February 2 and her reply is, "I don't see why you should" sponsor National Sharecroppers Week.

Sincerely,

Secretary to  
Mrs. Roosevelt

Miss Helen Gehagan  
7141 Senalda Drive  
Los Angeles, California

*7*  
0

act  
2/10

HELEN GAHAGAN

February 2, 1942

Miss Malvina Thompson  
White House  
Washington, D.C.

*air mail*  
*Mrs. A. J. Jupp*  
*I don't know why you should!*

Dear Tommy:

The New York Committee for National Sharecroppers Week has asked us to sponsor them. Bishop Francis J. McConnell is Chairman, and Mrs. Raymond V. Ingersoll is Vice-Chairman.

Knowing nothing about it, I turn to you. Should our names appear as sponsors?

Affectionately,

*Helen*  
Helen Gahagan

HG:ns

file  
HELEN GAHAGAN 1100

May 7, 1942

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

Dearest Mrs. Roosevelt:

Your letter made my heart ache. How I wish I could come to Washington to see you--to see Melvyn, but it's impossible to leave the children. Thank you just the same for thinking of me.

It just so happens that I had a meeting the other night with leaders of the Negro race. As the Negroes are being siphoned from defense industries where we have finally gotten them, new problems are arising. With these problems new and rather serious disturbances among the younger and hot-blooded elements are threatened.

This meeting was held in the hope that a few solutions to the situation could be worked out and sent on to the President for his consideration as next steps in solving the problem of racial discrimination. The Negro leaders here are extremely reasonable and only desirous of helping at this time. We can be very happy that leadership rests in their hands.

In a few days I will send you their recommendations which will be in Washington before your meeting on May 14th. This situation concerns not only the colored people, but the Mexican as well, here in California.

I think it wonderful and right that you have taken the leadership of this committee.

The President's speech was just what we all needed and I believe from the general reaction--wanted. His beauty and greatness shown through like a great light. It was as though everyone, through the speech, was brought face to face with his better self. People seem desirous to live up to their best good. I hope

it will last. Somehow I think it will.

We are working terribly hard out here -- working to return congressmen from this state with some foresight. A Congress that will support the President.

- My love to you and Tommy.

Devotedly,

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

May 19, 1942

Dear Helen:

Many thanks for the material which you sent me and which will be useful.

I am glad you like the article I wrote for New Republic.

We enjoyed seeing Melvyn again.

Affectionately,

Miss Helen Gehl  
7141 Tonala Drive  
Hollywood, Calif.

Letters enclosed sent to Fair Practices Com.

HELEN GAHAGAN

May 13, 1942

*5-19*  
*Went to the ...*  
*see how me ...*  
*McIntyre*  
*ER*

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

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Enclosed is the material I  
promised you for the 14th, which will  
arrive in time, I hope.

The one report was compiled  
by a committee of Negro leaders here,  
chairmanned by the three signatories  
of the report. For your information,  
Mrs. Fay Allen is a member of the Los  
Angeles Board of Education, Mr. Augustus  
Hawkins is a State Assemblyman at Sacra-  
mento, and Mr. Dellums is 4th Internation-  
al Vice-President, and Supervisor of the  
Pacific Coast Zone of the Brotherhood of  
Sleeping Car Porters.

I read your article in the  
New Republic, and it was wonderful.

Affectionately,

*Helen*  
Helen Gahagan

HG:ns

August 28, 1942

100  
✓

Dear Helen:

The enclosed is a copy of a letter which came to me from California. I should appreciate your expression of opinion on the subject.

Affectionately,

Miss Helen Gahagan  
7141 Senalda Drive  
Los Angeles, California

VDS/mlt

+ Mrs. Edward P. Drescher

*Act  
y/hogou  
C. H. K. L. L.  
C. H. M. L. L.  
L. L. L. L. L. L. L.*



*copy to  
Helen Gelling  
8/25/42*

AUG 12 1942

August 12, 1942 *up 12*  
875 Morro Street  
San Luis Obispo,  
California

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Although I am amazed at my own boldness in writing to one as occupied as you, I am doing so because I feel my reason for so doing is one which might be of interest to you.

I've been an ardent "fan," for years, especially since devouring your wonderful book. I read it, you see, during the years I worked at Paramount Studio in Hollywood as "woman's angle" publicist, press agent, and columnist and I used it as what could honestly be called an antidote from the type of writing I had to do !

I know what Sylvia Sidney has told me about meeting and talking with you has really provided me with the courage to address you -- I wonder if you remember her visit with you, it is one of her most precious, vivid experiences ! And she is a girl who uses superlatives <sup>with me</sup> sparingly -- so I knew I was lucky to have her share her impression of you with me very soon after her visit to the White House.

This is my "cry." I've been an army wife now for about two years. My husband, Captain Edward P. Drescher, is a doctor in the regular army and of course I am thoroughly proud of him. He went into active service the very day he received his M.D. and although, after hard work in Hollywood studios for nearly seven years, my life with him is far from an easy one -- there is only one thing I would change in it.....not just for me, but for every woman married to an officer, (or to an enlisted man)

This touches on a subject we all must accept and tolerate -- but I am hoping that perhaps my suggestion, brought to your attention, may be constructive. I hope so.

I have been moved about a good deal since war was declared. Most army wives have. Strange towns at short notice, housing problems, futile searches for a place to live and apartments or rooms in places we've never dreamed we'd have to refer to as "home". I've seen high-ranking officers' wives learning to do laundry and to cook and pretending it was fun. I've done things I never thought I could do and keep my sense of humor. We're all ready and anxious to keep on this way, <sup>and</sup> we can be near enough our dear ones to help them keep on toward the victory we all dream of and look forward to.

But when we are left alone in these towns <sup>(as we are, most of the time)</sup> we cannot very well barricade the doors and never emerge. Therefore, when we <sup>do</sup> go to market, out calling -- or to an early movie in the evening I can't see why we should have to be insulted on an average of three or four times each trip by soldiers who take it for granted that any unescorted lady -- regardless of age or demeanor -- is entitled to any remark or insult they wish to make. Sometimes our treatment is worse than this -- <sup>believe me, much worse.</sup>

We, the same women, walk with our husbands and mark with pride the respect and the salute our husbands receive from these same men. Why then, can't someone figure out some sort of emblem, <sup>or insignia</sup> humble but significant, to end this disgusting condition? I sound like a crank, I suppose, but I speak for hundreds of women who love the army and who loathe having to be humiliated personally when life is seriously difficult enough, during separations long or brief. (What civilian women who receive this same treatment, also, think -- is obvious.) We shouldn't have to stop when these embarrassing things happen and say <sup>in our hearts</sup> "We're officers wives." We know we have no rank but in respect to

that of our husbands, around which we build our entire lives, conduct, homes -- don't you think it goes beyond the limits of decency to let this thing go merrily on?

