

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

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HERBERT B. WILLIAMS, Ph.D.

VIOLA ILMA
Executive Director

ROBERT R. HANNUM
Assistant Director

March 20th, 1941

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

It would be impossible to find words that would express the tremendous appreciation that my Board of Directors wish to voice to you.

Be assured that they are pledged to develop the work of the Young Men's Vocational Foundation to the extent that it can grow in other cities and be substantial in New York and ultimately contribute an encouraging path for the thousands of young people who may have the opportunity to be served by our purpose.

I shall let you know the concrete financial results which look optimistic.

Most appreciatively yours,

Viola Ilma
Viola Ilma

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

vi/mi

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100
November 4, 1941

Miss Jane Seaver
Director of Division of Youth Activities
Civilian Defense Agency
Washington, D.C.

VIOLA ILMA

Dear Jane Seaver:

Thanks for your letter of October 28th. I presume that Mrs. Roosevelt has told you that during the past five years I have worked in daily contact with boys and girls between the ages of 16 and 21, who have gone through our courts and reform schools. These under-privileged young people represent a fairly large section of our total youth population, whose needs have not been met realistically and constructively by character and morale-building agencies—school, home, church—that normally influence youth. They have had a hard and realistic schooling, and they respond only to the most realistic response to their problems of adjustment. I believe that in large measure, they indicate the general nature of problems and attitudes of all youth, because their own problems indicate the crassest failure of our youth programs of a past era, and their present needs demand a simple, honest, realistic solution.

I want to make whatever rough suggestions I have in the light of my experience, and with a bearing on the approaching Civilian Defense Week and its SIGN UP FOR DEFENSE DAY. Of course, I am writing in the dark as to the ground plans your committee has worked out, hence I apologize for making suggestions that may already have been decided upon. I hope that we may meet soon to discuss plans more thoroughly.

Here are my comments and suggestions:-

A. On the question of youth morale.

Your division can learn important lessons from the failure of previous attempts to make youth respond enthusiastically to serious problems.

To: Miss Jane Seaver

November 3, 1941

It is my observation that young people are too often talked at, and are too seldom given a real part to play in defining and dealing with important problems. Endless speeches become boring to all of us. Youth wants primarily to be involved in activity.

I believe that a special appeal to youth to SIGN UP on that day should be made and phrased in language that the widest number of young people will respond to, emphasizing team work, the vital need for youth support, and practical activity that will ensue when the program is launched. But it should avoid the error of adult instruction in terms of what youth should do (since young people resent and reject "appeals to youth" that tacitly presume lack of initiative on their part and ignores their problems and interests).

No doubt literature will be widely distributed. Presumably an appeal will be made by Mayor La Guardia and the mayors of other cities. These should be reprinted and distributed in quantities, together with display posters to all youth organizations and youth serving agencies such as local public libraries, schools, NYA, churches, Y's, Scout headquarters, etc. Also, an effort should be made to reach newly organized groups (I have been a close observer of youth activities for ten years, and note how new groups continuously spring into existence in response to varied and changing youth needs).

The problem of unorganized youth is important. About sixty per cent of young people are unattached. In my opinion, this section of youth holds the greatest potentiality for growth, since they have as yet not turned to existing groups and organizations for solution of their problems - which are basic and widespread even though not articulated in organized fashion. The bulk of them, though seemingly apathetic, are actually awaiting realistic and cogent answers to their needs and an attractive youth-participation program for their activities. Though all existing organized groups - themselves stimulated by the new types of activity - will influence the unorganized youth in part, the bulk of this rich source of energy will be reached by means of carefully prepared campaigns on the radio, through the press and in motion picture theatres.

2. Registration - for what?

1. Let the young people designate their interests. Morale will be built up by opportunity for actual participation on the basis of community needs and individual interests. Participation must be made tangible - the most difficult phase, and the most productive, of your committee's job. Either the bulk of registrants will become really active and useful, or a handful of youngsters will take over leadership and do all the work, with the rest sitting back with a negative attitude.

2. Registration forms, I hope, will list the key activities of civilian defense, and make provision for listing interests, hobbies, trades, talents, etc., with a view to harmonizing abilities and activities.

3. Careful checking of personal interests and abilities against activity will have much to do with the success of the program. To my mind,

To: Miss Jane Seaver

November 3, 1941

checking should be done as much as possible by youth-serving agencies, NYA, vocational services, State employment branches, churches, schools, trade unions, social work groups -- and, if possible, through those individuals whose sympathetic interest in youth, organized or unorganized, attracts youth in search of guidance. This procedure will quicken the tempo of organization, guidance, training, and effect smooth activity. It will heighten the effectiveness of working youth, by extending their training, and will give the jobless youth both training and a sense of direction.

In all probability, existing youth-serving agencies will be extended or re-adjusted in relationship to the realistic cooperation that will be stimulated by widespread Civilian defense.

C. Youth and adult activities.

Youth participation must be in line with the activities of adults, since young people identify themselves in terms of adult life. Thus girls should work with the women's division, the young workers synchronize their activities with the trade unions, and those with social interests work with adult social and recreational groups, etc. Above all, they should have equal chance of a hearing, and their suggestions should be listened to and decided on their merits.

D. Preliminary to Registration

The mayors should call together the leaders of all youth organizations and groups, to (1) explain the purposes and scope of the youth division; (2) to give the leaders responsibility for participation of their groups; (3) designate specific roles in the defense program for specific organizations (for example: let the YWCA take responsibility for organizing and training all young women interested in hospital work, in cooperation with other groups and sub-divisions; trade union groups to be responsible for specific duties in regard to protection against fires, etc., in factories, workshops, offices.

These specific responsibilities will link youth to adult activities already under way, and will enhance the constructive purposes of the entire program. Practical activity of this sort is the answer to the building of morale.

I am sure that the CCC youth division program can be launched on a high note of enthusiasm, which undoubtedly will be stirred by the dramatic nation-wide appeal during the week of November 11-16. If this enthusiasm is not effectively harnessed at the outset, months of strenuous effort will be needed to recapture it.

Obviously, many of the above ideas are inherent in your ten-point program. However, I feel that many concrete problems and whole series of details will arise at each step forward. I am personally enthusiastic and optimistic, and will gladly aid in every way I can to make a huge success of registration plans. Without a doubt, the plan holds much promise for the youth in particular and the nation in general, to refresh and make

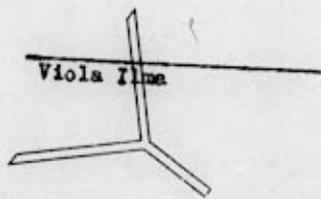
To: Miss Jane Beavers

November 4, 1941

realistic the intense morale resident in the American nation.

I hope we may meet this week, either in New York or in Washington to discuss at length the above ideas and the further thoughts on the matter.

With cordial greetings,

~~Viola Ilina~~


VI:MI

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1100

November 5, 1941

Dear Miss Ilma:

I agree that the title "Vocational Bureau" is dull, but I can think of nothing better.

I don't know what would be the best plan for your annual dinner, but I would say three short speeches rather than a theatrical entertainment.

Very sincerely yours,

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Miss Viola Ilma
95 Madison Avenue, NYC

11-5
YOUNG MEN'S VOCATIONAL FOUNDATION, INC.

~~NEW YORK~~ . ~~NEW YORK~~ . NEW YORK, N. Y.

Board of Directors: J. RANDALL CREEL, *Chairman of the Board*; MRS. LIONEL C. PERERA, JR., *President*; WALTER N. THAYER, 3RD, *Vice-President*; MRS. FREDERICK CROMWELL, *Secretary*; ARMAE E. ARCHBOLD, *Treasurer*; DAVID C. ADIE; REV. JOHN P. BOLAND; HELEN L. BUTTENWIESER; MARSHALL MACDUFFIE, JR.; HALSTED B. VANDERPOEL; HERBERT D. WILLIAMS, Ph.D.

VIOLA ILMA
Executive Director

NEW ADDRESS: 95 Madison Avenue . Murray Hill 3-5425

ROBERT R. HANNUM
HAROLD G. OERTHER
Assistant Directors

October 29th, 1941

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

The Board of Directors of the Y.M.V.F. is contemplating setting up a national organization in relationship to the possibilities of now starting a Los Angeles branch. Also there is a possibility that later on there will be a Girl's Division. Therefore the name of the organization must be changed to be all inclusive for young men and young women between the ages of 16 to 21.

It has also been agreed that the word Foundation misinterprets the actual meaning of the organization for, much to my regret we have no Foundation insofar as it suggests money having been left to us to carry on our work.

The only suggestion that has come up as to the change of name is "Vocational Bureau" which personally I think sounds rather dull. We would appreciate any suggestions of change of name that you might have. Could you send your ideas in immediately so that we can present them at the next Board of Directors meeting, which will be November 10th.

*I agree
I don't like
but I'm not
sure
I don't know
I don't know
I don't know
I don't know*

Secondly, we are planning to have our Annual Dinner this year at the end of November or early part of December, and would like to know whether you think it better to have a small group. By that I mean 150 people, with accomodations in a good restaurant, and by good I mean cozy, with excellent food, such as the Lafayette Hotel. Or would you have a large group of 500 to 600, at a place like the Commodore. Also, what are your suggestions as to the type program - do you think one good speaker and theatrical entertainment, or a series of serious speakers. Your suggestions on this will also be appreciated.

*I don't know
I don't know
I don't know
I don't know*

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt
The White House
Washington, D. C.
vi/mi

Most sincerely,

Viola Ilma
Viola Ilma

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Keyes Winter

November 8, 1941

Miss Viola Ilma
Young Men's Vocational Foundation
95 Madison Avenue
New York, N.Y.

Cannot ask people you mention for money as I am on too many
boards with them. Sorry cannot be with you December 5.

Eleanor Roosevelt

YOUNG MEN'S VOCATIONAL FOUNDATION, INC.

30 WEST 40TH STREET . PENNSYLVANIA 3036 . NEW YORK, N. Y.

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NEW ADDRESS: 95 Madison Avenue . Murray Hill 3-9425

VIOLA ILMA
Executive Director

ROBERT R. HANNUM
HAROLD G. OERTHER
Assistant Directors

November 3rd, 1941

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

At present we are getting ready to write our Annual Report and this year the Board of Directors would like to dedicate it to you. The theme of the report will be In Defense of Youth and will be an accounting of our accomplishments for the past year. We would like to reprint your photograph for the dedication, in your honor.

On December 5th we are holding our Annual Banquet at the Lafayette Hotel and we will have approximately 150 guests and we are now working out the program. We are also planning our Christmas Campaign. And I have made preparations for calling a group of women together for our Girl's Division.

You will be pleased to hear that Commissioner Frieda Miller and Dr. Studebaker have joined our Advisory Board. We lost Mr. VanderPoel and Mr. Creel who are in the Navy and Mr. Archbold, our treasurer - to the Army - all board members.

I have written at length to Miss Seaver on some ideas, copies of which I have sent you.

This sums up the recent news.

With activities going on at full pace we are now down to our last thousand dollars, which is as it should be because it is the end of our fiscal year and therefore we have spent as much as we have received. Because of the Defense Program and the fact that so many people who give small contributions are having many demands put on them it is vitally important for me to accomplish the following and do it quickly - To have Nelson Rockefeller, Mrs. Max Ascoli, Mrs. Adele Levy, Marshall Field, Justine Polier and yourself meet. Justine agrees that I could present the request to have Mrs. Ascoli, Mrs. Levy, Nelson Rockefeller

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VIOLA ILMA
Executive Director

NEW ADDRESS: 95 Madison Avenue • Murray Hill 3-5425

ROBERT R. HANNUM
HAROLD G. ORATHER
Assistant Directors

- 2 -

Mrs. Roosevelt

November 3rd, 1941

and Marshall Field each give five thousand dollars. This would assure us for the coming year for there is so much work to do and with this group, with yourself and Justine present, plus the little I can contribute, this end could be accomplished and I would be free to do the job of developing the agency locally and nationally. Our Los Angeles branch will not be a financial burden because Mr. Lester Cowan is taking that responsibility.

Mr. Field's secretary informs me that he will only be in New York this week and then he is going to Chicago to work on his new paper. Therefore is there any fifteen minutes this week that you will have open in New York? I believe the others would be able to fit their time with yours. Perhaps Justine may not be able to make it because, as I understand, she is going to Washington, but the others could meet. This is so important to us that I would appreciate whatever action you may take so that I can inform Mr. Field as soon as possible, as well as Mr. Rockefeller, Mrs. Ascoli and Mrs. Levy. It might be that we would have to see Mr. Rockefeller and Justine in Washington, but this would not be too difficult and the other three major people are in New York.

Would Miss Thompson be kind enough to wire me tomorrow if there is any time this week, in New York, morning, noon or night.

Most appreciatively,

Viola Ilma

Viola Ilma

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

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Keyes Winter

100

November 15, 1941.

Dear Miss Ilma:

Richard J.

I would love to see Mr. Neutra
but I won't be back in Washington until
the twenty-first.

Very sincerely yours,

*Mr. Neutra's
letter suggested that
you be in New York
he would be in the
country and do his
state work in the
week to be on Sunday.*

Miss Viola Ilma
95 Madison Avenue
New York, New York.

VDS

YOUNG MEN'S VOCATIONAL FOUNDATION, INC.

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VIOLA ILMA
Executive Director

ROBERT R. HANNUM
HAROLD G. ORATHER
Assistant Directors

copy 11/15/41
Y.M.V.F. - low 30
See him but not with the 2000 in hand

November 10th, 1941

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Richard J. Neutra, distinguished architect I met in California, expressed the desire to meet you.

He has done some very exciting work in building the Los Angeles High School, as well as working on projects in housing for N.Y.A. and a series of activities which I know will be of interest to you.

I believe his desire to meet you is to talk over some thoughts he has on architecture and housing in the post war period.

I have written to my friend, Thelma McKelvy because I don't know where he is staying and suggested that he call her if there is any time that you can see him.

I am sure you will enjoy meeting him.

Sincerely,

Viola Ilma
Viola Ilma

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

vi/mi
enc.

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Keyes Winter

100
November 21, 1941

Dear Miss Ilma:

I am very sorry, but as I told you before, I can not ask the people you mention for money, because I have to work with them.

I will be glad to have a luncheon in late January to start the interest in a girls' division.

I appreciate your wanting to dedicate the annual report to me, but please do not do it, because I do not feel I have done anything to warrant this attention.

Very sincerely yours,

Miss Viola Ilma
Young Men's Vocational Foundation
95 Madison Avenue
NYC

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November 19, 1941.

Dear Miss Ilma:

As I told you before, I can not ask the people you mention for money for any purpose.

I will be glad to have a luncheon in late January to start the interest in the Girl's Division.

I do not want the annual report dedicated to me, and can see no reason for it.

Very sincerely yours,

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

VDS

YOUNG MEN'S VOCATIONAL FOUNDATION, INC.

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VIOLA ILMA
Executive Director

ROBERT R. HANNUM
HAROLD G. OERTHER
Assistant Directors

November 10th, 1941

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I went through a hectic mental cycle of gathering the information, as I mentioned in my last letter to you. However I heard that Marshall Field was leaving for Chicago and I saw him last Thursday. You will be pleased to hear that he has pledged to be one of four to give five thousand, with the certainty of his real interest in our work.

We always seem to just pass the line, practically down to no money at all, and now at least we have enough to enable us to gather the rest of our many friends into financial support.

I am still convinced that if we asked Mrs. Adele Levy, Mrs. Ascoli and Nelson Rockefeller, together with Justine Polier, to sit down for a few minutes with you that we would be able to accomplish my goal, and I would like to be able to do this before December 5th. Would you let me know if that could be possible. Then I would ask Justine to contact Mrs. Ascoli and Mrs. Levy because she knows them both better than I do, and also is confident that they will be interested.

The Board and I appreciate very much the opportunity to accept your invitation to give a luncheon for us to start the interest in the Girl's Division. I would suggest that we do it some time in January for by that time we will have had our Banquet and Christmas Campaign over with.

You will be interested to know that I am again tackling Doris Duke through Marion Pascal and I think she might be one of the group interested in starting a Girl's Division. Did you, by the way, enjoy the story of Judy?

I know these requests must seem lofty to you but I enclose copy of a letter which Commissioner Adie sent to the Hayden Foundation whom we are approaching once again and it substantiates my ability to have the courage to ask so much of your time when I am fully aware of the tremendous responsibilities and the thousand directions you take.

You will also be interested to know that I have already contacted Miss Seaver and I hope something constructive might come out of any contribution

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VIOLA ILMA
Executive Director

ROBERT R. HANNUM
HAROLD G. OERTHER
Assistant Directors

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Mrs. Roosevelt

November 10th, 1941

I might give to her in relationship to a practical program for the Youth Civil Defense program.

Alas, Marshall MacDuffie, one of our best board members and who was associated with Sullivan & Cronwell has resigned from our Board to act as Senior Attorney for the Economic Defense Board in Washington.

Would you let us know if you approve of our dedicating our Annual Report to you and if so can we have your photograph.

Most sincerely,

Viola Ilma
Viola Ilma

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

vi/mi
enc.

No can't be any more for it

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STATE OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE
112 STATE STREET
ALBANY, N.Y.

November 7th, 1941

Mr. J. Willard Hayden
President, Hayden Foundation
25 Broad Street
New York City

My dear Mr. Hayden:

As a member of the Board of Directors of the Young Men's Vocational Foundation, and also as Commissioner of Social Welfare of the State of New York, I ask the privilege of bringing to your attention their request for financial assistance.

I can testify to the high efficiency of the work which this organization is doing for delinquent boys since they render very great services to the administration of the State School at Warwick which institution, as you know, is under the jurisdiction of this Department.

I have very strong hopes that this type of work will ultimately become a part of the public structure itself, but it needs to be carried on for several years as a demonstration project. When Mr. Weber was Budget Director of the State, he agreed with me that it was the type of thing that ought to be financed publicly but, as I have already said, it seemed to be too early in the history of the work to present it formally to the Legislature.

It is not very often that I get back of a private agency in its appeal to foundations for support, but I do believe that this is one agency that justifies an exception to my general rule.

If there is any further information that I can give you, I would be happy to have you call upon me.

