accused of having for one
moment countenanced
degradation. These are
ideas that the negro
peace has been brought
by the Rep. & that
much of the misrepresentation
was unfounded. One
needless to say
is uncions to do any good
& is not necessary to make
life very easier for it.
group of young people

E.R.
November 1, 1940

Dear Miss Ilma:

I am enclosing a letter which Miss Pearl Sammett may use. I understand, however, that there are already many, many applicants for a very few jobs as hostess.

Very sincerely yours,

[Signature]

Miss Viola Ilma
Young Men's Vocational Foundation
8 West 40 NYC
November 1, 1940

My Dear General Drum:

I am giving this letter of introduction to Miss Pearl Sammett, who has excellent recommendations and is anxious to have consideration for the job of hostess in the new defense program.

If there is any possibility of her being taken on, I shall appreciate your having someone interview her.

Very sincerely yours,

Lieut. Gen. H. A. Drum, USA
Commanding, Second Corps Area
Governors Island, NY

Sent to Viola Ilma
October 28, 1940

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

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

My wonderful secretary, Pearl Sammett, had to leave because we simply couldn't pay her a larger wage. Being on her own, she naturally felt that she should be advanced from $25 to $35 per week. She is anxious to get an introduction to Lieutenant General H. A. Drum in the interest of obtaining a job as hostess in the new Defense Program. I can recommend her so highly that it would be an asset to the whole program to have her taken on.

Thank you for this courtesy.

Very sincerely,

Viola Ilma

Viola Ilma

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Dr. Herbert D. Williams
November 4, 1940

Dear Miss Ilma:

Mrs. Roosevelt asks me to send you the enclosed letter from Mr. Potosky of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers and to suggest that you write to him.

Very sincerely yours,

Secretary to
Mrs. Roosevelt

Miss Viola Ilma
Young Men’s Vocational Foundation
8 West 40th Street
New York, N.Y.
November 7, 1940

My dear Miss Ilma:

Your story is a lovely one.
I am so glad everything seems to be going so well.

Very sincerely yours,

Miss Viola Ilma
Young Men's Vocational Foundation, Inc.
8 West 40th Street, NYC
My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Thank you for your letter in regard to the misinterpretation that occurred through the press concerning segregation in the army. Walter White has since informed me that the matter has been straightened out to a certain extent. Only last night I attended a conference of young Negroes and it is needless to say that their confidence in the president is real. All the more reason that we turn to the government to help us fight for the advancement of Negroes and in turn the advancement of all the people.

You will be interested to know the outcome of the conference that was held with Betty Hawley and Helen Harris of the National Youth Administration on Monday. For a beginning they are taking ten boys. Under Miss Harris' direction they will be put in work shops. In connection with this, under Miss Hawley's direction they will go to the Defense Training School, thereby working and studying for the Defense Program. They are taking two Negro boys out of every ten, which is at least a beginning, but again a sad indictment, for after all, all Negro boys will be conscripted. However Miss Hawley and Miss Harris agreed that "A foot in the door is a beginning".

This morning I addressed the staff of the Warwick State Training School on the angle of selecting boys for the program so that we will be able to follow up by sending ten boys every few weeks. This is a wonderful beginning in coordination.

There is the problem as to what success they will have to be taken in by the Defense Industries after they have received their training but we will cross that bridge when we come to it.

On the whole I am very enthusiastic about the opportunity and both Miss Hawley and Miss Harris are really anxious to get a working program under way.

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8 WEST 40TH STREET • PENNSYLVANIA 6-9143 • NEW YORK, N.Y.

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VIOLA ILMA
Executive Director

ROBERT R. HANNAH
Assistant Director

- 2 -

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt

October 30th, 1940

We are now about to enter into a successful financing of our organization and I will tell you more of it when the deal is through.

Totally unrelated to my work is the enclosed letter. I merely bring it to your attention. I have a very high regard for Marion Greenwood's work as an artist and of course am interested in seeing women find their right place in all fields.

Before I end I must relate a story which I thought was very moving. On Monday, when the President was in New York City I was down at the Women's Prison Association on Second Avenue and Eighth Street. Walking up a few streets I saw a Home for Aged Orthodox Jewish Men. You know their faces. Some of them so old they could hardly stand up. An efficient nurse in a white outfit and blue cap was pinning Roosevelt buttons on them and they held American flags in their hands. Leaning on their canes they walked to the curb, eagerly awaiting the President's passing through. Their enthusiasm and excitement was a touching scene. Some how, to them, the President answered many of their innermost prayers. Men whose faces were the result of persecution and now aged and in a home, ever hopefully waiting, on the curb to wave to what the President stands for. I thought how remarkable to be so old and to still have the enthusiasm and thrill which is, of course, the very beauty of mankind. It was a photo I shall never forget and a symbol which I knew you would appreciate.

There are so many matters that I seem to constantly bring to your attention that I forget to tell you how very much I appreciate your close attention to them. My only excuse is that it is in the interest of people and it is the small cases and the small stories that add up to the larger picture. I want to thank you for it and in this same note I want to thank you for the time you gave Mr. Golden for I know he was most appreciative.

With constant admiration, I am,

Sincerely yours,

Viola Ilma

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Maurice R. Whitebook
Dr. Herbert D. Williams
October 31st, 1940

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I am enclosing Marion Greenwood's letter which I neglected to enclose in your letter yesterday. I will you please forward it after you have read it as I would like to keep it.

Sincerely,

Viola Ilma

Viola Ilma
Dearest Viola,

How are you? I've just returned from Yaddo (that foundation for creative workers at Saratoga, that she's told you of?) Needless to say, I had a marvellous time painting easel pictures for myself—after these many years of constant mural painting here and in Mexico. It did me worlds of good!

You know I resigned from the Federal Art Project as soon as I finished those frescoes in the Red Hook Community Building in Brooklyn. I want you to come for the dedication. They have set the date for November 27th (the middle of National Art Week) and I think they are also holding a WPA Art exhibit in that auditorium at the same time.

I wanted to ask you, Vi dear, if you think there would be the slightest possibility of Mrs. Roosevelt accepting an invitation to honor the dedication? It was suggested to me at the project which is why I'm writing to you after all you introduced me to her and I told you how wonderfully gracious she was when she last visited Red Hook. When I spoke to her, just as she was stepping in her car—she very kindly turned back to see my murals and seemed to really like them. Let me know what you think about it and meanwhile I want to see you and hear about what
progress you've been making in your own work. I hear fine rumors about it, incidentally.

With love,

as always,

Maurie Greenwood.

P.S. I'm sending you an invitation for the pre-view at the Whitney museum. I have quite a bit of my more work in it. Hope you can come.
November 15, 1940

Miss Viola Ilma
Young Men's Vocational Foundation, Inc.
8 West 40th Street
New York, New York

Mrs. Roosevelt received your telegram of thirteenth and asks me to write you. She has engagement on twenty seventh and cannot accept dedication.

RALPH M. MAGEE
Administrative Officer
Social Correspondence
CA212 29 NT 4 EXTRA NEW YORK NY 12
VIA THE WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON DC 13

MRS FRANKLIN D ROOSEVELT=
HOTEL ABRAHAM LINCOLN SPRINGFIELD ILL=
WILL YOU BE ABLE TO ACCEPT THE DEDICATION TO MARJORIE GREENWOOD'S MURAL AT RED BOOK HOUSING FOR NATIONAL ART WEEK THE DATE IS THE 27TH?

VIOLA ILMA.

27.

THE COMPANY WILL APPRECIATE SUGGESTIONS FROM ITS PATRONS CONCERNING ITS SERVICE.
23 Grove Street
New York, N. Y.
November 7, 1940

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

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Thank you so very much for your letter of introduction to Lieut. General Drum. I have sent it on to him together with my application.

My three years experience with the Young Men’s Vocational Foundation, as well as my past positions, I feel qualify me for the position of Junior Hostess. It is work I feel I am capable of handling. However, as you pointed out to Miss Ilma, there are many applicants -- 1400 for the three openings in our area, but I am nevertheless hopeful and shall let you know the result of my interview.

I am indeed honored to have received your letter of introduction, and wish to thank you once again.

Most sincerely yours,

Pearl Sammett
My dear Miss Ilma:

I have passed on to the President what you say about Mr. Creal. I will try to ask him down later in the winter if I can find a time when the President is not so desperately busy. I never recommend any one.

I think your plan is excellent and I congratulate you. Who is Miss Lewis?

I will gladly arrange to meet with you later on but at the moment I am busier than usual.

Very sincerely yours,

Miss Viola Ilma
Young men's Vocational Foundation, Inc.
8 W. 40th St., NYC
November 20, 1940

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT:

Miss Viola Ilma of the Young Men's Vocational Foundation, Inc., has written me about Mr. Randall Creel, who is in the U. S. Federal District Court as a young attorney. I am attaching the facts concerning him and he wants an appointment as judge in the Federal District Court. He would appreciate an opportunity to talk to you.

I have told Miss Ilma I would pass this information along to you.

E.R.
My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

This morning I am feeling in top shape, mainly because the organization that I have been working with, in hopes that we would merge, has finally officially come through. They had the funds and we had the activity. It means that we will be on solid ground for the rest of our existence. We will not stop raising funds but at least we won't be unstable financially.

I would like to bring up to date what we have been able to accomplish with the Defense Program in relationship to our boys. Two plans have developed, which are as follows:

1. After a meeting with Miss Hawley and Miss Harris it was agreed upon that ten boys would be chosen to go on the N, Y, A, Defense Program under the direction of Miss Harris and at the same time they would go to school under the direction of the Board of Education, which Miss Hawley would handle. The first ten boys will be in Miss Harris' office this coming Thursday. They were carefully selected by the supervisor of case work, Mr. Cooper of Warwick State Training School for Boys. They will work for sixty hours and be paid twenty dollars a month and they will go to school on their own. This program is an encouraging one. There is only one difficulty and that is that so many of our boys cannot possibly live on twenty dollars a month. However, the plan was made possible and we are going through with it as a beginning and are more than enthusiastic because of the quick action taken by Miss Harris and Miss Hawley.

2. Plan two is fully described in a letter which Miss Hawley wrote to Miss Harris. In short, she feels that a full thirty hour a week program under the Board of Education, where the boys concentrate on learning a specific trade, being paid while they go to school, would be the best opportunity for them. From there they will go straight into industrial, commercial jobs, in relationship to the Defense Program. As I see its possibilities, I think it will be something that perhaps a small group of us could put through.
Mrs. Roosevelt

November 13th, 1940

Miss Hawley spoke to Clare Lewis and she was interested. Would it be possible that we could have a small conference with Miss Hawley and Miss Lewis and yourself to devise a sample program under this plan? Both plans running at the same time would make it possible for us to see the difference.

I have also written to Mr. Potosky whom I have met several times and now that our merger is under way plans can be made shortly to develop the labor conference. You probably realize that it takes a good deal of tact to interest Board of Directors in a labor conference and with a new Board I must work slowly to initiate them into the importance that labor plays in the role of placements.

Going back to our merger, it looks as though we will have approximately thirty thousand dollars a year - a jump from our budget indeed, which is now twelve thousand. Imagine - two years ago when I started the YMVF we had free office space and our furniture was free, the secretary got paid occasionally and my salary was not even taken into consideration. I must say that I am proud of the advancement we have been able to make but it is mainly because I feel we have done a constructive piece of work.

There are many people connected with our organization who have been responsible for its growth. Outstanding among them is Randall Creel. Last year he was elected chairman of our board. He became interested in our work through his own job in the United States Federal District Court as a young attorney. He was responsible for getting the Heyden grant. He was also responsible for bringing Judge Knox into the picture and Randy held several meetings with this new organization, the Society for the Prevention of Crime. By bringing Judge Knox to luncheons, his dignity and his opinion of Mr. Creel, and in turn our organization, gave us the proper stability.

I believe I mentioned to you before that shortly the President is to make an appointment, a judgeship in the Federal District Court. Randy is not a climber or a pusher for himself and never will be. He is a
Mrs. Roosevelt

November 13th, 1940

capable lawyer. He has a profound understanding of the problem of
delinquent young men and he stands on his record, a copy of which I
enclose. For this reason I bring his name to your attention.

Objectively I feel that he is a man of great civic responsibility and
of enormous possibilities. He has accomplished a good deal. I feel
certain that Judge Knox and Judge Paterson recommend him highly.

Randy would, I know, appreciate an opportunity to talk to the
President. I have not mentioned that I would write to you.

Sincerely yours,

Viola Ilma

Mrs. Roosevelt
White House
Washington, D. C.

vi/ni
enc.
November 7th, 1940

110 Livingston Street
Brooklyn, N.Y.

Miss Helen Harris, Director
National Youth Administration
265 West 14th Street
New York, N.Y.

Dear Miss Harris:

Now that the busy hayday has passed perhaps we can all settle down with new feelings of courage to carry forward some of the things we have been planning.

The matter now before us for consideration is the question of Viola Ilma's boys. Do you think it would be possible for you to assign a small number of these boys to classes in the vocational schools under National Defense as an experiment. They could attend on a thirty hour week program and be paid while attending. This would mean that they would be given very definite training for a full day of six hours, five days a week or a half evening from four to ten o'clock for five days a week. I think you will agree with me that after a period of perhaps four weeks, it would be easier for us to place them providing, of course, that you, Viola Ilma and I work out the program very carefully with the educational authorities.

I think this might serve as a sample of what might be done eventually in the entire defense program with the cooperation of the National Youth Administration under this new seven million dollar appropriation.

If you find it feasible to accept this setup, you might be willing to take about ten boys. If it receives your approval, I would be very glad to do my share to convince the educational authorities that this idea has merit.

Looking forward to an early conference on this and wishing you every success, I am,

Cordially yours,

Betty Hawley, Secretary
Advisory Board on Industrial Education
November 26, 1940

Dear Miss Ilma:

Mrs. Roosevelt was glad indeed to have the opportunity to read this note and she thinks the story is just grand. She asks me to thank you for sending her the boy’s case history.

Very sincerely yours,

Secretary to
Mrs. Roosevelt

Miss Viola Ilma
Young Men’s Vocational Foundation
8 West 40th Street
New York, N.Y.
November 22nd, 1940

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

It is not often that I send you a case history of a boy because there is too much to be said. However, the enclosed card, which I should like returned for my files, is interesting. The boy is in the army and as he expressed it, he fits in wonderfully.

His background is told in this story. It points out that the Defense Program in some cases can be very constructive for the young people.

This boy's case history is actually four years work.

Very sincerely yours,

Viola Ilma

Mrs. Roosevelt
The White House
Washington, D.C.
WALTER ROACH

12-11-36: Walter Roach came to the Y.M.V.F. Charge was petty larceny and sent to New York City Reformatory. A white catholic boy aged twenty. His father was dead and his mother has been in Rockland State Hospital as a mental case for twenty-two years. As far as the boy was concerned her whereabouts were unknown. When he first came to us the boy was penniless, broken. We obtained a job for him on a Long Island estate, paying only fifteen dollars a month, room and board, but he had nothing and the chance to sleep in a room that was clean and be in the country and eat well seemed stupendous to Walter and he took it.

1-11-37: Walter lost his job because of the winter. When we sent him to one place for a job he fell asleep waiting. Over a period of three weeks we had to lend him money for food and housing.

1-23-37: We got a job for him in the Tonsil Hospital as a general worker, at $15.00 a week. The first job he ever had in his life and he promises his first step would be to erase the debt he owed the organization.

2-26-37: Had refunded ten dollars which he had borrowed. Almost every week thereafter he sent two dollars in money orders until his debt was paid.

3-11-37: He brought in his brother who was never in an institution but was homeless and begged us to help place him so that he would not fall into the same mistakes that Walter himself had fallen into. We placed the boy in a job.

4-9-37: Successfully working, he came in and refunded fifteen dollars and fifty cents which finished up his debt.

5-23-37: He obtained another job in the country. "I have been here a month to date and find it just as enjoyable now as the first day I arrived. Nothing can ever change my longing for the country. The air, the trees, I just revel in it. In fact, as I sit here by the window, penning this note, I can see the rolling hills and dipping, delving valleys and dales. It is beautiful. And a brook, every now and then breaking the landscape up into parcels of property fit for a king".

