SIDNEY HILLMAN

1938 - 1944
November 12, 1938

My dear Mr. Hillman:

I am enclosing a letter from Mr. A.S. Phillips, of the Phillips-Jones Company.

This company, through Mr. Phillips, set up a shirt factory at Arthurdale, one of the government homesteads - the first one, in fact. As you know, the greatest problem in these homesteads has been obtaining work. This factory employed a number of people and was a great help.

I am tremendously interested in the success of all these homesteads and unless they have work to provide some cash their acreage cannot sustain them. All this, I am sure, you know.

Will you let me know your side of this question and also tell me if there is any hope of an early settlement.

Very sincerely yours,
November 28, 1938

Dear Mr. Hillman:

Many thanks for your letter, which cleared up a number of things in my mind. I did know that the Arthurdale factory was closed because they claimed the cutting was done in the Pottsville plant.

I hope your sending Mr. Phillips a copy of your letter to me will hurry the decision to have an election.

Very sincerely yours,

Mr. Sidney Hillman
General President
Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America
15 Union Square
NYC
November 23, 1936.

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

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

First let me apologize for this belated response to your letter of November 12th. I was attending the CIO Convention at Pittsburgh when it arrived and did not receive it until my return to New York yesterday.

You have asked for a statement of the facts surrounding the strike of the employees of the Phillips-Jones Company at its plant in Pottsville, Pa.

At the outset let me make it clear that this strike was not of our making. The Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America had no contact whatsoever with the workers until sometime after the strike occurred. The strike was occasioned by a reduction in wages imposed by the Company and by the dissatisfaction of the employees with the character of representation which they were receiving from the United Garment Workers of America who had failed for a long period of time to take any active steps for the protection of their interests. It was only after the strike occurred that the workers came to our organization for advice and assistance, requesting us to represent them and join our union.

It has been our position throughout that the fact that these workers have joined our organization and have remained on strike for 4 months, affords clear and convincing evidence of their desire that we represent them. Nevertheless, I have from the outset advised Mr. Phillips of our readiness to submit the question of representation to an election, to be conducted by any disinterested agency upon which we could mutually agree. Mr. Phillips refused to accept that proposal.

Recently, a conciliator from the Department of Labor arranged for an election to be conducted jointly by the Pottsville Chamber of Commerce and the Central Labor Council. Such an election was entirely satisfactory to us and was initially accepted by Mr. Phillips. Subsequently however, Mr. Phillips refused to submit the plant payroll for
use in the election and raised objection to the participation of the Central Labor Council in its conduct. As we have advised the representative of the Department of Labor, we still stand ready to consent to an election conducted by any impartial group in the community, but to date Mr. Phillips has not seen fit to accept that proposal.

Thus, I think it is clear that the prolongation of the strike has been brought about entirely by the refusal of the Company to submit the question of representation to an election among its workers. In addition, I am at a loss to understand why the stoppage of work at the Pottsville plant has resulted in the closing of the factory at Arthurdale. All of the other plants of the Company are in full operation and I am informed that it is now engaged in production under a large Government contract which should furnish ample work for the Arthurdale factory.

The situation at Pottsville can be settled as soon as the Company accepts the principle of an impartial election for the purpose of determining representation. I trust that this solution will soon be forthcoming. I am taking the liberty of sending a copy of this letter to Mr. Phillips.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

Sidney Hillman
General President
Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America

SH:AG.
May 14, 1940

Dear Mr. Hillman:

Would you please give me your opinion of the plan that is in operation at the Bata Shoe Company's factory at Belcamp, Maryland? I have just read their recent press releases.

Very sincerely yours,

Mr. Sidney Hillman
Amalgamated Clothing Workers
21 Union Square
NYC
June 11, 1940

My dear Mr. Hillman:

Mrs. Roosevelt asked me to thank you for your letter of June 4th, and the memorandum you enclosed.

Very sincerely yours,

Secretary to
Mrs. Roosevelt

Mr. Sidney Hillman, General President
Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America
15 Union Square
New York, N. Y.

Re: Don Fleming
Miss Malvina Thompson  
The White House  
Mr. Hillman busy with convention. Will be finished end of this week. Will reply to Mrs. Roosevelt's letter then.  
Teccia Davidson, Secretary, to Sidney Hillman.
June 4, 1940

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

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I am enclosing herewith a memorandum on the Bata Shoe Company, from our Miss Gladys Dickason, Head of our Research Department.

