

BESS FURMAN (ARMSTRONG)

1933 - 1945

100

Feli

1933

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 poison cosmetics, quack cure-alls, and harmful candy for children?

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

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

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.

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

100

5

1933

100

Feb

MY DEAR "E.R.":

WORDS CANNOT DESCRIBE THE KICK I GOT FROM PULLING THE PICTURE POST CARD FROM THE MAIL BOX. SEZ I TO MY BOB, "THIS IS THE ULTIMATE ULTY 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,

Be - *Julman*

✓ 100 file
1-2-34

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,

1020 Furman

Harling: Thank you so much for the
swell stuff. I often think you're the
best reporter in the world. Now if we
can only pull this off. Remember,
though, that to get ~~my~~ 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
would only say one line to me and
I could get any other material, I could
work the blooming thing up. I'm
afraid I didn't make my problem clear
to you (that I must ~~have~~ ^{actually} speak to him), you
are so optimistic. Anyway, here's

hoping. If you all need your so as
terribly 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 M M M
Keep me posted

file / ^{F. H. M. H. S.} 100

Mrs. Roosevelt:

wrote Emma, Sammy,
Dorothy that unless they
heard otherwise from me,
the premiere showing of

Clippers Over
The Caribbees

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 + Sammy from
coming

(over)

1934



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

How will you celebrate May Day?
Any Child Health plans.

As spring opens up will you
be making more trips to historic
spots? Note your Alexandria
article - Would you suggest
each family, instead of autoing
annually, read up + go to
places where they can learn
something?

Jan.

October 15, 1934

100

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 Furman
2712 Wisconsin Avenue
Washington

January 17, 1935

100

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,

Bess Furman Armstrong
2712 Wisconsin Avenue
Washington, D. C.

S:DD

dated 1/17/35

BESS FURMAN ARMSTRONG

2712 Wisconsin Ave.

WASHINGTON, D. C.

memo for Mrs Roosevelt;

Re Wednesday press conference:

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

Before Amelia started on her flight, she was editorialized to cease + desist because it wouldn't prove anything. When it was over, she modestly said it hadn't achieved any great scientific service, except maybe it did amount to just a little something to have carried on the first 2-way radio conversation on a long distance flight. Her Burbank called on her to have 30 or even children as "the real Earhart job" because men + birds could fly.

So would it be asking too much to ask you to do a little specific thing - perhaps Amelia, if you really felt that way - such as that she proved worth being called for on that particular project, or something such.

Did you send her congratulations? I note her to the White House as guest? Should she come would you have a "for women only" press conference so we can ask her questions on giving women a psychological square deal and having babies for Burbank?

Bess Furman A.P.

Pardon the handwriting but my typing arm is all wore out tonight

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

continued to next page.

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON, D. C.
330 STAR BUILDING

fee
100

JAN. 31

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 WASN'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 CLEARS THE WHOLE THING UP. WOULD YOU MIND TELLING STEVE?

SINCERELY YOURS ALWAYS,

Beas FURMAN



HOTEL WASHINGTON
WASHINGTON, D. C.

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 I.N.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. I have been
very careful as you
know, never to use
anything that did not
seem fairly and about
Mrs. Roosevelt or the
President, and I should
hate to have this chalked
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 Baybee -

file

*FURMAN
100*

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 ~~XXXXXXXX~~ IN TIME TO GO WITH THE MARCH 4 STORY.

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 REMINISCENT MOOD.

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 IMPDENT QUESTIONS THOUGHT UP BY ALL THE EDITORS IN THE U.S.A. THEY'D BE MISSED TOO.

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

THE OMAHA BEE NEWS

MORNING-EVENING-SUNDAY

OMAHA, NEBRASKA

February 13, 1935

Mrs. Elizabeth Furman Armstrong
Associated Press, 330 Star Bldg.
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 30th, 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 city's 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 Fogerty 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 was 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/bh

April 13, 1935

100

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,

S O

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 DULL YOU MAY FIND 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 UP-BUILDING 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 HANDED 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."

D

EDUCATION---

ECONOMY---"COST CURTAILMENT BASED ON A ~~W~~IGHING 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 REARING 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 ONESELF GO INTO WHATEVER ONE WANTS TO DO, THUS DEVELOPING INDIVIDUALITY, ORIGINALITY, AND PERSONALITY."

I

J

K

LADY---"IN ESSENTIALS, A LADY REMAINS EXACTLY WHAT SHE ALWAYS WAS. THE ESSENTIALS ARE KINDLINESS 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."

2---

~~XXXX~~ MONEY----"ONLY A TOKEN, BUT A TOKEN WHICH REPRESENTS REAL THINGS---
SOMEBODY'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."

Ne~~IGH~~BORLINESS----"NOT TO BE INTERESTED JUST IN FAMILY AFFAIRS, BUT TO
BE INTERESTED IN EVERYTHING WHICH ~~TOUCHES~~ TOUCHES THE
NEIGHBORHOOD."

0-----

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ "

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

Q----

R---

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 ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ MON
BUT THROUGH SOME ACCIDENT OF BIRTH OR CIRCUMSTANC
WERE THROWN WITH THOSE WHOSE WORD AND ACTION CARRI
WEIGHT IN THE COMMUNITY, AND WHO WERE THE PEOPLE
LOOKED UP TO AND COPIED BY THE REST OF THEIR
FELLOWMEN."

May 4, 1935

100

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.

S:DD

file
Beauty A

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

Cal Post
5-4-35

August 23, 1935

100

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

S:D

8-12-55
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 QUILTS (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

2---

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 I'VE EVER MADE WHAT
I THOUGHT WAS A 100-PERCENT PROPHECY, THAT SHE'D GO ON THAT BOARD,
BEING VERY CAREFUL TO LEAVE THE
USUAL AP HOLE 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
ALL THE STREAMLINES STREAKING ON ~~THE~~ 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 DARNDDEST TO LIVE DOWN THE CRUSADER BLOOD
WOTHIN ME. BUT FROM WATCHING THE HILL AS LONG AND CLOSELY AS I HAVE,
I CAN FULLY UNDERSTAND THIS APPOINTMENT must BE INEVITABLE.

Bess Furman

100

October 31, 1935

Jess:

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 Gene 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,

S O

Enc \$20

JL

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON, D. C.
330 STAR BUILDING

John ...

DEAR MRS. R:

THIS IS REALLY OFFICE BUSINESS, BUT ITS 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 ABOARD, MISSED OUT ON YOUR LAST PRESS CONFERENCE BY NOT KNOWING THE ROPES 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 STEVE 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.

B...

December 17, 1935

Furman
100

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,

SO

Mrs. Bess Furman Armstrong
2712 Wisconsin Avenue

BESS FURMAN ARMSTRONG
2712 Wisconsin Ave.
WASHINGTON, D. C.

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 of 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 Dickens' Christmas Carol would make a swell talking book for the blind. Had you ever thought of it?

Last Christmas Bob + I sent 3 or 4 minutes of personal greetings + wise-cracks to my family - easy as easy could be made a record that would play on any phonograph, for only \$1.50. I recall you said the president had the carol cut for a comparatively brief reading - and I read your little story

12/29/19

BESS FURMAN ARMSTRONG
2712 Wisconsin Ave.
WASHINGTON, D. C.

about the family wanting 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 IV

The party was swell

Bess.

P.S.

V. Our photography department pleaded with me please to make one request on the Xmas card - viz - If everybody don't get it would you please try to see that nobody does? after no end of post-mortem sifting on the subject last year they reached the conclusion erroneous 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 a repeat.

It. Any verbal cream or Christmas will be thankfully received - Tomorrow Sir will be his pre-date stories on it - Will the party for the White House chauffeurs + servant be held as usual?

DR. D. A. FURMAN
MCCOOK, NEBRASKA

file
Dear "ER"

as well as I can do it for a
small piece with the same idea -
I'm writing some notes.

I've never had a more interesting
trip than this visit home, seeing the
breaks of the flood -

told the president it did wonders
for his shelter belt idea. The
Saturday Evening Post was all in
the mood to send a high-powered
writer in here to tell them what
a failure it was.

But the McCook newspaper told

DR. D. A. FURMAN
McCOOK, NEBRASKA

them it was no go — what with
the recent rains the shelter belt
seems to be flourishing like the
fifty bushel to the acre wheat that has
sprung up as if by magic where
the "dust blanket" lay so short a
time ago.

Am having a grand visit with
the folks, and am 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 Chief Owen Furman, aged 3 — who

DR. D. A. FURMAN
McCOOK, NEBRASKA

simply has to write to everyone I
write to

Took time off here to go over the
tornado wreckage, having pretty thoroughly
examined the flood situation.

Because of these rains and that
cloudburst which just about wiped out
900 families on a 300 mile valley
meander, about 9,000 families for
the divide will have better crops than
they ever dreamed of — this whole
place is stimulated as though it had
a shot in the arm.

Enclosed find a picture that looks like
a fence — but it's a railroad track
after a high velocity flood —

DR. D. A. FURMAN
McCOOK, NEBRASKA

I've seen miles & miles & miles of
such startling phenomena to oh &
ah about

But I've also seen the station
agent paying out money to the
boys in overalls who have been
doing their first real work in
four years on the extra gang —
he said he'd handed out \$1000 this
week — and my brother is beginning
to have folks pay him do do bills
that have been overdue about four
years. I didn't intend to report on the state
of the nation — but that's what this
seems to be. See you soon — Love
(DVF) Ben

Have your ears been
burning? I might
as well go on the
Chautauqua platform
as to come out here.
I've made about six
speeches — with
you as chief subject



1936

*Jill
Benjamin*

100

Dear "E.R."

