

YOUNG MEN'S VOCATIONAL FOUNDATION, INC.

95 Madison Avenue • Murray Hill • 3-3425 • NEW YORK, N. Y.
122 E. 22nd Street • Gr. 5-2536

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HAROLD G. OERTNER—Negro Affairs

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Did you ever know a person who constantly did a million
and one favors to help many, many people and never asked a request
for himself?

Through Y.M.V.F. I have met hundreds of people but only a
few stand out because they are capable, unselfish and truly social
minded. Mr. Jeck Tarcher is one of these. As a matter of fact, I
met him through the occasion of our White House Dinner in 1941. He
has written all the copy for our literature, has helped financially
on endless individual cases and just a short while ago, when we
were broke, met the staff payroll.

Aside from his services to Y.M.V.F., an issue which might
make me prejudiced, he is a member of the Board of Directors of the
Jewish Federation, a great lover of all the arts and cultures, a
liberal in the healthy sense of the word.

The attached letter is his first request, which I hope can
be granted.

Most sincerely,

Viola
Viola Ilma

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

vi/mi-enc.

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J. D. TARCHER & CO.

ADVERTISING

630 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK

January 28, 1943

Dear Viola:

I called you back to make sure you had the details on the Mrs. Roosevelt matter I discussed with you but you had already left. So here goes.

We are working on a campaign for Victor Records. The advertisement I have in mind would appear as a 2-page spread in LIFE in full color.

Because of the shortage of records, the Victor Company is anxious to keep their great artists in the public mind, and also at the same time, to educate the public on the value of music in enriching life. This education is for morale purposes now and for an expansion of music appreciation after the war.

What I want to do is tell people, very simply and directly, that they can get comfort, consolation, relaxation and renewed courage from great music. But if this is done in a preachy way, people won't read it or act on it. Therefore, we are planning to base the advertising on a series of informal conversations between the leading personages of our time and the leading performers. The one I discussed with you, for instance, would be a meeting between Mrs. Roosevelt and Marian Anderson. Another would be a meeting between Mr. Henry Kaiser and Mr. Heifetz. Another might be between Mr. Walter Lippmann and Toscanini.

The illustration would be either an actual photograph or a painting by one of the best artists of our time showing, for instance, Mrs. Roosevelt and Miss Anderson in informal conversation together in a club room, backstage or over a tea table. The headline would be something to the effect -- and, of course, this is all very tentative --

"Miss Anderson, I owe you a debt of gratitude for
the inspiration your music has given me."

Eleanor Roosevelt

It would then go on to say, either in formal text or a direct quotation from Mrs. Roosevelt, to the effect that she finds relaxation and refreshment in hearing Miss Anderson, not only at her concerts but also from hearing her voice on phonograph records.

J. D. TARCHER & CO.

Such quotation would be as long or as short as Mrs. Roosevelt permits, or, if necessary, a direct quotation from her could be confined to the headline. If Mrs. Roosevelt objected to direct quotation, the idea could be conveyed - although I think less effectively - without using her own words.

Of course, the advertisement would be submitted to Mrs. Roosevelt for her approval and it goes without saying that it would be done on the most dignified plane.

Miss Anderson, I am sure, would be delighted to have such an advertisement appear. It would certainly add to her standing and prestige and would also do a great deal to help bring her records to the attention of the public.

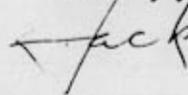
What I am extremely anxious to get, and would be immensely grateful for, would be Mrs. Roosevelt's acquiescence. If I could get a note from her to that effect, it would be of immense help to me in discussions with the Victor Company because, of course, the first thing they will ask is "Will Mrs. Roosevelt agree?" If I cannot get even a tentative acceptance from her in writing, possibly she will be good enough to indicate to you verbally whether she is willing to consider the idea, assuming that it is properly worked out.

If she will write me a note, it need not be more than the following:

"Dear Mr. Tarcher - Your idea of an interview between me and Miss Marian Anderson centering around the pleasure and relaxation I find in listening to her music interests me. I will permit the use of a picture of me and Miss Anderson in the music appreciation campaign you propose. It is understood that the picture and text will be submitted to me for my approval."