I hope this will answer your query and be of assistance to you.

Very sincerely yours,

Sidney Hillman
General President
AMALGAMATED CLOTHING WORKERS OF AMERICA
May 29, 1940.

From: Gladys Dickason
To: J. S. Potofsky

RE: BATA SHOE COMPANY

I attach our clippings and a Wage and Hour Dept. release on the Bata Shoe Company.

I also attach a memorandum giving the outstanding points regarding this Company.

It might be well to send the New York Post clippings together with the Wage and Hour Division release to Mrs. Roosevelt. She may not have seen them. If they are not sent to her, please return them to us.

GD:AG.

ENCL.
MEMORANDUM ON THE BATA SHOE COMPANY

The Bata Shoe Company is a concern operating shoe factories in most of the countries of the world. Its central plant is in Czechoslovakia.

The Bata Company bought land in a rural section of Maryland in 1934 to establish a plant in this country. The company did not start operations here however, until 1939 after Hitler had taken over Czechoslovakia and the countervailing duty against German goods would have applied on Bata shoes imported into this country. Before Bata built his plant in Maryland he made a tour of areas in New England and the Middle West where large numbers of unemployed experienced shoe workers were available. Instead of locating where such workers were available, however, he built his plant in a rural area. The company has put up its own dormitories, houses, etc.

The company uses a conveyor system of production, hires 16 - 18 year old boys and girls and discharges them at the age of 30. (This was the policy in Czechoslovakia which the company has stated that it intended to continue here).

The attorney for the company, Major Archer, a partner of Senator Tydings, is quoted in the newspapers as stating that Mr. Bata is opposed to unions.

The New York Post reporter reports that local landlords in adjoining towns boast of their success in hampering organizing efforts of the Shoe Workers Union in the community by refusing the use of any meeting halls.

The company was found guilty of violating the Wage and Hour Law in its warehouse in Chicago in December and pleaded guilty, to violations of the Wage and Hour Law in the Maryland shoe plant in the U. S. District Court, on May 17, 1940.

The company has been in the newspapers in connection with its effort to import Czech workers to train the labor force at its Belcamp plant and in connection with the operation of its so-called school at this plant.
The company houses the young workers in dormitories after getting
signed agreements with their parents. Deductions for room rent, board and
tuition and recreation amount to $10.00 a week. Most workers earn exactly the
minimum so that they have remaining $2.60 for their own use. They are supposed
to work 42 hours a week and to go to school 10 hours a week. In the school they will
receive "instruction in the practical aspects" of the manufacture of footwear.

The New York Post reporter states that the concern has had trouble
with social laws in France and Switzerland.

The worst feature of the company's system of manufacture seems to be
an inhuman speedup with wages kept at the minimum of its industrial policy --
a feudalistic control of the entire life of the workers; and of its selling
policy -- a complete demoralization of the shoe market. The price which
workers in the established shoe industry, to say nothing of the workers in
the plant itself, have to pay for any such gains as might result to the con-
sumer from a slightly lower price for shoes, would seem to be wholly unjust-
tified.

The method of manufacture itself (the conveyor system) is not
necessarily injurious to the industry, or to the workers employed in it, if
the workers have genuine collective bargaining and the workers have a voice
in determining wages, and the speed of production.
July 2, 1940

My dear Mr. Hillman:

I am enclosing a copy of a letter I have received from Mr. Thomas A. Meblett. I think he might be very useful.

Very sincerely yours,

Mr. Sidney Hillman
Advisory Committee to the Council of National Defense
Federal Reserve Building
Washington, D.C.
FEDERAL SECURITY AGENCY  
NATIONAL YOUTH ADMINISTRATION  
NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE 
WASHINGTON BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 
New Orleans, Louisiana  
June 24, 1940

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

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Four years ago as President of the National Student Federation of America I was host to the Oxford debaters, Arthur Greenwood, Jr., son of the labor leader, and Richard U. P. Kaye-Shuttleworth, now a member of the House of Lords. They stayed for several weeks in my home. Last summer I, in turn, visited them in their homes in England. I found them vastly changed. They were no longer the bright young orators of such topics as the Oxford Catechism. Mr. Chamberlain had just sent his first note on Poland to Mr. Hitler. There was the second note. Then on that Sunday morning we listened to Mr. Chamberlain announce to the world that war had been declared.

