

DOROTHY CANFIELD FISHER

1934 - 1942

100
April 13, 1954

Dear Mrs. Fisher:

You cannot imagine how disappointed I was to learn that you were not to be in Columbus. My only consolation was that I had to leave for a funeral at 8:45 on Friday and would have missed your speech. I asked them to send me a copy of it.

I have always been sorry that I did not have the courage to go and see you when you were living near Roughneck. I wanted to do often, but felt I had no right to intrude upon you. Yet I have admired your books for so many years and have used your Hillsboro people - especially "Petunias, That's for Remembrance" - so often in my classes to emphasize the fact that my girls should see a little more of the world than their own surroundings, with an understanding eye and heart, that it would have been the greatest pleasure for me to have had an opportunity to talk with you. Perhaps some time in the summer we could get together somewhere. If not, do let me know if you ever come to Washington as I should so much like to see you.

Thank you for sending me Mr. Villara's article. There is much truth in what he says and it is always well said, but there are also some inaccuracies and lack of information. He evidently does not realize that a bill which simply authorizes the President to spend money

but which carries no appropriation is a
gesture, and while it may be useful in some
quarters, it would not be possible to use
that money for anything else as he suggests.
I always wish that he would be a little more
temperate, because I think he would carry
greater weight and not arouse antagonism,
and at the moment we need all the influence
we can get, not only to preserve education,
but to make it more nearly what it should
be.

Very sincerely yours,

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Mrs. Dorothy Canfield Fisher
Wilmington
Vermont

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Arlington, Vermont
April 9
1934

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

A large part of my regret for the illness which prevented my speaking at the Citizens' Conference in Columbus, Ohio, on April 6th comes from my disappointment in not meeting you at the dinner given by the President of the State University for the speakers. I had looked forward with keen anticipation to the honor and pleasure of a personal contact with a woman who embodies so many of our finest American ideals.

In addition I had been asked by Mr. Villard of The Nation to put in your hands an editorial of his which he was very anxious to have you see. Since I had not the opportunity of doing this personally, I am enclosing it in this note.

With my warmest regards, and gratitude for the great help to American education which you are giving in so many ways,

Sincerely yours,
Wendell S. Fairfield Fisher

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DOROTHY CANFIELD FISHER
ARLINGTON, VERMONT

April 23, 1934.

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Although your
letter gave me the greatest pleasure, with
its unexpected news that you knew
my work and have used one of my
New England stories in your teaching;
and although I was astonished to
know that you knew of my being
for a winter or two in Panglossia
and was longing to express to
you my regret that I had not
met you there, still I had
made the most virtuous resolves

not to bother you with another note!
you must be all but swamped under
the landslide of letters.

But all my self-denying virtue
went up in smoke when I read what
you said to the assembled D.A.R.s.
I fairly bounded into the air with
joy — and relief — and pride in you!

And now I cannot resist writing
you to tell you that the mental
health of this big country is
being infinitely improved by your
courage in saying right out, on
so many occasions, what intelligent

I do hope you want to feel your best either to admit it or to deny it

good citizens think but had never dreamed could be said in public by someone in authority, yes, you are "in authority" now, by virtue of the extraordinary prestige your personality gives you.

I'm doing myself the honor — just to help express my admiration of you and thankfulness for you — of sending you my latest novel.

Faithfully yours

Dorothy Sanford Fisher

yes, of course you're quite right about Mr. Villard!

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April 25, 1934

Dear Mrs. Fisher:

I understand from the Torch Club Library of the Wilson ~~_____~~ Teachers College here that you are going to be present at their annual banquet Friday night, May 25th. I hope if you are planning to be here at that time that you will stay at the White House with us, as I do so much want to see you. I cannot go to the dinner because of another engagement, but I should so much like to have you stay with us while you are here.

Very cordially yours,

Mrs. Dorothy Canfield Fisher
Arlington
Vermont

S:O

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May 3, 1934

Dear Mrs. Fisher:

I shall be delighted to have you on May 23d. It is just as convenient as the 25th, and I look forward with great joy to meeting you. Will you let me know when you are arriving so we may have a car at the station?

Very sincerely yours,

S:O

Mrs. Dorothy Canfield Fisher
Arlington
Vermont

act. 5.3.34

DOROTHY CANFIELD FISHER
ARLINGTON, VERMONT

April 29 - 1934

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I am to be in
Washington on May 23rd for the
annual convention of the Adult
Education Association; but for
lack of time, I am obliged to
refuse other invitations to speak
in Washington about that date.
So I won't be in Washington
for the 25th.

I'll be enchanted - of course -

to stay at the White House with
you, if it will be convenient for
you to leave me on the 23rd
instead of the 25th.

If you're to be away on that
date - why, I'd just hope for
another opportunity to meet you.

With cordial greetings,

Dorothy Sanford Fisher

DOROTHY CANFIELD FISHER
ARLINGTON, VERMONT

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Walter Fisher
1934

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May 5 - 1934

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Thank you so much
for your note of the 3rd. I'll
be arriving in Washington from
Chicago, not from Vermont, on
the 23rd, perhaps by airplane, and
don't know yet the exact date.
I'd let you know this well in

Advance of the 23rd

with my good wishes

Cordially yours

Dorothy Campbell Fisher



Fisher

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Saturday morning -
May 17-

My dear Mrs. Russell:

I've done such
a stupid thing — but it's turned
out very well, after all. It is on
Tuesday evening the 22nd, not Wednesday
the 23rd that I'm to speak. So

I've now arranged to arrive in
Washington just before speaking, Tuesday
and have a day with the

Adult Education Conference before
going to the White House on
Wednesday afternoon to stay overnight
and take the eleven o'clock plane
back to Chicago.

Perhaps my mistake about dates is
excusable on the grounds that I am
in Chicago for the exciting event
of the arrival of my first grandchild.

If muddleheadedness is ever pardonable,
it is perhaps on that occasion:

It can really seem we will in

this case, for it can force me to make
it possible to see something of the adult
education convention, which, as President, I
should do, regardless or not!

I'm sending you with this a program
of the meetings and assure you — what you
know already — that the Association would be
pleased beyond expression to have you
present at any session.

I'll be planning to arrive at The White House
about four o'clock Wednesday afternoon.
Very cordially yours Dorothy Canfield Fisher

*Mrs. Schenck
to keep autograph*

June 13, 1934

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Make file
f. d. d. paper
J. H. d. paper*

My dear Mrs. Fisher:

Thank you very much for your very lovely letter! I did so enjoy meeting you and it was such a joy to have you here with us.

I hope the new grandchild is flourishing and I am so happy that she means so much to you.

I hope I shall see you soon again.

Very cordially yours,

S:O

Mrs. Dorothy Canfield Fisher
Arlington
Vermont

Chicago, May 26 - 1934

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

How profoundly moving life can continue to be, even in middle-age, can't it! To pass from the experience - quite dramatically whispering for me of seeing you and Mr. Roosevelt, to the order of watching my vigorous first grandchild - first days under her young mother's care, my cup has brimmed and run over with happiness! Happiness is the word and no other. And, in the deepest sense, somewhat the same

happens in better cases — a rush of
renewed faith in life, in the inevitability
of the race, in the future.

I don't suppose you and the
President have any idea what "virtue"
in the old Latin meaning of the word,
flows out from your both, upon a
world that needs that above everything
else. And as it would be against
decent Anglo-Saxon traditions of
reticence for me to tell you right out
in so many words how immensely
useful and healing to us all, you
both are, I shan't try. I couldn't,
anyhow. It's one of the mystic

effects that can never be put into phrases.

I do feel a longing to be assured that what you both are to the present generations of Americans will remain intact in all its beautiful significance for later generations. Nothing worth while is ever learned, I think, except from example. And such examples or games are national possessions too precious to lose.

But of course, nothing of what you are will be lost — any more than in the case of the other two or three great examples, who have lived in the old name of our Presidents, and whose personalities, shining more brightly as the years go by, have been great formative influences on our national character.

Please remember me warmly to
President Roosevelt - how I wish
there were a portrait of him that gave
even a hint of his extraordinary gift of
controlled vitality!

I'm doing myself the honor of sending
you my last novel, as a small sign
of the extreme pleasure it gave me - more
than I could ever tell you - to have
shared a little in the home-life you
create, so infinitely wider in spirit, and
more generously inclusive than what
is usually known by that name.

Gratefully yours

Very truly
yours
Dorothy Sanford Fisher

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September 3, 1936

My dear Mrs. Fisher:

Mrs. Roosevelt and her secretary are away and in their absence I have been asked to acknowledge their mail.

I will not be able to get in touch with Mrs. Roosevelt for several days, but I shall bring your letter and enclosure to her attention as soon as possible.

Very sincerely yours,

Mrs. Dorothy Canfield Fisher
Arlington
Vermont

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September 16, 1936

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My dear Mrs. Fisher:

Thank you so much for sending me the information about Parent Education. I found the article extremely interesting and think that the State of Vermont has done very well along this line.

With all good wishes to you,
I am

Very sincerely yours,

Mrs. Dorothy Canfield Fisher
Arlington
Vermont

DD

It was lovely to have a glimpse
of you the other day at Hyde Park. I was
really very happy over that performance.
It meant something very real, I felt. And
what a heart-warming joy to have a govern-
ment with which instead of against ^{which,} lovers
of peace can work! By "government" I sup-
pose I mean "President." It is in this
case a good omen for us all to have you
and the President looking so well.

With warm regards,

Faithfully and devotedly yours,

Dorothy (Annie) Fisher

DCF:gfr

March 27, 1937

Dear Mrs. Fisher

Mr. Gould has written me of your comment about my Memoirs and I think you are more than kind to take the time to comment so favorably. My thanks.

I hope I shall see you again before long.

Very sincerely yours,

SO

Mrs. Dorothy Canfield Fisher
Arlington
Vermont

October 10, 1939

Dorothy Confield
Dear Mrs. Fisher:

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You are evidently struggling with exactly what has come to my mind, namely, the fact that so many are appealing to the State Department for licenses to raise money for this and that.

It seemed to me almost imperative that where the question of relief came up it should be done by one large organization which could take in all the others working in the country. I will talk to the President and I will talk to Norman Davis. They are all so concerned with what is happening in Congress that I have given up trying to get anything settled until after that is out of the way.

In the meantime I besought them to get Mr. Herbert Hoover to organize civilian relief in all the countries at war today. He feels it should be done by the Red Cross, and he will give his help to the Red Cross and only to the Red Cross. Some of us feel very strongly as you do that this relief should be given surely with complete understanding with the Red Cross, but as a thing apart because the Red Cross is an emergency organization and in this country does not accept government money. It looks to me as though a rehabilitation job in the end would need money from our government.

I have talked so much to so many people I am getting to feel that until something is settled in Congress I might just as well keep quiet.

Your idea for the children seems to me wonderful, but it will have to be on a purely voluntary basis, for I know of many places in this country where school children could not find even one penny for refugee children. However, there are many who could, and every private school should be included as well. It will take some time to organize and I would like to tell you to go ahead, but I think it would be wiser if you could wait until I can tell you definitely that there is going to be one complete organization or that that is out of the question, and in any case you could go on making plans.

With best wishes to you always, I am

Cordially yours,

SO

Mrs. Dorothy Canfield Fisher
Arlington
Vermont

or sixteen. If this effort is even moderately successful, the sum raised will be enough really to do much good even in a field so tragically vast as that of the refugee child.

But this result would be only a part of the good we hope for. We feel that the spiritual profit to our American children would be greater than the material help given to the refugee children. For this gesture of brotherly friendliness to other children could be made by ~~teach~~ the finest possible lesson in living patriotism, that is, a thank-offering for what most children take entirely for granted, the inestimable blessing of being able to live in safety under the protection of their own powerful country. As they learn about what life is for a child without a country----- part of our project would be of course to distribute carefully written lesson-material for teachers' use -----they could certainly be taught a new and vivid appreciation for their own fatherland. We feel, and so do the several officials in the public school system whom we have consulted, that such a nationwide gesture of helpfulness from our American children this winter, could not but help counteract in their hearts the dreary negative and tragic emphasis which of necessity will be, during this school year, laid on the element of destructive evil in all their lessons on current events, geography, social sciences and so on.

An important part of the mechanism of this tenta-

tive project is the method of distribution of the money raised. Our plan is to have this done by a quite independent jury of five well-known Americans of such outstanding reputation that no suspicions of partiality or unfairness could be held against their decisions and apportionment of the money.

We have taken steps to see if we can get financial backing for the plan, for of course it would take a good deal of money to put over even the simplest plan connected with so vast a system as our public school system, and I feel fairly sure that we can find the money for necessary expenses. We have the approval of several officers in our public school system, beginning at the top. For I have written a description of the plan to our National Commissioner of Education, Mr. Studebaker. He wires in answer that he is greatly impressed by the possibilities of the idea, especially (as we hoped) by its providing for our American children an element of active constructive good, to counteract the deadly impression of nothing but destructive evil in the world. He adds that he will do all he can to help us, but warns us (of a difficulty we know too well) that it is very hard to organize any project in our public schools connected with the raising of money.

We would be quite ready to take the next steps---- that is, to begin to organize a committee, and to write to the Commissioners of Education of each State, to ask if he will cooperate----except for one consideration, and it is that which sends me to you.

We are aware that since the beginning of the war in Europe, all over our country there are springing up in the true warm-hearted impetuous American way----dozens, hundreds of plans to help relieve the distress of the victims of war and tyranny. While this shows an admirable quickness of sympathy, we feel rather anxiously that a sort of wasteful anarchy and chaos will result in the field of charity and relief, if all these efforts are organized and set on foot hit-or-miss, whenever and wherever an idea happens to occur to somebody of good will. We fear that the charitable impulse of the general public and the conscience of the average person will be blunted and confused by overlapping and too repetitious appeals for help and sympathy. Hence, passionately convinced though we are that the plan I have outlined has really very great potential value both to suffering children without a country and to our own American children, yet we hesitate to try to launch it independently, (although we would probably be able to do this), for fear of adding to a confusion which gives us concern for the future of relief work in general in this country.

We would be immensely relieved if we could carry on this half-made plan of ours as part (the children's part) of some kind of unified national program of relief work in this great world emergency.

You will perhaps think, as we did for a time, of the National Red Cross. But, although like all Americans we are devoted supporters of our great national Red Cross, we feel sure that that would not be advisable, for these

reasons:----the fresh striking note of newness and directness, the child-to-child feature, would disappear or at least lose much of its force if this were "only another Red Cross drive,"; the American Red Cross could, to reach refugee children out of this country, do nothing but turn a part of the money over to the International Red Cross, and the Red Cross abroad because of the semi-governmental character it has in all countries, is seriously handicapped in dealing with refugees because of the political character of their situation (for instance there would be serious difficulty for the French Red Cross distributing help to Spanish refugees in France); there are already existing plenty of fine, well-organized devoted committees for refugee aid covering the whole field, to whom the money could be turned over in proportions determined by the Jury of Award, and used immediately and directly for refugee children whom such committees are already struggling to help; and finally we set great value on the perfectly independent Jury of Award made up (so we hope) of some of the most distinguished personalities of our nation---- yes, of course, as you guess, we would hope very much that you would be willing to be one of the five members of such a committee.

Now we know that you are in a position to see the whole of the national field, of which we see only a small part. Could you take time to let us know first what is your general impression of this plan for Refugee Week, and next to give us some advice, if any occurs to you,

about the best way to manage this effort, without adding confusion to the field of charitable effort in the United States? We are really entirely at a loss at this point, and turn to you, hoping you may have an inspiration, and venturing to make this demand on your time because of the really extraordinary good which might come of such a plan, well organized and carried out.

With heart-felt thanks in advance for any steering advice you can give us at this stage, and with---as always from me!---heart-felt gratitude for all you do to keep the light of decently sensitive humanity alive in American hearts,

Devotedly yours

Dorothy Sanford Fisher

November 21, 1939

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My dear Mrs. Fisher:

I will be very glad to be a member of the Committee of Award which you suggest.

I was so interested to read about your plans to help the refugee children and hope you will let me know from time to time how things are progressing.

Very sincerely yours,

Mrs. Dorothy Canfield Fisher
Arlington
Vermont

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Arlington, Vermont
November 13, 1939

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

We are following your suggestion about going ahead (without publicity) in the attempt to organize that project for getting help for all refugee children from all American children. The State Commissioners of Education are to meet in Grand Rapids early in December and we are trying to make arrangements to have the project, in a carefully prepared form, ready to present to them then. This involves asking people if they'll help out on a plan which is as yet only tentatively shaping up. But one must start somewhere with the most tentative project.

So I'm venturing to write you (and Justice Felix Frankfurter, Mrs. Hoover, William Allen White and Monsignor Ryan) to ask if you will be a member of the small Committee of distinguished Americans, who will apportion among the different agencies now helping refugees, the money raised by this collection among American children----if and when it is raised. We need for this Committee of Award, which is to act with entire independence, its decisions final, some American names of such distinction that no one can possibly question the impartiality of their decisions.

No meeting of this Committee would be necessary, I should think. The statements from the different refugee agencies as to their work would be sent to each one, and the short necessary taking-of-council with the four other members could be done by mail----although with you, Mr. Frankfurter and Monsignor Ryan all in Washington, it might not be too hard to arrange one meeting.

I hope this is not asking too much of you----especially as it may turn out to be asking nothing at all, since we may not be able to devise a plan acceptable to the public school authorities, although we are working on one, in which the only danger could really be entirely avoided----the danger I mean of putting the slightest pressure on the poorer children or making them feel in any way lessened by thier inability to help. As I told you, my own special interest in this plan is not only to help out in the tragic situation of refugee children, but to help our American children to realize how infinitely fortunate even the poorest American child is, (compared to the children without a country) ... Safe under the

protection of his own flag, with everyone up to the President of the nation concerned about his welfare, eager to create around him an environment in which he can develop best, anxious and troubled about him when such an environment does not exist, remorseful for lacks in his life, rejoicing when things go well for him----- the American child, no matter how poor, is in a blessed haven compared to the outcast children of the refugees. It is especially to bring this home to our children that I am working so hard on this attempt. I do hope you'll feel you can let us use your name on that proposed Committee of Award.

With warmly friendly greetings always,

(Dorothy Sanford) Fisher

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DOROTHY CARFIELD FISHER

Arlington, Vermont
November 25, 1939

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

By good luck (for me) I'm to be in New York on Tuesday next, and wonder if there would be in your closely-packed day, five minutes to see me and bring me up to date on the organization of the refugee-relief situation (as far as it concerns the attempt to raise money for refugee children of which I've written you). We are now quite sure of being able to secure the money to finance this undertaking (in one form or another, according to circumstances) so that all money contributed would go direct to refugee children---- a clear way open from child to child.

I should have told you in my last letter that in the matter of apportioning the money raised, we had thought of dividing the field of child-refugee relief into four parts ----Roman Catholic, Jewish, Protestant and non-sectarian. In each of these fields we would ask the leading relief organizations to assume the responsibility of distributing the money raised among the smaller and more specialized committees in the same field. I've just written Monsignor Ryan (who has kindly accepted the invitation to be a member of the Jury of Award) asking him to select the Catholic refugee-relief agency which he would like to see represent the efforts at relief of his Church. For the Jewish field, we would give whatever the Jury of Award thought a fair proportion to the big co-ordinated Committee in New York. The Committee for the Relief of Christian Refugees would be asked to distribute the money allotted to that field. And the Quakers through the Friends Service Committee will, we hope, distribute the money in the non-Sectarian field, which means, probably, organizations helping Spanish and Chinese children.

This will, as you see greatly simplify the responsibility of the Jury of Award, since they will have only to decide in what proportions to give the money (if and when we raise it) to these four organizations. Monsignor Ryan and William Allen White have accepted membership on that Committee. And Pearl Buck, so keenly interested in Chinese war-orphan, is to be on the Executive Committee.

We are of course eager to know about the progress

of the plan for unified national relief work, which seems to me more and more essential. And we will be very glad and much relieved to have our own effort a part of a coherent, orderly program. It's about that of course that I would so much like to see you for five minutes.

With warmly friendly greetings,

Dorothy Sanford Fisher

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Arlington, Vermont, Sunday Jan. 21 1940

Dear Mrs Roosevelt:

This is to be so personal and confidential a letter that I don't want anyone but you---not even my trusted secretary--to see it. So I am tapping it off in my bad amateur typewriting, with apologies for mistakes.

The enclosed carbon of a letter just sent off to Monsignor Ryan(of which I hope you'll have time to read the marked passages) sets before you the bare facts of a situation which I feel I ought to report on more fully to you.

It looks on the surface as though Mr Hoover's rushing to start a mite-box collection in the schools just before the Children's Crusade, were only the kind of natural confusion which your prophetic look ahead last October, perceived would certainly darken the world of relief-effort, if some nation-wide frame of orderly co-ordination were not established under one head.

But I fear that this is worse than what might occur from a mere chance crossing of wires. I've had a good deal of experience, and I'm not easily shocked, but I was really horrified by the tone of the interview with Mr Hoover(of which, naturally, I have given Monsignor Ryan only a brief outline) And I feel I ought to give you my personal impression that it would be, in my judgment, dangerous in the extreme to entrust to him in his present state of neurotic bitterness and hate, any large responsibility for steering or managing American generosity and charity. Confusion and waste of effort, such as you foresaw, bad as that is, would I feel, be better than what might result if Mr Hoover were at the head of any large co-ordinating committee.

