MORRIS ERNST

1936 - 1945
November 9, 1936

My dear Mr. Ernest:

Many thanks for your kind letter and the interesting little pamphlet you enclosed. I am sure I will enjoy reading it.

The President and I deeply appreciate your congratulations and are very grateful for your loyal support. It is very heartening indeed for the President to receive such an overwhelming vote of confidence.

Very sincerely yours,

Mr. Morris L. Ernest
265 Madison Avenue
New York, New York
November 6, 1936.

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

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Instead of sending a telegram of congratulations
I am enclosing herewith a pamphlet which I have picked up
which I am sure will amuse both of you.

With best personal regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

Enc (1)
December 2, 1939

My dear Mr. Ernst:

I think your outlined proposal is very interesting and I would be glad to see you. Will you be in Washington at any time, or is New York a better place to meet?

Very sincerely yours,

Mr. Morris L. Ernst
285 Madison Ave.
NYC
November 30, 1939

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

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I have noticed in the reports of your recent speeches what I thought was a continued resentment against anonymity operating along side of the Bill of Rights. For sometime I have been turning over in my mind legislation which would provide for disclosure in the field of propaganda organizations along the same lines as we have already provided for it under the S.E.C. in the field of stock certificates.

I have discussed the matter informally with Frank Murphy, Harold Ickes and others in Washington, and I am taking the liberty of sending you an outline of a proposal which I jotted down in rough form. I have reservations about the proposal but at the moment I see no way of preventing a barrage of repressive legislative acts. If you are interested and ever get around to examining this document, I will be only too happy of an opportunity to go over it with you further.

It would be nice to meet you again, not really having seen you to talk to since years ago when my wife, Margaret Ernst, worked with you at the Women's City Club.

With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

Enc (1)
Possible Methods of Defeating Legislation
in Derogation of the Bill of Rights

At Roger Baldwin's suggestion and request, I discussed in very brief terms at the recent Conference a tactic which in my opinion might help maintain the Bill of Rights and at the same time block the mass of repressive legislation which in my judgment cannot be defeated by reliance solely on our former tactic of simple opposition. I have submitted my thoughts on the subject, which have been and still are in a state of flux on various points, to many people over the past few years; and at the request of the ACLU I now submit them to you. I welcome considered criticism of the proposal here outlined. But I would be less than frank if I did not state that a blanket statement condemning the proposition before even hearing the program through, and on grounds which I would have fully covered if I had been permitted to continue my remarks, seems to me of no value whatever.

I start with two points as a springboard.

(1). Present day public temper is likely to produce an avalanche of legislation in derogation of the Bill of Rights. To convince yourself of this one need only examine Prof. Wechsler's statement at the Conference as to the extent of the hazard and the type of legislation which has recently been presented to state and federal legislative bodies. And aside from new legislation, I am fearful of the use of presently dormant statutes and the interpretive extension of traditionally oppressive statutes.

(2) On the other hand, I believe that a society operating under a Bill of Rights is increasingly more wholesome as there is exposure to the light of day particularly of group actions that effect our body politic. I believe that the Bill of Rights largely negates the necessity for anonymity. I know that anonymity derives from the fact that the right of protest is less than one hundred percent operative to protect every unpopular protestor. Yet surreptitious, anonymous propaganda and pamphleteering are often a fraud on the public, cloaking undisclosed parties hiding behind high sounding names. The continuance of such pamphleteering will make it increasingly difficult to operate the Bill of Rights. I am convinced that if there is disclosure the movements for repression and control will subside. As one small instance, note the effect of disclosure on the Liberty League. I believe that we can do better battle in opposition to the suppression of unpopular points of view if the public is clear as to the real parties at interest. We should be realistic enough to distinguish between the situation in the United States today and formerly, in that there are now operating in the United States two world movements--communist and fascist--which believe that the end justifies the means and which when in power do not provide the right of protest against their rulers. We are in real danger that with the temper of the public, repressive steps will be taken against such groups, and in time tend to smother all of us. I know of no method
other than disclosure likely to be effective today in stemming repressive action. Although some might believe in the right of personal privacy so keenly that they would prefer to live in a society with no disclosure of private interests whether corporate or associative, they must realize that the choice is not that simple and that in fact it may be between disclosure or repression.

My proposal is simply this: I favor a program consonant with point (2) to prevent abuses under point (1).

Historically, the nation and the ACLU have by affirmative action, or at least tacitly, indicated approval of substantial and increasingly extended areas of disclosure. Among other instances, note the following: to gain certain mail privileges, ownership of organ, subscription list, etc., must be disclosed. The philosophy of this legislation cannot rest merely on the difference in postage rates; obviously this legislation is an attempt at disclosure to prevent fraud, so that the reader may discount prejudices. I would extend such legislation to indicate substantial positions that the owners may have, e.g., in utilities, munitions stocks, etc. Disclosure of radio ownership has been extended and personal limitations placed on ownership of stock. I would extend this field so as to give the public an opportunity to learn the real interests behind radio stations and broadcasters. Salaries of officers, sales by directors, etc., of corporations are being made increasingly public. Income tax data have been open at times; affiliations of corporate interests and subsidiary corporate relationships are all being constantly further explored and made public. Each disclosure brings some embarrassment to some group, and may even induce communal duress. But effective government compels various types of disclosure; the issue is constantly one of weighing the conflicting public interests.

The S.E.C. was a clear limitation on the freedom of the press. The words on the paper happen to be called a stock certificate instead of a pamphlet. They are an "incitement" to an investor to pay out some money. The S.E.C. legislation provides for elaborate disclosure as to what is behind such pieces of paper before they can go into the mail bags. This information includes officials, budgets, etc. I am less concerned with the frauds and the anonymity which touch dollars than those which touch ideas.

I am opposed to all restriction and censorship and have repeatedly differed from many members of the ACLU because I have even objected to the theory of a jury trial with respect to censorship and have preferred a jury only to a board of censors or a judge as a choice of evils. The object of my proposal is not to restrict, in any form, shape or manner, what anyone may say or write or print. I would not make it a condition of the right to speak or print that the utterer tell who he is. But I would have independent sanctions if he failed to make proper disclosure.

I know that millions of copies of propaganda pamphlets are carried in the mails. Much of it is anonymous, as "Vote American" — (estimate, one million copies in one week). Much of it is concealed under Post Office box numbers, as with the Coughlin affiliates. Much of it is uttered through central control: — in one office in one city
there reside more than a score of organizations, with euphemistic
titles, which are pulled out of a hat by one person for pamphleteering
propaganda use depending upon whether he wishes to attack the Labor
Board, Loyalist Spain or some other pet hate. We must preserve his
right of attack, but I think we have a right to know for whom he is
speaking, who he is, who is behind him, where he gets his money for
propaganda, etc.

I desire suggestion and criticism as to the above as well as the
following: I would revise the facilities of post office box numbers
so as to prevent isolated use of the box number without a name. The
device is increasingly used to conceal identities although the device
should be limited to its social value as a mechanical convenience to
postal clerks and receivers of mail. Is it wise to extend the princi-
ples incorporated in legislation long in existence with respect to
operating under assumed names? Is it wise to require public filing
of information in advance of the use of the mails for propaganda
pamphleteering?

Space does not permit analysis of the details of information
that should be disclosed, and I assume that there would be innumerable
differences of opinion on this question. An organization might be
obliged to divulge the names of officers and directors; copies of con-
stitution and bylaws; copies of budget and other material more or less
in line with existing legislation in other spheres; copies of printed
material used; lists of members, subscribers, donators, etc.

The question of exemptions, is of course, a most difficult one.
The legislation might exempt organizations presently supervised by
governmental agencies such as hospitals, schools, colleges, etc.,
where disclosure is now provided; and organizations that circulate
primarily within their own membership, such as college alumni associa-
tions, trade unions, etc. (Note that trade unions, even though their
circularization is entirely within their own membership, must make dis-
closures under existing law if they desire for their publications
cheap mail privileges). Political parties might be exempted since
they are subject to state regulatory processes.

This being to many people a new approach, it is unfair not to
outline the ideas at some length, but this document permits only
skeleton outlines and the raising of a few questions.

As to anonymity of contributions, would such regulation be
effective, or would it follow the pattern of political campaign con-
tribution legislation? I have come to the conclusion that the analogy
fails because the political parties swap favors, whereas in this
situation the left would watch the right and the great center would no
doubt watch both. Furthermore, I feel that the large contributions,
namely those to the right, would diminish under the threat of publicity.
I am not unmindful of the fact that organizations like the ACLU might
lose a few contributions. It is my present feeling that such loss
would be well worth while in return for the great social gain of dis-
closure of groups that are thriving on deceit and anonymity.

(more)
Much of the public support for repressive legislation stems from a valid bewilderment because of the inability to find out who is back of what movement. Thus we find the "loose word", often entirely ill-founded and unfair, as to communist and fascist controls of organizations. Such epithets will continue in increasing use because they stem from the failure of the only ones in possession of the facts to disclose the truth. The hurt, if any, done by disclosure to prospective contributors or members of organizations such as the ACLU, for example, must be admitted, but it must be weighed against the present increasing misery and even embarrassment in the gaining of a livelihood, due to accusations which cannot be washed up by any amount of denials uttered by the accused.

This is the first attempt I have made to write down what has been running through my mind other than a skeleton outline made more than a year ago. I appreciate its inadequacy and that the idea raises in all minds, including my own, a new approach and therefore requires fuller exploration than the ordinary suggestions. I should imagine that nearly everyone would favor at least portions of the theory set forth. By some critics the proposal is accepted in toto and by many save for one or two aspects. Further difficulties would lie in the drafting of the legislation.

The widest point of substantial adverse criticism so far has been directed against the prevention of anonymity of contributions to organizations which would be included under the measure. Furthermore, other critics have indicated that this approach might encourage further steps toward further fields of disclosure. This I believe to be a real possibility but again the choice is between disclosure on the one hand, or on the other hand a siege of repression which I predict will go way beyond even a possible extension of fields of disclosure.

I want to make it clear that I have not asked the ACLU to act on the matter and that I have never associated the ACLU or any other organization with this approach to America's greatest problem, and in fact, have on many occasions made clear when asked that I was confident that at least several members of the ACLU would oppose, if introduced, any legislation calling for any further disclosure on the part of anybody under any circumstances. I would be only too happy to elaborate this very inconclusive and brief outline for any of you who wish to give the matter more than cursory consideration before coming to a decision either for partial or complete support or disagreement.

We can't beat a horse with no horse. The time has come to take the offense in the defense of Civil Liberties.

Morris L. Ernst
January 24, 1940

My dear Mr. Ernst:

Thank you so much for sending me your book, "The Censor Marches On". I have only had time to glance through it, but I shall read it at the first opportunity.

I am afraid my secretary's note, asking you to bring Miss Ferber to lunch the day you and she were in town, must have gone astray. I would like so much to meet her and hope she will be in Washington again before long.

I am so sorry I could not be in New York City on January 19.

Very sincerely yours,

Mr. Morris L. Ernst
Greenbaum, Wolff & Ernst
285 Madison Avenue
New York, New York
January 15, 1940.

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

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I am sending you a copy of a book on censorship which has just come out and which was written by my partner, Mr. Lindey and myself.

Having spent a good portion of my life defending freedom of the press, radio, etc., I thought it worth while to put into bound covers the stories of some of the battles. Knowing your deep belief in the values of the open mind, I thought you might enjoy THE CENSOR MARCHES ON.

I cannot help adding at this time what a thrilling experience it was to have talked with you recently at the White House.

I am discussing before a rather large audience - which I hope will contain many hecklers - the disclosure program which I discussed with you.

facetiously, may I add that if you have nothing better to do and happen to be in New York Friday, January nineteenth, you might want to come in and do some heckling.

Don't hesitate to call on me if I can ever be of help to you.

Sincerely yours,

Arthur Lindey
My dear Mr. Ernst:

It was very kind of you to try to help Mrs. Bucky. After all, that is all one can do and if she has had a helping hand and her stuff isn't good enough, she must turn to something else.

Very sincerely yours,

Mr. Morris L. Ernst
Greenbaum, Wolff & Ernst
285 Madison Avenue
NYC
Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt
The White House
Washington, D.C.

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I flopped as far as helping your friend Mrs. Bucky. Edna Ferber had her meet Deems Taylor and I had my daughter Connie, who works at Columbia Broadcasting Company, see that Mrs. Bucky got a chance to strut her stuff. I just thought I ought to report to you my attempt and my failure.

In your busy life, of course don't bother to acknowledge receipt.

Yours,
June 4, 1940

My dear Mr. Ernst:

Thank you so much for sending me a copy of your new book, "Too Big". I look forward to reading it.

Very sincerely yours,

Mr. Morris L. Ernst
285 Madison Avenue
New York, New York
May 27, 1940

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I am taking the liberty of sending you TOO BIG, a book which I have just written at the suggestion of Judge Brandeis. It relates to the small and intimate portions of life and hence ought to fit in with the basic stream of your philosophy of living.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt
The White House
Washington, D.C.
My dear Mr. Ernst:

Many thanks for offering to do all you can to help in the campaign, and I am very glad that you will try to get Edna Ferber. Minor says she will do all that is needed.

Very sincerely yours,

Mr. Morris L. Ernst
Greenbaum, Wolff & Ernst
285 Madison Ave.
NYC
September 3, 1940.

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt
Hyde Park, New York

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Ellie Morgenthau suggested that I drop you a line in regard to getting Edna Ferber to become vocal in this campaign. I am sending you a copy of a letter I have written to Ellie. There is no use wasting your valuable time further except if there is anything you think I can do for you. I will be glad to come up to Hyde Park in case you ever want to see me.

Sincerely yours,

Enc (1)

P.S. The people I think we should get hold of are those who have not used up their influence by sponsoring too many movements in the past. The Edna Ferber type has never been associated with causes and hence, has a terrific influence among the girls in the filing room at the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company and the boys at the bleachers at the ball games. In other words, - with the average American.
September 3, 1940.

Mrs. Henry Morgenthau, Jr.
Hopewell Junction
Dutchess County, New York

Dear Ellie:

I just got back from a month’s cruise and I am promptly writing to you. Of course Edna is for F.D.R., as are innumerable other friends and clients of mine who have tremendous public followings and who have never been used on our side of the fence. I did not bother to call up Mrs. Roosevelt because Mrs. McAllister had gotten in touch with me on the same subject. What if we could get a group of Edna Ferbers to go on a program with Mrs. Roosevelt? If we could start with that kind of a blast, each one of the people I have in mind would be willing to carry on that great work.

I have not checked as to the present political inclinations, but I should think that Kathleen Norris, Marc Connelly, Groucho Marx, Van Loon and a great many others could be used. I wonder if the Democratic Committee has ever thought of setting up a special bureau to handle this group? In it you can include people like Freddy March and others from Hollywood.

I will be in Washington some day this week and I will give you a ring. If you are in New York, give me a ring. In the meanwhile, I have arranged to see Mrs. McAllister early next week when she gets back from Washington.

Best to you,

Yours,
November 3, 1940

Mr. Ernst:

Dear Mr. Ernst:

Thank you for your letter of October 28th, which has just reached me. Last week I was travelling around through New England.

I am sure you could tell the story of the Lewis-Weir-Girdler axis better than anyone else, and I wish you could. I realize it is rather late now, and I am sorry I did not have your letter earlier.

With many thanks for all you have done, I am,

Very cordially yours,
October 28, 1940.

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

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Connie sent me your message. I have collected money from publishers and others, much of it going to the American Labor Party where the donors so desired. Do not hesitate to prod me at any time on any job you think I can do.

I am terribly disappointed that we have not picked up the Lewis statement so as to capitalize it for our benefit. I have had a deep and close relationship with John Lewis for twenty years, as you know. I saw this move coming on, as you will recall from our talk at the White House. I would love to go on the air promptly in order to tell the story of the irony of the Lewis-Weir-Circler Axis. Somebody ought to do the job and it ought to be done not only by Bob Wagner, with his usual judicial approach, but by someone who would evidence the indignity of the betrayal.

Best to you,

Yours,
MALVINA C. THOMPSON.

Not ready for lunch with Professors as indicated in my letter of September 23rd but would Mrs. Roosevelt nevertheless like to have lunch with Dorothy Thompson and myself. If so, the Biltmore or any other place most convenient for Mrs. Roosevelt would be all right for Dorothy Thompson and myself. Please wire collect. Best to you.