I've a suggestion to make for the Monday morning press conference. woman-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 Women 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, sometime to have written some of the part 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 stirring 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 work women 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 has 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---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-headed girl in there who has made herself an artist, and works

there every day doing a children's book in Mayan art from the originals. *Melorna Hoffman's Ann Morgan went there to see her, plan to see her work.*
An. I count the curator, V. Valta Parra, a delightful soul.

I should 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 us to the movie.

—TB—

Mary R. (Mrs. Charles A.) Beard's opening speech at the meeting
for A WORLD CENTER FOR WOMEN'S ARCHIVES held on the seventeenth
October, 1935 at the A. W. A. Clubhouse

The idea of A WORLD CENTER FOR WOMEN'S ARCHIVES originated in the mind of Mrs. Rosika Schwimmer -- 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. Schwimmer not only launched the feminist, suffrage and peace movements in Hungary; she was given the title of "First Piper of Hungary" on account of her work for the protection and training of little children. If David Lloyd George forget her name, he remembered clearly the personality of this woman of affairs and brings her into his War Memoirs in the following way:

"War Memoirs of David Lloyd George" 1914-15. In Chapter II, The Crash.
1. Unexpected plunge into War. War not foreseen by people in general. - Responsible statesmen unprepared - Cabinet unaware of a crisis - Sir Edward Grey's first announcement - Russia anticipates war.

After explaining on page 49, 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 incalculable consequences which such an operation might precipitate in Europe. However, 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 Schwimmer, 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 how, in the years of the drive for woman suffrage, the opposition rested its argument on the fact that women couldn't or shouldn't bear arms. When the question of Rosika Schwimmer's citizenship was carried to the Supreme Court of the United States, three of the justices, Holmes, Brandeis, and Sanford dissented, in the name of good old American liberal tradition, from the decree of the Court denying citizenship to one

when the distinguished dissenting justice 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 Rosa 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
Mrs. Annet
Emily Howell Blair
Harriet Stanton Blatch
Geline MacDonald Bowen
Kliner Byrns
Mary Frayser
Dr. C. Latham Hatcher
Elizabeth Houghton Hooper
Fannie Hurst
Marian K. Johnson
Lela Maverick Lloyd
Dr. Kate C. Mead
Hon. Caroline O'Pay
Alice Park
Alice Paul
Lena Madecia Phillips
Dr. Lavinia Pruetto
Eudora R. 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 carried 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--man's, woman's or co-educational--is 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 wanted something of life and labor in the past. But this instruction in their ways and needs has no time depth. Where a broader canvas is attempted, it is divorced from understanding of culture and civilization in the large and a few striking queens or rebels in history are the only women to emerge from the past. There is nothing in our educational system at present which attacks at all of equal education. What we now have is the instruction of young men and women in the history of men--of men's minds and manners. When women are introduced, they usually appear merely as "women and children"--the popular unit method--in industry or in the family. Equal education is thus but the co-education of the sexes 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 comes 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 dowdy status of women at various levels of culture while they omit the slightest hint that forceful personalities have continuously broken through the cordons of law and helped to make history, if history 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 appear at all—not human beings of brain and will. If popular histories like courses in college ever become 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 shortcomings 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 M. Barnes and Dwight L. Dumond, is thus presented in the American Historical Review for October of this year:

"When a year ago Prof. Barnes published his Antislavery Impulse, 1830-1844 (Am. Hist. Rev. LXXX, 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 suggestioner hint as 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 revealed 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 so 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 indomitability of a woman of the Old South, Mrs. Caroline Spencer, who has given the story of that struggle in her memoirs.

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. Margherdt Du 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 power 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.

Rhonda Schwimmer will elaborate her idea of this enterprise. And then the floor will be open for a free-for-all discussion.

December 7, 1936

100

Dear Bess:

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

Much love.

Affectionately,

E.R.

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

0

Miss Bess Furman
2712 Wisconsin Ave.
Washington

March 29, 1937

100
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 Ed had a little pre-visit, and I shall certainly gobble succeeding chapters.

The lecture trip sounds interesting too - especially the ever-watchful Shrewsbury police - they must have absorbed some of their retiring dispositions from the late, great Huey.

and I see by the papers a new radio contract is next! Well - I for one am not going to repeat "How does she ever do it?" I may wonder - but I've got to the place where I don't say that hadneyed sentence out loud anymore. Besides I've watched you enough to know that the secret is just the will to go - which for the moment has departed from me so completely I hardly know myself. I feel fine, but I'm just unutterably lazy. Hope I'll be sending you that good news just as soon as it possibly possible as I'm anxious to have it over with - though trying to possess my soul in patience.

My chief delight is the sweetest, most fragile and delicate-looking but most violent little 9-months-old red-headed nephew who ever reminds me that the end is worth the apparently endless marking of time. My doctor-brother and family will motor me home and see Washington. I hope your trip to Seattle won't fall in such a way you'll miss out on seeing this said red-head who lifts up his good right arm and challenges 3 whiskey bottles a week - a rugged individualist I fear. I have a feeling Sammy would fall for him too.

my series on the White House gets is now being read by Bobb. Merrill - when I described it to them they said it didn't exactly fit with their usual list but they could assure me a careful and sympathetic reading. Ill let you know progress each of it.

For a month - it may be too late now - I've been intending to tell you about a contender for a Federal District judgeship in Ohio - Frasier Reams, the young man with the prematurely gray hair to whom I introduced you - as you may or may not recall - on the campaign train as he lunched with me one day in the diner. It is seldom indeed I'd ever raise my voice to recommend - but I do feel his one of the straight-thinking, right-principled kind especially needed in Ohio. He was an organizer of the non-Davey demo in the campaign. I'd say so even if he had married a girl whose family literally kept our family from starving back in our leanest and hardest years, just by being good neighbors, and sending across the back fence what was left in the casserole because they "didn't want to waste it" there was always enough left for five growing 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 St. Patrick's story for you and the president the day before.

Last night we listened to a Fort Worth station describing the Texas school disaster - I don't know the exigencies of oil & gas fields but one feels that surely some precautionary measure could have prevented a school-house sitting over some powerful bunker always palmed off on the poor kids the least adaptable kind to their welfare and I hate such horrors.

Well, it's good to have had a chat with you in this spring snow storm. My very best to Tommy

Love

1954

100
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,

0

Mrs. Robert Armstrong
McCook
Nebraska

Dear "E.R." ^{ack 4-2} ^{thought 4 m.} ^{arrived 11:55} ⁴⁻² ^{to Sunday after}

This is just a line ⁱⁿ way of hoping that you and Tommy and the date-book can make some kind of a mid-May date with me and my Nebraska visitors.

Whatever fits in with your schedule delights me — but I'd sure invite you + Tommy + Eleanor Cynthia and Eleanor Cynthia's mamma out to a "Showing Off the Babies" Picnic at our house.

As for me, I'm still just ticking off the time like soooove big old Grandma's clock — each tick a tick, and there are plenty of em.

And before your telegram ^{from me} arrives, I feel I ought to warn you of what might come, however awful it might seem to you to have any share of a name-sake problem on your hands than at present.

The way I feel about it is this — Tommy, with his long and meaningful years of closest association has every right to name a baby for you. I haven't. However I might break in a middle name + get by with it.

So, says I to myself & husband,
why not give credit where credit is
due? Our marriage was pretty
much made possible by Ruth Ober.
Our having a baby was certainly
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've
probably heard the decision - it's not the
why already for I've told numerous
friends that if it was a girl it
would be Ruth Eleanor. As a matter
of fact, to me you two symbolize
courage in woman kind - and 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 as they arise, and
that is the one gift above all I'd bestow.

at the same time, here in this town
I recollect that simply terms with
"Donalds" named for my doctor-brother,
I can realize that there does come to be a
time when namesakes are pure repetitions
and some of them turn out to be such little
rascals! So try to take it lightly! If it come.

If it's a boy, why it will have to aim
to be a credit to the two families as
Robert Furman Armstrong. If it's twins,
I do pray it may be 1 girl, 1 boy, for
the Armstrong name - conferences haven't
got any further than that.

my best to any of the gals you may
be conversing 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

DD

Adel
4-10-37

Dear "ER"

Put me down for Sunday
the sixteenth in the afternoon
about four -- as that will give
plenty of leeway on getting
these down 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

Tommy

Bess

Dear Bess

Tell her & M.

Mrs Robert Armstrong Jr

- McCook Nebraska

BESS FURMAN ARMSTRONG
2712 Wisconsin Ave.
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Sunday night

Dear "E.R.":

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

First off, the second cup came yesterday, before I even told you I felt you shouldn't have given the first one because you had already done more than enough for me and my infants. 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 christening gift (I felt you'd know that the blanket of your own knitting would mean more to me than anything else in the world + really was the greatest gift) or for photographs. Because I got by with your visit to my house, I fatuously thought my camera-owning friends would either fail to get the idea you'd be there or would lay off out of respect for my many years of aiding them in capturing others. But when they appeared I knew I had met the inevitable. What you saw you saw reas. As a newspaper woman, I think I was a swell 'human interest' shot; as a mother, I'm darned proud of it; but as one myself, I want you to know I'm not seeking the public prints 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 my little dears something 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 nervous for the pre-conference when I read about the trip to Beltsville, + think I'll have to get me a newspaper connection to get back in - come fall.

Had a chat with Mrs. Lanham, wife of the Texas Representative, + she said your visit to Fort Worth had simply solved the financial problem of the Mexican mission at Ft Worth - since you bought the blue glass they can't make it fast enough to fill their orders!

Love
Bess

December 31, 1937

100

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

Take heed

I would
fill in some
leaf

BESS BURMAN ARMSTRONG
1820 WESTERN AVENUE
WASHINGTON, D. C.