Before dawn next day I drove with Richard and his sister to the little village station where he took the train to join the R. A. F. Arthur had already transferred from his position in the youth fitness program to the home defense. Right then war ceased to be a fantastic symbol and became a reality. I had seen the fate that had come to Richard and Arthur and to Europe, and I realized that it was wishful thinking for us in America simply to say it can't happen here.

Since that time I have constantly asked myself, what can we in America do to avert the repetition of the European scene here? The President's program for national defense is a challenge to every American to answer that question and to help build a stronger democracy. By question then becomes how can I fit actively into that program? I am writing to you because I know that you can help me find that opportunity.

I have just returned from Washington where I spent all my annual leave from the National Labor Relations Board trying to find out where I can serve best. From what I learned my education and experience qualify me to be of real service in the coordination and administration of the youth and labor program that is being launched under Sidney Hillman. As a
member of the National Advisory Committee of the National Youth Administration and former President of the National Student Federation of America. I am thoroughly familiar with the youth programs and organizations. With the master's degree in labor law and three years experience as Field Examiner with the National Labor Relations Board I am daily working directly with the labor problem.

Since my vacation was over and it was necessary for me to rush back here to my post this morning I was unable to conclude any arrangement to be placed in the defense program. I did talk with Dr. Hillman's assistants Dr. Lubin and Dr. Reeves. They indicated that there is a need and a place for me in the program. From this distance, however, it is difficult to complete such an arrangement, but with your help I think it can be done without undue delay. I am sure that anything you might say in my behalf to Dr. Hillman or his assistants, Dr. Lubin and Dr. Reeves, would be of great help.

Very sincerely yours,

Thomas P. Obblott
1106 Hibernia Bank Building
Care of National Labor Relations Board
New Orleans, Louisiana
Hyde Park, New York
July 25, 1940

Dear Mr. Hillman:

I wonder if you and Mr. Young and Dr. Reeves by any chance will be around New York City next Tuesday, the 30th?

If so, I would like to discuss with you the training problem with you, so that I could feel I knew a little more about it.

I will be in Washington on the 1st of August and I could see you down there if that would be more convenient.

Very sincerely yours,

TO

Mr. Sidney Hillman
Advisory Committee for National Defense Connecticut Council
Federal Reserve Building
Washington
MEMORANDUM FOR MR. SIDNEY HILLMAN:

Is there any place in the defense program where young men with a reformatory record can obtain training and earn enough to support themselves during that period? Is there any plan for using them in any defense work program? They are left out now and it is harder for them to get jobs than for any other group.

I am wondering if war ever came if a change would be made and they would be allowed to enlist in the Army, Navy, or Marine Corps, or be allowed to compete for Civil Service jobs.

ELEANOR ROOSEVELT
Memo to Mr. Sidney Hillman:

Is there any place in the defense program where young men with a reformatory record can obtain training and earn enough to support themselves during that period? Is there any plan for using them in any defense work program? They are left out now and it is harder for them to get jobs than for any other group.

I am wondering if war ever came if a change would be made and they would be allowed to enlist in the army, navy or marine corps or be allowed to compete for civil service jobs?

E.R.
March 5, 1941

My dear Mr. Hillman:

Thank you for your letter of February 17. As far as I know, the WPA, NTA, and CCC do not employ persons with reformatory or prison records.

I agree that this question as a whole should not be brought up but, unfortunately, it is brought up by many people all over the country.

Very sincerely yours,

[Signature]

Mr. Sidney Hillman
The Advisory Commission to the Council of National Defense
Federal Reserve Building
Washington, D.C.
My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I regret that there has been a delay in replying to your memorandum of January 23 regarding opportunities for training for work for young men with reformatory records.

In so far as I am able to determine, the W.P.A., N.Y.A., and C.C.C. employ persons who have had reformatory or prison records. These agencies take the position that if an individual has paid his debt to society, he is eligible for assignment to the work program. There is investigation of the attitudes of the individual, and there is usually consultation with the parole officer prior to certification.

In the case of referral by the Employment Service to defense training courses, this agency of practical necessity relates the employability of such persons directly to the hiring practices of the employers. Each case is handled on an individual basis, which is true of all referrals to defense training courses.