MORRIS L. ERNST.
My dear Mr. Ernst:

I cannot tell you how much the President and I appreciate all you did in the campaign and we congratulate you on having such a remarkably clever daughter.

I shall hope to see you soon and in the meanwhile I want you to know that your loyalty and devotion were very heartening to the President.

With many thanks and all good wishes, I am

Very sincerely yours,


Mr. Lorris Ernst
Greenbaum, Wolff & Ernst
285 Madison Avenue
NYC
Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt  
The White House  
Washington, D.C.

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I am enclosing herewith a platform of the opposition group in the New York Newspaper Guild. The voting starts within a very few days and if by any chance you get an opportunity to look at the platform and approve it, I would suggest that you might consider whether or not you ought to endorse it publicly. I am not implying that there should be any reference in your column but I think a telegram to Marvin Berger, in care of the New York Evening Post, indicating your position on this platform, might be of real help in the internal difficulties within the Guild.

In any event you will meet the boys who are running for office on the democratic ticket at luncheon on December eleventh.

Sincerely yours,

Enc (1)
We pledge ourselves to work to make the Newspaper Guild of New York as effective as possible in obtaining new gains for its members, protecting gains already made, and gaining new members.

We pledge ourselves to support the CIO and industrial organization principles, and we look forward to greater gains under the new CIO leadership.

We pledge ourselves to work for peace in the trade union movement, but to oppose any peace which might be exacted at the price of CIO principles.

We believe the Guild should take a stand on political issues only as they affect trade union interests, and we resent the manner in which the Guild has been made a vehicle for propagating the personal views of individual members without reference to the membership.

We oppose the present leadership of the New York Guild on the ground that -- regardless of whether the individuals concerned are enrolled members of the Communist Party or not -- their actions over a period of years have paralleled the Communist Party line. This line is dictatorial, intolerant and anti-democratic.

We believe this leadership and its actions have split the Guild, weakened its effectiveness as a trade union, hampered organization of the Times editorial department and Herald Tribune, and reduced its usefulness as a bargaining agent. We do not say it has not been useful; we say it would inevitably have been more useful if it had enjoyed the support of a genuine majority.

(more)
We emphatically repudiate -- in advance of its being offered -- the support of Westbrook Pegler, the anti-labor press, or Tom Girdler. We want no part of it.

We equally oppose Fascism, Nazism, anti-Semitism, Christian Frontism, or any other extremism.

We pledge ourselves to support the Youngstown resolution and to oppose the resolution cooked up by the IEB to confuse the membership. The Youngstown resolution is similar to the anti-totalitarian resolution unanimously adopted at the CIO Convention. It should be noted that the four ANG delegates, who enjoy the full support of the local administration, opposed the convention resolution and abstained from voting for it.

We have no illusions that "throwing out the Communists" is going to make the publishers like the Guild any more than they do now, and we do not seek to make the publishers like the Guild. We seek to compel the publishers to respect the Guild as a powerful and united organization truly representing a majority of all its members.

To support this cause and the principles outlined here, you must vote out the present officers of the Guild in a democratic, constitutional way. The ballots will be mailed December 10. If you do not receive yours promptly, protest promptly and see to it that you get one. This is the one time of the year when the usually silent majority in the Guild can raise its voice.

Mark your ballot for the undersigned candidates and mail it yourself well before December 20th.

Gilbert B. Cant, candidate for President
Robert Conway, " for Vice President
Marvin Berger, " "
Kay Walsh, " for Treasurer
Copyright 1940 by Gilbert B. Cant. Reproduction in whole or in part strictly forbidden except with permission of copyright owner. Such permission is hereby granted to all persons except Westbrook Pegler.
My dear Mr. Ernst:

I have endorsed the Independent candidate for President of the New York Newspaper Guild, Mr. Gilbert Cant. I have done this as I feel the Guild must be free of communist influence, but I do not know anything about Mr. Cant. However, I have received a letter from two members saying that their contact with Mr. Cant was a decidedly unfavorable one; that he was reactionary in all his views, quite dictatorial and very intolerant in his ideas on methods for improving the Guild.

Do you have any personal knowledge of Mr. Cant, or could you find out anything about him which would give me an idea as to what kind of a person he is?

Very sincerely yours,

Mr. Morris Ernst
285 Madison Ave.
NYC
January 4, 1941

My dear Mr. Ernst:

Thank you so much for getting the information on Mr. Cant.

We have asked Dore Schary and Leonard Spigelgass for the inaugural luncheon and I am glad that you sent the telegram to me.

Very sincerely yours,

Lr. Lorris Ernst
Greenbaum, Holif & Ernst
285 Madison Ave., NYC
Miss Thompson: The telegram mentioned in the last paragraph was not attached. What is it that Mrs. Roosevelt has asked?

DD

[Handwritten note:]
I am going.
Mrs. Helen, yes.
December 31, 1940.

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

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I am getting a full dossier on Gilbert Cant. I know enough of the newspaper men in New York to be convinced that he is an old trade unionist, practically in the blood, having been active with the Journalists Associations in England when he worked there. In any event, I will get you the complete history of his life.

In regard to the documentary films, I am being temporarily blocked by Will Hays who, however, has promised to get up a luncheon for me with the presidents of some of the big companies.

The enclosed telegram came for Connie. I don't know anything about Dore Schary, but I do know that Leonard Spigelgass did much of the beautiful writing that came over the radio from Hollywood Election Eve and is a completely trustworthy person. I am sending you the telegram for what it is worth.

Happy New Year.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]

Enc (1)
January 6, 1941

My dear Mr. Ernst:

Gilbert

Thank you for the memorandum on Mr. Cant. I am glad to know about him and I thought that they did pretty well in the elections.

I do not know when Mrs. Will and her husband came down, and I am sorry to say I was away last Friday if they were here.

I shall be anxious to hear what happens in your interview with Will Hays.

I was so glad to meet Connie the other day, looking most attractive with her hair tied up in a colored handkerchief.

Very sincerely yours,

Mr. Morris Ernst
285 Madison Avenue
NYC
January 2, 1941.

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt
The White House
New York, N.Y.

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

1. I am enclosing herewith a memorandum in regard to Gilbert Cant. I met him first in Bermuda years ago. I have yet to hear any criticism as to his integrity or his progressive attitude toward healthy trade union movements. I know that Heywood had great respect for his ability and his directness. I would be interested to know if you had more than a general criticism, and if you are at liberty to tell me who wrote you about Cant I could possibly find the motivation. From the enclosed you will note that Cant was not dynamited into a position of prominence but built up his position slowly, which means that he went back to be reappointed or reelected to various positions in the CIO.

Let me know if I could help you further.

2. Mrs. Wilk has been asked to come to some kind of a party to the White House on Friday. Her husband, Jacob Wilk, is with Warner Brothers and is by all odds the best informed and intellectually most excited person in the motion picture field when it comes to a matter of documentary pictures. He will be in Washington on Friday with his wife. If you want to get a good slant from him as to what can be done further, you might want him to come over to see him.

In the meanwhile Will Hays has just notified me that he is getting up a meeting of the presidents of the motion picture companies so that I could lay before them the plans I had discussed with you and the President. Unfortunately, we have to waste a lot of time with Hays, who will never really understand the great social function of motion pictures.

Best to you,

Yours,

Mauris L.
Gilbert Benabu Cant was born in London. His father was Jewish, and his mother Gentile. He received his education in the English equivalent of American public primary and secondary schools.

In 1926, he started work as a reporter on the Yorkshire Post, Leeds and immediately joined the National Union of Journalists. He went to Belfast, North Ireland on January 1, 1929 and to Bermuda in April, 1929, where he was employed as assistant managing editor of a Bermudian daily newspaper.

Cant came to the United States in July, 1930 and entered the publicity field. He worked for Columbia Broadcasting, Screen and Stage Committee of the NRA and on the first President's Birthday Ball.

From June, 1934 Cant was assistant New York correspondent for the London Daily Express and from September, 1934 to March, 1937 he was also New York correspondent for the London Evening Standard. He attempted to join the New York Newspaper Guild during this period, but the New York local did not know whether or not he was eligible or how he might join the organization.

In March, 1937 Cant came to the Post as a special writer. He handled little personality sketches, inserted in the body of news stories and the front-page index. With the commencement of the war he was assigned to the War Desk, where he is assistant War Editor. On joining the Post, Cant became a member of the Guild in accordance with the Guild shop clause of the Post contract. He quickly became active in the affairs of the Post Unit and was elected a member of the Representative Assembly by the Unit in October, 1937.

From August, 1938 to November, 1938, Cant was acting chairman of the Unit, and from about August, 1938 to the present, a member of the Grievance Committee of the Post Unit. In the last eighteen months he has been chairman of the Grievance Committee. Cant was elected vice-chairman of the Post Unit in October, 1940 on a straight anti-communist platform. On November 30, 1940, he was nominated by petition for presidency of the New York Newspaper Guild, and was defeated by a vote of 1062 to 898, by Monroe Stern.

While opposed to extremism in the Guild administration, Cant did not announce his formal opposition until the question of selecting a successor to Heywood Broun came up on the floor of the Representative Assembly. At that time he was active in promoting the candidacy of Kenneth Crawford and acted as the floor manager for the Crawford supporters on the assembly floor. In connection with the Crawford campaign, he worked slowly with Max Waks, president of the Philadelphia Guild, with whom he had been associated in the Stern Newspapers Guild Chain Council from September, 1938 to June, 1939. The Council was comprised of Guildsmen from the three Stern Newspapers in Philadelphia, Camden and New York.
In December, 1939, during the contest for presidency of the New York Guild and in May, 1940, in the race for election of delegates to the Memphis Convention, Cant served on the New York elections committee.

Cant was never identified with the Progressive faction in the New York Guild, though on occasion, he worked closely with the group. He disapproved of the publication of the Guild Progressive because of what he considered to be the separatist tendencies of publications of its type.

Cant is a quick-witted, aggressive speaker, with a gift for repartee and sarcasm. His aggressiveness at times carries him to a length, considered by some, to be dictatorial, but people who know him well feel that this trait is merely an expression of impatience with those who do not think as quickly as he does. He possesses an analytical mind, and makes a good conference man. He will listen to advice and respect the opinions of people who are as well-informed as he. He is a hard worker.

Cant is married to an American girl of Jewish birth and has one child, a boy of two or three. He recently acquired American citizenship and is not a member of any political party. He lives at 106 Summit Road, Elizabeth, New Jersey, in a rented house.
January 6, 1941

My dear Mr. Ernst:

I hope that you and Mr. Hays will soon get together. I am sure you are not "asleep on the job", as I know how hard it is sometimes to accomplish things.

A thousand thanks for being willing to investigate projects and organizations for me. I shall be most happy to call upon you as it is often difficult to get reliable information about them.

Very sincerely yours,

Mr. Morris L. Ernst
Greenbaum, Wolff & Ernst
285 Madison Avenue
NYC
January 7, 1941.

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

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

1. I am getting a terrible run around from Will Hays in regard to the motion picture documentary matter. I thought I would just let you know that I have not been asleep on the job and that Hays' last promise is that we will get together some day next week.

2. As a result of the story in the paper about your withdrawing from the Spanish Rescue Ship project, might I suggest that I have lived through so much of this leftwing - rightwing controversy and am so familiar with the personalities involved, that I may be helpful to you in the event that you are in doubt about various projects and wish to get reports on them before committing yourself. A small organization of which I was a member, has made an analysis of a good many of these organizations which are controlled by people who have dual allegiances.

   If I can be of help to you, I will be glad to act as a sort of one man committee to send you reports on any and all groups that are asking your support and as to which you have some doubts.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

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

Re: Education in the Camps

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

You will recall that sometime ago we talked about the need for a real educational program in the camps. I got James Marshall, President of the Board of Education, excited and he gathered together a group of fifteen personally disinterested experts. I am sending you a copy of their report which I think is a swell job. They are anxious to get this before Mr. Dykstra or General Marshall or whoever has some real power. There is no use in just dropping this pamphlet on anybody's desk. Jim Marshall and a couple of the people who prepared the report would like to see him to tell him specifically what they have in mind.

Is there any chance of your wanting to spend a few minutes with Jim Marshall and the head of the Adult Education Association on Thursday when I understand you will be in New York? Wire me as to any time or place agreeable to you.

Yours sincerely,
January 16, 1941

My dear Mr. Ernst:

Thank you for your letter of January 13.

I think you have a grand idea. Do you mean you are coming for the "Open Road" dinner on the 23th? If so, we could talk then.

Very sincerely yours,

Mr. Morris Ernst
Greenbuam, Wolff & Ernst
285 Madison Ave.
NYC

DD
Jan 13, 1941.

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

Re: Films about our Government

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

After further evasive talks with Will Hays, I telephoned to Walter Wanger last week. Wanger is the head of the Motion Picture Academy. He is fearless and independent of Hays. He is aware of the problem which you posed and he would be an ideal man to represent the entire industry in Washington vis-à-vis the single person from the government whom the President would appoint to sit across the table. Wanger told me he was enthusiastic about my proposals and that he is coming East for the 28th of January. I think he said he expected to meet you in Washington at a conference in regard to John Rothschild's Open Road.

Could you possibly put some time aside so that you and Wanger and I could really work out the movie situation. I think that if he is sold a bill he can get the approval of the industry. Won't you let me know so that I can write to Wanger.

I have helped Rothschild and the Open Road for many years and if you are interested in Americans seeing America, why not make the following suggestion: The thing can be done on a real scale instead of in a piddling way. The NYA could take on the project and get American youth to see America. This is the best answer to the leftwing youth movement. All that you need is a person with some drive who would get together the railroads, hotel associations, the Chamber of Commerce, the AFL and CIO, etc. Young groups can be organized in the high schools and travel under the guidance of NYA people at real reduced rates. The so-called cheap fare of $90 round trip for the two Worlds Fairs is much too high. In these days we must ask the improbable. These youth groups could stop at the CCC camps, YMHA's and the like, who could be joined into the movement. I should imagine the cost of anything over $15. or $20. a week would make the parties too high for the people we want to reach. I am sure that the ICC would grant the railroads special relief on rates for such trips.

I am adding this paragraph just to let you know of my excitement about any real program in this connection, but it must be brave
and courageous to get anywhere. Although I have helped John for many years, he is not the man to put at the top of the drive. His technical knowledge should be used even though you will have to check on his recent position with respect to the Communist Party.

Best to you,

Sincerely yours,
January 23, 1941

My dear Mr. Ernst:

Mrs. Roosevelt says she can give you March 25 or March 26 for the dinner for the physically handicapped survey.

Will you let me know as soon as you can which date you select as the calendar fills up rapidly.

Very sincerely yours,

Secretary to
Mrs. Roosevelt

Mr. Morris Ernst
265 Madison Avenue
New York, New York
March 19 Wednesday

25 Tuesday

26 Wednesday

28 Friday

Dinner for Physically Handicapped Service

(Signed)
Memorandum on Education and Recreation
in the
Army Camps

1 Introduction

For the first time in its history, the United States has organized a non-professional peacetime army. This army is to be essentially an army of the people, not of professionals and not of mercenaries, but an army of all sections of the civilian population who, after a required period of training, will return to civilian life.

This concept of our army is important because, being a civilian army and an army of the whole American people, it cannot be divorced from civilian life. The army should not be thought of as a compartment in which the men are shut off from the day-to-day lives which they led before induction into the service, and will lead again after their discharge.

It is self-evident, we think, that the young men in our army camps and cantonments are no less important to the development of a functioning democracy than they were before they entered the service. When they are demobilized we want them to fit into civilian life with an affirmative and constructive attitude. We want them to feel that they still owe their country and life as much as their country and life owe them; that their year of military service has not been a year wasted, but a year in which they "learned it in the army"; that to get the best out of life they must actively participate in it, not wait to be waited upon or ordered. If they are called upon to fight, we want them to fight with a faith in democracy, a faith which can only come with an understanding of its origins, its aims and its accomplishments, and of their own vested interest in the institutions of democracy and the comparative freedom which democratic institutions afford.
Whatever happens across the seas, a critical situation and a great danger will face us when our army and our war industries are demobilized. What to do with demobilized workers and soldiers is a problem which must not be left to the chances of the future for solution. And, whatever the economic solution, we do know that the morale of these workers and soldiers must not be left to drift, but must be dealt with throughout the period of emergency. To leave to the moment of demobilization education in the problems of a democratic country, to postpone the preparation for the problems which the demobilized men must meet until the moment of their demobilization, is to court a situation in which propaganda rather than education will be the method of readjusting these young men to civilian life.