I belong to the group who think women in uniform, unless in active duty, are silly <sup>so it isn't a secret to the world</sup> I beg you to keep my name out of this because I believe that an army wife should remain as far in the background as possible. As a press agent I learned that my first requisite was never to get my face in the picture -- and I feel that way about this. But I think women in general could be spared a lot of humiliation during the days, months, perhaps years ahead and at hand -- when we want to go on with our lives as normally as possible, if a signal on the wives of their officers could start a subtle war on the manners of the soldiers on leave in these towns where the bars and "pubs" inspire them to a wholesale affront toward every woman they meet.

I've been a liberal all my life, perhaps too much so for a daughter of straight-laced Maine! I've worked alone in New York and in Hollywood and led, as you can tell from that -- a most daring life, according to many standards. I therefore do not embarrass or flinch easily -- but I'm so weary of alternating between getting too furious to find my voice and a decision to sit at home from five in the afternoon on!!

Please forgive the hurried incoherency of this as I'm rushing to a precious few hours with my husband and am writing this between trains -- before I lose my courage to post it! He would disown me, no doubt, for doing it or, at least, for the punctuation'sins! But he's on desert manouvers so I won't have time to tell him.

Most respectfully and admirably yours, always -

(53rd Evacuation Hosp.)  
704 Army Corps

Elizabeth M. Drescher  
Mrs. Edward Philip Drescher

100

October 6, 1942.

Dear Helen:

I was very much ashamed of myself for developing a cold, and furious with whatever fates caused me to miss a chance of seeing you.

Mrs. Roosevelt wrote that her time with you was very short, and I am sorry because I know how much she enjoys being with you and Melvyn.

When are you coming East?  
Do make it soon.

Affectionately,

Miss Helen Gahagan  
7141 Senalda Bldg  
Los Angeles, California.

VDS

HELEN GAHAGAN  
CALIFORNIA DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL COMMITTEEWOMAN

October 2, 1942

*ad*  
*10/6/42*

Dear Tommy:

A dear old lady asked me to send this on to you. I am also sending some other things from the office.

We were so disappointed that you didn't come with Mrs. Roosevelt. I am very unhappy to hear of your cold.

Life is very hectic but I expect we'll live through it somehow until after November.

My love to you.

*Helen*

*Thank you  
Helen Gahagan*

September 23, 1942

To--Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt

The First Lady of Our Land

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt,

Every great man has given credit, praise, tribute, and honor to one or two women in his life who have helped him to attain his goal.

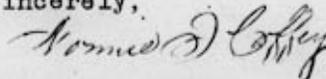
You, with understanding, wisdom, steadfastness, and loyalty, have, in my humble opinion, been a wonderful influence in giving to our nation "the right man at the right time".

Now that he is rightfully placed, you are giving him the encouragement he needs in these difficult, trying times and giving of yourself and talents so unstintingly to our great cause, and to our people, who hold you in high esteem.

I have two sons in the Army and know that with the wise leadership of our great courageous President we will win this war for freedom and democracy.

With confidence, respect, and admiration in my heart, I have tried to express my thoughts in the verse I am sending to you with the hope that in your busy day you will find time to read them to your husband and our beloved President of the United States of America.

Sincerely,



Nonnie I. Coffey

A TRIBUTE TO OUR HONORED PRESIDENT

O, Franklin D. you are to be  
The Savior of our Nation.  
You're loved by all  
Both big and small.  
In fact, by all Creation.

God made you to love and serve him  
And this you are doing well  
By your love for the poor and feeble  
In a haven of rest to dwell.

I know that God will bless you  
In every thing you do.  
He will steer your ship  
Through the crisis  
And bring you safely through.

He will help you see that justice  
Is done in every land,  
And help you free his people  
From that cruel and ruthless band.

And when at last he takes you  
To dwell in his Heavenly Home,  
There you'll have no worry  
And sorrow is unknown.

By Nonnie I. Coffey

HELEN GAHAGAN  
CALIFORNIA DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL COMMITTEEWOMAN

October 2, 1942

24

Dear Tommy:

In reference to this letter which you have sent me, I have heard no stories about women being accosted on the streets. I think this lady is flattering herself.

On second thought, there is always the usual amount of joking and "whistling" that goes on wherever the Army is stationed. I'm sure that this lady hasn't been insulted in any direct way.

Affectionately,

Helen

C  
O  
P  
Y

August 12, 1942

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Although I am amazed at my own boldness in writing to one as occupied as you, I am doing so because I feel my reason for so doing is one which might be of interest to you.

I've been an ardent "fan," for years, especially since devouring your wonderful book. I read it, you see, during the years I worked at Paramount Studio in Hollywood as "woman's angle" publicist, press agent, and columnist and I even used it as what could honestly be called an antidote from the type of writing I had to do!

I know what Sylvia Sidney has told me about meeting and talking with you has really provided me with the courage to address you -- I wonder if you remember her visit with you, it is one of her most precious, vivid experiences! And she is a girl who uses superlatives seldom and sparingly -- so I knew I was lucky to have her share her impression of you with me very soon after her visit to the White House.

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This touches on a subject we all must accept and tolerate-- but I am hoping that perhaps my suggestion, brought to your attention, may be constructive. I hope so.

I have been moved about a good deal since war was declared. Most army wives have. Strange towns at short notice, housing problems, futile searches for a place to live and apartments or rooms in places we've never dreamed we'd have to refer to as "home!" I've seen high-ranking officers' wives learning to do laundry and to cook and pretending it was fun. I've done things I never thought I could do and keep my sense of humor. We're all ready and anxious to keep on this way, especially if we can be near enough our dear ones to help them keep on toward the victory we all dream of and look forward to.

But when we are left alone in these towns (as we are, more and more) we can not very well barricade the doors and never emerge. Therefore, when we do go to market, out calling -- or to an early

movie in the evening I can't see why we should have to be insulted on an average of three or four times each trip by soldiers who take it for granted that any unescorted lady -- regardless of age or demeanor -- is entitled to any remark or insult they wish to make. Sometimes our treatment is worse than this -- believe me, much worse.