I have
taken
your
not
collected
from
getting
for
two
have
hair

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 same old picture I
inflicted on you as a
Christmas present once - to show
to a historical section of
California editors. I wrote them
it was queer that after lying
forgotten for 30 years, it
should pop up again on both
coasts at the same time - that
I had presented a copy to you.
Hence, no doubt, his idea of "crashing"
love always
Bess.

LOWELL C. PRATT, Editor
ED S. BYFIELD, Manager

THE TRIANGLE PRESS

THE SELMA IRRIGATOR
THE FOWLER ENSIGN

SELMA 302
FOWLER 231

BOOK AND COMMERCIAL PRINTING

1732 TUCKER STREET,
SELMA, CALIFORNIA

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 Danubury 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. Byfield is suffering so from Arthritis that we are afraid she could not stand the trip now.

Sincerely,

Ed.



May 18, 1938

100

Dear Bess:

I am enclosing the three auto-graphed 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.

DD

Actual
5-18-38

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 Olddealish 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 89-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, and 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,

Bess

June 7, 1936

100

Dear Bess:

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,

0

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

file

Dear Bess Furman:

It was such a pleasant surprise to receive Mrs. Roosevelt's autograph, and so thoughtful for 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

Edna Warren,
Globe-Democrat,
May 30, 1938.

June 12, 1938

100

Dear Bess: Armstrong

I am glad you know about Gene 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,

BESS FURMAN ARMSTRONG
4920 WESTERN AVENUE
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Act

6/12/38

Friday

Dear 'E'R':

My thoughts have been with you and Tommy constantly this week. And just too. From West Virginia friends I brought her a little gift, and so I up and took myself out to her house ^(or rather Bob with me) one afternoon tho 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 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 mending was behind her — I didn't dream, because she has always been so gay and gallant — and was then —

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

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
for a few days. I can completely
understand and how it is imperative
for her to have peace & quiet &
for her not to be inundated with
sympathy. Certainly their new
place is an exquisite spot and
one in which, I pray, she'll need
fast and permanently.
John called this morning
said they'd been to the doctor and
that she really is on the mend.
He wanted me to make a speech
in her place at the University
Maryland one she was visiting
next Thursday — and I told
him I'd sure be glad to do it!
(over)

my best love to Johnny — I sent her a
little note — would have called you up
only I'd mislaid that silent number
out at Hyde Park, but I guess at
that you probably had more phone
calls than you could manage!

much love

Ben.

June 23, 1938

100

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.

BESS FURMAN ARMSTRONG
4920 WESTERN AVENUE
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Tuesday June 21

Dear "ER":

Thanks a million for telegraphing. The girls at the committee scratched around with the news services until they at last found pictures that bring out the spirit of the story. To my utter amazement and delight, and at Miss Day's suggestion, the President himself read copy on the story, improving it significantly and giving me a ~~copy~~ ^{comment} to hand down to my children - whichever one turns out to be a newspaper reporter.

I'd have written sooner, except - at your invitation - I have been neck-deep in the enclosed which had to be handed in today - it's just a trial balloon - to see if they like it. Saw Gene Saturday - was encouraged - she was buoyed up by her visit from you

BESS FURMAN ARMSTRONG
4920 WESTERN AVENUE
WASHINGTON, D. C.

I'd have chased you down at the
4-H clubs, only that was the morning
I went out to Maryland to make
the speech — I didn't do nearly
so well as I did down in WA
but it was darned good experience
for me — for 8 years the A
wouldn't let one 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 Mrs McAllister.
my best love to Tommie

Yours always —

Bess —

July 1, 1938

100
ARMSTRONG

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
4925 WESTERN AVENUE
WASHINGTON, D. C.

11/1/38

Dear "E.R."

Don't bother to read that enclosure.
They took it, and I chopped it down
to 1800 words + it will be out
in the July Digest in a far
easier form to read — and
much improved because its
paragraph of introduction
was written by Mr. David
Cushman Coyle, as well as
yours truly, about half + half

They now want me to try my
hand at the "rainbow fleets" —
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 her — much love — Bees

September 19, 1938

100

Alfred

Dear Bess:

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,

S O

BESS FURMAN ARMSTRONG
433 WESTERN AVENUE
FRIENDSHIP STATION
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Monday, Sept 12

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 of
late. You see the best newspaper
gal friend I ever had went
up to Mayo + never came
back because of a colon cancer.
In April she was one of the
largest factors in my life — in
fact came second to Bob, + all
seemed serene and swell —
and in August she was gone.
I am so thankful for you that the
right report came over radio last night.

BESS FURMAN ARMSTRONG
4932 WESTERN AVENUE
FRIENDSHIP STATION
WASHINGTON, D. C.

and now for a few things from
me -
my sister + I have opened up
"Furman Features" - free-lance
in the National Press Bldg, Room 1097,
Phone District 0246. The work I
have turned out this summer
well justifies the small expense
we are going to - and it became
apparent a downtown headquarters
was essential to future growth
on my best assets of past
experience. We are so enthusiastic
my work with Dorothy McAllister
(for which I have you to thank) has
gone on apace and I already
am finding it very hard to keep
in closer touch with it.
We - Bob + I - had a completely
successful vacation trip home +
on up thru Rocky Mountain

BESS FURMAN ARMSTRONG
489 WESTERN AVENUE
FRIENDSHIP STATION
WASHINGTON, D. C.

National Parks due to the
various gadgets he had
invented to take care of
things while travelling. ^{(we}
^{didn't take them into the Park tho - mother had}
his system worked so ^(them 2 deep)
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 car.
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

BESS FURMAN ARMSTRONG
4220 WESTERN AVENUE
FRIENDSHIP STATION
WASHINGTON, D. C.

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 Tydings
headquarters + I am sort
of suffering, not that I
expected anything else)

The news on Tommy was
pleasing to me - I know a
little of how she felt about
having her own name back
again, can understand her
view point wholly. And getting
kinks straightened out in one's

BESS FURMAN ARMSTRONG
4825 WESTERN AVENUE
FRIENDSHIP STATION
WASHINGTON, D. C.

personal life is so completely
fundamental to living. She's
such a swell person that
she should have everything
right.

Affectionately always

Bess.

September 28, 1938

100

Dear Beas:

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

0

Sept 29

Dear ER

Thanked for labels
ER

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

Bess
Furman

1

October 13, 1938

100
ARMSTRONG

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,

n

Miss Bess Furman
4920 Western Avenue
Chevy Chase, Maryland

100
November 7, 1938

Dear Bess:

~~Many~~ 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.

DD

~~H.P.~~
HOTEL BENEDICK
1808 EYE STREET, N. W.
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Bess Furman

Thanks ER

H.P. Snow & Clipping

11.7.35

Dear "ER":

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

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 given Harry Bridges

AB

HOTEL BENEDICK
1808 EYE STREET, N. W.
WASHINGTON, D. C.

The same break on
space as the Tower
falters 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 perplexes the
Des. committee call
on Paul Smith

Beas

L A F F A I R S

men, executives, out-retail and service men into the act itself, looked to Mr. Andrews vessels, cloudy clauses nition and interpreta- and his staff worked supply the enlighten- as to be taken at the Only the courts may se of their interpreta-

re an essential part of ate commerce are . . . ase 'engaged in com-



TOR ANDREWS
arance but without
ality."

employees of a ware- facilities are used in tion of goods."

lies typically, but not large group of em- manufacturing, process- plants, a part of whose merce out of the State is located. This is not s who are engaged in c on the product. . . . statute are extended to maintenance workers, stenographers, messen- must be considered as or occupations 'neces- on' of the goods."

not cover plants where on raw materials de- the State and where of the plant moves in e. This is true, even so manufactured and in competition with ich have been manu- and have been moved ce."

limited to employes rly wage. . . . What-

ever the basis on which the workers are paid . . . they must receive at least the equivalent of the minimum hourly rate."

► "... Employment of learners, apprentices, handicapped persons and messengers 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, preparing or canning horticultural and agricultural products or making dairy products "within the area of production" applies to those employed directly on a farm, or at near-by plants having seven employes 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 Executive Editor Paul C. Smith announced imperatively that he was fed up with a dispute 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 5-&-10¢ school supplies, whose visits closed 137 of 180 warehouses in the San Francisco Bay area (*TIME*, Sept. 5), was the device used by the Association of San Francisco Distributors 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 toe hold by signing a contract with a smaller association of warehouse operators. No. 1 provision: no strikes, no lockouts for five years.

Republic and Relief

To the great annoyance of the National Labor Relations Board, Manhattan Lawyer Frederick Hill Wood last April convinced the U. S. Supreme Court that defendants haled before quasi-judicial Federal agencies have a right to study and

December 29, 1938

100

Dear Boss:

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.

T:DB

February 8, 1939

Dear Bess:

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 Michelson 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.

T:DD

Dear "ER" —

Rec'd
2-1-39

in too rusty to get
off to a good start,
So this is just tentative —
I haven't spoken to Martha
enclosed —

Hitler press on you — if I
were on R did say "any
comment?" (and I hope you'd
say "no comment.")

The Winifred Mellon
piece on Davis Stevenson
showing as how she'll
be chairman without
portfolio if she can —
deriving her powers
direct from god —

Charlie Muckler purch.
killing for Evie having
little Evie. It is a
sustainer I should like
to see become accepted
mores of our country.
(over)

But would these gallant
gents who so protect
Eve do the same for
a working newspaper
woman? It is a
question on which I
cannot be altogether
objective. But one
that gals — in
self-defense — need to
discuss, and face
before it comes upon them
— Is too late then,

Wm. A. B. 112
11/11/11
11/11/11
11/11/11

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.
4720 Western Avenue
Washington
D.C.

0

file
100
+

ans
4/14

BESS FURMAN ARMSTRONG
4820 WESTERN AVENUE
FRIENDSHIP STATION
WASHINGTON, D. C.

*Can you get on line
of 252 of report*

Sunday,
The Twelfth

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

100
Ann. 100

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.