We shall have scattered throughout the land millions of men disciplined, accustomed to dependency and possibly without assurance of livelihood. We do not want to create in our armies skilled workers for Fascist leaders, and consequently we must, as a part of the program of camp and cantonment, include such leisure time activities as will throw light on the meaning of democracy and its ways. This is not to suggest that recreation or any part of the program of army life go counter to the principles of army discipline. Army discipline is a necessary part of life which all men in the service must accept. However, it must be borne in mind that army discipline has a limited purpose just as army ordnance has, and that the problems of American life outside of the army can no more be solved on a successful basis through army discipline than through the use of army ordnance.

Our army being a peacetime army, a civilian army, in contradistinction to a professional army, our people have a right to insist that provision shall be made to create in the camps and cantonments educational opportunities and
recreational situations which will build up democratic attitudes. How these opportunities shall be afforded, and how these attitudes may be created, we take the liberty of suggesting in the following pages.

II. General Nature of the Program

The welfare agencies which have been invited by the Chief of Staff to plan desirable activities for the draftees in the communities outside the camps, will fill a real need. Still the cantonment will be the world in which the soldier lives, and the Government has a primary interest in turning our draftees into citizens aware of democratic values. We submit, therefore, that it is the function of the Morale Division of the Army to provide the frame-work for a varied and rich leisure-time program within the camps.

The emphasis in such a program must necessarily be on recreation. It must be varied enough to appeal to men of a wide range of intelligence and educational background, and it should invite the active participation of the greatest possible number of men. The majority of soldiers who have put in a full day in military training and study, will not want to attend formal evening classes with any regularity. The program therefore must grow out of the men's own interests and needs. It should be planned as far as possible by them and executed under the leadership of those of their number who have special talents and abilities.

We understand that an extensive athletic program is planned by the Morale Division and that funds have been set aside for the purchase of equipment; also that movie theaters are to be erected on the posts and service clubs opened where dances may be regularly held and a library will be available for general use. We think this program excellent so far as it goes. While movies afford relaxation, the general run of Hollywood offerings do little to develop the individual or increase his understandings of the world he lives in.
A much broader leisure-time program, we suggest, could be of cultural, educational, and social value, and still prove popular with the men if it is of their own choosing. Such a program should include arts and crafts, sketching, possibly painting and sculpture, varied musical activities, dramatic groups for the many as well as the especially talented few, original plays, discussion groups concerned with current social political and economic problems and with the fundamental values and aims of our democracy. Also, a selection of motion pictures that would widen the men's cultural and geographic horizon, language courses, courses in personality development, courses in academic subjects for those who want them, photography and other hobby clubs, radio programs planned by the men, and finally camp newspapers and magazines that would stimulate good reporting, self-expression and free-for-all argument.

English courses taught by qualified soldiers should be offered to the illiterate and semi-literate. Vocational courses, such as shorthand and typewriting, should be made available to all who want them, and have not been assigned to such courses as part of their Army work.

To formulate such a program the men would need the guidance of expert counsellors. We suggest that these be recruited from among forward-looking educators and recreational leaders and commissioned by the Morale Division.

Group leaders could be chosen from the draftees if the information easily available from the detailed records taken at the induction point and tabulated as a matter of routine were made available to the morale officers.

The following information would be helpful in such selection:

**Information Needed**

School
College
Profession
Trade or Specialty
Avocations
Language Spoken
Professional Service in Community Agencies
Membership in local organizations:
- Fraternal
- Service
- Social

Volunteer Service in social agencies, i.e.
- School or community centers
- YMCA
- YMHA

Participation in school and college
- Athletics
- Social
- Extra-curricular activities
- Teaching or tutoring
- Library service

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| **Dancing:**       |                   |       |          |

| **Abilities:**     |                   |       |          |
| **Musical:**       |                   |       |          |
| Instrument played  |                   |       |          |
| Vocal ability      |                   |       |          |
| Song leading       |                   |       |          |
| Orchestra leading  |                   |       |          |
| **Dramatic:**      |                   |       |          |
| Acting             |                   |       |          |
| Producing          |                   |       |          |
| Management         |                   |       |          |
| Lighting           |                   |       |          |
| Stage Design       |                   |       |          |
| **Literary:**      |                   |       |          |
| Writing            |                   |       |          |
| Editing            |                   |       |          |
| Library            |                   |       |          |
| Teaching, discussion leadership | |       |          |
| **Drawing:**       |                   |       |          |
| Cartoons           |                   |       |          |
| Illustrations      |                   |       |          |
| Teaching           |                   |       |          |
| Other Visual arts  |                   |       |          |
Radio: Short wave receiving  
Short wave sending  
Repair  
Speaking  
Introducing  
Arranging of Programs

Other Interests

III. Education for citizenship in a democracy.

At this time of world crisis when two ways of life, each resting upon an ideology diametrically opposed to the other, struggle for world domination, it seems imperative that every citizen - and particularly our draftees--should know more about democracy and its background. Democracy as it happens, means different things to different people. Unfortunately many view democracy merely as a form of government. Democracy, however, is a way of life and the form of government is incidental, a means end in the realization of a social philosophy. Any society which would lay claim to being really democratic must provide for social, economic, religious and educational, as well as for political democracy. The really democratic state must insist upon the sanctity of human life and human happiness.

The men drafted and those in charge of them should have an opportunity to understand what democracy means, what has been accomplished under democracy, and what are the unsolved problems which must be solved if democracy is to survive.

Our youth should be made acquainted with the historical beginnings of the America experiment and with the social advances democratically achieved in recent years at Federal, State and Municipal levels. We refer to such social advances as:
Housing

Regulation of wages and hours

Social Security
  A. public assistance program
  B. unemployment and old age insurance

Agricultural regulation and education

Planning of national resources and regions

Public conservation

Development of power

Provisions for the organization of labor

Regulation of investment

Public program for health, unemployment and relief

The Bill of Rights should be understood not only as a great historical document but as the basis for our democracy today. Freedom of the press, of public assembly and of religious worship should be discussed in all of their present-day implications.

An understanding of the present may be obtained either by starting with present-day problems and tracing their historical antecedents or by the reverse process. In either case emphasis should be placed on how people have gained a livelihood, what kinds or types of political organization have been developed and why we believe that of these various types, democracy is superior.

Media for the teaching of democratic values should include moving pictures, dramatics, living newspaper techniques, such movies as "The River" and "The Plough that Broke the Plains" produced by the Resettlement Administrations; such recordings of the Department of the Interior as "Immigrants All, Americans All"; classes formal and informal; discussion groups; and talks given by qualified men from the ranks.

Visual aids should include maps, charts, diagrams, still pictures. The
National Forum of Chicago is publishing useful material in this field. The Farm Security Administration also has thousands of photographs available.

Printed source materials, - books, studies by the Foreign Policy Association, studies made by the National Housing Conference, Town Hall of the air debates, other outlines and syllabi.

IV. Use of Books

We congratulate the Morale Division on its plan to provide libraries for every camp, and it is our hope that funds will be made available to install a larger library than one of 5000 volumes in each of the principal cantonments.

We note that the Division has sought the advice of the American Library Association and has commissioned a trained librarian to direct from Washington the building up of the libraries. We urge that the basic list of books be broadened to include all important titles on controversial, social and political subjects, and that the draftees' reading not be confined largely to fiction, biography and travel. We see no reason why the standards of selection of titles should not be as inclusive as those of our most up-to-date libraries serving the adult population. The mass purchase of "mysteries" and "西部s" will be a confession that the Army can do no better than dope the leisure hours of its charges. We can hardly afford to develop a program for a cross section of the male population of the United States, and especially of our citizen army, on the assumption that it is composed of intellectual dead-heads.

Once a good selection of books has been acquired, the problem will be to get men who are not habitual readers into the library or the books out of the library into their hands. We suggest that attention be paid to such points as the following:

1. The librarian's guardianship over the books should not be too strictly maintained. The attitude that books are the "province" if not the
actual property of the librarian, will be fatal. Camp librarians may need some education in this respect, since librarians are all too likely to make this assumption about themselves. The librarian's zeal to share the books with the men will be reflected in rules, arrangements, hours, furnishings, etc. Specifically:

a. The library must be open at all hours when men are off duty.
b. If possible there should be a separate inner room for quiet reading, and an outer room in which consultation with the librarian can be conducted, conversation facilitated among men hunting something in books, etc.
c. Chairs, lights, etc., in the room for quiet reading should be such as to encourage good long reading sessions with oneself. Also, lighting in the barracks should be adequate and not limited to a 25-watt bulb as has been the case at Camp Upton where some of the boys have broken rules and used stronger bulbs.
d. The rules for borrowing should be liberal.
e. There should be convenient arrangement, attractive display, etc. The librarian should experiment with appeals to man's habits and associations of thought.

2. Methods of penetrating the camp with books, and of developing good reading habits should be worked out as follows:

a. The librarian should aid men who are already bookishly inclined to improve the quality and increase the quantity of their reading.
b. The librarian should call the attention of all in position of leadership, not only to the facilities of the library, but to the specific ways in which the library can be used in relation to various activities:

(1) The coach or leader in an athletic activity can call attention
to the material in the library on the rules or the history of the sport in question, to lives of famous performers, qualities which make for excellence in the sports etc. He can make clear, incidentally that good use of the mind supplements rather than conflicts with good use of the body, and explode the gorilla myth at every opportunity.

(2) The music leader can get his singers or players curious about questions on folk-music, classical music, musicians, band instruments, etc., and send them to hunt information in the library.

(3) The discussion leader obviously can start the men off on the search for additional facts and understanding. Never mind whether the books are there or not, it is something to institute the hunt. The practice of sending scouts to the library in search of material should be general throughout the camp.

3. Groups for consecutive reading aloud among eight or ten men would be enjoyable and profitable. Technical improvement in reading, in appreciation, in the habit of following an argument, and of analyzing and discussing, should be encouraged in such groups. (See "Group Reading," used by the New York Adult Education Council) Members of the camp who read aloud acceptably should be helped to make selections which will arouse the interest of listeners in reading matter a little above their acknowledged powers. (This is an old gag employed by all good teachers of literature, to persuade students to read what they think a little hard.) The place of decent reading aloud in a democratic society should be borne in mind. Good reading of army orders is a case in point, as illustrating the fact that all communications in a democratic government should be intelligible and dignified.

4. Book reviews and dramatizations should be encouraged.

5. Special efforts should be made to provide reading matter which will
not be discouragingly difficult for those not very literate.

6. Too large a portion of the budget should not be spent on the initial collection. There must be provision for additions to keep pace with the development of program and for changing reading tastes. The "runners" between the library and other activities will be an important source for determining needed acquisitions. To as large an extent as practicable the men themselves should be allowed to select the titles in the camp library.

Finally, in planning for the widest possible use of books both the librarian and the leaders of camp activities must realize that while intellectual tastes and possibilities will vary widely, all men are capable of mental growth.

V. Motion pictures

In addition to the Class A and Class B features which will shown in the camp theaters, we suggest that educational films and a variety of shorts be shown and whenever the type of film permits, interspersed with feature pictures. These could include, in addition to such documentary films as were mentioned under II, and such technical films as are advisable for military training, the following:

1. Films of special inspirational and patriotic value such as the series of nine historical short subjects produced by Warner Bros., and "The Servant of the People" and "The Perfect Tribute" produced by Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer.
2. Geographical films which are called in the industry "travelogues" and which might be especially valuable in connection with military training.
3. American historical films such as Sherwood's "Abe Lincoln in Illinois."
4. Revival of such historical films as "Henry VIII", which could be coordinated with discussions involving political institutions, suggested in II.
5. Important scientific movies such as "Dr. Ehrlich's Magic Bullet," "Pasteur" etc.
VI. Classes for College-Trained and More Intellectually Advanced Draftees.

While the majority of draftees will seek relaxation and only mild adventures in education during their leisure-time, a minority, including many college-trained young men, will want more severe intellectual exercise during their free hours. As educators we would exhibit little faith in our tradition if we refused to offer frankly some more or less academic material, unsimplified and un-sugar-coated. Numerous courses could be confidently recommended and we make here only a few specific suggestions:

1. How to Speak and How to Think. This course should combine informally some of the basic elements in the conventional course in public speaking and elementary course in logic. This is a natural combination which is rarely if ever attempted in the academy. Effective speech and rigorous thought are carried on separately partly because they are taught separately! At the present time an extension course of this nature is being conducted with unusual success as an experiment in adult education at Cooper Union.

2. Psychology. Everybody is interested in human nature! The elementary psychology courses are attended heavily in the colleges and the man in the street reads hundreds of cheap racketeering articles in this field. Some compromise between these two extremes will be found in an introduction to abnormal psychology or a study of mental disorders. This is the more dramatic stirring approach for those who do not have to attend classes and who would certainly find the average general text in psychology dull if not irrelevant. An ideal text book would be the little masterpiece of Bernard Hart, The Psychology of Insanity.

3. Geography - Most of us are geographically illiterate although we are quite willing to talk about the abstruse questions of economics, politics and psychology. Yet a knowledge of the earth is necessary to these other Matters and the study of geography can be made fascinating--although it rarely is.
Why not some groups in descriptive or regional geography? Why not a study of the very region in which a cantonment is located? In many respects the audience of the Cooper Union Forum is a complete cross-section of the alert American public and in recent weeks that audience to the number of 1500 an evening has been attending geography lectures; they have evinced much more interest in this material than in some of the meetings dealing immediately with current events.

4. Reading Groups, as suggested on Page 9. The experiments of Miss Winifred Fisher of the New York Education Council and Dr. Eduard Lindeman of the New York School of Social Work during recent months have indicated fruitful possibilities in this field. As for specific suggestions at the college level, the simpler Dialogues of Plato, the Federalist Paper, The Conduct of Life by Emerson, as well as many anthologies of essays compiled during the past decade, could be read with profit.

5. Spanish and Portuguese. The crucial importance of South America at the present time makes it unnecessary for us to emphasize the inevitable demand for knowledge of these languages.

VII. Proposed pamphlet for use of Morale Officers.

Since our Army Morale officers are for the first time confronted with the problem of planning desirable leisure-time activities for a great peace-time army, we suggest that a pamphlet containing constructive suggestions be provided for their guidance. It might contain such material as the following:

1. The proposed objectives of a civilian army should be set forth, the morale function and its objectives outlined. The latter should include the advancement of the intellectual level of the men, mental refreshment, physical well-being, the knowledge and practice of vocational and avocational pursuits, etc.

2. The standards and qualifications of men capable of forwarding this program should be outlined. Insofar as possible, specialists and heads of activities should be recruited from enlisted men. The camp’s Morale Officer should have
an assistant or assistants commissioned to serve under him, who are competent and trained in organization of activities, but who will give to the men the greatest amount of freedom and participation in running their own activities. Assistance from the outside communities can be secured when necessary to aid in the program.

3. Outline of an athletic program.

4. Suggested games and other forms of quiet recreation worked out by the National Recreation Association.

5. A dramatics program (to be suggested by the leaders in the field)

6. Instrumental and choral music program (to be prepared by existing national committees or those set up for the purpose.) A group singing program might be modeled along the lines of the W. P. A. community program.

7. Suggestions for photography, for hobby clubs and for boondogling of all kinds.

8. Suggestions for camp publications (to be prepared with the advice of the working press.)

9. A program for sketching and art work (to be prepared by specialists)

   Each item should include a bibliography in the particular field and for the setting up of the whole program, a complete bibliography should be provided. Sample titles:


VIII. Clearing House

We suggest that the Morale Division in the Adjutant General's Office set up a Clearing House Service under an officer assigned exclusively to this work. The Purposes of the Clearing House would be:

1. To assemble information on all types of activities concerned with morale which develop in the various draft army camps.
2. To identify those activities which appear to be peculiarly desirable and successful.
3. To determine and describe the most successful morale activities carried on in the last war.
4. To provide for the prompt dissemination to all camps of such information

The foregoing purposes could be accomplished by such means as:

1. Correspondence with all camp morale officers.
2. Visits by field officers from time to time to all camps in order to observe activities at first hand.
3. Preparation of reports for wide dissemination among morale and other appropriate officers in the camp.
4. Establishment of a regular publication dealing with morale activities for circulation among the officers and perhaps the non-commissioned officers and private soldiers of the draft army.

