BESS FURMAN (ARMSTRONG)

1933 - 1945
Mrs. Roosevelt:

If Litvinoff is accompanied by his wife, could we bespeak your cooperation by having her invited to a press conference to be interviewed? As I understand it, she's English, and he used to be a newspaper man himself, so she should be a very good subject.

Note that you visited the "Chamber of Horrors" at the Food and Drug Administration last week. Do you think Prof. Tugwell justified in making a vigorous campaign against poisons, quack cure-alls, and harmful candy for children?

- Have you made any further plans for visiting the West Virginia factory-farm project?

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Personal: My friend, Mary Margaret McBride is coming to the White House today with the crop of Quota girls. Will she smile at her sweetly for my sake so she'll feel all set up among her friends?

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More Personal: I think your articles in the Woman's Home Companion are becoming increasingly interesting. I was so pleased with the one this month—and happy to see it too. For the things we wrote about what you said of older women was interpreted wrongly by those who simply read headlines like: "Mrs. Roosevelt sees no place for older women!" On that page you have opportunity to get your entire idea across.

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Most Personal: Martha Strayer is writing you a little line today, which is from me too, and which I know you will understand.

Bess Furman
My dear "E.R."

Words cannot describe the kick I got from pulling the picture postcard from the mail box. See I to my Bob, "This is the ultimate ult in democracy."

But I looked in vain for the X that marked the room where you slept, so was forced to conclude there might perhaps be an ulter.

Previously, I had had the best of intentions of dropping you a line, due to finding in the paper a little poem which fit to a T your description of the amberjack and its accompaniments. I enclose it.

Like many an other, come the end of this fiscal year, the Armstrong Jrs. are retrenching. The method is to move in with the Armstrong Seniors—which somehow gives the erroneous effect—and feel—of affluence.

We are having lots of fun fixing up a little moving picture show in the basement—where maybe perhaps, we pray, at some future date, we might inveigle you out to see yourself as we caught you.

And after July 1, don't forget, my address will at all times be 3554 Edmunds street or, more easy to remember, Associated Press—cause I'd never want to miss a picture postcard!

Gratefully,

[Signature]

Falkman
Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Again I come asking—but if the request is not in order, don't hesitate to turn me down flat. I don't want to presume in any way on your ever-amazing friendliness and graciousness.

My friend, Mary Margaret McBride, of New York, has been doing radio interviews for McFadden's new publication, The Radio Mirror. She wrote me she wanted to do one on the president, and if Bob and I could help her put it over, she'd give him $50 of the mere $100 she gets for them.

He talked to the radio people, and got the technical part of the broadcasting from the White House, and together we described for her how we had seen it done that Sunday night we were there.

Today I got the attached further letter from her. It seems she must actually speak to him and get some expression about radio.

The magazine would pay her expenses down here if she could thereby find opportunity to shoot a single question at him.

I would take it up with Steve Early, and ask if there was a chance at the press conference, and not bother you with it, if Steve hadn't already told me he was having to be very strict about them. I thought just maybe there might be some tea-time it wouldn't be too much bother. Or if he were going to do another broadcast from the White House, she might slip in them.

Maybe, too, with your permission, Missy, or some one else who has watched him several years could tell how he had made his remarkable mastery of the radio. Was he born with that perfect "radio voice" or did he have to cultivate it?

Yours with head bowed in deepest humility at being such a pest, and I'm coming to the White House Saturday to leave you a Christmas greeting—and I just loved going to that play with you more than anything that ever happened to me.

"Within the next four weeks" was the deadline set on the radio article.

Have a good time in New York!

Sincerely,

Bear Furman
March 17, 1939

Thank you so much for the small stuff. I often think you’re the best reporter in the world. How if we can only pull this off. Remember, though, that to get my story across I have to give the impression of having spoken to Roosevelt about radio. Of course I know he can’t be quoted — so how in Hell can it be worked? What is the rule, anyway — or is there any? Maybe he has, at some time, talked to his radio people about radio. If he should get any other material, would you work the Storrowing thing up? I’m afraid I didn’t make my position clear to you (that I never sketch to him), you are no optimist. Anyway, here’s
Hoping. If you all need your 50 as fiery as I need mine, it will be worth while doing it.

Hope you're feeling a lot better,
Darling, don't work too hard. Hope to see you quickly. Much affection to you.
Keep me posted

[Signature]
Mrs. Roosevelt:

Wrote Emma, Sammy, Dorothy that unless they heard otherwise from me, the premiere showing of "Clippers Over the Carribbean".

Starring: Eleanor Roosevelt

Would be shown at my apt early next Sat eve, with the star appearing in person. Also, I got brave and invited Isabella! Hope nothing will arise to keep you or Sammy from coming.

(100)

1934
my mind is, at the moment, so full of this more or less foolish film. I can think of no sensible question to ask you at press conference tomorrow.

How will you celebrate my day? Any child health plan?

As spring open if will you be making more trips to future spots? Note your discussion article. Would you suggest each family, instead of mounting a memorial, start up + go to places where they can learn something?

Tom.
October 15, 1934

Dear Bess:

I forgot to give you back your clippings this morning when I was talking to you, so I am sending them to you at your home.

Affectionately,

Tommy

Miss Bess Kurnan
2712 Wisconsin Avenue
Washington
January 17, 1935

Dear Bess:

I will pose at any time that Bob wants. If he is coming over for any of these pictures he can take mine at the same time. I will try to get hold of the President also.

I am certainly going to try to do something for Amelia but I cannot tell you for a day or two what it will be. However, I will post a notice as soon as it is settled.

I will bring the sculptor to the President's attention but I doubt if he will sit for any individual. The roads thing will interest him very much.

Cordially,

(Handwritten Signature)

Bess Furman Armstrong
2712 Wisconsin Avenue
Washington, D.C.
BESS FURMAN ARMSTRONG
2712 Wisconsin Ave.
WASHINGTON, D. C.

memo for Mr. Roosevelt:
Re Wednesday press conference:

She social security program being the "big news"
now, might you have a little something to say on
how it concerns the women of the country?

Before Amelia started on her flight she was
editorialized to ease + deceit because it wouldn't
editorialized to ease + deceit because it wouldn't
prove anything. When it was over, the
prove anything. When it was over, the
press was on it. How it hadn't achieved any great
press was on it. How it hadn't achieved any great
scientific service, except maybe it still
scientific service, except maybe it still
had been called "nothing." I just a little something to have
had been called "nothing." I just a little something to have
amongst it. Just a little something to have
amongst it. Just a little something to have
been called on the first 2-way radio conversation
been called on the first 2-way radio conversation
between on her 3-hour flight. Then between on her 3-hour flight. Then
Bernard called on her to have 3, if seven children
Bernard called on her to have 3, if seven children
as the real East Side job, because
as the real East Side job, because
men + women could help to much together
men + women could help to much together
so would it be asked of you to do a little something for
so would it be asked of you to do a little something for
you to do a little something for Amelia, if you really feel that way - friend
you to do a little something for Amelia, if you really feel that way - friend
or that she deserved, or something such
or that she deserved, or something such
particular price, or something such
particular price, or something such
Did you send her congratulations? Write
Did you send her congratulations? Write
her to the White House at least? Should she
her to the White House at least? Should she
come would you have a "for women
come would you have a "for women
only" press conference since we can
only" press conference since we can
ask for questions or give women a
ask for questions or give women a
psychological square deal and
psychological square deal and
having babies for Brisbane?

Bess Furman A.P.

Pardon the handwriting but my typing
Pardon the handwriting but my typing
arm is all worn out tonight.
arm is all worn out tonight.

I do hope your cold is completely cured
I do hope your cold is completely cured
so you will feel able to face the following
so you will feel able to face the following

continued tomorrow.
DEAR TOMMIE:

I HOPE YOU WON'T THINK I'VE BEEN MEDDLING IN SOMETHING THAT'S NONE OF MY BUSINESS, BUT THERE'S SOMETHING I WANT TO STRAIGHTEN OUT.

WHILE I WAS BEING URGED TO TRY TO GET A COPY OF THE ROOSEVELT CHRISTMAS CARD THAT THE INTERNATIONAL PHOTO SERVICE HAD JUST BUSTED, I HEARD, NOT FIRST HAND BUT SECOND OR THIRD, THAT THE HERALD TRIBUNE HAD USED IT TOO, AND THAT THE LOGICAL SOURCE FOR THAT SEEMED TO BE EMMA.

WELL, IF SHE HAD HAPPENED TO DO IT, I WOULDN'T GOING TO WORRY HER, BUT IF SHE HADN'T, I DIDN'T WANT HER BLAMED, SO WHEN SHE WAS HERE LAST WEEK I EXCHANGED NOTES WITH HER RE WHITE HOUSE CHRISTMAS GIFTS AND FOUND OUT SHE HAD DONE EXACTLY THE SAME THING I DID—OBEYED THE "DO NOT OPEN UNTIL XMAS" SIGNS AND SO GOT HER FIRST GLIMPSE OF THE SAID CARD ON XMAS MORNING. MOREOVER, IN THE GENERAL XMAS RUSH, SHE HADN'T EVEN SEEN THE THING UNTIL WHEN IT WAS PUBLISHED IN HER OWN PAPER—SHE EVEN TRIED TO ARGUE WITH ME WHEN I SAID THE HERALD TRIBUNE HAD USED IT—THOUGH I HADN'T SEEN IT THERE EITHER—IN THE GENERAL XMAS RUSH.

I INTENDED TO MENTION THIS TO YOU SUNDAY—but didn't want to bother Mrs. R. with it. AND TODAY I GOT THE ENCLOSED LETTER FROM EMMA, WHICH CLEARLY THE WHOLE THING UP. WOULD YOU MIND TELLING STEVE?

SINCERELY YOURS ALWAYS,

[Signature]

BERNARD FURMAN
Dear Bess,

I find that the Herald Tribune brought that picture of the President and Mrs. Roosevelt from the International News Service on Dec. 20.

Of course, I can't go behind that to find out who gave it to N.Y.S.

Any way, it should be clear that I did not.
I hope very much you will set me straight with Mr. Early about this. Please be very careful as you know, never to use anything that did not seem friendly about Mrs. Roosevelt to the President, and I should hate to have this checked up against me without cause.
As you know also, I did not know I had a Christmas card until I opened the little box on Christmas morning.

With many thanks, and hoping to see you soon - at least on March 5.

Emma Reepke
DEAR "E.R."---

IN connection with the March 4 dinner, I wrote to all the "Cabinet Wives" and asked them please to give me a brief expression on the subject: "What the Two Years in Washington Have Meant to Me."

At first it looked as though the idea would fall through—but now Mrs. Hull and Mrs. Cummings have responded; Mrs. Morgenthau and Mrs. Ickes have promised to. I would do it with that many, if the others did not come in, but I think after I circulate among them tonight at the reception, they probably will.

Now I'd like to have a picture that could be used with the story. I find, on inquiry, such a picture was made a short time ago at one of the luncheons, and now awaits your okeh. Perhaps it wasn't good enough to go. But if it is to be released at all, I'd sure like to have it done xxxxx in time to go with the March 4 story.

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I am also, for a separate story, going over some of the things you have done in the past 365 days, so please prepare to be in a progress-marking and reminiscient mood.

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I have been no end flattered at hearing on all sides that you asked for me Monday. I teel 'em if they had to ask all the impotent questions thought up by all the editors in the U.S.A. they'd be missed too.

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I don't suppose there is a ghost of a show that you will be in Omaha, Nebraska, on March 30th, but because this appeal came from my own paper, I am passing it along so I can tell them definitely there's a chance, or there isn't.

BESS
February 13, 1935

Mrs. Elizabeth Furness Armstrong
Associated Press, 750 5th Street S.W.
Washington, D. C.

Dear Elizabeth:

I trust that you are in a charitable and expansive mood at the moment because I come seeking information. It so happens that Omaha is to be the scene of the National Flower Show beginning March 20th, and the loyal and patriotic citizens of your one-time home town are all agog over it. Included among the ideas to make the nation conscious of this stupendous event, an ambitious committee conceived the idea of having President Roosevelt open the show by pressing a button in Washington and inviting Mrs. Roosevelt to come to Omaha, be the citizen guest at the opening of the show, and make a brief and informal acknowledgment over a nation-wide radio hookup to be arranged for.

Being yokels of the hinterland, the committee did not know how to proceed in trying to arrange so ambitious a program. Finally, Frank Vogerty decided that you might have some pertinent thoughts on what methods the committee might pursue and that out of a great friendly feeling for some of your old playmates you might even offer a little aid and encouragement on your own initiative, so I was asked to write you and humbly request your best advice and thoughts on what might be done.

Some of the folks seem to think that the way to proceed in all matters of this kind is to try to pull political wires and exert political pressure. Personally, I suspect that such methods might not strike Mrs. Roosevelt's fancy. I really would personally appreciate it if you could supply an idea or two that I could pass along.

For your information, the National Flower Show really is quite an event. It is not a local proposition but is conducted by an association which reaches out all over the country. It is along back in the time of President Garfield I think, that the President of the United States, by some special creative act, made possible the association which today conducts these annual shows and attracts exhibits from all over the United States and from some foreign countries.

I trust this letter finds you in the best of health and with much prosperity. My best regards to the masculine but, of course, much less important half of your family.

Sincerely yours,

Fred S. Hunter

Fred S. Hunter/uh
April 13, 1935

Dear Bess:

Many thanks for letting me see your "First Lady's Dictionary". I think you did a marvelous job and it must have been difficult to do.

Affectionately,

Miss Bess Furman
2712 Wisconsin Avenue
Washington
FIRST LADY'S DICTIONARY

AVOCATION—"SOMETHING IN LIFE WHICH OCCUPIES EITHER YOUR MIND OR YOUR HANDS, AND WHICH WILL CHANGE YOUR TREND OF THOUGHT WHEN YOU WISH TO CHANGE IT."

BUDGET—"A NECESSARY EVIL NO MATTER HOW BULL YOU HAVE FOUND IT, EQUALLY NECESSARY FOR THE WOMAN WITH $15 A WEEK AS FOR THE WOMAN OF UNLIMITED MEANS.

CHARITY—"NOT ONLY THE IMMEDIATE ALLEVIATION OF DISTRESS, BUT THE BUILDING UP OF THE INDIVIDUAL OR THE FAMILY TO A POINT OF INDEPENDENCE SO THAT CHARITY WILL BE UNNECESSARY. CHARITY MEANING THE GIVING OF MATERIAL THINGS SHOULD BE TAKEN OUT OF OUR PLANNED SOCIETY.

CITIZENSHIP—"NO MORE APATHY, NO MORE ACCEPTING IDEAS HANDHELD TO YOU, NO MORE ACCEPTING LABELS, NOR EVEN FACTS JUST BECAUSE THEY ARE TOLD TO YOU AS FACTS—INSTEAD, AN OPEN MIND, A REAL INQUIRY AS TO HOW TO USE THAT MIND TO THE BEST ADVANTAGE, A REAL DETERMINATION THAT WHAT YOU HAVE GAINED YOU ARE TO GIVE BACK TO YOUR COUNTRY AND ITS PEOPLE."

EDUCATION---

ECONOMY—"COST CURTAILMENT BASED ON A BALANCING OF WHAT WILL DO POSSIBLE HARM AND WHAT CAN BE DONE WITHOUT HARM TO FUTURE GENERATIONS. IF WE GET FALSE ECONOMY IT WILL BE BECAUSE WE DID NOT TAKE THE TROUBLE TO GET THE RIGHT KIND OF ECONOMY.

FEAR—"A BAD THING AT ALL TIMES—IT SHOULD BE ELIMINATED FROM OUR LIVES AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE."

GARDENING—"NOT JUST A QUESTION OF ENJOYING THE FLOWERS OR THE VEGETABLES; IT IS SOMETHING LIKE RAISING A CHILD. YOU HAVE TAKEN SO MUCH TROUBLE ABOUT IT THAT YOU CANNOT HELP GETTING A TREMENDOUS SATISFACTION OUT OF IT."
HOLiDAYS—"THE TIME WHEN ONE GETS THAT GRAND FEELING OF LETTING ONESELV GO INTO WHATEVER ONE WANTS TO DO, THUS DEVELOPING INDIVIDUALITY, ORIGINALITY, AND PERSONALITY."

LADY—"IN ESSENTIALS, A LADY REMAINS EXACTLY WHAT SHE ALWAYS WAS. THE ESSENTIALS ARE KINDNESS OF SPIRIT, AND THE KIND OF NATURALNESS WHICH IS NOT DEPENDENT ON BIRTH OR CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING THE PERSON, BUT IS DEPENDENT ON THE INNER ASSURANCE THAT IF YOU ARE DOING THE RIGHT AND KIND THING IT MUST BE THE RIGHT WAY TO ACT, THEREFORE YOU DO NOT WORRY ABOUT WHAT PEOPLE MAY THINK, OR WHETHER WHAT YOU DO SEEMS TO THEM RIGHT OR WRONG."
MONEY—"ONLY A TOKEN, BUT A TOKEN WHICH REPRESENTS REAL THINGS---
SOMEONE'S WORK OR THE PRODUCTION OF SOME MATERIAL THINGS
FOR WHICH SOME HUMAN BEINGS WERE IN SOME WAY WORKED. REAL WORK
OF SOME KIND MUST ATTEND THE HONEST MAKING OF MONEY."

NEIGHBORLINESS—"NOT TO BE INTERESTED JUST IN FAMILY AFFAIRS, BUT TO
BE INTERESTED IN EVERYTHING WHICH TOUCHES THE NEIGHBORHOOD."

POLITICIAN—"A PUBLIC SERVANT UNSELFISHLY GIVING HIS TIME TO CARRY OUT
THE WISHES OF A MAJORITY OF THE PEOPLE, AND DEVOTING TO
THAT TASK ALL HIS EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE."

SNUB—"THE EFFORT OF A PERSON WHO FEELS SUPERIOR TO MAKE SOMEONE ELSE
FEEL INFERIOR. TO DO THIS, IT IS NECESSARY FIRST TO FIND
SOMEONE WHO CAN BE MADE TO FEEL INFERIOR."

SOCIETY—(AS WAS)—"A LITTLE GROUP OF PEOPLE, SET APART FROM THE REST
FORTUNATE PEOPLE WHO HAD NOT ONLY MON BUT THROUGH SOME ACCIDENT OF BIRTH OR CIRCUMSTANCES
WERE THROWN WITH THOSE WHOSE WORD AND ACTION CARRIED WEIGHT IN THE COMMUNITY, AND WHO WERE THE PEOPLE
LOOKED UP TO AND COPIED BY THE REST OF THEIR FELLOWMEN."
SOCIETY (AS IS) --- "MEANS THAT HUMAN BEINGS NEED CONTACT WITH EACH OTHER, AND MUST HAVE OPPORTUNITIES FOR KNOWING EACH OTHER, AND FOR BEING MUTUALLY HELPFUL. SOCIETY TODAY MEANS THE BIG SOCIETY OF ALL MEN AND WOMEN, AND EACH ONE OF US IN OUR OWN LITTLE SPHERE MAY HAVE REAL SOCIETY IF WE CULTIVATE MAKING FRIENDS AND DRAWING AROUND US CONGENIAL PEOPLE."

