HAROLD ICKES

1933 - 1941

LETTER FROM MARY W. DEWSON ENCLOSED

100

August 5, 1933

My dear Mr. Ickes:

What policy do you think should be followed in this case?

Very sincerely yours

Hon. Henry Ickes
Department of Agriculture
Washington, D. C.

100

June 14, 1933

My dear Mr. Secretary:

My husband said that I might write and tell you that Captain Haring who has been in charge of details at the White House, has been entirely satisfactory. He seems to be doing an economical and excellent job. I do not know of course what you will feel are the necessary changes to make in personnel, but I simply want you to know that it would be acceptable to us should you decide to retain him.

Very sincerely yours,

Honorable Harold L. Ickes
Secretary of the Interior

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

August 24, 1933.

Hon. M. H. McIntyre,
Assistant Secretary to the President,
The White House.

My dear Colonel McIntyre:

With reference to your note of July 20, transmitting correspondence concerning the preservation of original paintings by Rex Brashear, I find that the Smithsonian Institution would be glad to accept them if tendered as a gift.

It would appear, however, from Mr. Bailey's letter, that Mr. Brashear has in mind receiving considerable monetary return for his pictures. The paintings are considered to be excellent ones and worthy of public preservation. The fact that the Smithsonian Institution would be glad to accept them, either direct from Mr. Brashear or from some purchaser, is sufficient indication of their good quality.

I enclose a letter that Director Cammerer, of the National Park Service, received in confidence from Dr. Wetmore, Assistant Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, and an eminent ornithologist, which will give you first-hand information.

It is regretted that an earlier reply was not made to your request of July 20, but, your letter unfortunately was mislaid.

Sincerely yours,

Harold L. Ickes

Secretary of the Interior.

Enclosure.

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

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It is regretted that an earlier reply was not made to your request of July 20, but, your letter unfortunately was mislaid.

Sincerely yours,

(Sgd.) Harold L. Ickes

Secretary of the Interior.

Enclosure.

July 20, 1933

My dear Mr. Bailey:

Mrs. Roosevelt has referred to me your letter of June twenty-seventh with respect to Mr. Rex Brasher. In view of what you say, I wish it were possible for me to make an appointment with the President for Mr. Brasher but, as you know, the President is extremely busy putting into effect his program for industrial recovery, and it is literally impossible to add to his many engagements.

I will suggest that you communicate with me later on, when the pressure has eased up somewhat, and I will endeavor to make the engagement if it is at all possible.

Sincerely yours,

M. H. McINTYRE
Assistant Secretary to the President

Guy S. Bailey, Esq.,
Editor, Harlem Valley Times,
Amenia,
New York.

Harlem Valley Times

ESTABLISHED IN 1852

Published on Thursdays at Amenia, N. Y.

GUY S. BAILEY
EDITOR-PUBLISHER

Amenia, N. Y.
June 27, 1933.

My Dear Mrs Roosevelt:

Unquestionably you know of the work of REX BROWER, who has completed a life work that surpasses that of Audibon and others in the field of ornithology. Rex is one of my best friends, and while the records show that he lives in Kent, Conn., his farm and his home are both in the town of Dover in Dutchess County where he has completed this work that has occupied 57 years of a splendid life.

Marian, his niece who has worked side by side with him for the past eighteen or nineteen years, died yesterday. This has left a void in his day and he is stricken, after his own fashion.

Yesterday when talking with him he confided in me regarding the future and it sounds queer to hear him talk of a future. He's simply that kind of a man. He is most anxious to make provision for the proper preservation of the originals of his paintings, and be assured of their availability to the public. He would like, very much so, to talk with the President some time this summer when you folks are at Hyde Park. He will tell his story in ten minutes.

I realize the weight of affairs right now, and write to you with the thought that you might possibly arrange for a short talk some time this coming summer when you are at home.

Cordially,

GUY S. BAILEY

Please return

The original AMENIA TIMES combining the *Sharon Messenger, Dover Plains News, Millerton Herald,* and *Wassaic Record*

Inclosure

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM

WASHINGTON, D. C.

August 17, 1933

Mr. A. B. Cammerer, Director,
Office of National Parks, Buildings, and Reservations,
Department of the Interior,
Washington, D. C.

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

Dear Cam:

In reply to yours of August 16 regarding Rex Brashear, this artist has worked for many years in preparing faithfully executed and detailed paintings of the birds of North America. These have been published recently in a series of volumes sold by subscription for a considerable sum of money, (if my memory is correct, for $2400.00 per set). I have examined one or two volumes of this work and have found the paintings of very good quality, somewhat in an older style but highly pleasing nevertheless, and faithfully executed as to detail. Obviously the work is one for the libraries of wealthy persons.

In New York last fall these volumes were on exhibition at the meeting of the American Game Conference. I met Brashear's brother casually at that time and he sounded me out on a proposition to put the original paintings here in the Smithsonian Institution. His proposal then was to have me give him a letter saying that we would be interested when he would take this letter and go to wealthy friends with the idea that someone might put up a hundred thousand or one hundred fifty thousand dollars to buy the paintings and give them to us. Obviously the proposition is one that we could not take up as we cannot allow unauthorized persons to raise money in our name for reasons that need no explanation.

Since that time I have been approached informally by one of these other persons with regard to the matter. One person did not know of any monetary consideration involved, but, I believe, that is the intention.

The paintings are well worthwhile and are indeed worthy of preservation. There are several hundred of them (I believe nine hundred or more in all), so that while it would be possible to care for them for preservation in limited space, it would not be practicable to exhibit more than a selected dozen or twenty to illustrate the type of work. If the paintings are to be presented to the Smithsonian Institution, we shall be pleased to accept. If the proposal is for an appropriation to purchase them, I should say at this time there are many other things more badly needed by our organization.

This brief statement covers my knowledge of the matter. While I marked it confidential, that means only that I do not wish it broadcast or published, it being intended for you and those directly concerned. I am returning the Bailey correspondence herewith.

Sincerely yours,

Alex

A. Wetmore,
Assistant Secretary.

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THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

August 25, 1933.

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I am glad to have your letter about the West Virginia situation. Colonel Howe talked to me about it two or three days ago, after his conversation with you, and we arranged at once to send investigators down there. Two men are in the field now and we are expecting an early report. It all sounds very interesting indeed and if the conditions are favorable we hope to go ahead at once with a subsistence farm project there.

With personal regards,

Very sincerely yours,

Harold L. Ickes

Secretary of the Interior.

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt,
Hyde Park, New York.

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

August 29, 1933.

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I would like you to know how happy I was to be your guest at your charming home yesterday. I enjoyed every minute of it. I found the occasion last evening not only a real pleasure but a much needed relaxation.

With kindest regards to the President and yourself, I am,

Sincerely yours,

Harold L. Ickes

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt,
Hyde Park, New York.

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September 7, 1933

My dear Mr. Secretary:

Captain Ellis E. Haring, who has been the Army engineer in charge here at the White House, tells me that because of his wife's health it is imperative that he move from Washington and I wanted to send you this note to tell you that I am entirely agreeable to any transfer which the War Department may undertake. I shall regret having Captain Haring go, but I feel that he is entirely justified in considering his wife's health.

Very sincerely yours,

Eleanor Roosevelt

Hon. Harold L. Ickes
Secretary of the Interior

File Copies

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December 8, 1933.

My dear Mr. Secretary:

Many thanks for your very kind cooperation in the case of Rupert R. Spearman. I very much appreciate your help.

Sincerely yours,

Honorable Harold L. Ickes
The Secretary to the Interior
Washington, D. C.

Ackd. 12/8/33

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

December 6, 1933

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt,
The White House.

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Recalling your interest in Rupert B. Spearman, of Whitney, Nebraska, as expressed in your letter of September 22, I have finally been able to appoint him on the Boulder Dam Project as a rodman at $110 per month net.

I am returning Mrs. Spearman's letter to you.

Sincerely yours,

Harold L. Ickes

Enclosure

Secretary of the Interior

Thank Mr. Ickes + send copy of his letter to Mrs. Spearman
ER

Whitney, Nebraska Aug 16, 1933

Dear Mrs Roosevelt-

Every since I read your ~~pledge~~ page in the August Woman's Home Comp. I have tried to write to you, but keep telling myself you are so busy with no doubt greater troubles than mine that I should not bother you, Then I read the page again, and see your words, "I want you to write to me", And further down you say you want us to write about the problem that saddens us. Mine is about my boy, all his life his ambition was to go thoug College and make something of himself. So we all, his father, mother, sister & brother denied ourselves of so many things to help him and then he worked part of his way, and finally on June 12, 1933 he received his degree in Engineering from the Uni. of Colorado at the age of 25 years And tho he has tried so hard to get a job of some kind, about five weeks ago he saw an ad. in our daily paper where the U.S. Civil Service Commission wanted application for an Agriculture job, the ad. said the requirement were. Farmer boys with College education, And he said Mother, I believe I can get one of those jobs, So he sent to Washington and asked for a blank, when it came he filled it all out clamped his picture to it and sent it right in, then in several days commenced to watch for his answer He could hardly wait to get each mail

after the train would go through (We live just a mile from town). The day his answer came I was standing at kitchen sink doing dishes he walked in through his letter on the drain board and could not say a word, he walked on in the other room and all I could say was, "I'm sorry brother", for I knew he had not got his job, the letter said he lacked some experience, and that they would put his letter & picture on file there in office, Is there any chance you could have it turned over to any department where he could get a job, he will take anything at any wage to get started, he feels if he could only get a job he could work up. Now I am not telling any of my family that I am writing this, No not my boy, as I feel if any thing comes of it (and I have faith in God there will) I want my boy to have a surprise, So many of his friends said when we tried so hard to put him through College, that he would not get a job, And O I pray God to prove it to them that every boy and girl needs some education in these days. And we are planning now to get the other boy through, My girl is teaching school.

My boy has great faith in all the things his President is doing, and O how I do enjoy reading all your pieces there is so much in them. My boy's name is Rupert B. Spearman, And please do not use my name or his.

My heart goes out to you in your great work and I pray that God will bless you in it.

From a happy Mother but saddened to see my boy so sad. Lovingly

Pearl Spearman.

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December 13, 1933

My dear Mr. Secretary:

My husband has asked me to take up with you the following two questions:

Can you let me know what is the status of the Missouri River Diversion Project?

Also is it possible to be sure that the Assistant Commissionership of Education which is now held by a woman will be retained by a woman, and that women will receive half of the jobs under Mr. Alderman's plan for employing unemployed teachers?

I hope that you will soon be relieved of all pain and that your very unfortunate accident will not keep you too long from your many duties.

Very cordially yours,

Hon. Harold L. Ickes
Secretary of the Interior

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My dear Mr. Secretary:

The President thought you would be interested in knowing about what is being done in the State University at Fairmont, West Virginia. I went down there last week because I had heard so much of the condition of the miners there.

The college people have done some splendid work and have prepared many men to go on farms and they tell me that a great many of them are willing and anxious to go back to the farm as the majority of them were lured from farms with the very high wages of a few years ago.

The President thought this might be a good place to start and that perhaps it would be a good idea to send some one down to get more detailed information than I have. The conditions there are appalling, but the spirit and the murale are good, and the people are doing everything they can to help themselves - whole families are weaving, making simple furniture, etc.

Very sincerely yours,

Hon. Harold L. Ickes
The Sec. of The Interior
Washington, D.C.

January 17, 1934

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My dear Mr. Secretary:

Is this project being considered under the Public Works Administration?

Very sincerely yours,

Honorable Harold L. Ickes
Secretary of Interior
Washington, D. C.

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January 27, 1934

My dear Mr. Secretary:

I could speak quite easily on March 31 if you will let me know the hour. However, I feel that there are other people who might use the time more profitably, and if you can think of some one whom you would rather have, I will quite understand.

Very sincerely yours,

Honorable Harold L. Ickes
The Secretary of the Interior
Washington, D. C.

DD

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR

WASHINGTON

JAN 19 1934

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

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Tentative plans are under consideration for the broadcasting of a series of weekly thirty-minute radio programs on national parks over the National Broadcasting Company's network during March and April. Assistant Secretary Chapman and I each are scheduled for a talk, as are several national parks officials.

Should the broadcasting company finally approve the series, would it be possible for you to find time in your busy schedule to take part in this series, possibly on March 31 or April 7? Knowing your deep interest in social service activities, it occurred to me that perhaps you would talk on the important part that parks, both state and national, play in offering recreational and educational opportunities to family groups. I have asked the Secretary of the Navy to cooperate through furnishing music by the Navy or Marine band. About fifteen minutes will be assigned to each talk.