IX. National Advisory Committee

Since the all-round development of our citizen soldiers and their training in the fundamentals of democracy is of as great importance as their technical military training, we respectfully urge that General Marshall, as Chief of Staff, appoint within the near future a national advisory committee of civilian authorities in the fields of education, recreation and social welfare.
We predicate this recommendation on two self-evident principles. The young men in our draft army who have had the benefit of a higher education represent a national investment which we cannot afford to neglect; their abilities must be used and enhanced and their capacity for intelligent citizenship further developed. The majority, on the other hand, who will have had a more meagre common-school education, including many from underprivileged and under-schooled sections of the country, constitute our greatest reservoir of national wealth. They must acquire knowledge, power of analysis, balanced judgment, and a sense of responsibility if they are to participate intelligently in economic, political and broadly social enterprises. If we fail to give them the necessary leadership, our young men of the draft army will become robots, not citizens, and democracy as a way of life will fail.

The persons listed below are members of the committee that drafted this memorandum and have endorsed the statement of the program that is advocated:

Mrs. Dorothy Dunbar Bromley
Dr. Harry Carman
President, New York Adult Education Council
Professor of History, Columbia University

Morris Ernst, Esq.

Miss Winifred Fischer
Executive Director, New York Adult Education Council

Mr. Willard E. Givens
Executive Secretary, National Education Association

Miss Helen Harris
National Youth Administrator for N. Y. City and L. I.
National Youth Administration, Federal Security Agency

Mr. James Marshall
President of the Board of Education of the City of New York

Mr. Mark McCloskey
Director, Recreational & Community Activities
Board of Education, City of New York

Dr. John Norton
Professor of Education

Teachers College, Columbia University
Miss Lillie Peck  
Secretary, National Federation of Settlements

Dr. Houston Peterson  
Head of Dept. of Social Philosophy  
Cooper Union

Mark Starr  
Educational Director  
International Ladies' Garment Workers Union

Mr. E. C. Worman  
Secretary  
National Education Recreation Council
January 30, 1941

My dear Mr. Ernst:

Mrs. Roosevelt says how about March 3. Would the afternoon or evening be best?

Mrs. Roosevelt is not going to the Tennessee Valley Authority until May, and she hopes you will be able to go then. The reason March 25 was canceled is that she hopes for two weeks' holiday in Florida.

Very sincerely yours,

Secretary to
Mrs. Roosevelt

Mr. Morris L. Ernst
Greenbaum, Wolff & Ernst
285 Madison Avenue
New York, New York
January 27, 1941.

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

My dear Miss Thompson:

The first week in March would be perfectly satisfactory. Why don't you set any date you want and I will see that we get the people together for it. As I understood Mrs. Roosevelt's idea, she thought it would be well to get five or six people from the Government offices such as Health, Labor Statistics, etc.

I wonder if the March 25th date has been cancelled because of Mrs. Roosevelt's proposed trip to TVA. When Mrs. Ernst and I were with Mrs. Roosevelt, she casually suggested that we might go to TVA at the same time this Spring. We would like nothing better than such a trip.

Yours,

[Firmly written name]

P.S. I will be down tomorrow and see if I can recognize you and your hair-do.
January 24, 1941

Dear Mr. Ernst:

Mrs. Roosevelt now finds that she can not go to the dinner for physically handicapped on March 25 or 26. If you can have the dinner the first week in March she can go; otherwise she has no free time.

Very sincerely yours,

Secretary to
Mrs. Roosevelt

Mr. Morris Ernst
Greenbaum, Wolff and Ernst
285 Madison Avenue
New York, N.Y.
February 6, 1941

Dear Mr. Ernst:

March 5th is on the calendar for the "physically handicapped" dinner. I do not seem to remember whether this is to be in New York City or Washington. Will you please enlighten me?

As to the TVA trip, will you be able to start Friday or Saturday, May 25 or 24, and get back on Monday, June 2?

Very sincerely yours,

Secretary to
Mrs. Roosevelt

Mr. Morris L. Ernst
Greenbaum, Wolff & Ernst
285Madison Avenue
New York, N.Y.
February 1, 1941.

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

My dear Miss Thompson:

March 3rd is swell with our crowd. The list of names will go down to you shortly. From my point of view, I think an evening would be preferable, if your grand gal can spare the time.

Assuming that you are in earnest about the TVA trip in May, I will certainly arrange my calendar to throw every client out of the office any day that Mrs. R. wants to start the caravan.

If I am ever a pest in putting too many things on your desk or into Mrs. R.'s lap, don't hesitate to let me know.

Best to you,

Yours,
February 10, 1961

My dear Mr. Ernst:

I saw your daughter at the Clarke School and she looked well and happy. I also liked my glimpse of the school - it looks like a fine place.

Many thanks for talking to Mr. Wanger.

Very sincerely yours,

Mr. Morris L. Ernst
Greenbaum, Wolff & Ernst
285 Madison Ave.
NYC
February 5, 1941.

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

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I had a long talk with Walter Wanger yesterday. Wanger is back home as you know, and has already started to set up his machinery. I don't think that what he is doing is as effective as it should be, but it is certainly better than anything we could have hoped to accomplish through Will Hays. As a matter of fact, Wanger is working with Hays' man. The Wanger emphasis will be on the non-documentary-factual films.

In any event I think you will find a substantial improvement even though not up to our dreams. What with wise Lowell Mellett in the picture, I don't think there is anything further that I can do for you at the moment and therefore I will close my file, temporarily at least, until you send word to me as to anything more that you want. You are a real great joy to me in allowing me to do the leg work necessary to bring into reality some of your little dreams. Even though the President talked to me about this film matter, as you will recall, I am not bothering him with advice as to what has been done.

Wanger has promised to send me an outline of the machinery he is setting up which, somewhat to my dislike, he suggests should be handled so quietly that even the heads of the Companies will not be informed as to any details. As soon as I get this set-up, I will send you a copy.

Best to you,

Yours,
BA18 67 NT=NEWYORK NY 5
MRS ELEANOR ROOSEVELT, THE JOHN M GREEN HALL:

=OR LOCATE ELSEWHERE AT THE COLLEGE SMITH COLLEGE

=MY DAUGHTER JOAN WHO IS AT THE CLARKE SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF
AT NORTHAMPTON TELLS ME YOU ARE LECTURING AT GREEN HALL,
SMITH COLLEGE. IF BY ANY CHANCE YOU ARE GOING TO THE CLARKE
SCHOOL MAYBE YOU CAN TAKE OFF A MINUTE TO ASK FOR JOAN ERNST.
SHE IS SMART AND GALLANT TO THE EXTENT THAT ONLY TOTALLY!
DEAF PEOPLE CAN BE. IN YOUR ARMY AS EVER=
-MORRIS L ERNST.

THE COMPANY WILL APPRECIATE SUGGESTIONS FROM ITS PATRONS CONCERNING ITS SERVICE
February 11, 1941.

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

Re: Population Report

My dear Miss Thompson:

I have delayed answering your letter in regard to the dinner for what you call the "physically handicapped" matter. I understand that Prof. Fairchild, of Columbia, sent a memorandum to Mrs. R. together with the names of persons whom Mrs. R. said she would feel free to invite to discuss Prof. Fairchild's proposal.

I am quite sure that Washington would be much more satisfactory than New York. Of course what Prof. Fairchild really wants is to have the great wealth of material which lies in the offices in Washington dramatized to excite the public mind. What we really need is a Lowell Mellett to do a job on this subject such as he performed in connection with the report on the economic conditions of the South.

In regard to the TWA trip, any dates will suit us and certainly May 23rd to June 2nd is most satisfactory. Margaret has not missed but two days from her job teaching school all year and can certainly get a leave of absence for that stretch of time.

Why don't you give the Ernst's a ring when you are in New York and let us throw a nice party for you for a change.

Yours,

Morris L. E.
February 15, 1941

Dear Mr. Ernst:

Mr. Stanton Leggett, secretary to Mr. Marshall, President of the Board of Education, telephoned me that March 5th was not a good date for the "handicapped" dinner. Mrs. Roosevelt has now given him April 9, which I hope he will find convenient, because we are rapidly exhausting our supply of days.

I'd love to have a party with the Ernsts but I am afraid I am getting old and lack the energy to initiate anything even as pleasant as this.

Very sincerely yours,

Mr. Morris L. Ernst
Greenbaum, Wolff and Ernst
285 Madison Avenue
New York, N.Y.
February 13, 1941

My dear Mr. Ernst:

Mrs. Roosevelt would like to know if you have ever heard of this project. If you have, do you think it is good?

Very sincerely yours,

Secretary to
Mrs. Roosevelt

Mr. Morris Ernst
285 Madison Avenue
New York, New York
February 20, 1941

Dear Mr. Ernst:

We certainly are befuddled! Most of the befuddling is my fault because I should have told you in the beginning that it is always safer to send me a memo of any promises which Mrs. Roosevelt makes orally.

As I now understand it, the dinner for Mr. Marshall, in which Mr. Mark McCloskey is also interested, is scheduled for April 9 in New York.

For the Professor Fairchild group on population studies, Mrs. Roosevelt can give you March 4 in New York City. She has just given the third to Ingrid Warburg for a dinner in New York.

Mrs. Roosevelt seems to think there is a third thing on your mind but I cannot discover what it is and she says March 22 for that. However, if you have only two, please let me know as we are getting more and more crowded for time.

I talked to Mr. Leggett today and he is all set on the 9th of April.

Very sincerely yours,

Mr. Morris L. Ernst
Secretary to
Mrs. Roosevelt

285 Madison Avenue
New York, New York
February 15, 1941.

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

Dear Miss Thompson:

I think somehow we are snagged up and I hope it is not my fault. There are two separate groups which have had meetings with Mrs. Roosevelt, which meetings I attended. The one group was interested in population studies and was headed by Prof. Fairchild of Columbia. This so-called population group met with Mrs. Roosevelt at the White House a few weeks before the Inauguration. It was my understanding that through correspondence with Prof. Fairchild, March 3rd was set as the date for that group and that the names of the persons whom Mrs. Roosevelt suggested she would invite were included in a report recently sent by Prof. Fairchild to Mrs. Roosevelt; this included Dr. Parran, etc.

The other group was headed by James Marshall, head of the Board of Education in New York and was concerned primarily with education within the army camps. I know of no arrangement as to a date at the White House for that group. I arranged for James Marshall to see Archibald MacLeish and I know that he saw some of the army officials. My guess is that the way out of this little labyrinth, if Mrs. Roosevelt still has time, is to go forward with the population group—which you call handicapped—for March 3rd, and the Marshall education in the camps group for April 9th.

I hope I am not being too much of a bother.

Yours

Maria E.

*This I think is worth 'Handicapped' in your files.*
February 15, 1941.

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

Dear Miss Thompson:

You asked me to get you some information in regard to National Project in Piano and Music appreciation for the Deaf in Detroit. I know nothing about the project, but I will get a report together within a very short time.

Best to you,

Yours,
February 24, 1941.

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

My dear Miss Thompson:

Mrs. Roosevelt sent me the enclosed letter addressed to her from the National Project in Piano and Music Appreciation for the Deaf.

I made a preliminary investigation and it does not look any too favorable. I am getting a full report which I hope to have in your hands within ten days.

Don't hesitate to put any amount of stuff like this in my lap.

Yours,

Enc (1)
NATIONAL PROJECT IN PIANO AND MUSIC APPRECIATION FOR THE DEAF

DETROIT, MICHIGAN

ALBERT A. ZIARKO, MUSIC. D.
FOUNDER AND DEAN
OF SPECIAL EDUCATION
E. LORENE NEWTON. A. B.
ASSOCIATE

9030 Lawton Avenue

February 6, 1941

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

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

It is with all sincerity that I write you. My earnest prayer is that you, out of the over burdened hours that make up your day, will find a moment, with the President, to give the following script, your careful thought and deliberation, when it is received.

An educational work for the deaf and mute of our country, never before accomplished in the History of Music or in the Science of Education, was begun three years ago, here in Detroit.

It's results have brought the acclaim and endorsements of international music critics and educators.

The pupils are taught to play the piano theoretically and musically. They have also been taught the understanding of symphonic music through vibration. The only point in this educational work that deaf psychiatry cannot adequately explain is; the instant a pupil strikes the wrong tones, he is aware of that mistake and tries to correct the error.

Parents, teachers and pupils together, voluntarily, have stated the deep meaning that this music work has held for them in being a means of self expression, un-mechanical in it's source. Numerous schools for the deaf, throughout the United States have requested extantions. We have not been able to grant these requests because of the lack of funds.

The majority of the students come from underprivileged homes and range in age from 10 years and up through 50 years old.
Unless we are able to interest some individual or group of philanthropic persons in financially endowing the necessary running expenses of this work, we are going to be forced to close, the great door of musical understanding and opportunity, to a people, here-to-fore doomed, because of their handicap, to not enjoy the many privileges of the study of music.

I have tried with utter failure, to approach every possible channel, that would be in a position to help. I could not bear to let this matter, so dear to me, as a youth, slip out of existence, without trying this last time, to save it.

Mrs. Roosevelt, can and will you and the President, in some way take this matter in your hands, and put it to someone, that will be in a position to go into it, in minute detail? And possibly be able to save this work for a people, who cannot ask or speak for themselves.

If you are able to take a personal interest in this matter, I will be eternally grateful to you.

Enclosed please find several newspaper clippings relative to the work, which will explain it in full.

Thanking you for your prayerful consideration, I am

Most sincerely,

Albert A. Ziarko
Founder

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt - cont.
February 24, 1941.

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

Re: Motion Pictures

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I am following up the Wanger matter from various angles. The enclosed report may be of interest. I am attaching a copy of my letter in response. I am not very happy about Wanger's setup because I think all he really wants to do is to have the Hardy family in the movies visit TWA.

Yours,

Encs (2)
Thank you for your two letters. As soon as I hear from the Radio Section of Interior, I’ll write you what they said. Meantime, I’ve had lunch with Wanger and Bosten and got a full report on Walter’s Washington visit. What he told them seems to make a lot of sense: that he could do a better job without official title. He’s done a lot of work on it already: contacted people, felt them out on whether they wanted to cooperate or not, etc. Wisely, he is steering clear of the top men in the studios and leveling on the talent groups for it is they, after all, who get the films made, not the Meyers and the Freemans and the Zanuckgs. Currently Walter is consumed with putting over the Academy dinner (27th) and the Town Meeting which he’s brought out here for one broadcast. After those two momentous things are out of the way, he tells me he goes right into action on the other scheme. He plans to work it much like the group which meets at the Century Club works their organization: a small cell which generates enough power to spread throughout the industry. I put in with that idea for I know if you start making it official and get publicity on it there’ll be so much schmoo, nothing will be accomplished. So, until an actual wartime emergency exists, I’m all for trying it this way. And, from what Walter tells me, you agree.

If you’ve any ideas on what specifically should be done (at this writing, Walter is necessarily vague about Policy and Objective), let me know.
February 25, 1941.

CONFIDENTIAL

Mr. Allen Rivkin
315 N. Camden Drive
Beverly Hills, Calif.

Dear Allen:

I am not at all opposed to quiet, conscientious effort, but I do think that we ought to grow up in the movie industry and face the facts of life. There are two big fields in which efforts must continue. One is the so-called fiction field in which attitudes, direct or indirect, are of great importance. The other is the straight factual material which ought to be made a best seller in the movies. In the book field the shift has already been made so that the best seller list includes more non-fiction than fiction books. Do tell me who, in the non-fiction field, can do a job such as Wanger will do in the fiction field, and don't tell me that the American public wants only escape material. Somewhere between the Newareels, March of Time, LaBrent, Kline, etc., we ought to find a formula and a person. Unless the public is educated factually as to what the nation is doing, we cannot have a unified society.

Best to you,

Yours,

(signed) Morris I. Ernst
My dear June:

For woe to Mr. Joule who has the courage of her simplicity, would I have dared to write you as I did. And to woe but you wrote I have dared make such request.

Now you are the "1941 lady Beaujolais" of the best families. June is now at the age where her hearing friends leave her out of parties and dances, but she will hit one or two memories if you visit for quite some time.