DD

NATIONAL LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

726 JACKSON PLACE, WASHINGTON, D. C.



Honorary President, MRS. CARRIE CHAPMAN CATT, New York City

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President
MISS MARGUERITE M. WELLS
Minneapolis, Minnesota

First Vice-President
In Charge of Legislation
MRS. HARRIS T. BALDWIN
Washington, D. C.

Second Vice-President
MRS. DONALD HUTCHINSON
New York City

Secretary
MRS. PAUL ELIEL
Stanford University, California

Treasurer
MRS. WALTER T. FISHER
Winnetka, Illinois

Chairman of Finance
MRS. WILLIAM G. HIBBARD
Winnetka, Illinois

Directors
MRS. LARUE BROWN
Boston, Massachusetts

MRS. ELLIOTT R. CORBETT
Portland, Oregon

MRS. GEORGE GELLHORN
St. Louis, Missouri

MRS. RURIC N. SMITH
Tulsa, Oklahoma

Department Chairmen
Government and Its Operation
MRS. WALTER S. GREENOUGH
Indianapolis, Indiana

Government and Education
MRS. ROSCOE ANDERSON
Webster Groves, Missouri

Government and Child Welfare
MRS. E. GORDON WAGENET
Washington, D. C.

Government and Economic Welfare
MRS. MARION A. CHEEK
Snyder, New York

Government and the Legal Status of Women
MRS. EDITH VALET COOK
New Haven, Connecticut

Government and Foreign Policy
MRS. LOUISE LEONARD WRIGHT
Chicago, Illinois

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

Bess Furman
Press Department

BF/B

April 12, 1939

100
APR 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,

0

Miss Bess Furman
4920 Western Avenue
Chevy Chase
Md.

7

at
4-12

Thank

to be
your
great
ER

Dear "ER"

And here is what the little
Tepas gal wrote —

If it didn't include such
a beautiful picture of Tommy
I would ask for it back
as reference as to what
you are or record as
saying.

Bessie Fickman

Bess Furman: Staff writer
Washington Bureau, Associated
Press 1929-37; reporter and feature star
metropolitan dailies 1918-
29.

100

Furman Features

Lucile Furman: Editor and
publisher country weekly
12 years; copy editor and
staff writer city daily 2
years.

BESS & LUCILE FURMAN

1097 NATIONAL PRESS BLDG.

PHONE DISTRICT 0246

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.

I.

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-a-ghost for Mrs. Helm and/or
Mrs. Nesbitt? On a single article per each? Tell them I'd gladly split the
proceeds and try to figure out something featuristic 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 high-lights job of 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

Bess

and it looks like they ain't coming any how!
25 It was a wonderful Easter Party.

What did
I tell you?
I'm sure
I'm

April 26, 1939

Dear Ess:

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.

22
1-26

BESS FURMAN ARMSTRONG
425 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 of the President using one of Hall's 6-foot boys as measure for the Family Dining Room, and I've always felt they must be such a jolly lot.

Bug was certainly the good soldier about his birthday. I don't know when an incident nor an accident has touched me more. I guess maybe having children does that to you.

Love

Bess

File

100

May 12, 1939

Dear Beas:

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

0

2-5-12
NATIONAL LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

726 JACKSON PLACE, WASHINGTON, D. C.



Honorary President, MRS. CARRIE CHAPMAN CATT, New York City

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President
MISS MARGUERITE M. WELLS
Minneapolis, Minnesota

First Vice-President
In Charge of Legislation
MRS. HARRIS T. BALDWIN
Washington, D. C.

Second Vice-President
MRS. DONALD HUTCHINSON
New York City

Secretary
MRS. PAUL ELIEL
Stanford University, California

Treasurer
MRS. WALTER T. FISHER
Winnetka, Illinois

Chairman of Finance
MRS. WILLIAM G. HIBBARD
Winnetka, Illinois

Directors
MRS. LARUE BROWN
Boston, Massachusetts

MRS. ELLIOTT R. CORBETT
Portland, Oregon

MRS. GEORGE GELLHORN
St. Louis, Missouri

MRS. RURIC N. SMITH
Tulsa, Oklahoma

Department Chairmen
Government and Its Operation
MRS. WALTER S. GREENOUGH
Indianapolis, Indiana

Government and Education
MRS. ROSCOE ANDERSON
Webster Groves, Missouri

Government and Child Welfare
MRS. R. GORDON WAGENET
Washington, D. C.

Government and Economic Welfare
MRS. MARION A. CHEEK
Snyder, New York

Government and the Legal Status of Women
MRS. EDITH VALET COOK
New Haven, Connecticut

Government and Foreign Policy
MRS. LOUISE LEONARD WRIGHT
Chicago, Illinois

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

Bess Furman
Press Department

BF:S

Thanked at

National League of Women Voters
1 Jackson Place
Washington, D. C.

April 22, 1939

(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 partly 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

100
ARMSTRONG

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 Armstrong
1097 National Press Bldg.
Wash., D.C.

DD

DO YOU RIDE-OR-WANT TO RIDE?

10 cents for this book will bring you dollars worth of information and enjoyment

It started to begin in 1890, in a quiet corner of the West. It was a time when the horse was still the main mode of transport. There were no automobiles, no trucks, no buses. The only way to get from one place to another was on horseback. This book tells you all about it. It is a book for the horse lover and the horse lover's wife.

HORSE and MULE ASSOCIATION of AMERICA
Western Division, Secretary
407 South Dearborn St., Chicago, Ill.



CRATER CLUB
39th Street
Exclusive colony with Club advantages for families with quiet tastes. Furnished cottages, baths, open fires, central meals, no house-keeping cares. Lake and mountain trips, water sports, tennis, Golf and riding horses nearby. Social references required. Illustrated literature on request. JOHN B. BURNHAM, Owner, Essex, N. Y.

"Take it from me—it's a great knife"



GUARANTEED TO PLEASE
The Christy Co.

PYROZIDE TOOTH POWDER

ARE YOUR TEETH SENSITIVE TO HEAT AND COLD? Pyrozide tooth powder is the answer. It is a gentle, soothing powder that relieves the pain of sensitive teeth. It is the only tooth powder that is guaranteed to please.

Don't throw shirts away when collars get ragged.

Buy Replacement Collars to breadbasket (white only). Rip off the old collar and attach as the new—makes shirts like new. Made in the U.S.A. Price \$2 per dozen. \$1 per doz. Sample collar free.

ETHICAL CULTURE SCHOOLS

Creative study and recreation for boys and girls from pre-kindergarten to college. MIDTOWN Elementary Only. Appointment arranged. Register at Central Park West, New York, to learn.

DOMINION OF CANADA

(Continued from Page 1)
tional interest, the provinces have been asserting an ever-increasing independence.

French Canada has set up a paternalistic regime in defiance of the spirit, at least, of Canadian law. Canada is relatively prosperous but her prosperity, like her policy, is uneven. The West will share it only by grace of a guaranteed wheat price.

SINCE Canada, after practicing a policy which maintained her political center of gravity in Europe while her economic center stubbornly maintained itself in North America, finds herself still thinly populated and dangerously divided, a new orientation of policy seems imperative. The tendency of it is to obey the well-known injunction to "Be yourself," which, in Canada's case, would seem to mean "Be more North American."

North Americanism does not, however, mean annexation to the United States. What North Americanism would mean would be a close alignment with United States policies. As individuals Canadians and Americans are already very alike and recently they have tended to react similarly in the mass toward world affairs.

Canadians talk like Americans, have the same individualist philosophy, are like them great drivers of automobiles, owners of

telephones and electric refrigerators and are gadget-users generally. Important for their better knowledge of each other is the annual traffic of 25,000,000 Canadians and Americans to and from across the border.

THE Canadian, though he has heard his politicians denounce Americans as politically and juridically corrupt, given to murdering one another and neglecting to commit adultery before seeking divorce, still manages to like his brothers to the south. But he does not particularly like his image of the United States. This is especially true if his ancestors were American Tories. If his origin is French he is constantly being warned by his ecclesiastical leaders against "Americanization."

Whether French or English, Canadians could scarcely read their own history without finding many precedents for regarding Americans as their enemies. The well-known 3,500 miles of unbuffered border has twice been crossed by invading American armies in 180 years, and twice within the last seventy the territory of each country has been used as a base for guerrilla attacks on the other. If for 125 years there has been peace between them, they were near war three times, and as late as 1855



Symbol of Canada—A Moosie in the wilderness.

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

THESE 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 reassuring role of good neighbor. The Ottawa agreements of 1932 were a last attempt by R. B. Bennett to remake the empire nearer to Canada's desire. The American trade treaty of 1933, on the other hand, was an economic move toward North Americanism.

Mr. Mackenzie King's promise that the Canadian Parliament would decide whether Canada should participate in another British war was a political move

in the same direction. The Dominion has thus formally asserted her right to nonparticipation in active hostilities while admitting that neutrality will be impossible while she stays in the Empire.

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, despite the present reluctance of perhaps half her citizens, 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 impartial 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 peace and war would simplify her problem. Failing such development, the drift is toward North Americanism by way of neutrality. If the war specter is laid, Canada will certainly enter the Pan American Union before long.

BEING THE WIFE OF A PUBLIC MAN

(Continued from Page 9)
serve and protect the public career. Mrs. Woodrow Wilson, of course, is the classic example. During the present Administration the name of Swanson has not fallen from the among-those-present lists in the years in which the Secretary of the Navy has been in poor health. Mrs. Swanson goes the rounds.