7-17-37: "The only trouble with this job is that it lasts only until Sept. 1st. I feel more like settling down instead of rolling around like the "stone without the moss". I am fed up with being by myself, not staying long in any one place to make friends enough. When I leave here I will have fifty dollars saved, the rest of which I've sent to my sister".

5-29-39: Walter obtained a job as an elevator operator in Bellevue Hospital. Had been there for two years, starting as an orderly and was raised. "If you wonder why, you have only to look at this letter. It isn't my handwriting. I am having my brother write this because I think he should get better grammatical experience and penmanship".
7-10-39: "By the way, Miss Ilma, I was nearly arrested up here. Surprised? Well, the Federal man who are looking for Robert Irwin of the Easter Sunday triple murder, said that if I had been three inches taller I would have been taken for a ride. Gosh, did I shiver. I am clear of prisons and the law for life, believe me."

10-25-39: Walter was in. Wants to get a license to drive a motor vehicle. This we obtained through the Deputy Commissioner for him. "After having written you about needing a license something has arisen which, 'till I thought of you, "stumped" me. This is where I have to depend on you once more. Three people are to give me letters, (knowing I have been in prison) telling how long they've known me and recommending me to the Commissioner for a license. I can only think of two; you and Mr. Henry, whom you introduced me to. Can you think of a third party? Have been missing some swell jobs by not having the license. Do you think I can get it?"

11-5-39: Walter working successfully. Wants to buy a typewriter on time to learn to type. "I am so glad to hear you vouched for me in regard to the typewriter. I was afraid you wouldn't approve of it but then, perhaps you don't. I can very well see my way clear as to paying for it. I just received a card from the Motor Vehicle Bureau stating that they decided to give me a license."

2-7-40: "I read about you in the Daily Mirror and the Youth Congress. It sounds pretty good. I am working fairly steady now and once in a while, which is quite often, lately, make over time. Can I ever see you on my time off? Gratefully."

9-12-40: Walter came in and wants to get into the army. He was told he could not be accepted because of his prison record. We wrote to the Staff Sergeant telling him we know of his prison record and could recommend the boy due to the fact that his charge of petty larceny was way back in 1936 and that he had paid the money he had borrowed from us and that his development has been more than commendable.

11-13-40: Walter writes: "Your letter of recommendation for the army was a help in getting me in. I seem to fit here wonderfully and am getting on fine."
My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Thank you so much for your telegram which I do appreciate.

For a change I have mostly bad news to account for. I had been extremely hopeful that the Y. M. A. would cooperate with us to the extent of taking on a number of our boys on their Defense Training Program. We sent ten boys down November 8th and to date nothing has happened.

On the Board of Education Program, although Betty Hawley is quite ready to put them in shops, they cannot, however, be paid while they go to school. Enclosed is a letter from the Acting Case Supervisor of Warwick, stressing the importance that they are given some form of income while they are training in the Defense Program. Is there any direct route that I can take to get some action? Is there any budget from W.P.A. where we might get a grant so that we can put some boys in the Training Program? Morally they feel very badly that they cannot serve America. They also feel it would wipe off their reformatory record. If necessary I would come down to Washington if anything could be done.

We sent the boys names, addresses and case histories and did all we could to get the program under way. A month perhaps does not seem a long time to administrators but to the boys who are hard up it is a serious wait and a discouraging one.

Secondly, the merger which was almost through fell to pieces when both my Board and the Board of the Society for the Prevention of Crime met. They were not willing to touch their capital and they wanted to take over our organization with only a guarantee of contributing thirty-five hundred dollars, excluding women on the Board of Directors and, as one of my Board Members expressed, finally excluding me. That would not be so serious save we are a vital organization. We are doing a good job and we are better on our own, though it is more difficult to raise money, particularly since our

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YOUNG MEN'S VOCATIONAL FOUNDATION, INC.
8 WEST 40TH STREET · PENNSYLVANIA 6-9145 · NEW YORK, N.Y.

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CONFIDENTIAL

December 4th, 1940

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Assistant Director

Lillian Rock
Victor Kondio
Frederick R. Sacher
Mrs. Leopold K. Simon
Robert K. Simon
Ordway Read
Walter H. Thayer, Jr.
Mrs. Lesser H. Weil
Morice R. Whitebrook
Dr. Herbert D. Williams
budget has doubled and our placement record has doubled. However our Board of Directors are enthusiastic that we continue our work. One loss might be that the Girl's Division will not get under way quite so rapidly, although I am still tempted to believe that certainly there are enough women in New York who could be made interested in backing a Girl's Division which would cost no more than ten thousand dollars a year.

With Christmas coming along the boys are more than anxious to get placed and we are working very hard at it.

I wanted you to know this news because it all looked so extremely wonderful. The merger has not fallen through completely for the organization that has the money has no activity and I doubt whether they will be able to have an activity unless they are willing to spend money.

Sincerely yours,

Viola Ilma

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

vi/mi

enc.

Mrs. Lillian Alexander
B. J. Barnett
Harold B. Bergen
Helen Blanchard
Richard R. Brown
Col. H. Edmund Bullis
Dr. Emily T. Burr
Joseph Cadden
Elta Castendyck
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Mrs. S. Winston Childs, Jr.

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Commissioner Hubert T. Delany
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William Jourdan Rapp

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Mrs. Leopold K. Simon
Robert K. Strauss
Orndorff Tisdale
Walter N. Thayer, 3rd
Mrs. Lester H. Weiss
Maurice R. Whitebrook
Dr. Herbert D. Williams
NEW YORK STATE TRAINING SCHOOL FOR BOYS
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE
STATE SCHOOL, NEW YORK

NEW YORK CITY OFFICE
205 East 42nd Street, Room 515

November 29, 1940

Miss Viole Ilma
Young Men's Vocational Foundation
9 West 40th Street
New York City

My dear Miss Ilma:

We were extremely pleased to hear about that phase of the Emergency National Defense Program that is to be administered by the New York City Board of Education.

The two significant and unique aspects of the program: concentrated training in the practical application of the job and the payment of a reasonable amount of money during the training period, seem especially satisfactory for boys under our care. The great majority of our boys are from homes of inadequate income. Many of the families are recipients of some form of public assistance. There is the very real need of having our boys contribute financially to the upkeep of themselves and their homes. This is true not only in terms of need, but also in terms of preparing the boy emotionally and psychologically for a more involved treatment program on an individualized basis. We find that it is extremely difficult to initiate intense case work programs with our boys when they are so concerned about questions of maintenance for themselves and their families, and their wanting to have some kind of constructive employment opportunity.

Very truly yours,

Herbert D. Williams
Superintendent

Signed: Robert L. Cooper
acting Case Supervisor

RLC/bmc
My dear Miss Ilma:

I think that placing boys and girls through the unions is a grand idea and I hope this works out successfully.

Very sincerely yours,

Miss Viola Ilma
Young Men's Vocational Foundation, Inc.
2 W. 40th St., NYC
My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

A brief line to let you know that I saw Mr. Potofsky and had a most encouraging interview with him. I had the chance to outline the purpose of our organization and he immediately gave me concrete suggestions. He made it possible for me to meet some of the leaders in his union, including Mr. Alex Cohen and Mr. Mayer Bernstein. Mr. Cohen has already placed a girl from Bedford.

Mr. Bernstein was so interested in our work that he was quite certain that girls could be placed and was interested in developing a shop at Bedford where the girls would be trained so that upon their release they would be eligible for jobs immediately. I am writing to Miss Additon on this. I think it is a most important phase which should be worked out not only in the Girls Institution but the Boys as well.

Although I have been enthusiastic about having a labor conference I have come to the conclusion that the best plan is to meet people who can place the boys directly and keep in touch with them and for the time being forget about a large conference. On this most labor people agree. Perhaps later on to give a sense of unity we shall carry out our plans for a labor conference. If a hundred locals place five boys a year there would be five hundred placements alone.

I cannot express how delighted I am with this prospect because I feel that when the boys and girls have a chance to be placed through unions their wages and hours will give them a fair chance to start a new life and have new opportunities. Aside from the fact that they can get jobs they can also get into union activities which involve recreation and education. Frankly I would consider it a great stride if some day all our placements are made in union shops.

Sincerely yours,

Viola Ilma

December 9th, 1940

Viola Ilma

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Dr. Herbert D. Williams
December 13, 1940

My dear Miss Ilma:

You might try presenting your problem about placing negro boys in jobs to the Rosenwald Fund. I don't know if they would help you, but there would be no harm in trying. I have nothing to do as yet with allocating funds.

Very sincerely yours,

Miss Viola Ilma
Young Men's Vocational Foundation, Inc.
8 West 40th Street
New York, New York
December 10th, 1940

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

One of the greatest problems we have is the placement of our Negro boys. We now have almost twice as many Negro boys as white boys to place and are not sufficiently effective.

We would like to be able to put on a Negro worker to handle the placement of Negro boys and have in mind, which is off the record, Mr. Collier of the Urban League. In order to do this it is an added expenditure of five thousand dollars including salary, added rent space, telephone, stationery and so forth. Do you think if we send a prospectus of how we would use the money and for what purpose to the Rosenwald Fund that they would be interested?

Frankly I cannot think of a more practical way of serving the Negro youth in Harlem and to help place them in jobs upon their release from reform schools. The delinquency record in Harlem is more than doubled. The institutions are getting more Negro boys than white and the problem is piling up and we think we can make a constructive dent on the situation by pointing out a way.

Appreciating your opinion on this matter, I am,

Sincerely yours,

Viola Ilma

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

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December 21, 1940

My dear Miss Ilma:

I think you are justified in being proud of the letter, a copy of which you sent to me.

I am sorry I never give letters of introduction to Mr. Baruch.

Very sincerely yours,

Miss Viola Ilma
Young Men's Vocational Foundation, Inc.
9 W. 40th St., NYC
December 17th, 1940

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Enclosed is a letter of which I am very proud.

Sincerely,

Viola Ilma

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

vi/ml
enc.

P.S. Could I possibly have a letter of introduction to Barney Baruch? I directly want to ask him for funds.
December 17th, 1940

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Enclosed is a letter of which I am very proud.

Sincerely,

Viola Ilma

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

vi/mi enc.

P.S. Could I possibly have a letter of introduction to Barney Baruch? I directly want to ask him for funds.
December 14, 1940

Mr. Edgar Doubleday
The Hayden Foundation
25 Broad Street
New York City

My dear Mr. Doubleday:

It is with the greatest pleasure that I write this letter to tell you that I am an enthusiastic supporter of the Young Men's Vocational Foundation. Not in many years have I come across an organization with as much vitality and direct bearing on individual life as this. It is not the policy of this Department to attempt to present any persuasive arguments to any organization in the State similar to yours, but because the work which the Young Men's Vocational Foundation has done for us has been of a very high order, it has seemed fitting for me to present our point of view and testimony.

My own feeling is that this activity is one which should be carried out by a public department and, as a matter of fact, we have viewed it as an experiment which some day may be taken over by the public authorities. However, we are not yet far enough advanced in government to do this, hence the need to have some private agency undertake the task.

The reconditioning of juvenile delinquents is so much a factor of getting a job that we have been greatly pleased with the number of placements which this agency has made of the boys referred to them by the New York State School at Warwick. I am impressed by the thoroughness of the organization's work and also by the group of young men who are on its Board of Directors. I am impressed by the imagination which lies back of the Executive Director, Miss Viola Ivis, and of course I am impressed by the fact that Dr. Williams, our Superintendent at Warwick, is so sure of the results which have already been achieved and has such great hopes for the future. I feel as he does that this organization has a great deal to give us in our job of re-establishing delinquent boys in the community. This type of work cannot be done by the normal employment service, but needs to have a drive of imagination and possess a freedom of action that normally such agencies do not possess.

I hope you will not consider it presumptuous of me to send you this letter, but I am making an exception in this instance since I believe it is an occasion in which we would be remiss in our job if we did not bring our point of view to the proper authorities.

Very sincerely yours,

David C. Adie
Commissioner

(Signed) Commissioner
My dear Mr. Roosevelt,

I cannot tell you how thrilled I was to receive your photo. Really these are few things I want to tell for myself, but this photo is one treasure that will always inspire me to live up to what your ideals are for American men and women.

I take this gift most sincerely and promise you that in my small way I have already pledged my life to help young people.

I am truly deeply moved.

This afternoon at 2 o'clock Mr. Creed & I have an appointment with the Hayden Foundation. Last year they gave us $500 — we never met with them. Today we do. The outcome will mean a great deal.

The past two weeks we spent with the Bedford girls — all in jobs now $15 a month. They are delighted. More than ever I'd like to start a girl division perhaps this coming year.

A great many thanks.

1 think the photo is the most beautiful one you have ever seen.

Dec. 3rd, 1940

Mr. Roosevelt

My best regards,

[Signature]

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December 31st, 1940

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Thank you for your check to our Christmas fund. Last year we took in seven hundred dollars and this year we are nearing the fifteen hundred mark.

Recently I heard from Ann Morgan's secretary that she will return soon, and as soon as she does I am going to call a group of women together with the hope that we will be able to raise the funds to start the Girl's Division. With the few girls we have been able to place we recognize that a job is not as difficult to obtain for them as is the problem they have with their leisure time. This is mainly one of getting the opportunity to mix in society. By that I mean community activities, and to be able to find their own places as individuals. Another problem is the problem of their not having sufficient training to enable them to use the job opportunity that now exists, a phase which I am sure we can work out with Miss Additon of Bedford.

On the boys side, we have a concern at the present time, of finances which are not as high as I would wish. However with the New Year coming I have hopes that things will not be too difficult.

Mr. Robert Hannum of our office is now taking charge of the Defense Program and I have asked him to let you know of the progress being made, which seems to be quite favorable at the moment.

I received the letter which Commissioner Studebaker wrote to you and have passed it on to Mr. Hannum.

My best wishes to you for a very happy New Year, but recognize that it will be a solemn year to face.

Very sincerely yours,

Viola Ilma
My dear Miss Ilma:

Mrs. Roosevelt is very sorry that she has no time free when she could lunch with you. However, she could see you at her apartment, 20 East 11th Street, at either 9:30 a.m. or 4:00 p.m. on January 17.

Will you let me know at once which hour is more convenient for you as Mrs. Roosevelt's calendar fills up very quickly.

Very sincerely yours,

Secretary to
Mrs. Roosevelt

Miss Viola Ilma
Young Men's Vocational Foundation, Inc.
8 West 40th Street
New York, New York
January 7th, 1941

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I spoke to Betty Hawley yesterday and she mentioned that she had heard from you.

Would it be possible for you to have lunch with us some time next week to discuss further the plans on the Defense Program which we have initiated via mail?

The N. Y. A. is working out fairly well.

We have been terribly busy with the Christmas rush and now looking forward to a full year.

Appreciating your letting me know if an appointment can be arranged, I am,

Sincerely yours,

Viola Ilma

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

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My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Very bad news. The Hayden Foundation decided not to give us a grant again this year simply because they thought it was unwise to set a precedent. That means we are $5,000 cut and brings us down to almost no funds whatsoever. At present I am aiming to get ten people to give a hundred dollars each so that at least the month of February will be covered and I think I have accomplished this.

Your suggestion of a luncheon at the White House is one ray of hope and also Newbold Morris suggested having a luncheon at which the Mayor would speak, which also might be promising. I think I can have the opportunity to meet other people as we move along, but things are in a discouraging mood at the present time.

Do you feel that a small luncheon, with fewer people, is a wiser plan than a larger luncheon? Would you want me to get up a list to supplement yours? If so I shall work on it immediately, particularly if you can give me an idea as to how many people we should have, and also when.

Have you had a chance to talk to Dr. Alexander of the Rosenwald Fund, or with the Federal State Employment on the suggestions that I gave concerning a special division for socially handicapped people? Or any further news on the possibility of boys, with regard to getting into the Army or Navy? And have you had a chance to speak to Barney Ehrich?

I frankly might admit that our Board almost decided to close the office, feeling that it would be so difficult to raise funds but I won against that view point because I am positive that we can raise twelve thousand a year, if not more, to do the valuable work that is before us.

Sincerely,

Viola Ilma

January 26, 1941

Viola Ilma
February 21, 1941

My dear Miss Ilma,

Mrs. Roosevelt will be glad to see you if you can come to her apartment, 20 East 11th Street, at nine o'clock on February 27.