For years we have built up June a pride in having overcome her deafness—she said a treat or having overcome her deafness. She said a treat or having overcome her deafness. She said a treat or having overcome her deafness. She said a treat or having overcome her deafness. She said a treat or having overcome her deafness. She said a treat or having overcome her deafness. She said a treat or having overcome her deafness. She said a treat or having overcome her deafness. She said a treat or having overcome her deafness. She said a treat or having overcome her deafness. She said a treat or having overcome her deafness. She said a treat or having overcome her deafness. She said a treat or having overcome her deafness. She said a treat or having overcome her deafness. She said a treat or having overcome her deafness. She said a treat or having overcome her deafness. She said a treat or having overcome her deafness. She said a treat or having overcome her deafness. She said a treat or having overcome her deafness. She said a treat or having overcome her deafness. She said a treat or having overcome her deafness.
Henry R.--

If I was formally in your army, now I'm near a place for you to command. Only for Joan am I even willing to be a creditor in emotions.

This was the first time I have ever asked away in or near political power to do anything for me or mine. Please appreciate what you did for us.

Yours,

Morris L. E.

Don't bother to acknowledge.
April 5, 1941

Dear Mr. Ernst:

Mrs. Roosevelt asked me to tell you that her lecture on April 10 is a paid one. She will, however, be delighted to have you call for her and will let you know where.

Sincerely yours,

Secretary to
Mrs. Roosevelt

Mr. Morris Ernst
265 Madison Avenue
New York, N.Y.
March 25, 1941.

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

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I understand that you are coming to New York on April tenth and will attend a luncheon of the Friends of Children. I have represented that organization from its inception and I wonder if I could pick you up somewhere and take you up to the luncheon. I noticed in the papers that you have encouraged the consolidation and coordination of all such organizations. I think I can give you a hunch on the Friends of Children which will be of aid to you in the position which you are taking. Mrs. Williams, who is the driving force in the back of Friends of Children, is one of those great gals who late in life has found a real satisfaction in using her great wealth and time in decent communal work.

I spoke to Wanger on long distance telephone last week and I think he now realizes how little he can do with the movies. Some day we will have to break through the Will Hays attitude.

I am working with Fairchild and his group who are in touch with McNutt. I think the dinner you gave in Washington was not just another pleasant party but really has become the springboard for some real public effort.

If on April tenth or any other time you want to take an evening off to relax with the Ernstes at theatre or elsewhere, let me know.

Yours,

[Signature]
DAY LETTER

April 9, 1941

Mr. Morris Ernst
285 Madison Avenue
New York; New York

Much as I would like to see you I think I had better to to lunch tomorrow alone as I cannot decide what I may have to do that morning.

ELEANOR ROOSEVELT
April 7, 1941

My dear Mr. Ernst:

I am enclosing the itinerary for the trip to Scott's Run and Arthurdale. Mrs. Roosevelt says that if it seems too long, she can arrange to have cars enough so any one wanting to do just part of the trip can return.

Very sincerely yours,

Secretary to
Mrs. Roosevelt

Mr. Morris Ernst
285 Madison Avenue
New York, New York
April 10, 1941.

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

Dear Tommy:


Where do you get off addressing letters to me as Mr. Ernst and then signing them, very properly, Tommy.

Thanks for the itinerary for the trip to Scott's Run. The Ernst's will be in Washington with enthusiasm. Connie may be in the midst of a job at CBS and will have to forego the trip. In any event we will let you know in ample time.

Once more I want to suggest that sometime when you are in New York, you might give the Ernst's a ring. I think we could have fun together either at theatre or just chatting with some friends at dinner.

Yours
May 15, 1941

Dear Morris:

The President has had to postpone several of his engagements which involved Mrs. Roosevelt, so that the plans for the trip to West Virginia will have to be changed too. Mrs. Roosevelt will only have time to go to Arthurdale and Moorefield, both of these engagements being on the 26th.

Mrs. Roosevelt plans now to leave Washington sometime on Sunday the 25th. She hopes you and Mrs. Ernst will plan to arrive Saturday afternoon and spend the night, so we can all start off together on Sunday.

This change will mean that we get back to the White House sometime on Tuesday the 27th. If you care to stay over in the White House there will be a Pan American reception here on the night of the 27th.

Sincerely yours,

Mr. Morris Ernst
285 Madison Avenue
New York, N.Y.
May 10, 1941

Dear Mr. Ernst:

In answer to your letter of May 12, I can not find out from anyone that there is any plan for sending young people abroad. The President says he knows nothing about it. I certainly will keep Connie in mind if I hear anything definite.

I am delighted that Connie is going to Arthurdale with us.

Tommy tells me you are going on to Morris. Does this mean you will not return to Washington? I only ask because of the Pan-American reception on Tuesday, the 27th. For that you would have to wear "white tie".

Very sincerely yours,

Mr. Morris Ernst
285 Madison Avenue
NYC
May 12, 1941.

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

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

One of the columnists recently carried a story to the effect that the President would shortly send over to England three or four young people, all within the draft age, to observe what is going on. A long while ago I recommended to the British Embassy that one student from each College ought to go over. If this crowd went over, in small groups, no one would have to tell them what to say and they would come back as high missionaries for freedom.

I am writing in all decency to suggest that if any young folks are going over, that you might want to suggest to the President the name of Connie Ernst. She and we know the hazards involved. She has been there before. She could do a great job when she got back, and unless I am mistaken, she could arouse all of the well known writers, actors and radio artists into something that might have a real effect on the youth of the country. I hope you don't think it very improper of me to write this kind of a suggestion.

We are looking forward to the TVA trip. I am spending sometime with Lillian in New York this afternoon.

I have been following up Walter Wanger and I am quite convinced that nothing of any great value developed from that plan. This means that we have to get up a better one for the future.

Yours sincerely,
May 22, 1941

Dear Morris:

Mrs. Roosevelt is delighted to have the three of you and counts on your staying over the 27th.

I hope this Washington weather cools off a bit for the benefit and comfort of all of us. West Virginia can be very hot too.

That sounds like a subtle way of discouraging you, but it is only meant to urge you and Mrs. Ernst and Connie to bring the thinnest clothes you have. "White tie", of course has no respect for the thermometer.

Sincerely yours,

Mr. Morris Ernst
285 Madison Avenue
New York, N.Y.
May 20, 1941.

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

Dear Tommy:

The Ernst gang, three in all, are leaving New York by train arriving in Washington, - Washington time - 4:30 Saturday afternoon. Don't go to any bother for people like us.

Will you tell Mrs. Roosevelt that her letter of the sixteenth crossed mine, and that we will come back to Washington with her for the reception on the twenty-seventh, gaily wearing white ties. If the Erinists are taking the place of others of more value to you folks in these trying times, don't hesitate to cancel us out of the Tuesday, May twenty-seventh, party.

Yours,
June 10, 1941

Dear Morris:

The RCA Personal Radio Receiver which Louis Roth sent at your request has been received and I am delighted with it. I greatly appreciate your thoughtfulness and shall be glad to follow your suggestion regarding the old set.

Sincerely yours,

PLF/coh

Mr. Morris Ernst
285 Madison Avenue
New York, New York
June 10, 1941

Dear Morris:

Thank you so much for the pen. It is something which I have wished for many times while flying and I will surely try it out the first time I am in a plane. It was very kind and thoughtful of you to send it to me.

Very sincerely yours,

Mr. Morris L. Ernst
Greenbaum, Wolff & Ernst
285 Madison Avenue
New York, New York
June 4, 1941.

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

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I have just completed my Second Works Project. I have located a pen which in theory, at least, should work in an airplane. Try it out with the compliments of the Ernsts. The nub is so stubby that for a time you will feel as if you are writing with the end of your thumb.

It is really fun doing a trifle for you who are so intent upon doing things for others.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
June 10, 1941

Dear Mr. Ernst:

Many thanks for your letter and for the check. I very much appreciate the gift and will see that it is put to good use.

Very sincerely yours,

[Signature]

Mr. Morris Ernst
206 Madison Avenue
NYC
July 30, 1941

Dear Morris:

I am so sorry we cannot ask Mr. MacLeish for the article you suggest. If Mrs. Roosevelt asked him, he might feel obliged to do it and I am sure if I asked, it would make no impression.

Sincerely yours,

Mr. Morris Ernst
American Laborite
160 West 44th Street
New York, New York
Miss Malvina Thompson,
The White House,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Tommy:

Thanks again for your kindness re Eleanor Roosevelt article for our AMERICAN LABORITE.

As you might have expected, I am going to try to take advantage of your good nature once again since we are determined to really try to shape public opinion in favor of the President's foreign policies especially.

The thought I had in mind was that you would ask Archibald McLeish for a 1200 word article on anything he sees fit to write about, preferably along political lines.

Our next lineup of political contributors already includes Bob Wagner, George Counts, A.F. of T. International President, and Melvyn Douglas. McLeish would be just right to round out our magazine section.

I am counting on you not to take "No" for an answer.

Regards

[Signature]

Morris
Farmer correspondence (letter to Mr. Ernst dated June 9, 1941) has been charged out of file since June 16, 1941.

SRS
7-23-41
American Laborite
A NEWSPAPER ENDORSED BY THE AMERICAN LABOR PARTY
160 West 44th Street
New York, N.Y.

Liberal Publications Society, Inc.

Advisory Committee on Publication
Alexander Kahn, Chairman
Luigi Antonini
Andrew R. Armstrong
Harold Baer
Alex Rose
Lester Rosner

PEARL L. WILLEN, Chairman,
Committee on Promotion

July 12th, 1941.

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

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

No doubt you have received the first issue of the American Laborite. We hope you like it. We have put a great deal of work and thought into it but we realize that everything, no matter how perfect, can be improved upon. We would appreciate your comment and criticism.

Morris Ernst has asked me to thank you, as do we all, for your article. We hope that you will be able to favor us with another one in the near future.

Sincerely yours,

Charles W. Campbell
Business Manager

CC: NS
October 8, 1941

Dear Morris:

Mrs. Roosevelt has written to Mr. Young and Miss Brandeis as you suggested, and I am sending you a copy of her letter.

Sincerely yours,

Mr. Morris Ernst
285 Madison Avenue
New York
New York
October 6, 1941

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

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I haven't bothered you for a long while, but I am writing to see if you can be of further help with respect to the proposed censorship of the Steinbeck film The Forgotten Village. The reason I write you is that in your World-Telegram column of September 4 you indicated that you had enjoyed the showing of the picture. I assume that you found nothing "indecent or inhuman" or in any way lacking in taste or worthy of suppression, otherwise you would not have referred to the picture in your column.

The State of New York now is endeavoring to censor two scenes: one a brief moment when the baby is nursing at its mother's breast, and the other that important spiritual scene showing the quaint folklore of Mexico surrounding the birth of a baby. I am sending you herewith the first proof of the brief that we are filing. On the top of page 28 you will find a reference to your column. We intend to annex to the brief a photostat of that portion of your column that refers to your opinion on the picture.

I know that with the war and the world, the suppressions of any one picture must fall in the category of trivia; on the other hand it does seem to me that basically we are fighting this war in order to have a free market in thought. This kind of absurd censorship of a beautiful picture is really frightening and symbolic of what could happen if some people had their way.

Would you have a moment's time and would you feel free to write to Owen Young or Susan Brandeis or others whom you well know as members of the Board of Regents of the State of New York, before whom our appeal will be lodged? If you could do so and if you should feel free to send me copies of your letters, I would appreciate it. If we could use the letters publicly and in the brief, it would be most helpful.
Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt

October 6, 1941

I had a long talk with John Rothschild just before your proposed picnic for The Open Road was called off. I suggested that it might be worthwhile to get together with Audrey Williams, yourself and one or two others to really talk over a comprehensive, nation-wide program along the lines of John's efforts.

Best to you.

Yours,

[Signature]

MLE:JF
October 13, 1941

Dear Morris:

Mrs. Roosevelt is willing to have you refer to her letter in your argument before the Regents.

Thank you for your letter. I do hope to come to New York and to see you soon.

Sincerely,

Mr. Morris L. Ernst
Greenbaum, Wolff & Ernst
285 Madison Avenue
New York, New York
October 10, 1941

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

Dear Tommy:

Thanks for your letter and the swell letter

that Mrs. Roosevelt wrote in regard to THE FORGOTTEN
VILLAGE. I assume I am at liberty to refer in the
argument before the Regents to this letter of Mrs.
Roosevelt.

When do you come up to New York for a snifter,
or are we going to be the forgotten Ernests when you
do come to New York?

Yours,

MLE: JF
October 20, 1941.

Dear Morris:

Mrs. Roosevelt has asked me to send you the enclosed letter from Mrs. William Denman. She is a friend of Mrs. Roosevelt's, and much interested in Pan-American relations.

Very sincerely yours,

Mr. Morris Ernst
285 Madison Avenue
New York, New York.
October 22, 1941.

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

Dear Tommy:

Thanks for Mrs. Denman's letter. It is helpful.

Yours,

[Signature]

MLE-PG
October 22, 1941

Dear Mr. Ernst:

I am much interested in your message about Edna Ferber and agree with you that she certainly would do well. However, the State Department and the Embassy are not too keen to send people just now.

Sincerely yours,

Mr. Morris Ernst
285 Madison Avenue
NYC
November 24, 1941

Dear Mr. Ernst:

I am glad to have your letter and would love to see you. Let me know when you are coming down. I will be here every day except the afternoons of the 25th and 26th.

Sincerely yours,

Mr. Morris Ernst
285 Madison Avenue, NYC
November 19, 1941.

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

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I have not been a nuisance to you in a long while. I am anxious to see you, however, as I am much disturbed at the dissipation of the mighty work that has been done with respect to youth in America.

I had a long talk with Aubrey and Congressman Johnson in Washington yesterday. I am convinced that private employment will not train young men and women for work in industry in order to win the war. Somewhere the government should be developing the skills of hundreds of thousands of young people. I think we have all lost out on this subject because the concept of the Youth Administration was tied up with one of peace, as it well should have been. I have a plan which I discussed with Aubrey and others which will tie it up with the present emergency. I think we will have to re-dramatize this entire situation in the public mind.

Can you spare a few minutes for me in Washington sometime? I can come down pretty nearly any day you suggest.

Affectionately,
January 6, 1942

Dear Mr. Ernst:

I have asked Mr. Milo Perkins about a place for Ingrid Warburg and will let you know what he says.

I shall be glad to see you any time that you happen to be in Washington.

Sincerely yours,

Mr. Morris Ernst
285 Madison Avenue, NYC
December 29, 1941

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

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

1. In chatting with Ingrid Warburg I understood that she was going to see you in the near future. There is not enough in her present refugee work to keep her energy satisfied. I suggested that she speak to you about the following job: She should be given a cubbyhole in Milo Perkins' office under Henry Wallace, merely gathering together all of the existing material, properly indexing it, etc., with respect to the re-refugee problem which will arise after the time of the peace. It is the kind of a job that she can do with one secretary and one file clerk. I should imagine that thirty million people will contemplate shifting their homes after the war; certainly someone in Washington ought to have proper maps, charts and analyses so that the human mind can have the factual material necessary to reach a proper solution.

2. Sometime ago I drew up for McNutt's boys a plan in regard to movies. I am sending you a copy herewith. It occurs to me that OCD - if LaGuardia ever permits it to spread its wings, - might work out certain elements of the enclosed plan jointly with Lowell Mellett. The plan, as I see it, calls for about 55,000 volunteers, most of whom will be in smaller communities. I think it is the kind of a plan that will appeal to you because it indicates a way in which democracy can work in the small communities.

3. I am very anxious to see you in regard to the LaGuardia situation. Petitions are about to be circulated to ask him to resign as head of OCD; most of his friends are fearful that he will resign as Mayor instead. I have a feeling that your relationship to OCD is an important emotional element in the solution that he will reach. I am sure you won't mind my being frank, and I would like very much to see you here or in Washington for five or ten minutes, to see if I can be helpful.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]

MLE-PC
Enc (1)
January 20, 1942,

My dear Mr. Ernst:

Mrs. Roosevelt has asked me to send you the enclosed copy of a self-explanatory letter received from Mr. Fischer, of the Board of Economic Warfare.

Very sincerely yours,

Secretary to Mrs. Roosevelt.

Re: Ingrid Warburg.