TRADITION --- "THE CONTINUITY OF COMRADESHP AND EXPERIENCE WHICH REALLY BINDS PEOPLE, ESPECIALLY FAMILIES, TOGETHER."
May 4, 1935

Dear Bess:

Thank you very much for sending me the "First Lady's Lexicon". I was greatly interested and amused by it. However, I am not as optimistic about it being a collector's item for posterity as you are:

Sincerely,

Miss Bess Furman
2712 Wisconsin Ave.
Washington, D. C.
Dear "E.R."

Well, here's the first First Lady's Lexicon to appear in print.

A hundred years from now it will be a collector's item, I promise you—
and I wonder how many of your ideas will then be realities—and if,
say, the word "war" will be more nearly obsolete.

I shall file it with a notation for some gal reporter of the future to find out.

Bess
August 23, 1935

Dear Bess:

Thank you very much for your letter. I feel as you do about Dr. Stannard but I did not know about the until after it was all over. Personally I think that if we do not get the right woman on the Securities Board at the start, it is better to have three men and perhaps later find it best to have a new person. You may not agree with me on this but I feel strongly that when a woman is put in it is necessary to put in one who is good. I agree with you about Margie Neal.

The President loved your verse and I am delighted that you and Bob will be up for Labor Day. Let me know when you arrive.

Affectionately,

Miss Bess Furman
2712 Wisconsin Avenue
Dear "E.R."

In the first place, I've taken the matter of Labor Day up at an auspicious moment, and I think the chances are just about a hundred per cent I'll get to come---if Congress quits (X marks the spot where the fingers are crossed) and the Roosevelts are in residence. Bob and I will just hop in the flivver and drive up---we've been wanting to see some of our New York friends for a long time anyhow.

The other matters of which I spoke over the phone---and which I would have come right out with in my personal capacity on my home phone wouldn't be any of my business as an AP reporter.

It is simply this, and my viewpoint on it is, I think, objective: this administration has made such a swell record on the woman front, I hate to see two things come up which would seem to justify criticism from such intelligent onlookers as some of my League of Women Voters and welfare worker friends. One was the Dr. Amy Stannard case---which went through with the apparent official dictum that a woman is not by sex fitted to serve on the parole board. The other is the seemingly certain appointment of a purely political appointee with no record to
MERIT SUCH A VASTLY IMPORTANT POSITION—MISS MARGIE NEAL—TO THE
SOCIAL SECURITY BOARD. THE STANNARD CASE IS SOON FORGOTTEN BECAUSE
IT IS OUT OF THE PICTURE. BUT THE OTHER WILL HAVE TO BE LIVED WITH.

I FOUND MISS NEAL SWEET AND WORTHY AND WELL-MEANING—but I
do assure you she is no JOSEPHINE ROCHE, and no amount of questioning
on my part could bring forth any broad national viewpoint from her.
The girls over at the Demo committee haven't found her for their
BLUE BOOK—RUBY, who's from Texas, never heard of her.

COULDN'T JACK GARNER FERRET OUT SOME TEXIAN WITH A FIGHTING
CHANCE TO MAKE GOOD FOR THE GOOD OF US GALS?

Honest, this is the first time in my life(588,508),(887,650)
I THOUGHT WAS A 100-PERCENT PROPHECY, BEING VERY CAREFUL TO LEAVE THE
USUAL AP HOPE TO CRAWL OUT OF—and wished one of my own stories would
BE KNOCKED DOWN AND LEAVE ME OUT ON THE LIMB. I'D SURE LIKE TO SEE
ON ALL THE STREAMLINES STREAKING THAT SOCIAL SECURITY START. YOU
WELL KNOW I CAME FROM THE SAME NATIVE HEATH AS GRACE AND EDITH ABBOTT
EVEN THOUGH I HAVE DONE MY DARNEST TO LIVE DOWN THE CRUSADER BLOOD

WITHIN ME. BUT FROM WATCHING THE HILL AS LONG AND CLOSELY AS I HAVE,
I CAN FULLY UNDERSTAND THIS APPOINTMENT WILL BE INEVITABLE.
3

So take this personal reaction for what it's worth, and if I'm wrong, forget it.

Well, here's to adjournment before Labor Day! Wonder if the President would be amused by a little jingle I wrote on that subject, shortly after he drew the diagram in press conference, and about the time I was given a private showing of his gift to Admiral Grayson's son.

Further proving his visual education powers:

Our President draws diagrams
Of many a-maze-ful set-up
He shows all-grades of Great-I-Ams
Each in his proper set-up

And he can make an off-hand chart
Of ocean-going current
Which shows a man so awful smart
That many wish he weren't

Know what that man can memory-map?
You couldn't make a wrong guess
The Isle of Man, the Land of Lap,
Each District of the Congress——

Those boys who rave, those boys who rant
Those boys beneath the dome——
And yet, to save his life he can't
Show 'em the way to go home!

With love,
October 31, 1935

Dear [Name],

I will do what I can about Elizabeth Shirley Enochs. I know what a grand person she is and I think she will do an excellent job.

I am enclosing some cash to be divided among you three girls-and I do not want you to "fight" with me about it-for the dinner the other night was really my suggestion, because I wanted a chance to talk to you. I will let you do anything you want on the real birthday to be given when Geno gets home. I have a grand letter from her today and she says that in three or four more weeks she will be home on crutches. She sounds very cheerful.

The one thing I wanted to talk to you about the other night, of course I forgot, namely, what kind of a party shall we have for the newspaper "gals" on December 14, the night of the Gridiron dinner? Shall we have a costume party and think up some new type of entertainment, or have you any other suggestions that you would like to make? I will be at Hyde Park until Tuesday, so send me a line if you can think of anything that would be suitable. Talk it over with anyone who you think would have any ideas.

Affectionately,

[Signature] 

P.S.
DEAR MRS. R:

THIS IS REALLY OFFICE BUSINESS, BUT IT'S ALSO A MATTER IN WHICH I'M A BIT INTERESTED PERSONALLY.

MARY HOWELL, AP CORRESPONDENT AT GENOA ITALY, WHO IS WITH US ON THE SORT OF SPECIAL ASSIGNMENT BASIS THAT IS ABOUT THE ONLY WAY A WOMAN CAN EDGE IN ABROAD, MISSED OUT ON YOUR LAST PRESS CONFERENCE BY NOT KNOWING THE ROPE AROUND HERE.

ON THE THEORY THAT HAVING INTERVIEWED MUSSOLINI AND MANY MORE NABOBS WOULD BE HER PASSPORT, SHE WENT TO MCDERMOTT, AT THE STATE DEPARTMENT, AND SAYS SHE SAT A WHOLE HOUR IN SIEVE EARLY'S OUTER OFFICE AT THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE, INSTEAD OF COMING TO THE LOCAL AP AS SHE SHOULD HAVE AND GETTING THE PROPER CREDENTIALS.

SHE CAUGHT UP WITH ME RIGHT AFTER THE CONFERENCE, AND POURED HER WOES IN MY EARS. PEACE AND DISARMAMENT SEEM TO BE HER THEME SONG, AND SHE SAYS SHE'S TOLD MUSSOLINI RIGHT OUT WHAT SHE THINKS ON THE SUBJECT OF ETHIOPIA—AND HER STRONG IDEA SEEMS TO BE THAT BEING A GREAT ADMIRER OF YOU AND YOUR IDEAS SHE SHOULD RETURN WITH SOME FIRST-HAND REPORT TO THE "WOMEN OF ITALY" ABOUT YOU (KIND OF A DIFFERENT PATTERN FOR AN AP REPORTER, EH WHAT—US WHO STAY ALOOF FROM ALL EXPRESSION OF OPINION)

WELL, ANYHOW, SHE'LL BE IN NEW YORK TUESDAY, DEC 3—AND I WAS WONDERING IF YOU COULD SEE HER FOR A FEW MINUTES, AND IF YOU COULDN'T IF SHE COULD SOMEHOW TRAIL WITH THE PACK ON THE SLUM CLEARANCE THING? SHE'LL BE AT THE YORK CLUB, 4 EAST 62ND STREET.
December 17, 1935

Dear Bess:

The President thinks your idea about making a talking book for the blind of his reading of the Christmas Carol is good. He might consider it if he only had one person present, but he couldn't do it with half a dozen around!

Affectionately,

[Signature]

Mrs. Bess Furman Armstrong
2712 Wisconsin Avenue
memo I.
Could you please let the kitchen
travelogue be pretty much "quote"—it
being purely non-opinion color stuff?
It sounds so much more informal
and chatty that way.

memo II.
We got a query on whether or not you
had forwarded some papers in the Hampton
case. I told them I very much doubted if
you had made a move if any kind in
any direction in that case.

memo III.
Not having anything whatever to do with
news papering—the thought struck me
that the president's annual reading of
Dicken's Christmas Carol would make a
small lettering book for the blind. Had
you ever thought of it?

Last Christmas Bob & I sent $3 as
a remembrance of personal greeting & wish-crack,
to my family—evidently they could not
make a record that would pay on any
phones match. For only $1.50
I recall you said the president had
the Carol cut for a comparatively brief
reading—& I read your little story
BESS FURMAN ARMSTRONG
2712 Wisconsin Ave.
WASHINGTON, D. C.

about the family waiting no other
version and it just occurred to me
that since he's reading it every year
anyhow, it was sort of too bad not
to have it recorded sometime.

memo

The party was swell.

P.S.

1. Our photo project department pleased with
me please to make one request on the program
or if everybody don't get it would you
please try to see that nobody does? After
no end of post-mortem sitting on the
subject last year they reached the conclusion
earlier or otherwise that it went right
out of the shop where it was made to an
international photographer who might be
hanging around again in hopes of repeat.

It. Any verbal exuberance on Christmas will
be thankfully received. Sometime in writing
was presented to me in it. Well the party for
the White House chauffeurs & servants &
held as usual?
Dear "ER",

as well as I can do it for a
small price with the same idea.
I'm writing some notes.
I never have I had a more interesting
trip than this visit home, seeing the
friends of the president it did wonders
for his shelter belt idea. The
Saturday Evening Post was all in
the matter to send a high-powered
writer in here to tell them what
a failure it was.

But the McCook newspaper told
When it was no go — what with the recent rains the shelter belt seems to be flourishing like the fifty bushels to the acre wheat that has sprung up as if by magic where the “dust blanket” lay so short a time ago.

Our having a grand vein with the folks, and also getting life right out of this mid-west air — I have never seen Nebraska so beautiful except for the scars of that awful flood. That whole situation is still pretty sickening. I enclose to you the letter from Chet from Furman, aged 8 — who
DR. D. A. FURMAN
McCOK, NERASKA

I am now free to write to everyone.

It's time to go over the

sandstorm which wrecked

about 900 families on a 300 mile valley meander, about 9,000 families for

the divide will have better crops than

they ever dreamed of — the whole

place is stimulated as though it had

a shot in the arm.

Enclosed find a picture that looks like

a fence — but it is a railroad track with a high embankment.
I've seen miles of miles of miles of such startling phenomena as this about
But I've also seen the station agent pay out money to the boys in overalls who have been doing their first real work in
four years on the 4th of July. He'd handed out $1.00 per week — and my brother is beginning to have folks you knew, doctors, folk
that have been overseas about four years. I didn't intend to report on the whole
suggestion, but that's what this seems to be. See you soon. Ford.
Have you ever been burned? I might as well go on the Chautauqua platform as to come out here. I've made about as many speeches -- with you as chief subject.
Dear "E.R."

I've a suggestion to make for the Monday morning press conference. Women-Historian Mary Beard. She's at the Mayflower. I've already written a story on her big idea, and some mention of it has been made in New York, but its surface isn't scratched yet.

She calls it "A World Center for Woman Archives" which sounds involved. Her idea simply is to put into some single repository where some researcher can get at them, the "papers of great women", as the "papers of great men" already are gathered in countless spots. And from them, sometimes to have written some of the past women have played in great events.

Instances she gave: Women's rehabilitation of the south. The papers of one of the wives of Brigham Young in Utah.

She has been in touch with Mrs. Woodward in connection with the catalogues of such source material collections that are now being gathered by WPA workers in the states. That phase I had no room for in my short story, and that, I think, is where you could easily key it to your conference, Mrs. Woodward has appeared there so often. You might even have Mrs. Woodward bring Mrs. Beard.

Because of the fact that I have been sitting around among women in journalism in the Rare Book Room of the Library of Congress, and have been utterly amazed at my own ignorance of the spectacularly able women who have done in that field down through the years when I thought there weren't any women in it, Mrs. Beard's whole idea just simply grabbed me as nothing had done in years.

By the way, if you haven't made the acquaintance of my rare Book Room, second floor rear of the Library of Congress, I wish you'd do it—for I feel sure you'd love it—on the next time you are showing visitors around the town. On the hundredth anniversary of children's libraries they dug out all the oldest children's books. I think they're still together to be seen by you and any youthful guests. And that new Bruce Rogers Bible is such a masterpiece of printing. There's a red-haired girl in there who has made herself an artist, and work there every day doing a children's book in Mayan set from the originals.

I would tell you that Mary Beard gives credit for her archives idea to Rozika Schwimmer—though I don't think that will scare you especially.

Thanks for asking just the moment.
The idea of A WORLD CENTER FOR WOMEN'S ARCHIVES originated in the mind of Mrs. Rosika Schuimmar—a good mind, as you know, and one deemed worthy of recognition by a liberal government of Hungary, which sent her as the first woman minister in modern times to represent it in Switzerland. Mrs. Schuimmar not only launched the feminist, suffrage and peace movements in Hungary; she was given the title of "Pied Piper of Hungary" on account of her work for the protection and training of little children. If David Lloyd George forgot her name, he remembered clearly the personality of this woman of affairs and brings her into his War Memoirs in the following way:


After explaining on page 40, that practically nobody had foreseen the critical consequences of the Sarajevo murder, he continues on page 50 saying:

"I remember that some time in July, an influential Hungarian lady, whose name I have forgotten, called upon me at 11 Downing Street, and told me that we were taking the assassination of the Archduke much too quietly; that it had provoked such a storm throughout the Austrian Empire as she had never witnessed, and that unless something were done immediately to satisfy and appease resentment, it would certainly result in war with Serbia, with the insurmountable consequences which such an operation might precipitate in Europe. Moreover, such official reports as came to hand did not seem to justify the alarmist view she took of the situation."

America, having plunged into the war when it came, was not yet demobilized when in 1927 a federal judge in Chicago denied Rosika Schuimmar, a refugee from European militarism, American citizenship on the ground that she refused to bear arms—a function hitherto regarded in the West as a task for men only in any case. You remember now, in the year of the drive for women suffrage, the opposition rested its argument on the fact that women couldn't or shouldn't bear arms. Then the question of Rosika Schuimmar's citizenship was carried to the Supreme Court of the United States, three of the justices, Brandeis, Holmes, and Sanford dissenting, in the mood of good old American liberal tradition, from the course of the Court denying citizenship to one.
when the distinguished dissenting justices called "a woman of superior character and intelligence, obviously more than ordinarily desirable as a citizen of the United States". Still the decree stands. There this matter rests at present. But all such circumstances give force to Rosina Schwimmer's idea of a World Center for Women's Archives. The world needs to know that women are not all sheep and brainless.

Thoroughly convinced of its importance I undertook to set the ball rolling for the realization of this idea. The conference today is the outcome up-to-date. There has been no fund with which to do more than typewrite letters and mail them and hire this small hall for today. There has been not so much as the scratching of the surface for support as yet. Nevertheless out of the initial quest for backing comes a highly representative approval indicated by the following names:

Ethel Adamsen
Mea. Amsel
Emily Newell Blair
Harriet Stanton Blatch
Selma MacDonald Bowen
Kliner Byrns
Mary Frayser
Dr. C. Latham Hatcher
Elizabeth Houghton Hooker
Fannie Hurst
Marian J. Jobson
Lola Maverick Lloyd
Dr. Kate G. Head
Mrs. Caroline O'Bay
Alice Park
Alice Paul
Lena Madame Phillips
Dr. Lavinia Proutie
Madona A. Richardson
Dr. Florence Sabin

Many other women, notably Dorothy Canfield Fisher, give conditional approval, waiting to know more about the project before endorsing it wholeheartedly. Others wait to sign through fear lest their official positions in organizations be taken as organization endorsement at this stage of events. Meanwhile the Radio Press News tried a story of the project. So we asked several other women of the newspaper to be with us today, even at the initial stage of this project.
There is one phase of the proposal up-to-date which complicates full endorsement until it becomes more definitive. This complication I have injected but it receives wide approval, in principle, as the diplomats like to say. This is the proposal to couple an educational project with the project for the Archives themselves. That feature would of course have to wait for the collection itself to take form but it seems important to some of us to keep the two things in mind from the start. For it is a fact, if very little thought about or even realized in general, that in not one college of this country—men's, women's or associate—do there any comprehensive treatment of women's contributions to civilization and culture. Here and there a sporadic effort is made to inculcate some notion in the minds of students, women particularly, that women have won something of life and labor in the past. But this instruction in their ways and needs has no real depth. Where a broader canvas is attempted, it is divorced from understanding of culture and civilization in the large and a few striking scenes or relics in history are the only women to emerge from the past. There is nothing in our educational system at present which smacks at all of equal education. What we now have in the instruction of young men and women in the history of men—of men's minds and manners. Then women are introduced, they usually appear merely as "women and children"—the popular unit method—in industry or in the family. Equal education in truth but the education of the senses in that aspect of life typified by men. At the World Center for Women's Archives this partial education might be broadened and deepened to include the neglected aspects of life and labor and so round out the partial to embrace the whole.

This is an ambitious project. But such articles as the series on women recently published in Fortune, which estimated values solely in terms of money-power, seem to challenge ambition of this kind. The pressure against liberties for women growing stronger day by day on all sides raises the issue of education to supreme importance. Not only from seats of higher learning so-called but from easy chairs at home where popular histories are read some the challenge to ambition. For these popular histories of civilization now rolling from the presses display a
a common readiness to appear liberal by having pages on the dozy status of women at
various levels of culture while they wait the slightest hint that forceful personalities
have continually broken through the ceilings of laws and helped to make history; if his-
tory is made at all by personalities. To read such histories one would not even dream
that women have ever had minds and were ever articulate. They are ghosts when they ap-
pear at all—not human beings of brain and will. If popular histories like sources in
college ever became sensitive to culture as a whole, the sensitiveness will have to be
stirred by women. But women will have to know themselves better to realize the short-
comings of history as it is taught and read. This World Center of Women's Archives
would seem to be a perfect place to begin that study. I think that it is not enough
to place the data under a reef for safe keeping. I would have the studying of them
stimulated.

I think I can illustrate what I mean by the two-fold possibilities of this Center.
A new book entitled "Letters of Theodore Dwight Weld, Angelina Grimké Weld, and Sarah
Grimké, in two volumes, edited by Charles H. Barnes and Dwight L. Dennis," is thus pre-
sented in the American Historical Review for October of this year:

"Then a year ago Prof. Barnes published his Anti-Slavery Impulse, 1830-1846 (Am.
Hist. Rev. XXXIX, 747) setting forth a new interpretation of the abolitionist movement
and a new appraisal of the chief figures therein, it was promised that the extensive
manuscript material upon which his work had been chiefly based would be made available.
This has not been done in the volumes under review which constitute one of the most
important additions to our knowledge of the abolitionist movement that has been made in
recent years.