With my kindest regards,

Very sincerely yours,

DCA:MOC
cc: Miss Ilma

DAVID C. ADIE
Commissioner

YOUNG MEN'S VOCATIONAL FOUNDATION, INC.

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VIOLA ILMA
Executive Director

ROBERT R. HANNUM
HAROLD G. OERTHER
Assistant Directors

November 19, 1941

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

Dear Miss Thompson:

Our annual report goes to press the middle of next week and we would appreciate a photograph of Mrs. Roosevelt and a letter which really would be a message to the organization.

Enclosed is the letter which Commissioner Adie has written.

Appreciatively and with my best wishes,

Sincerely,

Viola Ilma
Viola Ilma

VI:GF
Enc.

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COPY
STATE OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE
ALBANY

November 14, 1941

Mrs. Lionel C. Perera, Jr.
President, Board of Directors
Young Men's Vocational Foundation, Inc.
95 Madison Avenue
New York City

My dear Mrs. Perera:

It is always a pleasure for me to write about the Young Men's Vocational Foundation because of my enthusiasm for the worthwhileness of the work which is being done. Not in many years have I come across an organization with as much vitality and direct bearing on individual life as this.

I can testify to the high efficiency of the work which the Foundation is doing for delinquent boys since it renders very great services to the administration of the State Training School at Warwick, which institution, as you know, is under the jurisdiction of this Department.

As a matter of fact, we have viewed this type of activity as an experiment by a private agency which ultimately would be carried out under public auspices. It is, however, too early in the history of the work to implement it into the public structure.

I am impressed by the thoroughness and imagination with which the work is carried on, and I believe that the Foundation has a very real and vital contribution to make in the field of rehabilitating juvenile delinquents.

Very sincerely yours,

Signed: David C. Adie.
Commissioner

100

December 5, 1941

Miss Viola Ilma
Young Men's Vocational Foundation
Lafayette Hotel (Dinner 7:30 p.m.)
New York, N.Y.

Will you extend my greetings to all those present at the dinner
tonight and accept my congratulations on the expansion of your work
especially on the establishment of the Los Angeles branch

Eleanor Roosevelt

Jordan

Send wire

Mrs. Kala Alma

Lafayette Hotel

N. Y. City -

to reach about 7³⁰

I am ~~intending to~~
will you ^{please} extend my
greetings back there
present at the dinner
tonight & accept my
cong on the expansion
of your work & especially
on the establishment of
the Los Angeles ranch ER

December 22, 1941

100

Dear Miss Ilma:

Mrs. Roosevelt asked me to send you the enclosed check for \$100.00 and to say that this is her contribution to the Young Men's Vocational Foundation for 1942.

Very sincerely yours,

Secretary to
Mrs. Roosevelt

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

Ilma
JRH

HY

New York City
Nov. 1, 1941

Dear Miss Alma
Just a few lines to let you know that I received the long lost picture, it really was a surprise, I gave up hope of ever seeing it long ago. The girl who played the part as my mother came out swell.

I am in the best of health and I hope that you and the rest of the folks at the office are the same.

to work.

Mrs. Ima, I never told you how inept I am to you so I guess that is just a ^{good} chance as any. I often wonder where I would

be today if Mr. Roche didn't refer me to you. My parole officer wouldn't help me. I think I would probably ~~have~~ have been on the road bumming or else sitting in some jail. Now I have a radio, money in the bank, wrist watch, a steady job, cloths, and my health, what more does a fellow ^{want} need? (I even have a girl)

As yet I haven't been over to your new quarters but I'll drop over to see you at the first opportunity that I get.

I lost my Child's job at 1501 Broadway but I got an other one through the union I now work at 111 St and Broadway and I make two dollars a week more than my usual salary.

I went home to visit my parents Tuesday and my father asked me to live home. but I told him it was to far away to commute

And I think I owe it all to you.
I havent much more to say
to you right now 'so until I see
or hear from you I remain one
of your grateful friends

James { Name
Withheld }

P.S. I never was much good at
writing letters. I hope you are
able to read it.

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VIOLA ILMA
Executive Director

ROBERT R. HANNUM
HAROLD G. OERTHER
Assistant Directors

December 10th, 1941

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Jimmie's letter tells you that we are living up to the high responsibilities of our work in obtaining jobs for young boys upon their release from training schools and reform schools.

The honor of the dinner that was given to us at the White House certainly expressed that the problem was one of national significance.

In three years we have advanced from eighty-one placements to five hundred and eighty-six. In three years our staff has tripled and in three years our budget has tripled.

Your contribution has made this growth possible and Jimmie's letter tells you what we hope a thousand boys can tell us a year from now.

Your donation this Christmas season will make that goal possible.

Sincerely yours,

Viola Ilma
Viola Ilma,
Executive Director

for your letter
Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt
The White House
Washington, D. C.

vi/mi
enc.

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Ordway Tead
Mrs. Lester H. Weil
Keyes Winter

Pending

100

January 2, 1941

Dear Miss Ilma:

Mrs. Roosevelt has your letter of December 29th in which you state that you will be in Washington next week. She asks if you will come to lunch on Monday, the 5th, at one o'clock.

Sincerely yours,

Secretary to
Mrs. Roosevelt

Miss Viola Ilma
Young Men's Vocational Foundation
95 Madison Avenue
New York, New York

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

January 3, 1942

MEMORANDUM FOR: MISS THOMPSON
MR. CRIM
MRS. NESBIT
MRS. HELM
MR. TOLLEY

Miss Viola Ilma will lunch
at the White House on Monday, January 5th,
at 1:00 P. M.

file
P. L. F.

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VIOLA ILMA
Executive Director

ROBERT R. HANNUM
HAROLD G. OERTHER
Assistant Directors

December 29th, 1941

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Our Christmas Eve party was held at the office Wednesday at four o'clock and what could have been a higher send off than to have received your contribution of a hundred dollars to the Young Men's Vocational Foundation. We are deeply moved and exhausted with appreciation.

I hope you will find time to read our Annual Report which is attached herewith for it clearly expresses the view points of the entire organization.

I have just written to Miss Seaver that I am delighted to accept her offer to work with the Youth Civilian Defense on activities in defense with training schools and reform schools, initially experimenting with New York State where we are familiar with procedures and personnel and the young people themselves. I plan to spend the entire week, beginning next Monday, in Washington to work out blue prints and from there on perhaps spend the latter part of each week in Washington, the rest in New York, carrying out the plans that we develop.

I think this is an excellent opportunity to coordinate the interest of various organizations in this field, as well as giving the young people in the institutions the chance to organize defense counsels on their own with practical participation both in and out of the institutions for Civilian Defense. Important also is the fact that many of these young people will finally enter the army and it will be a very specific increase in youth morale for them to have contributed actively in the Civilian Defense program.

There is no need to talk further but I wish to express my appreciation in having the opportunity to work with Miss Seaver on this particular part of the Youth Civilian Defense program and appreciate your recommendation.

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

Most sincerely,
Viola Ilma
Viola Ilma

vi/mi

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Keyes Winter

No. 1135

Date December 29, 1941

The Young Men's Vocational Foundation, Inc.

8 West 40th Street

New York City

acknowledges with thanks the contribution of One hundred-----
00/100 Dollars

from Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt

for the purpose of rehabilitating Juvenile Delinquents.

Arnon E. Archbold

Treasurer

*Gifts to the Young Men's Vocational Foundation, Inc., are exempt from
tax and may be deducted for Income Tax purposes.*

\$100.00

6/29/42

Dear Miss Thompson.

With much appreciation
for our successful
luncheon. Sincerely,
Viola Huer

100
January 20, 1942

Dear Viola:

I understand from Mr. Stohl of O.C.D. that there is some idea you have been asked to come down on a consultant basis. I am sorry to say that I do not think that is possible and I understood that you came just to talk out and perhaps start some kind of a program for young people in reform schools. I do not think that will require very much attention.

I feel an obligation to keep down our consultant expenses as much as possible.

Very sincerely,

Miss Viola Ilma
Young Men's Vocational Foundation
95 Madison Avenue, N.Y.C.

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VIOLA ILMA
Executive Director

ROBERT R. HANNUM
HAROLD G. OERTNER
Assistant Directors

*File
26 -
Subscribed to
you need do
nothing ✓*

100

February 10th, 1942

My dear Miss Thompson:

I am herewith enclosing copy of a letter I wrote to Mrs. Roosevelt a few days ago and hope that I may have an answer as soon as possible with regard to the dates mentioned, as the time is drawing close.

Most appreciatively yours,

Viola Ilma
Viola Ilma

Miss Malvina Thompson
49 E. 65th Street
New York City

vi/mi
enc.

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Keyes Winter

file
March 11 1942

2/26
5 p.m.

February 11th, 1942

My dear Miss Thompson:

This is to confirm telephone message you left
in ^{our} office today with regard to the tea to be held at Mrs. H. Nugent
Head's home. February 26th is fine, and the hour is the same, 5 p.m.,
at Mrs. Head's home, 125 E. 74th Street, City.

Very sincerely yours,

Miriam Isaacs,
Secy. to Viola Ilma

Miss Malvina Thompson
49 E. 65th Street
New York City

cc to White House

February 4th, 1942

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Yesterday Walter Thayer saw Mrs. H. Nugent Head and she would like to invite her friends to a tea at her home either February 18th or 19th, whichever would be most convenient to you.

She will invite the women to arrive at four-thirty and if you could arrive at five, for a few minutes. Walter feels that she really has friends who are quite wealthy and that we ought to have a very successful tea. There will be no more than a dozen people there but a dozen who are carefully selected, and Mrs. Head would like to know as soon as possible so that she can invite these people.

Walter and I saw the Governor on Monday and he was extremely interested in our work and recognized the importance of it. He naturally wanted to investigate further on who we were and we suggested Commissioner Adie, which met with his approval. Of course I don't think we have a better friend than Commissioner Adie for he is thoroughly familiar with our work.

I imagine, if supplementary funds from the Department of Social Welfare can be put our way, as Dr. Williams of Warwick expressed, that the Department of Social Welfare pays the Neurological Clinic a lump sum each year to handle their boys, that this is the process which Commissioner Adie will suggest to the Governor. At least there is a possibility.

And favorable recommendations are going in to the Greater New York Fund through various sources and there is a possibility along that line as well. In the meanwhile I am contacting as many people as possible and as soon as I have any real news to report you shall know.

Appreciating hearing from you as soon as possible on the tea, for it is our hope we can raise a good deal of funds as a result of it, I am,

Most sincerely,

Viola Ilma

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt
Washington, D. C.

vi/mi

100

February 18, 1942

Dear Viola:

I am sorry about Mrs. Head. I hope she will soon be well and that perhaps she can give the tea later.

I will try to help a bit financially.

Sincerely yours,

Miss Viola Ilma
95 Madison Avenue, NYC

0

YOUNG MEN'S VOCATIONAL FOUNDATION, INC.

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VIOLA ILMA
Executive Director

ROBERT R. HANNUM
HAROLD G. OERTHER
Assistant Directors

February 19th, 1942

*Long about Mrs. Head
help the will delete
I will help
help a bit
Annex ready*

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I am sorry to report that Walter Thayer has just called me and informed me that Mrs. Head and her children have been taken down with a severe illness and she will therefore not be able to carry out the promised tea at this time. However I am sure when Mrs. Head recuperates she will give us her kind offer again, but this is indeed a disappointment because I thought we could raise from five to ten thousand dollars.

This letter is mainly to report what progress has taken place in relationship to the financial situation of the Y.M.V.F. When I saw you in Washington our bank balance was down to five hundred dollars. Since then I have been able to contact some of our people on whom I knew we could count.

1. Armar Archbold, our treasurer, - \$2000.00.
2. Marshall Field, - \$2500.00. (This fulfills his 1942 pledge).
3. James Wallerstein, a new board member - \$1500.00.

This will at least enable us to carry on until May. If we could raise ten thousand dollars we would be clear for the remainder of our fiscal year, which ends in October. There are two encouraging possibilities at the moment. Walter Thayer and I had a very interesting interview with Governor Lehman and he expressed he would discuss the matter with Commissioner Adie, and Charles Poletti sent in the following letter:

"Dear Viola:

Apropos of your letter of February 4th I want you to know that I talked to Governor Lehman and he is much impressed with the fine work that

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Keyes Winter

Mrs. Roosevelt

February 19th, 1942

you have been doing. I am talking to Dave Adie about devising some scheme by which we can legally help you. Let us hope there is one.

Cheerio!

Charlie"

If the Young Men's Vocational Foundation were to close it would be a serious loss to Warwick State Training School, as well as to other institutions, affecting approximately a thousand boys a year. No persons recognize this more severely than Commissioner Adie, and Dr. Herbert Williams, superintendent of Warwick.

At least the chance of supplementary funds from the State Department of Social Welfare is there for there is not a definite "no" and certainly there is interest and recognition that this responsibility must sooner or later be taken over by the state.

Secondly there is a chance that we might be given some funds from the Greater New York Fund. Certainly Justine Polier, Marshall Field, Commissioner Adie, Father Boland, Dr. Williams and a few others have made all the important contacts in one way or another, and rather off the record Neva Deardorff makes us feel we can be encouraged. Nothing would please us more than if we could count on funds from the Greater New York Fund and the State Department of Social Welfare for then we would feel that our agency is working in line with the progress of the day.

We feel that more and more the government must take social responsibilities in hand and this is as it should be. Our problem, however, is that I cannot sit back in the hopes of these two key spots, for, if for one reason or another they fail to materialize, I am forced to turn to private contributors. This is very disconcerting for the extremely wealthy people I have seen, who are interested, are for the most part anti-government and want to be sure that we do not put our work into the hands of the government. Such thinking is so out of line with the thinking of our Board and staff that I am less effective with these people because our guarantees can be none in their direction.

On the other hand, with wealthy people who are social minded, as Marshall Field, and others; they are constantly being pressed for funds in every direction from all private agencies. I had a serious discussion with Marshall Field only a few days ago, presenting my problem to him honestly and he agreed thoroughly that we should make an attempt to get some funds from the State Department of Social Welfare and the Greater New York Fund. He agrees that if we cannot get this cooperation a pessimistic view must be taken, for these fine people cannot constantly be "bled".

I wanted to give you this picture in full for I can assure you I have seen all the people necessary to see, from a Government point of view. And as far as reaching new people of wealth, it is extremely difficult.

Mrs. Roosevelt

February 19th, 1942

Mrs. Adele Levy, for example, rather than renew her contribution, wrote that she could not do so, expressing appreciation of our excellent work. Surely it is not because there is no appreciation of what we are doing, but because of the many demands made upon her, and there are just so many Mrs. Levys and Marshall Fields and we can almost name them off hand.

I am so anxious to develop the work of our organization and use my mind in that direction, and yet am held back because of the difficulty of obtaining the necessary funds. Yet there is no one with whom I have discussed this problem who quite believe that we could close due to lack of funds.

I know you can appreciate how disturbed I must feel, for on the one hand we have more boys than ever, and the problems are much more severe. They are looking for more excitement, they want higher wages without skilled training behind it, and all the problems the English have experienced are coming to us rapidly and I see ahead a most serious problem in delinquency. Therefore, rather than close, due to lack of funds, we ought to be enabled to continue and also contribute whatever we can, through whatever channels exist, to the manifold problems with which the nation will be faced. Recognizing these serious responsibilities, I am indeed discouraged and to put it mildly, annoyed that a mere ten thousand dollars should take up all my time when there are more demands to use one's ability to do one's share in this great war effort. I am not one for talk but rather one for action and for concrete results and therefore am deeply disturbed by the conflicts with which we are faced.

And as Douglas P. Falconer, executive director of the Greater New York Fund, only yesterday expressed, according to the Herald Tribune and the New York Times: "...social agencies are not going to be financed by a few wealthy people, because they won't be here". He further says: "unless we can do better the strong agencies will survive and the others, which have been valuable also, will not be able to survive". By "strong" I take it he means financially strong.

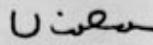
That the Y.M.V.F. is in line with progressive thinking is expressed by its accomplishments and by its action. Only recently a Negro, Mrs. Lillian Alexander, was added to our Board of Directors, and now nominations are in order to have trade union representation on it as well. Also, within a few weeks a Negro will be added to the staff. Unfortunately at this time only secretarial, but our objective is to have a Negro in an executive capacity, with us, but we cannot possibly consider expansion until we solidify the activities we are now carrying on.

I have written our problem out in great length to you because I am sure that our problem is the same as many of the other social agencies doing important work, and somehow this work must be evaluated and their support acted on in a much larger sense than the struggle and energy put behind financing alone.

I am enclosing our last month's placement report, believing you would be interested in the way our reports are kept. Also the material we left with the Governor.

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

Most sincerely,


Viola Ilma

vi/mi
encs.

STATISTICS REGARDING YOUNG MEN'S VOCATIONAL FOUNDATION

I. Comparative Referrals, Placements, and Budgets during Three Years' Operation

Year	Number of Referrals	Number of Jobs Supplied	Number of Boys Placed	Number of Referrals Warwick	Number of Jobs Supplied to Warwick	Number of Boys Placed	Budget
1938-39	139	81	Lacking	Lacking	Lacking	Lacking	\$6,445.04
1939-40	302	237	Lacking	Lacking	Lacking	Lacking	9,114.84
1940-41	Wh. 370 Neg. 221 Tot. 591	Wh. 378 Neg. 208 Tot. 586	Wh. 242 Neg. 133 Tot. 375	Wh. 99 Neg. 152 Tot. 251	Wh. 128 Neg. 150 Tot. 278	Wh. 74 Neg. 95 Tot. 169	16,545.59
1941-42	Estimated Estimate: Tot. 700	Estimated Estimate: Tot. 700	Estimated Estimate: Tot. 500	Estimated Estimate: Tot. 250	Estimated Estimate: Tot. 300	Estimated Estimate: Tot. 200	Estimated Estimate: 25,000.00

II. Analysis of All Referrals from Sources Other Than New York State Training School for Boys *

Year	Number of Referrals	Number of Jobs Supplied	Number of Boys Placed
1940-41	White 271 Negro 89 Total 340	White 250 Negro 58 Total 308	White 168 Negro 38 Total 206

III. Per Capita Cost of Young Men's Vocational Foundation's Services

	1938-39	1939-40	1940-41
For each boy referred to us	\$ 46.26	\$ 30.18	\$ 27.93
For each placement made	79.57	38.45	28.25

* For detailed listing of other sources, see In Defense of Youth, the 1940-41 report of the Young Men's Vocational Foundation, page 30.