We, the same women, walk with our husbands and mark with pride the respect and the salute our husbands receive from these same men. Why then, can't someone figure out some sort of emblem or insignia humble but significant, to end this disgusting condition? I sound like a crank, I suppose, but I speak for hundreds of women who love the army and who loathe having to be humiliated personally when life is seriously difficult enough, during separations long or brief. (What civilian women who receive this same treatment, also, think--is obvious.) We shouldn't have to stop when these embarrassing things happen and say inanely "We're officers wives." We know we have no rank but in respect to that of our husbands, around which we build our entire lives, conduct, homes -- don't you think it goes beyond the limits of decency to let this thing go merrily on?

I belong to the group who think women in uniform, unless in active duty, are silly so it isn't a secret desire to be "decorated." I beg you to keep my name out of this because I believe that an army wife should remain as far in the background as possible. As a press agent I learned that my first requisite was never to get my face in the picture -- and I feel that way about this. But I think women in general could be spared a lot of humiliation during the days, months, perhaps years ahead and at hand -- when we want to go on with our lives as normally as possible, if a signal on the wives of their officers could start a subtle war on the manners of the soldiers on leave in these towns where the bars and "pubs" inspire them to a wholesale affront toward every woman they meet.

I've been a liberal all my life, perhaps too much so for a daughter of straight-laced Maine! I've worked alone in New York and in Hollywood and led, as you can tell from that -- a most daring life, according to many standards. I therefore do not embarrass or flinch easily -- but I'm so weary of alternating between getting too furious to find my voice and a decision to sit at home from five in the afternoon on! !

Please forgive the hurried incoherency of this as I'm rushing to a precious few hours with my husband am writing this between trains-- before I lose my courage to post it! He would disown me, no doubt, for doing it or, at least, for the punctuation sins! But he's on desert manouvers so I won't have time to tell him.

Most respectfully and admiringly yours,

100

November 25, 1942

Dear Helen:

I hear that you are coming east  
and I am counting on your staying here at  
the White House. I am most anxious to  
see you.

Affectionately,

Mrs. Melvyn Douglas  
7141 Senalda Drive  
Los Angeles, Calif

0

100  
December 28, 1942

Dear Helen:

It was grand to get your letter and I do hope you will come east. It is much too long since we have seen you.

I doubt that anyone will be able to see Madame Chiang Kai-shek for a while, and we have been instructed to pass all requests along to the Embassy here. I will send a memo to the Ambassador if you wish so he can have the request on file.

Affectionately,

MCT/csh

Mrs. Melvyn Douglas  
7141 Sausalita Drive  
Los Angeles, California

HELEN GAHAGAN  
CALIFORNIA DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL COMMITTEEWOMAN

ack  
12/28/42

December 22, 1942

Dear Tommie:

How relieved we all were when you and Mrs. Roosevelt safely landed back in this country. And how we burst with pride over everything that you did. I am looking forward so to seeing you and Mrs. Roosevelt. Probably I will come East sometime in February. Mel is in a camp in Arkansas. All I get from him are a few telegrams. I laughed over the phone and said it took a war to get him any exercise.

Will you be a darling and find out something for me. A Mr. Yong-jeung Kim, the Director of Public Relations for the United Korean Committee in America came to see me yesterday. The Koreans are very anxious that the Korean provisional Government be recognized by Chiang Kai-Shek in China. Mr. Kim would like very much to see Madame Chiang Kai-Shek for a few minutes if she is still in Washington. In order to let her know how the Koreans feel in this country.

Question- Is Madame Chiang Kai Shek still here ?

Question- Could such an appointment possibly be arranged for Mr. Kim?

In any case answer me yes or no, so that I can give Mr. Kim some kind of an answer.

Love and kisses

ack  
E. G. Gahagan

Helen

7141 Sanada Dr  
Los Ang

March 12, 1943.

Helen dear:

Such gorgeous flowers greeted me this morning when I returned from Rochester, New York. My apartment was a bower! You are much too generous and I send my love and warm thanks to you and Mary Helen.

I am sorry you and your mother have the anxiety of your brother's illness and hope he is getting well.

I doubt I will get to California until sometime in April and until I know more definitely what the President plans to do, I can't make any engagements. Perhaps you will be home by the time I finally get there.

If you want to come to Washington again before you leave, you know I am always delighted to have you.

Affectionately,

Mrs. Melvyn Douglas  
400 Park Avenue  
New York, New York.

VDS

No Park Avenue address in files for  
Mrs. Melvyn Douglas.

N.Y.C. Telephone Directory lists  
Mrs. Walter H. Gahagan, Sr.  
400 Park Avenue.

*right*

Is this Mrs. Douglas' mother  
and the right address???

V.S

March 10<sup>th</sup> ~~1943~~<sup>1945</sup>

Dearest Mrs. Roosevelt,  
Thank you for all the  
beautiful hours I spent  
with you - and for all  
your kindness in  
Washington - I so  
love being with you -

2

We took Mary to see  
the "Patriots" - which we  
all loved - she just  
couldn't understand  
why the actors were so  
angry. I have been  
trying to explain it to  
her ever since -

Melbyn will be through

his school in about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  weeks  
and then he expects to be  
in New York for at least ten  
days - One of my brothers  
has been quite ill - so all  
in all I think Mary and  
I won't return to the coast  
until the end of April -  
which means that I will miss  
you on the coast, doesn't it?  
I am so disappointed - but  
things <sup>are</sup> rather edgy here - and  
it's best I stay -  
Would you have the time and  
would you like to talk to our  
Democratic ladies as you did

in 1940? of course they  
would be overjoyed.

My love to you and

Tommy

Helene

Mary Helen — and

100  
June 16, 1943

Dear Helen:

Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Gould, editors of the Ladies' Home Journal, will be in Los Angeles at the Beverly Hills Hotel, from July 1st on. If you happen to be in Los Angeles and have any spare time, I think you might like to meet them. They are anxious to meet you.

I wish there were a possibility of my going to Los Angeles, so as to have a chance to see you.

Affectionately,

Mrs. Melvyn Douglas  
7141 Senalda Drive  
Los Angeles, California

0

**WOMEN'S DIVISION—DEMOCRATIC STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE**

Room 535 Roosevelt Building • Telephone Vandike 4732 • Los Angeles 14, California

June 24, 1943

JUN 28 1943

Dearest Tommy:

It was good to hear from you. I will certainly look up Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Gould when they come to Los Angeles. / 00

We are working like little beavers out here. I think something will come of it all, I hope so.