The bulk of the letters now printed in these volumes were found four years ago in
an old trunk in a Massachusetts farmhouse. It was not by mere chance that they turned
up, for Prof. Barnes had zealously sought them over a period of years and had followed
every suggestion that he was given to their possible whereabouts....It is safe to say that
many others will garner rich returns from this body of material relating to one of the
most controversial periods of American history for in these letters and papers are re-
vealed the thoughts, motives, and the subtle workings of the mind of the men and women
who were engaged in what they viewed as a great moral crusade."

In the South, too, new appraisals of the intellectual and moral fibre of men and
women are being made as a result of findings in garrets and cellars. Chapel Hill is
now the main shelter for the diaries and journals and letters as found, and in digging on
among them young women of the South are discovering that the belle of the ball on the plantation, who was long the favorite of American history when a Southern woman was mentioned at all, is a ridiculous symbol of the spirit of the Old South. The preservation of Chapel Hill itself amid the ravages of the carpet-bagger days was largely due to the indomitable spirit of a woman of the Old South, Mrs. Caroline Spencer, who has given the story of that struggle in her memoir.

In short, we can know nothing about North or South, the Old World or the New, social forces and social results unless we study about women and men alike and together. The failure to do so enables even the slaves so recently out of chattel servitude to forget their debt to American women abolitionists. If you doubt this, read Dr. Margaret De Bois' overwhelmingly masculine treatise on American history now so widely acclaimed.

If we fear emphasis on women, we run the risk of being mere incidents, if accepted at all as factors in civilization. But this project for a World Center for Women's Archives rests on no retreat to the resentments of the old regime. It is a proposal to go forward into the newer age—not backward into the age of the inferiority complex. There are serious defeats for women in the world at large today which must be turned into victory. By knowing ourselves better we shall be better equipped to recover and advance. If we shirk this obligation, men themselves will be left to a more tragic fate.

So let us consider in all seriousness this project before us for a World Center for Women's Archives.

Raniya Schoenauer will elaborate her idea of this enterprise. And then the floor will be open for a free-for-all discussion.
December 7, 1936

Dear Bess:

I am sending you this line to thank you for the copy of your article.

Much love.

Affectionately,

F.R.

(Dictated but not written before Mrs. Roosevelt left Washington)

Miss Bess Furman
2712 Wisconsin Ave.
Washington
March 29, 1937

Mrs. Robt. B. Armstrong
4920 Western Ave
Chevy Chase, Md.

Dear Bess:

I am very glad you liked the start of my story in the Ladies' Home Journal. I hope it interests you as it goes along.

The lecture trip was interesting and I learned a tremendous amount, but three weeks is a bit too long. Two weeks is all I can do in one-night stands and keep feeling polite towards the people who meet you at seven a.m. with bouquets of flowers and expect you to wear a smile!

We had one amusing experience in Little Rock, when two plain clothes men sat in the beauty parlor and watched us through the different stages!

You are being a swell soldier because I know what these last months are in discomfort and desire to have it all over with, mixed with a certain amount of dread of the unknown. Every one of us has the consolation of knowing that to many people it isn't unknown and nowadays it can be made easier than it used to be. I hope they make it as easy as they can for you.

I am glad you have the little eight months old nephew to keep before you the joy that will be yours.

I expect that I will be gone around the end of April and beginning of May, but you probably will not be coming east until the middle of May. I do want to meet your doctor brother and his family.

Tommy joins me in much love to you.

affectionately,
Dear E.R.,

The start of your story in the Ladies Home Journal was grand. It gave me a special thrill to think I had a little piece and I shall certainly gleefully succedding chapters.

The lecture tour sounds interesting too—especially the one in watchful Shenandoah police—I envy two thirds of my great fortune from the hall, great hurry, and I see by the papers a new radio contract is near! Well—J. for one am not to repeat "how does she ever do it?" going—"but this is the place when I have seen and I was to the place when I don't say that this evening's sentence out loud anymore." Besides I've watched you enough to know that the secret is just the well—perhaps which for the moment has departed go—which, I feel, will be sending you on that good leggy Hope. I'll be sending you on it, possibly possible as it's antiques to promise patience. My chief delight is the sweetest, most perfect my chief delight that most violent little and deliberate red-headed nephew who 9 months, he named me that the end is worth ever remember and can make sure the apparent并通过组合现任. I hope you're health and see Washington. I hope you home and see Washington. I hope your trip to Seattle won't fall in, and a way will miss out on ever right arm and who left up his good right arm and who left up his good right arm. a rugged individualist I fear. I have a feeling Tommy would tell for him too.
my series on the White House get in now being read by Bob. Merrill — when I described it to them and it didn't exactly fit with their usual list but they could assure me a careful and sympathetic reading. All but you know programas

Mrs. Roosevelt, the young man with the prematurely gray hair to whom I introduced you — as I was sure you may not recall — one day in the dinner. It is seldom indeed I ever raise my voice to recommend — but I do feel he is one of the strongest-thinking, right-principled men especially needed in Ohio. He was an organizer of the non-Devery campaign. I'd say so even if the habit married a girl whose family strictly kept our family from starving back in weeks hard and by being good neighbors and sending us food, the back yard what was left of the corn field because they didn't want to waste it. They were always enough left for five grown children and an adult.

Yesterday was our fifth wedding anniversary and Bob called me up from Washington — a real treat for me, and I wondered who had written the annual wedding anniversary. Patrice's story for you and the president the day before.

And right we boarded a plane to a Fort Worth station, destroying the Texas school disaster — I don't know the specifics, oil + gas fields but one feels that surely some precautionary measure could have prevented a school being swept over such a natural gas pocket. In Texas, they're always pushing the least adaptable land to their welfare and plan purposes, so I always feel a special want when I hear that news.

We were to have had a chat with you in the spring mountain. My very best to you. Love
April 8, 1937

Dear Bess:

I can come to you on May 14 in the early afternoon, or on Sunday, the 16th, in the afternoon about four. I am so eager to see the babies and your family.

Of course I am flattered to have you name the baby after me and know that Ruth will be pleased too.

Please take very good care of yourself and do not be in too great a hurry to be up and around again. The few extra days in bed now will mean a great deal to you in the future.

Tommy joins me in sending love and nothing, of course, will keep her from seeing the babies.

Affectionately,

Mrs. Robert Armstrong
McCook
Nebraska
Dear "E.R."

This is just a line in way hoping that you and Tommy will be able to make some kind of a mad. My date with me and my Nebraska crucibles. Whatever fits in with your schedule delight me— but I'd sure invite you & Tommy & Eleanor & Cynthia & Eleonor & Cynthia's mamma out to a "Showering Of The Babies" Picnic at our motel.

As for me, I'm still just ticking off Borden's clock— each tick a life, and there are plenty of them. And before your Eleanor arrives, I feel I ought to warn you that I might seem to have any store of a nonbreaking problem on your hands than at present. The way I feel about it is this— Tommy will be long enough and meaningful years to close your association. If every right to name a baby for you, I haven't. However I might break with a middle name I set by with it.
So, says G. to myself & husband, why not give credit where credit is due? Our marriage was pretty much made possible by Ruth after our having a baby was certain. Were made possible by your going to bat for Bob's job. So says we if a girl it be, why we will have it. Ruth Eleanor Armstrong, you'll probably hear the decision, that's not the why already for if told numerous tricks kids that if it was a girl it would be Ruth Eleanor.

I feel, to me you two symbols of courage in woman kind — part if there is one thing above all that is needed by a girl child going through the world it is courage to meet personal problems in loving care and that is the one gift above all I think at the same time, here in this your record that simply turns with the "Donalds" name for my uncle brother, I can realize that there does come to a time when facts checks are pure repetition and some I have heard and some other just as much little rascals. So try to take it easy it's not as bad as it seems if it's a boy why it will have to grow to be a credit to the Armstrong name, if it's a girl, I pray it may be a credit to the Armstrong name. Longfords haven't got any further than that. My best to you & if the girls you may be contrasted with yours always —

Bess
April 20, 1937

Dear Bess:

Mrs. Roosevelt is looking forward to seeing you on the 16th and we both hope that everything is going well.

Affectionately,

Mrs. Robert Armstrong, Jr.
McCook
Nebraska
Dear "E.R."

Put me down for Sunday the 19th for the afternoon about 4 o'clock so that we can give plenty of leeway on getting these crews back home!

All well here.

Am going to take the extra days in bed as you advise.

This is my first real letter since the big event.

Best love to you and

Chummy

Bess

Tell Mr. R.

Bess Bess

Mr. Robert Armstrong Jr.

Mrs. McCord Lehnaker
Dear "E.R."

It is about time I quiet thinking things I want to say to you and get something said.

Just off the second cup came yesterday, before I was able to tell you I felt you should have given the first one because you had already done more than enough for me and my infant. I only hope I can live long enough to find opportunity to pay you back a little.

Honest, I didn't aim to put you on the spot either for the traditional chesnutt's gift (I felt you'd know that the blanket of your own coming would mean more to me than anything else in the world) really was the chesnutt's gift or for photographs. Because I met you at your door, I truly thought that my camera men friends would either fail to get the idea you'd be there or would lay it out in respect for my many years of aiding them in capturing others. But when they appeared I knew I had met the inevitable. What you said you reap. As a newspaper woman, I think it was a small human interest shot, as a mother, I'm darned proud of it; but as a person, I want you to know I'm not seeking the public points to trade on your friendship, and that my request to you was made in purest gratitude for what you have done for me and a desire to give this little chance to live up to and admire. I thought it was a sweet and meaningful service and I do thank you most sincerely for your part in it.

It meant a great deal to me to have Tommy there too.

Now I feel I can take a deep breath and settle down to a quiet life. I was a bit too quick for the open conference when I read about the Ike & Bill-Willy's I think I'll have to get me a newspaper connection. I get bored in the turkey fall.

Had a chat with Mrs. Fort Worth, superlative wife of the Texas Representative & she said your visit to Fort Worth had simply solved the financial problem of the map code project at Ft. Worth. Never you mind, you bought the blue glass can't make it itself enough to pay their value!
December 31, 1937

Dear Bess:

I am so sorry that I was not here on Christmas to open your package. I think the tree is perfectly charming and am sure the pencil will be most useful although I am getting to be quite adept at the typewriter after these past few days.

I hope you and Bob and the twins had a grand Christmas and that I shall see you before long.

Affectionately,

Mrs. Robert Armstrong, Jr.
4920 Western Avenue
Washington, D.C.

S:DD
Dear "E. R.":

Far be it from me to add to your troubles on tour, but if Ed S. Byfield does manage to crash through to you at Fresno, California on March 15, smile sweetly at him for my sake. He worked for Dad when I was small.

Several Christmases ago, he wrote my Dad he had dug up that "some old picture" afflicted on you as a Christmas present once — to show to a historical society of California editors. I wrote him it was queer that after being forgotten for 30 years, it should pop up again, on cold Saturday at the railroad turn — that I had presented a copy to you. Hence, no doubt, the idea of "Remembering".

Love always,
[Signature]
Feb. 12, 1938

Mr. A. C. Furman,
Danbury, Nebr.,

Dear Archie:-

Running through the files today and run onto your letter of June 15. For the life of me I don't know if I ever answered it as I do not keep copies of private correspondence. We had seen the twins in the Fresno paper and sister Roxa had sent a clipping from the Los Angeles paper. The other day she sent me another clipping which I am enclosing herewith. Just to prove to Neil that I also "knew her when" I took the old picture of the Danbury News bunch to the convention with me just to knock down his ears a little.

Mrs. Roosevelt is coming to Fresno March 15th, just a day late to celebrate my birthday, 53d in case you don't know. Just a year since I broke my foot and still limping so I feel that old anyway. Am hoping that I will have a chance to meet Mrs. Roosevelt, but of course such prominent people are hard to see. Anyway I will try to crash the gate.

The past year has not been too good with us. Business slowed up starting with the first of the year, and my accident compelled us to keep on an extra man for about seven months and things didn't move as well while I was unable to be on the job. We are about back to normal now only that I cannot walk very well, but I can do all my work except that I am slowed up somewhat. We are just getting started on high school annuals. Have seven contracts with prospects for at least three more. Ten to twelve is about all we want. Can handle that many with one extra man. Have found out you can have too much business if it all comes at once.

Don't hear much news from Nebr. since the South Side Sentinel quit coming. Still hoping that I will get to come back some day but something seems to happen every summer. Mrs. Byfeld is suffering so from arthritis that we are afraid she could not stand the trip now.

Sincerely,

Ed.
May 16, 1936

Dear Boss:

I am enclosing the three autographed cards which you asked for, and was so interested to hear about the League Convention.

If you will let me know as soon as you can when your father and brother are coming, I will try to arrange to have them for dinner so they can meet the President. I am not going to be here much after May 28 however.

Affectionately,

Mrs. Robert Armstrong, Jr.
4920 Western Avenue
Chevy Chase, Md.
Dear "E.R."

After my old-fashioned fashion, I'm reporting in with this and that.

I could have wept to have missed the picnic---but I was in St. Louis and the picnic was here. How do you ever manage to be where things are?

Out in St. Louis I was very proud of my League---unpartisan as you know; many of them, if I mistake not, a little Olddeallish about the ears---electing you next most great after Carrie Chapman Catt over a span of 20 years. And remember, the League of Woman Voters never casts a vote lightly! I saved a local clipping just for you, but lost it in my scatter-brained fashion and now have written Edna Warren of the St. Louis Globe Democrat for another.

Do you still sign neat little autographed cards which may be got on request like I once saw you doing on the presidential trip? If you do, I want THREE—one for the gal who did that Globe-Democrat poll, the aforementioned Edna Warren, who used to come to me nightly and tell me how you were getting along in the votes. She had no interest in any other candidate, apparently—and was so pleased when you put Dorothy Thompson in her place. One for an 83-year-old scholar, gentleman, and free-thinker in Gainesville, Florida—Mr. George Smith—who considers you the greatest woman of his lifetime. He's a friend of an Extension Service friend of mine over to the Department of Agriculture and she is going to send him a copy of "This Is My Story". The third is just for a little girl friend of mine who collects autographs.

Well, requests will never cease—from me at least. My father and brother—the one who had infantile—are on their way to Washington. By auto. As soon as I know when they will get here and how long they will stay, I do want to ask you if you have a minute in this interminable tourist season to smile at them. Brother Charles is most diffident, am sometimes painfully shy, but he has taken great heart—as what infantile victim hasn't—in the triumph of the president over that ailment.

Now isn't there anything, anywhere that I could do for you? I'd be so very pleased if I might. I'm making a speech to the newspaper girls of West Virginia Saturday night, and I would be less than an honest person if I didn't include in it an appreciation of Eleanor Roosevelt.

Affectionately,

Bea.
June 7, 1936

Dear Bessie:

Thanks so much for your letter and the enclosures. I love the head bands and will use them very often. I appreciate your thinking of sending them, more than I can say.

I heard most favorable comments on your trip to West Virginia while I was down there recently.

Affectionately,

Mrs. Robert B. Armstrong, Jr.
4920 Western Avenue
Washington, D.C.
Dear "E.R."

Since your inviting my dad and brother to dinner was quite the most red-letter occurrence that could have happened to me, I've tried to think how I might inveigle you into a Red Letter occasion for you.

Enclosed you will find the bait — two headbands set to catch for you a Carefree Summer of a carefree time for you — at least you've probably been to wearing one when you sensed to me to be enjoying yourself most. These seem to be a rather new-fangled variety but all I could find — and even so I attribute them to the Eleanor influences in fashion for the head band and the head-band on — much like I
Dear Bess Furman:

It was such a pleasant surprise to receive Mrs. Roosevelt's autograph, and so thoughtful of you to get it for me. She is a woman whom I admire greatly for her democracy, her energy, and her warm-heartedness.

I wish I had a twin named for her. I hope the babies welcomed you home royally and had not learned to walk too expertly in your absence.

The papers were mailed to you several days ago, and you should have them by this time.

Hoping that our paths will cross again sometime,

Sincerely yours,

Edna Warren,
Globe-Democrat,
May 30, 1938.
Dear Bess:  

I am glad you know about Gino for I think it will mean a great deal to her to have you cheering her up. Now that Elinor Morgenthau and I have both left, I don't think there are many people around who know, and while she doesn't need sympathy, I think she does need to have her mind taken off her problem, for this waiting is always rather hard.

Tommy is doing splendidly and though she will have to be quiet for several months, the doctor insists that she will be better than she has ever been in her life before.

Our number here is Poughkeepsie 607. I will be in Washington only for the day on the 16th, so I don't suppose there is a chance of seeing you, though I will be going around the Girl Scout encampment and possibly Louise Stanley will be urging you to come down and go around, too.

I hope you and the babies keep well all summer.

Much love,
Dear 'ER':

My thoughts have been with you and Tommy constantly this week. And yours, too.

From West Virginia friends I bought her a little gift, and as we were in town, I took myself out to her house one afternoon that I'd been told by John — the night we were at the White House — she was out of town for a few weeks. The more I thought about it, the more it didn't quite click — so I told Bob she'd done it enough worrying about me while I was pregnant to give me a right to worry over her.

And now my heart just hurts. I truly had thought all the time I was behind her — I didn't dream, because she has always been so gay and gallant — and was then —
that she still has to fight downright suffering. I promised her not to tell the rest of the girls anything else but that she was out of town but about she was in the city for a few days. I can completely understand and know it is imperative for her to have peace and quiet for her not to be inundated with sympathy. Certainly their new sympathy is an exquisite spot and place in which, Maria, she'll need a foot and permanent support. John called this morning and said they'd been to the doctor and they said she was really in need of a speech. He wanted me to make a speech at the University in her place, one she was majors in Maryland next Thursday, and I told him I'd sure be glad to do it.
my best love to Tommy — I sent her a little note — would have called you up
only I’d misled that elegant portion
and at Hyde Park, but I guess
that you probably had more phone
calls than you could manage!

much love
Ben
June 23, 1938

Dear Bess:

I am terribly glad about the story!

I haven't had time to read the enclosure you sent as yet, but my reaction is that you'd better get Mary Chamberlain's leaflets and go over them. Nothing should be more than two pages in length; this is pretty difficult to accomplish, I know.

Cordially yours,

Mrs. Robert Armstrong
4920 Western Ave.
Washington, D.C.
Dear "EF":

Thanks a million for telegraphing. The girls at the committee scratched around with the news services until they at least found pictures that bring out the spirit of the story. To my utter amazement and delight, and at 8:30 a.m. suggestion, the President himself headlined the story, improving it significantly and quietly one or two moments at hand and quizzing one or two reporters, "whichever one it turns out to be a newspaper reporter."

I'd have written sooner except--at your instigation, I have been at your instigation, I have been--at your instigation--I have been at your instigation which made it "deep."--in the enclosed which just had to be handed in today--it's just had to be handed in today--to see if they like it as a trial balloon--to see if they like it. Saw games Saturday was encouraged—she was involved up by that recent from you

BESS FURMAN ARMSTRONG
4330 WESTERN AVENUE
WASHINGTON, D.C.

Tuesday June 21
I'd have chased you down at the 4-H club, only that was the morning I went out & many long U's made the speech — I didn't do nearly so well as I did down in W. Va. but it was deemed good experience for me — for 8 years the P wouldn't let me make a speech and you can get pretty rusty in 8 years — with simplifying systems coming in during that time.

Many thanks for mentioning me to Miss McElwain.

My best love to Tommie.