There is no defense training plan for individuals who have criminal records and without giving it a great deal of consideration, a segregation of these persons would seem unwise, in view of the importance of assimilating them into the normal patterns of life. An individual approach to each individual problem seems preferable to a stated national policy or plan, particularly since no agency of the Federal Government, except the Army and Navy, has imposed restrictions which prevent selection.
I sincerely believe that every effort should be made to prevent discrimination in the defense training program against individuals who have criminal records.

Sincerely yours,

Sidney Hillman

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt
The White House
Washington, D. C.
March 6, 1941

My dear Mr. Hillman:

Miss Ingrid Warburg is arranging a dinner in New York City on March 20 to discuss the refugee situation and to arouse as much interest as possible among the labor groups in this whole situation. I am going to New York to attend this dinner and I hope you will be interested in attending also. Miss Warburg is writing you the details. I know how busy you are and would not add my word to her invitation if I did not think this an important thing to do.

Very sincerely yours,

Mr. Sidney Hillman
Defense Council
April 18, 1941

My dear Mr. Hillman:

This seems to be a complete history of the airplane company's difficulties with laundries.

I landed in Glendale without any trouble.

Very sincerely yours,

Telegram from C. R. Smith

Mr. Sidney Hillman
Advisory Com. to the Council for Nat'l. Def.
Hyde Park, N.Y.
August 11, 1941

My dear Mr. Hillman:

I am taking the liberty of giving this note of introduction to you, to Mr. W. N. Franklin.

If you are interested in the idea which Mr. Franklin wishes to present, will you be good enough to direct him to the proper person for further consideration?

Very sincerely yours,
December 31, 1941

Dear Mr. Hillman:

Thank you for conveying to me the invitation from Mr. Charles Feinberg, to address a meeting of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers, in Philadelphia, in January.

I regret that it is not possible for me to accept this invitation, since I already have more engagements than I should fill!

Very sincerely yours,

[Signature]

Mr. Sidney Hillman
Office of Production Management
Washington
Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt
The White House

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Mr. Charles Weinstein, Manager of the Philadelphia Joint Board of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America, has requested me to ask you whether you would not be good enough to address a meeting of the Amalgamated workers in Philadelphia, practically any week-day afternoon in the month of January, which meets with your convenience. About twenty thousand workers are expected to attend the rally which is to be arranged as a symbol of their devotion to the war effort and the civilian defense program. I am informed that Mayor LaGuardia also plans to address the meeting.

The workers of Philadelphia would be greatly honored and inspired by your presence. If you will let me know what date or dates will be agreeable to you, I shall communicate them to Mr. Weinstein.

I trust, that in the midst of your many most pressing obligations you will find it convenient to attend such a meeting.

Sincerely,

Sidney Hillman

Sidney Hillman
Reprint "A Task for Old Timers".

December 2, 1911.

My dear Mr. Hillman:

I am enclosing a reprint of an article by Lucien I. Yeomans. Are not these good ideas?

Very sincerely yours,

Dictated but not read. L.H.

Mr. Sidney Hillman,
Office of Production Management,
Washington, D.C.
November 28, 1941.

Dear Madam:

The attached suggestion of seven years ago did not result in any activity along those lines.

Perhaps it might be attractive in these days as a Government sponsored activity.

If that should be so, I think there is nobody comparable with yourself to whose attention it should be brought.

Yours very sincerely,

Lucien I. Yeomans

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt,
The White House,
Washington, D.C.
Report of Conference held January 7, 1942 and presided over by Mrs. Mary Mc. Bethune. Wants appointment of colored American as member of proposed National Labor Supply Committee, also for Labor Board, also requests larger number of colored Americans in Officer's Training Schools, and also a colored American be appointed as an Administrative assistant to the President. Also opposed to abridgment of activities of N.Y.H., C.C.C., N.N.A., F.O.D., F.T.A. etc.

January 23, 1942.

Dear Mr. Hillman:

I am enclosing a copy of a report of a conference which was presided over by Mrs. Bethune.

Can anything be done about the proposals mentioned in this report?

Very sincerely yours,


Mr. Sidney Hillman,
Office for Emergency Management
Washington, D.C.
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

January 20, 1942.

MEMORANDUM FOR
MRS. ROOSEVELT

I suggest you take this up with Sidney Hillman.