Mr. Morris Ernst
285 Madison Avenue
New York, New York.
George:
Do you suppose we could find out who Mrs. Roosevelt's friend is who wrote about Miss Warburg.

Thanks -
VDS

Maurice Ernst
785 Madison Ave
January 14, 1942

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

Dear Mrs. Thompson:

Mr. Milo Perkins has asked me to reply to your letter of January 6th regarding the possibility that Miss Ingrid Warburg might be useful to the Board of Economic Warfare.

We very much appreciate your suggestion concerning Miss Warburg, and I would be glad to talk with her any time she may be in Washington. I would appreciate it if you would let me know how to get in touch with her so that we can arrange a definite appointment. It might be helpful if you would give me a little background information about Miss Warburg's training and experience.

Sincerely yours,

John Fischer
Chief, Economic Warfare
Analysis Section
European-African Division
February 9, 1942

Mr. Morris L. Ernst
Greenbaum, Wolff and Ernst
285 Madison Avenue
New York, N.Y.

Only in New York on 11th. Might be able to stop in at six or six thirty but doubt if that is a good time to speak. Let me know at 49 East 65th Street

Eleanor Roosevelt
February 3, 1942.

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

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

If you are going to be in New York February 11, 12 or 13, I think you would add much to the "Carnival for Democracy" which is being held at the Grand Central Palace. I am sending you a letter that was sent to me, which gives you the main facts. This is really the first move toward removing overlappings and conflicts.

Won't you let me know whether you think this is worth your while to attend. I am authorized to ask you that if you do attend, whether you would speak for five or ten minutes.

If you are coming up any one of these evenings, maybe you would like to take a little respite and have a quiet dinner with the Ernsts.

Connie had a swell time with you.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Enc (1)
Mr. Morris Ernst  
285 Madison Avenue  
New York, New York

Dear Mr. Ernst:

A Carnival for Democracy will be held at Grand Central Palace on the evenings of February 11, 12 and 13 from 8 until 11 o'clock. The purpose of the Carnival is to bring together under one roof the more important organizations which are working for the defense and perpetuation of our democratic form of government.

Each participating organization will have a booth of its own to decorate as it wishes. These booths will afford each organization the opportunity of demonstrating the nature of its work, distributing the publications and otherwise arousing interest in its program. The cost of the booth is $10.00. Some of the organizations of new Americans plan to exhibit the crafts, arts and folklore of their former homelands. May we count on your participation?

We have arranged for various types of entertainment which will appeal to all who attend. Stage, screen and radio personalities are contributing their services, and music and dancing are to be provided by several of the participating nationality groups. There will be a few speeches - but they will be brief. In order to give the affair the tone of a real carnival, a midway of weight guessers, dart games, etc. has been arranged for. Food and soft drinks will be available.


Will you please let us know by telephone as soon as your decision has been reached. Any further information will be promptly furnished.

Yours for the democratic way of life,

L. M. Birkhead  
Chairman  
Carnival for Democracy

A NONSECTARIAN, NONPARTISAN, NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION  
SUPPORTED BY VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS
CARNIVAL FOR DEMOCRACY
CO-OPERATING ORGANIZATIONS

AMERICAN WOMEN'S VOLUNTARY SERVICES
BOY SCOUT FOUNDATION
BOYS BROTHERHOOD REPUBLIC
BRITISH WAR RELIEF SOCIETY
BUNDLES FOR BLUEJACKETS
BUNDLES FOR BRITAIN
CAMPFIRE GIRLS
COMMITTEE FOR NATIONAL MORALE
COMMON COUNCIL FOR AMERICAN UNITY
CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR DEMOCRATIC ACTION
COUNCIL AGAINST INTOLERANCE
COUNCIL FOR DEMOCRACY
COUNCIL FOR NEGRO CULTURE
FRIENDS OF DEMOCRACY
FREEDOM HOUSE, INC.
GERMAN-AMERICAN CONGRESS FOR DEMOCRACY
JEWISH EXAMINER
MADISON SQUARE BOYS CLUB
NEW YORK CITY SALVAGE COMMITTEE
RUSSIAN WAR RELIEF
STUDENT LEAGUE OF AMERICA
UNION FOR DEMOCRATIC ACTION
February 2, 1942.

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

Dear Tommy:

Thanks for your letter. I am still hoping that I can live a completely "informal" life.

Connie had a swell time and the Ernsts are still waiting for you in New York for any kind of a party you want.

Best to you,

Yours,
April 8, 1942.

Dear Mr. Ernst:

I am sorry you did not telephone when you were in Washington as I would have enjoyed seeing you and Mrs. Ernst.

Your idea of a neighborhood party sounds grand. Why not have it at your house? I'll be in New York City off and on this spring and as a tentative date how would May 4, suit you?

Very sincerely,

[Signature]

Mr. Morris L. Ernst
Greenbaum, Wolff & Ernst
285 Madison Avenue
New York, New York.
March 30, 1942.

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

My dear Mrs. R:

Glad you have come back to our neighborhood. A few of us who live downtown and whom you know, would like to throw a very small and informal party for you. No speeches, no vanities; just a little neighborhood party. We could have it either at the home of Howard Lindsay and Dorothy Stickney or at our house; an informal buffet supper, limiting the group strictly to people who live downtown. I know we cannot lick the impersonal confusion of a big city but it is worthwhile trying to break down the spirit of small sections as possible. Won't you let us know what day, no matter how far off, that will fit into your plans.

Margaret and I will be in Washington Tuesday and Wednesday. We may get up enough nerve to give you a ring to see if we can drop in for tea.

Best to you,

Yours,

[Signature]
April 18, 1942

Dear Morris:

Your letter to Mrs. Roosevelt came after she left. In the meantime, the President has just told Mrs. Roosevelt that the President of Peru will be here May 4th, and that means she will have to be here and postpone your party.

Mrs. Roosevelt will be away from Washington until the 22d or 23d. I am taking your letter to her when I meet up with her tomorrow.

Sincerely yours,

Mr. Morris Ernst
285 Madison Avenue
New York, New York
Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt
The White House
Washington, D.C.

May dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

When you get to town sometime, could you spare me a few minutes to have me take you up to the Soldiers and Sailors Canteen at Temple Emanuel. The Canteen is run by the Jewish Welfare Groups. You would give a spurt to the energy of the women running the Canteen, if you could arrange to drop around.

I am coming down to see the President early next week and may try to have tea with you.

Yours sincerely,

P.S. And I won't bother you about your moving to your new apartment!! Incidentally, what time will be best for you on May 4th for the Block Party? How about supper, or late afternoon cocktails, or the evening, whichever you want? A gang of us would much prefer to have you drop in for an informal buffet supper.
Dear Mr. Ernst:

I would like very much to visit the Soldiers and Sailors Canteen at Temple Emanuel and will go with you the first chance I have. I will let you know as soon as I have a free date in New York.

Very sincerely yours,

Mr. Morris Ernst
285 Madison Avenue
NYC
October 24, 1942

My dear Mr. Ernst:

Your telegram of October 21 has been received at the White House but it came after Mrs. Roosevelt and Miss Thompson left the city. I am sorry that it will not be possible to bring it to Mrs. Roosevelt's attention at this time and I can only suggest that you get in touch with her after you read about her return to this country.

Very sincerely yours,

Administrative Officer
Social Correspondence

Mr. Morris L. Ernst
285 Madison Avenue
New York, New York
MRS ELEANOR ROOSEVELT

WHITE HOUSE

MARGARET ERNST WHO HAS TAUGHT SCHOOL, AS YOU KNOW, FOR MORE THAN A DECADE, WOULD LIKE TO GO OVER TO LISBON FOR THE UNITED STATES COMMITTEE FOR THE CARE OF EUROPEAN CHILDREN AND WORK ON THE JOB OF BRINGING THE KIDS BACK. I ASSUME THAT THIS IS A JOB WHICH WAS INSPIRED BY YOU AND IF YOU BELIEVE THAT MARGARET, IN HER CALM, QUIET WAY CAN DO A GOOD JOB ON THIS FRONT, WOULD YOU MIND WIRING TO WHOEVER IS THE PERSON IN CHARGE.
I UNDERSTAND THEY ARE TAKING OVER QUITE A FEW TEACHERS. DON'T HAVE ANY HESITATION ABOUT FORGETTING THIS REQUEST IN CASE YOU DON'T WANT TO BUTT IN OR IN CASE YOU THINK YOU CANNOT HONESTLY RECOMMEND MARGARET.

MORRIS L ERNST.
Miss Thompson:

Do you remember whether you received a cable in London from Morris Ernst about the film "In Which We Serve"? Mr. Edward C. Raftery, president of the United Artists Corporation, called from New York and wanted to know Mrs. Roosevelt's answer to the cable. This is the film she saw in England and which she wrote about in her column. They want to release the picture here if the Hays Censorship Board objects to some of the language of the sailors - particularly in one place where the word "bastard" is used. The picture has been shown to Lord Halifax and Admiral Leahy, etc., and the United Artists are trying to fight the deletion demanded by the censorship board as they feel it will weaken the picture to cut out too much and it will lose its force as propaganda. Mr. Raftery would like to have Mrs. Roosevelt's opinion about it and asks that we wire him at United Artists Corporation, 729 - 7th Avenue, N.Y.C. (The cable mentioned has not been returned to our files and we have no record of it.)
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

January 7, 1943

MEMO FOR MR. C.R.M.
MRS. H.L.M.
MR. TOLLEY:
MISS THOMPSON:

Mrs. Roosevelt will see
Mr. Morris Ernst on January 8th, at
4:30 p.m.

H.T.L.
THE WHITE HOUSE

DELIGHTED TO GET YOUR LETTER. WILL BE IN WASHINGTON THURSDAY AND FRIDAY AT UNIVERSITY CLUB. WILL TELEPHONE YOU TO SEE IF I CAN DATE YOU UP.

MORRIS L. ERNST.
January 21, 1943.

Dear Mr. Ernst:

I did see Neil Vanderbilt during the Christmas holidays.

Very sincerely yours,

Mr. Morris Ernst
285 Madison Avenue
New York, New York.
January 19, 1943.

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

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I wonder if you could let me know if you have seen Neil Vanderbilt recently at the Hospital in Washington. I meant to ask you about him when I saw you at the Algonquin the other day.

Best,

[Signature]

P.S. And don't you ever hesitate to call on any of the Ernsts at any time to pitch ball for you in any way.
March 22, 1945

Mr. Morris Ernst
285 Madison Avenue, NYC

Dear Morris:

Thank you for sending me a copy of the program which you sent to the President.

We would love to have you bring Jan Struther down sometime.

Sincerely yours,
March 18, 1943.

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

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I am sending you herewith a first rough confidential draft of a program I have developed for cementing relations with England. I have sent a copy to the President. I have chatted with Sumner Welles, John Foster of the British Embassy, Russell Leffingwell and others in order to get further suggestions. I wrote the President that I would send a copy to you because so much of the material spiritually stems from your approach to international relationships. If you have any comments or suggestions, do let me have them.

I am preparing a similar program vis-a-vis Chile. I am hopeful that Welles will have enough discussions with Eden so that each will assign a person to follow up these leads.

I had lunch with Jan Struther today and she was bubbling over with joy about your letter. I am sure she did not tell you that the ballad resulted from sitting next to one of Cincinnati's most eminent citizens - in fact, a cousin of Senator Taft. I would love to bring Jan down to Washington sometime for a moment with you and the Boss. She has really been of great indirect aid to the Rooseveltian point of view toward life.

Best to you,

Yours,

P.S. I don't expect you to read through the enclosed but if the summary of the items starting on page 2 intrigue you, you can find expansions of each item later in the document.
April 30, 1943

Dear Mr. Ernst:

Mrs. Roosevelt asks me to tell you that she regrets that she cannot attend the Knights of Pythias show on May seventeenth. She cannot be in New York on that date.

Sincerely yours,

Mr. Morris Ernst
Greenbaum, Wolff & Ernst
285 Madison Avenue
New York, New York
Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt  
The White House  
Washington, D.C.  

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:  

A very old friend of mine, Judge Samuel S. Leibowitz of Brooklyn, has put a tremendous amount of energy into the Knights of Pythias Camp for slum children of this City. The Knights of Pythias is running off a big party at Madison Square Garden. Judge Leibowitz asked me to find out whether by any chance you can be present at the party on May 17. They want to make you sort of guest of honor and just to say a few words. The stars of Broadway are putting on a tableau dramatizing the need of doing something for the children of the slums. The Knights of Pythias Camp for children is run without any discrimination. They get their children from Negro, Catholic, Jewish and Protestant, as well as other organizations.  

If you are going to be around here at that time, I think it would be swell if you could come to their show. If you can fit this date in on your calendar, why don't you arrange to have a bite of dinner with the Ernst's and I will get Judge Leibowitz and one or two other mainstays of this really exciting children's project, to join us for a bite.  

Anyway we miss you. It is much too long since we have seen you. In fact, we love you.  

Yours,  

[Signature]
June 2, 1943.

Dear Mr. Ernst:

Many thanks for your letter and the news item about my participation in the launching.

Very sincerely yours,

Mr. Morris Ernst
285 Madison Avenue
New York (17)
New York.
June 1, 1943.

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

Dear Tommy:

I had the enclosed in my pocket when I ran into you the other evening. The heading should have read: "First Lady’s Sub Sponsor for Aid".

Don’t bother to acknowledge receipt.

Yours,

[Signature]

---

First Lady’s Aid Sponsor for Sub

Portsmouth, N.H., May 28 (U.P.)—Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt's secretary, Malvina C. Thompson, served as sponsor today at the launching of the USS Archer-Fish, the sixth submarine to go down the ways this year at Portsmouth Navy Yard. Miss Thompson’s sister, Mrs. Charles E. Lund of Washington, was matron of honor.
July 12, 1945

Dear Morris:

Your letter of July 6, telling Mrs. Roosevelt about the English documentary film, "The Gentle Sex", has been received during her absence on a trip to the West.

Mrs. Roosevelt will not be back until late in July, but I will give her your letter at that time.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Mr. Morris L. Ernst
285 Madison Avenue
New York, New York
July 6, 1943.

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

My dear Mrs. R:

When in England I examined with some care the development of English documentary war films — believing that the exchange of films is one of the simplest ways to acquire familiarity with foreign folkways. There has just been sent to me a feminine counterpart of IN WHICH WE SERVE. It is called THE GENTLE SEX. It is not quite a counterpart but it tells the story of the British WAACS. It was Leslie Howard's last production, and it was made by the same distinguished company which did Coward's IN WHICH WE SERVE.

I was so impressed by this picture that I arranged for a private showing in Washington for Lord Halifax's staff — Generals, members of Commissions, etc. The heads of the British WAVES and WAACS were present.

I write to suggest that if possible I think you and the Boss would enjoy the picture, and that it might be helpful if the picture were shown at the White House — with the representatives of the U. S. WAVES, WAACS, SPARS, etc., — and the British counterparts all present. Such a joint gathering at the White House some evening in itself would be helpful to our own Women's Military organizations. The picture is typically English in its understatement. It is the opposite of Hollywood.

Won't you let me know if you want the film. It has not been released in the United States but received grand notices in England where it has run for some weeks.

Best,

Morris L. E.

Note: Mr. Ernst wrote this from Nantucket and asked me to type it out.

P.S.
July 23, 1943

Dear Morris:

Mrs. Roosevelt is just back from the West and has only a few days in Washington, after which she will not be back again until autumn. She is sorry that it is not possible for her to see the documentary film now.

Very sincerely,

Mr. Morris Ernst
285 Madison Avenue
New York, New York
October 4, 1943

Dear Mr. Ernst:

Thank you for your welcome home letter.

I will be here at Hyde Park until the 12th and back in Washington on the 13th. I could see the film that night, but I could not promise that the President would be there. I can ask anyone you like.

Very cordially yours,

Mr. Morris Ernst
Greenbaum, Wolff and Ernst
285 Madison Avenue
NYC
GREENBAUM, WOLFF & ERNST
288 MADISON AVENUE
NEW YORK 17, N.Y.

TELEPHONE CALEDONIA 8-1582

September 29, 1943.

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

Dear Mrs. R:

Welcome home and best from all the Ernsts.

As a result of my trip to England, I have become increasingly interested in the production of English war pictures. A picture has recently come over called THE GMITLLE SEX. It is the story of the British WACS. It runs a little over an hour. I arranged for a special showing of the picture before the British Embassy and military groups. It is really a first class job.