Yours always, 

Bess
July 1, 1938

Dear Bess:

I knew you were going to take a hand at the Rainbow Fliers. The point is to make them brief and bring out the essential points as clearly as possible.

Thanks a lot for the card which you sent Tommy.

I am awfully glad to hear that the twins are thriving. I wish I were going to see you soon.

Affectionately,
Bess Furman Armstrong  
433 Western Avenue  
Washington, D. C.

Dear "E. R."

Don't bother to read that enclosure. They took it, and I chopped it down to 800 words, and it will be out in the July Digest in a far easier form to read—and much improved because its paragraph & introductory lines written by Mr. David Cushman Coode, as well as yours truly, about half & half. They now want me to try my hand at the "vaccines fluids"—and any suggestions you might have would be most appreciated.

Today is the day that Tommy will be coming home—so I enclose a welcome to him—much love. Bess.
September 19, 1938

Dear Bass:

I am so glad that you are opening a little office with special features and I think you and your sister should do very well. I am particularly happy to know that your work with Dorothy McAllister is going well. I think you can do just as well as Mary Chamberlain did, with a little practice on those flyers. If they are right they will be used by the men just as they were before. I think that will gradually build up quite a reputation for you.

Jimmy is fine and the news since I left is good. I am much relieved to have it all over.

I am glad your trip was so successful. Bob certainly is ingenious in ways of making a car possible for the babies. To hear that you have grown fat is almost unbelievable and I don't think I will believe it until I see you!

Tommy appreciates your message very much. You are quite right - getting one's private life straightened out is a help, and she is too swell a person to have that type of thing on her mind.

I shall hope to see you next week in Washington. Affectionately,
Dearest E. P._

Now that the greatest load of your anxiety is lifted, I feel that maybe I wouldn't be encroaching too much to tell you that my thoughts have been with you daily here._ I have seen the best newspaper gal friend I ever had went up to Mayo + never come back because of a colon cancer. In April she was one of the largest factors in my life—in fact come second to Bob, all seemed serene and small—and in August she was gone. I am so thankful for you that The Wright report came over radio last night.
and now for a few things from me.

My sister & I have opened up 'Furman Features' - freelance - in the National Press Bldg. Room 1057, Phone District 0246. The work has turned out this summer well justifies the small expense we are going to - and it becomes apparent that our headquarters was essential to future growth.

I was essential to future growth or my best assistant's departure. We are all enthusiastic about my work with Dorothy McAllister, for which I have you to thank. I have gone on my way and I already keep in close touch with it.

Bob & I had a completely successful vacation trip home or up three Rocky Mountains.
National Parks due to the various gadgets he had invented to take care of them while we were away. I think the Parks (as mentioned in my letter) worked out perfectly. It seemed awkward to be home again and I am going to make him functionalize our nursery and in fact our home as he did our cars. It will take time, but it will be worth it.

I have gotten so fat that none of my clothes fit—at least a 3-inch increase around the hips.
and for the first time in my life I face the fact that I am going to have to reduce. I guess that catches you up on me — (at the moment the radio is bringing us results from the battlefield headquarters and I can sort of suffering — not that I expected anything else)

The news for Tommy was pleasing to me — I know a little of how she felt about having her own name back in mind, can understand her view point wholly. And getting rank straightened out in order...
personal life is so completely fundamental to living. She’s such a small person that she should have everything right.

Affectionately always

Bess
September 28, 1938

Dear Bess:

I am delighted to have the labels
and shall enjoy using them. Many, many
thanks for your thought of me.

Affectionately,

Mrs. Robert Armstrong
4920 Western Avenue
Chevy Chase
Maryland
Dear EP,

To the one person in the United States who least needs a "personal label," I present that small luxury.

Best,

Sincerely,
October 15, 1960

Dear Bess:

This is just a line to tell you that I did appreciate all the work you did for the party the other evening. Being with you all is a great joy to me always.

Much love,

Miss Bess Furman
4920 Western Avenue
Chevy Chase, Maryland
November 7, 1938

Dear Boss:

Many thanks for the information about Paul C. Smith. I was interested in what you said about him and shall keep the clipping for future reference.

Affectionately,

Mrs. Robert Armstrong
4920 Western Avenue
Chevy Chase, Md.
Dear 'E.R.',

Attached is a clipping which might possibly prove of advantage to you sometime, somewher.

The Paul C. Smith mentioned is the one for whom I got you to autograph a picture once—a young chap who has done a very remarkable thing in San Francisco.

In the Chronicle a conservative Republican paper he has consistently upheld Harry Bridges.
Hotel Benedick
1808 Eye Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C.

The same break on space as the Town Hall. On the ground that...that Harry Bridges said was news in San Francisco.

If ever you need any impartial, completely competent information on the west coast situation that so perturbs the DOCS committee call on Paul Smith.

Best

men, executives, outlet, retail and service em-
men into the act itself, 
rode to Mr. Andrews'
veals, cloudy clauses
ition and interpreta-
and his staff worked
supply the enlighten-
Only the courts may
re an essential part of
an commerce are . . . use "engaged in com-

ever the basis on which the workers are
paid . . . they must receive at least the
Equivalent of the minimum hourly rate."
► " . . . Employment of learners, ap-
prentices, handicapped persons and mes-
engers at rates less than those required by . . . the Fair Labor Standards Act . . . will be allowed only under special
certificates issued by the Administrator." 
► Exemption of workers handling, pre-
paring or canning horticultural and agri-
cultural products or making dairy prod-
acts "within the area of production" applies to those employed directly on a farm,
or at nearby plants having seven em-
ployees or less. 
► Essence of the definition of an exempt
"executive": he must have power to hire
& fire, or a good deal to say about hiring
& firing; he must receive $30 a week or
more.

Hot Car Cooled

On the front page of the San Francisco
Chronicle early this month appeared an
insulting blob of black type. In it Execu-
tive Editor Paul C. Smith announced
imperatively that he was fed up with a dis-
pute between San Francisco warehouse
operators and C. I. O. warehousemen—the
negotiators were bungling, and the C. I. O.
members should return to work until the
"hot" car that caused the dispute cooled
off. The International Longshoremen's &
Warehousemen's Union dared him to take
a hand. He accepted.
The "hot" car (loaded by non-union
workers) of Woolworth 54-106 school
supplies, whose visits closed 127 of 180
warehouses in the San Francisco Bay area
(Time, Sept. 5), was the device used by
the Association of San Francisco Distrib-
utors, to show what an employers' union
could do against a labor union. The hot
car forced the employers' issue: their
demand that the union should give them a
master contract covering all warehouses
until 1940. To I. L. W. U. the master
contract looked like a device to write off
concessions previously won from
individual employers and strait-jacket the
union.

This was the clash of wills which Editor
Smith had to reconcile. Last week he
announced success: Longshoreman Harry
Bridges and colleagues accepted a city-
wide agreement; the employers accepted
a classification system to protect the
union's present status in each warehouse.
Meantime, a rival A. F. of L. union had
won a local tiehold by signing a contract
with a smaller association of warehouse
operators. No provision: no strikes, no
lockouts for five years.

Republic and Relief

To the great annoyance of the National
Labor Relations Board, Manhattan Law-
yer Frederick Hill Wood last April con-
vinced the U. S. Supreme Court that de-
fendants halted before quasi-judicial Fed-
eral agencies have a right to study and

Time, October 31, 1938
Dear Beas:

I think the donkey book ends are most amusing and I will get great joy out of having them. I am taking them to Hyde Park as I have more time there to enjoy personal belongings than I have in the White House.

I hope you all had a grand Christmas and I am looking forward to seeing the children this afternoon.

A happy New Year to you.

Affectionately,

Mrs. Robert Armstrong
4920 Western Avenue
Chevy Chase, Md.
February 6, 1939

Dear Bassa:

I did not get your note until after the press conference but I pretty well covered the things you had in mind.

I am glad to have the clippings which you sent and am afraid that I agree with you—that some of the other girls would have a hard time getting people like Charlie Nicholson to pinch hit for them. However, I do think that it is because Evie's husband is at the Committee.

Affectionately,

Mrs. Robert Armstrong
4920 Western Ave.
Chevy Chase, Md.
Dear "ER"

I'm too rusty to get off to a good start,

so this is just tentative—

I haven't spoken to Martha enclosed—

He'll press on you. If I were on it I'd say to a "comment?" (and hope you'd say "no comment.

The biographical mellow piece on Darius Stimson
showing as how shall be Chairman without portfolio if she can

deriving her power
direct from God.

Charlie needs a punch

hitting for Evil having little Evil. It is a

situation I should like to see become accepted

more of our country.

(over)
But would these gallant gents who so prudently do the same for a working newspaper woman? It is a question on which I cannot be altogether objective. But one that gal— in self-defense need an answer, and face when it comes upon them—to two gallants.
February 14, 1939

Dear Bess:

I think I can go to the National League of Women Voters' General Council Meeting on April 26. I assume it is here in Washington.

Affectionately,

Mrs. Robert B. Armstrong, Jr.
4920 Western Avenue
Washington
D.C.
Dear ER:

I am commissioned by President and Staff of The National League of Women Voters to ask you if you have any evening time open April 25, 26, 27, the dates of the General Council Meeting.

They plan to make one of these nights the formal public launching of their expansion campaign "to work for democracy and make democracy work," and they want you to be honor guest. Could you, would you?

It wouldn't mean having to make a speech. If they can get it, they want to put on one of those Democracy Films that the Will Hays group is getting up.

I have an awful feeling that you'll be lecturing, but I'll hope for that feather in my hat and star in my crown—your presence.

And I did have such a wonderful time sitting in your box!

Yours always,

Bess
April 11, 1939

Dear Bess:

I certainly am interested in the series of miniature essays on democracy and am glad so many papers are willing to publish them. Many thanks for sending them to me.

Very sincerely yours,

Miss Bess Furman
Press Dept.
Nat’l. League of Women Voters
726 Jackson Place
Wash., D.C.
April 10, 1939

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

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Since you are to be the honor speaker at the banquet of the General Council meeting of the National League of Women Voters, I thought you might be interested in reading our series of miniature essays on democracy, "The ABC of the U.S.A." You will find them enclosed together with a routine memorandum which gives the names of the papers which accepted this series. In each case we had a personal signature from an editor who went on record as being willing to publish such a series. I thought you would like to see how many editors are actually willing to give space in their papers to a discussion of democracy.

Sincerely yours,

Bess Furman
Press Department
April 12, 1939

Dear Bess:

Thank you very much for sending me the article. The girl made a great impression.

I am returning the paper for your files.

Affectionately,

Miss Bess Furman
4920 Western Avenue
Chevy Chase
Md.
Dear "ER"

And here is what the little Tepan gal wrote—

If it didn't include such a beautiful picture of Joompy I would ask for it back—

as reference as to what you are or record as staying.

Bessie Truckman
WASHINGTON, D.C. April 15—

Dear "E.R." and Tommy: (Carbon to Tommy at the White House)

This is official business and is addressed to the two of you. It is, in fact, two separate and distinct official businesses.

From William C. Lengel, who would be my literary agent if I ever succeeded in selling anything, I get this letter, verbatim as follows:

There's a suggestion for two very good articles on page Twenty-three of this week's Time—one by Mrs. Helm on her job of planning the social affairs of the King and Queen on their visit, all of which involves a lot of human interest and so forth. Also, one by Mrs. Nesbitt on the housekeeping problems presented—especially on what will happen in the kitchen—a piece which might be called FOOD FOR A KING: AND FOR A QUEEN.

Of course this would be better if you got a signed piece by these ladies, but if not, how about an authorized interview with them, which would of course, have to be exclusive?

Liberty would be particularly interested in these—I just talked to them.

As I was dictating this, Harry Gray of Liberty called me and cautioned me on a thing which I was aware of but had neglected to put in this note. That is, you would have to get a distinctive approach to this because the newspapers will be covering this pretty well and for a magazine it would have to be "different." Put on your thinking cap and see what you can do.

Also, let me caution you that this must be done pronto and that an article signed by the principals or "As told to" or "In collaboration with" would have a hundred times better chance than an interview.

Any chances of my becoming a full ghost or half-ghost for Mrs. Helm and/or Mrs. Nesbitt? On a single article per each? Tell them I'd gladly split the proceed and try to figure out something featureistic which does not go down the main news track that belongs by rights to the press associations—nor ruin the book that you and Mrs. Helm are going to do sometime, Tommy. I think Mrs. Helm might do an interesting highlights job off having both been a factor in the entertainment of a president at Buckingham Palace and of a King at the White House.

Yours with fear and trembling, rather than especially hopefully,

Bess Furman

and it looks like they ain't coming any how!

It was a wonderful Easter party.
WASHINGTON, D.C. April 15

II

This has nothing whatever to do with the King and Queen—as yet.

Out in St. Louis there is an outfit by the name of the Gardner Advertising Company, which puts on a radio program over WMAL of a Tuesday evening called The Inside Story. Often it amounts to nothing more nor less than an interview with people on unusual occupations, but they always pick out some dramatic incident of same and have it dramatized. They will pay me $50 to $100 for ferreting out their interviewees and sending them material sufficient to put them on in Chicago. Their expenses are paid to Chicago, from which the program always originates. To the person thus interviewed they pay various fees depending on what they think the value of his or her inside story, but most of 'em are around $150 or $200. They crave to put on Mrs. Nesbitt just as the White House housekeeper if she has an INSIDE STORY. I called her up just on the general subject of whether or not she might possibly consider broadcasting on a commercial program (It's Balston breakfast food) and she said she'd done it once and to ask you. Her role would be pure entertainment and not endorsing the breakfast food.

(If either of you ever crave a fare paid to Chi and back of a Tuesday night, just let me know and I'll try to get you top fee for your INSIDE STORY whatever it may be. I know dogged well however, it will be far, far from YOUR TOP FEE)

Yours with a slight flicker of hope—

Bess Furman

Bess

I really fully she would have to wait for a black spell to get away—
April 26, 1937

Dear Mrs.:

You were kind indeed to send me a note of sympathy and I appreciated your thought of me.

With many thanks, I am

Affectionately,

Mrs. Robert Armstrong
4920 Western Avenue
Friendship Station
Washington, D.C.
Dear "E.R.

This is just a little note to let you know (I did) feel so badly about your nephew. I remember you told me once if the President ever one of his 6-foot boys as a measure for the family Dining Room, and I've always felt they must be much a jolly lot.

Boo was certainly the grand soldier about his birthday. I don't know where an incident nor an accident has touched me more. I guess maybe loving children does it not to you?

Love

Bess
May 12, 1939

Dear Bess:

Many thanks for your letter and for the copy of your notes on my speech before the National League of Women Voters. I too enjoyed the banquet, and Tommy is glad to have the notes for her files.

Affectionately,

Miss Bess Furman
National League of Women Voters
726 Jackson Place
Washington
May 10, 1939

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

Dear E. R.,

At this late date I want to tell you how completely I personally enjoyed your visit to the National League of Women Voters banquet. It was quite like old times.

Purely from force of habit I took notes on your speech. When we were at Vassar, Tommy said she had been taking some of your speeches rather closely, as a matter of record, and I thought perhaps she would like to have a carbon of my notes, since she was unable to be there. You will find it enclosed.

As always,

Bess Furman
Press Department
(These are the notes that Miss Furman took on the speech of Mrs. Roosevelt. It is not a letter-perfect quote but is a rather close following of her address.)

You are starting on a campaign to gather in a great many more people into an organization in order to strengthen it. Many of us feel the League a very good instrument of training. It has taught us to listen to the other person's point of view; it has taught us to listen to complaints—we are told there is no such thing as non-partisanship—I have spent many hours answering letters explaining that the League tried to be non-partisan; tried to find out facts. Gradually that idea is getting across in many communities, one thing we must present to people if we are going to try to preserve our liberties—it takes a lot of trouble to try to get at the facts. I have told many young persons trying to obtain a knowledge of public questions, "I'd go to the League and ask for a statement of different points of view on that subject." And when we have done all that, we have to make up our minds and decide what is really best to do. One thing to do to preserve liberty is to be sure that there is liberty for everybody—not just from your own point of view. People say to me, "We don't consider it liberty that so—and—so be allowed to say thus—and—so."

When you have considered all the facts and make up your mind what you believe in, then you have a right to say and to persuade other people. That is a liberty we should be ready to fight for. Fight for the attitude which faces reality. Don't think a thing is true because you would like it to be true. In the little story Mrs. Taft told, one thing is typified—we women do "do all the work and we don't hold the offices." I am much interested to find that in whatever field women do work they have to keep on fighting to be allowed to do the work and to get an equal position to work. The tendency to a change in this respect is supposed to be restricted to certain
places in the world. We ought to think a little and see if this is really true. I would like to see you cease to be a League of Women Voters and be a "League of Voters." I think the gentleman might hear more than they sometimes do about the situations that women find themselves in. We are very apt to feel our liberties assured and that nothing can curtail them. But it comes to me so often, and rather from women, that it is the women whose sewing rooms are being closed, the women who are being thrown out of employment. The argument is that it is the men who head the families.

Men are supposed to be heads of families, but often these women say, "I am the breadwinner in the family." This liberty we prize we must watch from every angle. Things are always creeping up on us somewhere or other unless we are doing it. Watch your attitude toward other people, toward women, toward groups of other people. We are prone to think everybody in the country is not entitled to quite the same liberty.

I was talking to a group that belonged to a farm organization. One little girl said, "If you are a leader be sure to remain one of the group so you do not feel the difference between you and others." Watch yourself and your prejudices. The more I go about the country, the more different groups I see, the more I realize we have got to sit down and face ourselves—not to say "Yes, we believe in democracy; yes, we believe in liberty"; but to say, "What are the places in my behavior in the League where I fall short of democracy; where am I a little arrogant?" That is the beginning of democracy. The League is a very good instrument. You have a trained group of women who can sit down without emotion and analyze. That is really freedom—to keep informed, conditioned by the circumstances of our lives. At least we can try to know about people—that is a basis of really preserving our liberty—not little bits of the nation, all the people of the nation. If we insist on liberty for some and no liberty for others, we find creeping in on us a kind of thinking and action which does not lead to real democracy.
but to slavery. We cannot take the trouble to really be the type of

citizen democracy requires. It means a lot of work. You know you, yourself,
do not count for much but as one of the people who make democracy work you
count for a good deal. Function not for selves alone but for community and
nation as a whole. Then you can preserve democracy. In a democracy the
individual responsibility is an all-important thing and that is the real
secret of preserving our liberties.
May 17, 1939

Dear Bess:

I think your article about the wives of public men is very good. Many thanks for letting me see it.

Affectionately,

Miss Bess Furman
1097 National Press Bldg.
Wash., D.C.
PUBLIC MAN'S WIFE

—Her Work Is Never Done

By MRS. FURMAN

WASHINGTON, D.C. —

THAT bitingly music master of crowd psychology, Governor W. Lee O'Daniel of Texas, was introducing the wife of the President of the United States. He had had time to think up a few neat for the occasion and this is what he humorously said: "You've possibly heard of her husband. Any good things he may have done during his political career are due to her, and any mistakes he may have made are due to her not taking up the matter with his wife."

That seemed proper, mistress of crowd psychology, Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, hadn't had time to think up another answer. But she made the political reply-perfect. "A President's wife does not see her husband often enough to tell him what to do."

She had matched humor with humor, yet in a single sentence she had sustained the mental picture of a statesman busy almost beyond belief for another picture that may have been merely the product of Southern gallantry but that nevertheless had some of the hallmarks of a diagnosing Democrat.