F. D. R.
January 21, 1942

Dear Mr. Hillman:

On Friday, the 23rd, we are calling a conference to discuss questions of labor in relation to the Office of Civilian Defense.

I have asked all those attending to lunch with me at the White House at one o'clock, and we will all appreciate it very much if you can join us and speak briefly at the luncheon.

Mr. William Green has agreed to come and Mr. Brophy is representing Mr. Murry who has to be in New York City.

Very cordially yours,
July 31, 1942

Dear Mr. Hillman:

I have a letter from a friend of mine, Mrs. Boones, who has been interested in obtaining training for young people in high schools so that they may be useful in some kind of a job.

Apparently they have mixed themselves up in their dealings with an industry, the Eisner Clothing Company, and have got into some kind of a hole with the Amalgamated and the I.L.G.W.U. I do not quite understand the situation but I am copying a few paragraphs from her letter.

I wonder if you would be good enough to find out if there is anything that could be done which will allow these young people to get training under proper safeguards for the union. I realize the situation in New York City but this seems to be a granting of contracts which will not be affected by the New York situation where contracts have or have not been already obtained.

Sincerely yours,
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

July 30, 1942

Dear Mr. Hillman:

I have a letter from a friend of mine, Mrs. Boone, who has been interested in obtaining training for young people in high schools so that they may be useful in some kind of a job.

Apparently they have mixed themselves up in their dealings with an industry, the Eisner Clothing Company, and have got into some kind of a hole with the Amalgamated and the I.L.G.W.U. I do not quite understand the situation but I am copying a few paragraphs from her letter.

I wonder if you would be good enough to find out if there is anything that could be done which will allow these young people to get training under proper safeguards for the union. I realize the situation in New York City but this seems to be granting of contracts which will not be affected have or have not been already obtained.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

[Note: The handwriting in the lower left corner appears to be a signature or initials, likely the sender's signature, but it is not clearly readable.]
Sidney Hillman
David Dubinsky (two separate letters)

I have a letter from a friend of mine, Mrs. Boone, who has been interested in obtaining training for young people in high schools so that they may be useful in some kind of a job.

Apparently they have mixed themselves up in their dealings with an industry, the Eisner Clothing Company, and have got into some kind of a hole with the Amalgamated and the ILGWU. I do not quite understand the situation but I am copying a few paragraphs from her letter.

I wonder if you would be willing enough to find out if there is anything that could be done which will allow these young people to get training under proper safeguards for the union. I realize the situation in NYC but this seems to be granting of contracts which will not be effected that have or have not been already obtained.

e.r.
Mr. Fowler V. Harper  
Deputy Chairman  
War Manpower Commission  
Washington, D. C.  

Dear Mr. Harper:

We have had a very trying situation in Monmouth County in endeavoring to set up a much needed power sewing training project.

The Board of Trade, the United States Employment Service and the public schools in Asbury Park applied considerable pressure to us for the establishment of a power sewing training project in that vicinity. We checked with industry and were able to obtain sixteen definite government contracts that were allotted in and around Asbury Park and Red Bank. Space was obtained and one hundred machines set up with the first month's rent being paid by industry itself.

In the meantime, the NDT-1 forms were completed with the exception of letters of approval from the Amalgamated Garment Workers and the I. L. G. W. U. unions. Locally, the union representatives would have signed, although in this instance, the I. L. G. W. U. were the predominant union. Through some peculiar turn of fate, the matter was pushed to the national union headquarters in New York, and they in turn would not authorize a letter to the State Council of Administrators. Consequently, the project is still held in abeyance inasmuch as the WPB Labor Training Division are not willing to approve a defense project with the sanction of the labor union.

I might add the national officials of the I. L. G. W. U. have opposed this training because government contracts were not awarded to such localities as New York City or other places where there were an excess of power machines.
operators. Their contention was they did not care to increase their union membership and be responsible for helping maintain the members when they knew there would be no great amount of work in such sections as Monmouth County after the war.

I have met on three occasions with the Sigmund Eisner Clothing Company, and they have done everything in their power to obtain the union's approval inasmuch as they are in immediate need of 300 more workers, with three times this number required in the next six months. They have gone so far as to try to induce union workers to come to Red Bank from New York City. However, the workers were unwilling to do so because of the very definite lack of housing facilities.