I trust you will be able to lend this program your support, as it is part of a movement sponsored by this Department to make 1934 a national park year.

Sincerely yours,

Harold L. Ickes

Secretary of the Interior.

February 6, 1934

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Dear Mr. Secretary:

Will you please see this boy? He is a son of our family doctor in New York, who has been our doctor for many years, and we are very devoted to him. I am sure you will find the son a splendid person.

Very sincerely yours,

Hon. Harold L. Ickes
Secretary of the Interior

Let. from Fred B. Solley, M.D.
and one from his son T. Houston Solley
25 East 92d Street
New York, N.Y.

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR

WASHINGTON

FEB 12 1934

101

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt,

The White House.

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I am delighted to learn from your letter of January 27 that you can arrange to speak over the radio on March 31 on the subject of national and state park use by family groups.

I have just received word from the National Broadcasting Company that the national park series of talks has been approved, to be given over the blue network of which WMAL is the local station. The hour is 10:00 to 10:30 p.m. Thirteen minutes have been allotted for the talk with announcements and music by the Marine Band filling up the half hour.

Should you desire any further information, the publicity staff of the Office of National Parks, Buildings, and Reservations is at your disposal.

Sincerely yours,

Harold L. Ickes

Secretary of the Interior.

February 27, 1934

100

MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARY ICKES:

The President has asked his Uncle, Frederic Delano, to talk to you and report back to him what you can do about the fund available for slum clearance in the alleys in the District.

ELEANOR ROOSEVELT.

BUREAU OF THE BUDGET

WASHINGTON

FEB 26 1934

Memorandum for the President,
On the District of Columbia Alley Bill.

I am advised definitely that Mr. Ickes will begin very soon an expenditure of approximately $4,000,000 of Public Works funds on two District of Columbia slum clearance projects, one in a white and one in a colored down-town section. Each of these will cover four to six blocks of an alley-dwelling area. Aside from the direct value of these projects in elimination of alleys, they should serve the purpose of demonstrating to District authorities and public-minded citizens the value of providing for further alley eliminations as municipal and philanthropic enterprises. This seems to me as liberal and proper a Federal fund approach to the solution of this problem as could be expected.

There is, moreover, another line of attack that I am inclined to think offers possibilities in the way of correcting alley housing conditions, and which will probably be necessary in any event to prevent their reappearance elsewhere, and that is a new and stronger housing law for the District of Columbia that, within constitutional limitations, will provide for removal of insanitary buildings and require maintenance of sanitary conditions in remaining structures. Mr. Delano is now giving some attention to this phase of the situation; and the Public Utilities Commission of the District of Columbia, in response to a resolution of the Senate Committee on the District of Columbia, and aided by a grant of Civil Works funds, has been conducting recently a comprehensive survey of housing conditions throughout the District, with a view to recommending legislation for their improvement. The Commission's final report and recommendations are not yet completed.

In the circumstances, and in the absence of a recommendation by the District authorities for the use of District funds for the purpose, I do not feel that any further action should be taken at this time that would be at variance with the action already taken with respect to the District alley bill.

MRS. ARCHIBALD HOPKINS
1626 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE
WASHINGTON, D. C.

February 16, 1934

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

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

The District of Columbia Alley Bill, from which we all hoped so much, is hanging in the balance. Unless something helpful is done I fear that the results of all my efforts will be lost.

As you know, it was passed by the Senate last spring. We all confidently expected it would be passed by the House at the beginning of this session. Last March you wrote me of the President's interest and his belief that the bill would pass. And again in May, after a talk with your husband, you wrote "I feel sure it will go through at the next session."

And now it is being held up on the question whether the loan is to be made by the federal treasury or from District revenues. You will remember the discussion at the last meeting of our Washington Committee on Housing over the message from the Bureau of the Budget that the present phraseology is "not in accord with the President's financial program." I am told that this phrase means that in the opinion of the Bureau the loan should be made from District revenues.

At first glance this may seem a slight change,

MRS. ARCHIBALD HOPKINS
1926 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE
WASHINGTON, D. C.

but I am told it means that the bill cannot be passed at this session. That means it must start all over again, for the passage by the Senate means nothing after the present session ends.

If only we could get approval from the President the bill would go through. The amount is comparatively so small, its purpose is so definitely in line with the President's recovery program, the good it would do is so great.

Because of your continued interest I am venturing to ask your help again at this critical moment when we seem in danger of losing all for which we have worked.

Sincerely yours,

Charlotte Everett Hopkins

Charlotte Everett Hopkins

P. S. I would come to see you in person, if you could give me the time, except that I am feeling so wretchedly that the Doctor will not let me go even downstairs.

March 26, 1934

My dear Mr. Secretary:

The President has given me your letter to him and I shall be very grateful if you will have the same arrangements made for Easter Monday as have been made in former years.

With many thanks, I am

Very sincerely yours,

Honorable Harold L. Ickes
The Secretary of the Interior
Washington, D. C.

S:DE

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

MAR 21 1934

The President,

The White House.

My dear Mr. President:

For many years it has been the custom to open the grounds south of the White House for egg rolling and games on Easter Monday. In former years, the grounds have been opened between 9:00 A. M. and 3:30 P. M. to children ten years of age, or under. Between 3:30 and 5:00 P. M. adults were admitted to the grounds, and a concert given by the United States Marine Corps Band.

Information is requested as to whether it is your desire to have the grounds available this year for the same purpose and the usual arrangements made.

Very truly yours,

Harold L. Ickes

Secretary of the Interior.

April 3, 1934

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Dear Mr. Secretary:

Thank you so much for sending me the carved objects. I think they are perfectly delightful and I am so grateful to you for sending them to me. I am writing a letter to Mr. Geist.

Very sincerely yours,

S:O

Hon. Harold L. Ickes

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

MAY 11 1934

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt,

The White House.

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Word has just reached me that you plan to be in Yorktown on Wednesday, May 16, as the guest of the local chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

I trust that while you are there you may be able to devote a little time to inspecting the interesting work being done by the National Park Service through its local Colonial National Monument staff, particularly the archeological and other restoration work. B. Floyd Flickinger, Superintendent of the National Monument, who also will be a speaker on the D. A. R. program, will be at your service and will be delighted to escort you to all the places of interest which you have time to visit.

Sincerely yours,

Harold L. Ickes

Secretary of the Interior.

May 16, 1934

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Dear Mr. Secretary:

This woman is a really reliable person and I hope something can be done about this project. Both the President and I think it worthy of consideration.

Very sincerely yours,

Hon. Harold L. Ickes
Secretary of the Interior

Enc.
Let. of May 6th from Mrs. Omeron H. Coolidge
93 Maple Street, Rutland, Vermont
Let. of April 22d from Mrs. Coolidge
Let. of April 3, from Miss Ellen B. Cramton, Rutland, Vt.

about the Rutland Free Library

In enclosure

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt
The White House

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt

As the Vermont Chairman of the Women's Committee of the Mobilization for Human Needs I am sending you a very special plea to personally read the enclosures — if you do I feel sure of your understanding

WOMEN'S COMMITTEE - VERMONT

MOBILIZATION for HUMAN NEEDS

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

My Dear Mrs. Roosevelt;-

Since assuming the chairmanship of the Vermont Women's Committee of the Mobilization for Human Needs, my faith in this uniting of women in an effort to interpret social service and create an intelligent public opinion about it, has increased and my first enthusiasm still abides with me.

It may interest you to know that the situation in my State is quite different from that of most other states - our cities are not large enough to be included in the Community Chests and Councils and last fall Vermont had no chairman serving on Mr. Baker's committee. My own plan for the Women's Division has been to continue thru the year instead of making an intensive campaign last fall. I have already enrolled the chief officer of our principal women's organizations in a central committee and am adding to the number as rapidly as may be, hoping eventually to include every woman's organization in the State. These leaders cannot bind their groups to any definite policy or activity, but because they are recognized leaders their influence will be effective and stimulate interest in their members.

Sometime in the summer when motoring is feasible I plan for one or more public meetings when each one of the women's organizations may contribute to the conference. When you were in Vermont last summer I believe you said you should come back - it would be a wonderful inspiration to us all if you could give an hour from your busy life to these Vermont women - I promise any time and place possible for you. Your coming would mean every thing to us - all the difference between success and failure in the winter of 1934 - 1935. Will you PLEASE consider it?

With confidence in your wish to say YES if it is at all possible,

Faithfully yours,

Mrs. Omeron H. Coolidge

(Mrs. Omeron H.)
Chairman Vermont Women's Committee
Mobilization for Human Needs

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June 13, 1934.

My dear Mr. Secretary: Ickes

I meant to write you immediately on my return from Reedsville but the days slipped by so quickly and I am a little apologetic for the delay.

I wanted to tell you how really delightful I thought all the Tygard Valley and Reedsville lay-out was. Of course, Reedsville with its houses built gives one an entirely different impression but the land at Tygart Valley looks like excellent land and promises much for the future. I am very hopeful that you will try to plan to go down for a night with us early in August for I feel that after all the trouble and anxiety that this project has caused you, you will get a sense of satisfaction from meeting the people and seeing how well it is all turning out. Mr. Howe says he will go too and one or two others are anxious to see it.

Mr. Baruch was tremendously impressed and is going to help us ~~get make~~ it the kind of experiment which we would all like to see. I know that you will be glad to hear of his interest.

The homesteaders are most anxious to get into their houses and I hope that the form of the contract now before you may soon be approved so that they may actually move in. One man said to me he was growing home sick for his house.

Please plan for a trip down there either the 4th and 5th or the 5th and 6th of August.

Very cordially yours,

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

June 15, 1934.

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I thank you indeed for your kind letter of June 13. I want very much to see the Tygart Valley and Reedsville Projects, and, as I see it now, it ought to be possible for me to go down there on either of the dates that you suggest, namely, the fourth and fifth, or the fifth and sixth of August. I am really looking forward to making this trip.

I will at once look into the matter of the contract that you refer to. It is not on my desk but it is probably being gone over by the legal staff. I will try my best to expedite this because, of course, we do want the homesteaders to be able to move in without delay and with assurance of what their legal rights and obligations will be.

Mrs. Ickes was delighted with her trip and came back full of enthusiasm, especially for the Reedsville Project.

Very sincerely yours,

Harold L. Ickes

Secretary of the Interior.

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt,
The White House.

June 18, 1934

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file

My dear Mr. Secretary:

I find that I will be going with Miss Cook and Miss Dickerman straight from here to Morgantown and Reedsville on the 30th. If you are not sailing with the President, and can get away (it is on Saturday), would you like to motor over? Mr. Howe think he would enjoy it too if he feels well enough. You could take any one you like in your car, spend the night there, and go back the following day. This is just a suggestion as I thought you would probably prefer it to a visit with more people later one when perhaps it would be very hot.

Franklin tells me that he will not be back before August 5th or 6th, on account of the delay, so if you cannot come with us on the 30th, can we change the date to the 7th or 8th of August?

Very sincerely yours,

Honorable Harold L. Ickes
The Secretary of the Interior
Washington, D. C.

S:DD

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

June 21, 1934.

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I have your letter of June 18. I should like to join you at Reedsville on the thirtieth and I will do so if I can change plans already made for that week-end. If I may, I will let you know later. If I find I can't go, then I will certainly want to go at a later date and I will try to arrange it for the seventh or eighth of August if you will let me know just which of those two dates you expect to go.

Very sincerely yours,

Harold L. Ickes

Secretary of the Interior.

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt,
The White House.

June 26, 1934

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My dear Mr. Secretary:

Mrs. Roosevelt has asked me to send you the enclosed letter. It seems to be a matter which would come under the jurisdiction of your Department and she feels that you could answer it much better than she could.

Very sincerely yours,

Secretary to
Mrs. Roosevelt.

Honorable Harold L. Ickes
Secretary of the Interior
Washington, D. C.

DD

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

June 28, 1934.

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I am very sorry indeed to say that I will not be able to make the trip to Reedsville on the thirtieth. As I wrote you, I have an engagement for that next week-end but when your letter came suggesting the thirtieth for the Reedsville visit, I thought I might be able to rearrange matters. Unfortunately, I find that I can't do it without disturbing unduly the plans of others, so I must forego the pleasure of the trip at this time. I repeat, however, that I do want to go just as soon as possible.

Sincerely yours,

Harold L. Ickes

Secretary of the Interior.

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt,
The White House.

Letter from Mrs. V. G. Simkhovitch, 27 Barrow Street, N.Y., N.Y., in re housing and slum clearance conditions in New York

July 13, 1934

100

My dear Mr. Secretary:

I think you know Mrs. Simkhovitch at least by reputation. She is a very energetic person who greatly dislikes to have anything slow up. I, of course, do not know at all what has happened but I do know that you have had many difficulties where Mr. Cohn was concerned. I think probably that you know better than I just how to answer this letter.