IV. Some employers who have employed Young Men's Vocational Foundation boys:

A & B Venetian Blind Company	Nedick's Stores, Inc.
Ace Fastener Company	New York Public Library
Allied Messenger Service	Noma Electrical Corporation
Allied Seating Company	Paix Millinery Company
Atlantic Ave. Trucking Company	Safeway Stores
Capitol Hotel	St. Cliff Furniture Company
City Chemical Company	San Marino Wine Company
Columbia Lithographic Co., Inc.	Sawmill Supply Company
Devito Coal Company	Sikorsky Aviation Corporation
Engle Pencil Company	Silver Cafeteria
Flower Fifth Avenue Hospital	Simon & Schuster
Guarantee Trust Company	Sklar Buttonhole & Hemstitching Co.
Kelly Dye Company	Sperry Gyroscope Company, Inc.
Klein Piano Company	Sun Metal Products Company
Lord & Taylor	Sunbeam Leather Company
R. H. Macy & Company, Inc.	Tudor Theatre
Manhattan Cable Company	United Parcel Service, Inc.
Montgomery Ward & Company	Waldes Koh-I-Noor, Inc.
Morningside Press	Western Union Telegraph Company

V. Some trade unions cooperating in Young Men's Vocational Foundation placements:

Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America
Bakery and Confectionery Union, Local #1
Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters
Cafeteria Employees Union, Local #302
Cake Bakers Union, Local #51
Chain Service Restaurant Employees Union
Cleaners and Dyers Union, Local #239
Costume Tailors Union (affiliated with Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America)
Curtain, Drapery and Allied Products Workers Union, Local #458
Dental Technicians Equity, Chapter #101
Dining Car Employees Union, Local #370
Display Fixture Workers Union, Local #21625
Fur, Floor and Shipping Clerks Union, Local #25
House Wreckers Union, Local #95
International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local #3
International Ladies Garment Workers Union
Laundry Workers Joint Board of Greater New York
New York Hotel Trades Council, Local #144
Restaurant-Cafeteria-Culinary Employees Union #1
Suitcase, Bag and Portfolio Makers Union, Local #60
Theater, and Amusement Service Employees Union, Local #54
United Culinary Employees of New York, Local #923
United Office and Professional Workers of America
United Optical Workers Union, Local #208
United Piano Workers Union
United Wholesale and Warehouse Employees of New York
Upholsterers Union, Local #76

VI. Analysis of types of jobs procured for boys during the last fiscal year (in order of their frequency):

<u>Type of Placement</u>	<u>Number of Jobs</u>
Factory	124
Messenger Service	105
Food Trades	81
Stock, Shipping	57
Labor	46
Personal Service	34
Clerical	27
Truck Helper	23
Carpentry	19
General Maintenance	18
Printing	9
Farming	9
Auto Mechanics	7
Laundry	6
Electricity	6
Upholstery	5
Professional	3
Army	2
Navy	2
Total	<u>566</u>

YOUNG MEN'S VOCATIONAL FOUNDATION, INC.
Budget for year November 1941 to October 1942

Director's Salary	\$4753.84
Ass't. Director's salary	3650.00
Ass't. Director's salary	2938.48
Ass't. Director's salary	2638.48
Clerical staff salary	5354.00
Rent	1100.00
Electricity	81.60
Telephone and telegraph	1110.79
Stationery and stamps	790.23
Office Equipment and repairs	430.96
Loans to Boys	603.36
Fare and travel expenses	423.84
Dues to organizations	20.04
Publicity, Reports and Annual Dinner	618.09
Lunches and dinners	302.00
Miscellaneous	
Books and magazines	51.40
Messengers	67.90
Towel Service	24.20
Legal fees	41.60
Bank charges	.24
	<hr/>
	\$26000.00

EXCERPTS FROM LETTERS ON THE WORK OF THE YOUNG MEN'S VOCATIONAL FOUNDATION

David C. Adie, Commissioner, Department of Social Welfare, State of New York

"...I can testify to the high efficiency of the work which the Foundation is doing for delinquent boys since it renders very great services to the administration of the State Training School at Warwick, which institution, as you know, is under the jurisdiction of this department."

Charles Poletti, Lieutenant-Governor, State of New York

"...Hearty congratulations on the Foundation's energetic and intelligent activities during the past year and my warm wishes for the fullest measure of support in your worthy future endeavors. The State of New York is grateful to you and the Foundation for greatly helping to rehabilitate the boys from our institutions."

Justine Wise Polier, Consultant to Mrs. Roosevelt

"...This organization, though young, has done the most outstanding job in New York, so far as I know, to help young boys who have been in New York State Training School to make an adjustment and find work when they were paroled or discharged. They have done a particularly fine job in regard to Negroes. They need help desperately if they are to continue...."

Herbert D. Williams, Superintendent, New York State Training School for Boys

"...We regard the Young Men's Vocational Foundation as being a unique agency and offering a service that is not duplicated in the City of New York...That it is serving a very real need and offering a unique service cannot be doubted."

Henrietta Additon, Superintendent, Westfield State Farm

"...The organization that can open up such opportunities (for employment) is of great value to the community. The placements made by your agency has been of real assistance to our girls. With all good wishes."

Fiorella La Guardia, Mayor of the City of New York

"...I suggest that you ask the assistance of the Young Men's Vocational Foundation...This organization was founded for the express purpose of helping young men like your son."

John W. Studebaker, U. S. Office of Education, Washington, D. C.

"...It seems to me that you are not only rendering a marvelous service to boys in New York City but that you are creating a pattern for similar organizations which might very well be organized in many other communities of the country."

Robert K. Straus

"...I wish to express my high enthusiasm for the important work which you are doing on behalf of the city and of the state in the rehabilitation of juvenile delinquents...This, in my opinion, above all- aid to youth, is the most important...I wish you continued success and my whole-hearted support for your worthy endeavor."

Lester B. Granger, Executive Secretary, National Urban League

"...What I have liked especially, of course, has been the emphasis that you have given to work with Negro boys and the success you have had in actually placing these boys on jobs. Any agency that seeks to place Negro young people faces plenty of headaches. One that seeks to place Negroes with a court record faces a task so difficult that most agencies will not even attempt the job."

Brief History of the Y.M.V.F.

The Young Men's Vocational Foundation was founded and incorporated as an independent private agency in August, 1936, following two years of experimental placement work in the form of a Vocational Demonstration directed by Miss Viola Ilma for the Osborne Association.

During the initial year or so of operation, with Miss Ilma as sole executive and placement director, a budget of \$6,000 was raised from private sources, and 81 jobs were secured for boys referred from various training schools and reformatories, parols and probation authorities.

Midway through the second fiscal year (Nov. 1939 to Oct. 1940) an additional placement director was secured, largely as the result of a special grant from a private foundation. The partially increased budget was then stabilized at \$12,000 beginning with the following fiscal year. The technique of placement and administration was improved, and considerable extension was made of the Board of Directors and Advisory Board, drawn from experts in juvenile delinquency and related fields, and public-spirited persons. Placements for the year rose to 237.

Throughout the third fiscal year (Nov. 1940 to Oct. 1941) there were many requests for the extension of services by the organization, and as the result of a private grant by Mr. Marshall Field, a third placement director was added to the staff, to specialize in Negro placement and problems; largely due to increased referrals of Negro and white boys from the New York State Training School for Boys. Placements rose to 586, on a budget of \$18,000.

On April 23, 1941, the work of the organization was officially recognized by the Welfare Council of New York, and we became members of the Employment and Vocational Guidance Section.

Thus, during three years, the budget rose three fold, and placements increased more than seven fold.

In the same period, referrals from the New York State Training School increased from 40 in the initial year, to 281 in 1940-1941 -- a more than eightfold increase.

Due to insistent calls during last year for extension of our guidance and placement services, and the special nature of problems of administration, financing, legislation, Negro placement, labor union relationship, wartime delinquency, requests for aid in solving similar problems in other population centers, and the growing need for consideration of the placement problems of girls released from institutions, the Board of Directors decided to add a fourth placement director to the staff, thus releasing the Executive Director for administration. The budget was increased to \$25,000. No further expansion is contemplated. However we are adjusting our functions so as to handle the entire number of referrals from Warwick.

The staff of the organization is as follows: -

Viola Ilma, Executive Director: formerly director of the Vocational Demonstration of the Osborne Association. Founder of the Y.M.V.F.

Robert Hannus, Assistant Director: for ten years placement director at Children's Village, New York.

Harold Certher, Assistant Director: formerly employment councillor at Children's Aid Society, specializing in Negro placement.

Frank W. Balluffi, Assistant Director: formerly employment councillor at Children's Aid Society.

REGISTRATION AND PLACEMENT REPORT
JANUARY, 1943

NEW REGISTRATIONS

SOURCE OF REFERRAL	WHITE	NEGRO	TOTAL
New York State Training School for Boys	9	6	15
New York State Vocational Institute	1	0	1
New York State Parole	1	0	1
<u>Probation (N.Y.C.)</u>			
Adolescent's Court	1	0	1
<u>N.Y.C. Probation:</u>			
Court of General Sessions - N.Y.C.	2	1	3
Domestic Relations Court:			
Brooklyn Children's Court	3	0	3
Hawthorne-Cedar Knolls	1	0	1
U.S. District Court	1	0	1
Youth Counsel Bureau	0	2	2
<u>Miscellaneous</u>			
Friend	5	1	6
Relative	0	1	1
<u>Total New Registrations</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>35</u>
Re-Registrations	15	14	29
Active from Previous Month	33	29	62
TOTAL NO. OF BOYS HANDLED - CURRENT MONTH	72	54	126

INTERVIEWERS' ACTIVITIES

Interviews with Boys	290
Employer Contacts	377
Appointments arranged with Employers.	110
Miscellaneous Contacts.	182

RELIGIOUS REPORT

Catholics	21
Jewish	3
Protestant.	11
Other	0
TOTAL	35

PLACEMENTS

JOBS OBTAINED THROUGH --	WHITE		NEGRO		TOTAL		GRAND TOTAL
	Reg:	Temp:	Reg:	Temp:	Reg:	Temp:	
<u>Y.M.Y.F.</u>							
Private	26	1	25	0	51	1	52
Public	3	0	3	0	6	0	6
Boy's Own Efforts	14	2	6	2	20	4	24
Cooperating Agencies	2	0	1	0	3	0	3
<u>TOTAL PLACEMENTS</u>	<u>45</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>35</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>80</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>85</u>

March 20, 1942

Dear Miss Ilma:

Mrs. Roosevelt is away until the first of April. Your letter of March 18th has been received in her absence and I will give it to her upon her return.

Very sincerely yours,

Secretary to
Mrs. Roosevelt

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

0

100

March 30, 1942.

My dear Miss Ilma:

Mrs. Roosevelt has your letter of March 18, and has asked me to say she believes the information you enclosed should be circulated. She will try to see you in New York City soon.

Very sincerely yours,

Secretary to
Mrs. Roosevelt.

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

VDS

YOUNG MEN'S VOCATIONAL FOUNDATION, INC.
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VIOLA ILMA
Executive Director

ROBERT R. HANNUM
HAROLD G. OERTHER
Assistant Directors

March 18th, 1942

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Attached is what I consider a most important piece of information. It is a sample of what can be expected from many social agencies in relationship to the attitude of young people, particularly the underprivileged, during the war emergency.

If you think this is of any importance, I have copies which I can send to a suggested list.

Most sincerely yours,

Viola
Viola Ilma

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

vi/ml
enc.

*I would like very much to see you
in New York if it is possible.*

*I think it should be circulated
by the Bureau in N. Y. soon*

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Keyes Winter

3/10/42

REPORT OF THE STAFF OF THE YOUNG MEN'S VOCATIONAL FOUNDATION TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS ON:

NEW CONDITIONS RESULTING FROM THE WAR EMERGENCY

General attitude of the boys As during the last war, many factors are contributing to general restlessness among young people, thus disturbing the normal procedures of youth counselling and morale-building agencies. Public schools report more use of the word "ungovernable". Training schools are having more runaways than ever before. Neighborhood houses, church groups, YMCAs all report tendencies toward disorganization of youth morale efforts and instability of general programs. The YMVF, too, is experiencing restlessness among its referrals comparable to the general restlessness.

Boys and the armed forces Social workers and probation officers report non-cooperation of training school and reform school graduates with regard to service in the armed forces. Our own experience is that the boys lack interest in either the armed forces or maritime jobs. Their spirit of adventure is not lacking, but does not manifest itself in a patriotic manner.

Training and education Job training in institutions is of even greater significance than before. Yet too often boys cannot obtain war production jobs because of lack of training (records are a barrier in some instances). It is important to note that training schools are losing some of their best teachers, who are seeking better paid positions outside the training school system.

Boys and specific jobs The YMVF has always practiced rejection of sub-standard jobs. We are now able to reject job opportunities wherein standards have not improved and by virtue of the rising cost of living tend to fall into the sub-standard category. \$12 per week messenger jobs are now going begging for want of applicants. Very few of our boys will accept messenger jobs. Stirred by reports of high wages, they prefer jobs in war production industries. However, requirements for such industries are still much too high and prevailing training too low, in the majority of cases. It is also notable that few of the boys lacking the requirements for war industries show a desire to secure additional training, much as they would like high-paid jobs.

Applicants are more often than not indifferent to service jobs - in restaurants, hotels, buildings, etc. - which a few months ago were considered to be satisfactory. Most boys now place a higher value on their services. They are less willing, on the whole, to help themselves or be helped by us within the scope of existing job opportunities. They expect that as employment in general increases, the right opportunity for them will come along. Boys are less punctual in keeping appointments made by us for them with employers, and lax about observing working hours set by employers. Failure to keep appointments, without explanation, is becoming more frequent.

On the other hand, many jobs in non-war production industries are short lived due to the problem of priorities, and this contributes to restlessness and indifference.

Employer problems and the boys In some respects the market tends to favor the employee rather than the employer. The turnover reported by non-war production employers grows day by day. Some boys will try a job for a day or two, and quit for no apparent reason. The effect of this is to cause such employers to lower educational requirements, so that the 16-17 years old group not yet through high school are in greater demand. Also, personal records may be made known to employers in non-war production trades, without fear of discrimination.

YOUNG MEN'S VOCATIONAL FOUNDATION, INC.
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VIOLA ILMA
Executive Director

ROBERT R. HANNUM
HAROLD G. OERTHER
Assistant Directors

100
March 10th, 1942

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I did not answer your letter in relationship to the MEMO to OGD simply because I wanted to attach a copy of a letter which I sent to Mr. Daniels which was on the point of view of the results of the Superintendents' Conference.

At all times my only interest in trying to be of any help is to be able to see that some consideration is given to the boys in relationship to the war program, both in and out of the training schools and reform schools.

It was my fear that "a business as usual" attitude would be taken unless some leadership and drive were put behind the problem, with hope of government action and this was my main interest, stemming from my initial discussion with Betty Lindley.

The report was really a group piece of work rather than an individual one, for I am convinced that there are many fine minds interested in this field who are more than ready to do a constructive job. I was delighted that the MEMO was received with interest and my only hope is that something is done and at least I did make an effort to get the ball rolling which was my only intention.

However, I did appreciate your letter which disentangled misconceptions and I was happy to have that.

Sincerely,

Viola
Viola Ilma

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt
The White House
Washington, D.C.
vi/ml
ENC.

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Ordway Tead
Mrs. Lester H. Weil
Keyes Winter

March 6th, 1942

My dear Mr. Daniels:

This is a belated answer to your letter of February 16th, due to the fact that I wanted to wait until I could report on consideration by the Superintendents' Conference of the MEMO on Juvenile Delinquency in Wartime and Training School Programs in Relationship to Civilian Defense and War Production.

I might mention that the conference of both men and women superintendents are closed to the public, and exist solely to permit private discussion of inner problems of administration. No collective action is taken, no official decisions are arrived at, no public announcements are made. However, Mr. Frank Penn and Dr. Herbert Williams, both of whom played a major role in planning the MEMO sent to you, were re-elected respectively president and secretary-treasurer, and they have informed me that the MEMO was discussed and the following consensus of opinion arrived at:

1. The theme of the MEMO, that training schools can and should play a more vital role in civilian defense activities, met with full agreement;
2. That the success of any plan would depend upon the active cooperation of the heads of institutions and the working out of detailed plans for activities together with the local and state defense councils;
3. That OCD should take the initiative and have the authority to carry out the program as a whole.

Both Dr. Williams and Mr. Penn believe that the question of juvenile delinquency in war time has yet to be viewed in the light of its importance as a national problem, and consider that some central agency should be established to stimulate exchange of ideas and plan activities to take advantage of the potentialities of training schools in relationship to civilian defense and war production.

Mr. Daniels

March 6th, 1942

The wisest plan would be for OCD to appoint a co-ordinator familiar with the problems involved, to arouse interest, develop practical programming, and acquaint local defense councils with the problem.

I fully agree with their point of view. A laissez faire attitude will produce little or no results. May I add that the Women Superintendents' Conference resulted in the same general point of view. I am sure that the leaders of the Superintendents' Conference, Dr. Williams and Mr. Penn, together with representatives of the Children's Bureau, will be most cooperative in working out further developments.

I do hope that the matter will receive your earnest consideration.

Most sincerely yours,

Viola Ilma

Mr. Jonathan Daniels
Director, Program Planning
Division of Volunteer Participation
Office Of Civilian Defense
Washington, D. C.

vi/mi

YOUNG MEN'S VOCATIONAL FOUNDATION, INC.

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Executive Director
VIOLA ILMA

file

Associate Directors
FRANK W. BALLUFFI—Trade Union
ROBERT R. HANNUM—Vocational Placement
HAROLD G. OERTNER—Negro Affairs

April 16th, 1942

100

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I have been informed that Miss Marjorie Frey, an expert on juvenile delinquency in England, is being sent by the British Government to America to talk on the problem of delinquency in England.

I am certain many people in the field of juvenile delinquency will welcome a vigorous person who can put before the public the seriousness of this problem for in high places it has yet to be given its proper consideration in war time.