One of the greatest gifts a wife can make to a husband's career is just to be sweet and pretty. Two persons of this beautiful background group pop into mind who can make this gift in full measure—dark-haired rosy-cheeked Mrs. Henry Wallace and honey-blond Mrs. Harry Woodring. And when a positive genius for graciousness is thrown in for good measure, the result sometimes is such a paragon as Mrs. Calvin Coolidge.

so isn't worth the effort. While strong on the salon side, Alice Roosevelt Longworth proved definitely antipathetic to all conventional forms of pleasing the populace; she said in her memoirs that she had talked it over with Mr. Longworth and that they had decided she would be more of a liability than an asset to him along those lines. Mrs. James Farley was so serenely sure that her husband would get along all right that she could keep home and children in New York after he entered the Cabinet.

When Mrs. Farley was asked what having a husband in the capital had meant to her, she said: "It has meant that I have learned to be in two places at once—Washington and New York—almost at the same time. It has meant conforming to official formality when, as you know, I have no inclination to be formal—but it has meant also many pleasant informal affairs and new friends whom I have enjoyed thoroughly. I have had to hand my husband over to the government, being content to see him only at week-ends, and sometimes not even then when he is off on his speaking engagements."

IN giving some good general rules for the wife of a public man when he is in the thick of campaigning for office, Mrs. Roosevelt got down to such practical details as: "Always be on time. Never try to make any personal engagements. Do as little talking as humanly possible. Never be disturbed by anything. Always do what you're told to do as quickly as possible. Remember to lean back in a parade so that people can see your husband. Don't get too fat to ride three on a seat. (Some local no-

table surely will want to sit beside him too.) Get out of the way as quickly as you are not needed."

Maybe it was thinking about the campaigns she had been in that caused the usually calm Mrs. Roosevelt to exclaim, "Nothing in God's green earth would induce me to run for anything!" Others think there is equally good ground for foregoing the job of public man's wife. One of the most simple, sincere, successful and pious women in all officialdom today, when asked to sum up some thirty-odd years as the wife of an officeholder, replied: "It's hell!" Strong language comes startlingly from the lips of great ladies, but surely there should be a special dispensation for her of whom it is said—"She always built him up, and she never let him down."

Even a child can make DELICIOUS GRAVIES & SAUCES with KITCHEN BOUQUET

ENJOY Swiss hospitality at the World's Fair. The Zamboni Orchestra of St. Moritz play light and classical music. The Walter Sauer Dance Group performs three times daily. There are movies and exhibits of Swiss resorts and industries. To climax your visit to the Fair, dine at one of the three delightful Swiss restaurants.

Switzerland AT THE WORLD'S FAIR

Dear "E.R." —

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

W.A.S.
5-17-39

Very good

Be...

100
Anniversary

May 29, 1939

Dear Bess:

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

Affectionately,

SO

Miss Bess Furman *Anniversary*
4920 Western Avenue
Chevy Chase, Md.

2
104
Dear "ER" —

Give a tiny, tiny thing
to tell you in the midst
of all this Big Splurge.

It seems that you
are doing all your
usual favors on top
of the extras — and
that you are more or
less scheduled to appear
at some doings of the
American Legion at the
Bureau of Engraving &
Printing Memorial Day.

Well, one of our very
closest friends, J. Horace Smithley
is director of the Chevy
Chase Club who will
sing to you.

There appears to be a
naive hope among these
charters that if you like
'em you might give
'em a mention in
your column - as you
have the visiting singing
groups from here & there!

I am ever 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 philosophical - could
each other that maybe you
can't even come -
Bess

June 1, 1939

100
ARMISTION

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 Furman *Armistion*
National League of Women Voters
726 Jackson Place
Washington, D.C.

DD

NATIONAL LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

726 JACKSON PLACE, WASHINGTON, D. C.



Honorary President, MRS. CARRIE CHAPMAN CATT, New York City *WA*

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President
MISS MARGUERITE M. WELLS
Minneapolis, Minnesota

First Vice-President
in Charge of Legislation
MRS. HARRIS T. BALDWIN
Washington, D. C.

Second Vice-President
MRS. DONALD HUTCHINSON
New York City

Secretary
MRS. PAUL ELIEL
Stanford University, California

Treasurer
MRS. WALTER T. FISHER
Winnetka, Illinois

Chairman of Finance
MRS. WILLIAM G. HIBBARD
Winnetka, Illinois

Directors
MRS. LARUE BROWN
Boston, Massachusetts

MRS. ELLIOTT R. CORBETT
Portland, Oregon

MRS. GEORGE GELLHORN
St. Louis, Missouri

MRS. RURIC N. SMITH
Tulsa, Oklahoma

Department Chairmen
Government and Its Operation
MRS. WALTER S. GREENOUGH
Indianapolis, Indiana

Government and Education
MRS. ROSCOE ANDERSON
Webster Groves, Missouri

Government and Child Welfare
MRS. R. GORDON WAGENET
Washington, D. C.

Government and Economic Welfare
MRS. MARION A. CHEEK
Snyder, New York

Government and the Legal Status of Women
MRS. EDITH VALET COOK
New Haven, Connecticut

Government and Foreign Policy
MRS. LOUISE LEONARD WRIGHT
Chicago, Illinois

May 25, 1939

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt
The White House
Washington, D. C.
"E.R."
Dear ~~Eleanor~~:

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
Bess Furman
Press Department

BF/B

Enclosures:
Press release for May 29, 1939
"Women on Juries" flier

Press Department
National League of Women Voters
726 Jackson Place
Washington, D. C.

FOR RELEASE in papers of

Monday, May 29, 1939

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^{on May 9} 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."

"... jury service is an extremely important civic or public duty from which no qualified person should ask to be excused, except for reasons of real necessity. In this connection 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."

LOUIS B. HEWYLL, Judge
Circuit Court of Oregon

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 such state.

"The wisdom of the Legislature in enacting the law permitting women to serve on juries has been fully justified. I have had occasion during this month to observe the disposition of cases. 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."

GEORGE M. MOSCOWITZ
U. S. District Judge, New York

STATE	NO JURY SERVICE	OPTIONAL JURY SERVICE	COMPULSORY JURY SERVICE	STATE	NO JURY SERVICE	OPTIONAL JURY SERVICE	COMPULSORY JURY SERVICE
Alabama	No law			Nevada			Compulsory. Exempts from jury service married women having one or more children directly under her care.
Arizona	No law			New Hampshire	Not to be imposed upon women.		
Arkansas		Women may serve on juries; if they refuse must notify officer.		New Jersey			Compulsory. Same exemptions for men and women.
California			Exemptions same for men and women.	New Mexico	No law		
Colorado	No law			New York		Exempt upon claiming exemption.	
Connecticut			Special exemptions for nurse in practice, for woman nursing sick member of family, or caring for children under 16.	North Carolina			Question whether women are liable for jury service. Not yet settled by opinion of Attorney General or by court decision. Word used is "persons."
Delaware		Women, when drawn to serve, may be excused on request.		North Dakota			Excused upon written application to the clerk of the court.
District of Columbia		Not compulsory on any woman.		Ohio			Compulsory. Words used "persons having the qualifications of electors."
Florida	No law			Oklahoma	No law		
Georgia	No law			Oregon		Exempt by signing notice claiming exemption.	
Idaho	No law			Pennsylvania			Compulsory. Words used "qualified elector."
Illinois	No law			Rhode Island			In counties having court houses with suitable facilities, names of qualified women voters are listed.
Indiana	No law		Compulsory. Word used is "person."	South Carolina	Women declared exempt.		
Iowa			Compulsory. Words used are "all qualified electors."	South Dakota	No law		
Kansas		Each woman wishing to be exempt must notify local assessor in order that her name shall not be placed on the jury list.		Tennessee	No law		
Kentucky			Exemptions same for men and women.	Texas	No law		
Louisiana		Must declare in writing desire to serve.		Utah		Exempt if she has care of minor children.	
Maine			Words used "no person shall be disqualified because of sex."	Vermont			Question whether women are liable for jury service. Not yet settled by opinion of Attorney General or by court decision. Words used are "legal voters."
Maryland	No law			Virginia	No law		
Massachusetts	No law			Washington		Exempt on signing written or printed notice claiming exemption.	
Michigan			Compulsory. Words used "suitable persons being citizens, having the qualifications of electors."	West Virginia	No law		
Minnesota			Compulsory. Same exemptions for men and women.	Wisconsin		Excused on request to presiding judge before commencement of the trial.	
Mississippi	No law			Wyoming	No law		
Missouri	No law						
Montana	No law						
Nebraska	No law						

Note: Information contained in this chart is not complete. Refer to state statutes for more detailed information. At 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 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?

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 in no sense a duty for women.

Optional or permissive laws are unsatisfactory because:

1. Permissive laws fail to recognize the principle of responsible citizenship. The discretion exercised by the judge under compulsory jury service is sufficient safeguard against the inflection of any hardship.
2. Permissive laws put a burden on the administrative machinery in calling large numbers of women only to have to excuse them later.
3. With a permissive law, the number of women serving 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 juries) 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

Jurors are chosen one by one for a particular trial and each one may, under certain conditions, be challenged. A limited number of preemptory challenges is available to the attorney for each side; that is, either side may refuse a juror without giving any reason, up to the number permitted. Each side may, however, have an unlimited number of challenges for cause, such cause being, for example, relationship to one of the parties, financial interest, etc. The judge rules on these challenges usually as a question of law.

Qualifications of Jurors

These are determined by statute in each state, the provisions usually including citizenship or eligibility to vote, although in some states a juror must be older than 21 years, often over 25. There is also, as a rule, a provision as to literacy, mentality, and character, such as "sound judgment and integrity," "a good and lawful 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, firemen, ministers, teachers,

etc. There is, of course, nothing illegal about the selection of such a juror if he is drawn and willing to serve.

Excused 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 member 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 much 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 its 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 crimes such as murder and prosecutions are made upon an "information" filed directly by the prosecuting attorney.