Mrs. Simkhovitch probably would not write quite so frankly were she to write directly to you, but I think it is just as well to have these things out in the open.

Very sincerely yours,

Honorable Harold L. Ickes
Secretary of the Interior
Washington, D. C.

S: DD

100

July 14, 1934

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Mrs. Roosevelt asked me to tell you that life in Chicago and especially at the Fair was so hectic she did not get an opportunity to visit the American Indians at the New Mexico exhibit. She arrived at the Fair about 10:30 on the 9th, to be greeted by about twenty or more photographers and as many newspaper men and women and the resulting crowd. She left at ten minutes after eleven for the hotel, completely discouraged, and she was able to see only a very few things. She asked me to tell you how much she regretted not being able to see the Indians.

Very sincerely yours,

Secretary to
Mrs. Roosevelt

S:O

Hon. Harold L. Ickes
Secretary of the Interior

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MINUTES IN TRANSIT

FULL-RATE	DAY LETTER
11	

MRS FRANKLIN D ROOSEVELT=

BLACKSTONE HOTEL CHGO=

IF YOU COULD SANDWICH IT IN AMONG YOUR MANY OTHER ENGAGEMENTS WHILE AT A CENTURY OF PROGRESS IT WOULD MEAN MUCH TO OUR AMERICAN INDIANS OF THE SOUTHWEST IF YOU COULD ATTEND PRIVATE OPENING OF THE NEWMEXICO EXHIBIT AT TWO THIRTY NEXT MONDAY STOP WITH SINCERE REGARDS=

HAROLD L ICKES.

THE QUICKEST, SUREST AND SAFEST WAY TO SEND MONEY IS BY TELEGRAPH OR CABLE

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

July 17, 1934.

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Once more I am sorry to say that I will have to put off my proposed trip to Tygart Valley and Reedsville, which is on my calendar for August 7 or 8. In working out my vacation plans I find that if I am to get away at all, I really ought to go this week and so I am planning to leave Washington on Friday, the twentieth, for some three weeks. I might not be willing to admit to the President, but I will to you, that at last I really feel the need of a vacation; so much so that I am anxious to get away just as soon as I can. My trip to West Virginia is only postponed, however, and I will make it just as soon as I possibly can.

Sincerely yours,

Harold L. Ickes

Secretary of the Interior.

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt,
The White House.

Enclosed letter from Miss Frances Densmore
Red Wing, Minn. to Secretary Ickes

100

September 1, 1934

My dear Mr. Secretary:

Is there any way in which money could be allotted to a thing of this kind in the Indian bureau?

Very sincerely yours,

Hon. Harold Ickes
Secretary of Interior
Washington, D. C.

At Hyde Park, N.Y.
September 8, 1934.

100

My dear Mr. Secretary:

I am going to be asked about the Reedsville homestead project at my first press conference after I get back, and therefore, I have written out a statement so that I will be sure to say the thing which you would all like me to say. I am enclosing a copy and hope you will feel perfectly free to criticise it and I shall be delighted to have any suggestions of how to make it more comprehensive.

Cordially yours,

The Secretary of the Interior ICKES
Washington, D. C.

September 22, 1934

My dear Mr. Secretary:-

I am planing to go down to Reedsville on the 12, of October and stay until the 14, I am taking two ladies with me.

I am wondering if you would consider it worth while to try and arrange to go down that week end.

Very sincerely yours,

Secretary Ickes

October 15, 1934

My dear Mr. Secretary:

Mrs. Percy Pennybacker is an old friend of mine in Texas and she has a son, Percy V. Pennybacker, Jr., P.O. Box 97, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, who has done some excellent work as an engineer on a state job in Louisiana. However, for the moment it is being held up. He has a family to support and will shortly be without any work.

Is there anything in the P.W.A. which requires a really good engineer for which he could be considered? I would be most grateful if you could have this looked into.

Very sincerely yours,

Honorable Harold L. Ickes
The Secretary of the Interior
Washington, D. C.

S:DD

November 1, 1954

100

Dear Mr. Ickes.

I am enclosing a copy of a letter which I wrote to Mr. Roper and his answer. Will you let some one in your department tell me what I can answer?

Very sincerely yours,

S:0

Letter about prejudice against negroes
from Melvin J. Chisum

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

NOV 15 1934

Ickes

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt,

The White House.

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I have received your letter of November 1, enclosing copy of your Secretary's letter of October 16 to the Secretary of Commerce, and his reply thereto of October 18, relating to the complaint of Mr. Melvin J. Chisum of the National Negro Press Association, Philadelphia, alleging prejudice against Negroes in connection with the appointment of operators for the elevators in the new Department of Commerce Building.

The force of elevator operators in the new Department of Commerce Building is composed of forty employees, thirty-six of whom are colored and four are white. The question of race in the matter of making appointments in this Department is not considered, as all appointees are selected from lists of eligibles certified by the United States Civil Service Commission and are appointed under its rules and regulations.

Sincerely yours,

T. A. Walters

Acting Secretary of the Interior.

Mr. Melvin J. Chisum
National Negro Press Association
733 North 49th Street
Philadelphia
Penn.

November 20, 1934

100

My dear Mr. Secretary:

Mr. A. A. Abbott, whom I originally recommended from New York State, has been on the West Frankfort job and I believe everybody in sight has recommended him as general manager. If his work has been found satisfactory, would you be kind enough to see if Mr. Burlew would consider his appointment?

Very sincerely yours,

Honorable Harold L. Ickes
The Secretary of the Interior

DD

WL

One of our file cards says "See Les Casey" but it is 1933, and the file itself was destroyed.

The telegram probably belongs to the Abbott case, but we are not absolutely sure.

RWM

Mr Magee —

Have we any recent notes on Allen Abbott or any record that he was Les Casey's friend?

I seem to remember him in connection with Casey. Abbott was for a time with Subsistence Homesteads

Document comes.

Warm Springs, Ga.
November 21, 1934.

Dear Mr. Secretary: Ickes

I am sending you the enclosed direct because the Treasury apparently would be able to take it ober if they wished to do so. A suggestion in the man's letter that there is an industrial concern which will have to have a new location this year and might consider establishing there, makes it seem perhaps worth while looking into as a possible subsistence homestead. I do not want to send it direct to the homestead division until you have had a chance to look at it and perhaps ascertain by seeing the man himself whether the facts are correct and it is worth considering.

I would like to talk to you a minute when I get back if I may about a young cousin of mine, Larry Waterbury, whom you were kind enough to give a position to down in Texas. He is afraid because he had some debts which were accumulated before getting a job and for which his creditors have been bothering him at the office, that he will be dismissed. I think he has worked hard and has been recommended for promotion although he hasn't received it. Before you dismiss him, I would like a chance to have a word with you about him.

It was so nice having you on the train and we all enjoyed it. Your "future assistant" and Tommy send you a great many messages which can hardly be translated into words! I hear that Franklin invited you to come down after we leave to go back with him. I wish you might come down while we are still here before Thanksgiving.

Very cordially yours,

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

December 6, 1934.

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt,

The White House.

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I have not overlooked your interest in Mr. A. A. Abbott, Purchasing Agent and Disbursing Officer on the West Frankfort (Illinois) project, who is now Acting Project Manager. I am appointing him as Project Manager at $3,600 per annum, his present salary. As I explained to you last Saturday, it will be necessary for me to reduce the force otherwise owing to the fact that we are not going ahead with construction until spring. You may be interested to know that after Mr. Burlew had explained our plans to Congressman Kent Keller, the latter did not express opposition to the appointment of Mr. Abbott, even though he comes from without the State.

I am creating a position here for Mr. Osthagen and I hope within the next few days to be able to report his actual appointment.

Sincerely yours,

Harold L. Ickes

Secretary of the Interior.

Letter sent to Lawrence Waterbury, Jr., Tyler Texas.

December 11, 1934

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Thank you very much for sending me the letter about Larry Waterbury. I am sending it on to him at once.

Very sincerely yours,

Honorable Harold L. Ickes
The Secretary of the Interior
Washington, D. C.

S:DD

March 12, 1935

70

My dear Mr. Secretary:

I am very glad to accept the Honorary Chairmanship of the Washington Committee on Housing. However, I cannot promise to attend the meetings regularly but will do so every opportunity I have.

Very sincerely yours,

Honorable Harold L. Ickes
The Secretary of the Interior
Washington, D. C.

DD

FEDERAL EMERGENCY ADMINISTRATOR
OF PUBLIC WORKS
WASHINGTON

MAR -8 1935

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt
Honorary Chairman, Washington Committee on Housing
White House
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

In the course of developing a program for Washington, the Housing Division of the Public Works Administration has found the Washington Committee on Housing very helpful.

It now seems desirable to recognize this Committee officially, and for that reason to ask the members to accept the added responsibility of acting in an advisory capacity to the Housing Division.

I am enclosing, for your information, a list of the membership of the Washington Committee on Housing.

I take pleasure in extending to you an invitation to serve as Honorary Chairman of the Washington Committee on Housing in its new capacity, as you have served in the past.

Sincerely yours,

Harold L. Ickes

Administrator

P. W. 28961

February 25, 1935

WASHINGTON COMMITTEE ON HOUSING
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Mrs. Franklin Delano Roosevelt,
Honorary Chairman,
The White House,

Mr. Clarence Phelps Dodge,
Chairman,
1645 31st Street, N. W.,

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Vice Chairman,
2408 Mass. Ave., N. W.,

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Mrs. Florence D. Stewart,
Secretary,
902 Barr Building,

Mrs. Anna Archbold,
3905 Reservoir Rd., N. W.,

Mrs. Robert Woods Bliss,
3101 R. St., N. W.,

Reverend Robert W. Brooks,
1701 11th St., N. W.,

Hon. James A. Cobb,
D. C. Municipal Court,

Mr. Frederic A. Delano,
National Resources Bd.,
Interior Bldg.,

Dr. Warren Fales Draper,
Assistant Surgeon General,
U. S. Public Health Service,

Mr. William J. Flather, Jr.,
1508 H Street, N. W.,

Mrs. C. Carroll Glover, Jr.,
4200 Massachusetts Ave., N. W.,

Col. U. S. Grant, 3rd,
Fort Dupont,
Delaware

Mrs. Archibald Hopkins,
1826 Massachusetts Ave., N. W.,

Major Campbell C. Johnson,
1816 12th St., N. W.,

Mr. Joseph D. Kaufman,
1005 Pennsylvania Ave., N. W.,

Mr. Leifur Magnusson,
734 Jackson Place, N. W.,

Mr. Stanton C. Peelle,
Counsel,
1422 F St., N. W.,

Mr. Lawrence F. Schmeckebier,
722 Jackson Place, N. W.,

Mr. Joseph P. Tumulty,
1317 F St., N. W.,

70

March 18, 1935.

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This man Cain is engaged to the daughter of a man in our village. If an opportunity is open which he can fill, will you have him in mind?

Sincerely yours,

m n

Honorable Harold L. Ickes
~~4220 Glenbrook Road~~
~~Washington, D. C.~~ Sec'y of the Interior

Re: Richard W. Cain, Namaqua Camp SP-9-C, Loveland, Colo.
Wants secretarial, steno. or accounting work in Interior Dept. where he has filed an application.

Three letters sent: one from Victor A. File Vet. CCC Company 1822 recommending the above; one from R.W.Cain, to Mrs. Roosevelt ~~and Miss Scheider~~, regarding assistance in getting work.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

March 11, 1935.

MEMORANDUM FOR MRS. SCHEIDER

Will you be good enough to speak to the Secretary instead of the President speaking to him?

M. A. L.

Dear Mr. Secretary,

This man Cain is engaged to the daughter of a man in our village. If an opportunity is open to him he can fill will you have him in mind

ER

Namaqua Camp SP-9-C,
Loveland, Colorado.
February 26th, 1935.

Mrs. Malvina Scheider,
White House,
Washington, D.C.

My dear Mrs. Scheider:

I am enclosing herewith a letter to Mrs. Roosevelt which I am asking be handed her by you. Realizing the enormous amount of correspondence handled by both you and Mrs. Roosevelt, I made the letter extremely brief.

My intended father-in-law, Mr. George L.Williams of Hyde Park, is writing you regarding this matter. I am seeking an appointment in the east, and my marriage to his daughter, Beatrice, will depend upon the success of my application.

In addition to my references, which can be checked through the offices of the Secretary of the Interior(Appointments) I am enclosing a letter from Mr. Victor A. File, Educational Adviser of Company 1822 Veterans CCC, Camp SP-9-C, Loveland, Colorado.