This personal report of a recent, first-hand encounter has of course no more value than that of complete disinterestedness (for I had never met Mr. Hoover before and went to the interview with a tradition of respect and liking for his charitable efforts) and complete sincerity. It is sent to you because I feel, along with so many hundreds of thousands of other Americans such loyalty, affection and trust for you, and such a desire to co-operate with your work in any way I can. Just drop my report into your memory as one of the items of raw material out of which you form your extra-sound judgments on American affairs.

And now I'm writing about one disagreeable matter, I'm moved to speak about another which has been on my mind almost since the beginning of the Children's Crusade. The work for this has taken me more deeply than ever before, into the myriad ramifications of our enormous American public school system in all sorts of places. As I have encountered one after another of the officials of the public schools, I have repeatedly heard from them a comment which has astonished me to the limit of astonishment and beyond----an expression of a hurt feeling that "the Roosevelts don't know and don't care anything about the American public school system." This often begins with an expression of surprise at seeing your name on the Jury of

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This I'm really ashamed of the extent to which I have slumped, slumped and do. foolishly, out of position, so I haven't any preconception of that kind either, one way or another.

Award, "Mrs Roosevelt? Does she know this is mostly a public school movement?"

I was at first too astounded to do more than cry out that everyone in America knows there is no citizen living who cares more about the youth of this nation than you. To which my interlocutors have replied (in substance) something like this, "Yes, she's interested in children and young people if they are picturesquely destitute. But the drably self-supporting self-respecting public of our free public schools just don't register with either Mr or Mrs Roosevelt. They associate socially only with people whose children go as a matter of course to the private schools, and they like to be benefactors of the very poor who have no social position at all. But the obscure, undramatic, public-school class-rooms---when do they ever think of them? A great number of our American schools, even the poor ones, have the radio now. Has the President ever spoken about our country to the school-children of America?"

Now in the nature of things I imagine that most of this is no more than another aspect of the unfortunate fact that no matter what a great public official does, it is criticized by one or another set of people. But, since of all your rare personal qualities, the one which has most struck me is your completely honest and selfless objectivity, I'm reporting on this not very agreeable but not at all serious matter, just because I think you like to know as many facts as possible.

I hasten to say that your name on the Jury of Award of The Children's Crusade has evidently enormously gratified public-school officialdom (if I dare call it that) To have nice old Miss Woodruff, ex-President of the National Education Association and Dr Glenn, a Superintendent of schools in an American city, associated with you brings a look of real satisfaction to their often rather harassed and anxious faces.

I'm sending with other outrageously time-consuming things in this large envelope, some material about the progress of The Children's Crusade. It has been astonishingly rapid and great. To be perfectly honest, as I'm trying to be in this letter, I must report that many of these wonderfully fine Americans who are backing up the movement, while entirely sympathetic to the idea of helping exiled children without a country, are really interested in the Children's Crusade campaign, because of the marvellous possibilities of dramatizing through it those text-book lessons in civics and "government" too often alas! considered a bore by seventh and eighth grade and high school students. It's hardly too much to say that the writing pens of this country are mobilized behind this movement because of the chance it gives to bring a great reinforcement of vividly aroused public opinion to back up in the young people's minds, what has been put down accurately but without color and drama in text books.

By broadcasts, a flood of newspaper syndicated articles, poems, stories, essays, dramatic presentations, the attempt will be made to prove to our school children that "Teacher" is not the only one to believe in and care about those too-often forgotten political institutions of our country which alone protect our own children from being refugees. To put it baldly, what we hope to do is, by making a picture of

what the life of a refugee child is, without the protection of a government of his own, to bring home to our school children---to us all---what our own government does for us, although most of the time we just take it for granted. The very first contributions for children without a country came in, entirely spontaneously, last summer, long before The Children's Crusade was thought of---in fact the incident was one of the seeds of the movement. I was surprised, in August, to get a letter from a little group of Vermont children, somewhere in the north of our state, about twelve of them, who had been attending one of these new summer Church schools. They said, in substance, that they were sending along some money they had gathered of their own accord (it came to two dollars and seventy-nine cents I think) to go to children who had been driven out of their countries. "We haven't much money" they said write, "But we still have our country to look out for us."

The mite-box collection part of The Children's Crusade is really only because to "use" the plight of the refugee child ~~in a~~ as a dramatic contrast in that way, would be ignoble without also making a gesture of brotherly sympathy for him. It is not psychologically sound to arouse emotion without providing an outlet in action for it.

I'm working now (to change the subject!) on the twenty minute paper I'm to give Monday morning, February 5th, at the N.Y.A. meeting where you are to preside. I meditated waiting till then to tell you all this, but couldn't imagine how it would be possible to have a quiet quarter of an hour alone with you, and thought that, burdening as a long letter is, this way would be less of a bother to you.

Don't forget please that, alas! I'll need to have your promise to allot twenty-five per cent of whatever money in collected by the Children's Crusade, to Finnish children, to meet Mr Hoover's conditions. I have heard already from two of the Jury of Award. Miss Woodruff (usually very dignified and academic) telephoned me "I'm madder than a wet hen ---but I suppose there is nothing else to do." Justice Lehman sent a long telegram saying that as a judge he would feel it his duty to sentence himself to a term in jail if as a member of a jury he promised beforehand before hearing the evidence, to come to a certain decision, "but I bow to the compulsion of----circumstances" (I can imagine the finely ironic smile with which that phrase was set down)"and hereby promise that I will vote to allot twenty-five per cent etc etc

I'll hope to hear from you---probably feeling like Miss Woodruff---as well as from Monsignor Ryan and William Allen White, very soon.

In utter confidence and devotion,
Yours

Dorothy Sanford Fisher

Arlington, Vermont.
January 20, 1940.

My dear Monsignor Ryan:

It is with extreme regret (more than regret - exasperation!) that I write to tell you a new development about the promise of the Children's Crusade (which is by the way receiving a marvellous response from all sorts and conditions of Americans) that the Jury of Award will be left in complete independence as to its apportion of the money raised by the mite-box collection. The facts are these -- I won't do more than set down the facts. I wrote Mrs. Herbert Hoover in October on the same date when I wrote you. Mrs. Roosevelt and William Allen White, the same letter, asking her to be a member of the Jury of Award, and explaining in detail the plan of the Children's Crusade. You, Mrs. Roosevelt and William Allen White all replied almost by return mail. Mrs. Hoover did not acknowledge my letter until December 2, saying she could not because of her position (as an ex-President's wife I suppose) be expected to take any active part in any particular movement, apologizing for waiting so long before replying, and closing "with the hope that this enterprise will meet with the great success which it deserves."

A short time after that, Mr. Hoover's Finnish Relief Campaign began, a part of which was (although we did not know this till just the other day) was a mite-box collection in American school-rooms, exactly on the lines of The Children's Crusade, to take place early in February.

I needn't tell you that of course this, if carried out, would have put an end to The Children's Crusade for all suffering refugee children everywhere on the globe. For it is extremely difficult to get past the public school tradition of no collections taken from school-children. We have been working hardly on this for three full months now, getting ready a great body of public opinion, and find a pretty rigid tradition against allowing school children such opportunities to share in expressions of compassion for suffering. It is breaking down, in many places, under our earnest pleas. We have had from many state systems (Connecticut, Arizona, Florida, Colorado, and my own Vermont) cordial promises of complete co-operation, and from many others the statement that such matters are left to local authorities. So we are just getting our material together to reach local Superintendents and Principals of schools, and very glad of this chance to reach in this way the very capillaries of American public opinion.

Now in view of this, if Mr. Hoover went ahead with his plan for a Finnish mite-box collection, one of two things would happen --- either of them stopping the Children's Crusade absolutely:- either the schools would admit the Hoover mite-boxes, (which is doubtful) in which case they would certainly never allow a later collection the same year; or they would refuse to admit them, in which case they could scarcely permit another organization to do the same thing for a wider plan of relief.

As soon as I heard of the Hoover plan, I went to New York to see Mr. Hoover, presenting the situation as we have found it, and explaining ^{our} second attempt along the lines of the Children's Crusade would probably result in the failure of both. I also ventured to remind him that Mrs. Hoover had known of our plan since October. Mr. Hoover made no answer to this, but said that he would withdraw his plan for an attempt at school-room mite-box collections, only on condition that our Jury of Award will pledge themselves in advance to apportion twenty-five per cent of the money collected by the Children's Crusade, to Finnish children. I replied that this would be entirely against our promise to leave them independent. He merely repeated that only on that condition would he give orders to desist from the attempt of a hasty organization of class-room collection for the Finnish Relief Fund. I made no comment on this, I think no comment is needed.

You will see I have no choice but to write the members of the Jury of Award, acquainting them with these facts and asking them ~~to~~ if they will be willing so to pledge themselves. May I have your answer as soon as possible, as everything depends on this decision.

Now that I am writing you, I'd like to take advantage of the opportunity to send you some material which gives an idea of recent developments, and to tell you that the response from Americans in all ranks of life has---as far as my experience goes---broken the record, for prompt and enthusiastic expressions of approval and offers of help. Our list of sponsors is getting unmanageably long. Practically everyone who has been asked saying yes with ardor (always with the exception of some of the cautious officials of the public school system!)

The Jury of Award now has its full number and, we think, is representatively American---you, Mrs Roosevelt, Justice Irving Lehman of New York state, William Allen White, and, representing the public school system, Miss Caroline Woodruff, ex-President of the N.E.A. and Dr Glenn, Superintendent of Schools in Birmingham, Alabama. Do you approve of your colleagues? If not, we'll ve very glad to get any suggestions from you about a possible addition.

Mrs Roosevelt, whose inexhaustible interest in all that is for the good of American children, has extended to our Crusade, has several times given us invaluable sound good counsel. One of the pieces of advice she gave, early in our work, was not to forget the private schools. And of course she is right, that it is true the well-to-do children in private schools need such a chance to help other children in tragic need as much as---oh

3

more than!---public school children. We are following her advice, and are now organizing an approach to private schools.

And when I wrote Professor Carlton Hayes of Columbia(who by the way was a class-mate and college friend of my husband's in Columbia), he replied at once saying that of course he would be sponsor and do what he could to help the movement and added a hope that we would not forget the parochial schools, where such an opportunity for spiritual stimulus and real charity would be welcome and prized. We were of course already counting on the parochial schools, and Father Ostermann of New York(who has been wonderfully co-operative and helpful to us) had written Archbishop Rummell, so especially interested in refugees, to ask his suggestion about how to approach the parochial school authorities. The suggestion which came back from New Orleans was that Professor Hayes and I should, together sign a letter of explanation of "The Children's Crusade, beginning with this phrase,

"At the suggestion of His Excellency, Most Reverend Joseph F Rummell, we are respectfully requesting permission to extend the appeal of the Children's Crusade, to the children of your parochial schools in the same manner as this campaign is being carried on in other public and private schools of the country." and then send this letter not only to the Diocesan Superintendents as we had planned, but also to the Bishop of each Diocese. Professor Hayes and I are already writing back and forth about this letter of explanation and appeal, which will soon be ready to send out.

~~XXXXX~~ All my apologies for writing at such length! Until now I have been making a great effort not to bother you with details of our work, and once I begin it has proved hard to stop. My heart is very full, and it brims over with gratitude to you for the generous divination of the possibilities for good in The Children's Crusade, as shown by your acceptance of membership on the Jury of Award.

I'll hope to hear promptly from you about the promise exacted by ex-President Hoover. A thousand regrets go with this letter for the enforced breaking of our promise of leaving the Jury of Award complete independence as to the apportioning of money raised. Any suggestions which occur to you about the conduct of the campaign, spreading so like a wave, will be welcomed and heeded you may be sure.

Faithfully and sincerely yours,

THE CHILDREN'S CRUSADE FOR CHILDREN

Some Questions and Answers
by Dorothy Canfield Fisher

(This was written for the National Educational Association Journal and will appear in their March number)

HOW DID IT START? With the flowing together into one broad stream, of rushing currents of thought and emotion inside the minds and hearts of innumerable Americans:----(1) the passionate wish to preserve our national neutrality; (2) an equally passionate feeling that that neutrality must not degenerate into mere selfish ignoble complacency over being safe while so many of our fellow-men are in agony; (3) a "decent concern for the opinion of mankind", to prove to ourselves and to the world that our far-flung democracy is a strong united nation, as capable in 1940 as ever, of making a noble gesture of that humane idealism which is one of its most living traditions; (4) a horrified compassion for the plight of the children---Chinese, German, Spanish, French, Austrian, Czech, Polish, oh, the long litany of woe!---driven from their homes for no fault of theirs, and an alarmed realization that they, like all children, represent the future of our race and must be saved from ruin not only out of ordinary human decency, but for our collective future; (5) an equally concerned feeling that our own American children and young people, like all of us, have been so troubled by our economic difficulties as to ignore, with a forgetful indifference which is a danger to our country, the magnificent political success of our incomparable Federation; (6) a heart-felt old-American confidence that our public schools preserve intact the old-American capa-

city for idealistic fervor along grandly broad lines of brotherly, comradely, human feeling.

WHAT KIND OF AMERICANS ARE BEHIND THE CHILDREN'S CRUSADE?

If all their names were set down here there would be nothing else on the page. Here are a very few chosen almost at random among many:---Ex-President Angell of Yale, William Green of the A.F. of L., Mr. S. D. Shankland, Raymond Gram Swing, Dean William Russell, Pearl Buck, Colonel Theodore Roosevelt, Walter Damrosch, Professor Charles Beard, Mr. Irvin A. Wilson, President N.E.A. Elementary Principals Association, Dorothy Thompson, Helen Hayes, Harry Emerson Fosdick, Dr. Charles E. Glenn, Dr. George A. Buttrick, President Conant of Harvard, Justice Felix Frankfurter, Mr. Willard Givens, Mr. J. W. Studebaker, Mr. Archibald MacLeish, the new Librarian of Congress, approve and are helping with good counsel.

CONCRETELY AND IN DETAIL WHAT IS THE CHILDREN'S CRUSADE?

After a nation-wide campaign (outside the schools) of newspaper, magazine, radio, movie publicity about what we have ^{be} to/thankful for and to guard and work for as Americans, and a period (inside the schools) of centering the regular lessons in American history, current events, social sciences, etc., around the same idea, a mite-box thank-offering of pennies will be taken during the ^{fourth} ~~third~~ week in April (Monday April ²⁷ ~~15~~, through Wednesday, April ³⁰ ~~24~~) among American children safe under their own flag to go to the helpless homeless children without a country, wherever they are on the globe.

HOW WILL THIS MONEY BE DISTRIBUTED? By an independent jury of award. Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, Monsignor Ryan (Director of the

National Catholic Welfare Conference), Dr. Caroline Woodruff, former President of the N.E.A., William Allen White, and Dr. Charles B. Glenn, Superintendent of Schools, Birmingham, Alabama, have already accepted membership on this jury. *also Justice*

Irving Lehman of New York

TO WHOM WILL THEY APPORTION THE MONEY? To responsible, well-known, well-organized relief organizations already operating in the four great fields, Roman Catholic, Jewish, Protestant, and non-sectarian. (The Quakers are to be responsible for non-sectarian relief.)

WON'T A GREAT DEAL OF THE COLLECTION GO FOR OVERHEAD? Not a penny of it. All expenses are guaranteed from another source. A clear way is thus opened from child to child.

HOW CAN ONE LEARN MORE DETAILS ABOUT THIS? By writing to Director, Children's Crusade for Children, Empire State Building, New York City. And when you write, do remember that we are longing for advice, suggestions, instructions as to how to be most effective, from all of you, experienced by personal contact with American children in their classrooms.

HOW ABOUT SAFEGUARDING THE FEELINGS OF OUR POORER CHILDREN? There will be no set hour or day for the collection. The mite-box will stand available to all pupils during each school day of that week in April. No one need know what any child has given, or whether he has given anything. Perhaps no children will profit more, spiritually, by this opportunity to make a humane and generous gesture than our less well-to-do. When even a penny---if everyone will do as much---means real help to real flesh-and-blood children, in desperate need,

the poorer of our own children can, for once, have their share of the dignity and joy of helping others.

ISN'T THIS EXPLOITING OUR AMERICAN CHILDREN? The statistics as to the consumption of chewing-gum, candy, ice-cream cones and tickets to the movies, vividly suggest that most American children can give up the price of one ice-cream cone or one bar of chewing gum without undue privation. If a small temporary sacrifice is involved---so much the better. Since when has a small temporary sacrifice been considered unwholesome for the human spirit? One of the anxieties of all educators and parents has long been that our American children have so much done for them, with so few demands on them to do for others. After the special publicity given both to the reasons (our Constitution, our Federation) why our own children are not refugees fleeing bombs, and to the plight of children who are without a country to protect them, our children will naturally feel compassion for others, and wholesome thankfulness for their own safety. It is psychologically sound to provide an outlet in action to aroused emotions.

DOESN'T CHARITY BEGIN AT HOME? Does that humane tradition of American generosity of which we are all so proud, mean only that we help others when we have more than we need ourselves? We are not told in the Bible that the Good Samaritan said, "Well, since my wife and children have everything they need, I'll help that wounded and bleeding man over there who will die if I don't, even though he is not a member of my own family."

HOW ABOUT OUR OWN DESTITUTE AMERICAN CHILDREN? In the first place, the most destitute American child is in a haven of safety com-

pared to the children of exiles. The nation to which the destitute American child belongs is remorseful because the child does not have what he needs, is trying hard to take better care of him, to open the door to a decent future for him. The nation to which the refugee child formerly belonged has slammed shut the door to his future. And in the second place because you have a sick child in your home, do you feel justified in not stopping to help a child who has been knocked down by an automobile and is lying stunned and helpless on the road in front of your home? No, you open your heart wide to the need of both children and try to live up to the magnificent opportunity thus forced on you for the deepening of your spiritual life.

even the poorest American child is, compared to the children without a country. Safe under the protection of his own flag, with every one up to the President of the nation concerned about his welfare, eager to create around him an environment in which he can develop best, anxious and troubled about him when such an environment does not exist, remorseful for lacks in his life, rejoicing when things go well for him -- the American child, no matter how poor, is in a blessed haven, compared to the outcast children of the refugees. We will present the gifts brought in during "Child Refugee Week" as a thank-offering of our children for the blessing of having a country of their own to live in.

An important feature of our project is the method of distribution of the money raised. Our plan is to have this done by a quite independent jury of five well-known Americans of such outstanding reputation that no suspicion of partiality or unfairness could be held against their decisions. They would apportion the money raised to the well organized committees - Roman Catholic, Protestant, Jewish and Non-Sectarian - now functioning in every field of refugee relief. Mrs. Roosevelt, Monsignor Ryan, and William Allon White have accepted membership on this Jury of Award, as well as Justice Irving

Lehman, and (to represent the public schools) Miss Woodruff and

A list of truly eminent sponsors will accompany our efforts. It is Dr Glenn only recently, about 3 weeks ago, that the first letters were sent out to distinguished and representative Americans in all kinds of fields, asking them to give their impressions of the plan and if they approve, to help. Practically every one asked has expressed hearty approval, and willingness to help. They have many of them, said that the possibility of helping in this movement came to them as a great emotional relief, from the terrible position of passive inaction in which our perfectly correct and entirely desirable national position of neutrality puts us. Here is a movement of pure compassion such as must be wrung from every heart at every reading of the newspapers, which can be carried on without the slightest color of non-neutrality or taking sides. Nobody can possibly feel that help to children in desperate tragic need can be anything but acting according to the humanitarian and Christian principles on which we say our country is founded. Here is something, they feel, to prove that our political neutrality does not mean cold-hearted passivity and indifference to extreme human suffering.

There has not been time for all the answers to come in. Here are some of the names of those who have written at once, saying they will be honored to be known as friends of the movement:

(in writing to express his regret that his
Justice Felix Frankfurter of the Supreme Court:-- "Of official positic
course, your proposal makes the deepest appeal to me. What is more tenderly symbolic of our common
humanity and what could more prove our own demo-
cratic convictions than to help these refugee
children." impossible to
be a sponsor,
writes,

Harry Emerson Fosdick.

William Green (American Federation of Labor) -- The most whole-hearted approval came from this representative of American wage-earners.

Ex-Governor Alfred E. Smith of New York (actively helping the work by contributing, free, a large office as center in New York).

Dr. George A. Buttrick
Raleigh N.C.

Mr. Jonathan Daniels
Former President of Yale -- now Educational
Director of the Educational Work of the National
Broadcasting Co.

Professor Carlton J. H. Hayes
President Neilson of Smith College

President Irvin A. Wilson of Department of Elementary
School Principals, National Education Association

President Conant of Harvard; -- "I am heartily in favor (President
of the plan which you propose for a 'Children's Conant felt
Crusade for Children' and hope that it will be he could not
entirely successful. Certainly such a plan should a sponsor but
bring home to children and their parents too the wished to
blessings which American children today receive." express all
President Frank P. Graham of the University of North Carolina this approves
Dorothy Thompson, the columnist (will be glad to write
about it in her column when the time comes.)

Charles B. Glenn, Superintendent of Schools, Birmingham, Ala.
Raymond Gram Swing, the Radio Commentator on foreign news.
Colonel Theodore Roosevelt
Dean William F. Russell, Teachers College, Columbia University
Helen Hays -- the much loved actress.
Walter Damrosch -- devoted friend of so many thousand
American school children
Inez Johnson Lewis, State Superintendent, Colorado
Mrs. Arthur Hays Sulzberger
Dr. Minnie L. Maffett, President, National Federation of
Business and Professional Women's Clubs

Every author who has been asked to help out by writing stories, plays, articles, poems, for use in the schools or in broadcasting or speaking in public, has said yes, with enthusiasm. Among them are:

Pearl Buck -- the Nobel Prize Winner
Elna Ferber -- who will both speak and broadcast, she says.
Fannie Hurst
Stephen Vincent Benet
Robert Nathan
Christopher Morley
Louis Bromfield
Booth Tarkington
Inez Haynes Irwin
Lin Yutang
Padraic Colum
Archibald MacLeish -- the poet and now Librarian of Congress
is heart and soul with the effort and has promised to
write a poem for it.