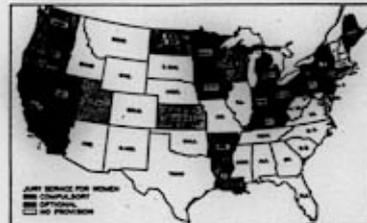
The Petit Jury

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 minor 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 guaranteed by the federal and state constitutions in all criminal cases and usually in civil cases involving more than a certain specified amount of money.

WOMEN —ON— JURIES



- 24 states and the District of Columbia provide for the service of women on juries.
13 states have compulsory jury service for women.
11 states and the District of Columbia have optional or permissive jury service for women.
24 states still bar women from jury service.

Copyright 1939 by

NATIONAL LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

726 Jackson Place, Washington, D. C.

April 1939

5¢ a copy, \$3.50 for 100 copies

June 22, 1939

100

Dear Bess:

Thank 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

DD

June 16

McCook Neb.

Called 6:31 31

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 mood of pure miracle - when you are on your own beaten track you don't think of the miracle.

It seems to me that your press conference on June 9 amply justified all the work + thinking that all those press conferences have been to you. I thought again of the trip I made to New York at Hickel's invitation and how we talked over the possibility of having them + of how enthusiastic I was - and of how the AP guys predicted it "couldn't last" - and just because you did it an outstanding job of press relations 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 pageant from the pure standpoint of your enjoyment - I think it is a simply superb presentation of the early harvest - part in the west. Fact is, I wrote + asked them to send you a copy of the whole pageant if they had one.

Oh 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 looking me. I think the conversation there really lifted the June 9 conference clear above the catch-as-catch-can, spur-of-the-moment class.

Love Bess.

Biennial 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, xxx 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 siezed 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 xxx humble men. - Cities were settled, San Gabriel (Santa Fe) The cowboys drove north on the Sante 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 byt 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, Ogden, Provest, 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 Part:

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, ere 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 next, their jams and jellies, quilts and woven rugs, their friends, 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 pain, alone, and buried most ~~sixteen~~ in tiny boxes.

At dawn their men went forth, their eyes aching, 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 Clarke 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 were 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 joy. 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 gray dawn to gray 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.)

Biennial Convention,
Amer. Assn. University Women
Hotel Shirley Savoy
Denver, Colorado

IMMEDIATE RELEASE //

Dear "E P" I can hardly wait for
you and the president to see the
place — if you haven't already.
The CCC did the theater, the UPA
the parking lots — and it is the
best example I've seen yet of
what the New Deal has done
with waste man-power —

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 remendously 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 Cranmer. "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 Rome 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 SEEN

file

July 22, 1939
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,

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

T:DD

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 here 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 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 Troupers 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, fester, 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 out 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. Iokes got PWA; when he read in the paper Mr. Carmody 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 geached out and gathered Bob into his organization in order to clip his wings. Bob could work with him okeh, 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.

Bea

*By Bob's head
especially good
the twins are on their
without trouble
12-57*

FROM

The White House
Washington

JL
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.

100
September 2, 1939

Dear Bess:

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 ER:

I am so sorry not
to be with the girls +
you and Tommy on
the Labor Day week-end.

But I literally sold
my week-ends down
the river.

Lucile + Bob + I are
doing a candid camera
booklet on Stratford,
Bob doing the pictures
+ Lucile + I the cutlines.

We are doing it for the foundation, and they put one of the cottages at our disposal each week-end until the photos are done.

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

The terns 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 + I do
get a chance to come up to
the Worlds Fair later on,
leaving our sister to mind our
children, may we call up +

find out if we could
come and see you?

affectionately
Beas.

FURMAN FEATURES

1097 NATIONAL PRESS BLDG.

WASHINGTON, D. C.

October

The Twentyfourth

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 & 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 trespass on
your time, but I'll bet I did.

Always -

Bess.

December 5, 1939

100
ARMSTRONG

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 *Mrs Robert Armstrong*
Furman Features
1097 National Press Bldg.

Wash., D.C.

T:DD

11/27
12 6 37

FURMAN FEATURES

1097 NATIONAL PRESS BLDG.

WASHINGTON, D. C.

December 2

Dear E. R.

I'm celebrating my birthday by 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 + aunts have made the house ring all morning with "Happy Birthday to You" she in a piping treble and he in a serious 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 probably is the only house in all Washington already equipped with twin bedrooms with sunny south windows for our twins. And twin (non-identical) lots too, one to live on, one to play in.

FURMAN FEATURES

1007 NATIONAL PRESS BLDG.

WASHINGTON, D. C.



\$10,700 *We got it for*

513 Goddard Road \$10,500

Battery Park—Bethesda

Within Walking Distance of New Naval Hospital

The picture does not begin to portray the attractiveness and real value of this unusual offering. A thirty-foot living room with its Colonial fireplace, book shelves and large screened porch, together with a big, bright dining room, pantry, kitchen, maid's room and bath complete a first-floor plan which is incomparable in this price range. Four bedrooms, complete bath and a lavatory comprise the second floor. The closets are large with built-in drawers, and the attic provides ample storage space. The two-car garage is approached through a side driveway.

The house opens up beautifully. Much care and attention has been given the pleasing color scheme in the recent renovation of the interior. It has a personal touch rarely seen in the newer homes. When we inspected the property, our first thought, after a sweeping glance from the reception hall was, "My! what a grand house for entertaining."

Now a word about the grounds. There are two big lots, one which the house occupies, well landscaped—the other extending through to Park Lane, a perfect picture with its well-laid out chrysanthemum beds, trellises and terraces. What we have said here should certainly arouse your interest—see it today.

Price, \$9,450, Without the Extra Lot

Directions—Drive past the Bethesda Bank on Old Georgetown Road to Battery Lane, turn left on Battery Lane into Goddard Road and our open sign.

OPEN SUNDAY 11 to 5

Boss and Phelps, Realtors

1417 K Street

(Exclusively)

No. 9300

How we are doing it:

Payment required,
\$1000 down.

I put down \$350
Lucas put down 150

We will pay another
\$500 on or before
February 1 and we
know we will have
that amount by that
time.

Bob will then
carry the payments
taxes, etc, which,
all budgeted in our
lump are \$90.40,
exactly 40¢ a
month more than
the rest we have
paid for the last
3 years. At the
end of 3 years,
the payments will
be less.

and I feel, too, this is one more
thing to show for having known you.

(I haven't forgotten
I owe you money but
I know you'll still
back me in getting
these kids started in life
when the ship comes in, you prof!

FURMAN FEATURES

1097 NATIONAL PRESS BLDG.

WASHINGTON, D. C.

Within the next few days I hope to shape up a sight-seeing tour with the most possible good in it for the lady out on the landscape - and the least possible effort in it for ~~you~~ you, though inspired by you, to the general aid + upbuilding of the Demo Digest.

I saw Repdale yesterday + he said Wick might start a children's program in the Democratic party. I think that is the smartest thing the democrats could possibly do. It seems amazing that no party has ever done it.

much much love

Bess.

4
December 16, 1939

100
ARMSTRONG

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 ~~practically~~ practically
every part of the country and I have no
idea how many.

Affectionately,

Rush

Rush

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 got 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.

To be answered

From you, in first-person quotes, 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:

To be answered

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,

Rush

Bees: call on
could you please have someone
take this material as ready and Gwell
in the it.

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.

DD

100

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. nately,

Mrs. Robert Armstrong
1097 Press Bldg.
Washington

0

ans
1-17

FURMAN FEATURES

1097 NATIONAL PRESS BLDG.
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Thought I had
unintentionally told
supper ER
congratulations!

Dear "ER" —

I just wanted you to know
I really thought we had that
fixed 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 fix it
So's to have his picture taken
with you.

Martha was right annoyed at
catching up with me. She said if
I had anything else like that in
mind, whether of not I aimed to
let her in on the story, to come to her

FURMAN FEATURES

1097 NATIONAL PRESS BLDG.

WASHINGTON, D. C.

first. She said she knew a
lot about this town and
could give me 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 -

Bevo

ARMSTRONG
100 Thru. at 3:30
away today

file

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 ~~some~~ a small group of Congressmen's wives to be swiftly rallied as soon as your time is decided upon? (Friday would be a good day with me - but I will make whatever time you set.)

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~~ 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 ^{buildings} 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 sulfatyridine and antipneumococcic sera. Where the ^{national capital} 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---~~xxxx~~ 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; They'd rather talk pneumonia than t.b., you ask some more tb questions. The claim Washington has no special climatic hazards. I was surprised to find the we do have occupational diseases in Government Printing Office, Dry Cleaning, Garages. Bess (and Lucile) Furman.

to the "Institutional" story,
on clinics for this one,
That we'd leave Seckinger
but make qualifications

Also

As soon as this clears
I'll report to you on
the next one, Recreation

Mrs. Roosevelt and Housing

By BESS AND LUCILE FURMAN

Discovering Your Home Town

Copyright, 1919, by the Women's Division,
Democratic National Committee

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 square—Navy Place—so called because of its closeness to the United States Navy Yard. This Christmas just past, that whole great square had been cleared of its core of four alley stores 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 unfolded with a visit to the Alley Dwelling Authority, and to the slums 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 Tidewater 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

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 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 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.

people became acute, builders went into the centers of these squares and made little minor street systems, building houses of low standards. As these deteriorated, they became slums. The blight spread to the outer edge of the squares

and on to include whole areas."

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)

Above, a typical scene in one of Washington's alleys before reclamation. Below, a typical scene after the old alley system has been supplanted by modern housing.



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 Capital, was the worst slum in the city," said Ihlder. "Riis described how he came upon it, on a rainy day, drear and drab and desolate. He vividly portrayed one house in particular, where lived five persons suffering with tuberculosis and two with 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—obeyance.