Thanking you kindly for this favor, I am

Sincerely yours,
Richard W. Cain
Richard W. Cain.

70

May 1, 1935

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Thank you very much for the interest you have taken in Mr. Richard Wilkins Cain. I am afraid I did not make myself clear in my first note, as the young man is anxious to obtain some kind of work in the east. He is going to be married to a Hyde Park girl and neither of them wishes to be so far from home surroundings. I am resuming to trouble you further because I am always interested in helping young things to get started.

Very sincerely yours,

S O

Hon. Harold L. Ickes
Secretary of the Interior

FEDERAL EMERGENCY ADMINISTRATOR
OF PUBLIC WORKS
WASHINGTON

April 27, 1935.

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt,

The White House.

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Reference is made to your letter of March 18 in the interest of Mr. Richard Wilkins Cain. I am glad to advise you that I have appointed Mr. Cain as field clerk under the Public Works Administration with headquarters in Denver, Colorado. His assignment to duty in connection with this appointment should follow shortly.

Sincerely yours,

Harold L. Ickes

Administrator.

5/0

Ma 8, 1935

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Thank you very much for your note about Miss Addams. I was very happy indeed to have an opportunity to pay tribute to her, as I have admired her tremendously for many years. I think the dinner was a grand success and am sure she must have gone away feeling greatly compensated for all she has done.

Very cordially yours,

S O

Hon. Harold L. Ickes

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

May 3, 1935.

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I am sorry I did not have an opportunity last evening to pay my respects to you and to tell you how much I liked your fine tribute to Miss Addams. When you came in I went up to meet both you and Miss Addams but the battery of camera men were about to go into action and so I discreetly retreated. After adjournment I started forward again but by the time I got to Miss Addams you were on your way out and I couldn't get through the people who were surrounding you. So I take this opportunity to tell you that I thought you made a speech that was both fine and appropriate to the occasion.

It quite warmed my heart to see such a turnout in honor of Miss Addams. She has been an inspiration to me during all the years that I have known her, and I can recall some rather tragic periods when she was not greeted with the acclaim that was so spontaneous last night. It all goes to show that steadfastness and character will win out in the long run.

With personal regards,

Sincerely yours,

Harold L. Ickes

Secretary of the Interior.

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt,
The White House.

January 7, 1936

My dear Mr. Secretary:

I am very happy indeed to give permission to have my name used for the memorial to Miss Addams.

Very cordially yours,

SO

Hon. Harold L. Ickes

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

January 6, 1936.

MEMORANDUM FOR

MRS. SCHEIDER

The President says it is all right for Mrs. Roosevelt to do this.

G. G. T.

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

January 2, 1936

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I have shown this letter to the President and he at once said that it would be improper for him to permit his name to be used in connection with an appeal for funds. He thought, however, that it might be possible for you, if you were willing, to allow your name to be used, and at his suggestion I am asking you if you will be good enough to consider this matter, and either let me know or write directly to Mrs. Bowen. The President said that he might be able to write a letter commendatory of Miss Addams and what she stood for, without, however, making any appeal for funds, which letter might be used by the Committee.

I venture to hope that you will find it possible to permit the use of your name.

Sincerely yours,

Harold L. Ickes

Secretary of the Interior.

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt,
The White House.

Enc.

1430 Astor Street
Chicago

December 23, 1935.

Hon. Harold L. Ickes,
Secretary of the Interior,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Ickes:

Perhaps you know that since Miss Addams' death, it has been decided to raise a memorial for her which could be invested and the income used to carry on her work at Hull-House. Some money has already come in but now we want to make a nation-wide campaign, using the names of very prominent people on the appeal.

Would you be willing to be the head of a Committee or constitute yourself a Committee of One to ask the President and Mrs. Roosevelt if they will consent to the use of their names on the appeal? I am enclosing you a dummy of the appeal. This is just a proof, prepared in this manner to show the way in which the names will be used.

If the President and Mrs. Roosevelt will consent (and I do not know at all whether it is a proper thing for him to have his name on an appeal of this kind or not) then we will proceed at once to ask the other people whose names appear on the dummy, and it will immediately go out. We have some committees already formed in a few of the large cities with prominent men in charge, and Mr. Sewell L. Avery, who is Chairman of our Committee, believes that we will have a large response. If you feel you can act as a Committee of One, or head a Committee to make this request at the White House, we shall be very grateful to you.

I have not told you how we appreciate the Memorial to Miss Addams in the Jane Addams Houses, which, of course, is owing to you. These houses will be a lasting memorial, and if Hull-House can get enough money to keep its work up, there will be on the West Side a Housing Project and a hospitable Center for the people of the neighborhood which will keep her memory alive through the years to come.

I know your days must be very lonely, and I think I have never told you how glad I am to be able to think of Mrs. Ickes as she was shen she visited Miss Addams and me here last winter. She was so charming and so delightful, and we enjoyed having her here so much.

Sincerely yours,

Louise de Koven Bowen

(Mrs. Joseph T. Bowen)

70

February 25, 1936

My dear Mr. Secretary:

Walter White has written to me that he has asked you to speak for them on the 5th of July, and I hope, if you can, you will do so, but I do not want to urge you to do anything which you do not feel you want to do.

Very cordially yours,

SO

Hon. Harold Ickes
Secretary of the Interior

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February 21st 1936

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

It brings most disappointing news but your letter of February 19th is so gracious in explaining why you think it wisest not to accept the invitation to speak on July 5th that I can almost forgive you. I understand, however, exactly how you are placed and though it will be a great loss not to have you with us I am grateful to you for considering it.

I shall be in Washington on next Tuesday, the 25th, and have written to Mr. Ickes asking him to see me at which time I am going to ask him to speak. I am hoping that he will be able to do so. If you and the President do not deem it improper to do so I would be grateful if you would indicate to him your hope that he may accept.

And will you be good enough to tell the President that I have had a further letter from the Attorney General informing me that he has completed his study of the possibilities of action against the kidnapers of Claude Neal in the light of the Supreme Court decision in the Gooch case. Mr. Cummings asked me to come in to see him when next I come to Washington and I have written him that I can do so next Tuesday, the 25th. It will be interesting to learn of the possibilities of action.

Ever sincerely,

Walter White

Secretary.

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

ww:CTF

27th ANNUAL CONFERENCE, BALTIMORE, MD., JUNE 30th - JULY 5th, 1936
ENDORSED BY THE NATIONAL INFORMATION BUREAU, 215 FOURTH AVENUE, NEW YORK
How do your Senators and Congressmen stand on the Costigan-Wagner Anti-Lynching Bill?

Hyde Park, N.Y.
August 13, 1936.

My dear Mr. Secretary: Ickes

Mrs. Mary McLeod Bethune, whom you will remember, I am sure, brought Mrs. John Hope from Atlanta, Georgia, to see me yesterday.

There is a low cost housing project which is nearing completion at Atlanta. There is a great hope that this may be made a demonstration center and for many years Mrs. Hope has worked out a scheme for work with her own people to raise their standards of living.

I wonder if you would be willing to take an interest in this and suggest to the local committee that Mrs. Hope might be a valuable project manager? She would probably want one or two social workers to help her and I thought that could be worked out through W.P.A. If you are interested, I will be glad to see what I can do through the W.P.A.

I am sure that Mrs. Hope and Mrs. Bethune will be very glad to go to see you if you want to talk it over with them or they can send you the material describing Mrs. Hope's method of work which she has tried out and found successful.

I do think it is more important than any thing else to make a really successful demonstration in colored housing. In the first place I think the housing conditions in the various cities where we have large colored groups are probably

worse than they are for low income white groups and this has meant that the standards of living, the knowledge of how to make homes and control their children is probably at a lower ebb in these districts. For that reason it seems to be very important to do a good job in selection and in the assistance given people to help themselves to make good.

Very sincerely yours,

70

October 31, 1936

My dear Mr. Secretary:

Thank you very much for your letter of October 21 and for your consideration of the letters from Mrs. John Hope, which I sent you. I am sure Mrs. Hope will be interested in the project as you have outlined it.

Very sincerely yours,

Hon. Harold L. Ickes
Public Works Administrator

Mrs. John Hope
Atlanta, Ga.

Administrator.

Copy 10/31

41648 OCT 12 36

FEDERAL EMERGENCY ADMINISTRATOR
OF PUBLIC WORKS
WASHINGTON

Oct 20

OCT 21 1936

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt,

The White House.

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I thank you for your letter of October 4, with which you enclose a letter from Mrs. John Hope.

If the Public Works Administration were to build the community house suggested we should be obliged to charge its cost to the tenants of the University Housing Project in the form of increased rents. Although I am aware of the great need for an adequate auditorium, I do not believe that we could justify the construction of such a building on this basis. The burden on the tenants would be out of proportion to the benefits received. I have hopes that, in time, some other agency can be persuaded to provide this vitally needed building.

We have included in our operating budget an amount to pay for a social and recreational program for the tenants and Mrs. Bethune has approved generally the program proposed. We shall certainly consult with Mrs. Hope in the development of this program. Although the salary is necessarily small, Mrs. Hope might be interested in directing the community work. However, it would be premature to make such an appointment before we had selected the housing manager and determined exactly how the position should supplement his work.

I sincerely regret that the construction of a community building by the Public Works Administration does not seem feasible, but I assure you that Mrs. Hope will be given every consideration both in the development of the community and recreational program and in the appointment of a person to assist the management with this work.

Sincerely yours,

Harold L. Ickes

Administrator.

Copy
10/31

ATLANTA UNIVERSITY
ATLANTA, GEORGIA

Chicago, Illinois
September 29, 1936

10/12 G

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

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

In the conference in New York which Mrs. Bethune and I were privileged to have with you, I spoke of the need of the continuation of the work of the Neighborhood Union, in Atlanta. At our conference in Washington where we discussed Social Service in the Virgin Islands, I gave you a type-written description of the work of the Neighborhood Union in Atlanta during the past twenty-five years. Before our conference in New York Mrs. Bethune sent you a type-written copy of the work of this organization.

The success of this organization was in part due to the fact that we had been able to build a small Neighborhood House which served as a center for our activities. Unfortunately, this house was located on the site selected for the Negro Housing Project and therefore had to be demolished.

The need for the type of community work done by the Neighborhood Union is greater now than it has ever been and will become increasingly so as the six hundred and seventy-five families move into the new project. I think it most desirable that the tenants in the project become integrated with the rest of the community. There is now no provision made in the whole community for the holding of community meetings--no much-needed meeting place or auditorium.

Mr. Ickes' letter of August 27 to you and the fact that there is no community house make it quite clear that neither the Public Work Administration nor the Project will be able to build and maintain a community center. We are therefore asking you to help us to get the Works Progress Administration to undertake the building of a Neighborhood House as a relief and recreation project for the Negro citizens of Atlanta. In addition to the building, we would need an expert staff. We discussed this, you will remember, when we talked of the Social Service demonstration we hope to make in this community of Negroes.

41-48 OCT 12 '36

I believe, Mrs. Roosevelt, that you are convinced as to my sincere interest in the social service phase of the Project, and if I should be considered for any position anywhere at all in the Project, I should like for it to be in connection with the social service phase. I am trying to make this clear, not only to let you know that I would be interested in that phase, but also to correct any impression that was somehow created that I was seeking the position of Manager of the Project.

Would you advise that we discuss this matter further with the Administrator of the Local Works Progress Administration? A little assistance here from you would mean much in our attempt to get this much-needed community house and staff for the underprivileged Negro citizens of Atlanta.

Appreciating your interest and hoping for an early reply, I am

Very sincerely yours,

John Hope, Sr.

Mrs. John Hope, Sr.

jh:b

P. S. The recent illness and death of my sister in Chicago has prevented this letter following my telegram as closely as I had hope.

41 OCT 12'36

Ickes

January 18, 1937

Dear Mr. Ickes:

This man was with you. Could you give him work? His wife sounds desperate.

Very sincerely yours,

Mrs. Robert Allison Evans

60 West 162nd.St.,
New York, New York.
January 14, 1937.

My dear Miss Scheider :

First, please let me say that after reading the Column last evening, my sincere wish is for Mrs. Roosevelt's health - the perfect strength we all associate with her. My note of January 6th. was written after Epiphany services and it means quite a lot to me that an answer was here last night after I came in from a meeting of the Women's Auxiliary.

It is difficult to avoid the appearance of being self-seeking but seeing the dragnet tighten more with each day, I fortunately was driven almost mad by hearing, shall I say, a professional Church woman of the highest standing explain what she does with appeals. My mind shot to Mrs . Roosevelt and when I reached home, my note went off. I am truthful in saying I hardly thought she would have time to answer anything so vague. I know she will understand all I would say but it must be kinder to resist.