I don't know if we can get the picture distributed in the United States because of the virtual economic embargo on the part of large American producers not to distribute British pictures through the distribution system owned by the producers. I wonder if you will accept my judgment as a movie critic sufficiently to care to see the picture at the White House some evening. I have in mind that in connection with the campaign for WAVES, WACS, etc., it might be a grand idea to have in at the White House showing the heads of the American and British Women's Military Auxiliary groups. I don't mean a big crowd but I have in mind around fifteen or twenty people.

I may go back to England in two weeks. I do want to see you before I go.

Best,

Yours,

[Signature]

In Washington this Friday evening, I am going to see I can come on for tea...
October 8, 1943

My dear Mr. Ernst:

You may send the film to be shown next Wednesday night to Mr. H. C. Crim, Chief Usher, The White House. I will tell him that you are sending it and he will be on the look-out for it.

Very sincerely yours,

Secretary to
Mrs. Roosevelt

Mr. Morris Ernst
Greenbaum, Wolff and Ernst
285 Madison Avenue
New York, New York
Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt
Hyde Park, New York

My dear Mrs. R:

Enclosed find list of persons to be invited to the showing of GENTLE SEX at the White House Wednesday night, October 13th. I have already written that at the White House you could no doubt make up the corresponding list which would unoubtedly include the top officials of our WAVES, WACS, etc. I don't mean to exclude some of our high Generals just because they happen to be men. As to that, I suggest you use your own judgment. I have only in mind the advisability of having the two corresponding groups meet and see the picture.

I am sending a copy of this letter to you at the White House and also in New York City for your convenience in getting up the invitations without too much trouble.

Yours,

[Signature]

P.S. Margaret might want to come with me. Do you mind having the invitation to me run to Margaret also? She gets homesick for you every once in a while and you certainly do something to her and for her.

Copy to White House
Copy to Washington Sc, West
BRITISH INFORMATION SERVICES
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York 20, N. Y.

October 7, 1943.

Mr. Morris Ernst
285 Madison Avenue
New York, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Ernst:

Following our telephone conversation I contacted our Washington Office and give you below a list of people to whom they suggest invitations should be sent to attend the showing of the British film THE GENTLE SEX at the White House on Wednesday next, October 13th:

Mr. & Mrs. Harold Butler
Sir Ronald Campbell, K.C.M.G.
Mr. & Mrs. Jack Winacour
Mr. Neville Gardiner
Miss Joan Roger

H.M. Minister (in charge of British Information Services in U.S.A.)
(In the absence of Lord Halifax)
Press Officer, British Information Services
Film Officer, British Information Services
Asst. Film Officer

British Embassy, Washington, D.C.
British Embassy, Washington, D.C.
1336 New York Ave.
1336 New York Ave.
1336 New York Ave.
1336 New York Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C.
Washington, D.C.
Washington, D.C.
Washington, D.C.

The following represent the British Women's Services in this country:

Squadron Officer K. M. Collins
Squadron Officer C. W. Willis
First Officer A. M. Alden
Second Officer M. MacKevon
Sgt. Commander P. B. Hammick

R.A.F. Delegation
R.A.F. Delegation
W.R.N.S. Delegation
W.R.N.S. Delegation
A.T.S. Delegation

1424 16th Street, Washington, D.C.
1424 16th Street, Washington, D.C.
Public Health Bldg. Washington, D.C.
Public Health Bldg. Washington, D.C.
1820 K. Street
Washington, D.C.
Mr. W. Ernst
Subaltern E. McAdam
A.T.S. Delegation

-2-

1820 K. Street,
Washington, D. C.

Yours sincerely,

(signed) BARBARA SPENDLOVE
Barbara Spendlove
Film Division
Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt
Hyde Park
New York, N.Y.

My dear Mrs. R:

I am sending a copy of this letter, addressed to you, to Washington so that the people in your office there can go forward with details.

Of course, I am delighted at your usual and expected cooperation in regard to the showing of the film at the White House on the evening of October 13th.

I will send down, addressed to you at the White House, the list of names, titles, etc., of the representatives in the United States of the British organizations. You will find on the list, which will not be more than a dozen people, the top officials of the various Women's Military Organizations, and possibly the Red Cross, Women's Volunteer Organization, and collateral groups. I suggest that from the White House you can more readily get appropriate lists, without creating jealousies of the corresponding people in the United States. In addition, I suggest that invitations be sent to the following, if you think the crowd is not going to be too big: Arthur Kelly, Vice President of United Artists, 729 - 7th Avenue, New York City, who represents the only motion picture company that is fully cooperating in an attempt to distribute British documentary pictures in the United States. In addition, there are several people in my office who have been working on the problem of getting British pictures distributed in the United States. All of them will be in Washington on other matters that day, and if you see fit, you might want to send invitations to them also. They are: Leo Rosen, Harriet F. Pilpel and Harold Stern, all of whom can be reached at this office address.

Don't hesitate to have your people bother me as to any further information or details.

It will be swell seeing you again. I am going to England in a couple of weeks and hope to follow up many of the little trivial matters out of which decent relations between the two nations — in the final analysis — stems.

Yours,

[Signature]

October 6, 1943.
Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt
Hyde Park
New York, N.Y.

My dear Mrs. R:

I forgot to ask you, in my letter in regard to the film showing on the 13th, the name of the person I should communicate with in order to deliver the film for display that evening. If you will just give me the name, I will telephone and make the arrangements.

Yours,

P.S. I am sending a copy of this letter also to you at Washington so as to facilitate matters for you.
MRS ELEANOR ROOSEVELT

I HAVE TALKED WITH ANN OHARE MCCORMACK GUNTLER SWING HELEN REID
MYRON C TAYLOR AND OTHER FRIENDS OF SUMNER WELLES WITH RESPECT
TO A SMALL INFORMAL DINNER FOR SUMNER TO BE HELD ON SATURDAY
EVENING OCTOBER 16TH IN NEW YORK CITY. THERE WILL BE NO SPEECHES
MERELY AN OCCASION FOR DEMONSTRATING AFFECTION AND ESTEEM FOR
SUMNER. THE GROUP WILL NOT BE OVER TWENTY FIVE. CAN YOU COME AS
A WRITING NEWSPAPER GAL IF YOU ARE GOING TO BE IN TOWN I HAVE BEEN
SITTING WITH SUMNER DURING THE LAST TRYING PERIOD AND I THINK THIS IS
AN IMPORTANT MOVE IN RELATION TO SUMNER'S USEFULNESS IN THE FUTURE
PLEASE WIRE WHETHER YOU WILL ATTEND I WILL SEND YOU FURTHER DETAILS AS
TO PLACE AND TIME OF DINNER.

MORRIS L ERNST.
Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt
The White House
Washington, D.C.

My dear Mrs. R:

I am going over to England in a few days and I am writing to ask whether there is any special message or light weight gift that I can bring over to any particular person in your behalf in England. I take over very few clothes of my own, and the last time I left in England everything that I took over; so don't hesitate to let me know if you want me to take over some stockings, lip sticks, etc.

We had a swell time the other night.

Yours,

[Signature]

P.S. Maybe Tommy has some particular beaux to whom she would like to send some light weight presents. You need not go out to buy them, but just telephone me what to get and to whom to deliver, and send me the full names and addresses.
January 28, 1944.

My dear Mr. Ernst:

Mrs. Roosevelt asks me to thank you for your letter and to tell you she will be glad to go with General Jarman to visit some of his command. She will be glad too, to have lunch with one of these groups but with no additions to their regular menu.

Mrs. Roosevelt will let you know when she will be able to go.

Very sincerely yours,

Secretary to
Mrs. Roosevelt.

28th, 5th 10. Am—

Mr. Morris Ernst
285 Madison Avenue
New York (17), New York.
Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Since I got back I had a talk with Major General Sanderford Jamain, Commanding General Anti-Aircraft Artillery Command. Do let me know just when you can spare half a day to have the General show you the "forgotten soldiers" of this war. He can send a car for you and I suggest that if you can go out in the morning, you might want to have lunch with one of these little, lonely groups of boys who have been on the beaches for some years.

If a boy flies a plane spotting submarines off the Atlantic Coast, he gets some kind of a little ribbon even if it is no greater or tougher job than sitting on a shore all winter on the Coast of Maine.

I think you can be of great spiritual help to these boys; and I think it is a story you will be interested in hearing because it is so little known in America. Above all, I got excited about the situation because I was amazed at the ingenuity and vision of Major General Jamain by letting these boys build their own barracks and even latrines. This activity filled what were otherwise bound to be empty, grumbling and neurotic lives. Won't you set a date no matter how distant, and I will arrange the rest?

I had a swell time. And do, all of you, continue to let me do chores whenever you think I can be helpful.

Yours,
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Marquis Erskine wants me to remind you to let date for visiting barrage balloon trip on Long Island

Feb 7 or Feb. Feb 3, 4, 1902.

If I can't I take a visit by train.

What do you think?
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON
January 29, 1944

My dear Mr. Ernst:

Mrs. Roosevelt asks me to tell you that she would like to visit General Jerman's Anti-Aircraft Artillery Command on February 5th, at 10:00 A.M.

Very sincerely yours,

[Signature]

Secretary to
Mrs. Roosevelt

Mr. Morris Ernst
285 Madison Avenue
New York 17
New York
February 9, 1944.

Dear Mr. Ernst:

I am so grateful to you for suggesting that I visit the coast defenses. I was very much interested in everything I saw and thoroughly enjoyed my trip. It was good of you to arrange for the small boys and they were most enthusiastic about everything.

Very cordially yours,

Mr. Morris Ernst
285 Madison Avenue
New York (17), New York.
February 12, 1944.

Dear Morris:

I had already had my statement about the captive balloons called to my attention by the Syndicate which in turn, had been reprimanded by the Censor.

I shall guard my remarks more carefully.

Very sincerely,

Mr. Morris Ernst
285 Madison Avenue
New York (17), New York.
February 11, 1944.

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

My dear Mrs. R:

General Jarmen wrote me a letter of which I am sending you a copy.

He is not disturbed and I am sure you won't be. What a swell guy he is.

I have written to the President to make sure that Jarmen is not
lost behind a desk in Washington.

I hope you will enjoy Roger, who has got an exciting story to
tell you.

Yours,

[Signature]

P.S. And what about this Mr. Eust stuff. Why not just

Props
Mr. Morris L. Ernst,
285 Madison Avenue,
New York, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Ernst:

There was an occurrence last night that I think you should know about. In connection with Mrs. Roosevelt's article in "My Day" of February 7th, we had a telephone message from the War Department Public Relations Bureau last night that the Office of Censorship had called them and stated that a newspaper had phoned the Office of Censorship asking for permission to mention that barrage balloons were no longer part of the Antiaircraft defenses. They had read in Mrs. Roosevelt's column which appeared recently, "There was a time when captive balloons were part of the defenses." (in New York). "That time has passed."

The Office of Censorship wanted the Bureau of Public Relations of the War Department to determine if anyone here had made any announcement in reference to the removal of barrage balloons or if anyone in this Command had given Mrs. Roosevelt permission to say the balloons had been removed. It seems the idea was that if we had given her permission to publish this, it was OK, but if we had not, there was a violation of the censorship code.

Since the barrage balloons were removed last Summer, a fact well known to the millions of people on Long Island, and since there was no reason for any secrecy in reference thereto, particularly in view of the fact that the War Department had recently come out with a public statement in reference to the reduction in Antiaircraft defenses, it immediately occurred to me that someone was trying to make political capital or embarrass Mrs. Roosevelt.
I called immediately General Surles, head of the Public Relations Bureau of the War Department, and told him that any statements made by Mrs. Roosevelt were based on what I told her and that I took full responsibility therefor. It was explained to General Surles that the balloon defenses had been removed last summer, a fact well known to everyone, and there was no reason for such an inquiry.

It occurred to me that some politician may be attempting to use the War Department for political sniping. You will know whether Mrs. Roosevelt should be advised of this.

It was great to have Mrs. Roosevelt present with the men. It has done much to improve their morale, for it makes them realize that their services, though not spectacular, are understood and appreciated.

Thanking you for your help, I am,

Yours sincerely,

(signed) Sanderford Jarman

SANDERFORD JARMAN,
Major General, U. S. Army.
March 1, 1944.

My dear Mr. Ernst:

Mrs. Roosevelt has your letter and appreciates so much your offer to bring the picture, "Welcome to Britain" here for her to see. Unfortunately, she will be away for a while and until she goes will have no free time.

Very sincerely yours,

Secretary to Mrs. Roosevelt.

Mr. Morris Ernst
285 Madison Avenue
New York (17), New York.
February 26, 1944.

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

My dear Mrs. R:

1. I have just seen, by all odds, the best Anglo-American picture ever produced. It is called WELCOME TO BRITAIN and was done by MOI and OWI. Burgess Meredith did the job, which tells our boys about England and incidentally, makes the greater contribution I have seen on the screen, to the proper way of handling the Negro problem. I would love to bring it down to the White House and as long as Duz Meredith is here, I wonder if I can bring him along. I can come down any time you want.

2. I hope you were not put out by the malicious piece in Life magazine. It was just another attempt to snare at the President and Harry and others, written by the most bitter anti-FDR liberal I know.

Cordially,

[Signature]
April 12, 1944.

My dear Mr. Ernst:

Mrs. Roosevelt has your letter and asks me to tell you she will not get back Friday until late but would love to have you lunch with her Saturday or come in from five to six.

Mrs. Roosevelt appreciates your sending the letter from Mr. Pedersen and she is writing him.

Very sincerely yours,

Secretary to
Mrs. Roosevelt.

Mr. Morris Ernst
285 Madison Avenue
New York (17), New York.
Hinckley, Minn., April 3, 44

Mr. Ernie Morris
46 West 11th St.
New York

Dear Sir,

I have been reading a good deal about you in Life and others, and from that I have understood that you are a true friend of our President. Mr. F.D. Roosevelt. I came over from Denmark in 1907. I did not leave Denmark for it, I was not satisfied, but simply because I wanted to see this great country. I have traveled over in 1917 and 1920 and found it a great and fruitful country. I helped to put in Mr. Roosevelt in 1932. The condition in America was at that time very serious.
If an if we had not being getting in a real Man there, understood His Job or Place, as well as Mr Roosevelt did, we would have felt it. Mr. Roosevelt has been doing all there could be don for the Rest of the common People of our Country, when I said Common People a mean People, from 50,000 an down to labor making a deason living. Of all the Presidents we have had in for the time I being here, Mr Roosevelt is the best one we are I’m telling you the Honnest to Good Title when I said we the People of U.S. America want Mr Roosevelt in for 4 Years more. Dear Mr Morris please do me the favor to get Him to run
agen. You are the Man.
That can do it, and believe me we need Him.
Thanking you in advance.

Yours very respectfully
A. M. Pedersen

If Mr. Roosevelt should refuse got. Mrs. Roosevelt to help you.
She must have some influence on Him.
My best Wishes to you.
Yours respectfully
The Old Gardener

I worked for Mr. Alrick H. Mann in New Garden, as Gardener at that time. I'm under mention now.
April 12, 1944.

My dear Mr. Ernst:

Mrs. Roosevelt has your letter and asks me to tell you she will not get back Friday until late but would love to have you lunch with her Saturday or come in from five to six.

Mrs. Roosevelt appreciates your sending the letter from Mr. Pedersen and she is writing him.

Very sincerely yours,

Secretary to Mrs. Roosevelt.

Mr. Morris Ernst
285 Madison Avenue
New York (17), New York.
Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt
The White House
Washington, D.C.

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Welcome home. I am sending you one of the most tender and precious letters I have ever received in regard to the President. If, of course, without answering the question he puts, you can send this old gardener any little note, you would certainly enrich his life, for he really loves this land.

I am going overseas in about ten days and I am planning to be in Washington toward the end of this week. I will give you a ring to see if I can come over to see you at cocktail time.

Yours sincerely,

[Written note on the page: "April 10, 1944"]
Mr. Morris Ernst  
Greenbaum Wolff and Ernst  
285 Madison Avenue  
New York NY 

Thanks for your offer. Have nothing to send. Good luck. Sorry to have missed you.

Eleanor Roosevelt

April 15, 1944
April 14, 1944.