Miss Frey has a very broad background, including being honorary secretary of the Howard League for legal reforms, author of various books on delinquency, as well as being a worker with the Quaker War Relief and principal of the Somerville College at Oxford in 1931, and from '38-'39 Governor of the British Broadcasting.

Could we plan a special occasion in her honor, the details of which I would prefer to talk over with you, but I think it would be a splendid idea.

Most sincerely,

Viola
Viola Ilma

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

v1/m1

Handwritten notes:
Mrs. Roosevelt -
Tuesday
P.S. Mrs. Roosevelt

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Victor Roudin
Mrs. Leopold K. Simon
Robert K. Straus
John W. Studebaker, Ph.D.
Ordway Tead
Mrs. Lester H. Weil
Keyes Winter

April 20, 1942

7-11-42
165

Dear Miss Ilms:

Mrs. Roosevelt has received your letter concerning Latya Alpert and has asked me to send you the enclosed check for \$100 for a month's sustenance. She regrets that she can do no more but hopes you can get other people interested in Miss Alpert.

Very sincerely yours,

Mrs. J. M. Helm,
Secretary to
Mrs. Roosevelt

Miss Viola Ilms,
Young Men's Vocational Foundation, Inc.,
98 Madison Avenue,
New York, N. Y.

pl

File

c/o David Lloyd
49 East 34th Street
New York City
April 17, 1942

*Back of letter
Don't know date
Yesterday*

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Viola Ilma may have informed you that I did not, after all, receive a Guggenheim fellowship. Only three awards were made in fiction this year, these going to already established authors and most of the others to academicians for scholarly research. In fact, when Viola and I saw the list, we felt considerably relieved. Although our efforts - and your great kindness in recommending me - brought no immediate results, it was obvious that one had to arrive beyond the struggling-young-artist-full-of-promise stage in order to attain recognition.

Of course the money would have been very useful, but I'm not going to stop. Miss Pearl Buck once told my agent, "She has everything she needs as a writer, even perseverance." So I intend to stick to my task of learning and showing how profoundly American in their personality and problems the Negro people are.

This is an imperative social message, and it so happens - whether I will or no - that I am one of the few white citizens with the equipment, as well as the experience, to transmit this picture in very living, very vivid terms. Being white, I know where the identification with white society lies. Having identified myself with the Negro community these past three years, I know what it is in all its heartbreaking contradictory complexity. And I know that if white Americans could be brought to understand that these people are part and parcel of themselves - the products and creators of our national culture, even to the point of having reciprocal prejudices -, a great deal of fear and ignorance would go up in thin air.

In addition to lack of funds with which to fulfill my purpose, I am faced with another dilemma. I am deeply bitten with the conscience of all writers during this period. Can I not place my services to a more effective end than the one I have chosen personally, while my country is at war? I have applied for work (unskilled labor!) in a factory as a means of supporting myself and serving in a productive capacity at the same time. However I wonder if this is the right thing for me to do at this particular historical moment, or not. That's what I'm asking you now. Insofar as I'm concerned I'd just as soon work in a factory because, without romanticizing the routine, I have an exuberant curiosity about everything that happens anywhere. You will understand that I am moved by a larger political compulsion, not egotism, in asking you if there is any part I can play in the plans of the Government to bring the Negro masses behind the war effort - a crucial

necessity right now.

The heroism of Dorie Miller provided a truly beautiful parable, but it's up to us from now on to prove our good will. They have become so alienated by outrages committed in the past six months that I am not exaggerating when I claim that under ~~circumstances~~ an insurrection would not be improbable. I've read the letters home from boys at camp. I've talked with women who volunteered at the OCD and were rejected by the agencies to which they were assigned. A great deal of re-education of both white and black has to be carried on through literature, movies, radio, etc., before we can hope to diminish their cup of bitterness.

The steps already taken by the Fair Employment Practises Commission are helping somewhat. If men work side by side, without interferences that will foster antagonism, much misunderstanding may be eliminated. In the all-too-rare mixed Red Cross classes, with colored physicians as instructors, one sees this happen: the first uneasy self-consciousness, the half-friendly challenge, the mutual respect. But I believe that it will take all of a nationwide publicity campaign as an essential function of national defense, to convince the whites that they must welcome the cooperation of Negroes if we are to have unity, to convince the Negroes that their cooperation will not be rebuffed.

Thus the ground will be laid for further progress in giving one-tenth of our people their full rights. You and I realize, and must do everything we can to make others realize, that our war abroad for democracy's survival will suffer immeasurably unless we advance democracy at home.

Sincerely yours,

Katya Alpert
Katya Alpert

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

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May 15th, 1945

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Katya Alpert did not get the Guggenheim Award. I don't know whether you noticed or not, but those who did were Miss Gerson McCullocks, author of "The Heart Is a Lonely Hunter"; Miss Eudora Welty, author of "A Curtain of Green"; and Mrs. Dorothy Baker, author of "Young Man With a Horn". In short, they chose writers who had already written popular and successful books. Not that I am against this but I do feel that writers with potentialities should decidedly be given a first consideration.

I never did write much about Katya, preferring to let her stand on her own work but now she is in a very difficult position, mainly because she wants, more than anything else, to finish her book, but does not have the finances to do so. On top of this she is extremely nearsighted and her chances to get a job are considerably more difficult than it is for other women. That she writes well I have no doubt, and her particular interest in Negro affairs has grown to knowing their problems first hand and I wondered whether, in this light, there might be some writing job which could tie up, with her deep interest, with Negroes In Defense, which we all know is a most serious problem.

While we were all waiting for the news on the awards I was able to have a friend contribute a hundred dollars a month, for approximately six months, but this is now at an end and Katya herself does not want to continue that way. I feel her book could be compared with Richard Wright's "Native Son" and after all, if it had not been for the Writer's Project, Wright never would have had the opportunity, and so it is with Katya. I know you would be delighted with her for she is a most interesting young lady, with an elfinlike quality about her; and with all her struggles she always seems to be encouraged and hopeful and fascinated with her work. It was only recently that my secretary pointed out to me that she was not eating and I have a deep sense of responsibility for people with extreme talents who cannot be thrown in with the mobs but need consideration and opportunity equal to their abilities, and I do hope something can be done for her.

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt
29 Washington Square, W.
New York City

Most sincerely,

Viola Ilma
Viola Ilma

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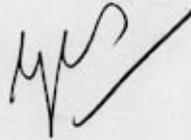
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Keyes Winter

In view of the letter to Viola Ilma, shall
we file this? I can't think of any very
satisfactory answer.

DD

A handwritten signature or set of initials, possibly "MS", written in dark ink. The letters are stylized and connected, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right from the bottom of the second letter.

COPY

OFFICE OF CIVILIAN DEFENSE
Washington, D. C.

April 30, 1942

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

Dear Miss Ilma:

As our new organization in Civilian Mobilization takes shape, we are making disposition of plans previously submitted for our consideration.

In my opinion, your tentative program on "Juvenile Delinquency and Training School Programs in Relationship to Civilian Defense and War Production" is commendable. If you have carried through on this further in the past couple of months, I should be glad to learn of your progress.

I do not feel OCD is in a position to publish your statement for distribution to training schools. This might well be done by some national organization in the field of juvenile delinquency. However, it is possible that we may want to run a brief article in the OCD News Letter pointing out ways in which local defense councils should cooperate with training schools.

If plans materialize for distributing your statement, we shall be glad to go over it carefully making any suggestions we may have. I regret the necessary delay in following up on this matter with you, but I am sure you understand the difficulties involved in a reorganization.

Sincerely yours,

(signed) Jonathan Daniles, Assistant Director
In Charge of Civilian Mobilization

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VIOLA ILMA

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HAROLD G. ORTNER—Negro Affairs

May 13th, 1942

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Here is the card on the Charn Shop.

Caroline Wagner is really a wonderful person. The other day I was in the shop and she convinced a customer that she should not buy a big ring because it would not suit her personality.

I always love people like Caroline Wagner, though I do not really know her, because her individuality, talent and artistic love of jewelry has a special delight - the sort of person I am sure O'Henry would have written about.

The shop is on the southwest side of Sixth Avenue, on West 4th Street, between a book shop and a bakery. I do hope you will have the opportunity to drop in to her shop for I know she would be delighted, to put it mildly.

Most sincerely,

Viola Ilma

Viola Ilma

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt
29 Washington Square, W.
New York City

vi/mi

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Keyes Winter

100
May 14, 1942

Dear Miss Ilma:

Mrs. Roosevelt asks us to send you
this letter from Mrs. Maria de Landa-Torok,
178 East 80th Street, New York City.

Can you give Mrs. de Landa-Torok
the name of a boy to whom she might write
and send gifts?

Very sincerely yours,

Secretary to
Mrs. Roosevelt

Miss Viola Ilma
Young Men's Vocational Foundation
95 Madison Avenue
New York, New York

C O P Y

May 13th, 1942

My dear Mr. Daniels:

Thank you for your letter of April 30th.

I was very pleased to hear that you felt that our tentative program on "Juvenile Delinquency and Training School Programs in Relationship to Civilian Defense and War Production" was commendable.

The purpose of submitting the Memo was with the hope that the Youth Division of the Office of Civilian Defense could carry further the idea of developing a program for young people in institutions as an opportunity for them to play an active part in the defense activities. The Memo was merely to get things started, and rather than have a program designated as an activity for a private agency or group of agencies, it was created as a possibility of activity which the Youth Division of the Office of Civilian Defense could carry out in the interest of the youth morale in training schools throughout the United States. Therefore I sincerely hope that this program will still be taken up and further programming developed.

I am certain that the group who worked on the Memo, as well as others in the field of juvenile delinquency will be more than ready to cooperate with you at a time when you are ready to go into action.

Very sincerely yours,

Viola Ilma

Mr. Jonathan Daniels, Assistant Director
In Charge of Civilian Mobilization
Office of Civilian Defense
Washington, D. C.

vi/mi

C O P Y

May 13th, 1942

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Very sincerely yours,

Viola Ilma

Mr. Jonathan Daniels, Assistant Director
In Charge of Civilian Mobilization
Office of Civilian Defense
Washington, D. C.

vi/mi

C O P Y

OFFICE OF CIVILIAN DEFENSE
Washington, D. C.

April 30, 1943

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

Dear Miss Ilma:

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If plans materialize for distributing your statement, we shall be glad to go over it carefully making any suggestions we may have. I regret the necessary delay in following up on this matter with you, but I am sure you understand the difficulties involved in a reorganization.

Sincerely yours,

(signed) Jonathan Daniles, Assistant Director
In Charge of Civilian Mobilization

May 18, 1942.

100

My dear Miss Ilma:

Mrs. Roosevelt has asked me
to thank you for sending her the card
on the Charm Shop, and tell you she
will be glad to keep Miss Wagner in mind.

Very sincerely yours,

Secretary to
Mrs. Roosevelt.

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

VDS

CHARM SHOP

172 WEST FOURTH STREET
NEW YORK
CHENNA 2-6020

JEWELRY

HANDMADE AND ANTIQUE
IMPORTATIONS
OLD BOHEMIAN GARNETS
FLORENTINE SILVER
SEMI-PRECIOUS STONES
OLD FABRICS

JEWELRY

REPAIRED AND REMADE
BEAD STRINGING

Caroline Wagner

100

June 5, 1942

Dear Miss Ilma:

The results of the tea are fine.

I am so glad about the contributions and
that you have found a friend in Mrs. Reitler.

Sincerely yours,

Miss Viola Ilma
95 Madison Avenue, NYC

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6-5

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June 3rd, 1942

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Your point of view that the Y.M.V.F. mainly needs new friends was well made.

The results of the tea are that a committee of five who pledged their names at your home last Monday, consisting of Mr. Alan Corelli, Mathias Correa, Miss Eloise Davison, Mrs. Alice Reitler and Victor Roudin, will meet at the Y.M.V.F. offices this coming Monday, June 8th to discuss definite plans. I will keep you in touch with the developments.

Most sincerely,

Viola Ilma

Viola Ilma

*Just
your
so
glad*

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

vi/mi

P.S. Mrs. Reitler and Mr. Wallerstein each contributed a thousand dollars so the tea saved us once again. One of the nicest things about the unpleasant job of raising funds is that occasionally one meets not only a wealthy person but a person with warmth and character and the new star in our horizon is Mrs. Reitler who has been in America for three years. I met her through Mr. Kux, one of our Advisory Board members.

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June 3rd, 1942

My dear Miss Thompson:

So many times I have wanted to express my appreciation for the many detailed favors you do to help the work of the Young Men's Vocational Foundation, and once again I want to thank you for your kindness towards making the tea a success.

With much appreciation.

Most sincerely,

Viola Ilma
Viola Ilma

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

vi/mi

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Keyes Winter

100

June 6, 1942

Dear Miss Ilma:

Mrs. Roosevelt asks me to send you the enclosed letter she has received from Mr. Cecil Peterson. This is his response to Mrs. Roosevelt's letter which you suggested she write to him.

Very sincerely yours,

Secretary to
Mrs. Roosevelt

Miss Viola Ilma
96 Madison Avenue
New York, New York

HY

100
6.11
June 11, 1942

Dear Miss Ilma:

Mrs. Roosevelt has your letter of June 9 and asks me to say that she could have a buffet lunch at the apartment, on June 29th. She could have no more than ten or twelve people.

Sincerely yours,

Secretary to
Mrs. Roosevelt

Miss Viola Ilma
95 Madison Avenue
New York, New York

1
0

6-11

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June 9th, 1942

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

The new Finance Committee met at our office yesterday. Like a swift meteor Alan Corelli led the rest.

It was agreed upon that they were quite certain they could raise twenty-five thousand dollars immediately if we could have another tea or lunch at your home in the city to whom they would invite a dozen people they have in mind.

The interest and enthusiasm and determination to raise the funds for the Y. M. V. F. was high and Mr. Corelli had all the confidence that this could be accomplished. They expressed that they would need at least two weeks to round up the dozen people, so that any date between June 23rd and the first week of July would be all right.

It still seems like a dream to me but the vigor and certainty that Mr. Corelli has makes me confident and I think we were very lucky to find him.

Appreciating hearing from you as to whether or not you could possibly arrange a date, I am,

Most sincerely yours,

Viola
Viola Ilma

Handwritten notes:
I have done June 29th
re your letter

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

vi/mi

P.S. This morning a check came from Beaumont, Texas, and a letter from California in the interest of starting a branch, as a result of the notice in your column.

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John W. Studebaker, Ph.D.
Ordway Tead
Mrs. Lester H. Weil
Keyes Winter

100
ILMA

June 17th, 1942

My dear Mr. Field:

On May 8th, 1941 you made it possible for us to increase our staff to accent increased activities in the placing of Negro boys in jobs upon their release from training schools and reform schools. At that time Mr. Harold Certher, formerly with Children's Aid Society, joined our staff and enclosed is a detailed report.

From November 1, 1940 to May 31, 1941 the Y.M.V.F. made a total of 310 placements, of which 81 were Negro boys. Mr. Certher joined our staff June 1, 1941 and our placement record from June 1, 1941 to May 31, 1942 is a total of 787 placements with a Negro placement of 334 boys. This means that total placements for Negro boys, before Mr. Certher, amounted to 26 percent of our entire intake and since Mr. Certher our intake of Negro boys has been 42 percent and I might add, ever increasing.

The average wage for our Negro boys is now approximately \$14.00 and we also enclose a break down of the type jobs they have had.

We have also started a Girl's Division on a shoe string, mainly increasing the activities and responsibilities of one of our workers in the hope that we will obtain more funds to develop it. There is no agency for placement of young girls, Negro and white, upon their release from reform schools and we are now working with Hudson State Training School, the House of Detention and Bedford Reformatory. Ninety percent of our intake of girls has been Negro. We have started this Girl's Division because the reform schools are becoming overcrowded for not only can the police pick them up but the military police as well and we thought this an opportune time to train and direct young girls out of reform schools into jobs.

We think this year our placement record will cover a thousand boys and girls. No doubt you have read in Mrs. Roosevelt's column her constant referral to Y.M.V.F., along with Wiltwick, as an important service, and like all private agencies we are suffering financially and if it were not for Mrs. Roosevelt we would have had to close, but through her kindness

Mr. Marshall Field

June 17th, 1942

she gave us two teas wherein we were able to raise some funds and we hope we will carry through. It certainly seems fantastic to be anxious to expand into a Girl's Division when we are on the brink of not being able to carry on even our Boys' work, but the youngsters need the direction, the problem exists and therefore we must carry on. We would like very much to add to our staff a Negro executive. We have one in mind who is now a vice president of a CIO union and was formerly a case worker at Warwick State Training School but it would cost us an added five thousand dollars.

You will be pleased to hear that at least this year I have been able to raise more money than any other year but we always seem to be three jumps ahead of the sheriff. Like any agency that is young, effective and progressive, we do not have a capital which we are afraid to touch but rather we touch everything we have. We also were accepted in the Greater New York Fund for next year, and incidentally, the increase of our placements through the Trade Unions has been most encouraging and this was accomplished due to the fact that through Mr. Frasier McCann we were able to put on another staff member, Mr. Frank Balluffi, also formerly with Children's Aid, making our staff eight in number. We, however, sound like a staff of 108. If we only had, instead of a budget of \$25,000, one of \$50,000 a year we really could do a tremendous and remarkable piece of work, not only in New York but we would like to open branches in Chicago and Los Angeles. You will be interested to hear that we have had several inquiries from various welfare agencies in Chicago in the interest of developing a branch there and although we do not dare take the step at the moment, if there can be enough support from Chicago we will at least give the leadership if they will raise the funds.

There have been a few developments on our Board of Directors. Mrs. Lillian Alexander, a brilliant Negro woman has joined it, as well as Julius Hochman of the I.L.G.W.U., and Betty Hawley of the American Federation of Labor. So, along with Dr. Williams and Commissioner Adie and Justine Polier you can well see that we have a live, vigorous board, not rich, alas, but terribly clever.

I do hope you will be as pleased with the enclosed report as we are. We find our Negro referrals increasing constantly and during the past several months it has seemed that we not only have had more Negro boys than white boys but we have spent considerable time breaking down their prejudices in the war situation.