Briefly, my husband and I have passed the meridian of life. We have two sons, one running an elevator and studying art, the younger an honor student at Trinity School on a scholarship endowed by Bishop Manning.

My husband is a mining engineer of thirty years' experience. He was employed by the Lehigh Valley Coal Co. of Wilkes Barre, Pa., for twenty-one years and in November, 1931 he was obliged to resign due to the disaffection of the president who, quaintly, was the Godfather of our younger son.

Equipped with only a high school education, my husband had gone up through the ranks to the position of Chief Mining Engineer and then had been appointed superintendent of mines producing over one million tons per year, and with supervision over three thousand mine workers.

After twenty-one years of honorable and efficient service, he was given one hour's notice to get out. Citizens of all classes and creeds sent messages of protest to the New York head of the corporation but he placed the responsibility on the local chief.

My husband tried to secure a hearing before the New York head of the company but was unsuccessful. One of the large coal companies gave him employment and we moved from Pennsylvania to New York City.

Mr. Evans had been very prominent civically - sub chairman of the Red Cross Drive, colonel of the mines' division of the Community Welfare Chest, president of the Mining Institute, vice-president of the First National Bank, treasurer of the Road Taxpayers' Association, vice president of the Chamber of Commerce, Trustee of the State Hospital, member of the Mine Foremens' Examining Board and other activities too numerous to mention. His morale was not broken but he suffered intensely from the injustice of the system.

He remained with the second coal company for a year and a half and then attempted to promote a mining property in which he was interested. The Anthracite industry is not friendly to entrepreneurs, as the control of the coal lands is rigidly monopolistic, only seven companies controlling 96% of the whole tonnage. Mr.Evans made a brave effort to operate his property but was blocked by the financial interests. He was constrained to abandon his mining venture and returned to New York City as a consultant.

Possibly he erred at this point of his career,(1935), for he challenged the industry by accepting a commission to examine the affairs of Burns Bros.(largest Anthracite coal distributors), who had petitioned bankruptcy under 77B for obvious reasons. However, he threw down the gauntlet and carried the fight back to his original employer, the Lehigh Valley Coal Corporation.

After voluminous correspondence with the New York head of the Corporation, he succeeded in securing an offer of a hearing to review any indictments that may have warranted the action of the company in 1931. It developed however, that the hearing was to be held before the present operating head of the company and that the holding corporation would accept no responsibility. This was not acceptable to my husband as he and the said operating head grown up together in the company and had been friends for twenty years. However, the exchange of letters had furnished a clear vindication, the main object of the controversy.

During this period, Mr.Evans wrote a volume of verse, portions of which were published in the New Masses and The New Republic,(see enclosure). He lashed out furiously, in verse,

at the Liberty League, Supreme Court decisions, &c., in The Daily Worker, under the pen name of Robert Eades. In The New Republic of January 6, 1937, he has an editorial on the bootleg mining situation in Pennsylvania.

During 1936, we had a blessed respite from the carking responsibilities of our struggle. Mr.Evans was appointed a Resident Engineer Inspector under PWA, in charge of two school building projects in Pennsylvania. Unhappily, this work ended in November and we have again reached a point of desperation.

My husband has vainly made the rounds of the employment agencies, answered ads and followed up leads supplied by friends but he is in an anomalous position where his vigorous personality causes employers to look askance at him when he applies for a modest position and, on the other hand, no employer will consider him for an executive post when they learn that he has fought the system. Relief is out of the question because of changing residence. We are losing ground daily and must depend on the loyalty of my sister who holds a modest school clerkship and who is already overburdened with the responsibility of providing for my mother and my widowed sister.

We are well informed on the social implications of the day having just read Bowers' "Jefferson in Power", Armstrong's "We or They", Gilbert Seldes' "Mainland" and Langdon-Davies' "Short History of the Future". We are solid Church people and believe that mere philosophical and scientific analysis of the social scheme is not enough.

But our ship is perilously near the reefs and I am appealing for help before we are wrecked and become mere flotsam and jetsam in the social sea. Surely, there must be somewhere in this vast scheme where a man of my husband's practical and artistic caliber will fit. Notwithstanding his attainments, I can assure you that he would take up a pick and shovel in pursuit of a livable wage.

Sincerely,

Ward Grove Evans
Mrs.Robert Allison Evans.

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

April 8, 1937

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I forgot to tell you the other day how much impressed I was by the hospital for tubercular Indians in Shawnee, Oklahoma. It seemed to me very well run and the doctor had a most friendly contact with the patients.

I did feel, however, that the occupational therapy work might be made of more value if they could develop some of the arts, in which some of the Indians must have skill, and do a little better work than is being done at the present time. They could then, I think, have a better market for what they make.

Very sincerely yours,

SO

The Honorable Harold L. Ickes

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

APR 23 1937

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt,
The White House.

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I have received your letter of April 9 relative to your recent visit to the Shawnee Indian Sanatorium and wish to thank you for your suggestions for improving the occupational therapy department of that institution.

It is gratifying that you found time during your busy trip to visit the Indian Sanatorium and I fully appreciate your helpful suggestions with reference to the occupational therapy work. I sent your letter to Commissioner Collier and he assures me that instructions will be issued to put into effect the changes you have in mind.

Sincerely yours,

Harold L. Ickes

Secretary of the Interior.

November 27, 1937

1.

16

My dear Mr. Secretary:

Would you be good enough to tell Mrs. Roosevelt what the chances might be of establishing the Negro Park which is described in the enclosed letter?

Very sincerely yours,

Malvina T. Scheider
Secretary to
Mrs. Roosevelt

E. W. Hale, Shelby County Commissioners, Memphis, Tenn.

Honorable Harold L. Ickes
The Secretary of the Interior
Washington, D.C.

DD

December 22, 1937

70

My dear Mr. Ickes:

Thank you so much for your report about Freedman's Hospital. I would appreciate it very much if you would keep me informed of any improvements which might be forthcoming after the present investigation is over.

Very sincerely yours,

Hon. Harold L. Ickes

DD

Called 12-22-37

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

December 16, 1937.

Please keep me informed of any improvements. E.R.

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

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Your letter of December 14 regarding Freedmen's Hospital has been received.

I agree as to your viewpoint. For a long while I have endeavored to improve conditions at Freedmen's Hospital not only to raise the standards of the nursing school but to provide more adequate and efficient service to the patients. The difficulties are fiscal and administrative. Dr. Jones, the new Surgeon in Chief, when he took office, realized many of the defects of the institution which had grown up through the years and feels a deep sense of responsibility in correcting them. I have recommended budgetary increases each year since I have been in office, and while some relief has been given, it has been inadequate.

About a year ago I arranged for an investigation by Doctors Smith and Robinson of Johns Hopkins University, but unfortunately I have not been able thus far to carry out their recommendation, which was to transfer the administration of the Hospital to Howard University.

The Bureau of the Budget fortunately secured the services of Mr. Richard Mackenzie, a specialist in hospital administration, who made a brief survey of Freedmen's Hospital along with other Federal institutions within the last three or four months. At the conclusion of his temporary appointment with the Bureau of the Budget, I was able to secure his services for a period of two months to make an intensive study of the administration of Freedmen's Hospital, which has been going on since December 1. He is having the full cooperation of Dr. Jones, and I am hopeful that much good will result from his work.

Sincerely yours,

Harold L. Ickes

Secretary of the Interior.

70

December 14, 1937

Dear Mr. Secretary:

A long while ago I meant to write and ask you what could be done about improving the colored hospital here. I was told in Harlem, with a great deal of bitterness, that no colored graduate nurse from here could be considered as a nurse in good standing anywhere else. It seems to me that that is rather unfortunate and it would be a tremendous help, I think, to the colored people as a whole if the standards of the hospital could be raised and make the diploma mean something worth while.

Very sincerely yours,

50

The Honorable H. L. Ickes

U.S. Department of Labor
Children's Bureau

October 19, 1937.

Facts Indicating the Need for Better Care for Mothers and Babies—
Dr. Edwin F. Daily, Director, Maternal and Child-Health Division.

No matter what method of statistical procedure is used to compute maternal mortality rates, the United States retains an exceedingly high maternal mortality rate as compared with other countries.

I. Magnitude of loss of life of mothers and babies resulting from, and associated with childbearing.

The number of maternal deaths due directly to pregnancy and childbirth was 12,544 in 1935. Additional deaths of pregnant women which were due to other causes raised the total number of deaths connected with pregnancy and childbirth to 14,296.

Deaths of women which were connected with pregnancy and childbirth	14,296
Stillbirths (babies born dead)	77,119
Babies dying in the first month of life as a result of causes arising during pregnancy or at time of delivery	56,262
(These represent 8,190 of the 69,834 babies who died in the first month of life)	
Total deaths of mothers and deaths of babies in the first month of life from causes associated with maternal conditions	147,677

This total loss of 147,677 lives of mothers and babies about equals the population of Scranton, Pa., or Springfield, Mass. Loss of lives from these causes was second only to loss of lives from heart disease.

Dr. Fred S. Taussig estimates 700,000 abortions annually in the United States. Probably many maternal deaths following early abortions go unregistered as such.

The steadily declining birth rate makes this loss of life of even greater significance. There were approximately 2,200,000 babies born alive in the United States in 1935. Approximately 19,000 fewer births were registered in 1936 than in 1935.

II. Are maternal deaths preventable?

One-half to two-thirds of maternal deaths are preventable.

A preventable death is one which should not have occurred if the patient had sought and received competent medical and nursing care throughout pregnancy and at the time of delivery.

Preventability has been reported in the following maternal-mortality studies:

	Percentage of maternal deaths preventable
New York City, 1930-32	65.8
Philadelphia, 1931-33	56.7
Alabama (Birmingham, and Jefferson County) 1931-35	78.7
Seven cities on Pacific Coast, 1933-34	68.0

III. Are stillbirths preventable?

A Children's Bureau study of 6,750 stillbirths showed that in 21 percent of the cases toxemia of the mother was a cause of death, according to the physician's report. Prenatal care throughout pregnancy will prevent many of these deaths. Syphilis is the cause of many stillbirths, which may be prevented by adequate treatment of the mother during pregnancy.

IV. Are deaths of infants under 1 month of age preventable?

More than 80 percent (56,262) of these deaths resulted from causes arising during the prenatal period or from injuries received at birth.

Infant mortality rates have been materially lowered but for 20 years there has been no reduction in the mortality rate of infants who die in the first day of life.

V. To what extent are mothers receiving adequate care?

In the Children's Bureau maternal-mortality study in 15 States, which covered 26 percent of the total maternal deaths occurring in the United States in 1927-28, it was found that less than 1 percent of the mothers that died in the last 6 months of pregnancy had received care which is considered adequate in the prenatal period. Fifty-four percent had had no prenatal examination by physician. Seventy-seven percent of the women who died in the last third of pregnancy had had no prenatal care or poor care. Forty percent of the women who died in urban areas, compared with 64 percent of the women in rural areas, had had no prenatal examination.

VI. What is now being done in maternal and child-health (MCH) services under the Social Security Act?

A Division of Maternal and Child Health has been organized in every State, Alaska, and Hawaii, and the District of Columbia, with a medical director in charge of the program. More than 2,500 public-health nurses in the United States are paid in full or in part from MCH funds. Local physicians are now being paid in all parts of the country from MCH funds to conduct prenatal and child-health conferences. In a few States consultation services of obstetricians and pediatricians are provided for those patients unable to secure such consultation otherwise. In one State alone 128 new prenatal clinics were established last year. No medical care at the time of delivery is being provided from MCH funds. Only by competent care at delivery can lives of many mothers be saved.

VII. What has been done can be done.

1. Maternity Center, New York: Maternal deaths were reduced from 6 per 1,000 live births to 2 per 1,000—a two-thirds reduction—in one district by supervision of pregnancies and confinements among poor women.

2. Chicago Maternity Center, 1937 report: "Working under adverse conditions with a group of patients physically below par, and on a minimum budget, a gross maternal mortality rate of 14.2 per 10,000 live births was maintained over a 4-year period." This is less than one-fourth the rate for the United States as a whole.

3. Cattaraugus County, New York: Maternal mortality rate for prenatal cases supervised by Health Department, 1932-36, was 12 per 10,000 live births as compared with 56 for the county as a whole.

4. Cleveland Child Health Association in 1936 reported 2,595 women who attended special classes for prenatal care, and these included both clinic and private patients. Maternal mortality rate of this group was 7.7 per 10,000 live births as compared with 38 per 10,000 for the city of Cleveland.

Dr. L. K. Dublin has said "What has been shown to be possible in special groups in our country and in certain nations of Europe can be done uniformly and universally."