And, of course, Dorothy Canfield Fisher; she has laid aside all other work this winter to be free to work in this campaign.

The tentative plan -- subject to change as the public school officials think best, is this: -- After a preliminary campaign of broadcasting, speaking and newspaper and magazine publicity, a mite-box will be placed in each school, for a week in April. A telegram has just come in saying that the can manufacturers' institute will donate the boxes to be used -- "up to a million".

(This was the equivalent of a gift of about \$18,000.)

Every child will be asked to put in it what he can, to help the "children without a country". No one need know what any child has put in. At the end of the week, the teacher in whose room the mite-box has been standing, or the principal, or perhaps, a guard of honor composed of boy scouts, girl scouts, and other students - will take it to the nearest bank, which will give him a receipt for it. The bank will forward it by check to (west of the Mississippi) a bank in Emporia, Kansas, because William Allen White who is deeply interested in this, lives there. For those east of the Mississippi, to a bank in Bennington, Vermont, (because that is the town nearest to Mrs. Fisher, and the bank has said they will be glad to do this). The bank will turn the money only over to the Jury of Award. This seems to obviate the usual trouble of auditing, receipting and accounting.

The particular interest in this campaign of many people is not so much for the sake of the refugee children, as for our own American children. They are, almost without exception, absolutely oblivious of what is being done for them by their country, in the way of school, protection and other services. All the publicity in connection with this will emphasize these services, bring home to American children that without our Constitution, they might be homeless refugees fleeing from bombs. For of course if our forefathers had not succeeded in their second attempt to write a Constitution that would hold the country together, our continent too might have been a chaos of war and misery, with New York invading Delaware with bombs and cannon, even as Russia is invading Finland.

The Children's Crusade appeals to educators as a possibility to present in a definite way, visible and concrete enough for even younger children to understand, the advantages they have as American children, and the source from which those advantages come -- our incomparable Federation. It would be our idea to have the broadcasts, syndicated newspaper articles, everything written and spoken by the people so willing to help in this, center around the idea that Americans all take too much as a matter of course what their country is, and does for them. The money raised during "Refugee Child Week" would be presented as a great thank-offering for what we all too much take for granted. This is the aspect of the movement which has been especially spoken of by President Conant of Harvard, Dorothy Thompson, Harry Emerson Fosdick and others.

Dear Mrs Roosevelt: This is not the latest statement--I don't seem to have one on my desk anywhere. There are ever so many more names--especially of newspaper editors and owners. Norman Rockwell (you know his amusing ~~###~~ covers of the Saturday Evening Post) is contributing a poster for the Crusade; Have I told you---it seems as though I had---that the Crusade is being financed from the profits on the American edition of Hitler's book!. But we are not making this public, because ~~we~~ we passionately want to keep the movement one of pure compassion and pure, constructive American patriotism, with no color at all of irony or hate.

Dorothy Thompson

COPY

Arlington, Vermont
December 4, 1939

Mrs. Dorothy Canfield Fisher
Arlington, Vermont

Dear Mrs. Fisher:

I am heart and soul with you. Not only that, but this seems to be about the only Committee that has come to my notice to which I could give my name as a member. Everything else is partisan; this certainly is not. I am not presuming that my advice and help will be of any substantial use to you, but believe me you can have both in any way that you ask within the limits of my time.

Yours sincerely,

Raymond Gram Swing

Copy

Butler Hall Morningside Drive New York City

Dear Mrs Fisher

The idea of your Children's Crusade seems to Mary Beard and me, excellent. You may use our names as you wish. In these times when grown men are busy with destruction, it is a happy thought to direct attention whenever we can to constructive helpfulness. Whatever the objectives, good which will be accomplished by the money raised, the subjective good ~~by the accomplished~~ of sacrificial action is one of the sure things amid all our uncertainties.

I am

Sincerely yours

Charles Beard

CAROLINE S. WOODRUFF
PRINCIPAL



STATE OF VERMONT
STATE NORMAL SCHOOL
CASTLETON

January 10, 1940

Dear Mrs. Fisher:

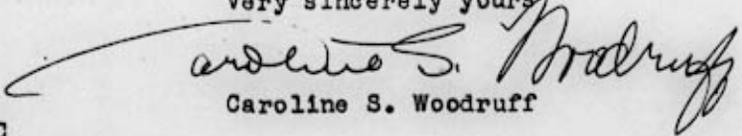
I have been away two days up in my old home, St. Johnsbury, as a witness on a court case to which I was called, and your letter was waiting for me on my return last night.

You do me great honor in offering the appointment noted in your recent letter and I am pleased, yes, complimented beyond words. The work itself on the Children's Crusade has commanded my attention from the first and I shall be very glad to serve in the capacity to which you appoint me.

I appreciate also the good words you used concerning my own experience and activities, and hope they do not too highly color the work of this neighbor of yours in Vermont. What a wonderful work you are doing. Command me in any way for assistance.

I shall want to talk this matter over with you later, but now -

Very sincerely yours


Caroline S. Woodruff

CSW/LC

Mr. Irvin A. Wilson, President

COPY

THE DEPARTMENT OF ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PRINCIPALS
OF THE NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES

Mrs. Dorothy Canfield Fisher
Arlington, Vermont

Dear Mrs. Fisher:

I find myself sharing with you a grave concern about the many problems of education and human welfare involving childhood as resulting from the tragic situation in which so great a part of our world finds itself at this time.

Your plan to have a "Refugee Week" established in our American public schools in April, at which time voluntary donations of money would be made by the pupils for the purpose of alleviating the suffering of refugee children the world over, seems to me to be an excellent one. Not only would this offer direct aid to oppressed childhood but it would serve, at the same time as a splendid type of social training and development for the pupils in our schools who would be willing to direct their interest, enthusiasm and money into this channel of human childhood relief.

I thank you for giving me an opportunity of expressing my approval of such a project.

With the Season's greetings, I am

Sincerely yours,

Irvin A. Wilson

To The Children
Dedicated to The Children's Crusade

Do you remember the old song?

"This is the way he sows the seed,

So early in the morning."

Italic

This is your world, your broad and furrowed fields.
Here what you plough will bear its fruit in time.
This friendly loam a richer garden yields
Than there where the untended thistles climb.
Here are the roses for your hours of grace,
And there the stones to keep your meadows neat;
You shall declare the future of this place,
What shall be stone, what shall be flower and wheat -
What shall be love tomorrow when the spring
Returns across this winter and this land,
Bringing the dogwood and the robin's wing,
Bearing your own sweet summer in her hand.
That this may grow and ripen to your need,
Now mark the furrow well, and sow the seed.

This is the way he sows the seed,

Sows the seed, sows the seed;

This is the way he sows the seed

So early in the morning.

Italic

When the State Board of Education of Vermont received the statement about The Children's Crusade they unanimously, at once, passed the following resolution:-

RESOLVED, By the Vermont State Board of Education, That it gladly endorses the movement so rapidly gaining force throughout our nation to bring to our children the realization of their privileges in a country not at war, and their obligation to aid in every way possible the unfortunate refugee children of war-torn countries.

January 24, 1940

100

My dear Mrs. Fisher:

I was very much interested in all your material and I will write a little about the crusade in my column.

I am not surprised at your interview with Mr. Hoover and, of course, will agree to the promise. I have come reluctantly to the same conclusion that it would be impossible for him to do a coordinated job which should be done impartially and without bitterness. I am very sorry for him, however, as I think it must make his life a very bitter thing.

That situation about the schools is one that I have come up against many times. I do not know what has spread the impression but I think it is probably due to the fact that most of the big public school teachers' organizations are in favor of federal grants for public school systems, and they feel that the Administration has not advocated allocating any money in any way. Of course this is true, and I think it arises out of a very human trend; namely, we are apt to let slide along a thing which is going fairly well and which does not hammer at our doors because there are so many other things which force themselves on our consciousness. I have taken an interest in public schools but I will make every effort to get the idea over to the President's advisers that he might make a radio address to school children in the public schools, and I will try to get in touch with more public school people.

I think you are doing splendid work and making great progress.

Cordially,

Mrs. Dorothy Canfield Fisher
Arlington
Vermont

*Mrs. Fisher
Line Mrs. National
Mention of
P.S.*

DD

[Handwritten signature]
January 25, 1940

MEMO FOR *[Redacted]*

Mrs. Selens

Mrs. Roosevelt has asked Mrs. Dorothy Canfield Fisher to stay here when she comes to town next week end. This is just in case you hear from her.

H.C.T.

DOROTHY CANFIELD FISHER
ARLINGTON, VERMONT

file

Sunday evening -
January 28, 1940.

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Well, I might
have known that you'd have
information about almost any item
in the American scene long before
I would! It was a petrifying
surprise to me (that idiotic

public school notion about your not
being interested in public schools) I
can tell you! I never heard anything
more absurd!

as to the embittered man, I never
saw a more acutely unhappy one —
a soul in hell. And no sense to
it, no need for it! Tragic!

Thanks so much for the
invitation to stay at the White
House when I'm in Washington
next week. I'd already promised
an old friend to stay with her,

DOROTHY GANFIELD FISHER
ARLINGTON, VERMONT

2.

and unless those two days are
so crammed with engagements, like
shingles overlapping on a roof, I
wouldn't be a decent guest for
anybody. And I always have a
little satisfaction too, when I
don't add one more detail
for you to think about, along
with all the superfluous way
you already manage. But I've

unwisely honored to being asked.

Thanks so much — for that
and a thousand other things
for which all Americans are
grateful to you.

I'm looking forward with
such happy anticipations to seeing
you on the 5th.

Devotly yours

Daddy (anful) Fisher

100

February 23, 1940

Dear Mrs. Fishers

I send you my warm congratulations on your report.

I can not answer your question until the President returns, but will let you know as soon as possible.

Very cordially yours,

Mrs. Dorothy Canfield Fisher
Arlington, Vermont

Given to the President

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DOROTHY CANFIELD FISHER
ARLINGTON, VERMONT

February 28, 1940

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Your note of the 23rd has
been placed on Mrs. Fisher's desk
waiting her return on March 2nd
from St. Louis.

Sincerely yours,

Georgia F. Rice
Mrs. Carl Rice
Secretary

March 11, 1940

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My dear Mrs. Fisher:

Thank you so much for your letter.
I read the play and think it is very good and
I am so glad you are having such success.

Very sincerely yours,

Mrs. Dorothy Canfield Fisher
Arlington, Vt.

DD

DOROTHY CANFIELD FISHER
ARLINGTON, VERMONT

March 2, 1940.

*Added
3. 11. 40*
*Thank you for
the program -
I'll send you
a copy of the
book*

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I am just back from St. Louis, where I spoke for the Children's Crusade four separate times,-- once at a general session with a large proportion of the twelve thousand educators there in attendance. You'll be glad to know, I'm sure, that the Association passed a resolution endorsing the Children's Crusade. Since they represent every state and every corner of every state in the Union, this is of capital importance.

The Association of State Commissioners of Education have also passed a resolution endorsing the Crusade, but, although they are of higher rank in the educational hierarchy than these twelve thousand superintendents, I don't think that so important as the endorsement of the larger Convention.

I enclose a copy of a play which is being sent out (free) to the principal of every Junior and Senior High School in the country. In schools where they feel they cannot use the Mite-box collection plan, this play can be presented (as a creative project in English, American history, dramatics, etc.) by the students, admission charged and the young people in this way earn the money for their share of the collections. In schools where they can have the mite-box collection, the play can be presented without admission charged, as a dramatic project for parents and the general public of the school.

A play suitable for similar use in the primary grades called "A Family Talk about War" will be off the presses in a few days and will be distributed in the same way to two hundred thousand elementary schools.

A handbook for Teachers---lesson material, outlines, bibliography, etc.,---will go out at the same time.

The letters to the private and parochial schools explaining the Crusade and asking their co-operation will be sent out in a few days. I'll send you---

Mrs. Roosevelt,-2.

just so you have all this material in hand---these two items when they are out.

There are ever so many more news items to report on (the number of schools pledging co-operation is increasing with astonishing rapidity) but I don't want to burden you with details, more than to say the response has been (to me) simply extraordinary.

I do hope you had a few days of complete rest and relaxation. You are so necessary to the nation now, we all feel a proprietary interest in your health.

Devotedly yours,

(Dorothy Canfield) Fisher

100

March 19, 1940

Dear Mrs. Fisher:

I have just had the answer, upon my return to Washington this week, to your question as to whether the President would be willing to speak for ten minutes on the radio program on April 22.

The President finds that he has a number of engagements which will add to the pressure of his work around that date, and does not think that he could speak for you. He is willing, however to help obtain another speaker if you wish, and to help your campaign in every way possible, because he believes it to be a most worthwhile undertaking.

Very sincerely yours,

Mrs. Dorothy Canfield Fisher
Arlington, Vermont

0

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

March 15, 1940.

MEMORANDUM FOR

MRS. ROOSEVELT

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

F. D. R.

Write her as shown suggested

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

March 14, 1940.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT:

As Mrs. Dorothy Canfield Fisher outlines the proposed children's crusade campaign, it appears to be a very worthwhile undertaking. I believe that the government should cooperate with those who promote this campaign, particularly should Dr. Studebaker in the Bureau of Education and possibly, Miss Lenroot of the Children's Bureau, Department of Labor, lend them a helping hand.

In response to the request that you speak over the radio on April 22nd for ten minutes to the school children of America in their classrooms, may I remind you that you are scheduled on April 15th to address the Pan American Union on the occasion of its 50th anniversary; that you have the Governing Board of the Pan American Union to lunch at the White House that day; that on April 18th you are scheduled to hold the annual "off the record" conference -- which usually lasts about 2 hours -- with the American Society of Newspaper Editors and that on April 20th you are scheduled to address, by radio, the Young Democrats in celebration of Jefferson's birthday anniversary.

In view of these engagements -- all of which add greatly to the pressure of your work on or about April 22nd, may I suggest that all this be explained to Mrs. Fisher and that she be advised of your willingness to help obtain another speaker and to otherwise help her campaign in every way possible.

S.T.E.

MR. EARLY: Briefly, Dorothy Canfield Fisher has written Mrs. Roosevelt about a Children's Crusade she is starting, and which has been approved by numerous school civic organizations, etc. From what I can make out from her letter, the Crusade is to help refugee children. She wants the President to speak to school children of America in their class-rooms, over the radio, on April 22nd. (Note marked paragraph on Page 3 of letter)

*Mrs Dorothy Canfield
Fisher*

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

March 7, 1940.

MEMORANDUM FOR

S. T. E.

What do you think of
this?

F. D. R.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Miss LeHand for the President

FDR

To read and answer question,
page 3.

The whole letter may be of
interest.

E.R.

DOROTHY CANFIELD FISHER
ARLINGTON, VERMONT

February 8, 1940.

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

There was no time to see you last Monday, and so although I wanted to comment on the extra-fine meeting of that morning, had a report to make to you, and a very important question to ask you, I came away from Washington without doing either. I'm always torn anyhow between wanting to tell you in detail about things and the intense desire to spare you as many details as possible since you are always being snowed under with the mass of them.

So I'll try to make my letter today a brief one, although I'm really startled by the response being made to The Children's Crusade by all kinds and conditions of Americans. I would like nothing better than to tell you the heartening and beautiful incidents occurring along this road which has been opened up almost miraculously. But I'll just give factually a few of the important developments:---The Association of State Commissioners of Education at their annual meeting passed a resolution approving it; several states (although our publicity hasn't even started yet) have voted to carry the program through; several big city systems like those of Pittsburgh and Los Angeles have welcomed it with enthusiasm and are eager to start; the Superintendent of Philadelphia writes me they will certainly be active in co-operating---and the letters we have had from individual educators all over the country, ready to put it through their schools, are not to be counted.

Magazine, newspaper, and radio publicity is assured for the month of April when the educational campaign will be carried on of "taking stock" of what it means to be an American child, and why our children are not refugees.

Before going to Washington, (where I knew the situation to be rather special), I got in touch with that splendid Mrs. Doyle and asked her exactly what would be "correct" for me to say to the various audiences there who had asked me to talk about the Children's Crusade and what might make com-

Mrs. Roosevelt,-2.

plications in her already complicated work. Then I followed her instructions to the letter---they were good and sane ones as you'd know they would be---and after speaking several times and having some long talks with her, I came away with the immense satisfaction of feeling that Washington would co-operate in a way I have tried to devise for use in cities where it is simply out of the question to have a regular mite-box collection. I've written what might be called, perhaps, a "patriotic morality play", (I'll send you a copy as soon as they are off the press), called "Liberty and Union" which is to go, free, to the Principal of every Junior and Senior High School in the country. It is not to be put on sale anywhere--- prepared and distributed for the especial use of our schools. Mrs. Doyle and the other Washington people liked it, thought (as I had hoped) that the presentation of it will be a good opportunity for creative work in English, in American history, in drama, in social sciences. In places where it is impossible to have a mite-box collection, the students can present the play, charge admission and thus earn the money for their contributions. Children too poor to have an extra penny will be able to do their share by helping with the play---acting in it, making costumes, ushering, etc., etc. It really seems like a solution, and since Mrs. Doyle's approval of it as a project, I feel greatly relieved.

So much for my report---although I've left out the most spectacular things---Governor Lehman's splendid backing, the remarkable way the newspapers all over the country have responded with offers of editorial help, the rapidly increasing support from men and women high in the world of the public school system (we have two Presidents of the National Education Association, one on the Jury of Award and one as sponsor) and many other people with such official standing.

I have the impression, now that I have begun to speak about it, a little, in public, that American hearts are full of horrified compassion for the exiled homeless children of Europe and China, and of concern lest the hearts of our own children,---well, I'll set down here a passage from a letter from Mrs. Tryon of the A. A. U. W. which makes clearly articulate what so many people write about it:---

Mrs. Roosevelt, -3.

June 2-23 *See ...*

"We shall be glad to include in the April Journal, which is mailed the first week in April, an announcement about the Children's Crusade. Since the Journal is only a slender quarterly, we have had to be very chary of space for undertakings outside the Association's program. But we feel that our members will be especially interested in this proposal, not only because of their concern with international relations, but also because of their long-time interest in child development. Many of us have felt the danger that the sympathies and responsiveness of American children must be blunted as they continually hear of suffering elsewhere - and do nothing about it. The whole situation has become so confused and complex that the individual feels completely helpless. And this concrete opportunity to play a small part in helping those who are in such desperate plight will surely be welcomed. We will make up a note from the material for the N.E.A. Journal which you have sent, without quoting it exactly."

I was the person who was going to write you "briefly" about this, wasn't I? Well this is briefly compared to what there is to tell. I have the impression of having touched a match to a well-laid fire---the fire of old-American creative patriotism and generosity.

See ...

My question, I can put briefly. It's this:---would there be any chance that the President would be willing to speak for ten minutes over the radio on April 22nd to the school children of America in their class-rooms, as the first of the many other radio talks by distinguished Americans during the ten days of the Children's Crusade campaign---some of the Governors to the school children in their own States, some noted historians, and well-known public figures. I do not of course mean that he need mention in any way that part of the Children's Crusade concerned with giving help to homeless children in other lands:- only that the impression would be perfect if he could speak about the great thankfulness we all feel that our own children are safe under the protection of our own flag, and a government which, since the beginning of its existence has never felt ill-will towards one child in all its borders; which is whole-heartedly devoted to the effort to do its best for every single citizen and every citizen's children and which, through the extraordinary success of the political organization of our Federation is able to protect every one of its children from the fate which is overwhelming so many other helpless boys and girls, as harmless and

Mrs. Roosevelt,-4.

innocent as ours.

If he felt he could do this, the effect would be wonderful. Do you suppose it would be considered "suitable" and desirable? And how does an ordinary citizen set about asking the President such a question? Could you give me a hint about the procedure to be followed?

With devoted good greetings,

Dorothy Campbell Fisher

WHAT DO WE HOPE TO GAIN BY THE CHILDREN'S CRUSADE

By Dorothy Canfield.

To be published in "Progressive Education" of the
Progressive Education Ass'n.

Before I try to answer the question which the editor of this magazine suggested as the title of my article, I'll need of course, to tell you, concretely what the Children's Crusade is, and (in the suspicious question of modern times) "who is back of it".

The plan is this:---to establish in our American schools the ten days from April 22 to April 30---when each American school child, from grade school through high school, will be asked to bring as many pennies as he is years old (or anything he can afford to bring, down to one penny!) to go into a fund for all children exiled from their fatherland, everywhere---Chinese, Polish, German, Spanish, Austrian, Czech, Finnish. If this effort is even moderately successful, the sum raised will be immediately effective even in such a gragically vast field as that of these child victims of our world crisis.