My love to you and I do hope you get a few quiet days in the country this summer.

Affectionately

*Helene*

*HL*

July 6, 1943

106

Dear Helen:

A young friend of mine, Miss Kayris Chaney, a dancer is very anxious to get into the movies. She has a small part in a picture, but she would like to have enough work to keep her busy. I think she is a good dancer with a lot of experience and while she has only a modest background, she is a sweet person and if I could help her in any way, I should like to do so. If you know of anyone to whom you could introduce her, I will always be grateful.

Do you know Earl Robinson, the composer? He is to be in Los Angeles to direct a picture. A young British Lieutenant is going to be there too, Rhoul Dahl and if you happen to meet up with them, I know you will be sweet to them.

I wish I were going to see you but I do not think I will be getting to Los Angeles for a while.

Much love,

Mrs. Melvyn Douglas  
7141 Senalda Drive  
Los Angeles, Calif.

*File*

COPY JUL 17 1943

July 12, 1943

*100*

Honorable Marvin Jones  
War Food Administrator  
Washington, D. C.

*HELEN GAHAGAN*

My dear Judge Jones:

We are greatly concerned here over the new difficulties confronting our very critical farm labor problem.

The trouble began with creation by Mr. Chester Davis of an office of labor within the War Food Administration to take over the job of recruiting and transporting Mexican farm workers for areas hard hit by labor shortages. In this part of the country all requirements for farm labor have been met by the Farm Security Administration.

In California the Farm Security Administration was organized by Laurence E. Hewes, jr., Regional Director, and M. R. Howard, State Director. These men have been familiar with the operation of the program since the inception of the migrant labor program eight years ago. These men have the confidence of the Mexican Government, Mexican workers, real farmers (as differentiated from plantation politicians) and of all of us who are concerned with the vital problem of food production.

Both Howard and Hewes are well known in this State for their loyalty to the Administration. Before he left office, Mr. Davis relieved Mr. Hewes and Mr. Howard of their responsibilities in relation to the Labor program. This has caused deep resentment and suspicion among

Mexican Government Officials, bonafide farmers, and Americans who are concerned with the food situation at home and winning our war abroad.

As I understand it, Mr. Hewes has not been formally relieved of his titular position as Coordinator of the Mexican Farm Labor Transportation Program; and Mr. Howard's Successor has not yet put in an appearance. I sincerely hope that you can see your way clear to continue Mr. Hewes in his capacity as Coordinator and Mr. Howard in his old job in connection with the Labor Program.

As you know we are working here under the handicaps of a Republican State Administration. Governor Warren and his aides are supporters of the Associated Farmers of California, an organization representing only the owners of very large farms. This group is violently opposed to the National Administration and to organized labor and every progressive movement.

The creation of the new office of labor gives the Associated Farmers the advantage they need in order to reestablish in California the disgraceful labor conditions that prevailed here before the Farm Security Administration took over.

I cannot overstate the critical condition that Mr. Davis' action has created here. While the adverse political effects in the State cannot be given primary consideration, neither should they be overlooked at this time. Believe me they are bad.

Sincerely

Helen Gahagan  
California Democratic National Committee-  
woman

1 50  
August 13, 1943

Melen dear:

Here is the poem Mrs. Roosevelt  
promised to send you. I have been a little  
slow, but this heat has not left me much  
energy.

It was grand seeing you. I wish  
Los Angeles wasn't so far away.

Affectionately,

Mrs. Melvyn Douglas  
Senalda Drive  
Los Angeles, California

September 28, 1943.

100

Dear Helen:

I had such a nice letter from Melvyn when I got back. I have just written him and now I come to your letter of August 19th.

I did not answer Pegler and probably never will. The last trip has been fairly exhausting but most interesting and some time I will get a chance to tell you all about it. In the meantime, you will probably hear me on the radio.

I can quite sympathize with the way you feel about plumbing and curtain cords, but the war will come to an end perhaps sooner than we think. Hick looks well and the Democrats are looking up everywhere if only we can keep them the right kind of Democrats.

Affectionately,

Mrs. Melvyn Douglas  
7141 Senalda Road  
Hollywood, California.

VDS

Helen

I had such a nice letter from Melvyn when I got back. I have just written him and now I come to your letter of Aug. 19<sup>th</sup>.

I did not answer Pegler and probably never will. This last trip has been fairly exhausting but most interesting and sometime I will get a chance to tell you all about it. In the meantime you will probably hear me on the radio.

I can quite sympathize with ~~you~~ the way you feel about plumbing and curtain cords, but the war will come to an end perhaps sooner than we think. Hick looks well and the Democrats are looking up everywhere if only we can keep them the right kind of Democrats.

affec.

e.r.

7141 Senalda Road,  
Hollywood, California,  
August 19, 1943

ad  
9/26/43

Dearest Mrs. Roosevelt:

It was so wonderful to see you and Tommy in New York. I still remember how brown and rested you looked. I don't know how you do it, with the whole world pulling at you.

The more I think about the question as to whether or not you should answer Pegler, the more I am utterly convinced that you should never change your pattern. Your strength and your greatness have always been in your being completely above the plane of your critics. You do only what you think is right, so why explain any of your actions. And when you answer criticism, no matter how ably you answer it, you are defending some past ~~weak~~-*posi-*tion, thereby admitting its vulnerability. And for you, this is an unthinkable position to be in.

I hate even to write to you for I know the constant strain you are under and I hate to seem sloppy, but you know how we feel about you. You are utterly good, brave, simple and beautiful. And don't say no - that you aren't. We, Melvyn and I, are but two of millions upon millions in this country who hold you in their hearts in exactly the same way. Nothing can touch or defile that. The Peglers know it and it drives them crazy.

This war business has been a long pull, but it's going to be over soon.

You know the other day I sat down in my living room and almost wept. Every cord to every curtain is broken, the bathroom plumbing is giving out -- and I just couldn't take it. It suddenly made me understand all the "beefing" about the OPA and all the rest of them. You see I don't care if meat is taken away from me, but oh how awful when the water doesn't run when you turn it on and when you can't close a curtain. If we can all just get through the little things, we're going to be all right.

My love to you and the President.

*Helin*

P.S. Thank you for the poem. I shall certainly use it.