(7204) U.S. Department of Labor November 30, 1937.
CHILDREN'S BUREAU
Washington

CONFERENCE ON BETTER CARE FOR MOTHERS AND BABIES
January 17 and 18, 1938, Washington, D.C.

The Background of the Conference

The hazard of maternity and early infancy.

The problem of maternal care and care of the newborn continues to be a matter of grave concern to the people of this country. No matter what method of statistical procedure is used to assign cause to maternal deaths, the United States retains an exceedingly high maternal mortality rate as compared with other countries. In 1935 the number of maternal deaths due directly to pregnancy and childbirth was 12,544. Additional deaths of pregnant women due to other primary causes raised the total number to 14,296. The number of stillbirths in 1935 was 77,119, and the number of babies dying in the first month of life as the result of causes arising during pregnancy or at time of delivery was 56,262.

This means that the total number of deaths of mothers, stillbirths, and deaths of babies in the first month of life from causes associated with maternal conditions was 147,677 for the single year of 1935.

The loss of life from these causes was, therefore, second only to loss of lives from heart disease and about equaled the population of Scranton, Pa., or Springfield, Mass.

The steadily declining birth rate makes this loss of life of even greater significance and gives further emphasis to efforts toward prevention.

Early efforts to reduce the hazard.

The problem, of course, is not new. Almost immediately after the creation of the Children's Bureau mothers began writing in about their problems. In 1916, Julia Lathrop wrote as follows to a mother in Wyoming who had described the deaths of two mothers and two babies within a year in her sparsely settled rural community:

> "Your letter of October 19 came in my absence, and I have just read it with most urgent attention and sympathy. It is not the only letter of that kind which the Bureau has received—it makes very urgent the great question of protecting motherhood. The Bureau is trying to find a plan by which mothers living in remote places can secure the medical and nursing care to which they are certainly entitled. It is an old need, but a new practical question, and it will not be solved until many people can be made to see that a way to provide the required care is possible in every part of our country."

It is exactly 20 years since Miss Lathrop set forth in her annual report a program for the protection of maternity and infancy. Adoption of this program was delayed until after the World War, but from 1922 to 1929 under the Maternity and Infancy Act progress was made in developing public-health nursing, prenatal and child-health conferences, and health-education services throughout the United States. With the termination of this act and consequent withdrawal of Federal aid, just at the onset of the depression, these services were greatly curtailed.

Studies of causes and preventability of maternal mortality.

During the last years in which this act was in operation the Children's Bureau undertook its study of maternal mortality in 15 States, the findings of which were accompanied by recommendations by the Bureau's Advisory Committee on Obstetrics for the extension and strengthening of education of the general public in regard to the need for and meaning of adequate maternal care.

The Bureau's report on maternal mortality and reports of other similar studies made since the Bureau's study was begun have all agreed on the fact that many of these maternal deaths are preventable. For instance, the percentage of maternal deaths believed to be preventable is estimated as follows in reports of studies made in these cities:

New York City, 1930-32	65.8 percent
Philadelphia, 1931-33	56.7
Alabama (Birmingham, and Jefferson County) 1931-35	78.7
Seven cities on Pacific Coast, 1933-34	68.0

Maternal and child-health services under the Social Security Act.

The passage of the Social Security Act, approved August 14, 1935, made possible a vigorous program to safeguard and promote the health of mothers and children through the cooperation of the Federal Government.

Fifty-one States and Territories are now cooperating with the Children's Bureau under the Social Security Act in the development of maternal and child-health services. This work has made possible extension of resources for bringing mothers under early prenatal care, for child-health clinics and conferences, for immunization against communicable disease, and for public-health nursing services in the home. In many areas opportunities for postgraduate instruction in obstetrics and pediatrics have been brought to doctors in their own communities.

Evidence is steadily accumulating that a direct and courageous attack must be made on the central problem of providing adequate medical and nursing supervision continuing throughout the antenatal and postnatal periods. Such care would conserve the lives not only of the mothers but also of many thousands of the newborn, and those who die before birth. It can be provided only with the cooperation of Government, practicing physicians, nurses, professional schools, and the mothers and fathers themselves. Such organizations as the American Committee on Maternal Welfare, committees on maternal welfare of State medical societies, the Maternity Center Association, and others are constantly at work to promote better standards of care for mothers and babies. The General Federation of Women's Clubs is now conducting a questionnaire study of means by which maternal morbidity and mortality may be reduced. Other national organizations of men and women have given expression to their concern in various ways.

The work now being developed has pointed to certain very definite needs which must be met.

Proposals to develop a more adequate program.

Early in 1937 the Special Committee on Maternal Welfare, appointed to advise the Children's Bureau in its administration of the maternal and child-health services, met to consider problems which have been revealed by work done up to the present. The Committee unanimously agreed that extension of services to permit care of mothers at childbirth is an outstanding necessity. Recommendations to this effect, drawn up by the Committee on Maternal Welfare, were unanimously endorsed by the Advisory Committee

July 1, 1938

My dear Mr. Secretary:

Mrs. Frank Portillo, of 1760 Euclid Street, Washington, D.C., tells Mrs. Roosevelt that her appointment as stenographer with the Public Works Administration terminated in December 1937 and that since that time she has been unable to find work. Mrs. Roosevelt asks me to send you this note to ask whether, in case there are any openings, Mrs. Portillo would have a chance of being reinstated.

Very sincerely yours,

Malvina T. Scheider
Secretary to
Mrs. Roosevelt

Honorable Harold L. Ickes
Secretary of the Interior
Washington
D.C.

JUN 25 1938

~~[illegible]~~ Adams 4555

Frank Portillo

~~[illegible] CONNECTICUT AVENUE,~~ WASHINGTON, D. C.
1760 Euclid Street, N.W. Apt. 102

June 24, 1938.

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

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I am appealing to you for assistance because there is no other person, or group of persons, in this wide land of ours to whom I can appeal; and, knowing the principles which you advocate, and your great sympathy for those small helpless people like myself, I decided to lay my case before you.

You, of course, are familiar with the peculiar employment situation because of the Government being Washington's only industry. I have been living here since 1930, and worked for commercial offices until 1933, when I was appointed to the Public Works Administration. Last December, after more than four years of service to that organization as stenographer-secretary, my appointment was terminated (together with many others - due, mainly, to my marital status. Frank Portillo (the clow who entertained your little Easter guests this year) and I were married a little over a year ago while I was still with the P.W.A.; and although he is in the Government Printing Office under Civil Service, he is in the low salary bracket, and our combined salaries provided scarcely enough to take care of his mother, my two children, and ourselves. Since my salary stopped coming in, it has been extremely difficult for us to secure even the necessities of life, as we have no income other than his salary. Though I have tried, and am still trying to secure employment in commercial offices, I have been unsuccessful.

However, I found openings in four separate Government Bureaus, but after securing an interview and qualifying for the position to be filled, I met with failure because I was told: "These funds were appropriated to spread employment. Your husband is with the Government. The main office would not even consider you for appointment under the circumstances. We are very sorry."

There is such an opening at the present time under the Construction Division of the War Department. The work is of a technical nature in which not many applicants are trained. I do have the necessary background of training and qualifications - and my only offence seems to be that I married the man of my choice in order to live normally and to work with him shoulder to shoulder, even as you work with your husband.

I do not want the salary for myself, personally, but I do feel it is my urgent duty to give my young daughter and son an education and training that will enable them to take their proper place in the social and economic scheme of things. My daughter is just out of high school, and it is my desire to put her through hospital training. That is her ambition, and she is admirably suited to that type of work. However, I find myself beating against these circumstances as a prisoner must beat against the solid stone walls of his cell.

Therefore, I make my plea to you. Will you not help me to help myself?

With deepest gratitude for your consideration, I remain

Respectfully yours,

A. Mildred Portillo

Alice Mildred Portillo

July 16, 1938

My dear Mr. Secretary:

I am sending you this letter from Miss Mary E. Woolley. I do not know Mrs. John Franklin Bronson, but feel sure that you would want to consider a letter from Miss Woolley.

Very sincerely yours,

Hon. Harold L. Ickes
Secretary of the Interior

Mrs. Bronson, and Indian graduate of Mt. Holyoke, who has done outstanding work among Indians. A movement on foot in Washington to transfer her to a small boarding school in Oklahoma and fill her job as guidance and placement officer in the Indian Bu. with a man.
Miss Woolley leaving for London until the end of August. Asks that any message be sent to her secretary, Miss Richards.

MARY E. WOOLLEY WESTPORT-ON-LAKE CHAMPLAIN NEW YORK

July 12, 1938.

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

My conviction that a case which has just been brought to my attention is of peculiar importance to women as well as to the individual must be my excuse for inflicting another letter upon you.

Ruth Muskrat, now Mrs. John Franklin Bronson, is an Indian graduate of Mount Holyoke College in 1925. Her record as an undergraduate was a strong one, and since her graduation she has gone steadily forward; first, as a teacher at Haskell Institute, Lawrence, Kentucky, and since then guidance and placement officer under the Bureau of Indian Affairs. In this post, her job is to select Indian students for higher education, making the contact between the students and the colleges as well as with the secondary schools.

The above she has done with distinction and persons in Washington who know at first hand her ability are distressed to find that there is a move on foot to transfer her to a small boarding school in Oklahoma, filling her post with a man.

The situation seems to me a serious one. First, here is an Indian girl who has put time, money and effort into preparing herself for the difficult task of the guidance of Indian youth. She has demonstrated her ability to do effective work with the white and Indian people involved. By means of a legitimate evasion, the purposes of civil service can be violated, and perhaps what is more important Indian youth, quite understandably, feel that honest and capable work is not recognized.

Second, this would be the fourth woman to be eliminated from a position of administrative caliber by the present Director of Indian Education. The other three were difficult to protest on account of changing policy, but this seems to be a clear case of poor administrative judgment since it contemplates action which is discriminatory against a well qualified Indian woman.

I am sure that nothing could be as effective as a word from you to Mr. Ickes or to Mr. Burlew expressing the hope that the work of Mrs. Ruth Muskrat Bronson in the placement of Indian students in institutions of higher learning will not be interrupted because of any need to limit funds, would enable Mr. Ickes to forestall any contemplated recommendations.

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt

As I said, I am deeply concerned about this particularly because of its bearing upon the position of women, an attitude with which I know you will sympathize.

I am leaving home this noon to sail tomorrow on the Manhattan for a meeting in London of the Council of the International Federation of University Women. Within the last few days I have had a cable from Viscount Cecil asking me to be present at a meeting in Paris to protest against the bombardment of civilians, and I am planning to add that. The trip will be a short one, and I hope to be at home again before the end of August. Any message sent to me here will be taken care of by my secretary, Miss Richards.

A duplicate is going to Hyde Park.

With cordial regards,

Very sincerely yours,

Mary E. Woolley

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt
Washington
D C

July 28, 1938

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Thank you very much for your letter of July 22 and for the information in the case of Mrs. John Franklin Bronson. I appreciate the attention you gave to the letter from Miss Woolley which I sent you.

Very sincerely yours,

The Hon. Harold L. Ickes
Secretary of the Interior

Letter to Miss Woolley

Mr. Collier reports that there was some dissatisfaction with Mrs. Bronson's methods of work and he has the matter personally in hand. Mrs. Bronson herself initiated the suggestion that she be transferred from Washington to a field assignment.

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

JUL 22 1938

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt

The White House

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I have received your letter of July 16, enclosing a letter dated July 12 to you from Miss Mary E. Woolley.

No action has been taken by me regarding Mrs. John Franklin Bronson, nor has the subject as yet come before the Department for decision. Commissioner Collier informs me that the Education Division of the Indian Office is conducting a re-examination of its entire set-up for the handling of educational loans to Indians; that some dissatisfaction with Mrs. Bronson's methods of work has been expressed by the Director of Indian Education, Mr. Beatty; and that he (Mr. Collier), some time ago, took the matter personally in hand, has made some investigation of the subject, and as yet has not reached a conclusion. You may be confident that no careless action will be taken in this matter.

I should mention that it was Mrs. Bronson herself who, a year ago, initiated with her superiors the suggestion that she be transferred from the Washington Office to a field assignment.

Sincerely yours,

(Sgd.) HAROLD L. ICKES
Secretary of the Interior.

September 28, 1938

My dear Mr. Secretary:

I am very anxious to know what has happened to Gallinger Hospital. Did you succeed in getting any increase in the appropriation so that the nurses can meet the requirements of the District and of New York State? Has the hospital itself been improved and was any grant made for radium and X-Ray for cancer work? I noticed that the wing for tuberculosis is being put up. That will mean necessarily more money for maintenance and I thought if we were going to have to put up a fight this year it would be well to begin early.