Very sincerely yours,

Secretary to
Mrs. Roosevelt

Miss Viola Ilma
Young Men's Vocational Foundation, Inc.
8 East 40th Street
New York, New York
February 20th, 1941

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I have just returned from Oklahoma, after spending a few days with Mr. Whiteside and Mr. Fields of the Fields Foundation, and I had a fine opportunity to hear of their work.

They also took me to the Girl's Industrial School, headed by Mrs. Creighton Burnham who inaugurated the "date right" which, much to her regret, was cancelled. She said it was a great success and I was in favor of it and thought it was a healthy plan.

The plans for the Dinner are complete and I am quite delighted about it. I would, however, like to have a chance to see you and talk over a few matters. Would you be able to give me a short amount of time when you plan to come to New York next time?

Most sincerely yours,

Viola Ilma

Mrs. Elinor Roosevelt
The White House
Washington, D. C.
February 26, 1941

Miss Malvina C. Thompson
20 East 11th Street
New York, New York

Miss Ilma will be at the apartment at nine a.m.
Friday morning.

U.T. Lund
February 25th, 1941

My dear Miss Thompson:

I will be glad to meet Mrs. Roosevelt on the 27th of February and will be at her apartment at nine o'clock.

Sincerely yours,

Viola Ilma
Viola Ilma

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

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Maurice R. Whitehead
Dr. Herbert D. Williams
February 25th, 1941

My dear Miss Thompson:

I will be glad to meet Mrs. Roosevelt on the 27th of February and will be at her apartment at nine o'clock.

Sincerely yours,

Viola Ilma

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

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March 5th, 1941

My dear Miss Thompson:

I thought you would like to have the confidential report which I have received. I would be apt to agree very closely with Mr. Brad Williams. He is a former ex-judge and very well known in Oklahoma. His reactions were rather duplicate to mine. This report was obtained by Mr. Robert McCormick who is associated with our organization and he is a law partner of the firm of Alexander & Green.

The report from Mr. Vance Griffith to Mr. Henthorne is the information that the Fields Foundation gives out quite openly.

Tomorrow I am bringing the situation before our Board members and will let you know the results of the meeting and in the meantime I do hope that I hear from you on this situation before the White House dinner.

Sincerely yours,

Viola Ilma

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

vi/ni
encs.

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Herbert D. Williams, Ph.D.
Dear Bob:

Please excuse my delay in answering your letter but I wanted to check a little more on Whiteside and Fields before writing to you. Incidentally, Miss Ilma called me this past Friday and I saw her for a little while Friday evening and enjoyed talking to her a great deal. She told me of your activities in social work. I was delighted to hear about them.

I do not know that the information I can give you on Allen Whiteside and Ben Fields will be of much benefit to you but at the same time I will give you what I know. In the first place, I have known Allen Whiteside and known of his family for many years. He was at one time connected with the Sinclair Oil Company in a responsible position. I do not know why he terminated the relationship but for some years he has been in business for himself. He is married and has a grown daughter. He is a very pleasant man to deal with, and he and his family are highly thought of in this community. I do not know what his financial condition is except that he is apparently fairly well to do as he and his wife and daughter seem to do most of the things they want to do. My opinion is that you can rely upon Allen Whiteside.

As to Ben Fields, I know little of him. As I understand it, he was convicted some years ago of fraud and was sent to the Federal Penitentiary at Leavenworth, Kansas, for a term of years and served several years. Someone told me they thought he served seven years but I am not certain of that. The reputation of Mr. Fields, so far at least as the past is concerned, is none too good. It may be that he has reformed and that the Fields Foundation is the outgrowth of a great reformation on his part, but I personally am not so sure. In other words, I want to reserve my judgment so far as he is concerned. The strongest thing that can be said for Fields is that Allen Whiteside has become associated with him in this Fields Foundation.

I do not believe that Mr. Whiteside or Mr. Fields has ever had any experience in social work at all and I think their approach to the problem of handling "prison work" is largely that of a layman, except for the valuable experience along that line obtained by Mr. Fields while in prison. I do not know from what source the Fields Foundation is obtaining its money or, so far as that is concerned, how much money it has. My impression is that it has been rather vague in its statements on this phase of its work. Also I do not know whether he has any established policies for handling men who have served terms in prison. I think the consensus of opinion here is that these men have an idea and some financial resources but that judgment should be reserved on the value of their work and their general plan until they have been in operation for a long enough period to determine what they are doing. I have talked to one or two social workers in this city who are somewhat familiar with their project and their opinion is along the lines outlined in this letter. I do not wish to appear to be putting a quietus upon possibly a worthy project, but I want to give you my idea of it.
Of course this is given in the strictest confidence as I do not care to have either Mr. Whiteside or Mr. Fields know that I had made any report on them or the Fields Foundation. I feel particularly that way about Mr. Whiteside as his daughter and his wife are good friends of my wife, my mother and my sister, and as I have said, I feel confident that so far as Mr. Whiteside is concerned, he is sincere in what he is doing. If I can obtain any further information for you, I shall be glad to do so. My guess is that Miss Ilma from her investigation can give you more accurately the picture than I, had because of her thorough investigation of the Foundation, I would be inclined to take her judgment rather than my own.

I hope that you can get out to his part of the country some time this spring. I would be delighted to see you.

Sincerely,

Brad
TO:  MR. Henthorne

From: Vance Griffith

Date: 18 Feb 41

Subj: Fields Foundation

The Fields Foundation, founded by Benjamin F. Fields and operating allegedly as a non-profit institution under a charter granted by the State of Oklahoma, has been in existence since the fall of 1940.

Fields, who insists he serves without remuneration, is the president. Allen Whiteside is executive director. Sam Clammer is the secretary. Other members of the board of directors are Mrs. Minnie Cammock, Shawnee, Harry Schwartz, and D. B. Winchell of Mid-West Chevrolet.

On the Board of Advisors are Judge Alfred P. Murrah, Mrs. Mabel Bassett, Senator Elmer Thomas, Roy Beat of the Colorado State Penitentiary, and a number of other influential persons.

The purpose of the foundation is the rehabilitation of deserving former inmates of penal institutions who have been recommended to the Foundation by the wardens of various prisons. Rehabilitation is being accomplished by making small loans to former prisoners and then finding them jobs.

Fields and Whiteside recently conferred with Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt in Washington in an effort to interest her in their work. They also are the original sponsors of a bill designed to permit former prisoners to serve in the armed forces of the United States as well as to receive benefits from federal agencies. Senator Thomas, they say, has agreed to introduce this bill into Congress.
Mr. Norris Henthorne  
c/o World Publishing Company  
World Building  
Tulsa, Oklahoma

My dear Norris:--

IN RE: THE FIELDS FOUNDATION

Pursuant to our telephone conversation of the 18th wherein you inquired about the above named concern, I have procured and am enclosing herewith all available information with reference thereto. I am sure you will find the enclosures self-explanatory.

If there is any further information you may need, do not hesitate to call upon me.

With kindest personal regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

Sam Clammer

B: C:

B INC.
Can't Find Job, Wants Jail Again

The boy—Charles Walter Isaacs—was referred by the Tulsa Daily World of September 6, 1940, to The Fields Foundation, naturally the Foundation accepted the assigned task, for it is typical of the need to which the Foundation is dedicated.

Charles now is employed regularly in a respectable place, and is apparently settled and happy. We are proud of him and proud of our ability to save a boy from dependency and probable tragedy.

Shortly after the incident described in this clipping from the Tulsa Daily World of September 6, 1940, the boy—Charles Walter Isaacs—was referred to The Fields Foundation. Naturally, the Foundation accepted the assigned task, for it is typical of the need to which the Foundation is dedicated.

Charles now is employed regularly in a respectable place, and is apparently settled and happy. We are proud of him and proud of our ability to save a boy from dependency and probable tragedy.

Charles Walter Isaacs, 20 years old, told Federal Probation Officer J. R. Small Thursday that he couldn't get a job, that he didn't have any place to stay and that he wanted to go back to federal prison.

Isaacs—husky, blond and blue-eyed—was released April 3 from the federal reformatory at El Reno when federal officials approved his conditional freedom because of his good behavior.

Isaacs was sent to the El Reno reformatory in December, 1937, from this federal district after he pleaded guilty to a charge of stealing money from the post office in his father's name at Pittstown.

Small explained to Isaacs that he couldn't send him back to prison. He gave Isaacs 50 cents and told him to get something to eat and come back Friday morning, to talk things over with him and with William K. Powers, assistant district attorney.

"This boy has been a good boy," Small said. "But I believe he will be a good boy if he can find a job and support himself. He's tried to get a job here, I know. But all he has been able to find is occasional work. People apparently don't want him because of his prison record."

Isaacs' only relative in Tulsa is a brother. Isaacs stayed with his brother, a bakery employee, when he first was released from prison, according to his story to Small. Then, Isaacs said, his brother's wife objected to having the former convict in the house. She moved her belongings and left Isaacs and his brother, Isaacs said.

Wednesday night, Isaacs told Small, his brother's wife came back but told Isaacs he'd have to leave.

Isaacs wants to be a plumber, Small said. He studied plumbing at El Reno, liked it and made good progress in it, according to the reformatory report.

The federal records at the time of Isaacs' arrest in 1937 described him as "an alert, unstable, impulsive youth." The officers said he was a "simple adult maladjustment." The records show he belonged to no church and attended none. He was brought up as a young child by a grandmother in Shawnee attended school through the eighth grade, and then quit.

Small said Isaacs is "just a boy who hasn't had a very good chance because of lack of parental guidance."

Isaacs' father was married once before he married Isaacs' mother. The marriage that began young Isaacs ended in divorce. His father subsequently was married twice and divorced twice.

His mother, after the divorce from his father, was married three times. Two marriages ended in divorce and one in the death of the husband, the records show.

When Isaacs was arrested, he admitted the postal thefts. Officers found $333.24 missing from the post office and both Isaacs and his father were charged, according to federal records. The records show no disposition of the case against the father.

Isaacs told officers he stole from the post office and spent the money on whiskey, gambling and dances. He was about 16 or 17 years old when.

The only jobs Isaacs ever had before he went to prison were those of waiter in a night club and common labor.

Small said Isaacs has reported regularly at the probation office since his release from the reformatory. The reports, Small said, have been good. Isaacs found little jobs that earned him a few cents and fed him, Small said, and he stayed out of trouble.

Small and Attorney Powers said maybe they could find someone who would give Isaacs a steady job. That's what the conference is for.
Tulans to Establish Model Farm Colony
To Give Former Convicts Another Chance

Will Get Chance to Learn Scientific Farming,
Earn Their Way

By VANCE GRIFFITH

As a definite and specific step toward aiding in the rehabilitation
of paroled and discharged inmates of penal institutions, the Fields Foundation, recently
established for this purpose and with headquarters in Tulsa, will
establish a rehabilitation farm in Oklahoma. Where such a project will
be able to recruit new inmates of prisons will be enabled to readjust
themselves to society and, at the same
time, learn scientific farming and
engage in gainful employment, according
to an announcement made
Saturday by Benjamin F. Fields,
President of the foundation.

The board of directors of the
Fields Foundation has authorized the immediate purchase and establish-
ment of a model farm.

Farms, a farming containing not less than two sections of land. A suitable
location for this humanitarian
venture will be selected as soon as possible.

It is becoming increasingly diffi-
cult to find employment for paroled and discharged inmates of penal
institutions. Yet these individuals
have paid their debt to society in
full and certainly deserve an opportu-
nity to take their places as a
respected member of society with-
out an inferiority complex and with
out being regarded as a future menage to society.

And it is with this viewpoint in
mind that the Fields Foundation will
soon establish the first of a series of
model farms where men will have
an opportunity to adjust themselves
where they will be provided with an
opportunity to work in the open air
plant and harvest crops of all de-
scriptions, operate tractors and farm
machinery, learn dairying and ani-
mal husbandry and poultry raising
and provide themselves with a
working knowledge of the funda-
amentals of agriculture.

Benjamin Fields' enthusiasm
shone through as he continued to
dwell at length on the most recent
project to be sponsored by the
foundation which he recently founded
and which is attracting both the
financial and general public
interest.

This model rehabilitation farm,
he said, "will be operated on a non-
profit basis and in so far as the founda-
tion is concerned. All of the income
from the crops, cotton, wheat and
other crops as well as from dairing
and animal husbandry and other
sources will be divided equally
among the former inmates of penal
institutions who will operate the
farm.

And the actual operation of the
farm will be under the supervision
and guidance of experts in their
particular line. The foundation will
employ an expert in scientific farming
who will be competent to in-
struct the workers in the operation
of tractors and farm machinery
and will even teach some of them to
become seed experts.

"Summing it all up, it is our hope
that every selected worker on this
model rehabilitation farm will gain
a working knowledge of farming,
including selective breeding, raising
cattle, hogs and poultry, and the
care and operation of all types of
farm machinery."

After a brief pause, Fields gave
more details concerning the farm
which the foundation will purchase
and place in operation.

"This farm," he declared, "will
have suitable quarters for married
men as well as for single men. The
men with families will live in neat
cottages which will be erected and
the single men will have their
quarters in a dormitory constructed
for that purpose. The wives of the
workers will operate a co-operative
poultry farm which will have a
college graduate as its superintendent.

"Our venture in rehabilitation
will be self-sustaining in every respect.
When the education of a worker is
completed, the foundation will make
an effort to secure a position for
him as superintendent or manager of
private farms in different parts
of the nation or, if the worker pref-
ners, the foundation will assist him
in actually securing a farm of his
own."

Directors and advisors of the
Fields Foundation who also favor
this model rehabilitation farm projec-
tend include: Allen Whiteside, ex-
cutive director; Senator Elmer
Thomas, Mrs. Mabel Bassett, Judge
Alfred P. Mursah, Lillian McDermott,
Mrs. Minnie O. Cammack, Harry
Schwartz, Sam Clammer, Frank
Settle and D. B. Wincheil.

Allen Whiteside declared that an
effort to find a suitable location for
the model rehabilitation farm would
be instituted without delay.

"All of the directors and advisors
of the foundation as well as myself
are of the opinion that this farm
should be placed in actual opera-
tion at the earliest possible date," he
said. "It's greatest value will pos-
sibly lie in the fact that it will serve
as a proving ground for former in-
nates of penal institutions who wish
to prove that they are ready to be
come good citizens and make a new
place for themselves in society.

"Formerly, when a man was re-
leased from prison he had no op-
portunity to readjust himself to a
changing world and, because he
could not find immediate employ-
ment, was often returned to prison.
It is my sincere belief that the
rehabilitation farm now contempl-
ated by the Fields Foundation will
enable many deserving individuals to
become useful citizens."
Thomas in Rehabilitation Work as Fields Advisor

Senator Elmer Thomas has accepted an invitation to become an advisor on the board of directors and advisors of the Fields Foundation and pledged his co-operation in the rehabilitation of worthy paroled and discharged inmates of penal institutions throughout the nation.

The formal acceptance of this invitation was announced jointly by Benjamin F. Fields, president; Allen Whiteside, executive director, and Sam Clammer, secretary of the Fields Foundation.

"It was with a full knowledge of the moral responsibilities involved that I have joined my efforts with those of Judge Alfred P. Murrah and other members of the board of directors and advisors of the foundation," Senator Thomas said.

"The prevention of crime in all of its phases is one of the vital social problems of our nation whether we consider it from the angle of detection, punishment, prevention or rehabilitation," Senator Thomas said.

"When we know that each year approximately 80,000 men and women from our penal institutions are being turned back into society, we can not begin to estimate the economic value of the work of rehabilitation being accomplished by the Fields Foundation.

"It is my sincere hope that the public-spirited citizens of the nation will lend moral and financial aid to its program. Rehabilitation can not be fully effective until the public accepts its responsibility to help in that rehabilitation by supplying employment for the worthy released prisoner and regarding him as the responsibility of society."
WHITESIDE AIDS FREED CONVICTS

He Becomes Executive Director of Fields Foundation

Following his resignation as a director of the Sinclair Prairie Oil company, after nearly 24 years of service, Allen Whiteside announced Saturday he had accepted an invitation to become executive director of the Fields Foundation, a national organization engaged in the work of rehabilitating deserving paroled and discharged inmates of penal institutions.