*Over -*

We had a Democratic tea here  
at the home Sunday, 1400 people  
came - that's encouraging isn't it?

love

Helin

150  
November 9, 1943.

Dear Helen:

I am enclosing a copy of a  
letter from ~~Mrs.~~ Dorothy H. Dann.

Would you be willing to go  
and see her?

Affectionately,

Miss Helen Cahagan  
7141 Senalda Drive  
Los Angeles, California.

VDS

NOTE for MRS. ROOSEVELT:

To whom do you wish to send?

Helen Gahagen?

MCT

Yes



DONE - COPY SENT  
11/9/43

C  
O  
P  
Y

HELEN GAHAGAN

December 23, 1943.

Dearest Mrs. Roosevelt:

My love to you and the President this Christmas. I wish I were near to catch a glimpse of your beautiful face - and to hold your hand just a minute.

How happy you must be now that the President has returned safely, having had such a magnificent success - it has been wonderful and has quite taken the breath out of the "grippers". The liberals who had begun to show a dangerous drift away because of their concern over State Department policies are now proudly sure that all is well and they already have forgotten their diviation of a few months ago. The hopeful commentary upon the last year is that the little people who just go plugging along, and who have felt the war most, have never doubted the President for a moment.

Now if he can only chuck out of Congress all the dead wood thats there and chloroform Mr. "J", something will really get done in this brave new world - of course maybe I'm just wishing - but for the last year I have felt more hopeful than ever before. I keep hearing new voices very vigorous ones. I think every thing is going to be all right, even if the Democratic Part is tackling the job ahead in a "Surrey" instead of a dive bomber.

After 11 weeks we had a cable from Mel saying he had arrived safe and sound and was interested and expectant. We were so happy to hear from him. It is strange however, how near I feel to him and how light-hearted I feel about his going. This morning a cable arrived and a V-Mail letter. Half the letter was filled with Mel's excitement about the President's Conferences - quote "You can imagine how anxious I am to hear all the details of the meetings and conferences that have been taking place. It looks very much as if

the Chief has been doing his stuff in fine style.  
I hope the domestic scene is as good."

It is so nice Anna can be with you - it  
helps a little with the boys scattered over the face  
of the earth.

My love to you.

(Signed) Helen

P.S. Forgive my scrawl. I'm in bed with the flu.

C  
O  
P  
Y

HELEN GAHAGAN

June 20, 1944

100

Dearest Mrs. Roosevelt:

Goodness! As if you didn't have enough to do without worrying about me. Don't let Hick frighten you. I'm really quite all right. I don't see how it's possible to get to Vermont but I hope to take the children and go to Carmel which is the next best thing.

I have rented the house here for July and August so I will have to go some place. If I can find a place to live, it will be Carmel. Of course, I have to go to the National Convention and it seems that I have to go to the State Convention in August. Why do Conventions come around so quickly? But I think I can stand it. I really feel quite strong again.

We had a letter from Melvyn today telling of a crash landing in the middle of nowhere in India. Due to the skill of the pilot no one was hurt and even the plane came through without being very badly damaged. They sat for eight hours and then found some Indian sheep herders who were about ready to guide them back to civilization when a plane came along and picked them up. He said the winds have started and that flying is somewhat of an adventure.

It doesn't seem possible that we are going to enter a National campaign. Just at the moment the second front has begun! How can anyone say anything unkind about anybody when there is so much expenditure of life. But, of course, we must campaign and for the very reason that there is expenditure of life.

Enclosed is a letter which I thought you might enjoy. It's written by a minister who is a rarely beautiful person. Everyone out here was moved by the President's prayer.

*I love you dearly,  
Helen*

*File*

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

JUL 4 1944

Miss Hickok:

To read and return for  
my file.

E.R.

*Hick has read same*

*RF.*

\*Is 22 years old. Nearly all her friends in Service. Read in paper where girls could attend Camp dances. Entertain boys by dancing with them. Attended twice when she was told by Chaperone that she could attend no more as she was of Mexican decent. They ignore her record at school and could find nothing wrong with her conduct or character. Feels this discrimination is wrong.

January 3, 1944.

100

My dear Miss Gahagen:

Mrs. Roosevelt asks me to send you the enclosed letter from Miss Jessie Cervantes, 113 Ramona Street, Corona, California.

Mrs. Roosevelt wonders if anything could be done.

Very sincerely yours,

Secretary to  
Mrs. Roosevelt.

Miss Helen Gahagen  
7141 Senalda Drive  
Los Angeles, California.

VDS

January 11, 1944.

Dearest Helen:

I was grand to get your long letter and all your news and I am so happy that Melvyn is interested in what he is doing.

The President felt that the conferences were very successful and he liked both Mr. Stalin and General Chiang.

Is there any chance of your coming East? I'd love to see you and there seems to be no hope of my coming to Los Angeles.

My love to you and every good wish for the New Year.

Affectionately,

Miss Helen Gahagan  
7141 Senalda Road -28  
Outpost  
Hollywood, California.

VDS

Copy given to the President  
1/11/44

1/11/44  
I hope you  
love you

December 21st  
with a  
letter of  
love  
from  
the  
State  
Department  
about  
the  
President

HELEN GAHAGAN

Dearest Mrs. Roosevelt - my love  
and the President this Christmas - I wish  
I were near to catch a glimpse of your  
beautiful face - and to hold your hand

just a minute -

How happy you must be now that  
the President has returned safely -

having had such a magnificent  
success - it has been wonderful  
and has quite taken the breath out

of the "gripers" - the liberals who had  
begun to show a dangerous drift  
away because of their concern

our State Department Policies are  
now proudly sure that all is well

and they already have forgotten  
their deviation of a few months  
ago - the ~~strange~~ <sup>hopeful</sup> commentary upon

the last year is that the litter people  
who just go plugging along, and  
who have felt the war most - have  
never doubted the President for a  
moment -

Now if we can only chuck <sup>out</sup> of ourselves  
all the dead wood that's there -  
and chloroform Mr "J" something  
will really get done in this brave  
new world - of course maybe I'm  
just wish - but for the last year  
I have felt more hopeful than ever  
before I keep hearing new voices  
very vigorous ones - I think everything  
is going to be alright - even if the Democratic  
Party is tackling the job ahead  
in a "Surrey" - instead of a dive  
bomber -  
After 11 weeks we had cable from Uel -  
saying he had arrived safe and sound and

HELEN GAHAGAN

was interested and expectant -  
we were so happy to hear from him -  
it is strange however how near  
I feel to him and how light  
hearted I feel about his going -  
This morning a cable arrived and a  
v mail letter ~~after~~ <sup>half</sup> the letter was filed  
with Mel's excitement about the President's  
Conferences - quote " you can imagine  
how anxious I am to hear all the details  
of the meetings and conferences that have  
been taking place - It looks very much  
as if the Chief has been doing his stuff  
in fine style - I hope the domestic scene  
is as good "

It is so nice Anna can be with you  
it helps a little with the boys scattered  
over the face of the earth -

My love to you  
Helen

Forgive my scrawl

**WOMEN'S DIVISION—DEMOCRATIC STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE**

Room 524 Roosevelt Building

• Telephone VAndike 4732

• Los Angeles 14, California

JAN 24 RECD

*file 100*

Dearest Tommy:

I am taking care of the letter you forwarded to me from the Mexican girl. We have an excellent woman chairman in that district and if anyone can do anything she can.