Tact-on-tap saved the situation and kept the political record straight. "Think of the strain of forever having to have the right answer on the tip of the tongue. But Cabinet wives, diplomat's wives, senator's wives, bureau-crest wives all know this is but one of the requisites for the demanding job of being the wife of a public man."

THE wife of a public man is regularly expected to be in three places at once—not in her car, scattering her legs' cardi's calling cards among the higher-ups or showing her constellation the city; up in the spectators' gallery, watching her husband work for his country; and, of course, at home, being housewife, mother, inspiration, con- sider and helper. And when to her and to her husband's chances if her public doesn't find her where her public finds she should be?

She is supposed to inform herself thoroughly on public affairs that she can deliberate at the daily cocktail-hour set- ting of the fate of the nation. But she is supposed to keep herself locked in her boudoir every sentence her husband inadvertently drops around the house about what's going on and where. She must never raise her public pose or give way to such human emotions as grief, hatred, jealousy or despair. The Political Pundit must go on, no matter what happens to her in private life. Even though her husband is critically ill, her role is to be casua1 about it, for goodness knows what forces might be set stirring by rumors of a possible vacancy.

Successful wives in officialdom fall into several distinctive categories which may best be described by the citation of ex-samples in each.

ONE group—the Shoulder-to-Shoulder Group—includes such stalwarts as Mrs. John Nance Garner, who has been her husband's efficient secretary for almost forty years, at the same time serving up his hot lunches as hot as he served them and keeping track of his personal needs down to his last collar button. As her husband has become increasingly important and capital life increasingly complex, she has had to take on more and more of the load. Mr. Garner says to her: "Tell him this—" "Tell him that—" and Mrs. Garner tells him tactfully. "The problem," says Mr. Garner, "is to handle them so that, even though Mr. Garner can't see them, they'll go away knowing that he would have been glad to see them if he could, and to be of service to them."

Mrs. Robert A. Taft, whose campaign

helped her husband to a seat in the Senate, and Mrs. Elmer F. Andrews, wife of the Wages and Hours Administrator, who coaches her husband's public speaking, are other representatives of the

She must never relax her public pose.

She must add to the household.

One, must scintillate, at cocktail hour.

And is often expected to be in furs.
DOMINION OF CANADA

(Continued from Page 1)

The Canadian situation is one of political unrest and civil strife that threatens the very existence of the Dominion. The Canadian government has been forced to take drastic measures to deal with the situation, and the Dominion is at a crossroads. The Dominion of Canada is a country of great natural beauty and potential, but it is marred by internal strife and a lack of unity.

Canadians had almost resigned themselves to hostilities over the boundary dispute.

There are some of the factors that have kept Canada and the United States apart. But the forces drawing them together are now almost irresistible, the more so because the United States has assumed the new and resounding role of a good neighbor. The Ottawa agreements of 1923 were a last effort by H. B. Bennett to make the American people realize that the American trade treaty of 1919, on the other hand, was an economic move toward North American unity.

Mr. Mackenzie King's promise that the Canadian Parliament would decide whether Canada should participate in another European war was a political move in the same direction. The Dominion has thus formally asserted its right to non-participation in future hostilities while admitting that neutrality will be impossible while she stays in the Entente Cordiale.

It is a confused position but its confusion merely reflects the state of Canadian public opinion. If there is another general war in Europe, Canada, although among the countries that are not fighting, will undoubtedly be in it on the side of Britain. But full participation is recognized as an impossibility if her unity, severely strained in the last war, is to survive. Her business and social leaders are impartially almost to a man. On the other hand, her French-Canadian citizens would probably welcome an assertion of the right to full neutrality even if it meant leaving the empire. So would many of her English-speaking intelligentsia, who urge that as matters stand Canada is again merely a colony of Britain.

In the circumstances, the advantages of a North American policy for Canada are growing steadily more apparent. Close Anglo-American cooperation in such a war would simplify her problem. Failing such development, the drift is toward North American unity. By way of neutrality, the United States and the Canadian Parliament are considering the question of a formal declaration of neutrality for Canada.
Dear "E.R."—

That you might like to read what I wrote about you and others.

Cc:

5/12/39

very good

Be...
May 29, 1939

Dear Bessie:

I am sorry that I found life too crowded for me to go to the party at the Bureau of Printing and Engraving, so I could not hear your friend.

Affectionately,

Miss Bess Furman
4920 Western Avenue
Chevy Chase, Md.
Dear "ER"

I'm a tiny thing having to tell you - the whole big splash. It seems that you are doing all your usual favors on top of the etchings and that you are more or less scheduled to appear at some doing of the American Legion at the Bureau of Engraving. Memorial Day printing.

Well, one of our very closest friends, G. Howard Smith is director of the Cheney Chase Charitable who will sing to you.
There appears to be a naive hope among these charterers that if you write a mention in your column—do you have the visiting sending groups from here and there?

I am even amazed at the increasing ramifications of your position. It doesn't take the great American public long to swing in as part of a tradition.

The charters are, however, quite polished—polished enough to be smart and make you look even smart—please
June 1, 1939

Dear Bess:

Mrs. Roosevelt asks me to thank you for the leaflet, "Women on Juries". She will keep it in her files and will be glad to have whatever other information you send her on this subject.

Very sincerely yours,

Miss Bess Fursman
National League of Women Voters
726 Jackson Place
Washington, D.C.
May 25, 1939

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

"E.C."

Dear Eleazar:

Since the enclosed leaflet, "Women on Juries," is one of those rare round-ups of a subject that goes down through the years, I thought you might like one for your files. It is corrected and it won't be much of a chore to keep it corrected.

The National League of Women Voters will try to keep you posted on all changes coming to its attention on the "Women in Jury Service" front. And the Press Department of the League would appreciate it if you would also pass such information along, thus keeping a double-check.

Sincerely yours,

Bess Furman
Press Department

Enclosures:
  "Press release for May 29, 1939"
  "Women on Juries" flier
Four reasons why women should serve on juries are given in a "Women on Juries" leaflet whose publication was announced today by the National League of Women Voters. This leaflet shows women's jury service at a national half-way mark. The reasons given were:

1. Responsibility of citizenship. Jury service is a form of participation in the process of government, a social responsibility that should be shared by all citizens--men and women alike.

2. Better balanced verdicts. The complementary viewpoints of women and men tend to result in better balanced jury verdicts.

3. Increase available number of qualified jurors. The number of persons available would be doubled and many women would not need to be excused because of business responsibilities.

4. Why not? Women are in the courts in the capacity of plaintiffs, defendants, judges, lawyers, clerks, and stenographers. Why should the jury box be closed to them?

A "Women on Juries Map" of the United States, showing states where such service is compulsory, states where service is permissive, and states where women are still barred from jury service was included with, however, this footnote: "At the time of publication many state legislatures were still in session, and therefore changes may have been made in some states regarding jury service for women."

The state of Illinois did pass a law to give women jury service, altering the just-published map by one state and marking the half-way point in the achievement of jury service for the women of the entire country.

Under the leadership of Ellen M. Yockey and Mrs. Raymond S. Simons, chairmen of the Department of Government and the Legal Status of Women of the Illinois League of Women Voters, local Leagues of Illinois have for years made an active campaign in behalf of the jury service law. They observed a "Women on Juries Day" in March.
Before the Illinois law was passed, 23 states and the District of Columbia provided for the service of women on juries, 25 states barred women from jury service. Now 24 states and the District of Columbia have women's jury service, 24 states still bar women from jury service. The presence of the District of Columbia on the women's jury service side gives that viewpoint a slight edge in the present tie vote.

"It is a matter for rejoicing that our 'Women on Juries' map became antiquated even before it was put into general circulation," said Miss Marguerite M. Wells, president of the National League of Women Voters. "The faster the map changes to include the states in which women now have no jury service—Alabama, Arizona, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Maryland, Massachusetts, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Dakota, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, and Wyoming—the better it will be for the system of justice in this country."

Miss Wells urged compulsory jury service in the states where it now is optional or permissive—Arkansas, Delaware, District of Columbia, Kansas, Louisiana, New York, North Dakota, Oregon, Rhode Island, Utah, Washington and Wisconsin.

Mrs. Edith Valet Cook of New Haven, Connecticut, chairman of the Department of Government and the Legal Status of Women of the National League, said:

"The League of Women Voters supports compulsory rather than optional jury service for women because jury service is a duty which every qualified voter ought to perform. There is no reason why one sex should be compelled to perform this service, and the other be allowed to exercise a choice in the matter.

"Optional or permissive laws are unsatisfactory because: permissive laws fail to recognize the principle of responsible citizenship; permissive laws put a burden on the administrative machinery in calling large numbers of women only to have to excuse them later; with a permissive law, the number of women serving tends to be negligible."

States cited as having compulsory jury service laws for women were: California,
Connecticut, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, New Jersey, Ohio, and Pennsylvania.

Judges on both coasts were quoted on women jurors:

Louis B. Hewitt, Circuit Court of Oregon: "It seems to me that good, intelligent women can improve the quality of jury service by serving whenever the opportunity occurs and by encouraging others to do so."

Grover M. Moscowitz, U. S. District Judge, New York: "The women have been attentive, painstaking, understanding and fair in the determination of the cases presented to them....By far and large the verdicts of the jury this month, which have included women, have been more intelligent than the verdicts heretofore rendered by juries consisting solely of men."
## Women on Juries

**Federal Jury Service for Women**

Whether women may serve on juries in Federal Courts depends upon the state in which the court is sitting. Jurors must have the same qualifications, and are entitled to the same exemptions, as in the highest court of law in each state.

### State-by-State Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>No Jury Service</th>
<th>Optional Jury Service</th>
<th>Compulsory Jury Service</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alabama</td>
<td>No law</td>
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<td>Arizona</td>
<td>No law</td>
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<td>Arkansas</td>
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<td>California</td>
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<td>Colorado</td>
<td>No law</td>
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<td>Connecticut</td>
<td>Special exemptions for nurses in practice, for women nursing sick member of family, or caring for children under 15.</td>
<td>Compendium: Word used is “person.”</td>
<td>Compendium: Words used are “all qualified electors.”</td>
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<td>Delaware</td>
<td>Women, when sworn, may be excused on request.</td>
<td>Compendium: Word used is “person.”</td>
<td>Compendium: Words used are “all qualified electors.”</td>
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<tr>
<td>District of Columbia</td>
<td>Not compulsory on any woman.</td>
<td>Compendium: Word used is “person.”</td>
<td>Compendium: Words used are “all qualified electors.”</td>
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<td>Florida</td>
<td>No law</td>
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<td>Georgia</td>
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<td>Idaho</td>
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<td>Illinois</td>
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<td>Indiana</td>
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<td>Iowa</td>
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<td>Kansas</td>
<td>Each woman wishing to be exempt must notify local assessor in order that her name shall not be placed on the jury list.</td>
<td>Compendium: Word used is “person.”</td>
<td>Compendium: Words used are “all qualified electors.”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kentucky</td>
<td>Must declare in writing desire to serve.</td>
<td>Compendium: Word used is “person.”</td>
<td>Compendium: Words used are “all qualified electors.”</td>
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<td>Louisiana</td>
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<td>Maine</td>
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<td>Maryland</td>
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<td>Massachusetts</td>
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<td>Mississippi</td>
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<td>Missouri</td>
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<td>Montana</td>
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<td>Nebraska</td>
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<td>Nevada</td>
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<td>Compendium: Exempt from jury service married women having one or more children directly under her care.</td>
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<tr>
<td>New Hampshire</td>
<td>Not to be imposed upon women.</td>
<td>Compendium: Exempt upon claim of exemption.</td>
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<td>New Jersey</td>
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<td>New Mexico</td>
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<td>New York</td>
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<tr>
<td>North Carolina</td>
<td>Question whether women are liable for jury service. Not yet settled by opinion of Attorney General or by court decision. If word used is “persons.”</td>
<td>Compulsory: Exempt upon written application to the clerk of the court.</td>
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<td>North Dakota</td>
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<td>Ohio</td>
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<td>Oklahoma</td>
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<td>Compendium: Words used “persons having the qualifications of electors.”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oregon</td>
<td>No law</td>
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<td>Exempt by signing notice claiming exemption.</td>
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<td>Pennsylvania</td>
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<td>Rhode Island</td>
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<td>Compensum: Words used “qualified electors.”</td>
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<tr>
<td>South Carolina</td>
<td>Women declared exempt.</td>
<td>Compendium: Words used “persons having the qualifications of electors.”</td>
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<tr>
<td>South Dakota</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tennessee</td>
<td>No law</td>
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<td>Texas</td>
<td>No law</td>
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<tr>
<td>Utah</td>
<td>No law</td>
<td></td>
<td>Exempt if she has children under 15.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vermont</td>
<td>Question whether women are liable for jury service. Not yet settled by opinion of Attorney General or by court decision. If word used are “legal voters.”</td>
<td>Compendium: Words used “persons having the qualifications of electors.”</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Virginia</td>
<td>No law</td>
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<td>Washington</td>
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<td>West Virginia</td>
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<td>Wisconsin</td>
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<td>Wyoming</td>
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Note: Information contained in this chart is not complete. Refer to state statutes for more detailed information. As time of publication many state legislatures were still in session, and therefore changes may have been made in some states regarding jury service for women.
Why Women Should Serve on Juries

1. Responsibility of citizenship. Jury service is a form of participation in the process of government, a social responsibility that should be shared by all citizens—men and women alike.
2. Better balanced verdicts. The complementary viewpoints of men and women tend to result in better balanced jury verdicts.
3. Increase available number of qualified jurors. The number of persons available would be doubled and many women would not need to be excused because of business responsibilities.
4. Why not? Women are in the courts in the capacity of plaintiffs, defendants, judges, lawyers, clerks, and clerks, and so on.

Why should the jury box be closed to them?

Compulsory vs. Optional Laws

The League of Women Voters supports compulsory rather than optional jury service for women because jury service is a duty which every qualified voter ought to perform. There is no reason why one sex should be compelled to perform this service and the other be allowed to exercise a choice in the matter. Experience in the states having optional jury laws for women indicates that such laws are of little value and that they vitiate the principle of jury service as a duty, making it of no sense a duty for women.

Optional or permissive laws are unsatisfactory because:
1. Permissive laws fail to recognize the principle of realizable citizenship. The discretion exercised by the judge under compulsory jury service is sufficient safeguard against the imposition of any hardship.
2. Permissive laws put a burden on the administrative machinery in calling large numbers of women only to have them excused later.
3. With a permissive law, the number of women called tends to be negligible.

Suggestions for State Leagues

The status of jury service for women presents a different problem in each state. The following sections are intended to be suggestive only of possible lines of action. For further information and advice regarding specific situations, consult the National Legal Status Chairman, 726 Jackson Place, Washington, D. C.

Where Jury Service for Women is Compulsory
1. Does the method of drawing names result in women being drawn for jury service?

2. Are there any deterrents to women being drawn and serving, e.g., court facilities and adequate personnel?
3. Would jury schools (i.e., demonstrations of court procedures relating to jurors) add to public interest and increase the number of women serving?
4. Are there available jurors’ handbooks giving definitions and procedure? Many state leagues have published these and they have been found useful not only by women but by men.

Where Jury Service for Women is Optional
1. Are women being drawn for jury service?
2. Are women serving when drawn? Why not?
3. Would it be feasible to endeavor to get a compulsory law? (See Section on Compulsory vs. Optional Law.)
4. Would jury schools add to the public interest and increase the number of women serving?
5. Are jurors’ handbooks available?

Where Jury Service for Women is Not Allowed
1. Is there an increasing public interest?
2. Have the political parties endorsed it? Are the women in the parties interested?
3. Would jury schools, visits to courts, etc., increase this interest?

Selection of a Jury

Juries are chosen one by one for a particular trial and each one may, under certain conditions, be challenged. A limited number of peremptory challenges is allowed in each case. If the jury is fair and impartial, it shall be the duty of the presiding judge to accept the jury.

Qualifications of Jurors

These are determined by statute in each state, the provisions usually including citizenship and eligibility to vote, although in some states a juror must be older than 21 years, over 25. There is also, as a rule, a provision as to literacy, mentality, and character, such as “sound judgment and integrity,” “unlawful and unlawful man,” etc.

The Jury List

This is usually made up by local officials. Persons in exempt classes are usually not selected. Exempt classes might include public officials, lawyers, practicing physicians, farmers, ministers, teachers, etc. There is, of course, nothing illegal about the selection of such a juror if he is drawn and willing to serve.

Exempted from Jury Duty

A juror may be excused if the reason given is satisfactory to the judge. Some state statutes indicate that this excuse must not be for trivial cause but only when the interests of the juror or those of the public will be materially injured by his attendance or when the state of his own health or that of a number of his family requires his absence from jury duty.

Length of Jury Terms

Many states set tentative terms leaving their application to the discretion of the judge. A juror must finish his service if he is drawn on a particular case before the close of the prescribed period. Length of term varies from one week to a maximum of 60 days.

Frequency of Service

In most states a person having served two weeks is exempted from further service for a year; in a few it may be for as many as three years. In a few states no one serves a second time until all persons qualified as jurors have served.

The Grand Jury

The Grand Jury's sole function is to inquire into alleged crimes and to consider whether or not the evidence against a person is sufficient to justify his being brought to court for trial. The defendant does not appear unless called on to do so. The judge instructs the Grand Jury as to the scope of the work and as to procedure and the prosecuting attorney conducts the proceedings which are secret. In some states little use is made of Grand Juries except for coroners' murder and prosecutions are made upon an "information" filed directly by the prosecuting attorney.

The Petit Jury

The function of the Petit Jury is to decide disputed questions of fact in criminal and, in civil cases at common law. It is composed of 12 members and a unanimous verdict is required. However, in most cases, some states provide for juries of less than 12, and do not require unanimous verdicts.

Jury Trial

Trial before a petit jury is the trial by jury commonly referred to. It is guarantied by the federal and state constitutions in all criminal cases and usually in civil cases involving a certain specified amount of money.
June 22, 1939

Dear Bess:

Thank you for your letter. I think the pageant is grand!

I am anxious to know how you all stood the trip.

Affectionately,

Mrs. Robert Armstrong
McCook
Nebraska
June 16

McCoy helm.

Dear "ER",

We heard the Hyde Park farewell to Their Majesties as we were nearing St. Louis. There is something extra special in hearing a thing like that on an auto radio, rolling across the country. It is a most pure miracle—when you are in your own beaten track you don't think of it.

It seems to me that your press conference on June 9 simply justified all the work and thinking that all these press conferences have been to you. I thought again of the trip I made to New York at Hild's invitation and how we talked over the possibility of how enthusiastic I was—and how the T.G.P. predicted it "couldn't last." And just as we predicted you did it an outstanding job of press relations. What with the royal visit when it could so easily have been the other way around.

I'm enclosing a copy of the brief I made on a page of the final stand for your personal reading. I thought it a superb presentation. I wrote a note to send you a copy of the whole pageant if they will vote. Of yes— and that dinner we had in the garden on the night before Their Majesties came will ever be a heavenly memory with me. Thank you so much for cooking me. I think the conversation there really lifted the June 9 conference clear enough of the moment class.

Love. 

Yours,
Binennial Convention,
American Association of University Women
Shirley-Savoy Hotel,
Denver, Colorado.