Whiteside will take up his new duties Monday with offices at the headquarters of the foundation in the Petroleum building.

"I first became interested in the rehabilitation of worthy former prisoners through the efforts of Benjamin F. Fields, president of the foundation," Whiteside said. "The more I thought of this matter, the more impressed I became with the need for such an institution as he has founded.

"For some time I have felt I would like to do something to help my fellow man, something for which a vital need existed, and I am confident that no individual was ever more in need of assistance than a worthy individual recently discharged from a prison. When I was invited to devote my full time to aiding in carrying out the aims and ideals of the Fields Foundation, I accepted without hesitation.

Would Stop Crime.

"To eliminate crime, the annual national bill for which totals $13,000,000,000 and which is daily increasing, is the ideal of the foundation. It is my belief that this can be accomplished to a considerable extent by finding honon employment for former inmates of prisons who have paid their debt to society and wish to become respected members of that same society.

"In the work of rehabilitating such individuals, the foundation will be dealing directly with the most difficult of all things to influence, human nature, and with one of the most complex and baffling of all nature's creations, human beings. It's progress toward this goal, naturally, will be dependent upon the moral responsibility and the aid rendered by public spirited citizens who have come to the realization that society must solve the problem of paroled and discharged inmates of penal institutions in a logical and humane manner."

In referring to his new appointment, Whiteside also expressed his appreciation for the confidence placed in him by the members of the board of directors and sponsors of the organization.

"I am deeply grateful," he said, "that such public spirited citizens as Judge Alfred P. Murray, Sam Clammer, Frank Settle, Harry Schwartz, D. B. Winchell, Mrs. Minnie O. Cammack, and the Hon. Lillian McDermott of Little Rock, Ark., should place such trust in me and I shall, in every respect, attempt to merit their confidence.

Will Tackle Big Problem.

"It is my intention to devote virtually all of my time to a vigorous prosecution of the foundation's program. These individuals are faced with an extremely difficult problem, the difficulty of which very few actually realize.

"The majority of them do not know what to do when they are released from a prison. They do not know where or how they can find work, where they can live or who will lend them money until such time as they are enabled to adjust their future course of existence.

"This period of readjustment is a particularly vital problem which must be solved in order that the future actions of between 60,000 and 70,000 former prisoners may not act as a boomerang to society.

"Speaking today of Allen Whiteside's acceptance of the invitation, charged from the board of directors of the foundation and myself were gratified. It is through the whole hearted co-operation of such humanitarians that the aims and ideals of the foundation will be realized."

...
MURRAH TO ASSIST FORMER CONVICTS

Federal Circuit Court
Judge an Adviser on Fields Foundation

Alfred P. Murrah, judge of the United States circuit court of appeals, long interested in the rehabilitation of paroled and discharged inmates of penal institutions, Wednesday accepted an invitation to become an adviser on the board of directors of the Fields Foundation, according to Benjamin F. Fields, president of the foundation.

"The acceptance of this invitation by Judge Murrah to serve on the board of directors and sponsors of the foundation was highly gratifying both to myself and to the other members of the board," Fields announced. "When men of his caliber and eminent legal standing consent to aid in the important work of rehabilitating deserving former prisoners, it gives me definite assurance that all the aims and ideals of the foundation will be successfully carried out."

In formally consenting to accept the moral responsibility as a member of the board of directors and sponsors, Judge Murrah said, "The invitation to become an adviser of the board of directors of the Fields Foundation is appreciated and I accept with pleasure."

"So long as I live," Judge Murrah continued, "I shall never be too busy to assist in the rehabilitation of those who have erred."

Long an advocate of the credo that the ultimate aims of law enforcement are the protection of society, Judge Murrah has often stated that these aims can be accomplished only by virtue of a co-ordinated and continuous program beginning with the prevention of crime and ending with an earnest effort to rehabilitate the offender who has been paroled or discharged from a penal institution. "Exactly such a program as this is included in the aims of the Fields Foundation," President Benjamin F. Fields pointed out, "and it is my sincere hope that, through the cooperation of such humanitarian and public-spirited citizens as Judge Murrah the foundation will justify its existence."

FORMER

TULSA DAILY WORLD, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 1940
EX-CONVICT AID ASKED FROM U.S.

Tulsa Pushes Bill to Allow Released Prisoners to Enlist

Benjamin F. Fields, president of the Fields Foundation—an organization devoted to the rehabilitation of former inmates of penal institutions—returned to Tulsa Wednesday after attending the American Prison Congress at Cincinnati.

Fields also visited Washington for the purpose of conferring with Senator Elmer Thomas with regard to the welfare of paroled and discharged prisoners.

While in Washington, Fields urged Senator Thomas and his colleagues to sponsor a bill in Congress that would permit former inmates of prisons to enlist in the army as well as to be accepted in CCC camps and other relief agencies operated by the federal government.

"Thousands of former prisoners would welcome an opportunity to take an active part in the defense measures of the United States," Fields declared, "and Senator Thomas gave assurance that he would consider the immediate sponsorship of such a bill. His reactions to the idea were gratifying."

The Fields Foundation, which was recently granted a state charter permitting it to operate as a philanthropic, nonprofit organization and which includes a number of prominent Oklahoma citizens among its directors and sponsors, will open executive offices in Washington within the coming two weeks and the future scope of its work will be nation-wide.

Fields declared that the Foundation had become a member of the American Prison Association and the American Probation Association and, in the future, would co-operate closely with prison wardens, penal officials, penologists and other members of that association.
THE

Fields Foundation

Presentation

... One ...
RELEASE....

Every hour of every day, somewhere in the United States, the outer gates of some penal institution swing open, literally disgorging into the stream of society men and women who, having completed their sentences, are to be "Freed".

Somewhere, some Warden has just shaken hands with these men and women and in effect said: "Go and sin no more!"

THE SENTENCE BY THE JUDGE....

Months or years ago a Judge said to these men and women, "The judgment of this court is that you shall be confined in prison for a term of 1, 2, 5, 10 years." That sentence, severe as it might have seemed at the moment of pronouncement, was infinitely less severe than the sentence "Society" is now about to pronounce upon this FREE (?) man or woman.

THE SUMMATION....

As the gates swing outward, Society reviews the years of servitude, and this FREE man or woman, must listen:

"You were uniformed—your name became a number—your physical activities were regimented to the nth degree. Your need for constructive thinking was taken from you—shelter, clothing, food were
provided for you—Every normal emotional expression was denied to you. You were surrounded with the most vicious of all environment. You were forced to witness the return of other men and women, who had been released but who failed—perhaps not entirely due to their own shortcomings, to breach the tide of a very competitive existence."

"Those friends to whom you might now have turned, have, during the years, become estranged or lost to you.

"Your home, such as it was, has been broken.

"You have been provided with a cheap suit of prison-made clothing, so that all peace officers may recognize you, thus, your every act will be viewed with suspicion.

"You have been supplied with a capital which should leave you in want within a week."

"But You Are FREE!"

THE SENTENCE BY SOCIETY....

The sentence of Society is, having branded you with the stigma, "ex-convict,"

"You are to return to a life where competition is keen and in which men and women who have never been as unfortunate as you have been have failed and are daily failing."

"Every possible obstacle to honest employment is to be placed in your path. You are to be shunned and despised, and even the right to die for your country in armed conflict is to be withheld from you.

"Like Pontius Pilate of old, having accomplished all possible harm to you, having provided no system of assistance for you, Society now washes its hands of you . . . ."

The gates have now been closed behind them—and these ex-inmates are FREE.

This is the portrait of a released ex-inmate.

The most vital need of this released man or woman is employment—immediate employment.

A "SIX TIME LOSER" SAYS:

With reference to employment, "Six Time Loser," writing through "LIBERTY," December 10, 1938, presents a vivid picture of the ex-inmate from the moment of release, frankly, fearlessly and graphically:

"* * * Who'll hire him? Will you?

"Where did you work last?" employers are sure to ask him, and they have a perfect right to know. Can he say: "In the X Penitentiary, for Warden Z. I worked for him there for two, ten, or twenty-five years? And if he lies, his phoney references are quickly checked up on and the job gone anyway. So what?"

"Well, I know what I have done. I stuck it out honestly as long as I could—as long as my few measly dollars lasted—and then I stole. I tried my damndest to find any kind of honest work, couldn't do
it—then stole. And not just once or twice but hundreds of times! It was steal or starve with me every time, I tell you; and any hungry man will steal. You would. If you think you wouldn't, then you really must try it some time!"

"** I personally know more than ten thousand discharged prisoners, and I know that not one man in twenty goes back to a life of crime after his first clash with the law for any reason in the world except because he has to do so merely to exist!"

"** According to J. Edgar Hoover's own figures, it costs the taxpayers of the United States more than fifteen billion dollars a year to fight crime. There are thousands of murders in this country every year—most of them committed in connection with some robbery—and unquestionably a large percentage of them committed by discharged prisoners, men actually forced to steal or starve."

"No, it is not the prisons themselves that raise all the hell with us fellows. It is their aftermath! It is you that we are afraid of. You and your ignorance of exactly what we are up against. You and your quick willingness to blame us because we have to eat! In prison, we got by. We had a roof over our heads and food for our bellies. You deny us these things from the very minute we are set "free," and call us names and send us back to prison. I don't exaggerate. I am but partially to blame. I can't beat a game that has all of the cards stacked against me. And neither could you, in my shoes. The only wonder to me is that I haven't done worse by you than I have. So far, I have held my many crimes to straight theif. Others haven't always been so considerate of you!"

THE NEED OF A FRIEND....

If there is to be any rehabilitation of first offenders, any activity on behalf of the ex-inmate must have begun before the moment of release; when, if ever, the ex-inmate needs, besides immediate employment, a FRIEND.

A friend who is sincere, who understands their problems and handicaps and who can and will financially assist them with immediate funds, help them secure employment, and by wise counsel and timely advice assist these unfortunate men and women in the rejuvenation of a much devitalized morale.

Such a friendship, so desperately needed by these helpless, bewildered men and women, can only be adequately provided by a private organization maintained by private funds.

No state or federal organization has or ever can fulfill this requirement.

An organization directed and supervised by men and women who sympathetically and understandingly know the problems of the ex-inmate; an organization of such integrity that its influence with reference to employment opportunities for ex-inmates will be accepted—and of such strength that funds can be loaned for temporary relief to these ex-inmates on a basis of long time repayment.
Every loan made to these ex-inmates, every dollar expended, every activity initiated on their behalf is not charity, but an investment in the Futures of Men and Women.

THE FIELDS FOUNDATION

dedicated to

THE REHABILITATION OF FORMER PENAL INMATES
March 6th, 1941

My dear Mr. Bennett:

I am sending you reports of the Young Men's Vocational Foundation for the years 1938-39 and 1939-40. The reason for this is that Mrs. Roosevelt phoned me that you requested to see our books which we did not turn over to you. The reports show that our financial status is public property. More detailed information is at your command at any time you wish, or anyone else's.

In short, we never did receive the request from you. However I hope this is a misstatement or a misunderstanding which I believe it must be, resulting from a conversation in relationship to the Fields Foundation. Our organization never had any official connections with the Fields Foundation and have withdrawn from any cooperation whatsoever until such a date that their accomplishments can show approval by people such as yourself, Sanford Bates and Austin MacGormick.

On the 18th of March Mrs. Roosevelt is giving a dinner party in behalf of our organization, the purpose of which is to interest new people in our work as well as having some of our "steady friends" present. May I extend this invitation to you and Mrs. Bennett and I certainly do hope you will come for it will enable you to hear our story completely. We do not consider that we are working in the prison field for most of our young men come to us through New York State Training School For Boys, Coxsackie and the other groups which are listed in our report. It is for that reason that we have been in closer contact with the juvenile field.

We do not claim to cover the entire field but just a small section to experiment on the relationship to job opportunities for rehabilitation for young boys. We feel that if we can make a dent in this field we will make a small but concrete contribution to the entire problem.
Mr. Bennett

March 6th, 1941

Hoping to hear from you, I am,

Sincerely yours,

Viola Ilma

Mr. James Bennett
Director of Federal Bureau of Prisons
Washington, D. C.

vi/mi
cc to Mrs. Roosevelt

P.S. This was written before our telephone conversation but wanted you to have it on the record, and I am indeed delighted that you and Mrs. Bennett can attend the dinner.
March 12, 1941

My dear Miss Ilma:

Mrs. Roosevelt has asked me to send you for your information the enclosed copy of this memorandum which she has received.

Very sincerely yours,

Administrative Officer
Social Correspondence

Miss Viola Ilma
Young Men's Vocational Foundation
8 West 40th Street
New York, New York
March 20, 1941

My dear Miss Ilma:

I am sorry I did not receive your letter of March 14 until after the party the other night. I have been away so much my mail has been delayed. I should have liked to talk to you about the very peculiar letter from Mr. Whiteside. I am writing to him.

I thought the dinner a great success and hope you will get some money.

Thank you for sending me the book "Famine Stalks Europe". I shall read it as soon as I have time.

Very sincerely yours,

Miss Viola Ilma
Young Men's Vocational Foundation, Inc.
6 W. 40th St., NYC
Ilma:

I am sorry I did not receive your letter of March 14th until after the party the other night. I have been away so much, my mail has been delayed. I should have liked to talk to you about the very peculiar letter from Mrs. Whiteside. I am writing to him.

I hope thought the dinner a great success and hope you will get some money.

Thank you for sending me the book "Famine Stalks Europe" I shall read it as soon as I have time.

E.R.
March 19th, 1941

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I met the author of this book last year when he was Chief of the Labor Division on Mr. Hoover’s Finnish Relief Campaign.

I thought the information in the book would be of interest to you.

Sincerely,

Viola Ilma

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt
The White House
Washington, D.C.
March 14th, 1941

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I was most distressed over the Fields situation and still feel that the "tempest in the teapot" was unnecessary. I presented the entire matter to our Board of Directors at a meeting last week. The enclosed letter was drafted by a committee of three Board members and was sent to the Fields Foundation.

It would be difficult for me to work in this field if I distrusted a person who made one mistake, even one as severe as Mr. Ben Fields'. Personally I feel that he has a right to want to work in the field he has chosen and that for us to distrust him at the outset is unfair. I have gone over the matter thoroughly and have spoken to Mr. James Bennett, Warden McGee and Austin MacCormick and despite their firm distrust of Mr. Fields they were not able to give me any tangible facts against him, save his past, and their judgment of him being based on that.

When I phoned the distressing and uncomfortable news to Mr. Whiteside, concerning their being disinvited to the White House, as well as temporarily resigning from their Advisory Board, I admit it was not the most pleasant of tasks and he took it quite bravely.

The letter which you now have from Mr. Whiteside was the first lead of the accounting of their finances.

I suppose we might have a little time before the dinner, perhaps Monday, if you wish it, where I can give you the resume of all that I have been able to discover, because it is a situation which I am going to follow through quite thoroughly. I also plan to see Mr. Bennett before the White House dinner and I am delighted that he is coming. Mrs. Perera and I shall keep our time open, available to you, if you wish to see us, otherwise certainly on Tuesday evening.

Most sincerely yours,

Viola Ilma

Viola Ilma

Washington, D. C.
March 14th, 1941

My dear Mr. Whiteside:

We want you and Mr. Fields to know that we deeply appreciate your kind offer of cooperation and your very generous financial assistance. We find ourselves, however, in a most difficult position due to the fact that Mr. Fields is, as you know, not yet entirely accepted by the leading penologists. As we are almost entirely dependent upon the advice, assistance and cooperation of these most important people in our field of endeavor, we have come to the conclusion that our organization would lose more than it would gain by working with you at present. Since our first allegiance in these matters must be to the good of the organization, we feel that we must decline with thanks your kind invitation to cooperate with you, - much as we would like to have done so.

Please be assured that this Board has at this date nothing but the highest admiration for your ambitions and we know that you will be successful in carrying them out.

In view of our reluctance to have you feel that we have permitted you to make generous contributions under a misapprehension, we ask you to advise us if you prefer that we return your contribution to you.

We wish your Foundation great success in your public spirited effort and we would be very pleased to receive copies of such reports as you may issue from time to time.