I can't answer the question "who is back of it" so easily because so many, many distinguished Americans have given an eager welcome to this idealistic effort that there would be, if I listed them all here, nothing else in the article. So I'll only set down a few, taken almost at random as ^{samples:} ~~examples~~:--Ex-President Angell of Yale, William Green of the A.F. of L., Mrs. Arthur Sulzberger, Mr. S. D. Shankland, Raymond Gram Swing, Dean William Russell, Pearl Buck, Colonel Theodore Roosevelt, Reverend Dr. Maurice S. Sheehy, Catholic University, Walter Damrosch, Professor

Charles Beard, William J. Reagan, Oakwood School, Mr. Irvin A. Wilson, President N.E.A. Elementary Principals Association, Dorothy Thompson, Professor William Kilpatrick, Teachers' College, New York City, Harry Emerson Fosdick, Professor F. D. Strayer, Teachers' College, New York City, Dr. Charles B. Glean, Dr. George A. Buttrick.

There are of course ever so many more details you ought to know to have any idea of this movement, but you can get those by sending a penny post-card with your inquiries to the New York office of The Children's Crusade, Room 2806, Empire State Building, New York City.

Now you know what The Children's Crusade is and who is behind it and how to get quickly all the other details you'd like, I can go on to explaining---so briefly for lack of space!---what we hope to gain by having the movement, already spreading like a wave, become a really nation-wide effort.

In the first place we hope to open for our American children in public, private and parochial schools, that outlet in action to aroused emotion which---so every psychologist tells us--- is as necessary for mental and moral health, as spinach and orange juice are for bodily health. Our children can read, do read. They can listen, can't help listening to what is said over the radio. They go to the movies. Through all of those channels they are constantly aware of a horrible power of active evil, working in the world, causing intense sorrow and physical suffering to hundreds and thousands of inoffensive people, and to untold numbers of children, exactly as harmless as are our children. To allow them to receive, over and over, these violent impressions of human suffering, without making a real effort to help---that

way lies moral callousness, a growing indifference to human grief, which is the demonstrated first step to brutality and the return to barbarism. By providing in The Children's Crusade a practical, carefully thought-through, child-size, real opportunity to be of help to children, wretched through no fault of theirs, we hope to prevent that sour moral stagnation of passivity in the face of suffering which we all know to be poison to the human soul.

We also hope to prove to ourselves that our great, far-flung nation is not (as the Fascist nations claim it is, hope it is) suffering from moral dry-rot, incapable of taking united action, poverty-stricken, sinking and breaking apart under the weight of its own numbers. Feeling "a decent concern for the opinion of mankind", we want to prove to ourselves as well as to the world, that our great Federation is a strong united nation, as capable in 1940 as ever, of making a noble gesture of that human idealism which is an American tradition to be proud of.

And finally, we are---as you who read are, as every man and woman with a heart cannot but be---penetrated with a horrified compassion for the plight of the homeless children all over the world, who represent the future of our race, and must be saved from destruction, not only out of ordinary human decency but for our collective future, and stricken to the heart with that compassion we wish not only to give all we adults can to relief efforts, but also to let our children share in a noble gesture of brotherly sympathy.

Of this movement, sprung up so rapidly, seized upon by men and women everywhere, aching in sorrow over the pain of others,

we don't feel that it is "ours". It is yours. It is everybody's.
It is America's. "Long may our land----!"

This is a resolution to be presented by the Resolutions Committee of the great Conference of School Administrators in St. Louis at the end of February when I'm to speak--- three separate times, if I'm still alive by that time!

While we whole-heartedly and urgently desire to preserve the neutrality of our country in the terrible crisis of war and ruin in which humanity outside our hemisphere is plunged, we feel that our nation must prove to ourselves and to the world that our neutrality is not another name for sterile passive satisfaction that we are safe while hundreds and thousands of our fellow men are in agony. In this proof, it cannot but be wholesome for our children to have an opportunity to show compassionate helpfulness to other children in tragic need. The Children's Crusade, backed by many of the most noted educators, authors, poets, artists, public servants and historians of our period, and sponsored by a long list of the finest and most creative personalities of the nation, provides such an opportunity in a carefully thought-through and practical plan. In view of the acute crisis of our period, not to be adequately met by the rules laid down wisely for the running of school life under normal conditions, we therefore recommend that an exception be made in those schools which have rules against collections; and that the simple, undemanding procedure of the Children's Crusade, with its vigorously patriotic and educational program, be carried through in our schools during the last ten days of April.

100

Arlington, Vermont
March 20, 1940

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

The Children's Crusade is going splendidly---- the number of schools participating rising so fast as to take my breath away with joy and relief, and, as you have seen, the editorial comment in newspapers and magazines more unanimously warm and approving than I'd have dared to hope.

We're now almost through the preparation for the enormous work of reaching the schools by mail (how enormous you can see from the enclosed memorandum which is only of mailings yet to go out, with no mention of what has gone out).

Now we are throwing ourselves with all our hearts into the preparation for educational publicity----newspaper syndicated articles and networks of broadcasting ----about the underlying principles of our American institutions, with which we hope to back up and reinforce what the teachers of "civics" and good government teach their students so faithfully----but always out of text books written in prose, not the most vivid way to reach young imaginations.

Before we make any definite plans, we would like to know whether President Roosevelt would feel like starting these patriotic broadcasts addressed to our school children in their schoolrooms with a ten or fifteen minute talk to them----the Head of our State to its future citizens.

I'm enclosing with this a copy of a letter to him which I am sending off on this mail----a hard one to write, since there is so much to say and to report on, and yet I am anxious not to make the letter so long as to be a burden.

It would of course be the veritable crowning of this movement which has become a truly nation-wide one, to have the President strike the keynote of the message of courage and cheer and endurance and faith in the American tradition we are trying so hard to impress on our children.

With such hopes that he will feel he can do this, and happy anticipations of seeing you in May at another White House Conference,

Faithfully yours,

*As I sign this, the new
cause is that the enormous
public school system has joined
New York City
The Children's Crusade*
Dorothy Canfield Fisher

DOROTHY CANFIELD FISHER
ARLINGTON, VERMONT

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Good Friday -

March 22, 1940

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Oh, why didn't I
wait a few more days before
preparing all that material about
the Children's Crusade for you
and the President? I thought that,
naturally enough, my questions
to you about the President's
possibility of broadcasting, had just

DOROTHY CANFIELD FISHER
ARLINGTON, VERMONT

2)

slipped your mind. Things do
slip people's minds, you know,
other people's — if not yours.

Well, anyway, I'm glad to
have put a report of proceedings
in your hands, but sorry to
have made it long. And I
still hope for your impression
on my plan to continue the
for American children.

DOROTHY CANFIELD FISHER
ARLINGTON, VERMONT

(3)

Thanks for your note, and
for your remembering that question
of mine.

You must have, by this
time, the letter to Mr. Hoover,
from the July of above. I was
sure you'd understood all that
lay behind that, so didn't
write you specially about it.

Devotedly yours

Dorothy Canfield Fisher

March 26, 1940

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Dear Mrs. Fisher:

I do not know whether the President will do anything about the school children's broadcast but I know you will hear from him shortly. He has had so much to do he is really saying no to almost everything and, though I will urge him, I am not very sure of success.

I think you have done an extraordinary job and I think it ought to be continued.

I think your suggestion that we continue your idea is a very good one and it might be added to the Red Cross and the Community Chest. I think we should not forget the sharecropper children both black and white.

I believe that a very good reason for continuing it would be that it would start children early in the realization of their responsibilities in a democracy.

Thank you for your last letter which has just come. I was so glad to have your long letter and all the material.

With every good wish, I am

Very sincerely yours,

mlt

P. S. As to your postscript about the speech in Washington, I thought you were grand!

Mrs. Dorothy Canfield Fisher
Arlington, Vermont

am
3/26

Confidential post-script.
Dear Mrs Roosevelt:

Again I am sitting down to tap out in my inaccurate amateur typing, something I want to get your opinion on, without anybody's else knowing. I haven't yet spoken of it to anybody else, not even (this is unusual for me) to my husband, because I feel that if you think my idea is impracticable, or undesirable, why then, I'll never need to speak to anybody about it---for I'd give it up at once.

Here's my idea:--I've ~~been~~ really overwhelmed by The Children's Crusade, partly by the enormous amount of work to be done, more intensive and more absorbing than anything I've ever done before, even war-work in France. But mostly by the response to the idea, from thousands of Americans!

People have thrown themselves into working for it, as if it brought relief from a great nervous tension---the unbearable feeling that there is a tragic need, and that we are not taking action about it. And educators, parents, -- everybody without exception---has seemed to feel that the possibility of doing something real for people less fortunate than themselves is a vitamin acutely needed by our children and young people.

As you can see (or divine) from the material I am sending you and the President, an immense amount of work has been done, a really incredible lot, in finding out how to reach the schools, in getting through the barrage of "professionalism" on the part of officers of administration---apparently so little used to have anybody from the outside world take a vivid interest in the schools, as to be disconcerted by it! A great deal of money has been spent, (and at top speed of course) to organize that field, to do the pioneer work of finding out how to conduct such a campaign, which has never been done before.

Now I can't bear to think that all that information, organization effort, good will, will dissolve into thin air when the Children's Crusade is over. Would it be possible, do you think, to continue this effort in the shape of a permanent organization, to conduct a similar campaign, annually in the schools, for the benefit of our own American poorer children? Or rather, to make it an exercise in real democracy for our millions of school-children and let them decide by majority vote, in what proportions they would wish the money raised to be given to benefit--well, say, children outside the U.S.A., and inside this country, city children, county children, and Negro children. I would like to have the responsibility of all white people for the welfare of Negroes until they and their children have more of a fair share of what all Americans should have. recognized and admitted and acted on!

But that's a detail--just one that happened to come into my head as I wrote.

It seems to me, if this ~~idea~~ could be carried out that it could be made an excellent exercise, (that is, action following on theory) in democracy, and in democracy in an immensely large country. The need to take thought as to how to

Handwritten note on left margin:
This should be by you at the time of the meeting with the President. The purpose is to get the best possible results.

2)

vote as to the distribution of the money, would make inevitable a study of conditions in various parts of the United States, not just because questions on those conditions will have to be answered in examinations but because one needs more knowledge in order to vote. The responsibility of those who have, for the evening things up with those who have-not, actually practised in this way, would be, I should think, much more than a theory in a Sunday school lesson. I can't think of anything which would train our younger generation more surely into accepting the idea that great inequality of opportunity just cannot be permitted any longer, in our times and with our economic situation.

I have been thinking of this for a long time, but

quailing at the thought of the enormous effort needed to try to realize it. And of course one of the things which has occurred to me, is the probable outcry of the ultra-conservatives about "pauperizing" people. And, although that is usually just an alibi for selfishness and unwillingness to take one's fair share of social responsibility, there is a possibility in that direction which one ought to consider. I have tried to consider it, and I think that danger--such as it is--could be entirely avoided by having each year's apportioning of the money done by an annual vote of the children, so that no long continued support of any one project could be undertaken. That is, the children in the schools would vote (might vote) more in detail---whether their penny contributions should go for health, recreation, better educational facilities, in the country, in the cities, etc etc I don't see how even the ultra-conservatives could object to an occasional boost up over an obstacle, given by those among our children who have an economic margin, and so can help others.

Of course, all this is floating in a vacuum, as far as practical considerations are concerned. Where would the money come from, to carry on the campaign---for it takes a good deal of course to reach such an immense system as our school system. Well, I think perhaps one of the Foundations, especially interested in education, might finance it. At any rate, since all records of the Children's Crusade are to be preserved and deposited in the Library of Congress, the frame-work of the effort will never have to be invented again.

I haven't set down yet, I see, my chief reason for thinking this might be valuable---no, it is not getting help to needy children, unspeakably valuable as that would be. My chief reason is that this kind of annual responsible taking thought, as to the needs of different parts of our country, would begin where it should begin, in childhood, the habit of thinking of our country as a whole, would be a valid and real preparation for that broadening of our attitude towards the whole nation, which is a matter of life and death for us in the future, as rapid means of communication make the country geographically one, as it never has been before.

Have I said enough to give you any idea, at all, I wonder of what is in my mind? It is not very definite, what's in my mind---mostly just an idea. Such as it is, I hand it over to you to ask you whether you think it is worth thinking about any more.

One thing is sure, as far as the actual running of such an annual campaign is concerned, it could not be carried on in the improvising way The Children's Crusade has been developed. Nobody could work so hard, year after year, as we have all worked on this emergency measure. You'd drop dead! It would have to be run by professionals--- I don't mean professional publicity people, Heaven forbid-- people who made it their whole work. And by that token I would vanish from it, except in an advisory capacity, and doing expository writing---after all, that is what I am, a writer, not an organizer. And if I survive this effort, I will never undertake anything so far out of my field and so far beyond my physical ability to handle. But the Foundations are run--and some of them pretty well, too-- by professionals, who do not turn to dust on the job at all, just because it is permanent. I think that need not be an obstacle.

Let me know---just a line---what your impression of this is, and then, when I see you in May, or perhaps before, for I am to be in Washington for a meeting of the Youth Commission April 15th and 16th, we can perhaps have a talk about it.

Did I ever, in my life, write so much to any one person as I have today, to you and the President! You'll have to read it serially!

With such admiration and faith
Devotedly yours,

Dorothy Canfield Fisher

I know you were anxious and with reason, about my speaking in Washington (last document was F?) about The Children's Crusade, because of Mr. Ballou's feeling. But I took great care not to overstep the line, and faced out by writing Mrs. Dingle before hand just where the line was, --- and I really think, created no friction. So here good!

PROGRAM OF MAIL PUBLICITY TO SCHOOL SYSTEMS

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

This gives you an idea of the size of the effort to reach the schools. The material sent out I am sending (most of it, all I thought you could read) you and the President, today - March 21. Dorothy Canfield Fisher 1,000,000 Collection-cans. These will be distributed direct to schools, by mail or express.

Printed Material.

Liberty and Union	50,000	copies printed
A Family Talk About War	125,000	" "
Dorothy Canfield Address at St. Louis - 4-page circular	250,000	" "
Norman Rockwell poster	150,000	" "
Teacher's Handbook	86,000	" "
6-page Expository circular		" "
What Children's Crusade is	320,000	" "

1. To Approximately 6000 City and County Superintendents. The aim here is twofold; to get official approval of the campaign in their jurisdictions, and to keep them fully advised. Two mailings have gone out to them, with cards for signature. (Sample marked A). To this date (March 13th) about 600 have authorized participation, representing probably 1,750,000 children. They are continuing daily in good volume. My estimate is that with the next two mailings this will reach at least 1500, about 25%, which I would consider exceptional for a mail campaign. These will be simply the authorized participants, by card, and will not constitute by any means the entire participation.

The 1st mailing to this group was informative, enclosing the 6-page expository circular, with covering letter.

The 2nd enclosed the play, LIBERTY AND UNION, and was timed to reach them after the St. Louis Convention.

The 3rd will go out March 18th, and will enclose the Teacher's Handbook; the Norman Rockwell Poster; the play -- A FAMILY TALK ABOUT WAR; and an airmail reply card, with same copy, Sample A.

The 4th, going out about April 1st, will enclose a sample can, another letter and another airmail reply card.

If necessary, there will be other mailings to this group, which is small and not expensive to circularize. All these letters, by the way, are personal -- that is, with filled-in salutations.

2. To 130,000 one-room schools. These we regard as enormously important, but because of their number can't afford to mail more than once. They must be approached once, direct, because we can't rely on county superintendents doing a thing about them.

On April 1st we are going to send, in a specially prepared mailing tube, a single collection-can to the entire 130,000. With it will be: a 2-page letter, the expository circular, and the Dorothy Canfield address at St. Louis.

We are all very enthusiastic about this mailing, and are sure of good results. Incidentally, it is doubtful whether any previous campaign has ever gotten down to these grass roots.

3. To 50,000 Two-to-Five Teacher-schools -- elementary grades. These, of course, are also country schools. Again there are too many, with present resources, to mail more than once:

They will receive, about April 1st, a mailing tube, like the one-room schools. In this there will be: one collection can; a Norman Rockwell poster (not included to the one-room schools because of expense); the expository circular; the Dorothy Canfield St. Louis address; and a two-page letter.

The letter will suggest that they get in touch with the County Superintendent for the Teacher's Handbook. Also, it will explain that the can is but a sample; it will be too late to get other cans to them and will therefore suggest that the children make up sealed cardboard boxes if additional collection material is found necessary. Also, by the way, it will suggest they have a patriotic entertainment (to which tickets can be sold) if it is too late to give the play, A FAMILY TALK ABOUT WAR, and if they are unauthorized to make direct collections from children.

If, happily, we can raise enough additional money in time, a second mailing to this group (about April 10th) would be advisable.

4. TO 12,000 larger elementary schools in towns of from 1000 to 3000. Here we were stymied, so far as sending collection cans is concerned, by the great difference in size of the schools, and the expense of mailing many cans. A different approach was therefore necessary.

These schools, on March 18th, will be sent a mailing consisting of the following: a two-page letter; the expository circular; the play A FAMILY TALK ABOUT WAR; the Dorothy Canfield speech; a Norman Rockwell poster; and a reply airmail card.

The reply will come to New York. It asks them to tell us how many cans they want; whether they want extra copies of the play. Since this is going out right away, there will be time to ship the cans ordered by express.

5. To 23,000 Elementary school principals in all towns and cities over 3000. This blankets all elementary schools other than those above, and includes the biggest cities.

The mailing will go out March 18th, and will be the same as the one immediately preceding, except that the Teacher's Handbook will be included here, and not there.

6. 26,000 High-School Principals. These have already received the expository circular, and a copy of LIBERTY AND UNION -- the high-school play.

A second mailing, going out March 18th, will include: a 2-page letter; the Teacher's Handbook; another copy of the expository circular (lest they forget); and the new Norman Rockwell poster; and an airmail reply card.

This reply card will come to New York, and will be similar to that of mailing 5 -- and with the same purpose in mind.

7. To 1000 Catholic Schools. The mailing has already gone out; cans, posters, and other material will be sent as ordered.

8. To 1500 Private Schools. This too has gone out; cans, posters, and educational material will be sent to them as ordered.

9. To 3500 Editors of High-School Publications. This is a mailing, over William Allen White's signature, announcing a prize for the best Children's Crusade issue, with many suggestions for editorial material.

Organization of Mailing. The detail of handling all these mailings is in the hands of Mr. Louis Kleid, of Mailings, Inc., New York, who is doing it at cost and personally supervising it. It could not be in more efficient hands, in our opinion.

Distribution of Cans. Mr. Kleid will also take care of the distribution of the cans. One million of these will begin being received about April 1st.

Distribution here is a complicated problem, but has been thoroughly arranged for. Most of it will be done from New York direct to the schools by express; some from Baltimore, where the cans are being manufactured. This is aside from the individual cans that will be sent in mailing tubes, in the two mailings above listed -- to the 130,000 one-room schools, and the 50,000 two-to-five teacher schools.

Later Mailings. This, we feel, is an extremely thorough coverage. It is, of course, independent of all the outside publicity -- in magazines, newspapers, through movies, and the radio, and organizations -- which is well-organized and about ready to break; and which will, of course, back up this direct work with the schools.

March 27, 1940

Dear Mrs. Fisher:

I have been asked to write a letter approving the nomination of Clara Barton's name for Hall of Fame and am delighted to do so.

I think her work makes her one of our outstanding citizens and entitles her to every recognition.

Sincerely yours,

Mrs. Dorothy Canfield Fisher
Arlington
Vermont

mlt

78BurdSt.
Nyack, N.Y.
March 15, 1940

Mr. Ralph W. Magee
Administrative Officer
Social Correspondence
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Magee:

Thank you so much for your letter
of the 14th.

Mr. Epler wishes me to advise you
that letters mailed after March 15th will not be
too late, in helping to elevate the name of
Clara Barton to the Hall of Fame.

He would consider it a personal
favor, if upon Mrs. Roosevelt's return, you would
refer this matter for your attention.

Sincerely yours

Gloria Conboy
Secretary to Mr. Epler

Letter delivered to Mr. Magee

Drawing
contributed
by Norman
Rockwell



April 22-30, 1940

CHILDREN'S CRUSADE FOR CHILDREN

Empire State Building, New York

APR 7 1940

PENNSYLVANIA 6-4343

DOROTHY CANFIELD FISHER, *Chairman* • MRS. HENRY S. CANBY, *National Secretary* • PEARL BUCK, *Literary Chairman*

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*Special Educators' Sponsorship
Committee in Formation

April 3, 1940

Dear Sponsor:

This is an interim report on the CHILDREN'S CRUSADE FOR CHILDREN.

We enclose Crusade material which has already gone out to 231,000 elementary schools in the United States, to 26,000 high schools, to over 6,000 city and county school superintendents, to 112 diocesan superintendents and to 2,000 principals of private schools.

Over 700 newspapers in the country have published news stories on the Crusade, and over 200 editorials. About a dozen of the latter were negative, the others very friendly.

We are sending you the Norman Rockwell poster. I think you will agree that it is a strong and beautiful job.

Magazine articles have begun to appear in the Ladies Home Journal, Good Housekeeping, Household Magazine, Parents' Magazine, and by the end of the campaign over fifty national magazines will have published editorials or articles about the Crusade. This does not include educational journals, organizational bulletins or religious publications.

Radio developments are in the offing, and you will be kept informed of the arrangements as they are made.

As you read over the material, you may have suggestions as how to better carry on the Crusade. Please let us have your advice.

With warmest thanks for your cooperation,

Sincerely yours,

Chairman

LITERARY COMMITTEE: Pearl Buck, *Chairman*, Gertrude Atherton, Bessie Beatty, Stephen Vincent Benét, William Rose Benét, Marion Canby, *Secretary*, Sarah N. Cleghorn, Padraic Colum, Edna Ferber, John Gunther, Fannie Hurst, Inez Haynes Irwin, Christopher Morley, Robert Nathan, Charles G. and Kathleen Norris, Bellamy Partridge, Vincent Sheean, Cornelia Otis Skinner, Ida M. Tarbell, Booth Tarkington, Dorothy Thompson, Hendrik Willem van Loon, Margaret Widdemer, Lin Yutang.