Wasn't the President's speech wonderful!

My love to you,

*Helen Gabagan*

HG/lpl

①

WOMEN'S DIVISION—DEMOCRATIC STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE

Room 524 Roosevelt Building

Telephone VAndike 4732

Los Angeles 14, California

January 25, 1944

REC'D

Dearest Tommy:

I have a project in which you can be of very great help, and I am counting on you.

As you know, we must make some money for the woman's division in California. We are really organized to do a job, but we just have to have money to function. I've hit on a plan which I think will work, if we get under way immediately.

We are going to make an old fashioned quilt, the kind our grandmothers and great-grandmothers worked on. We have an expert designing it so it will be really beautiful. All the little squares will have autographed signatures of men and women who have been prominently connected with the Roosevelt administration. When the quilt is finished, we will sell chances on it an one dollar apiece; and we will, I think, make a really substantial sum for, done correctly, the quilt will be a museum piece.

Now, here is where you come in. We are asking you to send us your autograph. It should be written in the center of the enclosed square of cloth - preferably with a hard pencil. Under no circumstances should an indelible pencil be used.

**WOMEN'S DIVISION—DEMOCRATIC STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE**

Room 524 Roosevelt Building

Telephone: VAndike 4732

Los Angeles 14, California

-2-

The autograph will be embroidered over with an outline stitch. Won't you sit down now and autograph your name on the enclosed square of cloth? and please, mail it back to us **IMMEDIATELY**, for time is an exceedingly important element in the success of our plan.

With all good wishes,

*Helen Cahagan*

Helen Cahagan



100

February 11, 1944

Dear Helen:

What do you think is wise to do  
in this case?

Affectionately,

Miss Helen Cahagan  
7141 Senalda Drive  
Los Angeles, Calif.

0  
enc. let. from ~~Mrs. J. A. Arthur~~ <sup>BISHOP</sup> (see letter to Mrs. Arthur)

February 22, 1944

100

Dear Helen:

Could you ask someone you know to investigate this case and find work for the mother and daughter? I'll help if need be.

Affectionately

Miss Helen Cahagan  
7141 Senalda Drive  
Los Angeles, Calif.

X Mrs. Margaret Whitley, 265 Stedman Place, Monrovia, Calif. Husband died 2 yrs ago, after 10 yrs. serious illness. Foster daughter has tubercular hip and must have constant supervision by hospital - her own child, a young son, had endocrine gland disease in 1942 - inhospital four times, now better and in school (lost 2 yrs.) Now she is completely broken down - in bed and can sit up only four hours a day. Her income will no longer supply dire necessities. She and the daughter want work to do at home, to bring them in \$60 a month. She has 3 yrs. pre-medical college work and has had experience in different lines. The daughter can type.

Miss Thompson  
~~Miss~~  
Can we send  
anything now?

HELEN GAHAGAN

November 22, 1944

100  
Kec

Dear Tommy:

You are a dear to write. It was wonderful hearing from you.

Melvyn's address is as follows:

~~X~~ Major Melvyn Douglas, O-526968  
Hqs. Base Section # 2  
S.O.S. - I.B.  
A.P.O. 465 - c/o Postmaster  
New York, New York

Sent  
11/30/44

We anticipate leaving here December 15, and expect to be in New York to spend the Christmas with my family. My mother who is visiting here is taking Mary Helen with her on the train. Peter and I are driving - at least we plan to do so - and hope to see the TVA. I've talked so much about it, I think it would be a good idea to see it, don't you?

There is a house in Chevy Chase which my brother is endeavoring to get for us. We will know definitely in another week, and I have my fingers crossed.

Mary Helen and I both look forward to seeing you again.

My love to you.

Affectionately,

Helen

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

February 28, 1944.

100

Dear Helen:

X I talked to the President and he thinks you should run. He also thinks Mr. Downey should run again because on the whole, he has been a good Senator.

I am sure you can weather anything the Republicans say about you. After one has been in the public eye long enough, one learns to be impervious.

I am glad Melvyn is well and I am sure he is enjoying hard work. It was very sad about Harry's son. He was really just a boy. Harry felt all his boys should be in this fight.

My love to you.

Air Mail

Miss Helen Gahagan  
7141 Senaida Drive  
Los Angeles, California.

VDS

HELEN GAHAGAN

Dearest Mrs. Roosevelt,-

Never has there been such wild confusion as we find ourselves in at the moment. Our Presidential primaries have always been in May, and the second primaries when we elect candidates for Congress, Senate and State offices have always been in August. With no warning the Republican legislature combined both primaries and set the voting day to May 16th. We are madly searching for candidates, and what with Bill Rogers and Tom Ford not running this time we have an extra burden to carry.

Tom Ford wants me to run in his district. He will come out for a month before the primaries and campaign for me. I am in a terrible quandry to know what is best to do. The Remsen Birds are opposed to my making the race, Helen Bird says she simply can't live thru the campaign, and of course Remsen has a horror of the bricks the Republicans will in all probability hurl at my head. The campaign doesn't frighten me at all, but when I think

that I may be elected and that I would have to look and listen to some of those monsters in Congress I get perfectly sick to my stomach. Oh, dear, I wish I was near you so I could talk to you.

The President's message to Congress was magnificent. His position in California is absolutely secure, even Republicans concede this. The real struggle will be over the Congressional seats and the Senatorial seat. It doesn't look at the moment as though we can hold the Senatorial seat, Downey is very weak. Labor is stubborn to the point of madness, insisting upon supporting Downey and refusing to let any other candidate enter the race.