Very truly yours,

J. Randall Crowel, President

Mr. Allen Whiteside
Fields Foundation
Tulsa, Oklahoma
jro/81
March 3, 1941

Miss Viola Ilma, Executive Director
Young Men's Vocational Foundation, Inc.
8 West 40th Street
New York, N.Y.

My dear Miss Ilma:

Received your letter and was very glad indeed to hear from you. Was so sorry that we could not have a longer visit while you were in Oklahoma. There was so much that we could have talked about.

Thanks also for the pamphlet. Will read it with a great deal of interest, as I understand you came here at the request of Mrs. Roosevelt to look into the activities of the Fields Foundation. Is that correct? I have accepted a place on the advisory Board of the Foundation, and so has Judge Murrah, one of our Federal Judges, and three others, but we have not yet had a meeting of the Board so know very little about the finances of the Foundation. The object is indeed a worthy one and one in which I am intensely interested. I hope they will find it possible to have a meeting of the Board soon. Think this is quite necessary.

Did not know until I received your letter that they intended to work with juveniles. This must be a recent decision.

I trust our paths will cross again, and if at any time you desire information concerning the work in Oklahoma, will be happy to supply it.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely yours,

Signed: Mabel Bassett
State Commissioner Of Charities & Corrections

MB/P
March 31, 1941

My dear Miss Ilma:

Your letter was forwarded to Mrs. Roosevelt and she has returned it, asking me to write and tell you that she will see you in New York at her apartment, 20 East 11th Street, at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, April 3.

Very sincerely yours,

Administrative Officer
Social Correspondence

Miss Viola Ilma
Young Men's Vocational Foundation, Inc.
8 West 40th Street
New York, New York
March 25th, 1941

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I have a good deal more information on the fields situation and would like to tell you about it, preferably in an interview. It is much too much to write.

I am very anxious to know what you thought of the boys record.

On the book "Famine Stalks Europe" I disagree politically with Dr. Lipsett—a staunch Hooverite, but do have admiration for his knowledge and ability and I feel that occasionally one must be open-minded in this direction. I didn't want to mislead you.

Reverberations on the dinner are increasing and I think we will raise the money that we hoped we would. As I promised, when all the results are in, I shall give you a tabulation which I am sure will be of interest to you.

Appreciating an appointment to discuss the above matter at your convenience, I am,

Most sincerely,

Viola Ilma

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt
The White House
Washington, D. C.
No record of letter from Vincent Felby to Viola Ilma
or from Miss Ilma to Mrs. Roosevelt regarding Felby.
Further, no reference appears to have been made to
any of the Departments.

Enc. 4-1-6-41
April 10th, 1941

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

When I last saw you in New York I gave you a letter which Mr. Vincent Falby, a young Negro boy wrote to me, in the hope of getting into the aviation industry.

Have you been able to take any action concerning it?

Most sincerely,

Viola Ilma

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

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Maurice R. Whitebook
April 17, 1941

My dear Miss Ilma:

I think that your plan to expand the Boys' Division and to start a Girls' Division is very good. I am glad to send you this note of approval and hope the program will work out successfully.

Very sincerely yours,

Miss Viola Ilma
Young Men's Vocational Foundation, Inc.
8 West 40th St., NYC
April 3rd, 1941

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I am now going forward to develop plans for expansion on the Boy's Division, as well as trying to get the Girl's Division started.

We have the assurance of Miss Additon's cooperation and are almost certain of Commissioner Adie's, in relationship to Hudson State Training School For Girls.

I am getting a prospectus up, consisting mostly of letters from people such as Miss Additon, important educators and personalities to make it possible for me to present a prospectus that will bring the results we wish.

A letter of your opinion of the plans to expand the Boy's Division and start a Girl's Division would carry a good deal of weight.

Sincerely yours,

Viola Ilma

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt
The White House
Washington, D. C.
April 18, 1941

My dear Miss Ilma:

Mrs. Roosevelt was very glad to write a letter of introduction for you to Mr. Pickett and I am enclosing it.

Very sincerely yours,

Secretary to
Mrs. Roosevelt

Miss Viola Ilma
Young Men's Vocational Foundation, Inc.
8 West 40th Street
New York, New York
April 18, 1941

My dear Mr. Pickett:

I am giving this note of introduction to Miss Viola Ilma of the Young Men's Vocational Foundation, who would like very much to talk to you about the work of the American Friends Service Committee.

I would appreciate it very much if you could find it possible to see Miss Ilma.

Very sincerely yours,
April 14th, 1941

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I would like awfully much to have the opportunity to meet Mr. Clarence E. Pickett. Some how I think he must have known my grandfather who was a Quaker missionary worker in Abyssinia years ago.

However that is not the reason I want to meet him. I am extremely interested to know more of the work of the American Friends Service Committee, believing that somewhere I might be able to be of use to them, if I can make any contributions to the larger problems that are before us.

Appreciatively yours,

Viola Ilma

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt
The White House
Washington, D. C.
May 9, 1941

Dear Miss Ilma:

Replying to your recent inquiry, Mr. Roosevelt thinks that the women she suggested to you as possible members of the Board of Directors were Mrs. Franklin Lord, Jr. and Mrs. Raymond Guest.

Very sincerely yours,

Secretary to
Mrs. Roosevelt.

Miss Viola Ilma,
Executive Director,
Young Men's Vocational Foundation, Inc.,
8 West 40th Street,
New York, N.Y.
Mrs. Roosevelt

April 18th, 1941

P.S. Some time ago you suggested, was it a Mrs. William Lord, and a Miss Polk as possible members for the Board of Directors. I would appreciate knowing whether these names are correct and how to make the contact with these women.

Sincerely,

Viola Ilma
May 12, 1941

My dear Miss Ilma:

Mrs. Roosevelt is sorry that she will not be able to see you until the 18th. Can you be at the apartment, 20 East 11th Street, on that date at five o’clock?

Very sincerely yours,

Secretary to
Mrs. Roosevelt

Miss Viola Ilma
Young Men’s Vocational Foundation, Inc.
8 West 40th Street
New York, New York
I have been slow... an appointment?

...January 18th

a time plans act of here will not get me to night at 5 daylight...
TELEGRAM
OFFICIAL BUSINESS—GOVERNMENT RATES

MISS VIOLA ILMA
149 EAST 36th STREET
NEW YORK CITY

MRS ROOSEVELT CAN NOT GET AWAY IN TIME TO KEEP
HOPE CAN
APPOINTMENT AT FIVE. MAN/YOU/BE AT APARTMENT AT
SIX THIRTY TOMORROW SUNDAY

MALVINA THOMPSON

FROM
The White House
Washington
May 1st, 1941

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Several very vital matters have turned up which I find most important to discuss with you.

Thank you so much for your letter of introduction to Mr. Pickett. I have written to him and look forward to an interview with him.

I thought this clipping on the Whittier Reformatory rather interesting.

Appreciating an appointment with you in New York at your convenience, I am,

Most sincerely,

Viola Ilma

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

---

Mrs. Richard Storrs Childs
Mrs. S. Winston Childs, Jr.
Richard T. Crane
Hubert T. Delany
Mme. Henry Dupont
Harry V. Goodson
Lester Granger
Miss Betty Hawley
Paul Herzog
Ira A. Hirschmann
Miss E. Mebane Hunt
William Lloyd Imes, D.D.

---

Charles Poletti
William Jourdan Rapp
Mrs. Lillian Alexander
Miss Lillian D. Rock
Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt
Mr. Leopold K. Simon
Mrs. Robert K. Straus
Ordway Teal
Mrs. Lester H. Wall
Mrs. Richard Weingart
Keys Winter
Maurice R. Whitebook
May 14, 1941

Dear Miss Ilma:

I am so glad you have seen Mr. Field and that he is interested. I will, of course, write him.

Very sincerely yours,

Miss Viola Ilma
8 West 40
NYC
May 9th, 1941

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I finally got up enough courage to see Marshall Field on my own, believing that perhaps you would not get back from your trip in time to make it possible for us to put a new man on before I went on my vacation. You will be delighted to hear that he gave us four thousand dollars for a new placement man.

I hope that we can get Mr. Harold Oerther who at present is with the Children's Aid Society and whose specialty is the placing of Negro boys in jobs. The money from Mr. Field was labeled specifically for this end.

It is not often that I ask you to write a letter of thanks for our organization but this is such a contribution that I would appreciate a brief note from you to Mr. Field.

We also have been accepted as members of the Welfare Council, in the Employment and Vocational Guidance section.

This past week I was able to build up a scholarship for a young Negro woman who worked her way through college and law school, working in a laundry in the day time and studying at night. She passed her bar examination a year ago and was still, when I met her, which was a short time ago, working in a laundry. Shameful indeed. I interested half a dozen people to sponsor her and now our organization is lending her to the Urban League and in turn, from them she is representing the Negro youths in court. I thought that this would interest you and it does prove that it is possible for us to make specific efforts to aid Negro people, not only delinquents, but those who are especially gifted.

There are small developments with Mr. Claque, resulting from our
Mrs. Roosevelt

May 9th, 1941

luncheon at the White House and I think we will work out mechanics through the New York State Employment whereby it will be possible to place more boys directly through cooperation with them.

Next week our Board of Directors is having a tea for the Advisory Board. They really have never met before.

In short, all the news this week is good news to report.

Marshall Field only convinces me all the more that if I only had the opportunity to meet a few people who have a social sense, plus wealth I could build this organization, and then into a national one. Not that we want to move too rapidly but the thought I think is worth bearing in mind.

Next week end I am spending with Miss Additon at Bedford, in the hope of discussing the formation of a Girl's Division. Miss Morgan, Mrs. Sidney K. Borg, Miss Additon, Fanny Hurst, and I hope you, would make a fine circle to get started. I see no reason why the effort cannot be made, at least in the fall, to get under way.

I believe in my last letter I mentioned that I wanted to see you on an important matter, which I preferred to discuss when I see you, and that still holds.

You might be interested to know that in the last six months we have already passed our last year's placement record, which was 237, and this year, 243, with six more months to go.

With much appreciation,

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt
Washington, D.C.
May 15, 1941

My dear Miss Ilma:

Sunday is correct for your appointment with Mrs. Roosevelt. It is for Sunday, May 18, at five o'clock.

Very sincerely yours,

Secretary to
Mrs. Roosevelt

May 15, 1941

Miss Viola Ilma
Young Men's Vocational Foundation, Inc.
6 West 40th Street
New York, New York
May 14th, 1941

My dear Miss Thompson:

Thank you for your letter of the 12th.

I will be delighted to keep the appointment with Mrs. Roosevelt at 20 East 11th Street on the 18th, at five o'clock but am just wondering if an error was made as to the date, because it is Sunday. It is alright with me, but just thought I would call it to your attention.

Sincerely yours,

Viola Ilma

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

vi/ni
May 16, 1941

Dear Miss Ilma:

Mrs. Roosevelt asks me to say, in reply to your letter of May 14, that the apprenticeship training in aircraft is under the Office of Education. She suggests that you take up the question with Dr. J. W. Studebaker, the Commissioner of Education.

Very sincerely yours,

Secretary to
Mrs. Roosevelt

Miss Viola Ilma
Young Men’s Vocational Foundation
8 West 40th Street
New York, N.Y.
May 14th, 1941

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

A few days ago I cut out a clipping from your column concerning the apprenticeship training which the Boeing aircraft factory has developed and I was extremely interested in the fact that the Edison Vocational School paid a minimum of forty cents an hour, plus increases every six months, on an apprenticeship scale.

This is exactly the plan that I had hoped could be developed, under the auspices of the Office of Education who are developing apprenticeship training plans, accenting that the boys whom we are in contact with cannot go to school without being paid because they have no funds whatsoever.

Although this was discussed with Miss Hawley and Helen Harris the situation remains at a deadlock.

I was wondering whether or not this idea could be carried any further or is it an impossibility?

Sincerely,

Viola Ilma

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt
The White House
Washington, D. C.
May 23, 1941

My dear Miss Ilma:

Mrs. Roosevelt has asked me to send you the enclosed check for forty dollars for use in connection with the scholarship created for Miss Lucas.

Very sincerely yours,

Secretary to
Mrs. Roosevelt.

Miss Viola Ilma,
Young Men's Vocational Foundation, Inc.,
6 West 40th Street,
New York, N. Y.

NOTED:
plf
May 21st, 1941

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Attached is a copy of a letter from the Urban League in regard to the scholarship which I have created for Miss Lucas.

I want to thank you for being one of her sponsors and will appreciate your sending your check of forty dollars whenever it is convenient to you.

Most sincerely,

Viola Ilma

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

vi/mi
enc.

ADVISORY BOARD

Miss Henrietta Addington
Mrs. Lillian Alexander
Grace Allen Bangs
Benjamin J. Barnett
Harold B. Bergen
Miss Helen Blanchard
Richard R. Brown
H. Edmund Bullis
Miss Irina Burbank
Emily T. Burr, Ph.D.
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Lester Granger
Miss Betty Hawley
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Mrs. Whitman Knapp
John C. Knox
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Mrs. Ernest K. Lindsey
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A. Wilfred May
Spencer Miller, Jr.

Mrs. William J. Field, Jr.

Charles Puletti
William Jourdan Rapp
Miss Lillian D. Rock
Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt
Victor Rouald
Mrs. Leopold K. Simon
Robert R. Strauss
Ordway Tead
Mrs. Lester H. Weil
Mrs. Richard Weingart
Keyes Winter
Maurice R. Whitebook
May 19th, 1941

Miss Viola Ilma
Young Men's Vocational Foundation, Inc.
6 West 40th Street
New York, New York

Dear Miss Ilma:

Your letter of May 16 received. I have today conferred with Miss Lucas and am writing to say that we should be very glad to arrange for her to work with the New York Urban League in the manner outlined in your letter. In fact, she was accepted some days ago subject to the working out of a program, schedule, desk space, etc. This has now been arranged.

Miss Lucas has visited the Legal Aid Society and secured copies of techniques which should serve as a guide in outlining her work. As soon as this has been decided I will let you know. In the meantime, I have arranged for her to begin work and will keep you informed as to progress and developments. I do hope that at the end of six months period the work will prove sufficiently constructive to make it possible to insure its permanency.

Thanking you for the encouragement you have given her and trusting it will prove of great value not only to her but to the community at large, I am,

Very truly yours,

James H. Hubert
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

cc to Mrs. Roosevelt
My dear Mr. Hubert:

Some time ago Miss Florence Lucas was sent to me. She is a young lawyer and I became extremely interested in her because of the fact that she was a woman and a lawyer and felt that the obstacles for her getting an opportunity to work were so high that the least I could do was to get her launched.

I have been able to interest a group of people to finance her for six months. I first spoke to Mr. Fabricant of the Legal Aid Society and there was no space for her there. Then I got in touch with Mr. Lester Granger and he suggested that perhaps the New York Urban League might be able to use her in her capacity as a lawyer, with some leeway for other activities, but basically for her to have an opportunity to practice her law in the interest of aiding Negroes, particularly the youth.

As I understand it, she has already been in touch with you and with Mr. Traynham and that she is now developing her plans. I suggested that she copy some of the techniques of the Legal Aid Society, for the New York Urban League, if she could be used in that capacity. I also mentioned that if a few law cases come her way, outside her work with you, that she should be allowed to follow through because she is only receiving forty dollars a month.

I hope that at the end of these six months your report of her work will be sufficiently constructive to make it possible for us to increase her scholarship or make a definite job for her. In any case, the important thing is that she can be put to useful work, using her training.

I would appreciate a letter from you as to your approval on this situation.

Sincerely yours,

Viola Ilma

Mr. James H. Hubert
New York Urban League
202 W. 136th Street
New York City

vi/mi
cc to Mrs. Roosevelt
May 16th, 1941

My dear Judge Paige:

A young Negro lady, Miss Florence Lucas, came to my attention a few months ago. She is a graduate of the Brooklyn Law School and passed her bar examination a year ago. She worked her way through college and also law school by working in a laundry during the day and attending school at night.

Since she has become eligible to practice law, she has found it impossible to get a start—one, being a woman, and two, a Negro, and twenty-four years old at that.

I have arranged that she be able to work for the New York Urban League as a legal representative in the courts for the Negro youth and the only part of the bargain that I take responsibility for is to ask six people to sponsor her, at the rate of forty dollars a month per person, covering six months. I already have two, with four more to go.