We have also formed a Youth Morale Corps Campaign where we have interested friends of the Y.M.V.F. sending packages and letters to our boys in the armed forces for they in the armed forces have just as few social contacts from the outside world as they had when they were released and many of our friends have responded with great interest and enthusiasm for this particular project.

Mr. Marshall Field

June 17th, 1942

We are proud of our accomplishments and personally you must know that you are one of the few rare people with a high social consciousness that makes our work encouraging, for you are at least one important contributor to whom we do not have to shed tears and blood to impress you of the importance of our work. For this we are more than grateful.

With appreciation for all you have made possible, I am,

Most sincerely,

Viola Ilma

Mr. Marshall Field
250 Park Avenue
New York City

vi/mi
enc.

P.S. : Congratulations on the leadership P.W. has taken in the nation's press. It is by far the most important anti-fascist newspaper in New York - the tremendous accomplishment on the Coughlin story, the tremendous push for Negro advancement, and the entire defense of Bridges. In short, there must be thousands of people who recognize its importance. This is by far the greatest contribution any single individual can make in making a newspaper the voice of the people in this great People's War.

REPORT ON NEGRO PLACEMENTS

Beginning November, 1940, a breakdown of the White and Negro placements was recorded for the first time.

On June 1, 1941, a new member was added to the staff whose duties were to work more specifically in the placement of Negro boys. Therefore, a comparison between the 7-month period from November 1, 1940 to May 31, 1941 and the one-year period from June 1, 1941 to May 31, 1942, will show the progress made in placing Negro youth.

PLACEMENTS	PERIOD FROM 11/1/40-5/31/41		PERIOD FROM 6/1/41 - 5/31/42	
	TOTAL PLACEMENTS	NEGRO PLACEMENTS	TOTAL PLACEMENTS	NEGRO PLACEMENTS
No. of Regular Placements	192	33	656	266
No. of Temporary Placements	83	30	76	37
CCC	20	9	27	21
NYA	13	10	9	5
ARMY & NAVY	2	0	20	5
TOTAL	310	81	787	334
% of Total Place. for Negroes	26%		42%	
Average Mo. Wage- All Boys	?		\$14.76	
Average Mo. Wage- Negro Boys	?		\$14.01	

AVERAGE MONTHLY WAGES - ALL BOYS
FROM 6/1/41 - 5/31/42

June, 1941	\$14.03	Dec., 1941	\$16.12
July, "	12.35	Jan., 1942	15.67
Aug., "	13.14	Feb., "	14.94
Sept., "	13.12	Mar., "	15.16
Oct., "	14.76	Apr., "	16.43
Nov., "	14.80	May, "	16.59

June 12, 1942

GENERAL ANALYSIS OF PLACEMENTS
OF NEGRO BOYS

JUNE 1, 1941 thru MAY 31, 1942

TYPE OF WORK	REGULAR JOBS							TEMPORARY JOBS						
	16	17	18	19	20	21A	TOT	16	17	18	19	21A	TOT	
						over						over		
Airplane Mechanic						1	1							
Carpenter (Appren.)	3	1	1	5		1	11		1				1	
Electrical Helper	1	1	1	2		1	6							
Factory	4	8	1	3	2	4	22				1	1	3	
Food Trades - Mfg.													2	
Food Trades - Service	18	12	8	5		6	47	1	3	2	1		7	
Fur Treater		2					2							
General Maintenance	2	2	4	3	1	5	17	1	1	2	1		5	
General Office Work											1		1	
Labor		1				1	2			1			1	
Laundry			1	1	1	2	5							
Laboratory Assistant						2	2							
Mechanic	1				1	1	3							
Messenger	42	33	10	2	1	3	91	3	4	2	2		11	
Painter					1	1	2						2	
Personal Service	2	2	1			4	9							
Pinboy			2		1	3	5							
Plumber's Helper	1					1	1							
Printing	3	3	1	2	1	1	10							
Professional						1	1							
Shoe Manufacturing		1					1							
Special Inspector						2	2							
Stock, Shipping & Pack.	3	2	3	2	1	4	15							
Tailoring	2	3		1			6							
Tire Retreader					1	1	2							
Truck Helper	2		3			1	6	1	1		1		3	
Upholsterer's Appren.						1	1	1					1	
TOTAL	82	71	36	26	11	40	266	9	10	7	7	1	37	

YOUNG MEN'S VOCATIONAL FOUNDATION, INC.

95 MADISON AVENUE • MURRAY HILL 3-5425 • NEW YORK, N. Y.

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ROBERT R. HANNUM—Vocational Placement
HAROLD G. OERTHER—Negro Affairs

June 19th, 1942

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

This is the list which Alan Corelli sent in for the Buffet
Lunch on Monday, June 29th.

✓ Brandt, Mr. Harry, 115 Central Park, West, City
✓ Bronner, Mr. Leonard J., 310 W. 72nd Street, "
✓ Cashel, Mr. Michael J., 265 W. 14th Street, "
✓ Corelli, Mr. Alan, 135 W. 58th Street, "
✓ Dorson, Mr. James, 265 W. 14th Street, "
✓ Lacey, Mr. Martin, 364 W. 34th Street, "
✓ Lufrano, Mr. Louis, 41 Union Square, "
✓ O'Leary, Mr. Thomas, 265 W. 14th Street, "
✓ O'Rourke, Mr. John, 265 W. 14th Street, "
✓ Ryan, Mr. Joseph P., 433 W. 21st Street, "
✓ Shalleck, Judge Ben, Pres. Young Men's
Philanthropic League, Hotel Westover,
253 W. 72nd Street, "
✓ Sullivan, Mr. Robert J., 255 W. 34th Street, "
✓ Walker, Mr. James J., 450-7th Avenue, "

Mr. Corelli feels positive that \$25,000 will be raised as
a result of the luncheon. We will be thrilled.

Sincerely,

Viola Ilma
Viola Ilma

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

vi/mi

P.S. If possible I would like to have Dr. Williams there for he tells our
story so well.

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Mrs. Leopold K. Simon
Robert K. Straus
John W. Studebaker, Ph.D.
Ordway Tead
Mrs. Lester H. Weil
Keyes Winter

Write each including Dr. Williams:

9.1

I am having an informal buffet lunch at my apartment,
29 Washington Square West, on Monday, June 29th, at one
o'clock in the interests of the work done by the Young
Men's Vocational Foundation, Inc.

I am told that you are interested in this work
and I shall be very happy if you find you can join us at
this luncheon meeting.

e.r.



Lowe
6-22

file

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HAROLD G. OERTHER—Negro Affairs

*Tell her
for the
June 25th*

June 25th, 1942

100

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Recently I heard of a woman, Mrs. Townsend, who has developed a Farm For Freedom project. I have volunteered two weeks of my vacation, the first two weeks in August, to pick berries.

Mrs. Townsend expressed to me that she would be quite thrilled if some time during the summer you would speak to whatever group happened to be up there. The place is some where near Poughkeepsie.

Those going up are mostly college graduates and career young men and women, I take it, more or less my type, who feel that even though they work all year they nevertheless must put some of their effort to the direct contact of war needs.

Mrs. Townsend expressed that a Mrs. Huntington and a Mrs. Warburg who you knew, are connected with the group and that they are up at Clermont, New York.

Although I have never met Mrs. Townsend I think her project very worthwhile and I thought you might be interested.

Most sincerely,

Viola
Viola Ilma

This is probably Ernest Rupp
Ernest Rupp

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

vi/ml

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HAROLD G. OERTHER—Negro Affairs

June 15th, 1942

Handwritten: [Signature]
Handwritten: file
My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Many thanks for your note of June 11th.

I have informed Mr. Corelli and Mr. Roudin that we can invite twelve people and shall send you the list as soon as they forward it to me.

Most sincerely,

Handwritten: Viola Ilma
Viola Ilma

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

vi/mi

Handwritten: What date given?

Handwritten: [Signature]

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HAROLD G. OERTNER—Negro Affairs

June 12th, 1942

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

One of the most gratifying activities of the Y.M.V.F. during the past year has been the successful cooperation we have had with the trade unions. To date some 90 odd locals, both A.F.L. and C.I.O. have been aiding us in the placement of both boys and girls. Two of our staff members spend the majority of their time contacting trade unions.

Personally I feel that not only must we reach for their aid but as well be of use to them until we reach the ultimate goal where there will be no differentiation between trade union work and social work but rather a large objective of service to the community in the sense of giving people economic stability and social stability.

I do not think I have mentioned to you that I have become a member of the AFL-CIO Joint Women's Defense Council. This has been a most delightful work opportunity and I have never met such interesting young women who, after working hard all day, devote their evenings to the problems of health, recreation and welfare in their unions. The young women are working particularly hard to round out trade union activities. One of the dynamic young ladies is Miss Evelyn Adler, National Director of War Activities of the United Office and Professional Workers of America. She sent the enclosed letter which is self explanatory.

I feel very strongly that the white collar workers must and can be made to recognize the role they can play in the winning of the war and must leave their ivory towers and participate in the defeat of fascism for the saving of democracy.

Incidentally, would you, in a rather informal manner, like to meet the young women of the AFL-CIO Defense Council? I think informal meetings of groups of this type are much more significant than large dinners and speeches. I am certain that you would be most impressed by this important young group who are doing an important and valuable job.

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

Most sincerely,

Viola Ilma

vi/ml-enc.

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Keyes Winter

Yes
H. W. Piel, Jr.
F. D. Roosevelt
J. W. Studebaker, Ph.D.

UNITED OFFICE AND PROFESSIONAL WORKERS OF AMERICA
8 West 40th Street, New York City

C O P Y

Miss Viola Ilma
Young Men's Vocational Foundation
95 Madison Avenue
New York City

Dear Viola:

As you know, the single objective of the Union today is to contribute in every way possible to winning the war. The job of mobilizing our own members nationally for support of every phase of the war program is well defined and the response has been most gratifying. However, our responsibility extends far beyond the 35,000 members we represent.

There are some twelve million white-collar workers in this country, the vast majority of whom are unorganized, working in non-defense industries and, as a result of both of these factors, are facing serious problems growing out of the establishment of a war economy. It is inevitable that these people do not see their role in the war effort as clearly as workers in the factories who are producing essential instruments of war.

It seems to me that we have a double job to do. First, through every possible medium we have to reach these white-collar workers and make them understand that no matter what their job, they have a contribution to make to winning the war - on the job and in the community. Secondly, we have to work with Government agencies in meeting special economic and social problems of the workers in this group. With regard to the latter, we are already in touch with the War Manpower Commission, the War Production Board, particularly the Services Branch, etc.

I am writing you to ask you for help and suggestions with regard to the first point. Recently, I saw Mr. Lowell Mellett, Co-ordinator of the government's film program about the possibility of doing a film on the role of white-collar workers in the war. The Greater New York Industrial Union Council of the CIO is, at our suggestion, devoting a couple in its series of programs on the radio to white-collar workers. You will be interested in hearing the first - this Friday, June 12th at 9:30 P.M. on WQXR. There is much more that can be done. It occurs to me, for example, that if a person of the stature and influence of Mrs. Roosevelt would deal with the question in her newspaper column, it would have great effect, since her audience is a tremendous one - certainly among white-collar and professional people. In addition, recognition on her part of the contribution these people can make to the war would serve to stimulate others to a similar recognition.

I would be most interested in your comments. Perhaps we can discuss the matter further on Monday night at the buffet supper for the Young Men's Vocational Foundation.

Sincerely yours,

(signed)

Evelyn Adler
National Director
War Activities

EA/m
uopwa
no.16

before showing the check back to the bank

Publicity Department,
Young Men's Vocational Foundation, Inc.
95 Madison Avenue
New York City
Murray Hill 3-5425

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 12, 1942

Mr. Julius Hochman, Vice President of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union, Mrs. Betty Hawley Donnelly, Vice President of the New York State Federation of Labor, Dr. Alice V. Keliher, Assistant Professor of Education at New York University, and Mr. Victor Dayton have accepted membership on the Board of Directors of the Young Men's Vocational Foundation, a social agency for job placement of former delinquent youths, it was announced today by Miss Viola Ilma, Executive Director of the YWV.

The Young Men's Vocational Foundation has grown steadily since its inception five years ago and is currently placing youths in jobs at the rate of 1000 a year. It is a member of the employment division of the Welfare Council and a member of the Greater New York Fund. Recently it established a girls' placement division, after a period of experimental placement work, following consultation with administrators of girls' training schools and women penologists. Placements are made directly through employers and in cooperation with trade unions and other social agencies.

The new board members will be guests of honor at an informal dinner for trade union leaders and outstanding workers in employment services, social work, delinquency, parole and probation, on Monday evening, June 15, at the Hotel Piccadilly in New York City.

Among those present will be:

Rev. John P. Boland, of the New York State Labor Relations Board, Mrs. Marjorie Bell, Assistant Director of the National Probation Association, Mrs. Helen Blanchard, Vice President of the Women's Trade Union League, Mr. S. Park Harmon, Regional Representative of the United States Employment Service, Miss E. Mebane Hunt, Executive Secretary of the Women's Prison Association, Mr. Mike Obermeier, President of Local 6, Hotel and Club Employees Union AFL, Judge Stephen S. Jackson, Children's Court, Judge Justine Wise Polier, Domestic Relations Court, Mr. Guichard Farris, Director of Negro Affairs, National Youth Administration of New York City, Mr. Percy Shostac, Director, Labor Division, Greater New York Fund, and Dr. Herbert D. Williams, Superintendent of New York State Training School for Boys.

Present YWV board members are: Armar E. Archbold, David C. Adie, Mrs. Lillian Alexander, Rev. John P. Boland, Marshall MacDuffie, Jr., Mrs. Lionel C. Ferrara, Jr., Justine Wise Polier, Walter N. Thayer, 3rd, James Wallerstein, and Herbert D. Williams, Ph.D.

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July 6, 1942

Dear Miss Ilma,

Mrs. Roosevelt has asked me to acknowledge the receipt of your letter and to thank you for letting her know about the meeting. She is so glad you feel it was successful.

Very sincerely yours,

Secretary to
Mrs. Roosevelt

Miss Viola Ilma
Young Men's Vocational Foundation
95 Madison Avenue
New York, New York

VDS:HY

YOUNG MEN'S VOCATIONAL FOUNDATION, INC.

95 MADISON AVENUE • MURRAY HILL 3-5425 • NEW YORK, N. Y.

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Executive Director
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ROBERT R. HANNUM—Vocational Placement
HAROLD G. OERTHER—Negro Affairs

June 30th, 1942

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

The meeting of the high moguls of the Teamsters and Longshoremens Union was indeed a new experience. Every one, save Jimmy Walker, was there. There were three different groups present - the American Federation of Labor group, including Cashel of the Teamsters, and Joseph Ryan of the Longshoremen. They recommended that we present our problem to the Central Trades Council and, with their official stamp of approval, could go ahead and the various locals contribute sums according to their interest and ability. Judge Shalleck of the Young Men's Philanthropic League felt that a number of small organizations combined could make a large contribution and pledged himself to cooperate to that end. Lastly, Harry Brandt, a most impressive person, who is in contact with the motion picture industry, felt the need of a good deal more publicity and he expressed his willingness to help in raising money in whatever series of plans would be adopted. Dr. Williams and Victor Roudin spoke magnificently on the Y.M.V.F.

It was the consensus of opinion that Alan Corelli chair the job of directing the finance campaign, along with Victor Roudin, for the successful goal of first raising \$25,000 and then moving forward. Alan Corelli accepted this job, as did Victor Roudin, and it was quite obvious that they were much appreciated by every one present.

I left the meeting highly encouraged, recognizing fully that new friends can make the Y.M.V.F. financially stable. Without any doubt your graciousness gives us the rallying point around which we can get the attention of the people who can help us, and I cannot express too deeply my appreciation. You will be happy to know that this year we have placed approximately a thousand boys and the enclosed letter from Dr. Williams will, I know, give you the assurance that the reflection of your influence spreads into the hearts of the youngsters and their families. Without this I would be shamefaced because of your generosity.

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

Most sincerely,
Viola Ilma

vi/mi-enc.

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Keyes Winter

July 25, 1942

100

My dear Miss Ilma:

Mrs. Roosevelt is very sorry that she could not see you when you were in Washington. She left early Wednesday morning for Campobello and was there for the remainder of the week.

Very sincerely yours,

Secretary to
Mrs. Roosevelt

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

DD

YOUNG MEN'S VOCATIONAL FOUNDATION, INC.

95 MADISON AVENUE • MURRAY HILL 3-5425 • NEW YORK, N. Y.

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HAROLD G. OERTHER—Newspaper Affairs

*Called
7-25-42*
JUL 21 1942

July 20th, 1942
Letter for Mrs. Roosevelt

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I plan to come down to Washington this coming Wednesday and be there all Thursday and if necessary, Friday, with renewed enthusiasm to interest the War Manpower Commission in the use of youth power in the institutions as well as their use immediately upon their release from the institutions.

Last week I wrote to Mr. McNutt and I have all ready received an answer from him to see a Dr. William Haber.

I also plan to see my old friend, William Lund. At the same time, on Thursday we will have a semi-board of directors meeting because Walter Thayer, Dorothy Perera and Marshall MacDuffie are all now located in Washington.

I am taking the four-ten plane on Wednesday and would like to have the opportunity to talk to you before I see other people in Washington.

Most sincerely,

Viola Ilma

Viola Ilma

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

vi/mi

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Keya Winter

Called and he said it was not important
enough at this time to see Mrs. Roosevelt and
he would rather defer the appointment.

Dorothy, could you
ask if he has anything
special to talk to Mrs. T
about. She is leaving
town this afternoon
could see her. Tu. 5³⁰ AM

100

July 26, 1942

Dear Viola:

I am glad to give you this
statement on the value of the Young Men's
Vocational Foundation, for your brochure.

Sincerely yours,

0

Miss Viola Ilma
Young Men's Vocational Foundation
95 Madison Avenue, NYC

July 26, 1942

The Young Men's Vocational Foundation, Inc. is doing a very necessary and important piece of work.

I have always felt it was cruel to send these young people out into the world with a stigma and no help toward a normal life.

The work the Foundation has done and the results they have obtained are very gratifying to me and I only wish it could be multiplied many hundreds of times in every city and town and village in the country.

YOUNG MEN'S VOCATIONAL FOUNDATION, INC.