April 15, 1940

100

Dear Mrs. Fisher:

I am so very sorry that, as I will
be at Hyde Park on April 21, I cannot take
part in your broadcast.

Very sincerely yours,

Mrs. Dorothy Canfield Fisher
Arlington
Vermont

DOROTHY CANFIELD FISHER
ARLINGTON, VERMONT

Sunday evening - April 7
1940

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I agree with you
that Clara Barton would be
just the right person for the
Hall of Fame. I'm glad you
suggested her name to me, and
I'd make her my candidate.

May I hope to hear
from you as to whether you

just you can talk two or three
minutes over the radio, on the
evening of April 21, Sunday, to
start the first radio broadcast of
The Children's Crusade, when the
cast of actors (children too, of
course) who are now playing in
"Life with Father," will give "A
Family Talk about War." I am
abouted to be asking you again
about this; but the time draws
near, and places are being made
more definite.

With all good regards
Dorothy Campbell Fisher

ans
4-15-

DOROTHY CANFIELD FISHER
ARLINGTON, VERMONT

April 1, 1940.

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

What's now planned for the opening broadcast of the Children's Crusade probably for the evening of April 21st is a half-hour presentation of the Children's Crusade patriotic play "Liberty and Union". This is being arranged by Dorothy Gordon, that great radio favorite of children, who is working with ardent enthusiasm for the Children's Crusade, and who has enlisted a number of well-known actors to help.

Could you introduce this with a two or three minute talk? All those enrolled in The Children's Crusade (and they are now numerous as an army---Americans from all parts of the country---) hope with all our hearts that you will feel like giving this help to the good cause. You could of course be "picked up", in the radio phrase, wherever you were at that time.

With warmly friendly greetings,

Sincerely yours,

Dorothy Canfield Fisher

DCF/gfr

[Faint handwritten notes and signatures]

100

Letter from Dorothy Canfield Fisher, Arlington, Vermont, dated May 14, accepting appointment on National Advisory Committee for Community Service Projects, sent to Mrs. Kerr, 5/30/40.

Drawing
contributed
by Norman
Rockwell



April 22-30, 1940

CHILDREN'S CRUSADE FOR CHILDREN

Empire State Building, New York

PENNSYLVANIA 6-4343

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*Special Educators' Sponsoring
Committee in Formation

May 23, 1940

File

MAY 24 1940

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

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

The group of individuals which operated as the Children's Crusade for Children has on legal advice formed itself into a corporation, and in order to transfer the funds from the group to the corporation, the County National Bank in Bennington deems it necessary to have the Jury of Award approve the transfer of the funds.

Will you therefore please sign the enclosed paper as a member of the Jury of Award on the line indicated?

Cordially yours,

CHILDREN'S CRUSADE FOR CHILDREN, Inc.

Dorothy Canfield Fisher
President

DCF/hs
enclosure

This is just a legal formality of course. The collections are not finished, but we expect to have, perhaps, \$140,000 to distribute, which to a Vermont scene fine. So sorry I couldn't be with you this week. I certainly will work from D.C.F.

LITERARY COMMITTEE: Pearl Buck, *Chairman*, Gertrude Atherton, Bessie Beatty, Stephen Vincent Benét, William Rose Benét, Marion Canby, *Secretary*, Sarah N. Cleghorn, Padraic Colum, Edna Ferber, John Gunther, Fannie Hurst, Inez Haynes Irwin, Christopher Morley, Robert Nathan, Charles G. and Kathleen Norris, Bellamy Partridge, Vincent Sheean, Cornelia Otis Skinner, Ida M. Tarbell, Booth Tarkington, Dorothy Thompson, Hendrik Willem van Loon, Margaret Widdemer, Lin Yutang.

CHILDREN'S CRUSADE FOR CHILDREN

EMPIRE STATE BUILDING · NEW YORK CITY
LACKAWANNA 4-6629

DOROTHY CANFIELD FISHER, *Chairman*
MRS. HENRY S. CANBY, *Secretary*
PEARL BUCK, *Literary Chairman*
JOHN HERLING, *Director*

JURY OF AWARD:

ELEANOR ROOSEVELT
DOROTHY CANFIELD FISHER
MONSIGNOR JOHN A. RYAN
WILLIAM ALLEN WHITE
Caroline S. Woodruff
Dr. Charles B. Glenn
Hon. Irving Lehman

May 23, 1940

County National Bank
Bennington
Vermont

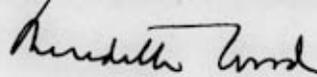
Gentlemen:

This is to inform you that the group of individuals known and operating previously as the Children's Crusade for Children, have organized themselves into a corporation known as the Children's Crusade for Children, Inc.

As the treasurer of the original group of individuals, I hereby authorize you to transfer to the corporation's account all monies now and hereafter deposited in your bank in the name of the Children's Crusade for Children.

Cordially yours,

CHILDREN'S CRUSADE FOR CHILDREN



Treasurer

MN/s

The foregoing transfer is approved.

Member of the Jury of Award

BY DIRECT WIRE FROM

WESTERN UNION

1225

(31)

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

SYMBOLS
 DL = Day Letter
 NL = Night Letter
 LC = Deferred Cable
 NLT = Cable Night Letter
 Ship Radiogram

R. B. WHITE
PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

J. C. WILLEVER
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

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

NQ217 90 3 EXTRA CNT PCTNS=ARLINGTON VERMONT VIA
 THE WHITEHOUSE WASHINGTON DC 20 1940 JUN 20 PM 6 33
 MRS FRANKLIN D ROOSEVELT=
 HYDEPARK DUTCHESS COUNTY NY=

100

JAMES LANIGAN AND FRANK DAVISON UNUSUALLY INTELLIGENT AND PATRIOTIC YOUNG HARVARD GRADUATES WITH MUCH PERSONAL EXPERIENCE IN C C C CAMPS HAVE SOME PRACTICAL AND CREATIVE IDEAS FOR DEVELOPING THE PRESIDENT'S UNIVERSAL SERVICE PLAN IN C C C CAMPS WHICH THEY ARE MOST ANXIOUS TO TELL YOU ABOUT AT ONCE. THEY WOULD GO ANYWHERE TO SEE YOU FOR HALF HOUR TALK NEXT SATURDAY OR SUNDAY. IF YOU WILL WIRE ME HERE IF THIS IS POSSIBLE I WILL NOTIFY THEM AT ONCE. BEST GREETINGS=

DOROTHY CANFIELD FISHER.!

Handwritten signatures and initials:
 [Signature]
 [Signature]
 [Signature]

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

JUN 24 PM 10:41
WESTERN UNION (41)
 BROADWAY
 MERCY 5-8490
 PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON
 CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD
 J. C. WILLEVER
 FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

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

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

WB334 57 3 EXTRA=NEWYORK NY VIA WHITEHOUSE WASHINGTON DC 24
 MRS ELEANOR ROOSEVELT=
 20 EAST 11 ST NYK=
 JUN 24 PM 4 43
SD *lee*

CHILDRENS CONTRIBUTIONS TO CHILDRENS CRUSADE STILL COMING IN
 WILL TOTAL SOMETHING OVER ONE HUNDRED THIRTY FIVE THOUSAND.
 HAVE BEEN IN TOUCH WITH MAIN DISPENSING AGENCIES NOW
 OPERATING ABROAD AND SITUATION IS SO CONFUSED WE ARE
 ADVISED IT IS BETTER TO WAIT LITTLE WHILE BEFORE APPORTIONING
 MONEY. DO YOU AGREE PLEASE WIRE REPLY ARLINGTON, VERMONT.
 =DOROTHY CANFIELD FISHER.

THE COMPANY WILL APPRECIATE SUGGESTIONS FROM ITS PATRONS CONCERNING ITS SERVICE

6/25/40

file

MRS DOROTHY CANFIELD FISHER
ARLINGTON
VERMONT

I AGREE WITH YOU THAT IT IS BETTER TO WAIT A LITTLE WHILE
BEFORE APPORTIONING THE MONEY

ELEANOR ROOSEVELT

100

July 14, 1940

Dear Mrs. Fisher:

My vote as to the percentage of Children's
Crusade money which should go to Chinese children
is - 20%.

Sincerely yours,

0

Mrs. Dorothy Canfield Fisher

DOROTHY CANFIELD FISHER
ARLINGTON, VERMONT

July 9, 1940

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

An opportunity presents itself for an especially significant occasion to present to Chinese children the money apportioned by the Jury of Award from the Children's Crusade collections. On July 22nd (or perhaps the 25th, the date is not quite settled) Pearl Buck is to present publicly to the Chinese Ambassador (to go to the regular Chinese Medical Aid Committee) a fund raised among American women as a gift to Chinese women. We have been asked to make at the same time the presentation of money raised by American children for Chinese children.

This seems to us a most suitable time, and we hope it will be possible quickly to take a vote by mail of the Jury of Award as to the percentage of Children's Crusade money which is to go to Chinese children.

Will you kindly write as soon as possible what your vote will be? We had thought that from fifteen to twenty percent of the total would be a suitable amount. But of course it lies entirely in the hands of the Jury of Award to decide the amount. The total sum raised by the Children's Crusade is now about \$136,000.

We will very shortly be in a position to inform you of the latest developments in the field of European relief work, as I expect to go to New York next week to see the heads of several such agencies, to see what they now think about the situation.

With every good wish and so many thanks to you for taking on this responsibility,

Faithfully yours,

Dorothy Canfield Fisher

July 24, 1940

100

Dear Mrs. Fisher:

I read your letter of July 20
with a great deal of interest. Nothing worth
while was ever done without encountering some
obstacles!

Very sincerely yours,

0

Mrs. Dorothy Canfield Fisher
Arlington, Vermont

Drawing
contributed
by Norman
Rockwell



April 22-30, 1940

CHILDREN'S CRUSADE FOR CHILDREN

Empire State Building, New York

PENNSYLVANIA 6-4343

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MARY E. WOOLLEY
D. ROBERT YARBALL

*Special Educators' Sponsorship
Committee in Formation

Arlington, Vermont
July 20, 1940

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I write to report that the vote-by-mail about the share of the collection of the Children's Crusade to go to Chinese children was unanimously in favor of twenty percent. So that amount (about \$27,000) will be given on July 26th to the American Bureau of Medical Aid to China. We feel a great joy and satisfaction in this, and know that you will share it.

Next week I will be in New York for a few days and will see several of the heads of the Refugee Aid agencies, securing reports from them. I will make a report to you about these interviews, as soon as possible after that. The matter of the Hoover relief committee, now for Polish relief through the Polish Committee, will be the subject of the next vote. My understanding is that they have waived the "requirement" for twenty-five percent of our collections, and will simply print reports of their work, like the other relief agencies. But since they now include work for Polish as well as Finnish children, it is quite possible, I should say, that our Jury of Award will feel like granting the twenty-five percent. This will be for the Jury to decide after seeing the reports.

Perhaps I should also report to you---although the matter is probably not important---that the Children's Crusade has been under criticism from the communists (especially those few who are teaching in the public school system of New York City) and also from a representative of the military-minded, in the person of a retired army officer, Major Fries, who, with his wife, edits a small monthly of a few pages. I have been told by a member of the D.A.R. that he officially represents their ideas on American education, but I find no public confirmation of that. One of the main purposes of the periodical is to attack all forms of what is called "progressive education," as red, communistic and tending to overthrow our government.

LITERARY COMMITTEE: Pearl Buck, *Chairman*, Gertrude Atherton, Bessie Beatty, Stephen Vincent Benét, William Rose Benét, Marion Canby, *Secretary*, Sarah N. Cleghorn, Padraic Colum, Edna Ferber, John Gunther, Fannie Hurst, Inez Haynes Irwin, Christopher Morley, Robert Nathan, Charles G. and Kathleen Norris, Bellamy Partridge, Vincent Sheean, Cornelia Otis Skinner, Ida M. Tarbell, Booth Tarkington, Dorothy Thompson, Hendrik Willem van Loon, Margaret Widdemer, Lin Yutang.

Drawing
contributed
by Norman
Rockwell



April 22-30, 1940

CHILDREN'S CRUSADE FOR CHILDREN

Empire State Building, New York

PENNSYLVANIA 6-4343

DOROTHY CANFIELD FISHER, *Chairman* • MRS. HENRY S. CANBY, *National Secretary* • PEARL BUCK, *Literary Chairman*

JURY OF AWARD: ELEANOR ROOSEVELT • MSGR. JOHN A. RYAN • WILLIAM ALLEN WHITE • HON. IRVING LEHMAN
DOROTHY CANFIELD FISHER • DR. CHARLES B. GLENN • CAROLINE S. WOODRUFF

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JOHN HERLING
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REV. DR. MAURICE S. SHESHY
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ROGER WILLIAMS STRAUS
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MR. & MRS. ARTHUR HAYS SULZBERGER
RAYMOND GRAM SWING
HORACE D. TAFT
MRS. ROBERT A. TAFT
DOROTHY THOMPSON
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*Special Educators' Sponsoring
Committee in Formation

Roosevelt---2

July 20, 1940

Major Fries objected very much to the high school play, "Liberty and Union", sent out by the Children's Crusade, of which you have all had a copy, I think. In that, as you may remember, War, as a way to settle differences of opinion, was constantly shown in comparison to the American way of peaceful Federation, and appeal to law-courts, to be violent, full of ill-will and stupid. Major Fries objected to this presentation of War, and has been energetically criticizing the Children's Crusade in each issue of his small monthly.

Since this is a free country, where everybody has the right to express his own opinions, we have paid no attention to this. But in the June issue he printed a factual statement about the finances of the Children's Crusade which gave the most absurdly false impression of them---as was shown by several anxious and troubled letters we received from schools which had contributed to the Crusade asking if it was true as Major Fries intimated that eighty percent of all contributions had been spent for expenses, with only twenty percent going to refugee children.

This of course was a libellous statement. I wrote a letter telling him the facts---that is, that not so much as a postage stamp or one telephone call had been, or would be paid from the children's contributed pennies, and asked him to print this. He replied that he considered my letter no proof of the truth of the statement and he would not print it. So we were obliged to send a lawyer to him with notarized proof of the complete financing of all expenses of the campaign from outside, and of the fact that all pennies contributed will go direct without any shrinkage to refugee children in need. Thus obliged to correct his statement about our finances, he says he will do so but will continue his criticism of the purpose and methods of the Children's Crusade centering his attack on the amount of money spent on our educational campaign (for almost all the staff work was done by volunteers, with only four paid people, and the usual stenographers) the purpose of which he disapproves.

I enclose a copy of the letter to Major Fries, so that you can be au courant, ~~best~~ of a matter, rather

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Roosevelt---3

July 20, 1940

unpleasant, but of no great importance, I feel.

With ever renewed thanks for your willingness to
serve in the apportioning of the money raised by our
school children's pennies, I am

Faithfully yours,

Dorothy Canfield Fisher

STAFF

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Director of Organization and Publicity

M. C. S. NOBLE, JR.

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MRS. RAYMOND GRAM SWING

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C
O
P
Y

July 10, 1940

Major General Amos A. Fries, Editor
Friends of the Public Schools of America
702 Albee Building
15th & G Streets
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

In your June issue you published a short statement, the implication of which was that the pennies donated by the school children of the nation in the Children's Crusade for Children were spent principally for administration expenses of the campaign.

Since, in every statement by the originators of the Crusade, it was announced that every cent donated by children would be given for relief, this article would indicate a grave violation of trust on the part of the Jury of Award, consisting of Eleanor Roosevelt, Monsignor John A. Ryan, William Allen White, Honorable Irving Lehman, Dorothy Canfield Fisher, Dr. Charles B. Glenn and Caroline S. Woodruff.

I have no doubt that you are loath to spread the impression that such a violation of trust has occurred among such prominent American citizens, if it is wholly untrue. It is wholly untrue, and accordingly I feel sure that you will be happy to print this letter giving the full facts, so that any damage that may have been done to the reputation of the members of the Jury of Award will be corrected among those who may have read the article referred to.

The facts are as follows:

The Children's Crusade for Children was conceived primarily as an educational movement among American children more than as a philanthropic enterprise. Its prime purpose was to make vivid to American children the difference between the comparatively happy conditions of their life in this free country and that of many foreign children, and they were asked to contribute their own pennies for child victims of war -- down to a single penny -- because it was felt that such tiny sacrifices would make vivid and personal to them, more than teachers' words could, the realization of what a free country meant to them as children.

Because of this dual nature of the project, two completely independent receipt funds were set up. One was an administrative fund to carry on the necessary educational campaign among children. Private contributions from adult contributors only were sought for this fund. The total payments for the campaign met wholly by these private contributions -- principally educational in their nature and to a minor degree administrative -- were \$54,593.84 up to June 30, 1940.

The second receipt fund set up was that of the penny contributions from school children. This was the trust fund to be apportioned by the Jury of Award. Collections were made for this fund in the schools for a ten day period from April 22nd to April 30th. Collections began coming in

#2. Major General Amos A. Fries

July 10, 1940

after this period to two banks -- Citizens National Bank, Emporia, Kansas, west of the Mississippi, and County National Bank, Bennington, Vermont, east of the Mississippi. (In New York City the collections from the schools were made by the Colonial Trust Company.

The total received to June 30th in this trust fund was \$135,304.84. Not one cent of the receipts of this fund have been spent for the preliminary educational and administrative work; nor will one cent of it be spent for that purpose. Those expenses, as stated above, are completely covered by the money raised and pledged by individual independent contributions to the other fund.

In accordance with the statements made all through the campaign and since, the pennies raised from children -- over 13,500,000 of them -- will be apportioned by the Jury of Award, on behalf of American children, to existing American relief organizations actually operating in relieving hunger and disease among child victims of the war. The final apportionment has been delayed on the advice of relief administrators abroad because of the war events in Europe within the past six weeks, which has temporarily disrupted a number of the organizations carrying on actual relief work in European areas.

The above facts about these two funds make evident the reason for the erroneous impression given by the figures you quoted in the article from the State Department's report. The State Department, as you know, requires reports every month from all organizations collecting money for relief abroad. Our monthly report which your article referred to was that of April 30th, by which date -- since children's collections were just beginning to be reported -- very little money had been received in the trust fund referred to above. Practically all of the receipts reported to the State Department as of April 30th consisted of independent donations -- not from children -- to the separate administrative fund described above.

In the State Department's form of report, a standard one, receipts are not identified as to purpose of expenditure. The State Department, however, was fully advised about the above-described procedure and -- although their fixed form of report does not allow this full picture of the Children's Crusade financial set-up to appear on its face -- we have been told that the responsible officials of the Department have been verbally informing all inquirers of this actual situation. Prior to publication of your article, inquiry at the State Department of the responsible officials would have disclosed it to you. It will disclose it now, if you wish to confirm the facts in this letter.

In view of these facts, and the damage done to the reputation of the members of the Jury of Award by the publication of your article, on their behalf, I ask that you print this letter entire, and I feel sure you will be happy to do so.

In a letter dated June 26, 1940, addressed to the National Chairman of the Children's Crusade for Children, Dorothy Canfield Fisher, you stated that you wished to print "only things for which we have written proof". I am, accordingly, having this letter signed and sworn to before a notary public.

Very truly yours,
CHILDREN'S CRUSADE FOR CHILDREN, Inc.

HS/s

Treasurer

Sworn to before me this 10th day of July, 1940.

BY DIRECT WIRE FROM

WESTERN UNION

1228

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DL = Day Letter
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NO209 111 3 EXTRA=NEWYORK NY VIA WH WASHINGTON DC 26

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1940 JUL 26 PM 4 33

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100

HERE IS TENTATIVE ALLOTMENT SUGGESTED OF APPROXIMATELY \$135,000 TOTAL COLLECTED CHILDRENS CRUSADE, \$22,500 EACH TO CHINESE FRENCH POLISH JEWISH ENGLISH CHILDREN, ALSO \$7,500 EACH TO FINNISH BELGIAN AND DUTCH CHILDREN. MONEY TO BE DONATED TO PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS NOW OPERATING, NOT RED CROSS, WITH CONDITION IT BE SPENT FOR FOOD AND MEDICINE ONLY EXEPT IN CASE OF ENGLISH CHILDREN, WHERE TRANSPORTATION TO UNITEDSTATES AND OTHER HELP TO LOW INCOME CHILDREN WILL BE SPECIFIED. PLEASE WIRE ME AT ONCE AT ARLINGTON, VERMONT, WHAT YOU THINK OF THIS APPORTIONMENT AND IF YOU CARE TO VOTE FOR IT NOW REFER CONSULTATION BY FULL JURY MEETING IN NEWYORK=

DOROTHY CANFIELD FISHER.

\$135,000 \$22,500 \$7,500.

TELEPHONE No. 959
 TELEPHONE D. O. 7
 TIME 4:39 PM
 BY S TO BE md
 ATTEND TO DELIVER }

THE COMPANY WILL APPRECIATE SUGGESTIONS FROM ITS PATRONS CONCERNING ITS SERVICE

100
July 22, 1940

Dear Mrs. Fisher:

I am so glad that the judges agreed on the amount of money to be sent to China and that the check is going forward at once.