I feel that it is important that a person of this high integrity be given an opportunity and this small sum of money was agreed upon by her as enough to get by.

Will you be one of the six people to give forty dollars? The months of May and June are already covered, which leaves only July, August, September and October.

Appreciating hearing from you on this, I am,

Most sincerely,

Viola Ilma

Judge Miles Paige
44 W. 123rd Street
New York City

vi/mi
My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

July 10th will be fine for the luncheon. These are the women I have invited to date:

Miss Anne Morgan, Mrs. Henrietta Additon, Mrs. Henry Ittleson, Mrs. Helen Buttenwieser, Mrs. I. J. Fox, Mrs. Adele Levy, Mrs. John Henry Hammond, Mrs. Thomas W. Lamont, Mrs. George Barcer and Marion Anderson.

I do not know what responses I will have but will let you know within a week.

Do you have any suggestions of other women to invite? I think the wisest thing is to have a small group and accomplish the raising of six thousand dollars amongst them.

I will know within a week where the luncheon will be and will advise you.

Once again I want you to know that I appreciate the wonderful interest you take in the organization.

Most sincerely,

Viola Ilma

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt
The White House
Washington, D.C.
May 27th, 1941

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Thank you so much for your check to be used for the scholarship for Miss Lucas.

Enclosed is a copy of a letter I received from her this morning.

I hope that some time in the Fall I will be able to have her few sponsors meet her, where she can report the progress of her work.

Most sincerely,

[Signature]

Viola Ilma

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

vi/mi
enc.
cc to Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt

May 26, 1941

Miss Viola Ilma
Young Men’s Vocational Foundation
8 West 40th Street
New York City

My dear Miss Ilma:

Your letter received last Friday. I was more than pleased to hear the information you gave. I only hope that this project will be worthy of the fine sponsors that you are getting.

In the last week such items as desk space and time schedule have been worked out and the few that remain to be worked out, such as telephone and typewriter, I am hoping they will be worked out this week. I am trying to establish the hours from two to six on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday at the Urban League. However, I am going to give all the time that is needed to the project.

Last week we had several people to come in and use the Legal Aid Service of the Urban League, and I am sure that as time goes on we shall have even more.

Mr. Hubert will undoubtedly make a report to you on the activities but I intend to make one myself from time to time. Thank you again for your interest in this field. I am sure that this project will be of great benefit not only to myself but also to people who have legal problems and cannot afford private counsel.

Very truly yours,

Signed: Florence V. Lucas
Attorney At Law

LEGAL AID OFFICE
June 6, 1941

Dear Miss Ilma:

Mrs. Roosevelt has read your letter of June 3, listing the committees named at the meeting of your Advisory Board. She has checked as the committee with which she would like to be connected:


Very sincerely yours,

[Signature]

Secretary to
Mrs. Roosevelt

Miss Viola Ilma
Young Men's Vocational Foundation
9 West 40th Street
New York, N.Y.
June 3rd, 1941

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

The Board of Directors of the Young Men's Vocational Foundation were extremely sorry that you were unable to attend the meeting of the Advisory Board held May 14th, at the home of Mrs. Lionel C. Perera, Jr. Enclosed is a resume of what took place.

The main development is that the Advisory Board will break up into specific committees. We are listing herewith the committees and the duties of each. Please check the one with which you would like to be connected.

1. Case work - collaboration with social case workers.
2. Civic - coordination of co-operating agencies.
3. Correction - cooperation with Training & Reform Schools, pertaining to problems of institution.
4. Education - pertaining to educational development of boys.
5. Employment - contact with employers and trade associations to develop placement connections.
7. Labor - problems affecting wages, hours, unemployment insurance, unions.
8. Legal - drafting new legislation, advice on present legislation, and occasional action for boys in courts.
9. Medical - advice and direction on specific medical issues with which we are occasionally confronted.

ADVISORY BOARD

Miss Henrietta Additon
Mrs. Lillian Alexander
Grace Allen Banis
Benjamin J. Barrette
Harold B. Bergen
Miss Helen Blanchard
Richard R. Brown
H. Edmund Bullis
Miss Irene Burbank
Emily T. Burns, Ph.D.
Mrs. Helen L. Buttenwieser
Miss Elia Castendyck

Mrs. Richard Storry Childs
Mrs. S. Wisnoss Childs, Jr.
Richard T. Crane
Hubert T. Delany
Mrs. Henry Dugot
Harry V. Goodenon
Leslie Granger
Miss Betty Hawley
Paul Hernsog
Ira A. Hirshman
Miss E. Mebane Hunt
William Lloyd Imes, D.D.

Mrs. Wardellen Jackson
S. M. Keeny
Alice V. Keilher, Ph.D.
Miss Florence Kelley
Mrs. Whitman Knapp
John C. Kneer
Mrs. Anna M. Kross
Mrs. Ernest K. Lindsey
Byrnes MacDonald
A. Wilfred May
Spencer Miller, Jr.
Mrs. William J. Piel, Jr.

Charles Palotti
William Jourdan Rapp
Miss Lillian D. Rock
Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt
Victor Rosedain
Mrs. Leopold K. Simon
Robert K. Straus
Ordway Tread
Mrs. Lester H. Weil
Mrs. Richard Weingart
Keyes Winter
Maurice R. Whitebook

11. Social Activities - pertaining to dinners, banquets and benefits.

At present we plan to have the various committees meet approximately three or four times a year.

I hope you will agree that this will tend to make the organization still more successful and enable the many distinguished members of the Advisory Board to effectively aid its activities.

Sincerely yours,

Viola Ilma

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

vi/mi
enc.
June 10, 1941

My dear Miss Ilma:

I am enclosing the letters of introduction which Mrs. Roosevelt has written for you to take when you go West.

Mrs. Roosevelt is very sorry that she cannot join your Board of Directors. She feels that she must refuse all invitations to affiliate with anything more as she has all she can possibly do at the present time.

Very sincerely yours,

Secretary to
Mrs. Roosevelt

Miss Viola Ilma
Young Men's Vocational Foundation, Inc.
8 West 40th Street
New York, New York
June 10, 1941

Dear Mrs. Denman:

I am giving this letter of introduction to Miss Viola Ilme, who is Executive Director of the Young Men's Vocational Foundation, Inc. She would like very much to meet people who could show her some of the various conditions in California, such as the migratory workers, etc., and would also like to meet some motion picture people in the interest of raising funds for her organization.

I would be so grateful to you if you would put Miss Ilme in touch with the right people, and be kind enough to give her whatever helpful suggestions you can.

Affectionately,

Mrs. William Denman
Sent to Miss Viola Ilme
June 6th, 1941

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

As a result of the grant given to us by Marshall Field we have put on a new staff member, Mr. Harold Oertner, formerly employment counsellor with the Children's Aid Society, where his specialty was in placement of Negro youth.

The financial results of the White House dinner is now $7520, with a few more pledges to be taken into consideration.

At a recent Board of Directors meeting it was felt that it was very necessary for us to add a few members on to our Board of Directors. I am delighted to inform you that Mrs. Helen Buttenweiser has accepted to come on the board and Father Boland of the New York State Labor Relations Board. Father Boland, like Commissioner Adie, will not be able to attend all board meetings but his advice, particularly on the problem of the Catholic youth, and industrial relations, will be invaluable to us.

I know how pressed you are but at the same time I would like to extend, in behalf of our Board, an invitation to you to become a member of the Board of Directors, particularly now, since we plan to start a Girl's Division.

I hope you were able to read the report of our Spring Tea, which clearly shows that the Girl's Division should be the next step. I would like to be able to call a group of women together before I leave for California, to at least get a committee organized. The main issue again will be finances but I should think we could raise ten thousand dollars from an interested group of women. Shortly I will outline complete plans and send them to you, including suggestions of people, hoping that others will have more names to suggest.

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YOUNG MEN'S VOCATIONAL FOUNDATION, INC.
8 WEST 40TH STREET  •  PENNSYLVANIA 6-9143  •  NEW YORK, N.Y.

BObD of Directors: ARMAR E. ARCHBOLD, Chairman of the Board and Treasurer; J. RANDALL CREEK, President; MRS. LIONEL C. PEKERA, JR., Vice-President and Secretary; DAVID C. ADIE; GLENN GARDINER; WALTER N. THAYER, 3rd; HALSTED B. VANDERPOEL; HERBERT B. WILLIAMS, PH.D.

VIOLA ILMA
Executive Director

Robert E. Hannum
Assistant Director

Miss Henrietta Additon
Mrs. Lillian Alexander
Grace Allen Bangs
Benjamin J. Barnele
Harold B. Bergen
Miss Helen Blanchard
Richard R. Brown
H. Edmund Bullock
Miss Irca Burbank
Emily T. Burr, Ph.D.
Mrs. Helen L. Buttenweiser
Miss Elsie Cartendaick
Mrs. Richard Storr Childs
Mrs. S. Winston Childs, Jr.
Richard T. Crane
Hubert T. Delany
Mme. Henry Dupont
Harry V. Goodrich
Lester Granger
Miss Betty Hawley
Paul Henning
Ira A. Hirschman
Miss E. Mebane Hunt
William Lloyd Iones, D.D.
Mrs. Wardellen Jackson
S. M. Keeny
Alice V. Kieher, Ph.D.
Mrs. Florence Kelley
Mrs. Whitman Knapp
John C. Knox
Mrs. Anna M. Knox
Mrs. Ernest K. Lindsey
Byrnes MacDonald
A. Wilfred May
Spencer Miller Junior
Mrs. William J. Fiel, Jr.

Charles Poletti
William Jourdan Rapp
Miss Lillian D. Rock
Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt
Victor Roudin
Mrs. Leopold K. Simon
Robert K. Straus
Ordway Teal
Mrs. Lester H. Weil
Mrs. Richard Weingart
Kayne Winter
Maurice S. Whitebook
I plan to leave for California July 12th and will appreciate the letters of introduction. I have two objectives in wanting to meet certain people. One is to see various conditions in California, migratory workers, and the like. The other is to meet some motion picture people in the interest of perhaps ultimately raising funds from them for our work.

I do hope I will have an opportunity to see you before I leave, at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Viola Ilma

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt
The White House
Washington, D.C.
June 15, 1941

My dear Miss Ilman:

Mrs. Roosevelt says she will try to see the film, "No Greater Sin", later on this summer. The film was called to her attention the other day and she said she would keep it in mind.

Mrs. Roosevelt is leaving tomorrow for Maine and will not be back in New York until July 10 or 11. If that is not too late, she could have lunch with the group you suggest on one of those dates.

Very sincerely yours,

Secretary to
Mrs. Roosevelt

Miss Viola Ilman
Young Men's Vocational Foundation, Inc.
5 West 40th Street
New York, New York
My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Walter Thayer took me to see a film titled "No Greater Sin" which is a very important picture on syphilis. The doctor in the film makes the statement: "All of us working together can make it a rare disease in our day and generation, and when it is done we will all wonder why so simple a thing was not done long before". These are the words of Dr. Thomas Parran.

Naturally the interest that we have in the problem is closely related to the effects of this disease in the girls who will come our way in the development of a Girl's Division. I think it is a picture that you should see and Walter Thayer informs me that they could arrange to have you see it down at the White at your convenience.

I enclose a letter which I believe you have already seen but just in case you haven't, which duplicates my reasons for you to see this film and I would appreciate it if you could let me know by wire when it would be convenient for you. I think at the same time if Dr. Parran and Miss Lenroot were in Washington at that time it would be of great interest to them.

By the way, we had a very successful meeting yesterday, from a technical point of view, in relationship to starting a Girl's Division. Those present were Miss Henrietta Additon, Mrs. Helen Butterwieser, Miss Ruth Collins, director of the House of Detention for Women, Miss Mebane Hunt, Executive Director of the Women's Prison Association, Dr. Alice V. Keilher, professor of education at New York University, Dr. Montague, Chief Psychiatrist of the Children's Court, Miss Inez Paterson, Director of Hudson State Training School for Girls, and Mrs. Leopold K. Simon, chairman of the Delinquency Division of the Women's City Club, and the Welfare Council.

It was agreed that a Girl's Division would be started in the fall, with their full cooperation.
Mrs. Roosevelt

June 12th, 1941

With a stringent budget of $6000 we can make a beginning just as we did three years ago with the boys. Can't we just bring a few women together to accomplish this in one sitting? Then the larger problem of the coming years will be my responsibility.

If this could be accomplished before I left for my vacation, and I suppose it will be difficult, the time you could set aside to help me with this could be arranged at your convenience. I believe we could interest Mrs. Buttenwieser, Mrs. Adele Javy, Mrs. I. J. Fox and perhaps you might have a few women to suggest. I wish we could interest Mrs. George Backer and perhaps Mrs. Henry Littleton. I could arrange a luncheon here in New York.

The girls at Bedford are of course delighted and now I must not fail them by letting six thousand dollars stop the initiation of such an important plan.

The Boy's Division is running smoothly and with great success.

Sincerely yours,

Viola Ilma

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

vi/mi
enc.

ADVISORY BOARD

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Mrs. Whitman Knapp
John C. Knox
Mrs. Anna M. Koons
Mrs. Ernest K. Lindsey
Byrnes MacDonald
A. Wilfred May
Spencer Miller, Jr.
Mrs. William J. Piel, Jr.

Charles Poletti
William Jourdan Rapp
Miss Lillian D. Rock
Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt
Victor Roskin
Mrs. Leopold K. Simon
Robert K. Straus
Ordway Teed
Mrs. Lester H. Weil
Mrs. Richard Weingart
Keeses Winter
Maurice R. Whitebrook
CITY OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
125 Worth St.
N.Y.C.

June 12th, 1941

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

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

When I became Secretary of the Department of Health over three years ago, I became interested to see if a motion picture of the right kind, on the subject of syphilis, which might be shown in public theatres could not be made.

After much investigation work, I took the matter up with Mrs. Bruce Barton of the advertising firm of Batten, Barton, Durstine & Osborn, Inc. Mr. Barton put me in touch with one of his employees, a certain Miss Mary C. Hanson, who was handling a number of drug accounts for the firm, with the feeling that perhaps she could get some advertiser to finance a picture. She met with no success but she did find Mr. Edward A. Golden, a motion picture producer with years of experience behind him who was willing to undertake the making of this type of picture.

Miss Hanson wrote the story, receiving much technical help from Dr. Walter S. Clarke and other members of the American Social Hygiene Association. The picture was completed in Hollywood and is now about to be released under the title of "No Greater Sin". The producer, Mr. Golden, Miss Hanson, Mr. Golden's attorney, Mr. Walter Thayer whom I have known for a great many years as he formerly was associated with Colonel Donovan's firm, believe that perhaps you, Dr. Parran and other officials in Washington might be interested in seeing this film. It appears to me that it is very timely just at this moment. I also felt personally that you might be interested and told them I would write you accordingly. It is my understanding that Mr. Thayer shortly will get in touch with you directly. He states that he could bring a print down to Washington and arrange for a showing any time at your convenience.

If you could induce Mayor LaGuardia to give up 85 minutes of his precious time, I feel sure that he, too, would be interested. He apparently has been in Washington as much as he has been in New York recently.

I am sorry to have missed you the other night at the Mothers' Meeting on the lower east side but I was winging my way to Groton for a 25th Reunion.

Sincerely,

Goodhue Livingston, Jr.,
Secretary
My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

This is the boy of whom I spoke to you about, but fortunately he is now placed in aviation. I thought you would be pleased to know.

Sincerely,

Viola Ilma

June 11th, 1941

My dear Vincent:

I was delighted to get your letter with its important news, and I want to express my hearty congratulations. Do keep in touch with me and let me know of your progress because I think it is tremendously important that Negroes succeed in technical jobs and it seems you are destined to be one to lead the way for many others.

Your greatest responsibility is to be above the average so that the great argument that Negroes do not have the intelligence of others can be broken down and it can only be broken down by accomplishments and it is up to the Negro youth of the country to make great strides. And for you to recognize that your responsibility is grave, and that the best way to use your talent, which I know you must have, is to excel so that your work and accomplishments will be meaningful to many other young people, is half the battle done.

It is for this reason that I am so interested to keep in touch with you.