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HAROLD G. OERTHER—*Negro Affairs*

July 21st, 1942

JUL 22 1942

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

The Finance Committee has asked me to get up a short brochure believing that most people do not have the time to read through an Annual Report.

I am therefore obtaining statements as to the value of the Young Men's Vocational Foundation from a few prominent people who know us.

What we want to emphasize is that we wish to expand to Los Angeles and Chicago, that we wish to develop our Girl's Division and increase our service to Negro youth.

I am attaching statements from Commissioner Adie, Lester Granger, Justine Wise Polier and Commissioner Studetaker for a suggestion as to the type statement we would appreciate, with, of course, your own special way of expressing things.

Most sincerely,

Viola Ilma

Viola Ilma

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

vi/ni
enc.

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Keyes Winter

"Not in many years have I come across an organization with as much vitality and direct bearing on individual life as the Young Men's Vocational Foundation. I can testify to the high efficiency of the work which the Foundation is doing for delinquent boys. I am impressed by the thoroughness and imagination with which the work is carried on and I believe that the Foundation has a very real and vital contribution to make in the field of rehabilitating juvenile delinquents".

Commissioner David C. Adie, Dept. of
Social Welfare, Albany, New York.

"This organization, though young, has done the most outstanding job in New York, so far as I know, to help young boys who have been in the New York State Training School to make an adjustment and find work when they were paroled or discharged. They have done a particularly fine job in regard to Negroes".

Judge Justine Wise Polier, Domestic
Relations Court.

"What I have liked especially, of course, has been the emphasis that you have given to work with Negro boys and the success you have had in actually placing these boys on jobs. Any agency that seeks to place Negro young people faces plenty of headaches. One that seeks to place Negroes with a court record faces a task so difficult that most agencies will not even attempt the job. New York City owes you a debt of gratitude not only for the actual results to be found in your placement figures, but also for the example that you have set in doing a job by simply trying it honestly".

Lester E. Granger, Executive Secretary,
National Urban League.

"It seems to me that you are not only rendering a marvelous service to boys in New York City but you are creating there a pattern for similar organizations which might very well be organized in many other communities of the country".

Commissioner J. W. Studebaker, Federal
Security Agency, U. S. Office of Education.

File

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RUTH MANOFF—*Girl's Division*
HAROLD G. OERTHER—*Negro Affairs*

July 27th, 1942

100

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I was sorry to have missed you when I was down in Washington.

I have quite a bit of news that I want to tell you personally because it just takes too much time to write a lot of information in a letter. However this particular note is to express that Marshall MacDuffie, Jr., who is on our Board of Directors, and was formerly with Sullivan & Cromwell, and is now with the War Economic Board, told me that he is planning to leave on August 8th for London and then to Cairo, Egypt, representing the Board of Economic Warfare and State Department at the Middle East Supply Center. He expressed that he would like very much to talk with you before he leaves and if you can squeeze in some time I know that you will enjoy meeting him.

Mr. MacDuffie is a Yale graduate and a very talented and capable young man and it is a happy feeling to know that such men are being selected for leadership to aid in this great war effort. He is in the Commerce Building, Room 3091, and his phone number is District 2200, Ext. 1391.

Hoping you can see him, I am,

Most sincerely,

Viola
Viola Ilma

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

vi/ml

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Handwritten note:
I hope you really meet him
at 9:30

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HAROLD G. OERTNER—*Negro Affairs*

August 7th, 1942

100

My dear Miss Thompson:

Your letter of June 30th to Miss Jett has come to my attention and this is to inform you that we agree with Mrs. Roosevelt.

Most sincerely,

Viola Ilma
Viola Ilma

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

vi/mi

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DL	Day Letter
NT	Overnight Telegram
LC	Deferred Cable
NLT	Cable Night Letter
Ship Radiogram	

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A245CC 7C 21

NEWYORK NY 230P AUG 3 1942

Jub

MRS ELEANOR ROOSEVELT

29 WASHINGTON SQ WEST NYK

URGENT THAT I SEE YOU IN RELATIONSHIP TO THE AGENCY I CAN BE

REACHED EITHER AT MURRAYHILL 35425 OR GRAMERCY 71086

VIOLA ILMA

242P

THE COMPANY WILL APPRECIATE SUGGESTIONS FROM ITS PATRONS CONCERNING ITS SERVICE

August 7, 1942

Dear Viola:

I am sorry, but I do not feel I can give Mr. Corelli a telegram to use as I do not want to be in the position of urging people to give money.

I cannot give more than one hundred dollars a year to the Young Men's Vocational Foundation myself. I have given that for this year and shall send it again when it is due.

I sincerely regret I cannot help further.

Sincerely yours,

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

ds

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt

August 5th, 1942

Governor Lehman sent a hundred dollars yesterday and I do not know what the results of the wires will be but perhaps it might just help us out of this critical situation. However so many of them are away that we can just hope.

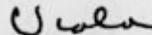
This is what I wanted to discuss with you.

Frankly I feel very disheartened and confused. We seem to have so many prominent and important friends and yet the struggle to exist financially, at this point, is more difficult than ever before. I believe I have expressed many times that the Warwick staff would be floored to see us go out of existence, as well as Commissioner Adie, Governor Lehman, Justine Polier, and many others and yet when I turn to all of them for help it becomes a cycle of non-productiveness, financially speaking.

My convictions of the importance of the work we are doing are so strong that I feel it would not only be a loss for the boys and girls whom we are able to serve in the city, but as well to many other cities for they have been turning to us for advice and help. Nor can I minimize our importance in the social service field for many agencies find that YWVF is an example of progressive action and work and we are, in a sense, the vanguard in the field of Juvenile Delinquency and to have this light go out at this time would be a serious loss, in a very large way, to the city, the state and finally the country and it is this obligation that forces me to lean on you and a few other people for advice as to what to do. This is the picture.

Hoping to hear from you, I am,

Most sincerely,



Viola Ilma

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

vi/mi

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FRANK W. BALLUFFI—*Trade Union*

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HAROLD G. OERTHER—*Negro Affairs*

Jul

August 25th, 1946

100

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Victor Roudin and Alon Costelli have gathered the people and I certainly wish to express my sincere appreciation for your being with us on Thursday, August 27th, at 5:30 p.m. at Reuben's Restaurant, 6 E. 58th Street.

If you wish I will be delighted to call for you wherever you may be.

As ever,

Viola
Viola Ilma

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

vi/mi

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STANDARD FORM No. 14A
APPROVED BY THE PRESIDENT
MARCH 10, 1925

FROM

The White House
Washington

TELEGRAM

OFFICIAL BUSINESS—GOVERNMENT RATES

MISS VIOLA ILMA
YOUNG MEN'S VOCATIONAL FOUNDATION, INC.
95 MADISON AVENUE
NEW YORK CITY

MRS ROOSEVELT GLAD TO SEE YOU FOR FIFTEEN MINUTES ON
MONDAY, AUGUST 17th, ten a.m. at 29 WASHINGTON SQUARE
WEST

MALVINA C. THOMPSON

YOUNG MEN'S VOCATIONAL FOUNDATION, INC.

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NEW YORK, N. Y.

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Vocational Placement

FRANK W. BALLUFFI—*Trade Union*

RUTH MANOFF—*Girls' Division*

HAROLD G. OERTHER—*Negro Affairs*

August 11th, 1942

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Your letter of August 7th made me extremely unhappy. The reason I wanted to see you was that I was quite certain I could not tell my story correctly via letter.

Surely I do not, at any time, wish to overstep bounds and as a matter of fact I knew quite well, or rather felt instinctively you would not want to send a wire to Mr. Corelli and I asked this favor against my will only because he felt so convinced that this would help our immediate difficult situation.

Secondly, I did not for a moment expect or ask of a contribution from you for I have always been moved deeply by your more than generous aid to our work.

Before I am forced to make any drastic moves I would be more than grateful for a chance to talk the situation over with you.

Most sincerely,

Viola
Viola Ilma

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

vi/mi

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Keyes Winter

September 16, 1942

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Dear Viola:

I am not perfectly sure of where this Mexican situation should be referred, but I have written to Mr. Nelson Rockefeller, enclosing your letter without names, and I am also sending him one from a Philippino boy which has come on working conditions for them.

I do not think there is much use in going to the Embassy, but perhaps by getting together various agencies in Washington I can find out who are the people interested and who could start the ball rolling.

I do not think the Young Men's Vocational Foundation should get into this because you will get into trouble for further work with the authorities, and certainly there must be people in Washington, whose job it really is. I am glad you feel encouraged about the Finance Committee.

Very sincerely yours,

MCT/cah

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

YOUNG MEN'S VOCATIONAL FOUNDATION, INC. *ack 9/16/42*

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MURRAY HILL 3-5425

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RUTH MANOFF—*Girl's Division*

HAROLD G. OERTHER—*Negro Affairs*

September 10th, 1942

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Enclosed is a copy of a most confidential letter. The writer is the young lady I had chosen to direct our Los Angeles branch. I feel that the contents of this letter indicates a most serious matter and on which we can enter the Los Angeles field as a beginning.

As I understand, the implications behind the young Mexicans is simply that fascist money is directing the sabotage of youth morale, more of which I would like to go in to with you personally.

I have asked Beatrice Griffith to write me more information and further, that if necessary have her come to New York because this is a very serious matter, for just as the Negroes in Harlem were convinced that the Japanese winning the war would help them, so the Mexican fascists will cause serious disruption on the west coast.

I would like to interest the Mexican Embassy. Louis Quintanilla is a very personal friend of mine and I will have no problem there. I would like to interest any official government agencies that have responsibility with minority groups, some contacts of which I have not made, but would prefer to discuss this situation with you first.

Co-incidentally, some of the people who have come on our Finance Committee are key individuals in the Motion Picture Industry and without difficulty we can get tremendous support from them on the coast, to start a branch of the YMVF. But I do feel this Mexican situation comes first and because we want so much to participate directly with the war effort this can be a tremendous and vital contribution. All the more important because the youth are Mexican and our Latin-American relations are extremely important and for any neglect now we will pay the price later on.

Can I discuss this with you either in New York or Washington? The sooner

ADVISORY BOARD

Miss Henrietta Additon
Mrs. Lillian Alexander
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Mrs. Lester H. Weil
Keyes Winter

September 10th, 1942

Mrs. Roosevelt

the better.

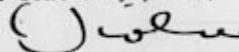
If Miss Griffith deems it necessary to come to New York I would like to bring her with me. I might add that she is an amazing girl, ideally what we want to see every American youth be like. I am very proud that I was able to discover her and look forward to having her direct our Los Angeles branch. Incidentally, she is a friend of Helen Gehagen's, knows most everybody and has been every where and is now only about 28 years old, and to boot, quite beautiful.

How I love this work because it endlessly brings more magnificent people to the fore.

I might add that I have been extremely encouraged due to the efforts of our Finance Committee under the leadership of Mr. Eoudin and Mr. Corelli and I feel we are now moving on a national basis. You will also be interested to know that they are considering taking over Madison Square Garden for a big rally after the elections in November. More of this later, however.

I would appreciate an appointment on the specific Mexican situation, and remain,

Most sincerely yours,



Viola Ilina

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

vi/mi
enc.

The Young Men's Vocational Foundation
95 Madison Avenue
New York, New York

Dear Vi,

I am writing this in haste and hope that it gets to you in time to give some real suggestions on this Mexican problem out here. The Eastern papers and magazines covered a spot or so on the Mexican gang trouble which you may have seen. I enclose a few clippings from the local papers..they have been hot on this the past month.

Now here is the dope. There is a real movement under way by the authorities (police and sheriff and Judge Scott) to strong arm these kids. There have been abuses of civil liberties by the hundreds, third degree methods of questioning, beatings, ripped zoot suits, clipped hair and cut coats by the cops. They have been waiting for this for a long time. I have talked with a good many of the kids in the various gangs through having known friends among their associates. And I am convinced that if something is not done to break this movement there is going to be a shooting of a cop or so here and precipitate a race riot.. the thing is underground more at this writing, but the kids are sore. They are staying out of sight, but just waiting...

Here is why I am writing you. (I long ago gave up the idea of hearing by letter, but hope you are well and busy as usual with fifty million interests). Feeling as you would about this situation, I went with what information I had to Guy Wunn of the War Manpower Commission here, Group Minorities Division. He is an energetic guy with ideas. I introduced him to Mexican kids and one or two of the very few leaders Mexicans possess here who don't sell them out. I told him who to see in the lawyers guild to get a Defense Committee set up for the kids, took him to the various communities here to observe how they live and what are the living causes for this "gang" activity. He wired Washington to get some action on this from the Rockefeller Commission and they said, "sorry, but all time was for external affairs in South America." We got a lot of people stirred up about it but getting nowhere in their effort to help. Just by chance I ran into a member of the Grand Jury who is liberal with clear thinking on this thing. Two weeks ago he showed me a paper which the race relations head had to all the law enforcement bodies here, concerning the Mexicans and their ethnological background....proving, he said in brief, that they were completely unassimilatable, as were the negro and the Filipino. He had traced their love for "blood letting" back to the steaming sacrificial rock of the Aztecs where the heart was pulled from the live breast of the victim...just so, the Mexican today will not, "like the Caucasian" fight it out with his fists, but must "let blood", with a knife, and the negro with the razor. He goes into Julius Streicher ecstasies over the future if they are allowed to remain in this country. He uses the word, "exterminate", quite ~~freely~~ freely. Points to South American means of exterminating, the "illegal legal shooting", where the prisoner is allowed to escape and is then shot. He rants on like this for twenty-five pages. Now remember he is a phony Mexican, the light skin, good old southern California family stuff...head of the race relations division of the Sheriff's Division. This paper was received with applause and much approbation when read to the law enforcement bodies here.

Here's what is going to happen. And in as much as this is a hot potato I am asking you to give it some real thought and be discreet in mentioning the source of this paper. The Grand Jury was asked to hold a hearing on the gang murder of the kid. To white wash the sheriff's department really. But now through myself and the member of the grand jury I spoke of and the right people pulling for it here...there is to be a second grand jury hearing on the whole Mexican problem here September 24th. At this hearing there will be an effort made, and a good one, to refute the wholesale stupid, but dangerous theories propounded by the author of the mentioned paper. Sociologists, Anthropologists, executives of labor unions, Carey McWilliams, Dr. Ruth Hirschman (and others) will answer the claims of this man hoping to get newspaper coverage in so doing and get some light on this problem. Now we want some representatives from the East. Someone good from the Children's Department, a man from the Rockefeller Commission (if Possible) maybe (a big maybe I think too) and anyone else who could be influential in getting a real rehabilitation program started for the second generation Mexican youths here.

We need your help. There is a very good lever here, for these kids are not back of the war effort. When I asked a boy I know, how many Mexicans he knew volunteered in the army and were proud to wear the uniform he replied three. As to the others he said, they say, "The Americans get the jobs first, let them get killed first." They even printed their own draft cards to avoid the draft and many didn't register. They are not training in NYA Defense jobs (very few are) and still do not know what it means...this whole problem of the war and the Mexican youth. There are close to half a million Mexicans in California, the correctional institutions are overflowing, the feeling particularly since the wholesale arrests of innocent kids and accompanying beatings is bad. Something must be done. The right people testifying, the right papers covering it might put a crimp in the flare the cops have here, might start some action in the right long view direction.

Can you bring any interest on this thing from Washington, from your Mexican friend? It is ironic that an "American" and not a Mexican (remember they always consider themselves Mexican to the 5th generation) is trying to break this onus here on the picture of the Mexican youth. But the leaders of the Mexicans here are opportunists and politicians, and not leaders...and there are only about three of these phonies..so you see the poverty of leadership. The leaders must come from the youths themselves..preferably the darker skinned ones...who are more sincere. These people provide fertile ground for leadership, either good or bad, depending on who sells the most attractive bill of goods which measures up into the picture they have against Americans, and rebellion against their present lot. And these gang fights are nothing more than rebellion against the whole thing..though they don't realize it.

These fights are not new. They have been going on for years. It is interesting to observe however that when these so called "gangsters" marry and settle down, unlike the real gangsters of the east who are criminal...these kids settle down, get a poorly paid job and that's the end of the picture as far as gang activity goes...Usually they are confined among themselves..the gang flare ups here are recreational, not criminal..not crime waves against Americans. But that is the next logical step.

Viola Ilma----page 3

I am asking you to give some suggestions if you can Vi, for I think of all the people I have met your interest in youths and their problems is the deepest and most sincere. This is a big problem. I have a good job in Housing here, but my interest is with the kids.

I hope you got to visit the I.S.S. shindig in Washington. I started the first group of I.S.S. at Pomona College when I was there. It's a growing organization I think. copy
for 1/10

The stuff about the grand Jury hearing is confidential...it's not known that there will be one except to a few. I am counting on you Vi, as so many people do, to give this thing some real strength by getting Eastern...preferably Washington..interest. Do let me hear from you as soon as you can.

September 6th, 1942

SIGNED: Beatrice Griffith

Vi, I can give you more detailed information about the whole Mexican picture here if you should want it. But if your friend, the Mexican Ambassador in Washington realized the run around the Mexicans got here, in all circles, he might be interested sufficiently to bring some pressure on the Rockefeller Commission to relieve it. (In El Monte near here, the Mexicans aren't even allowed to go to High School, they go to a "continuation school" to learn a trade..but haven't sufficient tools with which to learn. Segregated to one isolated area to live, they lack modern sewage facilities..and no baths at all.. about six hundred families live thus. It goes without saying there is no recreation.) I took Guy Nunn out to this "Hick's Camp" with a newspaper photographer and writer, but the editor put the ban on the series of stories we hoped would be run. Didn't want to mix up in "sociological affairs". And that was the only quasi-liberal paper we have. So you see what we have to work ~~xxxx~~ against. Eastern representatives would give the go-ahead sign to the papers for some intelligent coverage by papers we hope.

b.

My new address: 1427 N. Havenhurst Drive
Los Angeles, California

Nelson Rockefeller:

I do not know where cases such as this Philippine and the case of the young Mexicans in Southern California should go, but I imagine that your interest is not only in South America but would extend to conditions in this country which undoubtedly would effect our whole relationship with Latin-American countries.