So you see, on one hand we have from industry an immediate demand for trainees, plus established facilities for the same, but a definite opposition from labor on giving these facilities approval.

I knew that this is a problem that you personally should not be involved in, but I am wondering if you would be kind enough to submit this to the proper person so that we may be able to relieve this tremendous need for workers in the garment industry. Perhaps there is some way to circumvent the labor unions, and inasmuch as we have tried in every possible manner to adjust this problem locally, I felt the War Manpower Commission might lend some assistance.

Any suggestions which you may make would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

Bernard S. Miller
State Youth Administrator
DAVID DUBINSKI
INT. LADIES' GARMENT WORKERS UNION
3 WEST 16th ST.
N.Y.C.
July 28, 1942.

Dear Mr. Hillman:

I am sending you the enclosed self-explanatory letter from Mr. Abe Goldstein, and I should appreciate it very much if you will let me have your side of the story.

Very sincerely yours,

Mr. Sidney Hillman
Woodward Associate Director
Office of Production Management
Wash. DC

*Letter from Abe Goldstein, 1410 Wareman Avenue, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Operated place of business at 141 Fifth Avenue, N.Y.C. under the name of College Hill Clothes. Paid salaries 40% higher than union scale. Delegates of A, alagamated insist he join union. Employees did not want to. Union demanded he discharge all help immediately. He refused. They broke in his place and ruined all stock. Reported to police but they could do nothing and said needle industry as well organized they could take no action.

VDS
August 10, 1942.

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

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I have your letter of July 28th enclosing a letter from Abe Goldstein who makes a number of accusations against the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America.

I referred the matter to the New York organization of the Union and received the enclosed reply. Should any additional information be forthcoming as a result of continued investigation, I shall advise you further.

Sincerely yours,

Sidney Hillman
July 11, 1942

Mr. Sidney Hillman  
President  
Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America  
15 Union Square  
New York City

Dear Mr. Hillman:

In accordance with your request, I have made an effort to check on the facts with reference to Abe Goldstein, the author of a letter to Mrs. Roosevelt, making certain accusations against our organization. To date I have been unable to find any record of an "Abe Goldstein" who, as the letter states, operated under the name of College Hill Clothes at 141 Fifth Avenue.

However, I shall continue my investigation and will advise you further if I am able to ascertain the facts.

Sincerely yours,

LOUIS HOLLANDER  
Manager, New York Joint Board
August 18, 1942.

Dear Mr. Hillman:

Thank you so much for your comments on the establishment of an N.Y.A. sewing project in Red Bank. I have forwarded your letter to the people in New Jersey who are interested.

Very sincerely yours,

Mr. Sidney Hillman
Associate Director
Office of Production Management
Washington, D. C.
August 12, 1943

Dear Mr. Hillman:

This will introduce Miss Viola Ilma, who is Executive Director of the Vocational Foundation, Inc.

Miss Ilma has done an extremely good job, finding places for boys and girls when they come out of reformatories. I have been interested in the Foundation for some time and I shall appreciate it if you can find time to see Miss Ilma.

Very sincerely yours,
My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I need not tell you of the tremendous effort the Vocational Foundation has made in the past two years to gain the support of the Trade Union Movement in the interest of the industrial rehabilitation of the young men and young women referred to us.

We concentrated hardest on the A.F.L. Unions because of our certainty that the C.I.O. Unions would follow without too much difficulty. Now I am ready to trek after the C.I.O.

Would you be kind enough to give me a letter of introduction to Sidney Hillman? From there on I can follow the C.I.O. map on my own in the interest of the agency. One of the main reasons I want Sidney Hillman is that he can make it possible for us to become a member of the Labor War Chest. On the A.F.L. side I have Betty Hawley Donnelly. With their sponsorship, along with all the other connections we have, we will not have too much difficulty. Hence the importance of the introduction right now is most meaningful. I might add that over 100 locals, over the year's stand, are placing our boys in jobs.

At least the doors are opening wider all the time.

Warmest regards,

[Signature]

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

vi/mi
Seven Years Ago...

A group of young boys from New York City Reformatory were the guest editors of the Voice of Youth, a magazine devoted to the interests of youth. Here they told their story—a story all too well known.