Most sincerely,

Viola Ilma

Mr. Vincent Falby
Tuskegee Institute
Tuskegee, Alabama

vi/si
June 12th, 1941

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Walter Thayer took me to see a film titled “No Greater Sin” which is a very important picture on syphilis. The doctor in the film makes the statement: “All of us working together can make it a rare disease in our day and generation, and when it is done we will all wonder why so simple a thing was not done long before.” These are the words of Dr. Thomas Parran.

Naturally the interest that we have in the problem is closely related to the effect of this disease on the girls who will come our way in the development of a Girl’s Division. I think it is a picture that you should see and Walter Thayer informs me that they could arrange to have you see it down at the White at your convenience.

I enclose a letter which I believe you have already seen but just in case you haven’t, which duplicates my reasons for you to see this film and I would appreciate it if you could let me know by wire when it would be convenient for you. I think at the same time if Dr. Parran and Miss Lanroot were in Washington at that time it would be of great interest to them.

By the way, we had a very successful meeting yesterday, from a technical point of view, in relationship to starting a Girl’s Division. Those present were Miss Henrietta Additon, Mrs. Helen Buttemwiser, Miss Ruth Collins, director of the House of Detention for Women, Miss Weanes Hunt, Executive Director of the Women’s Prison Association, Dr. Alice V. Keliber, professor of education at New York University, Dr. Montague, Chief Psychiatrist of the Children’s Court, Miss Inez Paterson, Director of Hudson State Training School for Girls, and Mrs. Leopold K. Simon, chairman of the Delinquency Division of the Women’s City Club, and the Welfare Council.

It was agreed that a Girl’s Division would be started in the fall, with their full cooperation.
Mrs. Roosevelt  
June 12th, 1941

With a stringent budget of $6000 we can make a beginning just as we did three years ago with the boys. Can't we just bring a few women together to accomplish this in one sitting? Then the larger problem of the coming years will be my responsibility.

If this could be accomplished before I left for my vacation, and I suppose it will be difficult, the time you could set aside to help me with this could be arranged at your convenience. I believe we could interest Mrs. Buttonwieser, Mrs. Adle Levy, Mrs. I. J. Fox and perhaps you might have a few women to suggest. I wish we could interest Mrs. George Backer and perhaps Mrs. Henry Ittleson. I could arrange a luncheon here in New York.

The girls at Bedford are of course delighted and now I must not fail them by letting six thousand dollars stop the initiation of such an important plan.

The Boy's Division is running smoothly and with great success.

Sincerely yours,
Viola Ilma

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

vi/i
enc.

---

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Robert K. Strauss  
Ordray Tread  
Mrs. Lester H. Weil  
Mrs. Richard Weinstock  
Maurice R. Whitebook
June 17th, 1941

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I am delighted to receive your note indicating the committee with which you would like to be connected and have made note of the same.

As soon as the committees start functioning, which will probably be in the fall, I shall get in touch with you.

Sincerely yours,

Viola Ilma

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

vi/1
My dear Miss Ilma:

Mrs. Roosevelt will see you at one o'clock on Monday, July 7, at her apartment, 50 East 11th Street.

Very sincerely yours,

Secretary to
Mrs. Roosevelt

Miss Viola Ilma
Young Men's Vocational Foundation, Inc.
8 West 40th St.
New York, New York
June 28th, 1941

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Thank you so much for your wire. I fear that I will not be able to get the women together because of the time of year, and the responses, though interested, were all that they will be out of town. So perhaps the best thing is to wait until the fall.

If you are terribly busy then I will not ask for an appointment to see you before I leave, but if it is possible to have a few moments I would like to have a talk with you on this Girl’s Division so that at least we can succeed with our objective in the Fall. I cannot possibly let the girls down because they are really counting on it.

Most sincerely,

Viola Ilma

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

vi/mi
August 11, 1941.

My dear Mr. Oerther:

Mrs. Roosevelt has asked me to thank you for your letter of August 8. She is very glad to know that you have worked out a system of referral to the several offices in Greater New York that handle juniors. She is pleased that this much progress has been made and hopes that good results will be obtained as the operation of the plan continues.

Very sincerely yours,

Secretary to
Mrs. Roosevelt.

Mr. Harold G. Oerther
Assistant Director
Young Men's Vocational Foundation, Inc.
8 West 40th Street
New York, New York.
Aug 8, 1941

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

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I knew you would be interested in the outcome of our negotiations with the New York State Employment Service.

Through Mr. Richard Brockway, Director of NYSES 342 Madison Avenue, New York, N.Y. and Miss Clare Lewis, Director of the Junior Division, we have worked out a system of referral of our young men to the nine offices in Greater New York that handle Juniors.

This system has been in operation too short a time to tell you about results. However, I did wish to let you know that we can report progress on an idea on which you so generously offered your assistance.

Very sincerely yours,

Harold G. Oertner

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Miss Evelyn Murray

Mrs. William J. Piel, Jr.
Charles Poloiti
William Jourdan Rapp
Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt
Victor Roskin
Mrs. Leonold K. Simon
Robert K. Straus
Ordway Tend
Mrs. Lester H. Weil
Kees Wiber
MY DEAR MR. FIELD:

I have just returned from a wonderful vacation in California where I attended the American Prison Congress. Also I believe we will probably start a branch out in Los Angeles. Equal to the problem of the Negroes in New York is the problem of the Mexican delinquent youth in California.

The month of August, with a total placement of 73, was the highest placement record during the year and I thought the attached sheet might be of interest to you. Note that of a hundred and four applicants, fifty were Negroes and the number of sources from which we receive our boys is increasing constantly. In the ten month placement period, from November, 1940 through August, 1941, four hundred and eighty-six boys were placed in jobs, of which one hundred and sixty-two were Negroes, or thirty-three and a third percent of our total placements, and this is going up continuously.

Statistics don't always show the real meaning of our work but enclosed is a letter we received from Judge Knox which tells the story as only a mother can when she expresses gratitude for the help her son receives and which is so vital to the life of a boy and the life of a family.

I know you are tremendously busy on national questions. However, helping the individual youth in turn helps the larger picture and if all young people had the democratic experience of working for a living, if all Negro youth knew there would be a place for them, our national picture would be more encouraging. For this reason I would like to have a little time to talk more fully of our work to you, not only in relationship to finances, but I do want you to know that your contribution is far reaching and that length is what I wish to discuss with you.

Appreciating an appointment with you, I am,

Sincerely yours,

Viola Ilma

Mr. Marshall Field
260 Park Avenue
New York City

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Ira A. Hirschmann

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S. M. Kenny
Alice V. Keilber, Ph.D.
Miss Florence M. Kelley
Mrs. Whitman Knuyt
John C. Knox
Mrs. Anna M. Knox
Mrs. Ernest K. Lindsey
Spencer Miller, Jr.
Miss Evelyn Murdy

Robert F. Hannum
Harold G. Oetinger

Sept. 12, 1941

Viola Ilma

Executive Director
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| PLACEMENTS: |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |
| total       | 34    | 43    | 48    | 24    | 41    | 53    | 67    | 49    | 54    | 73    |
| YWVF public | 1     | 5     | 14    | 3     | 7     | 5     | 1     | 3     | 11    | 5     |
| YWVF private | 19    | 25    | 20    | 12    | 21    | 31    | 52    | 35    | 24    | 51    |
| boy's own   | 7     | 11    | 11    | 8     | 10    | 14    | 12    | 3     | 15    | 13    |
| coop agency | 7     | 2     | 3     | 1     | 3     | 3     | 2     | 8     | 4     | 4     |
| regular     | 23    | 24    | 38    | 18    | 32    | 42    | 48    | 46    | 51    | 60    |
| temporary   | 11    | 19    | 10    | 6     | 9     | 11    | 19    | 3     | 3     | 13    |

| SOURCES: |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |
| NYSRTS    | 40    | 28    | 28    | 24    | 48    | 53    | 59    | 60    | 71    | 60    |
| NYSVI     | 4     | 2     | 6     | 3     | 3     | 3     | 2     | 3     | 2     | 0     |
| NYC Parole | 26    | 13    | 16    | 10    | 11    | 11    | 14    | 13    | 14    | 9     |
| NYC Probation | 12    | 11    | 17    | 15    | 11    | 11    | 7     | 7     | 7     | 7     |
| US Dist.Ct. | 2     | 1     | 5     | 4     | 2     | 2     | 4     | 2     | 2     | 3     |
| WESTFIELD St.Frm6 | 4     | 3     | 3     | 2     | 1     | 0     | 0     | 0     | 0     | 0     |
| Lincoln Hall | 4     | 4     | 3     | 2     | 1     | 0     | 0     | 0     | 0     | 0     |
| Youth Counsel | 0     | 0     | 0     | 0     | 0     | 0     | 0     | 0     | 0     | 0     |
| Miscellaneous | 23    | 18    | 21    | 20    | 15    | 11    | 11    | 16    | 15    | 16    |

| WHITE: |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |
|        | 64    | 71    | 51    | 57    | 52    | 52    | 59    | 59    | 60    | 54    |
| NEGRO: | 17    | 28    | 27    | 36    | 42    | 37    | 46    | 59    | 59    | 50    |

| GIRLS: |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |
|        | 8     | 5     | 6     | 3     | 5     | 4     | 8     | 7     | 8     | 8     |
| BOYS:  |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |
|        | 99    | 76    | 93    | 75    | 88    | 90    | 98    | 98    | 111   | 98    |
My dear Sir:

I think of you very often and silently I thank you for what you did for my son. Now I wish to send you my thanks.

A year ago last January I wrote you asking you to use your influence in getting work for my son, and you handed the letter to the office of Miss Viola Ilma. Through her efforts George went to work on Feb. 28th of that year for the Sperry Co., and has been there ever since. The steady job has steadied him, he has enjoyed several little raises in pay until now he is doing very well.

I am more thankful than I can say to these friends whom I have not seen, for the wonderful effect a good job has had upon my boy. I hope many boys will receive such kind help. God bless all such fine people in their efforts.

Sincerely,

Signed: Mrs. Olive I. Hoertel

My dear Miss Ilma:

Herewith is a letter that came to me a few days ago from Mrs. Olive I. Hoertel of 1419 Pinson Place, Far Rockaway, N.Y., whose son you secured a position for over a year ago. I send it to you thinking that it may be a satisfaction to know that this young man is doing so well and that his Mother is grateful for the efforts you put forth upon behalf of her son.

With my very kind regards, and in the hope that you are having a pleasant summer, I am,

Sincerely yours,

Signed: Judge Knox
United States District Court
Chambers of Judge Knox
New York City
My dear Miss Ilma:

Mrs. Roosevelt has asked me to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of September 7th with which you enclose a copy of a letter addressed to you by Mr. Hirchmann. She is very sorry that she can make no more engagements, and has already communicated with Miss Jane Ellis, refusing the invitation to open the Exhibition at Bloomingdale's.

Very sincerely yours,

Secretary to
Mrs. Roosevelt.

Miss Viola Ilma,
Young Men's Vocational Foundation, Inc.
8 West 40th Street,
New York, New York.
My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

The enclosed letter is self explanatory.

If you can attend this luncheon as their honorary guest I would appreciate your letting me know the date.

Sincerely yours,

Viola Ilma

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

vi/mi
cc to N.Y.
enc.

September 9th, 1941

[Signature]
EXE<:111TIVE OFFICES
New York

Miss Viola Ilma
149 East 36th Street
New York City

Dear Viola:

Hereewith are a few of the facts concerning the Exhibition and Dinner about which I talked with you today.

Nothing new has happened in the field of designs for home furnishings since 'Modern' was imported from Paris in 1926. This in spite of the fact that a whole new conception of architecture and way of living has developed in the last decade. Wallace Harrison, Nelson Rockefeller, and I got together and worked out a plan where something could be done about it.

The Museum put on a competition to find young geniuses through North, Central, and South America. The designs that came out of it are pretty sensational and will probably provide the base for a fundamentally new conception in the field of gracious and economical living.

The Museum is staging its first Fall Exhibition of these designs called "Organic Design," and we are collaborating with one simultaneously. Several years of time, energy, and planning have been put into this, aside from hundreds of thousands of dollars. The Museum is planning a Dinner on Wednesday, September 24th, at which Wallace Harrison, Nelson Rockefeller and others will attend. It will be a fairly exclusive affair at the Museum; and the guests will include the leading designers and architects of the country, publishers of the newspapers, magazines, representatives from the South American Republics, etc.

The reason we are hopeful of having Mrs. Roosevelt as the speaker is that, aside from her eminence and magnificence as a person, she has identified herself so valiantly with the effort of young people to establish their rightful position in our new economy; that these young designers have created a fundamentally new type of furnishings; that for the first time we have put South American factories to work to create furniture and to use their fabrics that are indigenous to their soil. Mrs. Roosevelt also has been identified in the past with an effort in the field of home furnishings, and I think would have a sympathetic intelligence in relation to this subject. She will be interested to know that similar Exhibitions will be held in the Museums in major cities in the country in order to spread the gospel.

I believe Mrs. Roosevelt knows a great deal about the Museum of Modern Art, the dignity and seriousness of their activities, also their dynamic place in the field.

The tentative date set is the evening of September 24th. This can be shifted to the 30th or any day in that week to suit her calendar.

Cordially yours,

I. A. Hirschmann
Vice-President
September 12, 1941.

My dear Miss Ilma:

Mrs. Roosevelt has your letter of September 9, and is so very sorry she cannot say just when she will be able to see you. Because of the illness of her brother, she can make no engagements in advance.

She will, however, keep your letter in mind and try and see you at the first opportunity.

Very sincerely yours,

Secretary to Mrs. Roosevelt.

Miss Viola Ilma
Young Men's Vocational Foundation, Inc.
8 West 40th Street
New York, New York.
Miss Viola Ilma,
Young Men's Vocational
Foundation, Inc.,
8 West 40th Street,
New York, New York.
September 12, 1941.

My dear Miss Ilma:

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Very sincerely yours,

Secretary to
Mrs. Roosevelt.

Miss Viola Ilma
Young Men's Vocational Foundation, Inc.
8 West 40th Street
New York, New York.
September 9th, 1941

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

The trip to California was a thrilling experience from many points of view. The result - I am now back in New York with more energy and enthusiasm for our work than ever. Of course the news is that we are contemplating building a branch out there.

It was timely enough to investigate the possibilities due to the situation of Whittier State Reform School. While out there I attended the hearings as well as the American Prison Congress and actually worked to build up a branch most of the time that I was out there.

There is too much news about it to write but will tell you at your convenience.

Secondly I have an idea in mind in relationship to the Defence Program which I should like to talk over with you.

Thirdly, the development of a Girl's Division.

So all in all I would appreciate an appointment with you as at early a date as possible.

Sincerely yours,

Viola Ilma

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

vi/mi
October 7, 1941.

MEMORANDUM FOR MISS ILMA:

Mrs. Roosevelt has asked me to return the enclosed manuscript, pages 81 - II through 141.

M. C. T.

VDS
MISS THOMPSON:
I wrote the attached letter to
Miss Ilma for your signature because of
Mrs. Roosevelt's note on the last page of
the letter Miss Ilma sent her. I have
not mentioned the Marshall Field request,
since nothing was indicated along this
line in Mrs. Roosevelt's notes. P.L.P.
May 9, 1941

Dear Miss Ilma:

Replying to your recent inquiry, Mr. Roosevelt thinks that the women she suggested to you as possible members of the Board of Directors were Mrs. Franklin Lord, Jr. and Mrs. Raymond Guest.

Very sincerely yours,

Malvina O. Thompson
Secretary to Mrs. Roosevelt.

Miss Viola Ilma,
Executive Director,
Young Men's Vocational Foundation, Inc.,
8 West 40th Street,
New York, N. Y.
October 9, 1944

Dear Miss Ilma:

I am returning the letter from Katya Alpert, which I read with interest. I also read the chapter of her book and returned it to you. I will gladly sponsor her for the Guggenheim Fellowship.

Very sincerely yours,

Miss Viola Ilma
Executive Director
Young Men's Vocational Foundation, Inc.
95 Madison Avenue
New York, New York

O/can
My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Three years ago a very interesting young lady, Katya Alpert, came from Bangor, Maine and ever since then I have been extremely interested in her as a young writer.