Resume of
Monday Night's Pageant

The pageant, "Yesterday's Women" depicts the part women played in the pioneering of the states of New Mexico, Utah, Colorado, and Wyoming.

It is presented in an epic manner—first a compact, specific sketching of the mighty movement that made each state, then an intimate portrait of the individual women in that movement.

Its great choruses will be first to test the acoustics in Denver's remarkable nearly-completed amphitheater in the "Park of the Red Rocks". The cast numbers about 300 university women and their husbands.

Author is Lois Hartman Boggs, who won first prize in a pageant contest staged by Denver university women through a gift of money coming from an anonymous donor.

The sequence consists of a Prologue and Epilogue of Youth Conversing with History, and four historic Friezes, one for each state.

From Color-notes in the Friezes:

New Mexico

Sweep of History—-
The Spaniards seized the seven famous cities of Cibola, robbed and killed and found no gold. The friars came with robes and cross, and worshipped strange new gods with prayers. The Indians, loyal to their tribal gods, made martyrs of these humble men. Cities were settled, San Gabriel (Santa Fe) The cowboys drove north on the Santa Fe trail their long-horned steers, stage coaches rolled.

"The Spanish victory is long forgotten
The conquered have gone away.
The conquered ones, the Indians live here,
A vanquished by a victorious race
Amid the ruins of their seven cities
They build and live as did their fathers.

Woman's Part—-
The women "built the kivas round, the towering walls of clay", wove cotton cloth, made priestly robes, made pottery, baskets, tilled the sandy soil, ground the corn, "prayed to the Cloud God to send down rain", their prayer the rain dance.
Utah

Sweep of History:

The friars of Santa Fe, through rocky, towering canyon walls, stumbling, climbing in exhaustion, carried their cross of faith to Utah. Another fifty years, men roamed the west, rowed on its rivers, traded furs, Bridger, Owen, Provost, Smith, Kit Carson. The forty-niners toiled their way through few men stopped long till Brigham Young brought out the Mormons and said, "This is the Place".

Their converts had no money for expensive crossing of the plains and mountains. There grew the plan of hand-carts to be pulled by man instead of beast. Calamitous, the plan of hand-carts proved.

Woman's Park:

Across an ocean's width, our country's breadth, they pulled their fragile carts piled high, they waded streams or choked with summer's dust. That three months march of doom began too late. Freezing nights they spent on high plateau in summer's ragged garb, unsheltered, starving. Each camp became a burial site each morning, one shallow grave for those whose sleep was final. None dared look back to see the wolves and vultures. Unwondering, they passed the bones of mighty dinosaurs, now in museums. The bubbling oil they saw and found quite useful for oiling guns and shoes and greasing carts. It was not food, and on they pushed, unheeding the silent signals of vast stores of wealth.

Colorado

Sweep of History:

Long since, one Colorado's hills had known the white man's searching hand, Cheyennes and Arapahoes were camped on plains where game was plenty, where moving glaciers down from heights crept slow, remorseless, to be caught in desert rose or cactus bloom. The chieftains and the wise men of these tribes met in council around the fire, swore, "white man shall not come".

Zebulon Pike came, to starve, to freeze, to leave his name for Pike's Peak. Major Long led an expedition, left his name. Kit Carson, Baker, Bridger, all trapped, traded, warred, and died. Woman came, too, to explore, climbed lofty ranges, rode alone, unharmed, the narrow trails. John Gregory, Jackson, Russell found the gold that brought the world to Colorado.
Women's Part

Men dug for gold, their song is sung, their fortunes and their sorrows told the world. The women, their wives and mothers, died unknown, their days of endless labors soon forgotten.

They left their ordered homes, flower gardens neat, their jams and jellies, quilts and woven rugs, their fireside, and all, to go with frenzied mates across the prairie lands to mountains bleak where nothing grew, where nothing lived but they.

They lived in cabins bare with earthen floor; On smoking fires, in dented pots, they cooked the same poor meals of bacon, mush and beans. In pinebough bunks they tossed their sleepless hours and bore their babies in a haze of pr' in, alone, and buried most 
imax in tiny boxes.

At dawn their men went forth, their eyes aglitter, to gouge unfriendly hills with pick and blast, or sieve the icy waters of the stream. They saw gold steal away their husband's hearts. For few, quick, incandescent fortune came, and brought the gifts that all the world can give.

Gold, we've found it, gold, gold, gold!
Now my wife can be a lady!

Thus grew a state on fortune and misfortune. As the roaring sea in the shells, faintly we hear the echoes of heartaches rising from abandoned mines, the ruins of cabins, voice of the ghost-towns---This Colorado was mothered in lonely courage.

Wyoming

Sweep of History---

The deer first made the trails that run from rising sun to setting sun. Along those trails, Bird Woman came, papoose on back, guiding Lewis and Clark's northwestward. The trappers waged their ruthless trade. Over the trail came emigrant bands. The government sent out its survey men, Fremont's party. The last of the old scouts, Buffalo Bill, came tirelessly riding the Pony Express---Cody trail was names for him. The trail was pounded wider by cattle hooves. The specks that once wore buffalo and Indian ponies turned to white man's cows, and blended into blurs of sheep.
Woman's Part----

Upon those lonely plains lived women brave, facing each homesick weary day with hope. To them this life was overwhelming, mad. For them no surcease in adventure's job. In covered wagon, army post, or ranch, they knew no respite for their fears.

On ranches vast and fenceless, perhaps one woman in a hundred miles, a loyal ready hand to help her husband, shared in the work of round-up or corral.

This hard and bitter fight killed many a man, and left a woman there with the work to do. She fought the rustlers, ran the ranch, taught her children and sewed their clothes, sold the cattle and made ends meet.

From graying dawn to grayer night, she rode, she planned, she bossed the hands. Her children grew up astride a horse. The ranch house stood a symbol of home, a welcome to all in that high country, its door ajar, its table spread, always a bunk or an extra bed.

On Saturday night for miles and miles they came in saddle or buckboard swift and under the swinging, hanging lamps they danced to a fiddler's vibrant call. They whirled, they swung in a cowboy's waltz. Close-pressed, they would "Promenade All".

(waltz-quadrilled by 8 couples.)
A natural wonder, newly turned to the uses of man, The Theater of the Red Rocks, was setting tonight for the first performance ever held within its sheer rock walls—a pageant, "Yesterday's Women", presented at the opening night's session of the American Association of University Women's Convention.

After its official and permanent opening next Easter Monday, this theater will stand as America's outstanding acoustical wonder. At present, it is this country's biggest C. C. C. project.

The backdrop of its stage is a sheer red rock, of tremendous size and ship-like contour, behind which the street lights of Denver shimmer, twelve miles away as the crow flies. Its side-walls of tremendously greater red rocks slant swiftly, sheerly upward to the stars.

George E. Cranmer, Denver's Manager of Improvements and Parks, who has charge of the project which today came to the "initial appearance" point, said that the greatest musicians have cooperated for the past four years in testing its acousti-
cal possibilities for out-of-door entertainments. Mischa Elman took great delight in playing his violin to the Red Rocks. The Kolisch Quartet of Vienna and the Pasquet Trio of Paris made the test on chamber music.

"I figured if they could do chamber music, they could do anything," said Cranmor. "These chamber music people, you know, have highly trained ears, very delicate, very exact. They know what part of tone is due to instrument, what to the place in which it is played. I took Kolish to the top of a rock and when he listened he said, 'that violin isn't that good.' The quality of the tone was enhanced by the surroundings. The voice of Jimmy Melton, radio singer, was twice as good at Red Rocks as at the Denver auditorium.

"If we have a place where the best music will sound better it will be worth while going there."

The theater has been three years in building. It will hold 8,500 people when completed, with ample parking space for their automobiles. It is a true theater, not an amphitheater, a half-circle, not a bowl. Geologically, it is interesting. From the famed "Morrison Sand Stones" just below, a dinosaur went to Smithsonian Institution. When the Rocky Mountains rose up from the plain in a great inner earth upheaval, the rocks which had been flat open ocean bed got tipped up to a forty-five degree angle.

Down through the ages a good deal of dirt drifted in, and one of the chores of the CCC was cleaning off the great rock on one side and moving it over to fill in a hole on the other. A juniper tree 50 feet up marks where they started. Juniper trees will be used in the landscaping. The theater has as its setting
600 acres of Denver's 25,000 acres of mountain parks.

Cranmer has viewed and studied the theaters of old Greece, Sicily, and home in the development of the Theater of the Red Rocks. He prophesied that to make best use of it there would have to be a revival of old Greek methods, such as the use of masks to dramatize face-concepts and of busking boots to build up height for the best theatrical effects.
MEMORANDUM FOR
MRS. ROOSEVELT
THE PRESIDENT HAS BEEN
July 22, 1929
Hyde Park, New York

Dear Boss:

When I got back from New York, Tommy gave me your telegram and her answer, and even if I had been here there is nothing else I could have done.

I am so glad to hear that you are all safely back from your trip and that the twins came through without any serious difficulty although I realize that you must have had a very anxious time.

I hope I shall see you before long.

Affectionately,

[Signature]

Mrs. Robert Armstrong
4920 Western Avenue
Washington, D.C.
Thursday

Dear E.R.,

Well, our western trek ended exactly a week ago—and I've been aiming to write you ever since to answer your nice question on how the babies stood the trip.

Then I got an urgent letter from this St. Louis radio bunch that pays me good money when I can get a speaker for them, but who pester me about to death by being hipped on the idea of putting the White House housekeeper on their "Inside Story" program. When I wrote you on this before I gathered the idea it was well-nigh impossible—then I read some Nesbitt stories and there and thought maybe I was over-pessimistic. Either way, they wouldn't take my word that it couldn't be done. A telegram from Tommy yesterday after I wired you straightened the situation out. I shall go to Steve—and and I feel sure that whatever he says they'll realize it has gone to the court of last appeal. So much of life in Washington over all the years is spent in making the folks out home realize the impossibility of the impossible because they are not close enough to see the reasons why. I can understand this, for when I was in Omaha I deeply resented the geographical fact that reporters in Washington could know what we out there couldn't.

Now as to the trip. The twins were Troopers and Trojans. But twice life got the best of them. The first was my fault. They'd gone so far so good that I got careless and let fond relatives feed them some sweets they shouldn't have had. Result, a digestive upset while we were enroute from one visit to another. And a violent one. The second wasn't my fault. The heat wave was almost unbelievable. And it brought a strange bad breed of fly, that we couldn't fight fast enough to keep from the car. Results, pester, pester, fever. Ruth Eleanor had such a high temperature 103.6 that we had to stop off in Lincoln and take the rest of the trip very slowly. But Providence was with us in an amazing manner. In both places where we had to get emergency help, we happened to have a personal-friend doctor in that town whose wife was his assistant. And they happened to be in when we needed them. So we got both doctoring and nursing of the highest rank in the speediest fashion. And both time the kids revived promptly and well. They are now simply fine. Incidentally, after being away from that book you gave them Xmas for more than a month, they could still say "Hippopotamus" without prompting when they got back. So I guess they didn't lose much on their home work.

It was, on the whole, a pleasant and successful trip, but I don't think you'd call it a pleasure trip exactly, for included in it was two operations—Bob's (my brother took his tonsils out) my sister Hazel's (Thank God it wasn't cancer); one large-sized convention of which you have heard; and a reorganization of Bob's job. When we left he was all set in case Mr. Iakes got FWA; when he read in the paper Mr. Carmony was it he got on the train and came home Zepherishly. So far he's still among the ins, and sees a breath of life and hope in the new set-up. As I told you once before, Mike Strauss rather reached out and gathered Bob into his organization in order to clip his wings. Bob could work with him okay, but was more or less stymied. He wrote the first two releases under the new set up and was appointed to help organize their new recreation association. Lucile and I took turns driving back, and got lots of experience in spotting good tourist camps. Well, more anon, much love, and thanks to Tommy for a prompt reply.

[Signature]
TELEGRAM
OFFICIAL BUSINESS—GOVERNMENT RATES

E.R.

Mrs. Nesbitt willing to broadcast for "Inside Story" program on her work as white house, housekeeper if you will give permission. I would consider this a personal favor as I am its Washington agent and would furnish interview. Please wire collect. Love

Bess Furman

I answered:

Mrs. R. away, but President has consistently refused permission in past. Suggest you ask Steve Early or Bill Hassett

M.C.T.
September 2, 1939

Dear Beno:

I am glad you are doing this booklet and hope it will be a great success. We will be leaving here on a lecture trip on September 10th, but will be in Washington the 16th and 17th, and back there the end of the month when I shall hope to see you.

Affectionately,

Mrs. Robert Armstrong
4920 Western Avenue
Washington, D.C.
Dear E.R.:

I am so sorry not to be with the girls, you and Tommy on the Labor Day weekend.

But I literally sold my weekends down the river.

Lucile and Bob and I are doing a candid camera booklet on Stratford, Bob doing the pictures and Lucile and I the writing.
We are doing it for the foundation, and they put one of the cottages at our disposal each week and until the photos are done.

This is our third week-end down there and it will take a couple more.

The ladies simply adore the place and it is no trouble at all to work with them along in such ideal surroundings.
I'm not talking much about it for it is our first such venture and I want to see how it pans out before I commit myself.

I'd certainly like to have a chance to hear you talk again. Fact is, I'm going to ask for a rain check on a chance to come to your cottage. If Bob and I do get a chance to come up to the World's Fair later on, leaving our water to mind our children, may we call up you.
find out if we could come and see you?

Affectionately

Beso.
Dear "E.R."

my letter on our plan chased Dorothy McAllister all over the west coast before I got a telegram from her telling me how thrilled she was with it.

Just as soon as she gets back, she and I will go into a huddle and work out very carefully the group that will do it and then report back to you.

It was such a joy to really talk to you again—I hope I didn't bore you on your tune, but still set I did.

Always—

[Signature]
Dear Bess:

I am very happy about the house and please forget that you owe me any money. In fact, I do not think you do owe it to me. I am sure that it was a gift. If you prefer to consider it as a gift now, I would be glad to feel that it was a small help toward establishing your home which I know will mean a great deal to all of you.

I want to get you and Bob here some night before very long as I should like to see Bob.

I have some ideas of what I hope Hick may eventually do for the democratic organization, but I want her to be with the men and not with the women, and I do not want just a small job done so I do not know whether it will ever materialize. She certainly could do a swell job if the men could see it that way.

I am interested in the sight-seeing trip but do let me know well ahead about it because I am going to find it very hard to manage any more dates.

Affectionately,

Miss Bess Furman

Pres. Robert Armstrong

Furman Features

1097 National Press Bldg.

Wash., D.C.
Dear E. R.,

In celebrating my birthday in doing just exactly what I want to do, someday, I hope, you will get a chance to celebrate a birthday that same way. It's a very gay atmosphere around here today for two reasons:

1) My children, coached by their daddy and auntie, have made the house ring all morning with "Happy Birthday to You" and in a pious and determined monotone.

2) We have found our house, and we will move into it between Christmas and New Year's. The ad that led us to it is attached. What the ad doesn't say is that it is probably the only house in Washington already equipped with twin bedrooms with sunny south windows for our twins. And two (non-identical) lots too, one to live on, one to play in.
Within the next few days I hope to shape up a sight-seeing tour with the utmost possible good. We're looking to the lady out of the landscape and the least possible effort. I trust that you, though inspired by you, to the general and uplifting of the Demo Digest.

I saw Rapoole yesterday. He said he'd might start in a children's program in the Democratic party. I think that is the smartest thing the Democrat could possibly do. It seems amazing that the party has ever done it.

much much love

Dear
December 16, 1939

Dear Bess:

To begin a study of housing, I would go to the City Hall or the Town Hall and ask the tenement house inspector which are the areas in the city he considered the worst. I would then visit those areas, having found out the approximate population per block. In the houses I would find out about the water supply, what plumbing if any, what state of repair, how many people slept in a room, how many beds, and whether used for double shifts or not, rent, average income of the people living in that vicinity, heating, garbage disposal, prevalence of disease.

In a rural area, the same questions should be studied, but one would have to go out to look for oneself.

I first became interested when I did work in the tenement house district in New York City at the age of eighteen. The reason for this was to contact children of the
neighborhood.

I have seen housing programs in practically every part of the country and I have no idea how many.

Affectionately,
Dear E.R.:

When you told Dorothy that Housing would be first on the finding-out program, I had the bright idea of going with you to the alleys on Christmas Eve and making the story of the alleys the hopeful start of a general article on the housing status in our town.

But now the Digest is all in a dither to get out in the next breath so it can start the New Year right. It is a noble move and I am for it. So I have reduced the immediate plan to this:

We get good before and after photos on the alleys from the News. We shall mention the 1939 alley Christmas tree, going back over the other alley Christmas trees, and then remembering one of your earliest press conference when you told of having whisked through the alleys with the aged angel of that sore subject.

From the alley authority we shall get a statement on the present housing situation in Washington---what has been done---what remains to be done.

From you, in first-person quote, I want your recipe. A series of simple little rules like you gave me once on how to behave as a candidate's wife. You are in any town. You tell the women of ANYTOWN how to go about it to find out about housing. What questions to ask.

I also would like to have your answer to these two questions:

When did you first get interested in housing, and why?

Can you make any estimate of how many housing projects you have visited, at least to whether or not they have been in all sections?

As soon as I get this first too-rushed order off, I promise to make simple plans for the rest of the series, counting in some of the wives of the members of Congress. I tried to get Dorothy to put it off a month but she couldn't bear too--so then I got the alley idea.

I can't tell you how much I enjoyed being in the skit. I thought you were the very most beautiful in that costume that I had ever seen you. The eye of Third Term made a perfect frame for the picture. I cannot tell you what an effective viewpoint it was.

Love,

Could you please have someone call me. This material is ready and good.
December 29, 1939

Dear Bess:

The lovely Indian bowl is going to Hyde Park where I can really enjoy it. It was sweet of you and Bob and the children to send it to me.

I was so pleased to see the twins and you have so much to be proud of - they are adorable. I hope they had a good time at the party. It was good to see you and Lucille.

Many thanks and good luck for the New Year in the new home.

Affectionately,

Mrs. Robert Armstrong
513 Goddard Road
Bethesda, Md.
January 17, 1940

Dear Bess:

I shall be anxious to see your story when it is ready. Many thanks for your letter. I do understand, but I thought I had inadvertently told my press conference!

Affecti.ately,

Mrs. Robert Armstrong
1097 Press Bldg.
Washington
Dear "ER"—

I just wanted you to know I really thought we had that fest for a drop-in visit with no publicity.

What happened was that Ruhland got called out of town, and so Hager had to be seen as to what to do in view of Ruhland not being there.

So—Mr. Hager is up for reappointment and by no means hesitated to fit it in to have his picture taken with you.

Martha was right amused at catching up with me. She said I had anything else like that in mind, whether or not I insisted on her being in on the story, to come to her.
first. She said she knew a lot about the town and could give some good suggestions on several scenes!

As soon as we have worked out the story I'll send you a copy.

Thanks a million for your always swell cooperation and I know I can count on your understanding of situations as they arise.

Martha thought it was a swell story.

Ben
Dear "E.R.";

Is there any time in the rest of your week, when you could make a few minutes run as far as the District Building—Room 203 and its environs, Dr. Seckinger and Health Commissioner Ruhland—with a small group of Congressmen's wives to be swiftly rallied as soon as your time is decided upon? (Strickly would be a good day with me—but I will make whatever time.