I have had some letters and cables from Melvyn. He seems to be well and is working hard. Wasn't it tragic about Harry Hopkin's son?

I have taken care of the matters you wrote to me about.

My love to you as always  
Helen

February 21<sup>st</sup>

HELEN GAHAGAN

March 16, 1944

100

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Enclosed is a report on Mrs. Whitley. As you can see from Mrs. White's report, she is of the opinion that Mrs. Whitley is one of those hopeless, helpless people for whom nothing can be done. Have you any further suggestion to make.

Well, I am really in the campaign and I never knew anything could be quite so repulsive. I hope I'm not deluding myself in thinking that I can be of some help if elected.

The President wrote me a beautiful letter. It was very heartening at a very low moment.

My love to you and to the President whom I hold so dearly in my heart.

*Helen*

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

*X Helen B white*

COPY

1847 California Ave., So.,  
Monrovia, California,  
March 6, 1944

My dear Helen:

It is such a long story that I tried to call you on the phone but was unable to get your home. As I am never home in the daytime, I couldn't call the office.

I went Sunday to see Mrs. Whitley but I feel there is nothing you can do. She is not truthful for one thing. Before I went, I checked with the confidential secretary of the Red Cross here and there was a file stating that they had a letter from someone in the East with regard to the trust fund belonging to Elizabeth, the daughter. The secretary is a wonderful girl, or woman, a cripple from birth whose parents I knew before their marriage and she summed it up this way: - that they had means, do not have it now, and are unable or unwilling to come down to earth.

They keep two dogs which is an extravagance itself and I heard the daughter borrows small sums from the neighbors and doesn't return it. The daughter met me at the door and I told her who I was and why I had come and she said, "Oh yes, we will be so glad to talk to you but just come back some other time as mother has company now." I explained it was impossible so she said, finally, that she would take the company in the kitchen with her while I talked to mother.

When she spoke of her handwork, I told her that I would take a set of collar and cuffs and I was sure you or I or someone could dispose of it. She didn't have any - her petit point of which she wrote consisted of one unfinished piece.

Mrs. Whitley said her husband left his insurance to his father and he gives her one hundred dollars a month. (They told the Red Cross she had nothing but Elizabeth's money). I asked her if the grandparents weren't willing to do something for Elizabeth and she said, "Only if she leaves me". You see Elizabeth is her stepdaughter. She was sure she could get well if she could go to a hospital so I gave her directions to ask Dr. Crus to get in touch with the Good Hope Association, 1212 Shatto Place, Los Angeles, and get her in there. She seems terribly afraid of accepting charity but as nearly as I could ascertain, was always asking someone for something.

She pays forty dollars rent but would like a cheaper place. She could have gotten one eight years ago but impossible to do so now. Has some chickens in the back yard that she said more than paid for themselves. Her furniture is in storage in Chicago, said it would cost two hundred fifty dollars to get it here. I told her that would be cheaper than storage and in time, the storage company will sell it but she said they would not. She spoke of working at home for a war plant but I said I didn't think it could be arranged but she kept assuring

me if influential people asked for her, some company would do it.

Frankly, I don't think she is as sick as she thinks she is. She lacks "grit". She said her friends were so sympathetic she thought perhaps she was too sorry for herself. She has evidently quarreled with his people and they know her too well to trust her with the money. I know she was not entirely frank. She said Elizabeth wrote to Mrs. Roosevelt and she knew nothing of it but I'm convinced she wrote it as it sounded exactly like her. She is a very good looking woman, even pretty in great contrast to her daughter who is pathetic with her lame foot. For all that, the girl walks a mile or more to the stores, does all the shopping and walks back up that grade home with her packages, (with the dog on a leash).

This just sounds too rambling for words but it is hard to picture it. If you wish to talk with me further, call me any evening except Thursday, Monrovia 3142.

I know the U.S. Employment Office wouldn't do anything that is a disgrace to our party. I spent four hours and ten minutes there one day and all I learned was I looked too young to be sixty-two, which I told her I knew already.

I surely miss seeing you all. Working as I do for the O.P.A., I have to keep my mouth shut. I'll probably be "fired" before election. Wish I could help you in your campaign. The best of luck to you!

Lovingly,

(signed) Clara B. White

100

April 6, 1944.

Dear Helen:

Mrs. Roosevelt has a letter  
from ~~Walter~~ Pick, in which he says:

"The news about Melvyn's arrival  
in India came as a surprise. The  
last I heard of him he was in  
Australia. \* \* \* "

Mrs. Roosevelt wonders about  
this?

Affectionately,

Miss Helen Cahagan  
7141 Senalda Drive  
Los Angeles, California.

VDS

*he*

HELEN GAHAGAN

April 18, 1944

*Send this to the office  
100*

Dear Tommy:

Melvyn is not in Australia. He is in the India-China-Burma theatre of war and, evidently, from what I can gather from his letters, he is jumping all over the place. I received a cable from him on our anniversary which arrived at the break of day on the morning of April 5th. I almost felt as though he were across the street.

We all breathed a sigh of relief when Mrs. Roosevelt arrived back home again. Please tell her I am going to write her a long letter in a few days.

My love to you both.

Affectionately,

*Helen*

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

hll  
J.H.  
HELEN GAHAGAN

May 11, 1944

Dearest Mrs. Roosevelt:

It seems so long since I have written to you. Everything has been so chaotic and upset with our Congressional primaries moved up from August to May, and then with everything seeming to come all at one time. But somehow we have gotten through. The elections will take place Tuesday, and we have a good chance of gaining some seats.

I hope you approve of my running for Congress. The children didn't at all at first but they are rather reconciled now. Mary Helen says she will come to Washington only if she can see President Roosevelt and Mrs. Roosevelt. She insists on wearing a Roosevelt pin to school every day. Mel and Walt heard of my running for Congress in the Yank newspaper. Isn't that awful? Mel cabled me that he heartily approves but I doubt that he does. It will all be over in a few days, and I will write you immediately about the outcome.

I watch eagerly the papers to see what is happening to you and the President. The President wrote me such a beautiful letter which made me very happy. I love you and the President and when anything gets hard out here for me, I just remember the terrible burden that you both carry and just pick up my courage and strength and keep on going.

As I wrote Tommy, Mel is in the India, Burma, China theatre of war. The reason they keep saying he is in Australia is that he stopped there on his way to his final destination and they still keep talking about it.