Pearl Buck and Charles Pearce of Duell, Sloan and Pearce are two sponsors of hers who are extremely excited about her talents as a coming writer. She is half way through with a novel on the Negro people, though she is white, and has been living in Harlem for the past two years, gathering material. By living, I mean actually living with Negro people and getting to know them as friends.

She is anxious to obtain a Guggenheim scholarship and has so prominent sponsors but I don't recall their names at the moment, although I think Mrs. Buck is one of them. I am enclosing copy of a letter she wrote me, together with a chapter from her book which after all tells her story and shows her writing ability.

Katya is the first author whom I have become interested in since Modern Youth magazine. Looking back on those days almost every young author who wrote for it then is today prominent in the field of publishing and editing.

Because of the material in her book and because of her unusual talent I would like awfully much to be able to interest you to the point of sponsoring her for the Guggenheim scholarship, not in the sense of a favor but in recognition of a young lady with real talent. If I did not think that she was important I would not dare to bother you with this cumbersome material.

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

Most sincerely,

Viola Ilma

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Grace Allen Bangs
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H. Edmund Bullis
Miss Irene Burbank
Emily T. Burt, Ph.D.

Mrs. Eunice H. Carter
Miss Elsa Castendyck
Mrs. Constance Hoyt Childs
Mrs. S. Winona Childs, Jr.
Charles A. Collier, Jr.
Hubert T. Delany
Harry V. Gooderson
Lester B. Granger
Miss Betty Hawley
Paul M. Herzig
Ira A. Hirschmann

Miss E. Mebane Hunt
William Lloyd Imes, D.D.
S. M. Keeley
Alice V. Keller, Ph.D.
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John C. Knox
Mrs. Anna M. Knox
Mrs. Ernest K. Lindley
Spencer Miller, Jr.
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Mrs. William J. Piel, Jr.
Charles Poletti
William Jourdain Rapp
Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt
Victor Rouslin
Mrs. Leopold K. Simon
Robert K. Strass
Ordway Teal
Mrs. Lester H. Weil
Keyes Winter
My dear Mayor LaGuardia:

I am certain that the activities of our organization have come before you through our president, Mrs. Lionel C. Ferera, Jr., and other distinguished people.

We have a private social placement bureau, obtaining jobs for boys upon their release from institutions, including New York City Reformatory, New York State Training School for Boys, and Coxsackie. During the past year we have placed approximately five hundred boys in jobs, a third of them being Negroes.

The problem of the Negro delinquent is ever increasing and now a problem has come before us which brings up serious difficulties. We have been requested to leave the building we are now in because the tenants on our floor have expressed a prejudice against having the Negro boys using the Men’s Room, and further, we have been led to believe, of their coming into the building at all.

We have been asked to vacate the premises by October 1st. In looking for new office space, though we have found desirable space we have not been accepted because of the type work we do. We need twelve hundred square feet and our budget allows us to pay a dollar a square foot.

This involves the simple fact that if we exist to aid underprivileged young Negroes we have found that office space which we need to serve them is not easily available and therefore becomes, I believe, a city problem. And loft space, which no doubt would be available, is not what we can use to best accomplish our purposes.

Your advice as to where we might turn would be much appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

Viola Ilma

September 16th, 1941

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Keyes Winter
October 13, 1941

My dear Miss Ilma:

Mrs. Roosevelt asks to what group you refer in the second paragraph of your letter of October 10. She is not quite sure she remembers, as she was so hurried and so busy when she saw you.

Very sincerely yours,

Secretary to
Mrs. Roosevelt

Miss Viola Ilma
Executive Director
Young Man's Vocational Foundation Inc.
95 Madison Avenue
New York, New York
October 10th, 1941

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Thank you for the time you gave Lester Cowan of Columbia Pictures for I know that the certainty of your interest in our opening a branch in California has given him the extra enthusiasm that is so necessary.

Also I am anxious to sit with the young people you mentioned, in relationship to some very specific ideas I have for the youth morale program, and will be able to meet them at their convenience.

Sincerely,

Viola Ilma

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

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Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt
Victor Roslini
Mrs. Leopold K. Simon
Robert K. Straus
Oswald Traud
Mrs. Lester H. Weil
Keyes Winter
October 15th, 1941

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:  

There isn't a week that goes by that I am not staggered by the many accomplishments you seem to be able to fulfill in the interest of the youth of the country.

Your sponsoring Katya really is splendid. I am exhausted with words of gratitude.

Most sincerely,

Viola Ilma

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

vi/ni

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William Jourdan Rapp  
Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt  
Victor Rouslin  
Mrs. Leopold K. Simon  
Robert K. Strauss  
Orway Teal  
Mrs. Lester H. Weil  
Keyes Winter
October 22, 1941

Ask Jane Seaver when she would like to see her.

E.R.

Viola Ilma - Oct. 15
October 31, 1941.

Dear Miss Ilma:

I am wondering if I should write now regarding the Guggenheim scholarship for Miss Alpert, or wait until they write to me. Will you please let me know?

Very sincerely yours,

Miss Viola Ilma,
Executive Director,
Young Men's Vocational Foundation, Inc.,
95 Madison Avenue,
New York, New York.
Apparently nothing has been done about the scholarship.
Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt  
The White House  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Viola Ilma has told me that you read the excerpt of my manuscript on Harlem which I sent to her and that you will endorse me for a Guggenheim fellowship. Naturally I can't conceive of a more gratifying reception for the work I have already done or a greater incentive for keeping on. If, with all the million demands on you, you were taking the time to do this for somebody I know, not me - simply as a citizen, I would be stirred through and through.

The experience of writing this book has called on my every resource, not only as a writer but also as a person. I must confess that the whole venture has been something of a Pilgrim's Progress, with a Slough of Despond at each turn and a visionary goal in the distance. Too, it has been as rewarding an adventure in the character of humanity as any one ever had. The most important service I can do black and white America in this novel is to present the Negro people as they actually are, with scrupulous realism. The mere fact of your interest means much to me, but I am especially happy that you should have responded affirmatively to the Ethel Fryme section. That was no phony whitewashed idealization. It's grand, it's exhilarating to feel how aware you must be of the constructive possibilities in an unvarnished, analytic portrait - which any reader of any race might recognize as "exactly like my cousin So-and-so!"

Yours sincerely,

Katya Alpert

409 West 145th Street  
New York City  
October 20, 1941

[Handwritten note on the bottom right corner: "Toy wed night"]
October 31, 1941

Dear Miss Ilma:

I am sorry that I cannot ask any of these people whom you mention for money. I could, however, give a lunch for you to start the interest in the Girl's Division.

Sincerely yours,

Miss Viola Ilma
Young Men's Vocational Foundation
95 Madison Avenue, NYC
My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I suppose the person whom I want to meet now is Miss Jane Seaver, Director of the Division of Youth Activities in the Civilian Defense Agency. The outline in the Times sounds wonderful and I can see how very useful Social Agencies can be to it, particularly those agencies who reach youth constantly. Even though Social Agencies do not organize young people they have strong halls on them in relationship to the help they can give, which is basic for their happiness.

Specific ideas along these lines are the things that are in my mind. I should like very much to be part of this committee in relationship to my specific interest, which is the Social Agency.

You will be interested to know that at the Welfare Council we have formed a Trade Union Committee in the Employment and Vocational Guidance Section, which is, I think, a step in a very healthy direction.

Now on the Y.W.V.F. Because of the Defense Program we are going to have, I can see, a great struggle in raising funds. Our Budget now is $20,000 a year. The important news that Justine Wise Polier has joined our Board of Directors has already resulted in a heartening conference. It is so exciting to be able to talk to a person who is young, intelligent and has a thorough knowledge of the delinquency field. What a difference it makes to call her in relationship to raising funds and to people who are just wealthy and whom you have to convince. After my interview with her I just felt as though I was walking on air. We discussed the possibility of calling four people together to contribute the twenty thousand, one of whom would be Marshall Field. She felt that perhaps she could interest Mrs. Adele Levy and Mrs. Max Ascoli, and
Mrs. Roosevelt

Oct. 28th, 1941

perhaps Marshall Field could interest Nelson Rockefeller. If we could call a meeting with these four people Justine feels that we could accomplish raising the funds for our organization in that one meeting, particularly with your support behind it.

I expressed to Justine that there were so many technical advancements that I wish to put into action that the relief of raising funds, which takes so much of my time, would be tremendous.

I cannot begin to tell you how much progress we really have made in the last year, in relationship to the training inside the institution, and placements outside.

At any rate I wanted to present the above and nothing will take place until Justine has gone over our records and techniques thoroughly, all of which I left with her last Friday morning.

Secondly, I enclose the copy we have organized and wish to send to a number of women so that we can get a Girl's Division under way. That will involve raising ten thousand dollars and I am going to send this copy out to a series of women whom I think will be interested, hoping we can call them together as we had planned to do last summer. If there are any people whom you would like to send this to I would be glad to send you extra copies which have been made confidential, mainly to interest people in the Girl's Division. And by the way, I would also like to aid this Judy Carter in her flying ambitions for she is still a bell hop and is still spending half her salary on getting Flying Time.

Most sincerely,

Viola Ilma
THE HEART-WARMING STORY OF JUDITH CARTER

CONFIDENTIAL

These facts are being released with Miss Carter's permission as her contribution toward the formation of a Girls' Division of the Vocational Foundation. They are for your personal information only.

In April, 1939, Judith Carter Was
"A Thoroughly Pathetic Individual."

"Her clothes were awful. To me, she looked like a solicitor. Not in her physical appearance, to be sure, but in the way she was dressed. Her morale was completely gone. She was terribly self-conscious of her appearance and looked like a frightened animal and to any employment interviewer she would have left the impression of being a very spurious character. What chance has a girl like that to find employment?"

From a letter written to the Young Men's Vocational Foundation by E. E. Kuypers of the General Cable Co. after interviewing Judith Carter regarding employment.

In September, 1941, Judith Carter, Ex-pathetic Individual, Obtained Her Pilot's License.

A dramatic transformation...in two and a half years! Judith had been started, quite literally on the way up, by the Young Men's Vocational Foundation. (Details of our work with her are given on the next page.) Here is P.M.'s story about her achievement.
The Beautiful Dream of Milady Bellhop

I had never heard of a girl bellhop before, no less seen one. But there are six girl bellhops who carry ice water, newspapers and small packages to the rooms of guests at the Henry Hudson Hotel, 353 West 57th St.

One of these six is Judith Carter, a tiny, shy girl with a tight mouth and beautiful, brown Slavic eyes. She gets $18 a week and tips. It was much less until her Hotel Front Employees Union won her that scale.

Aside from her curious job, Judith Carter at 28 is interesting for another thing. For years she has lived on a dream, to her a bigger and more beautiful dream than the usual feminine one of Hollywood stardom or a million dollar marriage.

Judith is determined to become the first woman test pilot in aviation history. Beside the difficulty of overcoming the industry's prejudice against giving a woman such a dangerous job, that means passing rigorous, nerve-breaking tests after completing 300 hours in the air.

Just to give you an idea: a book calling for eight hours of supervised flying costs $60. Judith in the past two years has used up four books, and recently bought a fifth. One doesn't have to be a Euclid to figure out how many dime tips you must accumulate before you have $300 to push across the cashier's window at Queens County Airport, South Jamaica.

"Everyone says no company will ever hire a woman test pilot because the work is too risky," said this daughter of a Chicago house painter. "Everyone is wrong. I'll get there. This is America where any person can become anything he desires if he just works at it long and hard enough. Flying is my whole life. There just isn't anything else."

Her friends told her the same thing. For Judith there are no boy friends, no nice clothes, no Coney Island. The only movies she sees are aviation pictures.

For all we know, Judith Carter may never have the thrill of checking in at an airplane factory as the first woman test pilot. But it doesn't hurt any to learn that there are still Americans like her whose dreams have no walls or ceiling. — Charles Samuels.

Judith Carter and her Flying Instructor
How the Transformation of Judith Carter Was Achieved

Chiefly, the credit must go to Judith herself. Without her own immense courage, determination and industry, she could never have turned herself from a girl who looked and acted "like a frightened animal" into a licensed pilot.

But almost certainly she could not have done it alone. She needed help — money (only a little), guidance and, above all, friendly and wise encouragement.

Below, in broad outline, are some of the ways in which the Young Men's Vocational Foundation helped Judith Carter, financially and psychologically. And not the least of them was in seeing that her hair was properly done, her eyebrows plucked and her nails manicured.

Two and a half years ago, Judith was referred to the Young Men's Vocational Foundation by the Women's Prison Association as a test case. Here are the highlights of her history. Mother had been widowed. Four other children. Judith left during second year high-school to help support the family. No jobs in Gary, Ind., her home town. Came to New York looking for work in 1931. Couldn't find a job. Eventually arrested for vagrancy. Homeless. Went to the Women's Prison Association.

Her contact with the Women's Prison Association was intermittent for seven years, during which time she worked as a domestic, as a waitress in Schrafft's and at the Samaritan Hospital in Brooklyn. But Judith had not yet found herself; in fact, her morale and appearance were definitely on the down grade. She was referred to us in April, 1939. Then—

We took Judith to Macy's and spent $11.95 on her for clothes. Next evening we saw to it that her hair was done and her hands manicured.

The Barbour Home, where Judith had been living, was over-crowded. She was told to find new quarters. We placed her temporarily in the home of a friend.

But Judith had no money. We arranged with Miss Anne Morgan to pay Judith a scholarship of $15 a week for three months.

In the meantime, we sought to find employment for Judith at the Fair, with manufacturers and in offices. Eventually, we found her a job as page girl at the American Woman's Association.

Now Judith was launched. Her appearance was respectable; she had a home, a job, an income — a reason to hope!

While she was working at the AWA and doing well on her job, Judith told us that she wanted to learn to fly. It seemed an impossible ambition for a girl in her situation but we neither encouraged nor discouraged it. With admirable determination, sacrificing every comfort and luxury for three years, and paying for her lessons out of some $17.00 a week, she eventually obtained her pilot's license.
Throughout this period she kept in frequent touch with us, not so much for help now but out of friendliness and gratitude.

Her achievement is an inspiring revelation of the vast untapped reservoir of courage and power in American youth — even in those working under severe difficulties.

There are hundreds of Judith Carters in New York. Girls with good stuff in them but handicapped with a "corrective institution" record.

They need help — often just a little of it — to become useful citizens. Sometimes they specially need what few institutions can give — a touch of human understanding, of personal interest and concern, as well as more formal help in training and placement. It is this kind of help — non-institutional, human and yet with a definite and practical aim toward employment and improvement — that we hope to provide for the Judith Carters of New York through the creation of a Women's Division of the Vocational Foundation.
Mr. J. Willard Hayden, Pres.
Hayden Foundation
25 Broad Street
New York City

Dear Mr. Hayden:

In March 1940, the Hayden Foundation made possible an expansion in the Young Men's Vocational Foundation. I believe you already know that the results of this contribution far exceeded our own or anyone else's expectations. I have since been able to continue this expansion through general contributions.

Our work is still almost altogether with youngsters who are of that minority whom Boys' Clubs and other community resources have barely touched. Their disorganized homes provide little incentive to use the fine organizations at their disposal and hence, they have become further maladjusted in spite of the finest Boys' Clubs, YMCA's and the like. Thus the purpose of the Young Men's Vocational Foundation is made clear and practical.

As the efficiency of our work has become known, the demand upon us for service has grown very greatly and we are still the only organization in New York City (or anywhere else as far as we know) dealing exclusively with the vocational adjustment and placement of parolees and probationers between the ages of 16 and 21.

During the past year, partly because of "good times," we have made well over 500 job placements and our interesting records are open for anyone's perusal. These placements have included several races and sects with no discrimination whatsoever and because we feel that our job is important, we have again expanded our personnel to meet the needs of our boys.

Within three years our placement record has grown from 81 to more than 500 and our budget has grown from $6,000 to $12,000 and now to $20,000.

I am certain that you do not need names of important people which we can provide like rabbits out of a hat. My plea for the renewal of your gift of 1940 is made in behalf of the boys who are yet to be served.

I sincerely hope that this letter will enable a few of our Board members to have further discussion with the Hayden Foundation.

Sincerely yours,

SIGNED: Viola Ilma