Lucile made a trail-blazing trip down there, and the Health Article seems to be shaping up about like this:

It will fall naturally into two parts—measures to protect the public, and measures to help the individual.

Public Protection: Your question on soda fountains brought out the high-light story there. Yes, there now is sanitary inspection of such. They go in with sterile tubes and swabs, and go over dishes apparently clean. Then they take 'em into a lab in the District Building and make cultures. Two hundred germs are allowed a clean bill of health; one had 25,000 germs, and that's not tops; in a real dirty place they might get a million. Air in theaters is also tested by getting bottles thereof. Public health engineers work closely with the housing people to condemn health hazards. The modern way of dealing with quarantine is to isolate the patient and let the breadwinner go on working. Etc.

Aid to the Populace Personally: Pneumonia cures take the news lead. There has been a "wonderful new approach" to the 23 types thereof in sulfapyridine and antipneumococic sera. Where the death rate in 1937, before the lab started, was 121.4 per 100,000 it had dropped to 87.1 in 1938, and—tentative—to 75.2 in 1939. T.B. has gone down from 123 to 93.6 in the five years. Negro TB rate is 4 to 1, compared to whites, pneumonia rates 2 to 1. Washington's health ills are chiefly economic. They are trying to build regional health centers in the worst districts—have built one, have a bill in for another. Public health nurse also important key to bettering situation. Should have 1 public health nurse each 2000 population. Whole city of Washington has only 150 public health nurses and many of them are on bedside duty.

Note: What'd rather talk pneumonia than T.B., you ask some more TB questions. The claim Washington has no special climactic hazards. I was surprised to find tho we do have occupational diseases in Government Printing Office, Dry Cleaning, Garages.

Bess (and Lucile) Furman.
Also

As soon as this clear
I'll report to you on
the next one, Recreation.
Mrs. Roosevelt and Housing

Discovering Your Home Town

By BESS AND LUCILE FURMAN

FOR the past four years, an "Alley Christmas Tree Celebration" has been on Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt's official program. In 1938, this celebration centered around a little pine tree in the very heart of Washington's biggest slum area—Navy Place—so called because of its closeness to the United States Navy Yard. This Christmas past year, that whole great square had been cleared of its core of four alley stories and seventy alley dwellings and its border of one hundred substandard row houses. Three days before Christmas the Alley Dwelling Authority advertised for construction bids on a low-rent housing project there. This was one more milestone showing that the long and sordid history of Washington alleys had become a history of housing progress.

How this reclamation has come to pass unfolds with a visit to the Alley Dwelling Authority, and to the slum and housing projects under its jurisdiction.

"In every city, slums begin in the weakest spot," said John Ihlder, executive officer and secretary of the Authority. "In Washington, slums center in the great squares planned by Major L'Enfant. It was not so much the fault of the plan as of the lack of an authority to see that the city-planning was properly carried through.

"A typical Tide Water development, Washington grew up to row houses fronting the squares. The center areas thus left vacant were approached only through narrow alleys, and, because they had no street frontage, their value was small. When the question of housing low-income people became acute, builders went into the centers of these squares and made little minor street systems, building houses of low standards. As the deterioration, they became slums. The blight spread to the outer edge of the squares and on to include whole areas."

Mrs. Roosevelt says:

"To begin a study of housing, I would go to the City Hall or the Town Hall and ask the tenement house inspector, or other official in charge of housing, which are the areas in the city be considered the worst. I would then visit those areas, having found out the approximate population per block. In the houses, I would find out about the water supply; what plumbing, if any, what state of repair; how many people slept in a room, how many beds, and whether used for double shifts or not; rent; average income of the people living in that vicinity; heating; garbage disposal, prevalence of disease.

"In an area, the same questions should be studied, but one would have to go out and look for oneself."

Why not study housing in your own community following Mrs. Roosevelt's plan?

Write The Democratic Digest what you find out. The best articles will be published.

As well as these sections predominately slums, Mr. Ihlder pointed out, on a map of the city that the National Capital's peculiar slum problem also includes areas spotted all over the original city plan, where there are blocks of goodly dwellings along the streets with a rotten core of slum alleys.

A consciousness that Washington had this slum problem arose as early as 1871. Three years later, 389 houses were condemned. Interest in cleaning out the alleys has been sporadic ever since. Mr. Ihlder has been consistently and continuously at work on the problem for twenty years, his efforts having been enlisted by the late Mrs. Archibald Hopkins, "grand old lady" of the better housing movement.

First President to become intensely interested in the slum conditions in the seat of national government was Theodore Roosevelt. He brought his friend, Jacob Riis, to the Capital to study the (Cont. on page 33)
MRS. ROOSEVELT AND HOUSING
(Continued from page 7)

problem. Riis visited the alleys, then appeared before a Senate committee.

"At that time Willow Tree Alley, close to the Capitol, was the worst slum in the city," said Ilder. "Riis described how he came to it, on a rainy day, drear and desolate. He vividly portrayed one house in particular, where lived five persons suffering with tuberculosis and two of venereal disease. The living room was full of washing hung on criss-crossed lines—towels from the Senate barber shop." The Senate acted. It got rid of that house, and of all the houses in that particular alley. Where the hidden slum had been, they created a hidden playground, a good thing wrongly placed, and illustration of the futility of a halfway measure.

Two months ago, that playground was demolished to clear the site for the new Social Security Building."

A number of unsuccessful attempts for alley-clearing legislation had been made when the interest of the first Mrs. Woodrow Wilson was enlisted by Mrs. Archibald Hopkins. She gave the proposed measure great impetus, but it had not passed when she died. The fact that she had asked about it on her deathbed was published and a more drastic bill than the one which had been pending was passed. This was soon declared unconstitutional, and the alley question went back to its accustomed place—abeyance.

In 1929, the National Park and Planning Commission made a thorough study of the inhabited alleys. Result: "The commission became convinced that the inhabited alleys are centers of disease, vice, and crime, and that the only remedy is to wipe them out... The root cause of their iniquity is that they constitute a series of hidden, communities in which anti-social activities flourish."

The commission that year drafted a bill designed to rid the Capital of its inhabited alleys, centering on two points—future use of the cleared property and rehousing the alley dwellers. That bill was destined to be a trail-blazer in the nation's housing history.

Mr. Ilder, who drafted the 1929 bill, pointed out that former bills had been based on police powers and the condemnation process. They were almost impossible of execution because of the financial interests involved, and they were ruled out by the courts.

"Our act is based on the power of eminent domain and is a reclaiming," said Mr. Ilder. "We took a page directly from the Bureau of Reclamation, and their clearing of deserts and swamps. We never speak of 'slum clearance' but of reclaiming areas. That system is now used in the case of slums that have been upheld in court decisions."

But not a real wheel had turned until the Roosevelts went into the White House on March 4, 1933. Sixteen days later, Mrs. Roosevelt told an astounded press conference she already had explored the Washington alleys, driving her own blue roadster, at the invitation of, and in company with Mrs. Archibald Hopkins, then past eighty years of age. Mrs. Hopkins was a Washington woman who had personally known all the Presidents since Lincoln, and at last had found one that was ready to act. Before she died, the pen that signed the Alley Dwelling Act of June, 1934, was presented to her, and one of the new projects, Hopkins Place, was named for her.

From the time of her first visit, Mrs. Roosevelt made the Washington alleys a personal crusade, visiting them often and taking others to see them. She first became interested in housing when she did settlement work in the tenement house district in New York City at the age of eighteen. She went into these homes for the purpose of contacting the children of the neighborhood. She saw their sorry situation and then and there began her career of interest and helpfulness, which has since found expression in visits to housing projects in every part of the country. She herself has no idea of how many slums she has seen, how many housing projects she has visited.

Early in the present administration, Mrs. Roosevelt took the wives of all the cabinet members to see not only the close-in alleys, but also the slums on the outskirts of the city. These outer slums were shack communities, largely built up of scrap materials.

"As a direct result of that visit," said Mr. Ilder, "the district pipped out water supply to families that had formerly carried water a mile or farther. The authorities also prevented further building of these shack houses by refusing permits to build 'sheds' which really were used for human habitation."

Mrs. Roosevelt enlisted the interest of the public as well as of officials through scores of speeches in the National Capital.

Said Mr. Ilder: "I definitely give Mrs. Roosevelt credit for the great accomplishments of the past few years—to her and to the President, who is just as interested as she is."

In 1912, Washington had 275 blocks with inhabited alleys, 1,337 alleys houses, in which there were 16,000 inhabitants. In 1930, there still were 250 blocks with inhabited alleys, containing 2,400 alley dwellings, with 11,000 population. There are now but 158 inhabited alleys, containing 1,709 dwellings, with 7,540 inhabitants.

Virtually all the alley dwellers are Negroes.

Thinking in terms of all the houses and people in the District of Columbia, our purpose is to get rid of the worst dwellings and to build, in the District, on proper sites, houses equal in number to the families displaced by clearance," said Mr. Ilder.

He explained that the Authority is now operating under two different plans, their own relocation plan as passed in 1934 and also under the United States Housing Authority plan. Under the first plan, the Alley Authority operates on a self-liquidating basis. Their capital is a loan from the U.S. Treasury on which they pay 3 per cent interest. All operating costs, taxes, interest and repayments on principal are paid through proceeds from its better use. These are largely rentals of new or reconditioned dwellings, but also included rentals of parking spaces, garages, or whatever use is best fitted for the locality from which the slums have been cleared. Fourteen squares have been thus reclaimed and are paying their own way.

The larger projects fall under the USHA plan. Today seven projects are under way, seven slum-clearance and rebuilding projects and two housing projects on vacant land. Five of these projects are for Negroes and two for whites. For two reasons the Authority must build on vacant land as well as clear slums—the alleys were overpopulated, and the Authority must provide for the families cleared out in order to build new federal buildings. Between six and eight hundred poor Negro families were displaced from the sites for the new Social Security Building, the Railroad Retirement Board Building and the Census Bureau Building.

"How long would it take you to finish your job?" Mr. Ilder was asked.

"With a constant supply of adequate capital, we could clean up all the Washington slums in twenty-five years," was his answer. "It would mean building new homes for twenty thousand families."

SOUTH OF THE BORDER
(Continued from page 23)

represented, as citizens, but also the causes and conditions which they represented as experts.

"The delegates came from lands of national boundaries. But they stepped across these barriers and worked together as experts in their own fields—fields which had no boundaries." Thus Mary Winslow took President Roosevelt's national doctrine of social justice down "South of the Border."
January 29, 1940

Dear Bess:

Lorena Hickok is going to be here for a few days in February and she wants very much to talk to you. Could you lunch here at one o'clock on Monday, February 5?

Sincerely yours,

Mrs. Robert Armstrong, Jr.
513 Goddard Road
Bethesda
Maryland
Dear Tommy:

Of course I'll be delighted to talk to Hide + to lunch at the White House on Monday, February 6th.

P.S.

Send report too.

[Signature]
February 9, 1940

Dear Boss:

I warmly congratulate you on the Stratford booklet. It is swell and I am leaving it by the President's bed for him to look at. I will mention it in my column in a day or so. I have so much to put in that I haven't been able to do much with it lately.

I told Jim that you were owed $600 and that I felt whatever else was done you should be paid. He and Mr. Quayle agreed that you would be paid immediately. Let me know if you don't get it.

Now as to this birth control thing - I do not want to go on with it. They have put on a swell campaign of having people write me to say how grand it is that I came out, but I do not want to go on bringing that to the fore. I answered a question but I am not going to make trouble. I will be glad to see Barry Bingham at any time and I am perfectly willing to talk to Dr. Parran. He is not a narrow-minded Catholic and I think there are many things that they could do but they have to get the legal angle ironed out first.

I am terribly sorry about Martha. I imagine the best any of us can do is to be a little nicer to her and try to bring her out of her lone wolf attitude, and make her feel that as far as any of us are concerned, we have always trusted her and will continue to trust her.

Affectionately,

Mrs. Robert Armstrong
513 Goddard Road
Bethesda, Md.
Dear "E. R."

— a book in fact —

may I have several words with thee on highly diversified subjects?

(1). Enclosed a copy of our Stratford booklet. Bob took well over 3/4 of the pictures in the book. He + Lucile enlarged and printed them to scale, the layout being made by Lucile. I wrote the text. The turnips went along on all field trips just for the fun of it. They not very big, it is truly a family cooperative venture. If there were a place to autograph it, we would, but we have used all the pages. The Copyright Division of the Library of Congress called me to compliment it and ask for two more copies for library use, and we were no and flattered. You will find our tiny little credit line on the back page.

The Stratford ladies, of course, are putting this out in a worthy cause. I know the president is interested in Stratford and I'd like to have him glance at it.

And any mention you may make it in your column would be appreciated — and I don't hesitate to mention other names.

Respectfully yours, [Name]
(2). Dorothy says you are going to join with the budget tomorrow. May I, as the saying goes, clarify—

Dorothy showed me the statement that went to you on our account. It was correct only to you on our account. It was correcting if they don't call it a debt until it is three months delinquent. Here is how we actually stand. From June on, our account was in arrears. At the time the Jackson Day dinner was where of the Jackson Day dinner was where $645 of which $205 has since been paid covering June, July, and August issues, 1939.

Our work for the current February and March was extremely heavy, two double-page spreads and four single-page spreads in the Digest. We sold out at a total of $600. So with $400 still back and $600 still coming in, the Digest fund is $440 still back and $600 still coming in. So in the current fund we are now in debt by $600. But then again in our debt by $600 and we're still in our debt by $600 and we're still in debt by $600 and we're still in debt by $600 in the ever-indebt fund.

Well, all this adds up to $600. Dorothy says you and she will both go out with all the cards tomorrow, and I want to take this note on the table. In order to take the note off the table, I shall have to quit work on it and promise to pay $600 a day and promptly pay $600. I am willing and am proud to work.
into the work as outlined & one by Dorothy, but I want to do work that is wanted and will be promptly paid for as I have, as you know, heavy obligations very definitely indeed — and if you don't pay the interest goes up. Also, an awful lot of very hard work indeed has gone into the amount indeed to have been for us. I would still on the books for me, for I like to have a plan made for like to have a plan made for that. And I want it meeting that. Of course, that if I understood, of course, should be called to New York during the campaign, it will be "plus expenses!"

Being always a believer in having things out beforehand instead of afterward, I know you will forgive this long dissertation, which is loaded upon you only because you so cheerfully accept such headaches!

P.S.
Birth Control: About a week ago, I got a long distance call from Eleanor Lamont in New York. As you may know, she is the wife of a high-ranking Hearst executive (who was former husband of June Cadde) and is a very smart little publicist with an office of her own. However, she said that in this case she was speaking personally as one interested in a cause, and she is an honest person.

What she wanted to know was whether or not you would be willing to talk about Birth Control publicly. I recall that the Record and Republic, the Louisville with Barry Bingham Jr., the Courier-Journal, and Mrs. Woodward, writing fairly, and Mrs. Woodward, writing fairly, were highly praised. Rainhardt, whom she highly praised. It seems their difference was that she supposed the supposedly anti-attitude of Parran, as being a Catholic. While I usually turn aside any such queries that come to me, I felt in this instance that this trip I planned for you had inadvertently brought the subject
Do you want to stay on this subject—or do you think the psychological moment has come when it can be faced—or fortune—repeal of prohibition?

The question you asked at the District Board "is it legal" seemed to me the crux so far as the organized movement is concerned. Naturally, the Birth Controllers act on a more or less solid court decision when they should have gone ahead and got the Colorado law repealed.

Here in the district, they have to sue a court in Puerto Rico.

Would it not be better bringing pressure on Congress, who is involved, or in a small way—by your forces abroad, regardless of Catholicism on the medical scene, regardless of Birth Control?

While I would trust these people on their promise of no publicity, one cannot always control publicity.

And if you go on record on this subject—and if you attack what hath been done well, what you already have read a little behalf given me by a Birth Controller friend.

Dear.
Mrs. Roosevelt Is ‘Not Opposed’ To Practice of Birth Control

WASHINGTON, Jan. 16.—Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt expressed approval today of the planning of children, otherwise known as birth control. It was the first time since her husband became President that Mrs. Roosevelt had permitted any discussion of this topic at her weekly press conference, and today it was incidental to questions about her recent visit to some District of Columbia public health offices.

"No, I am not opposed to the planning of children," Mrs. Roosevelt said. "Some people oppose it on religious grounds, but there is nothing in my religion to make me oppose it. It is not true—she wishes not be opposed to a thing which might be or of value to some people, but on the other hand I should not urge my attitude upon them either."

"Furthermore, she revealed that she had once been a subscriber to an organization which conducted birth control clinics in New York City.

The importance of this attitude on the part of the wife of the President of the United States cannot be underestimated, because as she herself suggests, the issue is one that not only involves social and economic problems, but the matter of a religious viewpoint.

It is interesting to note that instead of the phrase "birth control," the First Lady speaks of it as the "planning of children," which undoubtedly has become a serious problem for families in the middle brackets of financial standing as well as those in the very lowest.

We believe that Mrs. Roosevelt's contribution to the discussion of what has been one of the most controversial issues in the Country, will go a long way in bringing the question out of the class of things which some citizens look on as taboo and ultimately may influence members of State and National legislation to pass legislation which will permit a proper approach to an advancement of knowledge of the subject to citizens who are most in need of it.
The Gallup Poll

Birth-Control Information Through Public Health Clinics Favored In Survey

Voters Favor Government Clinics, Gallup Survey Finds

Approval of the distribution of birth-control information to married persons by government health clinics was registered by 77 per cent of those who voted in a poll made by the American Institute of Public Opinion. It was announced yesterday by Dr. George Gallup, the director. South Carolina recently adopted such a program. The institute goes on.

"The vote of those with opinions was:

Approve .................. 77%
Disapprove ................ 23%

"Approximately one voter in every ten (11 per cent) expressed no opinion.

The institute has on this issue, as on many other questions of social importance, attempted to measure trends of sentiment in recent years. Taking no sides on any issue, its function is solely to report the facts about public opinion.

"In the course of measuring trends on the birth-control problem it has made three previous surveys. "A comparison with today's results shows a slight increase—between five and seven points—in sentiment favorable to the birth-control movement. Regardless of the manner in which the issue was stated, all the institute's studies have found sentiment running between 70 and 80 per cent favorable to the birth-control program."
I feel better about Ruby. I talked to Herb. He said the doctors had made a thorough physical check-up and there is nothing organically wrong. She's just all tired out and a rest will put her on top of the pile. I'm now more worried about Martha, who, I fear, will turn back into a lone wolf. She's so allergic to the press club that she's so allergic to the press club. But I guess maybe time is the best remedy right now. There is the best remedy right now. It's a deeper thing than the present surface flare-up so far as Martha is concerned.
February 16, 1940

Dear Bess:

I love the handkerchief and am particularly touched that you wanted to send me a valentine. I should scold you for spending money on me!

Many thanks and I'll look forward to seeing you when I get back.

Affectionately,

Mrs. Robert Armstrong
513 Goddard Road
Bethesda, Md.
The better one knows you
The nicer you grow,
And there's no better day
To be telling you so!

These sentiments
Bee
May 27, 1940

Dear Boss:

I have sent your letter over to Mr. Dalano. I do not know just what the Red Cross needs that particular land for but I will soon find out about it.

I shall try to get out to the school sometime in early June but I can't be sure now.