I know that Mrs. Roosevelt has done some radio work in the interests of her favorite charities. I am sure that the Victor Company would be glad to make a substantial contribution to those charities to compensate Mrs. Roosevelt in some small measure for whatever trouble she would take in posing, should that be necessary, or in being interviewed for her quotation.

Sincerely yours,



JLT:VBJ

P. S. I am very anxious to know how your Teen Age program is coming along.

XXXXXXXXXXXX
122 E. 22nd Street

XXXXXXXXXXXX
Gra. 5-3636

February 1st, 1943

My dear Mr. Anderson:

I was more than delighted to have the opportunity to meet you.

Hours later, on the train back to New York, my mind visualized the high mountains that were shaping your work. Indeed I should like to be part of this important work, for behind the winning of the war is the winning of the peace and the freedoms of the people who are being chained through starvation.

I hope that when I return to Washington on business I may have an opportunity to talk further to you and Luther Gulick.

If, in the meantime, you would wish any detailed data concerning my work, or ability, I would be more than pleased to follow through, although I must say Mr. Thayer is quite familiar with my capabilities for he knows the details of the work which I am now doing, the organization of which he is president.

Sincerely yours,

Viola Ilma

Mr. Dewey Anderson
Lehman Commission
Washington, D. C.

vi/mi
c.c. to Mrs. Roosevelt

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
122 E. 22nd Street

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
Gra. 5-3636

1

February 1st, 1943

Dear Mr. Gulick:

I was more than delighted to have the chance to see you, especially finding you connected with the Lehman Commission.

I am terribly interested and enthusiastic and do hope next time I am in Washington we will have an opportunity to talk further.

The job certainly is staggering but it is encouraging to know that the intellectual beginnings and directions are left to people like you.

In the meantime, if you desire any specific references I will be glad to provide them. Actually Walter Thayer is as familiar with my activities as any one else I know, mainly because he is president of my organization, which is a combine, along with the other members of my Board, to make it possible for us to do an outstanding job.

Sincerely yours,

Viola Ilma

Mr. Luther Gulick
Lehman Commission
Washington, D. C.

vi/mi
c.c. to Mrs. Roosevelt

February 10, 1943.

My dear Miss Ilma:

Mrs. Roosevelt asks me to return the enclosed letter from Mr. Sidney Hollaender as she thinks you will need it for your files.

Very sincerely yours,

Secretary to
Mrs. Roosevelt.

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

VDS

February 10, 1943.

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Miss Viola Ilma
Young Men's Vocational Foundation
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VDS

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122 E. 22nd Street • Tel. 8-3826

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HAROLD G. OERTHER—*Negro Affairs*

February 8th, 1943

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

You will be happy to hear that I have just taken on Miss Doris Maddow, formerly in charge of the Social Agency Division of the Federation Employment Service, to direct our placement for boys and girls.

We are now re-staffed and reorganized and it will be extremely interesting to see what we can do, accenting all our efforts towards working with the girls.

There are a few matters I am anxious to discuss with you personally. Could I see you either in New York or Washington?

I am enclosing a letter from an employer who has hired a number of our boys and girls. This, I think, shows the extent of education we have been able to accomplish when an employer actually takes the time off to discuss a problem with a boy when a boy is not working out one hundred percent.

Most sincerely,

Viola

Viola Ilma

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

vi/mi
cc to Washington
enc.

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100
1/11/43

March 13, 1943.

Dear Viola:

I have your message and
send congratulations and best wishes
to you and Mr. Kaye for many, many,
years of happiness.

Very sincerely,

GENE
3/11/43
↓

Send best
wishes
to
Viola

Mrs. Conrad Kaye (Viola Ilma)
Young Men's Vocational Foundation
122 East 22nd Street
New York, New York.