I am sending you these two letters to be treated confidentially primarily for advice as to how and where to proceed to work on getting assistance for the young Mexicans in lower Calif so they can be kept out of trouble and how to get work for this particular Philippine, and at the same time better wages and better living conditions for both Mexicans and Philipinos all over the country.

I am sure you know that the families who work in the beet sugar industry live miserably. Those who live on ranches which I have seen in Texas are very low paid and the houses given them are no more than huts.

I think probably that the time has come to face this whole situation. Should it be part of the Fair Practices committee, the state dept. or should it be a combination of these with the US Empo. Service?

copy letter from Viola Ilma and enclosure without any names or identification. Enc. letter from Philippino boy

Viola Ilma

I am not perfectly sure of where this Mexican situation should be referred but I have written to Nelson Rockefeller with enc. your letter without names, and I am also sending him one from a Filipino boy which has come on working conditions for them.

I do not think there is much use in going to the Embassy but perhaps by getting together various agencies in Wash. I can find out who are the people interested and who could start the ball rolling.

I do not think the Y.M.V.A should get into this because you will get into trouble for further work with the authorities, and certainly there must be people in Wash, whose job it really is. I am glad you feel encouraged about the finance committee.

e.r.

100

September 22, 1942.

My dear Miss Ilma:

Mrs. Roosevelt has asked me to acknowledge the receipt of your letter and tell you she regrets that she will not be able to be present at the "Painters Work for Victory Rally" as her time is filled for the next several weeks.

Very sincerely yours,

Secretary to
Mrs. Roosevelt.

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

VDS

ack
9/22/42

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HAROLD G. OERTHER—*Negro Affairs*

September 17th, 1942

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

SEP 18 1942

*Regret
I can't
see
9*

I believe I told you that I attended the American Federation of Labor Convention in Rochester last month and while there Betty Hawley Donnelly introduced me to practically all the labor leaders there and one was Mr. Louis Weinstock, secretary-treasurer of the Brotherhood Of Painters, Decorators & Paper Hangers of America, Number 9.

I understand that his local is having a rally around "Painters Work For Victory Day" where all the members of the union are turning over their day's pay to the War relief agencies.

I told Mr. Weinstock that I would be more than delighted to express my enthusiasm of the importance of your presence at this gathering. More and more I can see the important role that the masses can play in the social development of the country and for this reason I am impressed by the leadership that a variety of locals are taking in raising money for defense, bonds, and war relief agencies and your presence amongst the labor groups of all varieties is an encouraging indication that the responsibility they assume is recognized and appreciated.

On YMVF more news next week for we are having our second meeting. The Corelli affair was really a success.

Most sincerely,

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt
The White House
Washington, D. C.
vi/mi

Viola
Viola Ilma

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Keyes Winter

September 24, 1942

100

Dear Viola:

I received Mr. Roudin's letter, but
am sorry that I cannot ask Mr. Schenck for money.

I sent a wire to Mr. Gertler and was
glad to do so. *See #1*

It is fine that you are going to
Bedford to start the winter classes and that
you are organizing the women behind the Girls'
Division. Every good wish to you.

Sincerely yours,

Miss Viola Ilma
95 Madison Avenue
New York
New York

O/bcd

ack:
9-24-42

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*Account
ack 9/24/42*

September 18th, 1942

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Thank you so much for your letter, and quite right, the only thing that I was interested in was that some action would be taken in this situation regarding juvenile delinquency with the Mexicans in Los Angeles. And I agree with you that this is a responsibility of the government.

I believe that Victor Roudin wrote to you asking for an appointment so that you could meet with Harry Brandt, Mr. Schenck, and Mr. Moskowitz of K.G.M. I think all that is necessary is twenty minutes and they will go ahead and start making plans for the Madison Square Garden meeting.

Lastly, Mr. Harold Oerther, of our office, in charge of Negro Affairs, has just received a commission from the Navy, as Jr. Lieutenant. On Saturday, September 26th our staff is giving him a farewell party and I am asking various members of our Board, such as Dr. Williams and Walter Thayer and other people important to our work, whether they will be kind enough just to send a telegram of good wishes. I want to make this party one so that he feels that his work was his home. Now he is embarking on a new life and I feel a certain gratitude to men such as Harold Oerther who dedicate their work in terms of usefulness to young people rather than in terms of the financial results they could otherwise get in a variety of other fields. Therefore words of expression are the only way they can possibly know that their efforts are appreciated and I would certainly be delighted if you would be amongst the prominent people who will wish him well.

Send a telegram to Harry Brandt 9/23

I am asking our Board members to send wires to my home, c/o of

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- 2 -

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt

September 18th, 1942

me, 144 East 24th Street, New York City, Apartment 8 A on
Saturday, September the 26th.

You will be glad to hear that I am going up to Bedford Re-
form School next week to start our fall and winter classes
and am also organizing a group of women to really make the
Girl's Division function and grow.

Sincerely yours,

Viola Ilma

Viola Ilma

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

vi/ml

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X Mrs. Zell W. Pennock, Spring Hill, Tenn. about her son, C. B. Pennock -
who is being released from prison and who she is afraid will get into trouble
again if he is not trained to do something and is given work immediately.

September 28, 1942

100

My dear Miss Ilma:

The enclosed letter has been received in the absence of Mrs. Roosevelt and her secretary. I am sending it to you as I am sure Mrs. Roosevelt would want it brought to your attention in the event that your organization helps young men in a situation like this. If such a case does not come under the work you are doing, perhaps you could refer it to some organization which might be able to help.

I know Mrs. Roosevelt would appreciate your writing Mrs. Pennock and giving her whatever advice you can.

Very sincerely yours,

Administrative Officer
Social Correspondence

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

DD

file
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
122 E. 22nd Street

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
Gra. 5-3636

November 16th, 1942

Mrs. Zell W. Pennock
Spring Hill, Tennessee

My dear Mrs. Pennock:

Mrs. Roosevelt's office forwarded your letter to me in New York City several weeks ago. During October, I have tried to discover sources of work opportunity in your district in Tennessee but have thus far failed to establish an actual job contact for your son.

About the best advice I can give is to the effect that the U. S. Employment Service at 809 South Garden Street, Columbia, which I understand is about ten miles north of you in Maury County, supposedly covers your district and I would think that your son should take his Social Security number and approach the U. S. Employment Service which must have facilities for handling applicants with handicaps such as his bad arm. We would be interested to know what the results of his visit may be and are inclined to think that since there is such a great labor shortage at this moment the task of fitting him into some position of responsibility should not be too great for the Employment Service to handle.

Sincerely yours,

Viola Ilma

rrh-pw

cc Mr. Ralph W. Magee
Administrative Officer, Social Correspondence
The White House, Washington, D. C.

2200 Sherwood Avenue - 17th 1942
Charlotte, North Carolina

Oct. 15, 1942

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt,

I wish to
thank you for your
kindness to Nick and me
last week. I don't know
how we could have gotten
through a week which
included not only
Democratic Women's Day
but also the New York
Tea without your help.

I appreciate deeply the
wonderful night's rest
with you after our
political jaunt in an upper

letter. It was lovely to
have dinner with you
and with such a charming
group of young people.

Thank you for all you
do to help Nick and me.

Sincerely yours,
Gladys Tillett

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October 6th, 1942

My dear Miss Thompson:

A member of our finance committee presented me with the facts concerning a nurse who was once a masseur for the President. The story in a nut shell is that she wants to get a job of some kind.

I do not, however, wish to bother you too much with it save that I am sending you the enclosed information and any suggestions you make I will pass on.

Most sincerely,

Viola Ilma
Viola Ilma

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

vi/mi
enc.

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DR. A. H. BREWSTER
DR. JOSEPH S. BARR
234 MARLBOROUGH STREET
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

March 1, 1942

To whom it may concern:

This is to introduce Mrs. Kathleen Lake who is a competent physical therapist.

She understands how to restore joints to normal. She is an excellent masseuse and has all the other necessary adjuncts of physical therapy which will rehabilitate injured members. She has worked for me for about twenty years, and I have always found her thoroughly trustworthy and perfectly able to take care of any job assigned to her.

Very truly yours,



Lieutenant Colonel, Medical
Reserve Corps

FRO:K

STATE OF NEW YORK)
COUNTY OF NEW YORK) ss:

Sworn and subscribed to before me this tenth day of September, 1942.



HOWARD D. ESMOND
NOTARY PUBLIC, WESTCHESTER COUNTY
CERT. FILED IN N. Y. CO. No. 220 - REG. No. 4-E-120
COMMISSION EXPIRES MARCH 30, 1944

ROBERT LEE PATTERSON, JR., M.D.
135 EAST 65TH STREET
NEW YORK
RHINELANDER 4-5477

March 10, 1942

To Whom It May Concern:

It is with pleasure that I am able to recommend Mrs. Kathleen Lake for any position she seeks in the field of physical therapy. I have been working with Mrs. Lake for the past six years and have found at all times that she is capable, reliable and energetic. She has an excellent knowledge of muscle function and its treatment when interfered with by accident or disease. I certainly hope she will be able to be used in this important type of work.

Sincerely yours,

Robert Lee Patterson, Jr.
Robert Lee Patterson, Jr. M.D.
Capt. Med. Corps - A.U.S.

STATE OF NEW YORK)
COUNTY OF NEW YORK) ss:

Sworn and subscribed to before me this tenth day
of September, 1942.

Howard D. Esmond
HOWARD D. ESMOND
NOTARY PUBLIC, WESTCHESTER COUNTY
CERT. FILED IN N. Y. CO. No. 220 - REG. No. 4-E-120
COMMISSION EXPIRES MARCH 30, 1944

MRS. GEOFFRY LAKE
125 EAST 50TH STREET
NEW YORK, N. Y.

September 14, 1942

To: Chief of Bureau of Medicine and Surgery
Washington, D. C.

Subject: Offer of Service

Enclosed: Letters of Recommendation

My services as a physical therapist are
hereby offered to the Navy.

I have had twenty-five years of experience
in all phases of this work, including my service with
the C. A. M. C.

If full time work is desired, maintenance
would be necessary as I am dependent on earning my
living.

Maureen Lake.

MRS. GEOFFRY LAKE
125 EAST BOTH STREET
NEW YORK, N. Y.

- A. Three years with C. A. M. C. in the last war, Physical Reconstruction Department. Special training for Rehabilitation of muscle function in nerve injuries, and all types of wounds.
- B. Assistant, Harvard Medical School Orthopedic Clinic, Boston.
- C. One Year complete training in all types of physical disability, caused by injury or disease, at the office of Dr. Frank R. Ober, 234 Marlborough Street, Boston.

100
October 16, 1942.

Dear Viola:

I forgot to tell you that friends of yours out in Los Angeles want me to write you urging you to stay with the Young Men's Vocational Foundation. They are afraid you are going to be lured away from it by some war work.

I realize there is nothing more valuable in the war effort that you can do and that you have already been through this whole argument with yourself. I was so glad to hear of your happiness and look forward to meeting your future husband.

Very sincerely,

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

VDS

STANDARD FORM No. 14A
APPROVED BY THE PRESIDENT
MARCH 10, 1926

TELEGRAM

OFFICIAL BUSINESS—GOVERNMENT RATES

FROM

The White House
Washington

MISS VIOLA ILMA

YOUNG MENS VOCATIONAL FOUNDATION
95 MADISON AVENUE
NEW YORK CITY

NIGHT LETTER

MRS ROOSEVELT WILL SEE YOU MONDAY THE TWELFTH AT
29 WASHINGTON SQUARE WEST AT THREE THIRTY

MALVINA C. THOMPSON
SECRETARY

YOUNG MEN'S VOCATIONAL FOUNDATION, INC.
95 MADISON AVENUE • MURRAY HILL 3-5425 • NEW YORK, N. Y.

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VIOLA ILMA

Assistant Director

ROBERT R. HANNUM

Vocational Placement

FRANK W. BALLUFFS—*Trade Union*

RUTH MANOFF—*Girl's Division*

HAROLD G. OERTHER—*Negro Affairs*

October 6th, 1942

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I have considerable news to tell you but would prefer to have an appointment with you at your earliest convenience. Happily I might express it is all good news.

Sincerely yours,

Viola Ilma

Viola Ilma

*at 9:30 PM
Tuesday Oct 6/42*

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

vi/mi

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Ordway Tead
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Keyes Winter

10/27
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9th Floor, 122 E. 22nd Street • ~~MTU 3-3426~~ • NEW YORK, N. Y.
Gra. 5-3636

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Vocational Placement

FRANK W. BALLUFFI—*Trade Union*
RUTH MANOFF—*Girl's Division*
HAROLD G. OERTHER—*Negro Affairs*

November 25th, 1942

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I am enclosing a letter dated July 26 which you were so kind to send us on the work of the agency and would appreciate it if you would write another one for us, exactly the same, with the current date on it.

Most sincerely,

Viola
Viola Ilma

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

vi/mi
enc.

Rephrased & sent EIP

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Robert K. Straus
John W. Studebaker, Ph.D.
Ordway Tess
Mrs. Lester H. Weil
Keyes Winter

copy

100
ILMA

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

July 26, 1942

The Young Men's Vocational Foundation, Inc. is doing a very necessary and important piece of work.

I have always felt it was cruel to send these young people out into the world with a stigma and no help toward a normal life.

The work the Foundation has done and the results they have obtained are very gratifying to me and I only wish it could be multiplied many hundreds of times in every city and town and village in the country.

Signed: Eleanor Roosevelt

November 26, 1942

100
Her ✓

Dear Miss Ilma:

Mrs. Roosevelt asks me to tell
you that she can see you at her apartment,
29 Washington Square West, on December 5th,
at 10 a.m.

Very sincerely yours,

Secretary to
Mrs. Roosevelt

Miss Viola Ilma
Young Men's Vocational Foundation, Inc.
122 East 22nd Street
New York, New York

L

YOUNG MEN'S VOCATIONAL FOUNDATION, INC.

122 E. 22nd Street

NEW YORK, N. Y.
Gr. 5-3636

NEW YORK, N. Y.

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Assistant Director
ROBERT E. HANNUM

Vocational Placement

FRANK W. BALLUFFI—Trade Union
RUTH MANOFF—Girls' Division
HAROLD G. OERTHER—Negro Affairs

11/24/42
November 20th, 1942

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Would it be possible for me to stay down at the White House for a week? The reason I want to is because I would like to see a number of people and I find that going down just for a day is rather a waste of money and time.

I was very touched and pleased by your letter which you sent me before you went away, expressing that you heard that I was being lured away from the work of the YMVF. The expression is completely correct but it is similar to someone being on the defense stand and is asked to say "yes" or "no". Either is wrong and you are forced into a position which is not your opinion.

For some time I have felt that I have wanted to participate directly in the war effort. Now with the need for women in industry and the problems that are resulting from the mass changes I feel that I am capable of doing the kind of job that Elinore Herrick has just gotten with the Todd Shipping Yard Company. Wherever they are hiring thousands of girls. I feel, from an executive point of view and from a social point of view that I could do a very good piece of work.

Now this is my thinking.

On the agency - by all means it should continue and if I have the opportunity to get the kind of job that I want I would take the presidency of the agency and have some one replace me. At the moment Mebane Hunt, formerly director of the Women's Prison Association, is available. The Women's Prison Association let her go because they did not want to touch their capital and have put their staff down to volunteer workers. Imagine such a thing, when the increase in girl delinquency is such a serious problem. But this, unfortunately, is the way too many social agencies who have endowments, think.

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The endowments seem to be more important than the purpose of their incorporation. Mebane has worked with me for a long time and she is quite ready to take my place.

From the financial end, Laura Payne, the woman of whom I spoke to you about, and whom we found as a result of the tea at Reuben's, will take the responsibility, plus the fact that even if I am in a war production job, I am not away from the agency and could occasionally call meetings and raise money in whatever spare time I have, and there is always time to do the things we want to do. As president of the agency I can attend board meetings and contribute what has been my largest contribution, which is the creativeness of a job such as ours, as well as the planning.

Concerning the placement angle, it is not so important today, now that the draft is taking the 18-19 year olds and I feel that we would be misinterpreting the use of our funds because placement is not now a primary job.

Other problems are coming up and what I wanted the agency to do is to develop training within the institutions, as well as fight with all other social agencies for Day Nurseries and a variety of problems that are arising from the war, but it will be more of a legislative programming rather than placement. I cannot see, with the attitude of those who support agencies, that a budget of twenty-five thousand dollars a year be spent on the industrial side.

But there is much to do. I want, while in Washington, to see a number of people in Mr. MacNutt's welfare outfit. Incidentally, I saw him and the only thing that has come out of the entire interview was the need to know considerably more of what every one is doing before any opinions are formulated, and this is what I want to accomplish in Washington. Also, I want a number of interviews with my friends in the Children's Bureau who are working on the problem of delinquency. I would also want to see a number of people in the State Employment Service. I am now trying to see if the work of the YWVF cannot be embroidered within the State Employment Service here in New York. There are difficulties in this process but it is not impossible.

Then comes the Office of Education and I could go on and on as to the number of people I want to see. As far as my desire to make a connection, I think in terms of a man like Kaiser and there are two fields in which I would like to make my contacts - shipping and aviation. However, through my seven years of work in industry or juvenile delinquency I know a number of people who I feel can be of help to me in this direction.

I had other ideas also and one was, could I be of use abroad, and another was, could I work with the Selective Service in relationship to training schools and reform schools. As a matter of fact I would like to, before I start seeing people, talk this over with you and I am sure, since your trip to England, you see more than ever the role of young women in this war effort.

Regardless of where I move my interest in the social progress of the underprivileged is a basic one. You can be sure that this has been a very great decision for me to make, particularly insofar as I am not moving from one offer to another, but rather my convictions that my talents, for the moment, belong somewhere else.

Hoping to hear from you soon, I am,

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

Most sincerely,

Viola
Viola Ilma

vi/ml

On can't talk things over first in New York

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
122 E. 22nd Street

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
Gra. 5-3636

cc to Mrs. Roosevelt

December 2nd, 1942

My dear Commissioner Adie:

A special meeting of the Board of Directors of the YWVF will be held on Tuesday, December 8th, at 8 p.m. at my home, 144 E. 24th Street.

I am recommending that for the duration of the war only the Girl's Division is to be continued. This means that Ruth Manoff, the director of the Girl's Division, and her secretary will be the only ones to remain.