Affectionately,

Mrs. Robert Armstrong
513 Goddard Road
Bethesda, Md.
Dear E.R.:

Am I on record as thanking you with all my heart for the luncheon attended by all the Armstrongs and Turmons. If not, I do.

The next Demo Digest is going to be a convention handbook containing June and July issues, and well think of new projects. So our Traffic Study will have to be in the next issue after that if we can get together on it — the August mail.

Any chance you might come to our nursery school next week? Preferably on a Friday morning because that's my teaching day? And before June 10 is a Friday morning because that is the first institution is about to be kicked out under protest. As soon as possible protest is attached and I would appreciate it greatly if you would glance at over and then send it on to Mr. Delano.

To tell you the truth, I was mildly horrified to find out that our nursery school site was where the Department of Agriculture once studied an influenza and is now "out of disease"! And I am to have my youth disease!! And I am to have my youth disease!! And I am to have my youth disease!! But I'm not nearly as bad.

With thanks and gratitude for justice, I shall yell for it. With thanks and gratitude for justice.

Bear.
August 6, 1940

Dear Bess:

I was delighted to get your nice new letter and Tommy was very much interested too.

I wish you were up at Campobello enjoying the cool weather, but I hope you and the children will have a good summer. If you need a rest at any time, come up here with Bob for the week end.

Affectionately,

Mrs. Robert Armstrong
513 Goddard Road
Bethesda, Md.
513 Goddard Road
Bethesda, Maryland

Dear "ER"—

Believe it or not—this is just a conversational letter. Mary and I are trying to have 9 to join, nor matter of moment to bring to your mind—

Even were I so inclined, it's too heavenly cool after being too relentlessly hot to see anything whatsoever that do anything whatsoever that you might not. So what? You might not. So what? I'm going to send well, I'm going to send you and Tommy each one utterly inconsequential but also useless gift for your respective Val - kill 1 'itches.
513 Goddard Road
Bethesda, Maryland

It's a little hard shaker for cream sauces or individual scrambled eggs, or whatever small needs shaking by hand. A special summer time butler wafers to the good old handshake that you have to use so much of the winter.

I shall now endeavor to amuse you slightly with a few sayings. My husband don't give me much credit, I don't quote my turn-in as yet, when John Reed strike burst, simultaneously into print, including a heading that didn't come July 21, 1908.
"The anti-Third Termers are leaning on a broken Reed, Burke-wards, and walking Burke-wards."

Because our son on parent is walking up to all strangers with "What's your name?"

But to Bobby Armstrong, "That's drastically commented."

The daily baby I ever saw who insisted on going around kissing senators.

We've been sticking to our knitting this summer but we've had some really hard weekends.
we took mother to the boat down to Norfolk to Williamsburg and drove back to Stratford. Mrs. Wise, Bob's immediate boss, invited Bob to the farm. There was a little boy at most younger than the turkeys and a cabin cruiser at Annapolis. When they went swimming, they put on a life preserver and let him tread water. Cara and her parents went in for a much modified form of the sport, adding no end of gray hair to their gray moss heads.

But our best part was last Sunday when we went down to Allison and...
visited Ruth and biding at "The Cedars." Attorney Good
Jackson had come down. He has been teaching for a month
made a speech to the girls. We all went over to hear
the speech and see the girls.
I can certainly understand
now the enthusiasm with
which you speak of that
place. Dr. Tracy Harris is
retired next year and
I do hope you and Mrs.
may have the pleasure of
another visit before she goes, so I can't
seem to see it as quite the same place without her personality.

We had another such interesting experience. We spent the evening — saw the moon rise big and black and a mountain top amag. I'll call out doors — a little gadgety cabin called Split Rock. It is a freak geological formation whereby mountain was an edge off its main shield half off its main mountain and left there — and the cabin is on that island, over a small bridge and so obviously no place to
take turns as we left them at The Cedars with their guests, House Nolan, whose Dream House this is, plans cities and edits a magazine about city planning. He also teaches at the university classes from time to time. But up in his mountain cabin, he makes mountain gadgets to live with and I don't spoil it for you. I don't want to tell you other than to tell you that the door will go up or down as you come up or down, the sleds rest up from behind the stove in a neat row, and the shower bath
is a sparkling pot really pivoted! Somebody you really must see this pot be pivoted by moon rise.

Another small item that might interest you. We were all peacefully amusing ourselves in Ruth and glorious room on a serene Sunday night. The phone rang. Mrs. Rolfes was calling. "New York calling, Mrs. Rolfes. And pretty soon I heard her say, "Of course not, it was on the other side." Well it was more or less than Willkie Headquarters writing me to go. And because lots of..."
other democrats—etc. Well I may have been the Bob. I wondered John Horne story. How many long distance calls went out that night to try to rally Big Name democrats!

Ruth said to tell you she and Mickey thought fondly of you on July 11 would have telegraphed and they knew just where to reach you.

She has done a wonderful job in her made-over house and Mickey is a true Dane.
513 GOODARD ROAD
BETHESDA, MARYLAND

in overdriving an acreage
so it will yield. They
raise their own chickens,
raise their own milk, potatoes, all
garden stuff, put up
fruits, etc. The interim
fed apples to a pig named
Geraldine until she
should have been ready
to go to market the
next day.

Well, this ought to
hold you till I get a chance

to see you. Much love

Bess
SPLIT ROCK LODGE ------ AND HOW TO GET THERE

NOTE: Turn only at stars.
1 mile from Alderson bridge to Muddy Creek Mt. road (dirt); 1 mi. to private road; ½ mi. to Split Rock Lodge.

CROSS SECTION of Greenbrier River Gorge at Split Rock

--------- AND WHY IT IS CALLED SPLIT ROCK
August 10, 1940

Dear Bess:

The "Swirl Mixers" have arrived and both Mrs. Roosevelt and I are delighted to have them. They look like handy gadgets and we shall surely try them out at the first opportunity.

Many thanks - and I hope you are having a grand summer.

Affectionately,

Mrs. Robert Armstrong
513 Goddard Road
Bethesda, Md.
August 30, 1940

Dear Bess:

Hick no longer does the brief report on the day's news, but another person is now doing it.

I have made the suggestion that it should be mimeographed and go to all offices.

Affectionately,

Mrs. Robert Armstrong
513 Goddard Road
Battery Park, Bethesda, Md.
To Eleanor Roosevelt
from Ben Franklin

Every day Lorena Hickok makes for Mrs. Flynn and Charlie Michelson a brief, down report about a page and a half of the daily news so it concerns the whole political scene. It is so excellently done — far too good for 2-person consumption. I think it should be mimeographed and that it should be furnished to all main papers at headquarters and all campaign speakers whose business it is to know
what is going on but who don't have time to read the papers.

I certainly would include in the circulars that Dorothy McAllister, May Thompson, Eva Evans, and the girls on the Digest and Radio. Of course Hazel just as a double check on what she already knows. I can see no reason why there is such a sharp cleavage between one's division that what should be common knowledge can't function,
Dear "E.R.",

We now have three defense fliers almost ready to shoot. It is pretty imperative that the resident see them, and give them a bit of really concentrated attention - over the Labor Day weekend.

I will send them airmail, special delivery, and I would like to beseech your cooperation to this extent - will you make a point of asking him whether or not he got them? I will telegraph you at the same time I mail them to him.

Ruby told me that we all would be welcome at the Labor Day picnic as usual - and I certainly hate to miss it. But my little Ruth Eleanor has been having herself a slight spell of asthma in this rainy weather which has put me behind in my work and ahead in my worry. I now have it under control, but I am not going to leave it and let it get out of control.

Bob and I still have every intention of making it at another weekend - perhaps the very next one.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]
Dear F.R.

I wrote this little piece for the Digest. And since it is my little personal tribute to its work and the worth of the past seven years, I would sort of like for you—and The Friends—to read it.

Best,
WHAT THE NEW DEAL HAS DONE FOR WOMEN

By Bess Furman

On the night of November 8, 1932, I watched the state-by-state play of the Roosevelt landslide as recorded on the master blackboard of the Associated Press. I saw an amazing news-summary of this birth-moment of the New Deal being swiftly written by Byron Price, then chief of the Washington Bureau. I recall its opening thought: In any other country, this would have been revolution. Inspired by this instantaneous evaluation of history-in-the-making, which still remains my all-time choice of scene in writing craftsmanship, I turned to my own typewriter and tapped out my one little claim as a minor prophet. What I wrote was:

"One senatorship held, one governorship gained, a few seats secure in the House, were women's election winnings - slight enough to focus feminine attention and hope on the possibility of a woman in the cabinet.

"One of the outstanding arguments that Democratic women campaigners used against Hoover was that he had not rewarded his 1928 'woman vote' with appointive posts ... With Roosevelt's election, an avalanche in which women obviously played a considerable part, the chance for a 'first woman' at the cabinet table became paramount. Comment centered on Frances Perkins, the New York woman who has ably served Roosevelt as Secretary of Labor. Mentioned also, but in connection with other posts, have been Rep. Ruth Bryan Owen, of Florida, and Nellie Tayloe Ross, former Wyoming governor."

I remember how distant the goal of a woman in the cabinet actually seemed to me at that moment. But in a few months I was blithely writing, "Madame Secretary," "Madame Minister," and "Director of the Mint," for the three I had mentioned election night. Scores of feminine appointments to important posts followed. In years when fascism was rising in Europe, driving women out of leg-
islative bodies, out of universities, out of professional life, the government of this country added a large and vital body of women administrators. It is no novelty now to see women judges, collectors of customs, postmasters, and members of important boards. There has never been a hiatus in the New Deal according to a place to women at the council tables, even to that hitherto most masculine of all councils — on preparedness against foreign aggression. Recently appointed to the 7-member National Defense Council was Miss Harriet Elliott, of North Carolina, a woman of wisdom and wide experience who represents consumer interests in the economy which events in Europe have forced upon this country.

It is worth recording that all three of the pioneer women bureau chiefs who held top positions for their sex during the last Republican Administration were kept at their posts. As an advantage to women, it is even better worth recording that their posts became tremendously more important.

I can recall when Mary Anderson, the one-time Swedish emigrant girl who carved for herself high place as Chief of the Women's Bureau, Department of Labor, spoke with longing of a floor for wages, a ceiling for hours; of collective bargaining rights; of old age insurance and unemployment insurance. And I can remember the triumph in her voice when she told me the work of her bureau had been tremendously increased by New Deal labor reforms.

Vivid in my memory is the brave fight of the late Grace Abbott, Chief of the Children's Bureau, for re-enactment of the Maternity and Infancy Act which she ably administered before its lapse in 1929. It was my pleasure to witness her at work helping to draft similar federal-state maternity aid provisions into permanent law in the Social Security Act, for administration by the valued assistant who became her successor, Miss Katharine F. Lenroot. In twenty years of reporting I have had no greater thrill than reading from the original records sent in by the states, the New Deal story of the saving of mothers' and babies' lives.

On a day a decade ago, Dr. Louise Stanley, Chief of the Bureau of Home Economics of the Department of Agriculture, spoke to me of her ideal for her bureau. She saw it as a research laboratory, vital alike to producer, manufacturer,
and housewives at all economic levels. With keen interest, therefore, I assisted her seven years later in preparing for the press the first really basic study ever undertaken on how much money small city, rural and village families in this country have to spend, and how it is spent. It was a white-collar WPA project. What Dr. Stanley found out was that nutrition levels were dangerously low in lowest-income classes. Armed with these facts, the administration could drive forward with confidence on its plan to feed the perishable farm surpluses to undernourished people.

Occasionally I have eleven o'clock coffee with Mrs. Ruth Shipley, Chief of the Passport Division of the Department of State, and bask in the thought that this still is a country where women's careers can advance. Hers has been a smoothly rising curve, completely comparable to those of the brightest of the career men about her. Upon her the Neutrality Act threw the grave responsibility of control of American travel in the combat zones, including a complete re-checking of the validity of all American passports. Her bureau thus became a first line of defense against the passport frauds of foreign saboteurs.

Now and again Josephine Roche, former Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, comes in from the West in the interest of better medical care for the needy people of this country. Watching her, I see in effective action a rare humanitarianism, which does not flinch from bringing together groups of sharply conflicting interests in the hope of finding a way forward.

And from Ohio comes Judge Florence E. Allen, first woman appointed Judge of the U. S. Circuit of Appeals, and I listen with respect to her words of practical patriotism.

I have lived long enough to know that back of all such surface phenomena lies a fundamental philosophy, a working organization, and some colorful personalities too. A few women can forge ahead because many women are backing them up. The philosophy that women can shape the world in which they live has been most powerfully promulgated by Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt. My mind runs back over years of her press conferences and group-gatherings in the White House, and field
trips on a thousand-and-one governmental fronts. There have been special conferences for older women workers and for helping girls to get their fair share of NYA projects. There have been housing conferences, and health conferences, and child-care conferences. The principle of equal work for equal pay has been emphasized again and again, and it is noteworthy that that principle has been the working rule of the WPA. Interest has been kindled in the low-cost electricity which would enable the rural woman to toss away her washboard, symbol of generations of grilling toil. It was the whole gamut of women's interests, and the interests of women ever uppermost. The working organization was welded, on a broad basis of genuine and general governmental education, by Miss Mary W. Dawson. I watched the keen, objective way in which she worked, and I have seen that work carried forward in the same fact-finding mood by Mrs. Thomas F. McAllister.

And now I look upon a chaotic world situation with the thought that women may well work to hold the gains they have made, as women and as citizens, in the past seven years.

#   #   #
September 14, 1940

Dear Bess:

I am enclosing a note of introduction to Frank Walker and I am sure you will find him very sympathetic and that you will like him.

I had a note from Martha and have written her that I think I can give her a date in late October.

Affectionately,

Mrs. Robert Armstrong
513 Goddard Road
Bethesda, Maryland
September 14, 1940
Hyde Park, New York

Dear Mr. Walker:

I am giving this note of introduction to Bass Furman, whom I have known for a long time. She will tell you what she has on her mind and I shall be deeply grateful if you can see her and help her.

Very sincerely yours,
Dear "E.R."

This is to thank you, belatedly but very much indeed, for sending me that telegram on the defense fliers. When I called Grace Tully and asked her if she could call them to the President’s attention, and she began to tell me how busy he was—which I knew was the truth—I countered with, "Mrs. Roosevelt thought it was important enough to send me a telegram from Knoxville," and so it went through like grassed lightning. I began to have just a glimmering of hope that those fliers will get the light of day in time to do some good!

And now may I take up a personal matter which concerns me no end, and on which, when the time comes, I’d like to have any help that you can possibly give me. Ever since my brother has been postmaster, he has been working overtime to prepare himself to take a rural carriers’ route. It seems that is the great ambition of every small town postmaster, because the rural carriers get the better pay and the better retirement break. There is only one route operating out of his office, and he has been on it so many times with the present carrier that he knows it by heart. They are very close friends, and they have always planned that when Ralph retired, Charles, my brother, would be ready to apply for his job.
Rut. no--t A B R I. l
on r. lJI VB U'lo !t
lph &IJ
hoU OOVtl raJ.

But now a sad situation comes up. Ralph has had several severe heart attacks lately. He may live for years, and we sure all hope that he does for we are all no end fond of him—but the fact remains that a sudden vacancy might occur at any moment, and if it does Chas would like to know what move to make.

I went straight to Jim Farley on Chas.'s job, seeing also Rep. Challenger, of course. But I don't know Frank Walker. There is now a Republican congressman down there, and the patronage lies with Burke who is going out. And I have only the slightest acquaintance with Cochran who is coming in.

This would mean very much to our family, as it would get Chas. out of doors in a healthy way. He is lame enough that he doesn't get enough exercise. Lucile put in a little bathroom down in their home this summer, and if we could manage to add a few shillings to the income they could live better and do a better work in the world.

I sure appreciate all you have done for me in the past, and I hope it isn't asking too much to bespeak your possible speaking to Frank Walker if it should suddenly become the thing to do in future.

Much love,

[Signature]
Martha dropped in and said that this year, all years she wanted to invite you to our October party. She authorized me to wave the flag and invite you — which I did.

You will get an invitation and I do hope it will be possible for you to accept. There is certainly great meaning in all our little celebrations now. Much, much love.

Bess

This is a queer kind of letter to be writing. As two, having spent my adult life watching, real events, I could not sense proportion. Well, I went with the kids to see Senator Norris. And he said the greatest thing on earth is the pursuit of human happiness. So that is the standard I'm going to try to fall like the other half. I feel that he's half right. I feel that if I'm able to go this half thinking it will be interesting to look at you clear as another through your profile eyes (very)
October 22, 1940

Dear Bess:

Mrs. Roosevelt would appreciate your sending the answer to the following question to Miss Mabel Fosler, 550 North Los Robles Avenue, Pasadena, California:

Why permit private corporations, such as The Federal Reserve Banks, The Federal Savings and Loan Corporation, and The Federal Housing Association, etc., to operate under name of "Federal" when they are not really Federal institutions?"

Affectionately,

Mrs. Robert Armstrong

Miss-Bess-Purman
Democratic National Committee
National Press Building
Washington, D.C.
Miss Mabel Fossler
550 North Los Robles Avenue
Pasadena, California

Dear Miss Fossler:

Mrs. Roosevelt has asked me to answer your questions about various agencies operating under the title of "Federal."

The use of the word Federal in the name of an agency established by national law is not determined by the agency but is authorized by Congress. For example, the Federal Reserve System was established at the direction of Congress under the terms of the Federal Reserve Act, December 23, 1913. It was organized to implement the monetary powers of Congress, and its operations are conducted under the terms of the Federal Reserve Act. The Federal Reserve Banks are not privately-managed institutions operated for profit, but for the purposes indicated. Their activities are carried on under the direction of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, a governmental body in Washington, D.C., composed of seven members appointed by the President with the approval of the Senate.

You probably know that the Board of Governors has published a booklet entitled "The Federal Reserve System -- its Purposes and Functions." A copy of this booklet is being sent to you.

The Federal Savings and Loan Insurance Corporation is an instrumentality of the United States and was created by an Act of Congress in 1934. The purpose is to insure the safety of each insured account up to $5,000 in the various Savings and Loan Associations which legally fall within its jurisdiction. I have asked this agency to mail you a little pamphlet of questions and answers about its program.

The Federal Housing Administration is not a private corporation but a Government agency established under authority of the National Housing Act, the opening sentence of which reads, "The President is authorized to create a Federal Housing Administration...."

I hope this explanation, together with the booklets, will make clear the reasons for using "Federal" in the titles of these and similar agencies.

Sincerely yours,

Bess Furman
October 28, 1940

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

Dear Tommy:

This copy of my reply to Miss Mabel Fossler will show
how I answered her, in case the question ever comes up again.

Affectionately,

[Signature]
Dear Tommy,

That chance remark you let fall at the party on taking over the Democratic Digest and publishing it independently has somehow simmered in my subconscious and popped up as a main topic of conversation at our breakfast table this morning.

I realized the need for a democratic publication fairly close to the high heavens these days. There ought to be a way to fill that need and our family represents a whole lot of potential to do so, I modestly think.
Will you please suggest to her lady— but without bothering her in these last few days before election— that she not allow the subject to be utterly killed, not turn it over to anybody else until we explore budgetary possibilities and put down our plan for its possible continuation if that seems at all feasible. After we have learned about all the business details.

I sure enjoyed being with you both at the party.

Ben