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 little, 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. Ihlder, 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. Ihlder. "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 the country over and has 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. Ihlder, "the district piped 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 officialdom through scores of speeches in the National Capital.

Said Mr. Ihlder: "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, 3,337 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 5,540 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. Ihlder.

He explained that the Authority is now operating under two different plans, their own reclamation 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. Ihlder 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

a
100

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

SO

Mr. Tolson

file

Dear Tommy:

Of course I'll be
delighted to talk to
Hick + to lunch at
the White House on
Monday, February 5th.

Beas.

Send accepts too

February 9, 1940

100

Dear Bess:

I warmly congratulate you on the Statford 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.

DD

Dear "E. R":

Rec'd
2-1-40

— 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 $\frac{3}{4}$ of the
pictures in the book. He + Lucile ^{developed} enlarged,
and printed them to scale, the lay-out
being made by Lucile. I wrote the text.
The twins went along on all field
trips just for the fun of it. Tho' 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 Copy rights Division of the
Library of Congress called up to
complement it and ask for two
more copies for library use, and
we were no end 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 of it
in your column would be appreciated -
and I do't hesitate to mention our names!
Blatantly Yours Bess.

(2). Dorothy says you are going to join with the budget tomorrow, May 9, as the saying goes, clarify -

Dorothy showed me the statement that went to you on our account. It was correct only 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 of the Jackson Day dinner we were owed \$645 - of which \$205 has since been paid covering June, July, and August issues, 1939.

Our work for the current February issue of the Digest was extremely heavy, two double page spreads and two single outlines, a total of \$160. So with \$440 still back and \$160 still owing, the Democratic National Committee is again in our debt by \$600. and Jackson Day dinners don't seem to channel into the ever-indigent "Digest Fund".

Well, all this leads up to is this. Dorothy says you and she will both to join tomorrow, and I want all the cards on the table. In order to take this new work offered, I shall have to give up a steady and prompt-paying part-time job. I am willing and anxious to swing

into the work as outlined to me 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
tensed indeed — and if you
don't pay the interest goes up!
Alas, an awful lot of very hard work
indeed has gone into the amount
still on the books for us. I would
like to have a plan made for
meeting that. And I want it
understood, of course, that if I
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!

Bees

(3) Birth Control: About a week ago, I got a long distance call from Eleanor Lambert in New York. As you may know, she is the wife of a high-ranking Hearst executive (who was former husband of Jose Eades) and is a very smart little publicist with an office of her own.

However, she said that in this case she was speaking simply 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 strictly off the record "and no publicity" with Barry Bingham of the Louisville Courier Journal, who is underwriting heavily, and Mrs. Woodward Reinhardt, whom she highly praised. It seems their theme would be overcoming — or how to overcome — 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 trip I planned for you had inadvertently brought the subject

up and I might as well get straight on it.
And you might as well get straight on the
present more powerful forces behind Birth Control

Do you want to stay off this subject — or
do you think the psychological moment has
come when it can be faced — as a fortiori —
repeal of prohibition?

The question you asked at the District Building
"Is it legal" seemed to me the crux so far
as the organized movement is concerned.

Nationally, the Birth Controllers rest on a
none-too-solid court decision when they
should have gone ahead + got the Comstock
law repealed.

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

Wouldn't Mr. Bingham et al better bring pressure
on Congress, instead of on Ferran, who
God knows has been a swell trail-blogger
on the medical scene, regardless of Catholicism
vs 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 —
well, I attack what hath been done with
what you already have said a little leaflet
given me by a Birth Controller friend.

Bea.

NEW YORK Herald Tribune

JAN 17 1940

'PLANNING OF CHILDREN'

O. K. WITH FIRST LADY

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt said today that she does not oppose "the planning of children," but that she does not wish to impose her views on anyone else.

It was her first utterance on the birth control question since her husband has been President. Many years ago she contributed to a New York

EASTON, PA., EXPRESS

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17, 1940

Mrs. Roosevelt On Birth Control

It is quite likely that Mrs. Roosevelt let herself in for a lot of discussion when she told a press conference in Washington yesterday—

"No, I am not opposed to the planning of children. Some people oppose it on religious grounds, but there is nothing in my religion to make me oppose it. In general I should not be opposed to a thing which might be 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 legislatures 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.

Mrs. Roosevelt Is 'Not Opposed' To Practice of Birth Control

From the Herald Tribune Bureau

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. In general I should not be opposed to a thing which might be of value

to some people, but on the other hand I should not urge my attitude upon them either."

Mrs. Roosevelt revealed that she had once been a subscriber to an organization which conducted birth-control clinics in New York City, but she could not recall its name. This was the first time, she admitted, that she had commented on the subject since her views had been "of any interest to any one."

Queried on a report following the last White House reception that she had been kissed by Vice-President John N. Garner, Mrs. Roosevelt laughed and said no, the report was not true—she wished Vice-President had kissed her. She had to be

WASHINGTON, D. C., N.W.P.

First Lady Favors 'Planning Children'

But Wouldn't Impose Views on Others

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt said today that she does not oppose "the planning of children," but that she does not wish to impose

TYLER (TEX.) COURIER
JANUARY 18, 1940

OUO

"Planned" Families

As was to be expected, liberal Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt has said that she personally is in favor of "planned" families—in other words, birth control. The First Lady is usually frank about her opinions, and her frankness in this connection is to be commended. She didn't beat about the bush and express opposition to something which she knows is practiced by most of the very people who are loudest in their condemnation of birth control.

Mrs. Roosevelt said, "I'm not opposed to something which might be of value to someone but I'm not imposing my ideas on anyone whose religion is different from mine." She also said she had subscribed to a birth control clinic for several years during her New York residence.

The fight for legal birth control is achieving real progress and eventually all families will be "planned" families, with information on birth control being made available to all married persons as a public service instead of being surreptitiously circulated as it now is. In the meantime, we will continue to hear preachments against birth control by those who practice it and know that most other people do likewise.

WASHINGTON, D. C., N.W.P.

JAN 16 1940

Birth Control Endorsed by First Lady

Mrs. Roosevelt's visit last week to the District Health Department led to an endorsement of birth control at her press conference yesterday.

It was said to be the first statement she has made on this subject since her husband became President, two years ago she contributed to a New York City organization which distributed birth control information in the poorer section.

Prominent local women who operate a birth control clinic in southwest Washington were upset because Mrs. Roosevelt had been told by Assistant Health Officer Seckinger that it would be illegal for the Health Department to operate such clinics here. They immediately got out a statement calling attention to their own record of achievement and announcing a drive for \$6000 to continue the work this year.

Mrs. Roosevelt said she doesn't oppose the "planning of families, but I am not imposing my ideas on any one else."

She added that she doesn't think employers should require women to resign their jobs because they're going to have babies.

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."

(7) I feel better about Ruby. I talked to Herb. He said the doctors had made a thorough physical check-up + 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 at the moment. But I guess maybe time is the best remedy right now. It is a deeper thing than the present surface flare-up so far as Martha is concerned.

February 16, 1940

100

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

Affectionately,

Mrs. Robert Armstrong
513 Goddard Road
Bethesda, Md.

DD

The better one knows you
The nicer you grow,
And there's no better day
To be telling you so!

Thine ~~my~~ sentiments
Bea

May 27, 1940

100

Dear Bess:

I have sent your letter over to Mr. Delano. 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.

T:DD

Dear E.R.:

Oct 11 40
5:17

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

The next Demo Digest is going to be a convention handbook combining June and July issues, and will thus have no projects. So our Traffic Study will have to be in the next issue after that if we can get together on it — the August issue.

Any chance you might come to our nursery school instead? Preferably on a Friday morning because that's my teaching day? And before June 10 because that infant institution is about to be kicked out, under protest, my own protest is attached and I would appreciate it greatly if you'd glance it over and then add 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 for cholera and typhoid & youth disease!! And I aim to investigate further. But in the meantime justice is justice & I shall yell for it. With love,
Bees.

August 6, 1940

100

Dear Bess:

I was delighted to get your nice newsy 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.

T:DD

9 inconsequential pages to be read at intervals + at leisure - if any

513 GODDARD ROAD
BETHESDA, MARYLAND

Dear "ER" - ^{W.H. 40} _{9.8} Sunday night

Believe it or not - this is just a conversational letter. I have 9 to guard, nor matter of moment to bring to your mind -

Even were I so inclined it's too heavenly cool after being too hellishly hot to do anything whatever that you might not. So what?

Well, I'm going to send you and Tom my each an utterly inconsequential but also useful gift, for your respective Val-Kill kitchens.

513 GODDARD ROAD
BETHESDA, MARYLAND

It's a little hand-shaker for
cream sauces, or individual
scrambled egg or whatever
small needs shaking by hand,
as extra special summer
time butter-uppers of the
good old handshake that
you have to use so much
in the winters.

I shall now endeavor to
amuse you slightly with
a few sayings of my husband.
Give me some credit - I don't
quote my twins as yet.
When Jim Reed & Burke
burst simultaneously into
print including a preceding
that didn't come off, Bob
said!

513 GODDARD ROAD
BETHESDA, MARYLAND

"The anti-Third Termers are leaning on a broken Reed and walking Burke-wards."

Because our son persists in walking up to all strangers with: "What's your name? my name is Bobby Armstrong" Bob duly commented, "That's the only baby I ever saw who insisted on going around kissing senators."

We have been sticking to our knitting this summer but we've had some really ^{good} week-ends.

513 GODDARD ROAD
BETHESDA, MARYLAND

We took Walter & the twins
down to Norfolk on the boat
and drove back by Williamsburg
and Stafford. There we
visited Bob's immediate boss,
Forest Allen, who has a
little boy six months younger
than the twins and a cabin
cruiser at Annapolis. When
they go swimming they just
toss their young hopeful
out in a life preserver and
let him tread water. Ours
went in for a much
modified form of this sport,
adding no end of gray hairs
to their grandmas head.