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

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I tried to reach you when I was in Washington yesterday. I am off to England Tuesday night, April 18th. I again would like to offer to take over any messages or light-weight presents to friends of yours. If you will telephone me what to get, I can make the purchases for you in New York.

Best,

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]
May 17, 1944

Dear Mr. Ernst:

Mrs. Roosevelt has your telegram offering to give her a report on your trip when you are in Washington next Sunday and Monday. She asks me to thank you but to express her deep regret that she will be away on those days.

Very sincerely yours,

Secretary to
Mrs. Roosevelt

Mr. Morris Ernst
285 Madison Avenue
New York, New York
FA NEW YORK NY MAY 16 1944 1130A
MRS ELEANOR ROOSEVELT
THE WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON DC
I WILL BE IN WASHINGTON SUNDAY EVENING OF THIS WEEK AND ALL DAY MONDAY. CAN I SEE YOU ANY TIME AT ALL. I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A REPORT ON MY RECENT TRIP TO ENGLAND PARTICULARLY IN REGARD TO MATTERS INVOLVING RED CROSS CANTEEN IN WHICH YOU ARE SO DEEPLY INTERESTED AND ON WHICH I HAVE EXCITING NEWS. BEST
MORRIS L ERNST.
Hyde Park, New York
August 4, 1944

Dear Mr. Ernst:

Thank you for sending me Mr. Lampell’s poem, which I think is excellent.

I have only one suggestion and that is where he says “marching out to the attack”. Our fighting men do not march today and I wonder if some other word could be substituted to better describe the method.

Sincerely yours,

Mr. Morris L. Ernst
Nantucket, Mass.
Aug 1

My dear Mrs. R.,

Some time ago I wrote
FOG about finding the music for the prayer.
I didn't hear from him but took his silence
as a permission. I got Lampe's version of
his choral cantata to do the words, a lay funder
will complete the music in about a week.

Would you look over the enclosed, that
we have any suggestions that occur to you.
You will find an extra copy of the words which
please keep - but do him the favor of the papers
back - either here in hand or at 245
Main Street, Weymouth.

What about a man to this week
sessions? He'd love it. Help you as well.

Best,
Morris
July 28th, 1944

Mr. Morris Ernst
Nantucket, Rhode Island

Dear Mr. Ernst:

Here is the Algonquin Charter you wanted. It was kind of tough getting out of the Army frame of mind long enough to put things down in logical order, but I think I have covered all the points.

Lyn will be calling Brother Cox on Monday and we will probably go down to Washington together to see him. If you want to get in touch with us, you can reach Lyn, who is listed in the New York telephone directory.

Sincerely,

Millard

ML:1s MILLARD LAMPELL
1. As we studied the Prayer, it became apparent that we could not set the whole thing (as is) to music. Most important, we felt it was necessary to recapture the mood of D-Day, the dignity and drama of the hour that lent so much to the meaning of the Prayer. We felt to recapture the spirit of the day, it would be necessary to set the Prayer into the fabric of events. Also, much of the President's prose and many of his words, while they speak beautifully, might sound awkward when sung.

2. So the form that we used is this: The opening and close of the President's Prayer and what we felt were the most moving and important sections, are in the piece. It comes to about a fifth of the entire work. The Prayer itself will be spoken against a musical background especially tailored to fit the words. This is one of the three main themes of the cantata. The second theme is the solo voice, which sings the descriptive passages; and the third theme is a hymn, for chorus. This third theme (always beginning with the President's words, "Our sons, pride of the nation") can be lifted out of the cantata and makes a song of itself. So the piece is written for a spoken voice, a solo voice, and chorus.

3. It was our feeling that an actor of the stature of Walter Huston (or perhaps Paul Muni or Spencer Tracy) should read the President's lines. It is not possible to tell who might sing the lead, since the music for that part is not quite set.

4. As for production plans: If the piece is to be of true value, we must keep it from being esoteric or arty. We deliberately aimed in writing to make it simple and singable. Therefore we felt that the premiere might possibly be on one of the large commercial radio shows - Coca Cola's Kostelanetz show, or something like that. We also planned to submit the piece to Decca for recording and to Warner Brothers for a movie short. Both companies have already shown interest. In addition to all this, we would like to set up one big radio show under government sponsorship, possibly a Treasury show. In fact we feel it might help in putting over the piece to be able to say that it was "commissioned" by the Treasury.
5. We would be honored if it is possible, to play the piece privately at the White House before it is recorded, as we did with "The Lonesome Train," a cantata about Lincoln which I wrote with Earl Robinson and which Decca is bringing out this Fall.

ML:ls
Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt
Hyde Park, N.Y.

My dear Mrs. R:

I ran into another military guy who is in a bottleneck and who ought to be put to greater use as was done with General Jarmen who, by the way, is now in Saipan. I refer to Col. Douglas Johnston. He has been running Mitchell Field -- the biggest in the East -- for five years. He is handicapped by not being West Point! He has got something quite rare as a forthright, simple, administrative army person.

As you no doubt know he is handling at Mitchell Field the wounded boys as they come in from Normandy. He has over a thousand at all times and is doing a great job. Sometime you might want to go over there and see these boys, who are just five days from the battlefields.

My guess is that Col. Johnston should be over, ready to go into Germany on the management and operation of the airfields in Germany even though he has had five years active experience in the East. Interestingly enough he was on a United States competitive balloon contest over Germany as far back as 1928.

Would you find time sometime in the early Fall to go down and make an appraisal of him.

We just heard from Connie and it looks as if she is going to Italy for a month or so and then may come back here on her job. Incidentally, her flat was bombed but she and Roger are having grand experiences and are getting increasingly angry at the Nazis. Angry is the exact word.

Best to you,

Yours,

[Signature]
August 14, 1944

Dear Mr. Ernst:

I will give your letter about Colonel Douglas Johnston to the President and I will gladly go to Mitchell Field if Colonel Johnston asks me.

I am interested in the news about your young people. Many thanks for your letter.

Sincerely yours,

I am glad Connie & Roger escaped harm in theptide.

Mr. Morris Ernst
285 Madison Ave.
N. Y. 17
Moore

Dear Mr. Ernst:

I read this article and I hope very much you will change the paragraph which I have marked as the President doesn’t like being carried.

I am delighted that Connie is home and looking well. She certainly goes far away from home on her jobs!

Very cordially yours,
August 29, 1944.

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

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I am doing a book in which it seems to me wise to incorporate a short chapter on F.D.R. Of course I have not mentioned anywhere any of the things which I have done for the President, Mr. Wallace, Mr. Ike, or anyone. Those are not my secrets.

I am asking a favor. I wonder if you would care to read the enclosed and let me know if you think it is in bad taste, hurtful, or whether it would in any way offend the President. I have set forth quite honestly my own appraisal which stems from very different reasoning than I find in most of the writings about the President. I will have no reluctance in cutting out the entire chapter or any sector. You are at liberty, if you care, to show the pages to the President.

Connie got back yesterday. She is swell and is going to the West Coast on another job for the OWI.

Yours,

Enc (1)
FOR THE PRESIDENT.

E.R.
September 13, 1944

My dear Mr. Ernst:

Thank you for your letter of September 1st. I would like very much to hear the final records of the Murray and Lampell version of the President's Invasion Prayer, and could do so early in October.

I am glad to know that Connie is well - I would love to see her.

Sincerely yours,

cub

Mr. Morris L. Ernst
Greenbaum, Wolff & Ernst
285 Madison Avenue
New York 17
New York
The record is here.

Cah

Will send it to Hyde Park when it arrives here.

CAH
September 1, 1944.

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

My dear Mrs. R:

I am sending you under separate cover a phonograph record (it is only a rehearsal record) of the Murray and Lampell version of the President's Invasion Prayer. We are plugging along to get records made. The Treasury indicates it wants to use the Prayer for its next bond campaign, November 10th. I am still hopeful that we can have it used before November and there is still a slight chance of getting a short movie made.

Won't you drop me a line if you have any suggestions as to tempo, mood, re-arrangement? Also if the Boss can spare a few minutes, I would like very much for him to hear it in case he has any suggestions.

When final records are made, possibly you would like to invite the authors down and have the record played off at the White House.

Connie flew in from England. She is swell and is really a first-class reporter; exciting particularly when she describes the effect of the rockets on the Americans in England. She is off to the West Coast for a few weeks on a job and after that we don't know where she will go.

Best to you,

Yours,
October 13, 1944.

Mr. Morris Ernst:
285 Madison Avenue,
New York, New York.

Mrs. Roosevelt will be delighted to have you come
to lunch on Tuesday.

Malvina C. Thompson
Secretary to
Mrs. Roosevelt.

Oct. 17
Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt
The White House
Washington, D.C.

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I will be in Washington Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of next week. I will bring down the records of the President's "Prayer". It is a great record, and as I told you, I was dumbfounded when I saw that it had been translated into the Philippines invasion. I understand this change was made at the suggestion of Ellie Morgenthau.

I will give you a ring when I am in Washington and arrange to bring the records over, or maybe I could crash in for tea.

Sincerely yours,
WB19 9

NFN NEW YORK NY OCT 16 1944 1034A

MALVINA THOMPSON

THE WHITE HOUSE

DELiGHTED TO COME OVER FOR LUNCH ON TUESDAY REGARDS

MORRIS L. ERNST.
MISS THOMPSON:

Did you ask Mr. Ernst about bringing the two boys? See Mrs. Roosevelt's memo attached.
December 2, 1944

Dear Mr. Ernst:

It would not embarrass me nor inconvenience me at all to distribute your gift, if I know the basis on which you wish it done, and you will give me a list.

Sincerely yours,

Mr. Morris Ernst
Greenbaum, Wolff and Ernst
285 Madison Avenue
NYC
November 29, 1944.

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

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I am writing you on a very confidential and personal matter. For a couple of years in the past, I have arranged through Pa Watson, in strict confidence, for the distribution by him without mentioning my name, of war bonds in small amounts to each of fifteen or twenty devoted and selfless employees around the White House. I have a warm spot for these anonymous and tireless workers who are close to the President and must be of constant aid and comfort to him. They are people without public honor and each Christmas I have had the satisfaction of getting into their hands war bonds.

This year I wrote to Pa Watson again and sent him a check. He wrote me that it was embarrassing to him to make such distributions because, as he said "it caused so much speculation around here as to the source that I really hesitate to do it again this year".

It is not very important. Won't you let me have your judgment as to whether it would embarrass you if I sent you the check for $250, or more if you want it. I would be less than frank if I did not say that I would have great hesitance in making these small gifts if my name were to be known in connection therewith.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]
December 5, 1944

Dear Mr. Ernst:

I have your check for $300, but I would like to know on what basis you made your list. Do you want to give only to secretarial personnel or to those who render personal service to the President including the ushers?

Sincerely yours,

Mr. Morris Ernst
285 Madison Avenue
NYC
Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt
The White House
Washington, D.C.

My dear Mrs. R:

I am sending you herewith my check for $300. Thanks very much for being willing to pass on the war bonds.

The only list I have is the list that Pa Watson prepared and sent me for last year's gifts. I am enclosing herewith the list of names which he sent me. I did not make up the list and, of course, you are at liberty to change the names. Maybe some of them are no longer working directly for the President, and maybe there are other people who are even more forgotten and more anonymous than those on the list.

Thanks again. And I hope I am not too much of a nuisance.

Yours,

[Signature]

Enc

check and list

[Signature]
December 25, 1944

Dear Mr. Ernst:

I am enclosing a list of the people who received the $25.00 War Bonds.

The Ushers put in many hours and add greatly to the President's comfort.

Miss Tully and Miss Bachelder you know.

I hope this disposition of the money is agreeable to you.

Very sincerely yours,

Secretary to
Mrs. Roosevelt

Mr. Morris Ernst
285 Madison Avenue
New York, New York
Following people received $25.00 War Bonds:

John Mays
Alonzo Fields
Monte Snyder
Charles Fredericks
William Sarver
William Harley
Julia Mitchell
Wilma Hughes
Henrietta Nesbitt
Lizzie McDuffie
J. Bernard West
Wilson Searles
Charles Claunch
Howell G. Crim
Toi Batchelder
Grace Tully

Doorman
Head butler
Chauffeur
Secret Service
Cleans President's bed and sitting
Cleans President's bed and sitting
Housekeeper
Cleans President's bed and sitting
Usher
Usher
Usher
Usher
Write Morris Ernet and give him the list of people to whom I sent bonds -

Tell him, Mays in doorman
Field is head butler
Server and Harley clean the Pres. room
Julia Mitchell and Wima Hughes
and Lizzie McDuffie clean his bed and sitting room

West, Claunch and Crim and West put in many hours as ushers and add greatly to President's comfort

Miss Bachelarder and Miss Tully you know

I hope this is all right with you
Mr. Crim suggests for Morris Ernst's money the following:

- John Keys
- Alonzo Fields
- Monte Snyder
- Charles Fredericks
- William Sarver (man who cleans Pres.'s room)
- William Herley (ditto)
- Julia Mitchell (cleans the Pres. room)
- Alma Hughes (ditto)
- Henrietta Neshott
- Lizzie McDuffie (absent a great deal)
- J. Bernard West
- Wilson Searles
- Charles Claunch
- Howell G. Crim

The two valets by virtue of their service in the Navy get about $350 a month. Do you think we should add them or put on

- Toi Bacheler
- Grace Tully

You have to endorse his check - please
October 28, 1943

Dear Mr. Ernst:

Without mentioning your name, the following will each be given a $25 War Bond:

- Miss Roberta Barrows
- Helen Mann
- Mrs. D. Simmons
- Robert Goodloe
- Samuel T. Jackson
- Thomas Johnson
- Miss Toi Bachelder
- Miss Janet Jackson
- Miss E. A. Kehoe
- Mrs. Alice Weiniger
- Miss Myrtle Bergheimer
- Mrs. Ruthjane Rumelt
- Miss Grace Tully
- Mrs. Dorothy Brady
- Mrs. Mary Eben
- Mrs. L. M. Dennison

I want to thank you for giving so many worthy people this Christmas remembrance. I am sure they would be delighted to know the name of the donor but, in view of your specific request, we shall not divulge it.

With all best wishes, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

Edwin H. Watson
Major General, U.S. Army
Secretary to the President

Honorable Morris Ernst
285 Madison Avenue
New York, New York
Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt  
The White House  
Washington, D.C.  

My dear Mrs. R:  

Thanks for your letter. I did not make up the list. I left that to Pa Watson. I merely wanted to have the joy of making some small gifts to anonymous people around the boss. For my part, I would just as well, or even prefer, that the gifts go to ushers as to some of the better paid employees. If you are willing to accept the burden, I wish you would make up a new list. I do not care even to see the names. If the amount of money is not sufficient to go around without doing some injustice, call on me for an additional sum up to $400 so that no one can feel left out.

I am very disturbed at the decentralization of all of the operations which are being planned in aid of returning soldiers — jobs, ability to get loans, placing on farms, setting up in small business, applications for government service, etc. Don't you think that there ought to be a single non-administrative head as a kind of coordinator of all these functions? Frankly, the boys coming back do not know where to go, and obviously the parents are still more in the dark. Parents and friends are now increasingly trying to lay foundations for their returned soldiers' entrance back into our civic life. This would seem to me to require the appointment of a person who could dramatize the situation to the American public, get the information flowing to the soldiers and the public, and see to it that there be coordination between the various government agencies involved. I should imagine that if Henry Wallace is not definitely placed elsewhere, this might be a dramatic and important spot for him. Moreover, the treatment of that situation should, to a great extent, have an impact on the militaristic aspects of organized legionsnaire activities and reduce to some extent the division in our body politic in the future as between ex-servicemen and the wartime civilians. The operation, of course, could not be carried on without contact with employers and unions as well as government agencies.

I will be down in Washington around December 20th for a few days. If I can be of aid on this subject or in any other way, let me know.

Sincerely yours,  

[Signature]
January 9, 1945

Dear Mr. Ernst:

I think I should tell you that your gift to the people around the President has given more pleasure than anything you can possibly imagine. The mystery attached to it, I think, adds to the pleasure. Fields, the head butler, was one of the lucky recipients and he tried to thank someone he thought was responsible. When he found that he was mistaken he said, "Well, I will have to be polite to everyone now!"

It was a wonderful idea on your part and if you could know how much pleasure it gave to people you would feel amply compensated.

Sincerely yours,

Mr. Morris Ernst
235 Madison Avenue, NYC