Cordially yours,

Honorable Harold L. Ickes

T:DD

November 28, 1938

My dear Mr. Secretary:

This material was given to me when I was in the South. While it is a project that is very much needed I do not suppose there is a chance for it to go through.

Very sincerely yours,

Proposed Smithfield Playground for Negroes in Birmingham, Alabama.

Hon. Harold L. Ickes

DD

FEDERAL EMERGENCY ADMINISTRATOR
OF PUBLIC WORKS
WASHINGTON

DEC - 7 1939

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

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I have your letter of November 28, enclosing data concerning the proposed Smithfield playground project for Negroes in Birmingham, Alabama.

The statute under which the Public Works Administration now operates provides that no new applications shall be received after September 30, 1938.

Since no application has been filed in this instance, I regret that we are precluded from giving any consideration to this proposed project.

I am returning your letter and enclosures.

Sincerely yours,

Harold L. Ickes

Administrator.

Enclosures

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

April 8, 1939.

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Jane and I are happy to learn from your letter of April 4 that Anna and the baby are both doing well. I know how set up both she and John must be.

I don't know where the New York Times got the story that it printed under date of March 25. The President spoke to me about Mrs. Rohde, and the customary release was given out when she was selected to attend the Inter-American Travel Congress in San Francisco April 14 to 21. Certainly I can testify that you never expressed an interest to me in Mrs. Rohde, and long ago, so far as newspaper reports of this kind are concerned, I adopted the rule - "seein' is not believin'."

If you got away from the Gumps with no more than the jade coffee cups, you were lucky. I always feel like buying my head off there. I agree with you that these cups are lovely.

Sincerely yours,

Harold L. Ickes

Secretary of the Interior.

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

T/O

April 4, 1939

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Someone sent me a clipping from the New York Times, which I enclose. I hope you do not think that I was the person who suggested Mrs. Rohde for any position. I simply wrote you because the President asked me to do so. There is such a concerted effort being made to make it appear that I dictate to F. D. R. that I don't want the people who should know the truth to have any misunderstanding about it. I wouldn't dream of doing more than passing along requests or suggestions that come to me.

I am enclosing a letter from a gentleman who seems to have a desire to go to this Congress also. I never saw him but once, when he brought me a plan for an interchange of students between South America and this country. He seemed intelligent and nice. I am simply passing his letter on to you, not making any recommendations.

Anna and the baby are doing very well, and she and John are as happy as can be. It has been grand to be out here with them, and you and your wife gave them a lot of pleasure with your letters. Please tell your wife that Mr. Gump sold me some of those lovely jade coffee cups which I admired so much the day I lunched with her, and Franklin and I are going to give them to my mother-in-law, who loves anything Chinese, for her birthday, I hope.

With warm regards,

Sincerely yours,

Dear Ickes

+ Russell Y. Buckland

I. T. Gillam, 1211 Pulaski St., Little Rock, Arkansas - asking for park and recreational facilities for colored group.

May 25, 1939

My dear Mr. Secretary:

Mrs. Roosevelt requested that I send you the enclosed letter and to ask if anything can be done in the matter.

Very sincerely yours,

Secretary to
Mrs. Roosevelt

Honorable Harold L. Ickes
The Secretary of the Interior
Washington, D.C.

DD

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

JUN - 9 1939

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt,

The White House.

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I have received Miss Thompson's letter of May 25 and the attached communication from Mr. I. T. Gillam of the American Teachers Association, Little Rock, Arkansas, concerning the development of Little Rock Metropolitan Park for Negroes.

The National Park Service of this Department will be glad to cooperate in the development of the area as a part of its Civilian Conservation Corps program, if the requirements of the Act establishing the Civilian Conservation Corps can be fully met.

Civilian Conservation Corps Camp SP-12 was established on October 1, 1937 and plans were drawn for work in Little Rock Metropolitan Park, but because of the failure of the City Council to acquire the necessary land and to provide a park board with funds for the operation and maintenance of the area, this camp was forced to confine its work to the Camp Pike Military Reservation until its termination on April 10, 1939.

It is encouraging to know that the City has acquired title to the land. However, until such time as the City Council can guarantee that the City or its designated representative will make adequate provision for the maintenance, operation, and utilization of the area after the Civilian Conservation Corps has developed it, the National Park Service is unable to be of assistance.

Sincerely yours,

Harold L. Ickes

Secretary of the Interior.

PRESIDENT
Carrington L. Davis
Paul Laurence Dunbar High School
McElderry and Caroline Sts.
Baltimore, Md.

VICE PRESIDENT
Miss Mary L. Williams
1011 Second Avenue
Charleston, W. Va.

CHAIRMAN TRUSTEE BOARD
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TREASURER
Howard H. Long
Henry Wilson School Bldg.
17th St., between Euclid St. and Kalorama Rd.
Washington, D. C.

AMERICAN TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

(Formerly The National Association of Teachers in Colored Schools)

REGIONAL VICE-PRESIDENTS

1st—W. W. Blackburn
1101 Deer Park Street
Jackson, Mississippi

2nd—I. A. Derbigny
Tuskegee Institute, Ala.

3rd—Mrs. Rose D. Aggrey
Salisbury, N. C.

REGIONAL VICE-PRESIDENTS

4th—Mrs. Lucy Harth Smith
258 E. 5th Street
Lexington, Ky.

5th—Mrs. Ethel Harris Grubbs
751 Fairmont St., N. W.
Washington, D. C.

6th—I. T. Gillam
1211 Pulaski Street
Little Rock, Ark.

Gibbs School
Little Rock, Arkansas
May 18, 1939

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

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

We know that you are interested in seeing to it that all the loyal citizens of our beloved country get a fair and square deal. I am therefore writing this letter to acquaint you with some facts with reference to the efforts put forth by some of the leading colored citizens of Little Rock, Arkansas to get some park and recreational facilities for our colored group, and to solicit your aid in our project.

I am chairman of a committee from our Civic League. We started work several years ago with Mayor Knowlton and the City Council and finally succeeded in getting them to arrange for a purchase of a Park site for us. It consists of a little less than five hundred (500) acres. The city at that time was unable to pay the full purchase price but made two payments on the site.

Through the efforts of ex-Senator Joe T. Robinson and Congressman Terry we were able to get the P.W.A. to offer some funds for the development of the park. But we were later told that the funds could not be available until the city had acquired full title to the land.

We continued to work with Mayor Overman and his City Council in trying to get them to arrange for the full purchase. When they put on a bond issue for the City Auditorium and Library Annex, we succeeded in getting them to include a bond issue for $15,000 to complete the payments for the park site and to have some fund over to aid in its development. This bond issue was passed by a large vote.

After much delay, the city acquired full title to the park site. The Library Annex is completed and the City

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1211 Pulaski Street
Little Rock, Ark.

Auditorium is almost completed through the use of Government funds, but nothing has been done for the development of the park for Colored Citizens. Parks have been developed through government funds for the white citizens.

Sometime ago our committee learned that Major Fechner and representatives of the National Park Service would be in our city and we got Congressman Terry to arrange for our committee to have a conference with them. We placed our claims before them and they were impressed to the extent that they promised to have their engineer go out and look over the site and prepare plans for its development. This has been done and the plans are now with the State Representative of the National Park Service, but nothing has been done in developing the site.

We were told by the State Representative of the National Park Service that they could not develop the site until the city guaranteed them that it would look after the upkeep of the city parks. The city authorities claim that the city finances are in such shape that they cannot do anything about it now.

I have had a conference with Mayor Satterfield, who is the third Mayor that we have worked with on this project, and he claims that the city is not in a position to do anything for us on our project, but promised that if we could get the park developed and could get one of our organizations to assume the responsibility of looking after it for the next two years, the balance of the money of the bond issue could be used in providing for its upkeep. He says the city will then be in a position to assume the responsibility.

We have an Elks Lodge of over three hundred members and an Urban League organization that would look after the upkeep of the park if it is developed.

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Little Rock, Ark.

(3)

Out of the many hundred of thousands of dollars of Federal funds that have been spent in our city, the Colored Citizens have shared in very little of it. We have no park or recreational facilities for our colored group.

The Colored Citizens of Little Rock would greatly appreciate it if you could help us in getting the National Park Service to develop our park according to the plans that they have worked out.

Thanking you in advance for any consideration you may give us, I wish to remain

Yours very truly,

I. T. Gillam

RUBY A. BLACK
NEWS BUREAU

825 Albee
BXXXXX BXXX BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D. C.

211½ PRINCE STREET
ALEXANDRIA, VA.

May 29, 1939.

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I have a rather despairing letter from the Association for Maternal and Infant Health of Puerto Rico, saying that Miles Fairbank, regional administrator of the Puerto Rico Reconstruction Administration, is planning to stop its contribution of $15,000 a year to the work at the end of June. This seems rather extraordinary, inasmuch as the courts have now held the Association's work strictly legal, and inasmuch as Fairbank will apparently have more money next fiscal year than he had this year. The PRRA contribution amounted to three-fifths of the association's total income.

Mr. Fairbank is in Washington now, they tell me, at the Interior Department. Secretary Ickes is administrator of the PRRA.

They wanted to write to you about it, but decided to write to me first. As you remember, this is the organization to which I give your birthday and Christmas presents.

It seems extraordinary, too, that government officials keep talking about overpopulation in Puerto Rico, and then withdraw what little contribution they have been making to solving the problem.

I shall gladly give you the entire letter -- two and a half pages single-spaced -- which sets forth the entire situation, if you wish to see it. I just thought this summary might save your time.

As ever, Ruby

70

May 29, 1939

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I have had an appeal from the Association for Maternal and Infant Health of Puerto Rico saying that Mr. Miles Fairbank, Regional Administrator of the Puerto Rico Reconstruction Administration, is planning to stop its contribution of $15,000 at the end of June. They have been doing birth control work and if they lose this appropriation their work will be cut off.

It seems to me a shame to have this work cut off down there and I wonder if you could find out from Mr. Fairbank while he is in Washington what the real set-up is.

Very sincerely yours,

SO

Hon. Harold Ickes

Sec'y of Interior

July 17, 1941

T/0

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I am receiving a great number of letters regarding the Navajo situation and I feel that the problems which confront these people deserve careful consideration and that every effort should be made by our Government to assist them. I will appreciate it if you will let me know what steps are being taken toward the alleviation of their difficulties so that I may have the data available for use in answering the letters which come to me.

Very sincerely yours,

PLF/cah

The Honorable Harold L. Ickes
Secretary of the Interior
Washington, D. C.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

July 7, 1941.

MEMORANDUM FOR E.R.

I really think that this Navajo problem ought to be handled through Secretary Ickes. After all, we cannot very well go over his head and we must remember that his first wife was greatly interested in the subject. I suggest you write him again and push him and Collier into doing something.

F.D.R.

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

JUN 24 1941

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt,

The White House.

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I have discussed with Commissioner Collier the needs and possibilities of irrigation development for the Navajos. The major project upon the San Juan River, including trans-mountain diversion for the benefit of the Rio Grande Valley, is on a cost-scale too great for the present years. But there is another group of projects, each one of them partly built already, whose completion would go far to solve the Navajos' problem, and the cost of which would be rather modest.

Within the reservation itself, an expenditure of $509,000 would bring 8,000 acres under irrigation, increasing the Navajos' present irrigated area by fifty per cent. The cost of approximately $65 an acre would include the "subjugation" (leveling) of the land. Subsistence farms for 800 families would be provided, and the Navajos would meet their own costs of implements and housing. This very economical result would be obtained through merely completing the partially finished Fruitland, Hogback, and Many Farms projects.

Outside of the reservation is the partially completed Colorado River project at Parker, Arizona. Here, 100,000 acres will be newly irrigated. The lands belong to the Colorado River tribe, but that tribe will allow the Navajos, and other Indians whose lands are inadequate, to colonize the project. As many as 50,000 irrigated acres can be supplied to the Navajos.

The further amount needed to complete this project is $7,690,000, of which, however, only $690,000 more is required for the fiscal year 1942 and $1,100,000 for the fiscal year 1943. At this rate of appropriation, 6,000 irrigated acres could be made available for Navajos in the calendar year 1943, and each year thereafter an additional acreage up to 10,000 acres could be brought into use.

If the projects which I here describe are made possible by the Congress, the crisis which the Navajos are facing can be met. In effect, their land-base will have been expanded through irrigation

in an amount equalling the economic yield of ten million additional acres of grazing land.