With many thanks for your kindness in letting me know, I am

Sincerely yours,

Mrs. Dorothy Canfield Fisher
Arlington, Vermont

0

DOROTHY CANFIELD FISHER
ARLINGTON, VERMONT

July 17, 1940

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Thanks for your note of the 14th, giving your vote for twenty percent of Children's Crusade money to be given to Chinese children. This makes the vote from the Jury of Award complete, and unanimous. For each one of the other six judges also voted for twenty percent. This will come to about \$27,000. A check for this amount will be given at once (July 26th) to the American Committee for Medical Aid to China. Later on, perhaps in September, the little ceremony of formal presentation to the Chinese Ambassador will take place. He asked to have it postponed till then, and we thought it a pity to wait two months more before putting the money into the hands of those who could use it for Chinese children in distress.

Faithfully yours,

Dorothy Canfield Fisher

August 8, 1940

100

Dear Mrs. Fisher:

Many thanks for your letter.

I am glad to have the information you
sent me.

Very sincerely yours,

Mrs. Dorothy Canfield Fisher
Arlington
Vermont

ds

DOROTHY CANFIELD FISHER
ARLINGTON, VERMONT

*copy
1/10*

W.A.P.

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Thanks for the telegram yesterday from Poughkeepsie, giving your vote for the apportionment of money proposed in my telegram of July 26. William Allen White, Miss Woodruff and I had already voted in the same way. Dr. Glenn (Birmingham, Alabama) gave his tentative assent, asking first for more information about the agencies to which the money will be given, which I have sent him by mail.

You too may be interested to know the details. The money to be used in France would go to the Friends Service Committee. Clarence Pickett tells me they have daily cablegrams from the American Quakers in France in charge of their work, saying that they are having no trouble with German authorities. The Pate relief committee will use the money for Polish children---- mostly for children now gathered into groups in institutions. The United Jewish Committee (well-known to you, I am sure) will receive the money allotted for Jewish children; the Queen Wilhelmina Fund for Dutch children; Mr. Hoover's Finnish Committee for Finnish children; your United States Committee will receive of course the portion allotted for the transfer to this country of British children from poorer families. These checks will be mailed as soon as all the members of the Jury of Award have voted. Only Justice Lehman and Monsignor Ryan have not answered my telegram of July 26. I imagine they are probably away on vacation.

I enclose copies of the news-release when the check was given to the American Bureau for Medical Aid to China. The workers for that fine charity were deeply touched by their share of the Children's Crusade money.

Devotedly yours,

(Dorothy Canfield Fisher

July 31 1940

New. release for N. Y. Newspaper 3
July 27 1946

A check for \$22,500, representing the first allotment of the funds raised by the Children's Crusade for Children for help to children in war-stricken countries, was today, (Friday, July 26 - 11 A.M.) presented to the Women's Committee to China, headed by Pearl Buck, of the American Bureau for Medical Relief to China, in the committee headquarters in Room 401, Graybar Building, New York City.

The presentation was made by Dorothy Canfield Fisher, noted author, who is chairman of the Children's Crusade. Also present at the ceremony were Mrs. Raymond Gram Swing and Mr. Harry Scherman, President of the Book-of-the-Month Club and Treasurer of the Children's Crusade.

A total sum of \$135,000 was raised last April in a nine-day campaign throughout the country by the Crusade, with contributions made by school children based on one cent for each year of their life.

After an extensive three months educational campaign in the American schools, the object of which was to bring home to our children their good fortune in being born in a great and peaceful Federation, this opportunity was given them to show their thankfulness for being Americans by helping other children, now victims of war and persecution. The offering was entirely voluntary, every effort being made by those in charge of the Children's Crusade to avoid anything like the traditional "drive." Hence, this money given represents a free-will offering from the generous hearts of American children.

Selection of the Women's Committee of Tribute to China of

the American Bureau for Medical Aid to China as the recipient of their first contribution was made by the Jury of Award of the Children's Crusade. Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt heads the Jury, which is composed of Monsignor Ryan, Director of the National Conference of Catholic Welfare, William Allen White, the dean of American Journalists, Miss Caroline Woodruff, former president of the National Education Association, Dr. C.D. Glenn, Superintendent of Schools of Birmingham, Alabama, and Honorable Irving Lehman, Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals.

Medical supplies to be purchased from the money contributed to the Women's Committee by the Crusade will be used exclusively for the relief of children in China, according to Mrs. Fisher.

While the official ceremony at which the Children's Crusade contribution will be formally presented by Mrs. Fisher to the Chinese children through the Chinese Ambassador will be held in the Chinese embassy in Washington on September 26th, the need for medical relief of wounded and refugee children is so urgent that it was deemed advisable to purchase the medical supplies immediately and forward for the use of the children in China.

One interesting note is that all supplies purchased with the money of the American children will carry with them a label reading "Given in brotherly sympathy to Chinese children by American boys and girls."

A good deal of interest has been expressed over the way in which these supplies are to travel in safety to Chinese children. A wire from His Excellency the Chinese Ambassador, Dr. Hu Shih, states:

"The Burma route is still open to medical and Red Cross supplies to China."

Assurances have been made by the State Department in Washington that the Burma Road is being closed only for military supplies and will be open to relief provisions. Officials of the American Bureau for Medical Aid to China today stated that due to the urgent need of these supplies in China, many of the supplies had been and will continue to be safely shipped by plane from Manila to Hweiyang which is in Chinese territory under Chinese rule. From there they are safely dispersed through the Chinese Red Cross and the Medical Relief Corps of China.

1940

Remarks made by Dorothy Canfield Fisher on July 26 when the check for \$22,500 was presented to the American Bureau for Medical Aid to China

In these days and weeks and months, filled to the last hour with anger and sorrow and consternation as they are, for sensitive and responsible men and women, we have ^{almost} ~~about~~ forgotten what it is to feel happy. But I think that all of us in this room have reason to feel radiantly happy on this occasion which brings us together. In the midst of world-wide hate we are here acting as the agents of the simplest, oldest, most precious of human emotions, brotherly sympathy.

I am honored by bringing here to send to Chinese children in dreadful need a gift from our American school children. This check for more than \$22,000 loeks, according to the direction from which one views it, large or small. Compared to the enormous and utterly undeserved misery of the army of Chinese children, suffering from hunger and sickness, this sum is minute. But it is immense when we remember that it comes from countless penny gifts from our own warm-hearted girls and boys, from all kinds of American children, those who live in city tenement houses, those who live in safe and comfortable homes, those on remote ranches or in well-to-do homes in cities and villages, or in farm houses and in poor bare shacks---poor children, rich children, colored children, white children, Americans all, living up to the American tradition of helping the innocent in distress.

But from whatever view-point one considers this sum, its meaning is radiant. This money which will safeguard the physical health of so many Chinese children, is medicine for our own moral health and bids us not despair of humanity.

The children who dropped into mite-boxes the two million pennies and more which are starting on their errand of mercy to other children, gave this help voluntarily. The Children's Crusade for Children was no traditional "drive" in which the effort is to track down the unwilling and shame them into giving. It was made easy for our school children not to give if the spirit did not move them. The collection of the Children's Crusade was so arranged that there was no pressure of the opinion of his group brought to bear on any child. No one so much as knew whether any child did or did not add to the pennies in the mite-boxes, of which these two million are now going to their young brothers and sisters in humanity across the Pacific. What our children gave, they gave willingly out of an impulse which may yet save our race in spite of all its tragic faults ----out of brotherly fellow-feeling.

Those here today representing the Children's Crusade are honored and happy to bring from many hundreds of thousands of American boys and girls----the hope of our country----this their gift to Chinese children, the hope of theirs.

FROM The White House
Washington

August 30

Purdine

TELEGRAM

OFFICIAL BUSINESS—GOVERNMENT RATES

E.R: *File*

ARLINGTON, VERMONT

WE ARE ARRANGING FOR A BRIEF CEREMONY OF BRINGING
CHILDRENS CRUSADE CHECKS ANY DAY MOST CONVENIENT TO
YOU IF 30th IS BEST PLEASE WIRE ME IF YOU PREFER
AFTERNOON OR MORNING AND SET HOUR WE ARE SURE THERE
WILL BE NO PARTISAN EFFECT IN HAVING THIS WITH YOU AT
HYDE PARK YOU ARE TO ALL AMERICANS A NATIONAL AND
NOT A PARTISAN FIGURE WARM GOOD GREETINGS

DOROTHY CANFIELD FISHER

*Wire sent
8/23/40. 100*

*wire at
Big house
Fri - 11 AM
aug 30.*

100
August 31, 1940
Hyde Park, New York

My dear Mrs. Fisher:

Mrs. Roosevelt asks me to acknowledge your letter of August 23, and to say she is more than sorry that she did not receive it in time to answer it before the presentation ceremony yesterday.

Very sincerely yours,

Secretary to
Mrs. Roosevelt

Mrs. Dorothy Canfield Fisher
Arlington
Vermont

DD

DOROTHY CANFIELD FISHER
ARLINGTON, VERMONT
August 23, 1940.

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Thanks for your telegram setting the hour of eleven in the morning on August 30th for the little ceremony of presenting the checks representing the money coming from the Children's Crusade. We shall be there promptly and shall try to be as little of a tax as possible on your time and vitality. You are very good to give us this lovely framing for the last act of our undertaking.

The New York members of the Children's Crusade had the idea of having the checks presented by American children to children representing the countries to which the money is going. They are going to be able through the New York public schools to bring up to Hyde Park children in appropriate costumes representing Poland, Finland, France, Belgium, Holland, China, and so forth.. The Americans Friends Service Committee which, as you will remember, was apportioned for its work in France \$22,500, has already had its check since they asked to have it promptly to take advantage of a special German permission to send money into France for their work. But a blank check can be given at Hyde Park just the same so that they will not be left out.

The other members of the Jury of Award have been invited to be present at the ceremony but I doubt if anyone will be able to do so in addition to you and myself, except Miss Woodruff of Castleton, Vermont, whom I hope to bring down with me.

been

I have/asked also to see that the ambassadors of the different countries represented, Poland, Finland, France, Belgium, Holland and England, or somebody representing them, are invited to be present. I don't know exactly what to do about that, first because I doubt very much whether it is really worth their while to make the effort to be there, and secondly, because I rather think the invitation ought to come from you since it is at your home that the ceremony is taking place. Could I hope for a line from you giving me some suggestions on this point?

With the happiest of anticipations,

Faithfully yours,

Dorothy Canfield Fisher

September 11, 1940

My dear Mrs. Fisher:

Thank you for your letter.

I am so glad to know your thoughts about
the children's visit.

Very sincerely yours,

d.

Mrs. Dorothy Canfield Fisher
Arlington
Vermont

Drawing
contributed
by Norman
Rockwell



April 22-30, 1940

CHILDREN'S CRUSADE FOR CHILDREN

Empire State Building, New York

PENNSYLVANIA 6-4343

DOROTHY CANFIELD FISHER, *Chairman* • MRS. HENRY S. CANBY, *National Secretary* • PEARL BUCK, *Literary Chairman*

JURY OF AWARD: ELEANOR ROOSEVELT • MSGR. JOHN A. RYAN • WILLIAM ALLEN WHITE • HON. IRVING LEHMAN
DOROTHY CANFIELD FISHER • DR. CHARLES B. GLENN • CAROLINE S. WOODRUFF

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MARY E. WOOLLEY
D. ROBERT YARNALL

*Special Educators' Sponsoring
Committee in Formation

Received
9-11-40
ER

August 31, 1940

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Thanks and thanks and thanks again! Every-
one of the Children's Crusade group which spent
those fifty minutes with you at Hyde Park came
away glowing with gratitude to you, pride in
you, admiration, and the sort of determination
to "live up to Mrs. Roosevelt" which is so ar-
dently felt by everyone who comes in contact
with you.

I thought many times during that hour
that the Princess Martha could hardly have seen
anything more characteristic of our American democ-
racy in its personal aspects than that invasion of
your home by a group of miscellaneous Americans,
from New York City, from Vermont farms, from our
public school system, from---well, from every-
where, happy and confident in your welcome, honored
to be with you but not abashed or self-conscious,
feeling quite sincerely that your home is----a
little---their home too.

What you said to the children was so admirable,
I printed it on my memory and will use----if you don't
mind----a resume of it in the detailed report of just
what was done with their pennies, which is going out
to all American schools in late September or October.
I will, of course, submit my version of it to you,
before printing it, to make sure you approve.

We all warmly hoped that the Norwegian
Princess could feel the heartfelt and indignant sym-
pathy for her which everyone present (except the chil-
dren, too young to understand the tragedy of her sit-
uation) was silently pouring out for her. In a very
few days, we will send her----as representative of
the as yet non-existent organization to help Norwe-
gian child-victims of the war----the check from the
Children's Crusade. There are some formalities con-
nected with getting it ready. It was wonderful to

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Marion Canby, *Secretary*, Sarah N. Cleghorn, Padric Colum, Edna Ferber, John Gunther, Fannie Hurst, Inez Haynes Irwin,
Christopher Morley, Robert Nathan, Charles G. and Kathleen Norris, Bellamy Partridge, Vincent Sheean, Cornelia Otis Skinner,
Ida M. Tarbell, Booth Tarkington, Dorothy Thompson, Hendrik Willem van Loon, Margaret Widdemer, Lin Yutang.

Drawing
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*Special Educators' Sponsoring
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Mrs. Roosevelt----August 31, 1940

-2-

have her and those sweet children present as a visible sign of the tragedy the Children's Crusade was organized to alleviate.

With even more than my usual admiration and gratitude,

Devotedly yours,

Dorothy Canfield Fisher

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100

Mrs. Dorothy Canfield Fisher
Arlington, Vermont

November 7, 1940

Approve very much of giving accumulation to Girl Scouts.
Very grateful for last report.

Eleanor Roosevelt

100

Mrs. Dorothy Canfield Fisher
Arlington, Vermont

November 7, 1940

Approve very much of giving accumulation to Girl Scouts.
Very grateful for last report.

Eleanor Roosevelt

DOROTHY CANFIELD FISHER
ARLINGTON, VERMONT

October 31, 1940.

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

The enclosed report which is to go out to all School Superintendents and to American newspapers is probably the last of the Children's Crusade work which you will receive. I hope you will approve of this last message, and that you will consider the possibility of voting to give the accumulation of the latest contributions to the Girl Scout organization. They are carrying on an interesting international relief work, and are the only American young people, I believe, who have an international organization of this kind. Of course, a certain number of the Girl Scouts in Europe have become refugees themselves. The American Girl Scouts are trying to reach them with help and sympathy. It seemed to us very suitable to give what is left in the Children's Crusade fund to this organization of American girls.

If you approve of this won't you wire or write me just a line so that I can count your vote as passed.

With every good wish,

Faithfully yours,

Dorothy Canfield Fisher

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w 1-*

Arlington, Vermont
November 1940

Dear Young Americans (from First-graders to High School Seniors):

This is a report made to you boys and girls by the group of people in charge of the Children's Crusade for Children, carried on last year. You will wish, we are sure, to know what happened to the pennies and nickels and dimes you dropped into the mite-cans the last ten days of last April. If you have missed the newspaper news items about the results of this effort, you may not even have heard how much was raised in American schoolrooms, for the beautiful work of helping other children far away, in hunger and despair.

When the Children's Crusade began, there were many grown-ups who said you would pay no attention to that appeal to help refugee children. They pointed out that, at that time last year, few American adults were aware of the utter misery of homeless, exiled children without a country to look out for them. They told us that we were foolish to expect, when grown-ups in your communities were not doing much about this need, that you youngsters would feel a concern.

Well, that showed how little they knew you, American boys and girls. For into the slit in the cover of these mite-cans you dropped, all of you together, fourteen million pennies. Can you imagine what fourteen million pennies look like? We can tell you ---they look like mountains of kindness, like majestic Alps of decent human feeling, like a great hope shining through the night. It's safe to say that many many more than fourteen mil-

lion people have had their hearts lightened and strengthened, just to hear about the great deed of sympathy and helpfulness done by you young Americans.

And before we give our report to you about where all your pennies went, I must tell you that we who were in charge of the Children's Crusade had had money enough given us for all the expenses connected with the movement. Grown-ups, interested in getting help to refugee children, and hoping that you would be interested too, had put their hands into their pockets and contributed enough to pay for the campaign. And it took a lot. We never knew there were so many stamps as were used to carry Children's Crusade printed matter to you in your schools! The printing bill was tremendous of course, because the number of American public schools is like the sands of the sea, and we wanted to print enough to let you all know about this opportunity to join in a beautiful effort. It took, so it seemed to us, tons of paper for the two plays that were sent out, for the statements of the way the Crusade was to be run, for notices to your Superintendents and teachers. To run the one office in New York did not cost so much. Generous, warm-hearted Governor Al Smith gave us a fine big office in the Empire State Building for nothing----that was what he could do to help refugee children, he said. Most of the people connected with the Children's Crusade worked for nothing. The Can Manufacturer's Institute gave the mite-cans which would have cost so much to buy.

None of your pennies were used for expenses. Not one postage stamp (out of all the piles of them needed), not one telephone call, not one sheet of paper was paid for, with what you young folks contributed. Every penny of what you gave was available to pass through

the fine refugee-aid committees, straight from American children, safe in their one homes, to exiled and needy children driven away from theirs.

When \$137,000 had accumulated, this is the way the Jury of Award voted to apportion your money (you remember who the Jury of Award were:- Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, Monsignor Ryan, Dr. Charles Glenn, Justice Irving Lehman, Dr. Caroline Woodruff, Mr. William Allen White and Mrs. Dorothy Canfield Fisher):

- \$22,500 for Chinese children,
- \$22,500 for Quakers in France,
- \$22,500 for Polish children,
- \$22,500 for British children,
- \$22,500 for Jewish children.

Then because the number of children in need in the smaller countries was not so great,

- \$7,500 to Holland,
- \$7,500 to Finland,
- \$7,500 to Belgium.

And finally (more about this latter) \$2,000 to Norwegian children.

We hope it makes you as happy as it makes us, to look at those big big sums of money, and realize that every bit of it came from your putting your hands in your pockets, going without chewing gum for a while, or without ice cream cones, or suckers, or maybe movie tickets. And we hope you feel as proud of yourselves as we do of you, when you realize that you have given the best proofs there is---generous action---that you feel the responsibility put on you just because you are safe, for others in danger.

Now you'll want to know, and we are eager to tell you exactly what was done by each of the refugee-aid committees to whom

your Jury of Award gave some of your money.

The Chinese children were the first to be helped. The American Bureau for Medical Aid to China, as soon as they heard what your Jury of Award had voted to give them, asked if they could have it right away, because the rainy season was about to begin in China and medicine was needed to ward off sickness from the hundreds of thousands of refugee children, back in the interior of China, huddled together in exile, driven away from their homes, living in caves, in tents, in shacks----the future of China depending on them, as the future of every nation depends on its children. So the big check from you young Americans was turned into quinine and serum and other medical supplies, loaded on airplanes, sent across the continent to San Francisco, from there to the Philippines, from there to Rangoon, and from there shipped in trucks over the Burma Road to the interior of China. The Burma Road was closed only to military supplies, not to medicine and food. Look up that route on the maps in your geography books, and try to imagine that the pennies you dropped into the Children's Crusade mite-cans, that last week in April, were back of that great flight of help to the sick and suffering. Your generosity quite literally took wings to itself and flew from your schoolroom, high over our continent and half around the globe to tell desperately poor and needy children, "We American young folks don't forget you. We want to share what we have with you, in your distress, and we send you all our hopes for better times ahead." Over and over again, this humane message will reach those poor Chinese children, for every one of them who received medical help from your gift, will be told, "This comes to you from American school students, little and big, as a proof that they are thinking of you with sympathy."

Now turn the pages of your geography back to Europe, and look at France, poor France! Your help to French refugees, and Belgians, Dutch, and Spanish children caught in France by war, penniless, homeless, despairing, the American Quakers distributed for you. They were already organized all over France with camps to shelter the homeless, with feeding stations to distribute food and clothing to the wanderers. With your check they did something which astonished us and pleased us as much as it surprised us. They spent it all, every penny, on buying condensed milk from Switzerland. You see, Switzerland is one of the greatest producers of dairy products in the world. Before the war shut the Swiss into their mountains, they sold condensed milk all over the world----to the tropics, in the far north, in big cities everywhere. But now, they can't reach their old customers. Exportation is at a standstill. And cows don't know anything about war and closed frontiers, and go on giving milk, and must be milked regularly. So the supply of condensed milk was piling high with nobody to buy it, and the Swiss were as anxious to sell it as the Quakers were to get food for their refugee children. Did you ever think, you American boys and girls in Alabama, or Maine, or Texas, or Wyoming, when you dropped your pennies tinkingly into the Children's Crusade mite-box, that you were going to help hungry children in France, and also honest, hard-working Swiss farmers, very anxious about how to keep going? We think you'll agree with us that you never spent any money to better advantage than this which went to the Society of Friends for their work for refugees in France.

Now as to the money you gave to help Polish Children----you

know the need there is tragic, almost greater than anywhere else. And yet no! The need everywhere is so great that it's not possible to say that starving children are any hungrier in one place than another. But in Poland the conditions are dreadfully hard. Many children are being kept alive by community kitchens, which serve the food they prepare right on the spot (this is an assurance that nobody else can take it away from the children who need it so). So your large check for Polish children went to the organization which is running these community kitchens, and they too, like the Chinese relief workers, and like the Quakers in France, are telling all children you are helping, that American school children and young people are sending them the money to buy food, also their sympathy, their brotherly thought and concern.