But our best jaunt was
last Sunday when we went
down to Alderson and

513 GODDARD ROAD
BETHESDA, MARYLAND

visited Ruth and Sunday
at "The Cedars." Attorney General
Jackson had come down to
get his daughter who
has been teaching for a month
at the Institution and he
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. Mary Harris is
to be retired next year, and
I do hope you and I both
may have the pleasure of
paying it another visit,
before she goes, as I can't

513 GODDARD ROAD
BETHESDA, MARYLAND

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 as a bucket — or an amazing mountain-top edge of all out doors — a little gadgety cabin called Split Rock. It is a freak geological formation whereby an edge of mountain was sliced half off its main mountain and left there — and the cabin is on this island, over a small bridge. It is obviously no place to

513 GODDARD ROAD
BETHESDA, MARYLAND

take tourists so we left them
at The Cedars with their
grandson, Hume Nolan
whose Dresser House this
is, plans cities and edits
a magazine about city
planning. He also teaches
university classes from time
to time. But up on his
mountain he makes
gadgets to live with, and
I won't spoil it for you
other than to tell you
that the door sills go up
& down so you can
sweep under them, the
kettles rise up from
behind the stove in a neat
row, and the shower bath

513 GODDARD ROAD
BETHESDA, MARYLAND

is a sprinkling pot neatly
pivoted! Someday you
really must see this fantastic
spot, preferably by moon-
rise.

Another small item that
might interest you. We were
all peacefully amusing ourselves
in Ruth's most glorious game
room of a serene Sunday
night and the phone rang
New York calling Mrs. Rofko.
And pretty soon I heard her
say - "Of course not, I
am on the other side."
Well it was none other than
Willkie Headquarters inviting her
to join esp because lots of

513 GODDARD ROAD
BETHESDA, MARYLAND

other democrats -- etc. Well
next paper that Bob & I
picked up was the Lew Douglas
John Hanes story. I wonder
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
and would have telegraphed
had they known just where
to reach you.

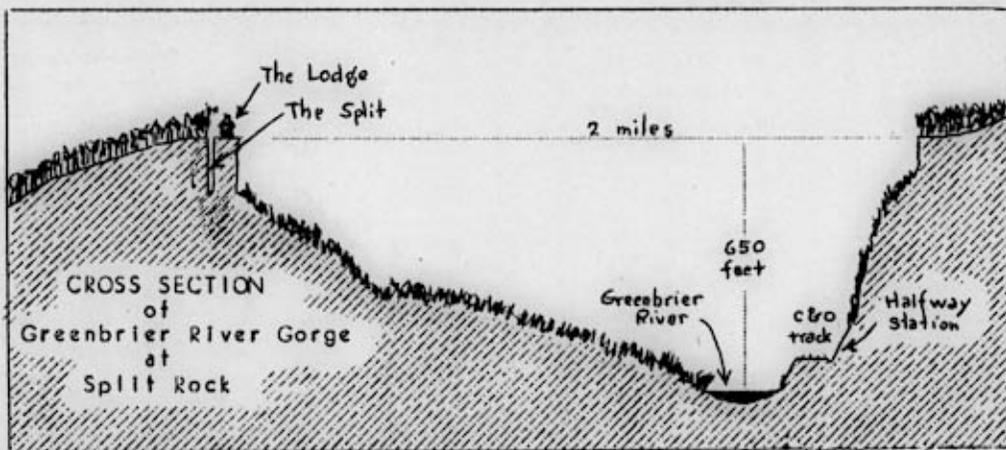
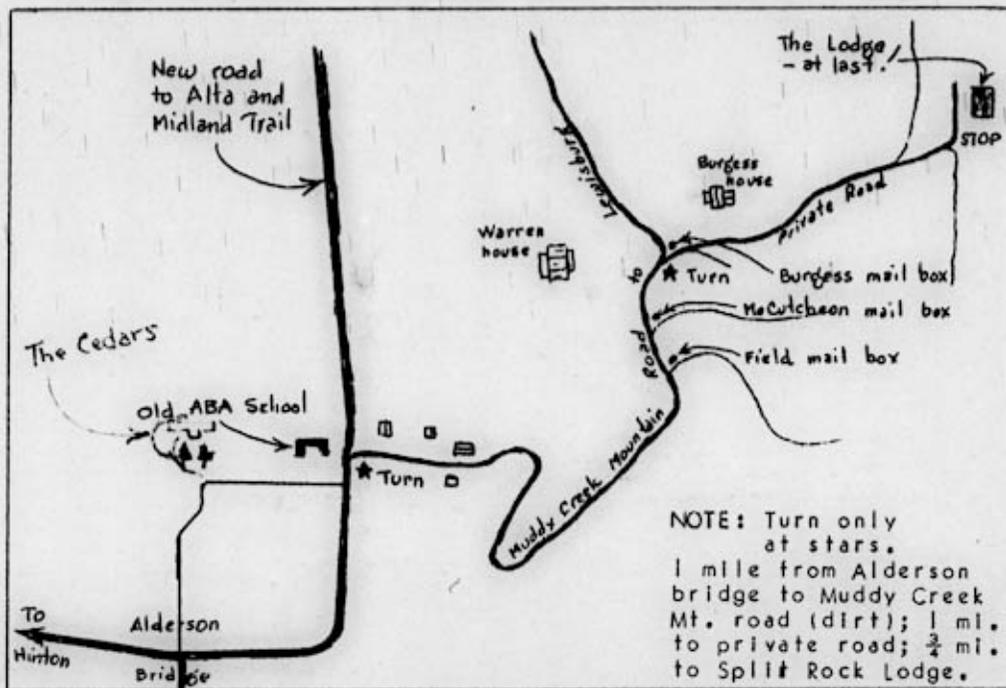
She has done a wonderful
job on her made-over house
and Mickey is a true Dave

513 GODDARD ROAD
BETHESDA, MARYLAND

in overseeing an acreage
so it will yield. They
raise their own chickens,
pigs, milk, potatoes, all
garden stuff, put up
fruits, etc etc. The women
fed apples to a pig named
Geraldine with a lot
of little pigs 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



----- AND WHY IT IS CALLED SPLIT ROCK
 p h u m e
 e k
 n o w l a n

August 10, 1940

100

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.

DD

August 30, 1940

100

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.

DD

- Pink memo -

To Eleanor Roosevelt
From Ben Furner

Every day Lorena Hickok
makes for Mr. Flynn and
Charlie Michelson a
briefed-down report + about
a page and a half -
of the days news as it
concerns the whole political
scene. It is excellently
done — far too good
for 2-person consumption
I think. It should
be mimeographed and that
it should be furnished
to all main legs 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 circulation
list Dorothy McAllister,
May Thompson Evans,
me and the girls
on the Digest, and
Hazel Reavis of course
just as a double
check on what she
already knows. I can
see no reason why
there is such a sharp
cleavage between men's
& women's divisions that
what should be common
knowledge can't function,

Jul

FURMAN FEATURES

1097 NATIONAL PRESS BLDG.

WASHINGTON, D. C.

August 29, 1940

MRS. ROBERT ARMSTRONG

100

Dear "E.R.",

We now have three defense fliers almost ready to shoot. It is pretty imperative that the President 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,

Beas

Dear E.R. -

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

Beas.

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 acme 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 of 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.

5 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. Dewson. 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

100

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,

~~Miss Ex~~
Mrs. Robert Armstrong
513 Goddard Road
Bethesda, Maryland

DD

September 14, 1940
Hyde Park, New York

Dear Mr. Walker:

I am giving this note of introduction to Bess 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,

513 GODDARD ROAD
BETHESDA, MARYLAND

Dear "E.R.":

*Checked
9-1-40*

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 know 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 greased lightning. I began to have just a glimmering of hope that those fliers will see 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 gone 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.

513 GODDARD ROAD
BETHESDA, MARYLAND

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. Shallenberger, 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 shekels 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,

Bess

Martha dropped in and
said that this year of
all years she wanted
to invite you to our
October party. She
authorized me to
wave the flag of
Bruce at Ruby's house
- 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

Best

This is a queer kind of
letter to be writing. As
tho, having spent my
adult life watching
great events, I could
not sense proportions.

Well, I went with the
kids to hear 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 tie to all
the skulls fall. I often
think of the bit of football
you did for Louisa
20 years later spring
it will be interesting
to look as far ahead
as another spring
through your prophetic
eyes (over)

100

October 22, 1940

Dear Bess:

Mrs. Roosevelt would appreciate your sending the answer to the following question to Miss Mabel Fossler, 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 Furman
Democratic National Committee
National Press Building
Washington, D.C.

DD

copy to Mrs. Roosevelt

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

DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL COMMITTEE

WOMEN'S DIVISION
National Press Building
WASHINGTON, D. C.

MRS. THOMAS F. McALLISTER
DIRECTOR
MRS. MAY THOMPSON EVANS
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

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,

Bess

16
Mrs. Ross
513 GODDARD ROAD
BETHESDA, MARYLAND

Ed. Board of the
- 34

file

Thursday
October 31, '40

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 main
topic of conversation at
our breakfast table this morning.

Frankly the need for
a democratic publication fairly
cries to the high heavens these
days. There ought to be a way
to fill that need and our family
represents a whole lot of pertinent
talent, we modestly think.

513 GODDARD ROAD
BETHESDA, MARYLAND

Will you please suggest to
our lady — but without
bothering her in these last
mad days before election —
that she not allow the
Digest to be utterly killed,
nor turn it over to
anybody else, until we
explore budgetary possibilities
and put down on paper a
plan for its possible
continuance if that seems
at all feasible after we have
learned about all business details.
I sure enjoyed being with you
both at that party —
Love, Ben