I want you to know that I was thinking of you on practically the eve of election.

My love to you and the President and Tommy.

Helen

P.S. John Baumgartner of the City Council just called from the City Hall to tell me the bettin on Spring Street is 5 to 8 in my favor and you can't buy a bet against me.

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

100  
May 29, 1944.

Dear Helen:

I was of course delighted to  
get your letter although the part about  
~~Mr. Murray~~ <sup>CHURCHILL</sup> depresses me. I will see  
what I can do.

Good luck.

Affectionately,

Miss Helen Gahagan  
7141 Senalda Drive  
Los Angeles, California.

VDS

June 10, 1944.

100

Dear Helen:

I understand that both the Fords and Hick are beseeching you to come East either for a month before the Convention or after, and rest in some quiet spot like Vermont.

I think you would be very wise to do it if you possibly can because these campaigns take it out of you physically and it certainly would be wise to start your campaign in good physical shape.

Affectionately,

Mrs. Melvyn Douglas  
7141 Senalda Drive  
Los Angeles, California.

VDS

~~Keep~~

100

Hyde Park, New York  
July 6, 1944

Dear Helen:

Hick will have told you that I talked with Judge Rosenman, who will ask Sam Grafton.

I want very much to see you. I will be here until Monday afternoon and away until Wednesday afternoon. Then I'll be here until the 14th and away until the 22d.

Affectionately,

0

Mrs. Melvyn Douglas  
Care Mrs. Walter Gahagan, Sr.  
400 Park Avenue, NYC

100

October 13, 1944

Mrs. Melvyn Douglas  
7141 Senalda Drive  
Los Angeles, California

Can you wire me Melvyns address for Christmas remembrance  
from Mrs. Roosevelt. Love

Tommy

100  
Mrs. Melvyn Douglas  
7141 Senalda Drive  
Los Angeles, Calif.

October 24, 1944

Following message received October 20 quote Have positive proof Hitler agents actively engaged in executive positions in Hollywood Democratic Committee also womens division Los Angeles Democratic Committee their definite purpose being that the President lose the election. Fear that similar agents may be spread in Democratic committees in every state crippling Roosevelts chances. Have radio plan to save the election, urgent you phone Brexel 1266 time is so short. Signed Miss Sherry Singer 117 Rimini Place Los Angeles unquote. Please get in touch.

Malvina Thompson  
Secretary to Mrs. Roosevelt

7

The White House  
Washington

WB13 DL PD 6 EXTRA

OCT 20 11 01 AM 1944

LOSANGELES CALIF OCT 20 1944 655A

MRS ELEANOR ROOSEVELT, PERSONAL  
WHITEHOUSE WASHDC

HAVE POSITIVE PROOF HITLER AGENTS ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN  
EXECUTIVE POSITIONS IN HOLLYWOOD DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE ALSO  
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RADIO PLAN TO SAVE THE ELECTION URGENT YOU PHONE ME  
IMMEDIATELY DREXEL 1266 TIME IS SO SHORT RESPECTFULLY  
MISS SHERRY SINGER 117 BIMINI PLACE LOS ANGELES 4.

*Pl. Report to Mr. C. E. Hoover  
W. C. Sullivan  
D. G. ...*

Copy of Mrs. Douglas' letter sent to the President.

November 16, 1944. 150

Dearest Helen:

We are of course thrilled over your election and looking forward eagerly to having you in Washington.

Don't you want to stay at the White House with Mary Helen until you find a place to live? Do let us know if there is any way in which we can help.

Much love,

Mrs. Melvyn Douglas  
7141 Señalda Drive  
Los Angeles, California.

VDS



There are so many things I do  
I hardly know where to begin -  
but somehow things will work out -  
The Women's Division I see we  
address set - I didn't know  
whether to laugh or cry - a Desk  
Set - How I hate letters - Mail  
meetings every thing that goes  
with Desk Sets - And here I am  
a Congress woman - It's really very  
ironic - I suppose I shall never have  
to learn to spell before I die -  
I love you. I love the President. How  
much you have meant to us all  
in these years - not just as leaders  
but as people because of your  
goodness and gentleness. I heart-  
I pray - I can be of help in the next

HELEN GARAGAN

two years - What a gigantic weight rests on the President's shoulders and on yours -

Perhaps I can go around picking congressmen when they get onery I shall pick ours, you may be very sure, if they get out of line.

My love to Tommy and Anna  
My love and devotion to you,

affectionately,

Helen

P.S. In the President's last speech -  
He reminded me of a thoroughbred  
race horse - He crossed the finishing  
line with his head high, his

Mane flying - Proulx, confident  
well in the lead - And with the  
American people in the bleachers  
cheering like mad

Helene

100  
November 16, 1944

Dear Helen:

I know you are exhausted and triumphant and I am sure you will groan at the sight of a letter from anyone. I am thrilled that you are to be in Washington. You are always such a joy.

Mrs. Roosevelt wants to send Melvyn a Christmas card at least, and I would like to have his address. I saw that he was promoted to Major, which must please you.

I doubt if Mary Helen remembers me, but tell her I look forward to seeing her again.

Much love,

Mrs. Melvyn Douglas  
7141 Senalda Drive  
Los Angeles, California

February 22, 1945.

Dear Helen:

X Krs. Churchill Murray, Chairman of  
the Women's Division of the Democratic State  
Central Committee for Southern California,  
sent me a pamphlet setting forth their policy  
that an informed voter is a more intelligent  
voter. It is exceptionally good material and  
they plan to add more.

Affectionately,

Hon.  
~~xxx.~~ Helen Gabagan Douglas  
U. S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D. C.

VDS

100

March 21, 1945.

Dear Helen:

Mrs. Roosevelt saw Mr. Peter H. Bergson, Chairman of the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation, on March 17th, at 12:00 o'clock and talked with him for about half an hour.

Affectionately,

Hon. Helen Gahagan Douglas /  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D. C.

VDS

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

March 14, 1945

2/2/45

Dearest Mrs. Roosevelt:

The name of the man I spoke to you about is Peter H. Bergson. He is the Chairman of the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation with offices at 2315 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W. The telephone number is Adams 8800.

Mr. Bergson wants to talk to you about the failure to include the persecution of the Hebrews as a war crime.

I called Mr. Bergson and gave him the time and date you suggested on the train, Saturday, March 17, at 12 o'clock. He expects to see you then.

Affectionately,



Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt  
The White House