We have made a vigilant effort to prove that the work we have done is necessary and successful. This has been accomplished. Attached are the statistics which tell the story.

I have reached the following conclusions:

1. The service which YWVF renders to Warwick should be part of the activities of the institution.
 - a. THE STAFF INSIDE THE INSTITUTION SPECIALIZING ON TRAINING FOR JOBS.

The answer may be that this exists but it doesn't from our point of view. Recently we had planned to have one of our staff members direct, in cooperation with the entire faculty at Warwick, a Victory Corps Training Course. It was welcomed enthusiastically by the entire faculty at Warwick. The staff of Warwick and the staff of YWVF recognize that "the outside must be brought inside". YWVF believes that a realistic course would also invigorate the personal within the institution. The Warwick staff recognize that the YWVF staff, with its ability to place boys in jobs with its ever growing contacts with industry and labor, along with its detailed knowledge of the training school itself and its experience in the placing of the boy released from the training school, have the contribution to make the very basic objectives, along with Warwick's fine program, effective.

Commissioner Adie

December 2nd, 1942

2. Placement: YWVF recognizes that placement itself during wartime is not too difficult and really not as valuable, or rather necessary, as it was in pre war conditions and as it will be under post war conditions. The major point on which YWVF could raise funds was the placing of young boys in jobs. This appeal to those whose purses could see dollar for dollar the value of this particular aspect of our work. To convince them that training in the institution, fighting legislatively to have this work where it ultimately belongs, carries no appeal whatsoever. Therefore the struggle, which is more difficult all the time to raise funds without the selling value of placement is practically impossible. We cannot carry on realistically on the placement angle, waiting for the war to end, and be snug, self satisfied social workers protecting our jobs when our talents go much further than the demands that placement requires at present. We do not want to be another leaf in the wind, shouting that delinquency is increasing, without a program to contribute practically towards the decrease of it. Yet I conclude that the placement service of YWVF belongs in the 42nd Street Branch of Warwick, coordinating its activities with the Placement and Job Training Expert in the institution. There are many developments which a placement man can carry on now which are important but for which private funds cannot be obtained. This is the same way of saying that our work must be done but the responsibility shifted.

I know that Dr. Williams and the entire staff of Warwick will be gravely disappointed to lose the ever advancing value of the work of the YWVF which was morally, practically, usefully and vigorously a brother-sister relationship to the institution. Aside from the fact that YWVF was financed privately and Warwick publicly, there was no difference, save a financial one, for the objectives were the same. All the efforts and collaboration were successfully carried out because both groups had so much to give each other.

I have just presented these views to my staff. They are all more let down than I because the work is there to be done and it is they who reach the boys constantly and it has been their tireless enthusiasm for the work that has made us, in my opinion, the most progressive agency in our field in the state. Because it is my lot to direct the planning, administration and the raising of funds, I view our function as a private agency, in relationship to the entire social work structure, as well as to the entire national scene. If the agencies would amalgamate, be less concerned about their private titles, if the major interests towards solving the problems had coordinated objectives, my convictions would be stronger, and more vigorous. But the piece meal basis on which agencies work, the most important living on endowments, rather than gearing their purposes to modern times, is to my mind digging further into a grave awaiting the burial of ideas and programming long ago outmoded.

My interest in these problems is higher than ever but the way we are forced to solve them, in tedious small circles, holds no challenge to me whatsoever.

My efforts to have obtained money from the state last year, if successful, would have been encouraging for the direction would have been correct; but I am bored to death to find that the answers in our interest in the rehabilitation of juvenile delinquents depends on the whim of those who will contribute because they can shake hands with Mrs. Roosevelt, or all the other touching niceties that bend the hearts and the pocketbooks momentarily.

Commissioner Adie

December 2nd, 1942

I would like to have a letter from you to present at our Board of Directors meeting. They will be disappointed to see the larger part of the agency closed for the duration but they are more wise than wealthy (one reason the agency has grown). Therefore your opinions on:

1. What chances are there for the Department of Social Welfare to carry on our work?
2. Do you think the Board of Directors should stay intact, with an eye to post war renewal of our efforts?
3. What efforts can be made towards placing our staff where they can be most useful, considering their experiences?
4. I would appreciate any opinions at all which will make it possible for our efforts not to have been in vain.

Sincerely yours,

Viola Ilma

Commissioner David C. Adie
Department of Social Welfare
112 State Street
Albany, New York

vi/mi
enc.

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Executive Director

VIOLA ILMA

Assistant Director

ROBERT R. HANNUM

Vocational Placement

FRANK W. BALLUFFI—*Trade Union*

RUTH MANOFF—*Girl's Division*

HAROLD G. OERTHER—*Negro Affairs*

December 10th, 1942

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Erigadier General Laura Payne just called me from Washington. For the past several months she has been working feverishly to create and make possible a beautiful Hostess Club to be used by the officers and their friends of the Quarter Master Corps in Washington. (She did the same for Fort Monmouth).

It is because of her staggering efforts and accomplishments in this direction that she received the title.

Her request: On Saturday, December 19th, the Hostess Club will be officially opened. They are having a panel set in the wall with a photograph of Major General E. B. Gregory of the Quarter Master Corps, and General Sommerwell. Laura feels it would be a great honor if they could also have an autographed photo of the President, autographed to Major General Gregory.

If this can be arranged would you send the photograph to General Laura Payne, at Temporary Building A, 4th & 2nd Streets, S.W., Room 2033, or perhaps you could meet her and give her the photo at the same time. I told her that you would call her. They don't want the General to know about this until the event.

The Board of Directors meeting was held last Tuesday. Unanimously they feel the agency must continue, but as I thought, the wherewithall to do this is still not solved, so they are meeting again next Tuesday evening, and incidentally it would be most appreciated if you could be there. It will be at my home, 144 E. 24th Street, Apt. 8 A, at 8:30 p.m. Ultimately I would still want to be replaced if the opportunity to work with Governor Lehman presented itself.

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

Most sincerely,

Viola Ilma

vi/ml

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John W. Studebaker, Ph.D.
Ordway Tead
Mrs. Lester H. Weil
Keyes Winter

Miss Tully

Mrs. Roosevelt asks for a
photograph, to be sent before the
19th.

Viola Ilms
re Gen. Laura Payne

YOUNG MEN'S VOCATIONAL FOUNDATION, INC.

95 MADISON AVENUE • MEMORIAL HALL 3-3426 • NEW YORK, N. Y.
122 E. 22nd Street Gra 5-3636

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VIOLA ILMA

Assistant Director
ROBERT R. HANNUM

Vocational Placement

FRANK W. BALLUFFI—*Trade Union*
RUTH MANOFF—*Girl's Division*
HAROLD G. OERTHER—*Negro Affairs*

December 29th, 1942

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Pepe was tremendously thrilled to have the opportunity to meet you and I hope you liked him.

This entire Christmas holidays was spent at Laura Payne's home and we had a perfectly grand time.

On the agency - this is what is happening at present. Because Laura Payne is taking on the financial responsibilities we cannot make any moves until we know more or less how much we can count on for the coming year. She seems to feel confident, so I am calling a Board of Directors meeting the third week in January, after her party on the 14th. At that time we will plan a staff and activities around a budget of approximately fifteen thousand dollars.

In the meanwhile, due to lack of funds I was forced to let my entire staff go, with the exception of my secretary and we are using this time to re-evaluate what the larger responsibilities we should take on will be.

I am still pretty much set on the idea of coordinating our work with the State Employment, as far as placement goes, having a liaison relationship between them and the YMVF, somewhat the sort of thing the Vocational Service for Juniors has been able to accomplish. I still feel strongly that we should be active in trying to get agencies to amalgamate and this can be done through a very vigorous publication. At the same time, because of curtailment, it will make it possible for us to keep in touch with the many friends we have made over a period of years. I also believe that we can develop training inside the institutions, with a small staff, using a fairly good volunteer group of very capable people who will be quite anxious to lend their services in lecturing at the schools.

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Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt

December 29th, 1942

I shall not go on now but as soon as some concrete plans develop I will certainly let you know of them.

My devotion and warmest greetings go to you and I need not emphasize wishing you a happy New Year for my wishes for you continue all the time, that your health and your happiness remain strong and that your progressive influence throughout the nation and your consideration of the underprivileged be an inspiration to many of us.

Love,

Viola
Viola Ilma

I am - is so thrilled about her dinner party - she will make Y.M.V.F. life possible. I am counting all on her.

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

vi/mi

100
✓

January 7, 1943

Dear Miss Ilma:

Mrs. Roosevelt has a letter from Simon Blum, Camp Hale, Colorado, who says he is a friend of yours and that he attended, with you, a meeting at which Mrs. Roosevelt spoke.

Mrs. Roosevelt would appreciate your letting her know whether you know Mr. Blum.

Sincerely yours,

Secretary to
Mrs. Roosevelt

Miss Viola Ilma
Young Men's Vocational Foundation
122 East 22d Street
New York, New York

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100
1-7
YOUNG MEN'S VOCATIONAL FOUNDATION, INC.

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122 E. 22nd Street

~~MURRAY ILMA 3-3326~~
ORG. 5-3535

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January 20th, 1943

My dear Miss Thompson:

This is in answer to your inquiry of January 7th concerning Simon Blum. Off hand I do not know him. It is possible that he may have sat next to me while attending a meeting at which Mrs. Roosevelt spoke, which explains that a friend is a relative matter.

My delay in answering this letter is that we have been understaffed and are re-enforcing our forces within the next few weeks.

My hearty appreciation for your arrangements on timing that made our dinner last Thursday night a success, and thank you for the warm letters to Mrs. Payne, which has encouraged her greatly in her new venture - the Y.M.V.F.

Most sincerely,

Viola
Viola Ilms

Miss Malvina Thompson
Secretary to Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt
The White House
Washington, D. C.
vi/mi

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STANDARD FORM NO. 14A
APPROVED BY THE PRESIDENT
MARCH 10, 1926

FROM

The White House
Washington

TELEGRAM

OFFICIAL BUSINESS—GOVERNMENT RATES

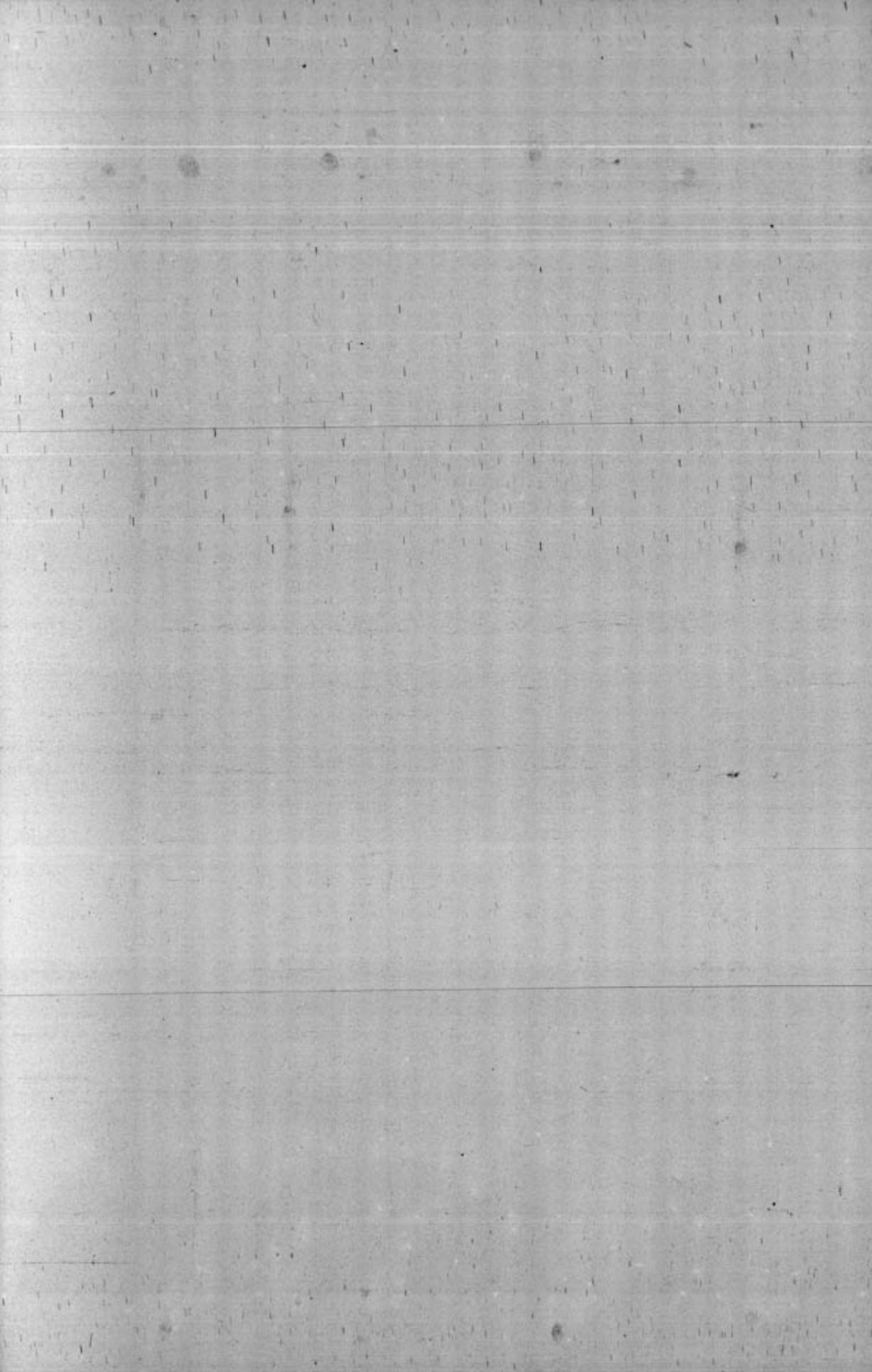
MISS VIOLA ILMA
YOUNG MEN'S VOCATIONAL FOUNDATION, INC.
122 EAST 22nd STREET
NEW YORK CITY

MRS ROOSEVELT GLAD TO HAVE YOU SPEND THURSDAY NIGHT
BUT CAN NOT ASK YOU TO HAVE DINNER HERE

MALVINA C. THOMPSON

SECRETARY

...
M...
Thompson



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

January 27, 1943

Handwritten initials and the number 100

MEMO FOR MR. CRIM:
MR. TOLLEY:
MRS. HELM:
MISS THOMPSON:

Miss Viola Ilma has been invited to spend the night of Thursday, January 28, at the White House. She has not been asked for dinner.

D.B.

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122 E. 22nd Street

MURRAY HILL 8-5425
Gra. 5-3036

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January 28th, 1943

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I plan to come down to Washington this Thursday, the 28th and stay over until Friday.

Will there be room for me to stay over night?

Walter is arranging for me to meet the three men from the Lehman Commission. At least I will have a chance to find out some developments.

At the last Board of Directors meeting of the Y.M.V.F. it was voted to concentrate on the placement of girls and at the moment I am busy re-staffing the agency.

Affectionately,

Viola
Viola Ilma

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

vi/mi

Wopi

*The acc. Couv. let Jount
have her for dinner*

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February 5, 1943.

Dear Viola:

I have Mr. Quintanilla's book but appreciate your thought. I am so glad the lunch was fruitful.

I cannot do more for Miss Bernard than refer her letter to Colonel Hobby when it comes.

I am sorry I cannot do as Mr. Tarcher asks. I could go on the air with Miss Anderson but I am not sure the Treasury limitation on earnings will allow it. As I understand it one can not designate a charity to receive money.

I have been going over my commitments and the many boards and groups to which I belong and have decided to resign from all except where I serve in a purely honorary capacity. I am sorry to ask you to take my name off your advisory board and it does not mean I will not be interested and help when and where I can.

Very sincerely,

Miss Viola Ilma
Young Men's Vocational Foundation, Inc
122 East 22nd Street
New York, New York.

VDS

26
25/15

YOUNG MEN'S VOCATIONAL FOUNDATION, INC.

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122 E. 22nd Street

NEW YORK, N. Y. 10028
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February 1st, 1943

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Just a few words to thank you for your hospitality. This is the wrong word because, from the first day, back in 1932 to date, every visit to the White House has moved me deeply. I appreciate the meaning behind your friendship and trust and it is the highest democratic symbol that mainly encourages one to do one's best.

The news on my interview with Dewey Anderson and Luther Gulick, both of the Lehman Commission - Walter Thayer arranged the luncheon and was present. I had known Luther Gulick when I was working at the National Municipal League immediately after my cyclonic exit from the Youth Congress. It was then I was studying local government problems and making a survey on youth leadership, which was sponsored by the League. The luncheon meeting was very pleasant due to the fact that Mr. Gulick, along with Walter, made it unnecessary for me to sell myself. They agreed that I would fit in well within a capacity of doing field administrative work abroad. They gave me the opportunity to express that I would need several months to wind up my responsibilities to the agency and it was left that the possibility of my going with the Commission existed.

The larger part of the luncheon was discussion amongst the three men on the problems facing the Commission, which suggests great responsibility and brain matter. I was pleased with this initial interview because if they hire me, and I can go, it would be pretty much on my own, and therefore there is no need for me to see Governor Lehman whatsoever. On the other hand, the contacts with the Governor, initially, on my behalf, strengthens my opportunities, although I know that it is always favorable to apply for a job directly to the people who are doing a certain amount of the actual work. Because of all this the luncheon left me very enthusiastic and in general I have decided to study French and Italian in case the opportunity develops. At any rate it is always an asset.

I had a chance to talk to a few Army people on the problem of the 'teen age

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Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt

February 1st, 1943

P.S. Would you let me know when you can see my spastic friend, Henry Black, in New York?

Also, a few weeks ago my delightful room-mate, Joan Bernard, wrote to you. She wants to be a WAAC. She failed the original physical because her vision is not 100% but she is secretary to an executive in Lerner Bros., makes a good living, but is bored to death to be so far removed from the war effort. She would make an excellent WAAC for both mentally and physically she is a fine, healthy girl. Her letter explains her problem and she is worth bothering about.

*File copy
Y. Smith
see how
much she
wants to
do
Viola
Ilma*

Sincerely,

Viola
Viola Ilma

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

vi/mi

(over)

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