That:

Children are not born delinquents.
Their early youth is choked in crowded tenements.
Crowded classrooms add confusion to the narrowing struggle of poverty.
They learn to steal rather than to play.
The arm of the underworld reaches out faster than the arm of humanity.

They cannot find jobs because they are labelled "delinquents."

Facts about the Vocational Foundation:
The Vocational Foundation is not a large organization, not institutionalized, not dehumanized.
Its work is to help adjust and find employment for boys and girls discharged from training schools and reform schools—"ex-delinquents."
It helps prevent juvenile delinquency by aiding and counselling boys and girls in difficulty.
It fights Negro discrimination by helping to widen the field of employment opportunities for Negro boys and girls.
Its Youth Morale Corps keeps in touch with its boys in the Armed Forces.
It is planning now to meet post war employment conditions.
It is planning now to meet post war conditions in the delinquency field.

Its yearly budget is $35,000...it needs your contribution.
"...the work the foundation has done and the results they have obtained are very gratifying to me, and I only wish it could be multiplied many hundreds of times in every city and town and village in the country."

Herbert H. Lehman

"...a great service to the boys of New York City."

Thomas E. Dewey

"...mighty important, and I have a very great personal interest in it."

Wendell L. Willkie

"...modern warfare reaches everyone, unfortunately we are inclined to lose sight, in our natural anxiety for those who are actually doing battle, of the youngsters coming up. They too, feel its effects and in the disruptions of home and family the problem of juvenile delinquency becomes a real and dangerous one. The work you are doing to meet that critical situation is all important and should receive the utmost support from thoughtful men and women concerned with the future welfare of this nation.

DEFEND THE HOME FRONT . . . FIGHT DELINQUENCY!
April 8, 1944

Dear Mr. Hillman:

I am sending you this quotation from a letter about the ALP in New York.

I find that many people feel this way.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

Mr. Sidney Hillman
Social Security Building

excerpt from Rose Schneiderman's let.
May 16, 1944

My dear Mr. Hillman:

I have just read that when mention was made of the President's name, at the convention, that there was an ovation.

It suddenly occurred to me that my coming to speak might be cause for a demonstration which would be interpreted as Fourth Term politics. That would be highly embarrassing to me and very bad politics.

I want to come and speak on my subject with no mention of politics, as otherwise that would open to the accusation that I was playing politics and that is not the reason I am coming.

Very sincerely yours,
August 21, 1944

Dear Mr. Hillman:

This check for $500 was sent to me by Mrs. Rowan Boone, 9 West Maple Street, Alexandria, Virginia, with the request that I send it to you for the Political Action Committee.

I am very glad to do so.

Sincerely yours,

Mr. Sidney Hillman
CIC
Washington, D.C.
September 5, 1944

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

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Thank you very much for sending along the generous contribution of Mrs. Rowan Boone.

I have written Mrs. Boone a personal note of thanks, a copy of which is enclosed.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Sidney Hillman
Chairman
September 2, 1944

Mrs. Rowan Boone
9 West Maple Street
Alexandria, Virginia

Dear Mrs. Boone:

I am sincerely thankful to you for your most generous contribution to the National Citizens Political Action Committee. Mrs. Roosevelt was kind enough to forward your check to me.

It is through the cooperation and support of such persons as yourself that we will be able to achieve a victory for the progressive cause. Our every effort is for the election of Roosevelt, Truman and a liberal Congress.

We greatly appreciate your support and assistance.

Sincerely,

Sidney Hillman
Chairman
October 7, 1944

Dear Mr. Hillman:

Mrs. Roosevelt would appreciate your letting her know whether Mr. Antonini's status at the present time is as described in the enclosed letter from Mr. Luigi Criscuolo, of the Council of Americans of Italian Origin.

Sincerely yours,

Secretary to
Mrs. Roosevelt

Mr. Sidney Hillman
C.I.O.
Washington, D.C.

Says Antonini has returned from Italy where the people did not agree with his ideas of democracy - also cites the news story of girl who was fired because she did not contribute to dem. campaign as an example of Antonini's democracy.
October 23, 1944.

Dear Mr. Hillman:

I am enclosing a copy of a letter which is self-explanatory.

I wonder what could be done at once?

Very sincerely yours,

Mr. Sidney Hillman
National Citizens
Political Action Committee
205 East 42nd Street
New York (17), New York.