As to the share of your great gift which was given to Jewish children, the older ones among you, those who read the newspapers, those who study current events, don't need to be told why one of the larger apportionments of the Children's Crusade fund was made for Jewish boys and girls-----everywhere! For there are Jewish children, innocent of any fault, who are suffering, as no children should ever suffer, all over the globe. Here is one of the finest things you did in the Children's Crusade. As long as you live, no matter what happens to you, no matter what mistakes you make, you can always be proud that at a time when grown-ups in more places than can be counted, were wickedly abusing helpless men, women and children who had done no harm to anyone, you American school children made a noble gesture of humane good feeling and sympathy for the oppressed. Put that away in your memories, young fellow-countrymen, and get it

out to look at, if you ever feel down-hearted. Young as you are, you have made a beautiful, golden contribution to the great humane ideal of justice and mercy.

The money given to help British refugee children is being spent not to pay their passage over here, or their expenses here, for that is being taken care of by funds from adults, but to help keep up the arrangements for helping them get well settled in this country. Before they can be sent to an American home, many of them must have medical examinations, their papers must be checked, they must be kept safe and well while waiting to be sent into the homes which are to be theirs during their stay here. And few of their families have money to pay for this. Your money is helping pay for this first hospitality they get after they arrive in the U.S.A.

Now for the smaller gifts to children in smaller countries: ----the gift to Finnish children is to be spent for something very familiar to you all----for hot lunches in schools for those who can't afford to pay for them. Finland was, you know, a fine, modern, civilized country, which tried to take the best of care of its school children, just as much as we do. But after the frightful loss of money, life and territory which the country has suffered, many of their best institutions are breaking down for lack of funds. It seemed impossible to carry on the hot lunches, needed though they are, by school children. But you young Americans in our schools, came to the rescue. "Let us help out!" you shouted with your penny gifts, and sent your money across the Atlantic to Finnish schools, in which there will be notices posted that the hot lunches are being carried on partly through the free-will offering of young Americans. Aren't you glad to hear it?

The money for the children in Holland is just being held in

trust by the Queen Wilhelmina Fund, because nobody can get into Holland now to help anybody, or even know what is going on. They are waiting and watching every sign, every possibility to reach the Dutch children with your help. Let us pray that it may be soon! Your gift to the Belgian children is being used to help those of them----a great many of them----who have reached England and are in refugee camps there.

And as to the Norwegian smaller gift, this is what happened: ----when we all went to Hyde Park to the home of the President of the United States, for the ceremony of handing over these checks, representing your contribution, to the representatives of the relief agencies, we had not thought of apportioning any money to Norwegian children, much as we wished to, because there was ~~no~~ nobody to take it in trust, no American organization to distribute it. But there at the President's house we found the Crown Princess of Norway, arrived in this country only the day before, with her three children. They are refugees too, you see, homeless, exiled, separated from all their friends and family. The Princess looked so sad, and even her little girls too had so sadly the sober, smileless "refugee look" that we longed to include her and her country in the cheer and friendliness of what you American boys and girls did in the Children's Crusade. So a hasty vote was taken among the members of the Jury of Award who were there, and a check for part of a small left-over sum, was given to one of the little sad-faced, golden-haired Princesses. We thought you young people would approve of this, and we hope you do. *The Crown Princess is to hold the money until it is possible to help Norwegian children with it.* Since the closing of the Children's Crusade campaign, the first of last May, a good many late contributions have been coming in----a teacher had written in July she was astonished to find the check representing the Children's Crusade gift still on her desk, not yet sent.

Or a cashier of a Bank sent in a check just brought to the Bank by the treasurer of a school, who hadn't had time till then to take care of it. Or, in some splendid cases, school children worked in their vacation hours and sent their earnings to help the desolate. These late-arriving contributions have all been put in the same Bank in Bennington, Vermont, where the regular contributions were deposited. As soon as we think the very last one has come, the Jury of Award will be asked to vote on what to do with the several thousand dollars which will have accumulated. The notice of that last apportionment will be sent to all the newspapers, so you'll find something about it, probably when you look for items for your current events class.

So now the Children's Crusade is over. This is the last notice you will get from those who worked so hard for it. And yet, as even the younger among you know, the need for helping child-victims of war and persecution is more heart-breaking now than ever. What we feel is that now you Americans in our schools don't need us any more to remind you to go without one of your extras and send help to other youngsters who haven't even the barest necessities. Every American, young and old, knows now, as people did not realize a year ago when the Children's Crusade began, that children all over the world need help; and that we, here in this country should, if we have hearts, try to send aid to those children. You don't need anybody to suggest to you that not one American child should celebrate Christmas this year, without sending help to others who will have a sad sad hopeless Christmas if we do not share with them.

At the bottom of this statement you will find a list, giving the names and addresses of the charitable organizations which have

been spending your Children's Crusade money, so wisely and carefully to get the utmost help for the unfortunates. Anything you can send to any one of them will go straight to a suffering child. You can talk over the list with your teacher in your classroom, and decide where you would rather have your pennies go----to Chinese children, to Polish, to Finnish and all the rest. No matter what you decide, you will find a relief committee, reliable, devoted, hard-working, well-organized, which will be glad to receive whatever you can send, and which will spend it so that every cent counts.

You are Americans, even the First-graders. And as Americans you inherit the generous idea of help to harmless people in trouble. Now that you know, by name, street address, city and State, where to send your help, we leave it with you to live up to your country's ideals. A blessing will shine on everyone of you who opens his heart and hand to help the innocent in distress.

Dorothy Canfield Fisher

Marion Canby

Betty Gram Swing

Pearl Buck

Alice Mary Kimball

Harry Scherman

List of names and addresses of refugee committees are to go here.

Drawing
contributed
by Norman
Rockwell



April 22-30, 1940

CHILDREN'S CRUSADE FOR CHILDREN

Empire State Building, New York

PENNSYLVANIA 6-4343

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RAYMOND GRAM SWING
HOBACE D. TAFT
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IRVIN A. WILSON
MARY E. WOOLLEY
D. ROBERT YARNALL

*Special Educators' Sponsorship
Committee in Formation

Arlington, Vermont
November 29, 1940

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Thanks so much for sending to the
Crusade the twenty cents sent to you for
the English Relief Fund. This money has
been placed with some recent contributions
to the Children's Crusade in the Bank at
Bennington.

As the New York office is now
closed your letter was forwarded up here
where we are attending to the last details
of the Children's Crusade.

Very sincerely yours,

Georgia F. Rice

Mrs Carl Rice
Secretary to Mrs. Fisher

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January 23, 1941

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Dear Mrs. Fisher:

Many thanks for sending me the clipping. I was very much interested to see it.

I hope if you are at the dinner tomorrow you will come up and speak to me.

Very sincerely yours,

Mrs. Dorothy Canfield Fisher
Arlington
Vermont

DD

DOROTHY CANFIELD FISHER
ARLINGTON, VERMONT

January 18, 1941

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I've asked Monsignor Ryan to forward to you this clipping about the Children's Crusade gift to the Spanish child-refugees in Ecuador. It pleased me, and I'm sure will please you, to know that the small news-item is reported in a South American newspaper in a way to bring out the general friendly humanity of the spirit of the United States.

Don't bother to return the clipping or acknowledge its arrival. I'm going (if I'm well enough) to the January 24th dinner for you of the Women's Trade Union League. If you see me there, I'll take a wave of your hand as acknowledgment. The pressure on you of all important matters, gets visibly denser and denser. You must not take an ounce of your vitality for lesser things.

With devoted admiration always,

Dorothy Canfield Fisher

January 30, 1941

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My dear Mrs. Fisher:

I am really sorry that you did not come to speak to me at the League dinner. It was nice to get your very kind note and you are more than generous in what you say.

Many thanks, and every good wish to you.

Very sincerely yours,

Mrs. Dorothy Canfield Fisher
Arlington
Vermont

DD

DOROTHY CANFIELD FISHER
ARLINGTON, VERMONT

Handwritten: ~~Handwritten~~ ER
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JANUARY 27, 1941

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I came home from that wonderful Women's Trade Union League gathering to find your characteristically gracious note suggesting that I go to see you there. But I'm glad I didn't, warmed as I am to the heart's core by any contact with you. That occasion belonged wholly to the League's members. And how they revelled in it! It was pure joy to see their happiness in having you, so concentrated on you that it was almost literally visible like light-rays. I usually don't enjoy that kind of big social function at all. But that one was alive with good feeling, righteous pride in themselves and such faith in you. And you spoke as though inspired. Well might you be! I hope you felt as happy as you looked.

I share their faith and pride!

Devotedly yours,

Dorothy Canfield Fisher

June 10, 1941

My dear Mrs. Fisher:

I think your suggestions as to what to do with the remaining funds in the account of the Children's Crusade are fine. I heartily approve of sending the \$350 to the Czech children, and also of turning over the rest of the money and any late gifts which may come in to the Society of Friends.

Very sincerely yours,

Mrs. Dorothy Canfield Fisher
Arlington
Vermont

DD

DOROTHY CANFIELD FISHER
ARLINGTON, VERMONT

June 3, 1941

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I'm writing for the Children's Crusade again, probably for the very last time. It is to tell you that almost \$1200 has accumulated in the bank from late-coming gifts from American children----some of the contributions being voluntary Christmas presents sent from our own children to their exiled and homeless young comrades.

Sometimes ago we received a letter from a smaller relief organization giving especial care to 265 Czechoslovak orphan refugees now in England. They inquired as to the reason the Children's Crusade had not appropriated any money for Czech child victims of the war, and seemed to fear that none had been given because the Czechs did not resist by arms the German invasion. I hastened to explain that no such thought had crossed our minds, and that we had appropriated no money for Czech children solely because there was, as far as our information went, no Czech-American relief organization then in existence.

Under the circumstances Mr. Scherman (Treasurer of the Children's Crusade organization) and I think it would be well to send these Czech children now the charge of England, \$350, and hope you will approve of this.

In addition, we would like now to get a final vote from the Children's Crusade Jury of Award both about what remains of the money in hand, and any other late gifts which may come in. It is our idea that The American Society of Friends would be sure to make excellent use of money sent them. The Quakers are respected and trusted everywhere. Their relief work for refugees ranges from China to Great Britain. If you approve, we will from now on, simply forward at once to The Society of Friends, whatever contributions may be made to the Children's Crusade----probably a negligible amount after this last distribution of funds, as proposed in this letter. I hope it won't be too much trouble to you to let me know soon your decision.

You will be interested to know, I feel sure, that a great many fine letters from school children and their teachers have come in, in response to the final report sent out in early December.

With warmly friendly greetings,

Sincerely yours,

Dorothy Canfield Fisher

March 14, 1942

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Dear Mrs. Fisher:

I appreciate your letter of March 11th and I shall love the autographed copy of the report of the Youth Commission. Thank you for thinking of sending it to me.

Sincerely yours,

Mrs. Dorothy Canfield Fisher
Arlington, Vermont

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DOROTHY CANFIELD FISHER
ARLINGTON, VERMONT

March 11, 1942

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I didn't suppose that anybody else felt as I always have about portraits----a whole-hearted dislike of being the subject of one----or I wouldn't have bothered you about Mrs. Kaufmann's interesting and vivid collection of heads of American leaders. What I wish is that some magical way could be found of making a portrait of you in action, as you look when speaking on one of the vital themes which you have made your own. There's something magnificent about the living flow out to you from the audience of warmed, heartened, reassured confidence and trust, and from you to them of glowing serene vitality. If a portrait could preserve your aspect at such moments ...! But that's something that can be preserved only in our memories and in American tradition. And it will be.

I'm doing something absurd in sending you a book to read, (as soon as I get a copy sent me from Washington). It is the final report of the Youth Commission. I wrote the last chapter myself and can't resist the impulse just to put an autographed copy on your shelves, although who has time in these days for such reading?

Thanks so much for your kind willingness (so characteristic) to see Mrs. Kaufmann, and advise her. It will give her an unforgettable moment.

With every friendly good wish,

Devotedly yours,

Dorothy Canfield Fisher

Thanks I'll love it.

ER

May 15, 1942

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My dear Mrs. Fisher:

Thank you so much for your letter about the N.Y.A. I have consulted frequently with Mr. Williams about it but Congress is so difficult I really don't know just what will be done.

Very sincerely yours,

Mrs. Dorothy Canfield Fisher
Arlington
Vermont

DD

DOROTHY CANFIELD FISHER
ARLINGTON, VERMONT

May 12th 1942

Dear Mrs Roosevelt:

This time I feel justified (as I often do not when it is a matter of a personal request) in writing an appeal to you. I'm terribly concerned about the possibility that the best resident-centers of the N.Y.A. program may be swept from existence in the storm. And I'm writing to ask you to see Mr Aubrey Williams about this, trying to make him feel that he would be backed up in an attempt to hold together a frame-work of that splendid work, by public opinion, even against the most prejudiced Congressman

The resident centers are by all odds the very best new educational device which our country has seen since the spread of the public high school---and I think more important. I'm sending you herewith the carbon copy of a letter I am today sending to Mr Williams, and also a typescript of a chapter in a book I am just finishing, soon to be published. They explain themselves---if only you can find time to look at them. Probably your practised eye can, with a few sweeps get the general meaning of the pages.

To let them go, in order to concentrate on immediate industrial returns, would be to use the railroad up in an emergency of transportation without keeping up the tracks and rolling stock. A fatal misconception, it seems to me, of how the undeniably necessary economies should be effected.

Mr Williams' fine work has met with so much loud misunderstanding and unfair criticism, that I imagine he thinks nobody of the general public appreciates what it has meant. That wouldn't be surprising. But I do hope it won't make him hold his hand from a strong, bold attempt to save those resident centers which have the finest human values. As I've tried to say in my letter to him, even a Congressman (this letter is for your eyes only or I wouldn't speak so openly!) who seems to value only material things, must be able to understand that for the sake of real industrial efficiency no training is so effective as that given in the resident centers.

As always, devotedly yours

(Dorothy Canfield) Fisher

May 12, 1942

Dear Mr. Williams:

I'm writing today to Mr. Ferguson of the Readers' Digest (who's been asking me for some months to write something for them) asking him to come to see me on Friday morning (the 15th) when I'm to be in the city for a few hours for a meeting of the Committee of Selection of the Book-of-the-Month Club. What I am going to propose to the Readers' Digest is an article on the NYA resident centers, along the lines of the chapter on that subject which I sent you. That magazine has been, I know, rather considering adding to what they have published about NYA but have been ----so far----rather hindered by the idea that it would necessarily have a partisan or political color.

Now I am----almost notoriously----not in politics, not partisan. Like a good many elderly women, my habits of mind were set before partisan politics was a natural medium for women. I've often rather regretted this instinctive avoidance on my part of two such live wires as religious dogma and party politics. But there are times when it is useful. And this may be one of them. At least I mean to speak energetically about the possibility of my writing an article for them, bringing out the extraordinary value of the resident work-study center, as an inspired device for meeting the needs of adolescents new in our industrial society, without laying such new vast burdens on the American tax-payer.

It is impossible to say in advance, of course, what any editors are going to decide. But I have grounds to believe that they may really listen to my presentation of this idea. If so, the distribution would be enormously wide, of course, reaching far more American readers than could be done by reprints of my article on the same subject in the Christian Herald.

I would have waited before writing you till I had a definite decision from them, if I had not heard to my great alarm that the Regional Directors of the NYA project obliged to make a great reduction in the program, are not allowing the State Directors, intimately in touch with the project, to decide where the cut is to be made, but are themselves decreeing exactly which projects are to be eliminated. Among them, for instance, so I hear (but I do hope I am misinformed) that remarkably fine resident center at Lima, N. Y., and the agricultural one at Hardwick, N. Y. Both of these I

saw when I was gathering information on the NYA resident center work, and admired them both so much that I consider it a real calamity to have them brought to a close. There is a great interest in the possibility now of using student help on the farms this summer, and one of the difficulties which is making itself dauntingly felt, is the entire lack of training for farm work of the urban students who are flocking so eagerly to enroll themselves as summer workers. This brings to the fore the whole matter of preparation of youth for helping in agriculture, and shows in an even brighter light than before the value of such a practical center as the one at Hardwick. I've just made arrangements to send Mr. Medved, New York director, to have a talk with Dorothy Thompson (a fellow Vermonter of mine, as perhaps you know, and a personal friend) about the Hardwick center which is near enough her for her to visit and about which I hoped she might write one of her pieces.

One of the aspects of the Resident Center which I want to bring out for the Readers' Digest (if they'll agree to take it) is the actual "job-holding value" of the residence at the centers, of their young people. All through the six years of hearing at the Youth Commission meetings, reports from industrial and other employers, I was struck with their insistence on personality and character traits, as well as manual and trade skill. Stability, experience in getting along with other people, ability to cooperate both with a foreman and with fellow-workers, are, from the employers' point of view, as valuable as specialized skills. One thing which is often said is that they would actually prefer to train older women for many of the light industrial jobs, than have kids around who knew their technical stuff but were still so inexperienced in arranging their personal lives that they often made nuisances of themselves, personally.

Now it is this irreplaceable experience of civilized living-together, self-government, responsibility, which is obtained in good NYA resident centers, and----at least for the working-class youth----nowhere else. Lima is a brilliant example of this value. The records of achievement of "graduates" (if that's what you call them) of resident centers have really overwhelming proof of this fact, of the practical industrial, producing value to the employer and to the worker, of some experience outside the family (often very restricted in scope, and where the adolescent is always in the position of "child," not as pre-adult) as a transition from family life to the responsibility for managing himself of the mature worker. I'd like to underline this point in what I next write about the resident centers.

And it is this point which makes me so really appalled to learn that the resident centers are being cut,

Williams----May 12, 1942

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not, so I understood, by the decision of the NYA State officials who have given their hearts to the program, but by decree from on high. There is of course no possibility of resisting a cut, if that is enforced on the NYA. But to have that fall on the part of the program which has made, by all odds, the most permanent contribution to the enormous problem of educating our adolescents----that really seems unbearable to this old American, who has, as you know, absolutely no concern except for a better future for the masses of our young folks.

Can't something be done about this? I imagine that the Regional Directors are acting as they feel Congress insists they should. But I feel sure that you would have back of you----if it could be organized and made articulate----such a body of public opinion that even the most literally materialistic Congressman could not but be impressed by the literal and material value to young workers-in-training, of the personality ripening which they get in the good resident centers.

I am at your service in this matter if you can think of anything more I can do with my pen or voice to help prevent what would be, I feel, a real disaster to a potentiality of the richest value to our American future.

Faithfully yours,

May 12, 1942 This is a chapter from a book, soon to be published, entitled "Our Young Folks" by Dorothy Canfield Fisher.

Resident Centers

A place away from home where older adolescents live for a time in groups, at government expense, under the supervision of people paid by tax-money to teach them useful modern skills and so to prepare them for holding jobs in modern production. This fairly complete description would apply to a CCC camp just as accurately as to NYA resident centers. As a matter of actual fact, they are as different from each other as a clapboarded family farmhouse is from a barracks. The contrast is so exact that it almost has the look of something planned. Yet the NYA resident centers can hardly be said to have been planned at all, rather to have grown up as plants do, differing in form according to the climate. Certainly they were not minutely blue-printed to the last hinge and window-casing, as the CCC camps have been. The resident ^centers took----so to speak----whatever hinges and window-casings were to be found, and made them do. "Making things do" has been the motto and basis of these centers.

In these institutions, young people both boys and girls from poorer families live together, work and study, learn useful ~~skills~~ skills and experience group-life on a civilized plane. That sounds like the celebrated Danish folk-schools. Most traveled, well-informed Americans (the few of them who know that American resident work-study resident schools exist) are apt to think that they must be copied from the Danish idea, which so miraculously accomplished the regeneration, spiritual and material, of the Danish people. No,

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page two

not at all. The first one in our country grew, literally grew, out of conditions in connection with a rural Louisiana technical training state institution in south-western Louisiana----not a region likely to model itself on anything done in Denmark. It was a simple, practical matter of feeding and lodging boys from relief families who lived too far away from the institution to profit by such part time, elementary courses as might be devised to help them learn how to grow food. This first living-away-from-home work-school began in December, 1936. It was a cooperative enterprise to provide living arrangements for students who had no cash to pay for their board. This was not at all a new idea. My Vermont grandmother went to such a school in the 1820's. It was called then an Academy. She brought her food from the family farm, and cooked it herself. The plan worked well then, and it worked well in Louisiana in 1936.

By June, 1937, four such cooperative work-study homes were opened in Arkansas. The thin, anaemic, strengthless, untrained boys and girls in them came from harsh home conditions compared to which the bare, primitive, communal life they entered was like a high-grade college. They thrived, physically, mentally, spiritually. Each one gained from ten to twenty pounds of hard muscle in the first few months, many of them never having had before three full meals in any one day. They learned not only how to use the Arkansas soil to grow food such as their families had never had, but how to live in Arkansas conditions in a way which meant health and zest, and advancement in the simpler arts and practices of civilization.

Resident Centers
page three

And----here is an item one would like to telegraph to Hitler's propaganda headquarters, busy with statements about the hypocrisy of our country's treatment of its darker-skinned citizens----similar resident centers were rapidly established for colored boys and girls, scattered over many Southern states. Compare the photographs shown in this book of some of the homes from which those Negro young people come, and their learning and working life in the resident centers and see if it doesn't give you a cheerful moment or two, no matter how black with foreboding the daily news is. The number of such centers make up but a drop in the bucket of tragic need, yes. But it is a healing drop of honest, sincere effort to do better, to begin, at least, to right an ancient wrong. And that, in a period so crammed with summons to feel ashamed and sorry for our sins, is something to be proud of.