The Navajos' income, Commissioner Collier tells me, was in 1940 nearly 40 per cent greater than in 1933. But the Navajo population had increased by 13 per cent since 1933, and a half-million dollars of the 1940 income represented wages for defense construction at the Fort Wingate Army Post and is, accordingly, a temporary income. The situation of this largest Indian tribe is indeed grave. Irrigation development parallels soil conservation as the dominant need and is, in fact, the only way to salvation.

You will be interested, I believe, in a document which I am enclosing. It is a report by the American Association on Indian Affairs, Inc., on Fundamentals of the Navajo Problem. It is brief, yet complete, and it is accurate.

Sincerely yours,

Harold L. Ickes

Secretary of the Interior.

Enclosure 2645609.

Kayenta, Arizona

June 20, 1941

Dear Honorable Mother;

I am now back here in our Navaho country, in my people's land. I am more than thankful of getting a chance to give you of our first hand information of how we are being treated. To us (We, the Navaho Indians as a tribe) we believe and have been told that it is too unamerican on the part of John Collier's program for the Navaho Indians. So I am sending you a simple little sample of what our Navaho country has and in all three states of New Mexico, Utah and Arizona. These are the samples that I have picked up upon the most talked about of being the most over-run by stocks and should be under the watchful eyes of the Indian Bureau's Department of Grazing. There is knee high of all sorts of grass and good, but best ranges since the time of Collier's experts made the survey. The Navaho country has rehabilitated itself now. Therefore my people, 50,000 human souls are asking and pleading with you for your ever ready helping hands to mankind. We the Navaho Indians as the biggest tribe in U. S. A., play a very important part in our National Defense. In this world crisis, the very safety of our nation depends partly on this great tribe, my people believe in standing side by side and fight and defend our beloved country of Freedom, Liberty, Humanity, Equality and Justice which insures peace to all mankind. I am here as a voice for my people (The Navaho Tribe). We want to live and let us live and be self supporting, giving the wool of our sheep to the national needs for the army and the rest of the armed forces of

America, the meat of our sheep shall be that of our food, the hides could be for the helmets for our Air Forces of our country. We shall be waiting and praying that there will be our sorrows lifted from our hearts, and I shall now end my letter with my people's wishes of this letter reaching you in God's richest blessings upon you and your beloved ones.

Mr. Dan K. Phillips

Dan K Phillips

Kayenta, Arizona

70

August 19, 1941

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I very much appreciate your letter of August 15 on the problems of the Navajos and what is being done to solve these problems. Many thanks for taking so much trouble to answer my inquiry.

Very sincerely yours,

Hon. Harold Ickes

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THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

AUG 13 1941

Letter

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt,

The White House.

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I am glad of your continuing interest in the problems of the Navajos, evidenced by your letter of July 17, but I am slightly puzzled as to how to answer your request for information as to the steps being taken toward their alleviation. It is easy to explain to you, because you already have the necessary background of information, that these problems are many and varied, and that their solution will take years. Having in mind, however, that you probably want data which you can give to correspondents who are ignorant of the facts, I shall state in detail the programs and the methods now being used to improve the situation. Necessarily a part of this letter will repeat the substance of my letter of June 24 to you, and of Commissioner Collier's letter of July 15 to Mrs. Sam A. Davis. I ought also to add that probably some of your correspondents will not sincerely be interested in securing facts, but rather in injecting you into the factional affairs of the reservation.

1. The Conservation-Land Utilization Program: The conservation program, pursued with vigor since 1933, is aimed principally at five objectives: structural treatment of the land to stop erosion; to develop additional water supplies; to provide range management; to achieve proper distribution of livestock upon the range, to bring about a proper utilization of the forage resource; and to eliminate overgrazing through necessary reductions in a number of grazing animals so as to achieve range carrying capacity. In their totality, all items of the conservation program are posited on a recognized fact that, unless proper utilization of the Navajo range resource is achieved, the Navajos will, in the matter of another generation, have no reservation at all.

From funds allocated to the Indian Bureau by this Department's Office of Land Utilization, a total of $233,733 is being expended in the current fiscal year on the Navajo-Hopi project area, of which approximately $20,000 will be paid the Navajo and Hopi Indians for wage work. The Soil and Moisture Conservation Operations program, providing necessary technical personnel, is linked to that of the Civilian Conservation Corps-Indian Division, and for the latter activity the sum of $535,000 is allocated for the current year, of which 67 percent will be paid to Navajo and Hopi enrollees.

The program for increasing the efficiency of the Navajo livestock business, and thereby enlarging income therefrom, is also a many-sided one. In comparison with the incomes derived by commercial, non-Indian operators in Arizona, the livestock income of the Navajos is excessively low. On the Mexican Springs demonstration area (established to give to the Navajos visual proof of the results that can be achieved from proper management), the average sheep unit return was $4.60 in 1940. This compares with the average return from the reservation of $2.70 from all classes of productive stock.

The Mexican Springs demonstration area has shown what can be done in raising the wool clip, lamb weight, and lamb crop on the reservation. The program of education among the Navajo people is being carried forward in this year, as in preceding years, in a variety of ways: hundreds of local meetings in the eighteen districts throughout the reservation, radio broadcasts, visits to the Mexican Springs and other demonstration areas on the reservation, introduction of good bulls and rams, and encouragement to the Navajos in the acceptance of improved methods of handling. In the current fiscal year, a total of $49,170 is being expended, through the Indian Bureau's Division of Extension and Industry; its work is overwhelmingly devoted to the task of bringing the Indians to adopt methods which will increase their income from the livestock industry, and it is believed that the efforts heretofore made in this direction are producing material results.

The reduction of livestock on the Navajo Reservation has resulted in considerable misunderstanding, and even misrepresentation. Though compensating benefits have been bracketed with every sacrifice that the Navajos have been asked to make, and the incidence of sacrifice shifted from the poorer members of the tribe, criticism has continued. Yet, in any circumstances, the necessity of reducing livestock would be highly unpopular and vigorously resisted. During the past year,

unusually heavy rains have resulted in a marked improvement in forage growth. Recognizing this fact, I authorized modification of the grazing regulations so as to establish a special limit of 350 sheep units for the grazing year 1941. This modification was made on the recommendation of the Superintendent and the Tribal Council. Their purpose was to allow the Navajos the full advantage of the increased amount of grass and browse which is available this year. This modification does not mean that every Navajo owner may increase his holdings to 350 sheep units. It means that those who have grazed more than 350 sheep units continuously since 1937 are required now to reduce only to the special limit number. This change in regulations was taken after many conferences with me and after I had received the pledge of the tribal officers that the Navajo people would stand behind the Tribal Council and would voluntarily comply with the grazing regulations. The effect of the regulations has been and is to cause the burden of reduction to fall upon the larger livestock owners. In most cases of the latter class, the regulation does not mean that the owner will have to sell his livestock; he will ordinarily only have to acquire, by purchase, grazing rights off of the reservation.

Most of the opposition, centering in the New Mexico portion of the reservation, comes from the larger Navajo livestock operators who are conducting commercial enterprises and monopolizing the range resources. Supplied with ample financial means, they can easily foment discontent and stir up opposition to the range management program among the distressed portion of the population. They are able to organize unofficial delegations to go to various points off of the reservation, for the purpose of confusing and misleading the public as to the issues involved.

2. Increased Reservation Farming: Closely integrated with the conservation-land utilization program, and really an important feature of that program, is the development of additional lands for farming. I deal with it under a separate heading, because of its significant importance in broadening the base of Navajo economy. Of approximately 10,000 families on the reservation, only 7,500 are chiefly dependent upon livestock as a source of income. The other families, the largely non-sheep owning ones, constitute that element of the population among which there is the greatest distress. The potentialities are substantial, though limited on account of climate, soils, water resources and other conditioning factors.

Within the reservation itself, an expenditure of $509,000 would bring 8,000 acres under irrigation, increasing the Navajos' present irrigated area by fifty percent. The cost of approximately $65 an acre would include the "subjugation" (leveling) of the land. Subsistence farms for 800 families would be provided, and the Navajos would meet their own costs of implements and housing. This very economical result would be obtained through merely completing the partially finished Fruitland, Hogback, and Many Farms projects.

Outside of the reservation is the partially completed Colorado River project at Parker, Arizona. Here, 100,000 acres will be newly irrigated. The lands belong to the Colorado River tribe, but that tribe will allow the Navajos, and other Indians whose lands are inadequate, to colonize the project. As many as 50,000 irrigated acres can be supplied to the Navajos.

The further amount needed to complete this project is $7,690,000, of which, however, only $690,000 more is required for the fiscal year 1942 and $1,100,000 for the fiscal year 1943. At this rate of appropriation, 6,000 irrigated acres could be made available for Navajos in the calendar year 1943, and each year thereafter an additional acreage up to 10,000 acres could be brought into use.

If the projects which I here describe are made possible by the Congress, the crisis which the Navajos are facing can be met. In effect, their land-base will have been expanded through irrigation in an amount equalling the economic yield of ten million additional acres of grazing land.

3. Extension of the reservation in New Mexico: No total or permanent solution of the Navajo problems, growing population and diminishing land base, is feasible or practical by the single expedient of enlarging the area of the reservation. In my administration of Navajo affairs, I have never espoused any such program, but I have urged certain modest extensions of the reservation boundaries in Arizona, Utah, and New Mexico, to bring the economy and administration of the Federal Government within areas where existing Navajo use-rights are dominant. In 1933, the modification of the boundary in Utah was accomplished, and in 1934, that in Arizona was similarly worked out. Both these changes were achieved without controversy, and with the active cooperation and support of the late Secretary Dern and of Senator Hayden. But the

extension in New Mexico has been actively and deliberately embroiled in political controversy both at home and in Washington, with the result that defeat has met every effort to enact the appropriate legislation. It is from precisely that area of New Mexico, covered by the proposed extension, that much of the opposition to the program of range management and stock reduction has derived, and it is the deliberate encouragement given to dissident leadership in this area by Senator Chavez and others, in opposition to the legitimate and proper leadership of the elected Tribal Council, that makes the task so difficult. Passage of the New Mexico Navajo boundary bill would permit an orderly attack on the problem of the Navajos in that region, where it is admittedly most acute.

4. Off-Reservation Wage Work: In 1940 approximately $125,000 were earned by Navajos in privately operated industry and Government work off of the reservation. This source of revenue represents a growing trend which is taking place in spite of language and other differences, causing the Navajos to make a readjustment as a result of necessity and opportunity rather than of choice. The very extensive Defense Program in the Southwest makes it altogether likely that the total of wages earned off of the reservation will be greatly increased in the current year. Our agency officials are taking advantage of this opportunity in every reasonable and desirable manner so as to bring a larger cash income to the Navajos.

5. The Rug Industry: Although there is no proof that the market for the present quality of Navajo rugs can be greatly extended, it has been demonstrated that there is a good market for top quality products. With no extra cost and with little extra effort, the quality of rugs produced by Navajo weavers can be greatly improved. Through the regular agency staff, and with the aid of the Indian Arts and Crafts Board, a continuous effort is being made to persuade the Navajos to produce this better quality of rug. It is not unduly optimistic to expect a 25 percent increase return, if such an improvement can be secured.

6. The Educational Program: Excluding the Hopi, we are this year expending the sum of $1,107,283 on the Navajo educational system. The sum is for the support of 10 boarding and 46 day-community schools. In educational theory, our Navajo school system aims to condition the Navajo people to recognize, explore, and exploit their resource advantages. To accomplish this objective,

this administration has greatly expanded, and continues to expand, the day-community type of school which instructs not only children, but also adults, in the utilization of their facilities. Recognition is given to the expression of the Navajos' own traditions, customs, religion, arts, and language, and each year sees a greater number of native teachers being trained to serve their own people. In spite of the very large expenditure, there are still more than 6,000 Navajo children outside of any school. This is our most difficult educational problem and occupies a central place in our Navajo educational program.

7. The Health Program: Excluding the Hopi, we are this year expending $706,694 on the Navajo health program. The approach is threefold: curative, preventive, and educational. The Service supports 24 physicians, 96 nurses, and 206 other Health Division employees, working in and out of eleven hospital centers. In the current year, the program of eradicating trachoma will be continued, in which case-findings and treatment, particularly of pre-school and adult cases, will be emphasized. As you probably know, our Indian Service has received world-wide recognition for having pioneered the use of sulphanilimide in the treatment of trachoma, from which astounding results are being achieved. The Navajo program also embraces the training of Indians to assist in hospitals and in field medical work and in promoting sanitation measures among their own people. A regular course of instruction for interpreters in health matters is under way. The Service is moving slowly, but deliberately, in enlisting the aid of the medicine men in the promotion of Navajo health.

I shall, of course, be very happy to elaborate further on any or all of the above items of the Navajo program.

Sincerely yours,

Harold L. Ickes

Secretary of the Interior.