As naturally as Golden Bantam corn spread into American gardens, not because it was a new but because it was a much better variety, these work-learn-live resident centers spread over our country. They look like a half-unconscious, instinctive continuation of an old, old local educational American tradition of quite another kind. It does not seem to be by chance alone that they are so often located in century-old buildings formerly used for boarding schools, academies or seminaries where students from families with little cash, like my grandmother's, used to keep their expenses down by bringing their own food and fuel from home. Transposed into intensely modern terms, something of the same spirit still animates these learning groups of American youth, whether in Idaho, Wisconsin, or New York.

The almost bewitched invisibility which keeps most of us from knowing what the NYA has been doing, hangs with especial thickness

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page four

over these school-shop-homes, although they are situated about in the very midst of our life. On hearing a mention of them, a recent President of the National Educational Association exclaimed the other day, "What are they? Never knew such schools existed." The residents of the very towns where they have been established, who, every day, walk past the big signs stating what they are, and what especial skills are being taught in that particular one, seldom step in to see for themselves what is going on. Why? Is it because the name being usually given in capital letters encounters in many minds a confused association with "all those alphabetical government agencies?" Yet the similarly alphabetical YMCA has become a perfectly accepted word in our vernacular. Is it the older familiar spathy of people who live near a historical sight or building and so never go to visit it? Is it because the resident centers are so new----for they are the very latest of the educational experiments carried on by our Federal government----that most of us simply have not had time to learn that they exist? Whatever the reason, an almost complete ignorance about them can be counted on in almost any reader's mind, as in the mind of the citizen who never goes in to visit one established in his town.

If he did, he would be struck by the almost mathematically exact contrast to what the CCC does. Item by item, they are entirely different. Living quarters for CCC camps were constructed for the purpose, out of new material, in places where no one had ever lived before. The resident centers have, almost like swarming bees, made a home-hive out of any abandoned buildings available. In each CCC camp, all over the country, very much the same day's program is carried on. In resident centers the work varies from milking cows in

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page five

one place to welding steel in another, from assembling fluorescent electric lights and constructing radio sets to taking care of turkeys or making wooden bedsteads. The young people in CCC camps are all boys, living with adult men on about the terms of private soldiers with their officers. In most resident centers, boys and girls together work, study, play and eat under the supervision of men and women with whom their relations are about the same as those between teachers and students in boarding schools. In the CCC camps, book study is optional: what of it is done has often no connection with the work of the day: the hours set aside for it are in the evening, after all the other business of the day----work, play, meals----is over with: the teachers are mostly inexperienced young men, with no specialized training as educators. In resident centers the young people work for four hours each day, and are required to study four, generally under professionally trained teachers, always subjects which are closely related with the work they have done that very day. The four-hour a day study period in the resident centers is sometimes in the morning, sometimes in the afternoon, but always considered as a full half of each day's required effort on a par with productive work. The boys in overalls leave the lathes on which they are learning to "spin" steel into shapes needed in airplane manufacturing, and sit down at desks to study the mathematics involved in understanding what they are doing with their hands. The girls step from preparing food which is actually needed and actually eaten at the next meal by their group, to the book-study of the theory of nutrition, under the guidance of a teacher professionally trained in that subject.

As might be expected, the use of the do-it-yourself principle in the NYA centers greatly brings down the cash cost of running them.

For each CCC boy, our government spends considerably more than a hundred dollars a month, with no reduction made since the beginning. The young people in resident centers are taken care of for about fifty dollars a month each. This cost is constantly decreasing as they grow more of their own food, make more of the furniture they need, become more and more self-sufficing. The very plain, not meagre, but barely sufficient food they eat (macaroni, string beans, milk, bread, butter and cookies are a typical meal), the dilapidated buildings they inhabit so cheerfully and try so zestfully to make attractive, the absolutely self-done care of their living quarters and of their own minute supply of clothing, the astonishingly small economic margin of the whole enterprise, with every corner cut, every cent unspent which can possibly be replaced with effort----the whole atmosphere is in the oldest American tradition of "Eat it up, wear it out, make it do, do without." It is a background which makes really laughable the attacks on the NYA resident centers as "pampering young people who should be out at work." To be out at work is the passionate ambition of every poor boy and girl in these centers, taking ardent advantage of the unique chance to work and to learn how to work. When one of them cries out, "Oh, I've got a job!" it is with the same exultation that the middle class boy waves his college diploma at his family.

Here is another of the constantly recurring contrasts in methods between the CCC camps and the resident centers. The supervisors in charge of the CCC camps never have their families with them. To see a child living in such a camp would be as extraordinary as to see a flamingo in Maine. The enrollees, far from any settlement, neither have nor see any family life: except when they are on leave away from camp, never see a child's or a woman's face. The exact

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page seven

opposite prevails in the resident centers. Married teachers and supervisors with their children eat at the same table with the big boys and girls, live under the same roof with them, making their homes as best they can in rooms like those used by the students, homes where the studying and working boys and girls come and go freely, seeing---- often for the first time----what ordinary normal family life is. The buildings used by the CCC camps as the resident centers are again at two extremes: the CCC camps are brand-new, put up for the purpose, long barracks, with the new wood and tar-paper aspect of temporary lumber camps. The resident centers are scattered here and there, perching like barn-swallows under any old eaves they can find, most often in buildings which have a long history as part of the communal life of a village, town, or farming district.

As a denominational boarding-school, seminary or academy, originally supported by a church, is supplanted by tax-supported public high schools, slowly runs down to a dead stop, it is often taken over as a resident center. The time-battered, unused shells of the buildings have, perhaps, had no care, nor repairs for years. Renovating, painting, paper-hanging, outfitting, scrubbing, plumbing, furnishing on its own steam as it goes along, a group of moneyless youth once more fills those empty shells with just what they were built to hold--- American youth learning how to live and to work. The old dormitories once more have boys in one building, girls in another, pinning up pictures of their home-folks, managing with a few yards of bright material and a few trinkets from the nearest ten-cent store to make their living quarters not only decently human but individual. In the large old kitchens, often on the very same ancient ranges, girls in aprons take turns in cooking and serving meals, boys wait on tables, the big bare dining-rooms are once more vociferous with cheerful

young voices. Teaching men and women and their younger children are mixed with the learning young folks, at meals, in leisure hours, as well as in classes. It is a perfectly recognizable continuation of a familiar old school folkway thoroughly transposed into modern terms.

Take the question of discipline as an instance of the modernness of this old agency. The problem is the same as ever---how to organize twenty-four-hours-a-day life for big boys and girls, at the age usually thought to be full of dynamite, so that it will be orderly, wholesome, pleasant for them, safe---the right background for learning and growth. Rules for conduct were formerly handed down from on high, to be accepted without question by the youth, and enforced (if possible) by teachers unfortunate enough to be slated for this dismal police-work. The student groups are now, as in the best of our modern schools practically self-governing---with the inevitable necessary minimum of adult backing and supervision, varying according to circumstances from nothing at all to vigorous help in emergencies. Citizenship is thus not only taught in classes, but constantly and realistically practiced within a framework of self-made laws, enforced by self-elected youth officers. Courts staffed by young people hearing the evidence, ~~make~~ make their own decisions, devise their own penalties for infractions.

What are infractions? They vary from neglect of corners in sweeping dormitory corners and rooms, or flagrantly bad grabbing manners at meals, to returning too late after an expedition to town or an unexcused absence from a work-period of classroom hour. One "infraction" often committed by new-comers is in connection with decent cleanliness for eating supper. The boys as well as the girls do their own laundry work, and the matter of decently clean shirts in which to sit down to the evening meal is one of the subjects the young self-government authorities often take up. The rate of pay for each young

person at a resident center in return for his daily productive four hours work in shops or fields is generally about twenty-sevenpents a day. Often this is the first money ever earned by these boys and girls. For the occasional poor boy who comes in to the center, just with the clothes he has on, the first purchase made is often a second shirt, bought by saved-up day's allowances, so that the clean-shirt-for-dinner rule can be observed. And after that, the next purchase is often the pair of real shoes which cannot in modern times ^{be} by improvised out of raw material by the utmost individual ingenuity.

As to the young people themselves, the greatest difference between the CCC and the resident centers is that resident centers train girls as well as boys. Otherwise the young people are very much alike, belonging as they all do to the group which had gradually been pushed by industrialism entirely away from both work and learning how to work. The ideal of the resident centers is to provide, along with how-to-work learning opportunities, some chance to learn how to live, as well. Whether consciously planned or not, what grows naturally out of an assembling of youth, work, teaching adults and life-in-common, is a balance between study, actual productive modern work and learning how to live. This last is "taught" in no class, but by experience in decent, self-directed, approximately normal living-conditions.

Of course, at present the pattern like all our American living-patterns, has been violently shoved into one-sidedness by the feverish intensity of industrial war-needs. The actual manufacturing which can be done by young workers in so essential a part of winning the war that both boys and girls are now being pushed through specialized, concentrated machine-handling experience at top speed and discharged into factories to hold jobs, often at the end of only three

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months of residence in the center. The ideal term would be at least a year. One would say that three months is far too short a time to show any effect of a new way of life on character and personality. But no. Even now, striking results appear from brief experience of well-run ^{of} group life, from the daily personal and human contacts with teaching adults superior in cultivation and education to those formerly known by the youth. Boys and girls from isolated back-roads farms, paralyzed to shy, awkward dumbness by a new face, move freely and easily in a group by the time they "graduate" from a resident center into a job in a war factory. Boys and girls from desperately poor city tenement homes after only those few weeks of observation and experience of elementary decencies in eating and washing (both faces and shirts) go out to the modest economic independence of their first wage-earning work with an incredibly greater ability to enjoy their fair share of the everyday conveniences and institutions provided by our society for its members. They learn, for instance, enough of what the average amenities of plain life are, so that they can go into an ordinary hotel for a meal, without agonizing self-doubt as to manners: they learn that they are welcome in public libraries and community centers: they acquire enough self-confidence to discuss with a railroad conductor, reasonably and quietly without belligerent alarm or timid acquiescence, a possible mistake made in the purchase of a ticket.

This changed attitude towards life they learn through their pores, as unconsciously as they breathe. But they learn it quite as definitely as they learn in their four-hours-a-day "related training classes" how to put together the lines and figures on flat sheets of blue-print paper so that they have a mental picture of a three-

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dimensional object which they can construct accurately to measurements in wood or metal.

Certain bugbears have been cleared forever out of the way by the results of the resident center experiment. One of them is the idea that older boys and girls cannot safely share daily life, study and work, except under a stringent discipline of all-pervasive authority like that of an educational Gestapo. A much older human institution seems to work better than educational secret police under a dictatorship----the very old institution of the big family. A mixture of men and women, girls and boys, working, teaching, learning and playing together is the oldest of our communal habits. It seems to have survived all the incredible changes in our other habits because it is the most efficient way to organize life for the adolescents. A well-balanced diet and exercise program does not cure bodily sickness: it prevents most of it. A daily life program which has in it a good share of those human relations shown by experience to be needed for personality-health does not discover new cures for the new modern neuroses. It prevents their developing.

The last phase of the transition from child to adult has proven the most difficult one to manage in the modern small family. Larger-income families have always sent away to boarding schools many of their sons and daughters at this age. The resident centers provide for lower-income young folks, this group life, larger in numbers but still in more or less natural relation with each other, in which the older adolescent can safely, successfully, make his way through the last ~~next~~ steps from dependent childhood to independent maturity. In this background he can take on genuine responsibility for the conduct of his own life to a much larger degree than ever before. But

he is still safeguarded by the framework around him from making those tragic, irreparable, gangster-producing mistakes which follow when he assumes that responsibility too young, or in solitude: or at any age in any circumstances without having had some personal experience of results following on cause. The most burning desire of normal adolescence is precisely to assume personal responsibility for self-direction. Hence so to organize group life as to give them this responsibility for self-government as much as is safe, is to plane your wood with the grain, not across it, always the greatest possible economy of both effort and material.

Future students of the educational explorers of our period of history cannot fail to notice also what an invaluable psychological transition-step, from modern childhood to modern life, is provided by having the young people work directly for themselves, providing for many of their own needs by their own efforts. It is a long long gap from the childish taking-for-granted that food, clothing and lodging will always be provided by some adult, to the industrial complexity of working, not to get what you need directly, but to get some money with which to buy what you need. The resident work-study center gives adolescents an experience of the simpler, old-time way of providing by direct personal effort a large part of the actual food, clothing and lodging they need.

Yet this is not, as it is done by the resident center organization, an expansive, artificial, anachronistic pretense of living primitively as one's forefathers did, like the tent-dwelling, wood-chopping, high-tuition summer camps. There is, it is true, some of this direct very old-time closeness of contact with meeting material needs. Potatoes which they themselves eat, are often grown, even

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by the young people in centers who are studying steel-welding. To a considerable extent the boys and girls, out of the twenty-seven cents a day allowance buy material which in their sewing classes they make into the everyday clothes they themselves wear, and the occasional astonishingly, touchingly pretty party dress which blooms out of two dollars and thirty-seven cents worth of stuff. But most of their experience of literal self-support is secured in the modern way by the modern principle of division of labor. What makes it possible for young minds to grasp the fact that division of their labor is only another name for "swapping work," is that the division of labor is on a smaller scale. The young people of a resident center which specializes in agriculture skill, dress and crate sixty of the fowls out of the flocks they are raising, and send them to another resident center in exchange for some of the tubular steel chairs manufactured by the working students there. Plates and cups and saucers made and baked by adolescents learning the potter's skill under modern conditions, are exchanged for fluorescent lights assembled in another center. Blankets are "traded" for radio sets. "We're making these bedsteads for a resident center that's electro-plating some knives and forks and spoons for us," you are told by an eighteen year old carpenter. Thus simply, visibly and understandably to take in each other's industrial washing is the best possible training for making some sense out of adult employment in minutely subdivided modern industrialism. It also provides the best possible way to cut down the cash cost of running these work-study live-together groups. And it does reduce the cost to a degree which makes some prophets think that ultimately they might almost be self-supporting.

Inherent in this, as in several other features of the resident center effort, is a strong reason against trying to run them as local, or even as State, institutions. To approach in any realistic way, a preliminary rehearsal of what sub-divided modern industrialism is, they must be carried on over an area large enough to allow a great diversity. Specialization is essential for this youth production, as it is in the adult productive field for which it is so suitable a preparation. To have the young people in one center learning how to electroplate metal, not at all how to grow vegetables, but in another how to spin and weave wool with modern machinery but not how to handle steel, is valuable not only because each group can supply the other with needed objects, but because none but specialized skills are wanted in modern production. As unit to provide a field large enough to keep down the cost of this absolutely needed specialization, an area at least as large as a State is needed. A larger field would be better yet, to permit adaptation of training for extremely subdivided specialization in industry.

It seems almost certain that intelligent educational experts of the future will see that the resident, work-study, self-supporting center is an educational device to be carried on by our nation, rather than individual States. To draw a geographic line across which young people may not pass to get the particular kind of training any one of them may need, would mean a quiet unnecessary and very expensive duplication of effort. For instance, pottery-making skill is certainly one of those trades for which preparation will certainly be needed. But not a very large number of young people from any one area will probably want to go into this work. One center for giving this training will not be needed in every State. One to a geographical

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"region" would serve the purpose. The students going there need to be transported but twice----when they arrive and when they leave. It would be much cheaper to move the occasional young person in Maine who wants to learn the potter's trade, to a center in Western New York, than for the State of Maine to set up and conduct an independent pottery training school so that the few Maine youngsters concerned might get their training without stepping across the line of their own State.

The extreme specialization of modern industry obviously calls for an extreme specialization in training facilities, such as we have not had, such as we have not been able to plan for. For years, how to provide such a wide variety of training has been one of the bitterest and apparently most insoluble problems of the public high schools. This problem might be solved by recognizing that the reason why local high schools do not provide training for all the kinds of occupation needed by all the young people in their vicinity is simply that they cannot. It is proving insanely impossible for each high school to add to the general education needed by each young person, for his personal development, any considerable number of the kinds of technical training needed by young people as job-holders. Yet if they don't get specialized training, they won't get or hold jobs.

If resident work-study vocational schools could be given some folk-name like "technical boarding schools" without any capital-lettered nickname to rub our prejudices the wrong way, might it be easier for our not-very-clear brains to perceive that possibly in them a way has been hit upon to solve the insoluble problem of local high schools? They could be left to do what they are equipped to

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do very well, develop into educational institutions to provide for all younger adolescents a general introduction to the civilization and culture of their nation. There is no calculating what a beatific lessening of nervous tension and educational misery would follow the abandonment by our high schools of the impossible task of fitting young people for varying technical jobs in our specializing industrial system of production. Those local high schools could, with a simplified realistic curriculum, concentrate on teaching young people something of the art of being civilized in their personal lives and how to make some sense out of their responsibilities, duties and privileges as citizens in a republic. Such high schools would not be hated as alas! so many young Americans now hate the subjects they are forced to study in institutions only half transformed from Latin prep schools. And when they left its doors, the only place for them to go during those vital years of later youth would not be the poolroom, or the sidewalk. Each one of them would choose a place to live and work and learn, where he would no longer be an economic burden on his parents, but ^{by} his own work could pay for his food and lodging and learning-opportunities, just as, in earlier generations, learning young workers always did pay their own way.

Because these centers would not be burdensomely expensive to set up (no plateglass windows and big fireproof buildings needed) there could be enough of them----oh, the relief this would be to every decently conscientious heart in the older generation!----to take in all the older boys and girls, for whom no other chances to learn what they need, are open. Why not? A provision is made, no matter how grudgingly so that they all get enough food not to starve to death. Because there would be many of such self-supporting (or

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almost) schools, they could offer the wide variety of training needed for our intensively specialized industrial society.

It is a blue-print worth the study of tax-paying citizens, parents, educators and young people.

In any case, whether this blue-print is realized in fruitful human values or not, no matter what the unimaginable immediate future has in store for us, it would be folly for us to try to solve its educational problems without a clear idea in our minds of the educational drama of the last two decades in the lives of the sons and daughters of our nation. The main facts are clear now, and their sequence is plain, as it was not when it was taking place. First there was the long, slow, twilight of growing unemployment for people at ages which in earlier days had been earning-a-living phase of life. As this twilight gradually darkened to a terrifying blackness which we could no longer ignore, our first guess at its cause was "the depression", that mysterious disease of our economic life, in which, as by some fiendish black magic, our people were starved into strengthlessness, although surrounded by heaped-up and unused food and wealth. With the same tragic perversity of not-to-be-understood forces, our young people, eager and anxious to learn how to work, found no work available to them, although there was work everywhere desperately needing to be done.

All this took place under our eyes, and our eyes were wide open in shocked alarm, to see it. We could not but see the idling, untrained, slackly useless and very unhappy young folks all around us. We saw that there were no jobs for them, and no way for the great majority of them to learn how to hold a job, if they could ever land one. We were not silent about this sorrowful and dangerous situation.

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But we had not the slightest idea what to do about it. Our public school personnel were quite aware of it too. They were the only people in the nation paid by us to take on the responsibility for the care of American youth. And they had no more idea than we, how to take care of them in this new crisis. Nothing in their professional experience had prepared them to cope with a difficulty in young people's lives which was not educational but economic. As doctors, charged by us with the responsibility for our national health, are helpless when economic distress is, as it is so often, a cause of sickness, our army of educators were----we all were---like people in a nightmare, incapable of stirring to ward off an inexorably approaching deadly peril.

■ The best, usually the only way, to break the dreamlike spell of passive despair is to act. But we could not imagine what action might be taken. It was our Federal Government which took action, bold, headlong, fool-hardy action, plunging forward into the unexplored new territory where education became tangled with economics, where wages were part of learning, where jobs and study were one. The other older agencies charged with the welfare of youth---the family, the public schools, the church---had been brought to a helpless standstill by what seemed the insoluble problem of keeping live young people while they acquired new training which had never before been necessary for them to acquire except on the job. We did not see how this new responsibility could be assumed in the old framework of society. How could it be managed without making tremendous mistakes without getting far off the course?

What, apparently, upheld the Federal planners, as they crashed forward into the underbrush of new conditions and new needs, was the

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conviction that it never could be done if it were not begun. So it was begun. Just as everybody had thought, mistakes were made. In fact mistakes piled up. False starts were common. Some of the paths sketched out, led nowhere, or took the hardest way around, were just as the crape-hangers feared, waste motion. But they were motion. That was what had been needed to clear the air. And some of those new roads, laid out by guess, lead surely forward.

The widest, surest path which has been opened, of course, is the psychical path opened through the jungle of habit and custom in our own brains. We have all wakened with a wild start from that black brooding nightmare in which we helplessly saw the young people of our nation, our only future, starving, psychologically and literally, before our eyes. There is moral health in the very heat with which the dispute is now being carried on as to who is to go ahead with the new educational path-finding. Shall it be added to the educational responsibilities of our States? Or shall ~~it~~ the work continue to be done by Federal agencies? Or by a combination of the two?

Never a voice of all those clamorously discussing this ways-and-means question suggests that the new kind of education should not be done at all. Yet the idea that it must be done---and on a large enough scale to meet an immensely wide-spread need, is less than ten years old. Turning our heads ever so slightly from the fixed anxious gaze which we focus with scared intensity on the deadly peril of our present, we see at a glance that in a single decade the enormous educational effort, theory and practice of our nation has turned

a corner. It is ready now---if we survive the age-old ordeal of war---
to lay out the needed new roads to the future.