VDS

*add
3/13/43.*

RECEIVED

MAR 12 9 40 AM '43

WB41 32 NL

RENO NEV MAR 12 1943

MRS ELEANOR ROOSEVELT

WHITE HOUSE

A NEW PHASE HAS STARTED CONRAD AND I JUST MARRIED A
HAPPY PERSONAL LIFE A USEFUL WORK LIFE WHEREIN YOUR
FRIENDSHIP SERVES TO BE A HIGH INSPIRATION TO BOTH OF US
LOVE

CONRAD AND VIOLA ILMA KAYE

*Send to wife
address:
Best wishes +
cong - E.R.*

This is Miss Ilma's home
address (before marriage)
as given in N.Y.C. Tele.
Dir. We have none for Mr.
Kaye.

Will this be O.K. ?

V.S

87

fol

ADD 3-1943

April 2, 1943

My dear Mrs Roosevelt,

Papa and I thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your beautiful gift to us.

I've been sick for the past week with the virus infection that seems to be all about. Hence being a dreadful patient I can at least read and think. But I'll surely be up next week.

Papa goes into the army the first week of May. Then I'll start again with the Pelham Commission. Oh and envious of Truman's Milk!!

Could I possibly see you on my lunch day - (April 24th?)

Devotedly Viola

What about
Linda Miller's gift?
To the
Milk
...

NOTE

April 13
/U

April 13, 1943.

Dear Viola:

I have your three letters and will be glad to see you on Thursday, April 15th, at 9:30 a.m., at 29 Washington Square.

I can do nothing for Mr. Black but if you want to bring him with you, I'll be glad to see him.

As to the Payne report, it looks like bad business morals and it explains Mrs. Thompson's attitude toward Mrs. Payne and the type of people at her house.

Very sincerely,

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

VDS

YOUNG MEN'S VOCATIONAL FOUNDATION, INC.

95th Street at Avenue C • 51st Street at Avenue C • NEW YORK, N. Y.
122 E. 22nd Street • Gra. 5-3636

4/13/43

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HAROLD G. OERTHER—Negro Affairs

April 9th, 1943

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I am anxious to have a chance to talk to you regarding the situation around my letter to you concerning Laura Payne.

I would appreciate seeing you at your earliest convenience.

Love,

Viola Ilma

Handwritten notes: 15-16-43, 7/30/43, and initials.

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

vi/mi

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April 8th, 1943

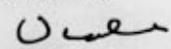
My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I have a letter on my desk from my spastic friend, Henry Black, and I really would appreciate having the opportunity for you to meet him.

As I mentioned, he really is a remarkable person and I know that if we don't take interest in him as a special individual, no one ever will.

I have a guilty conscience, always putting him off, because he has impressed me so very much with his ability to cope with what I would consider insurmountable obstacles.

Appreciatively,


Viola Ilma

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

vi/mi

Handwritten notes:
glad to meet you
Gathering for the Y
Bring in 15-17-18-19-20-21
for the Y

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YOUNG MEN'S VOCATIONAL FOUNDATION, INC.

9th ~~Madison Avenue~~
122 E. 22nd Street

Madison Hm. 6-5426
Gra. 5-3636

NEW YORK, N. Y.

Handwritten: This has been discussed with the Board and approved.

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Personal

April 8th, 1943

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I do not like sending you the attached material but feel, from a sense of responsibility, that I should.

I was terribly impressed with Laura Payne, and certainly her fantastic ability to raise funds seemed unbelievable, but which for her was so easy. Enthusiastically I recommended her as a member of the Board of Directors, which was accepted by the Board. However she wanted to be treasurer and this did not meet with their approval, insofar as our treasurer, Armar Archbold, though on leave, due to being in the Armed forces abroad, has always taken pride in this particular responsibility. Laura practically made it definite that either she be treasurer or else she would not wish to work with us, and the urgency of her request made the Board members feel uncomfortable, for as far as officers of the organization are concerned, they have been more or less the same ever since its inception, and never has there been an issue as to who would hold office.

This led to further investigation for we felt it was a serious thing to drop Mr. Archbold and it was a challenge because I knew that Laura could do what no other Board member has been able to do - and the investigation produced the attached statement. The only reason I send it is that she will not be treasurer and therefore will not remain on the Board of Directors, and I felt that you should understand the background that led to the action of the Board. I hope that she does not lose interest because of the lack of a title. At the same time it will be a test of her genuine interest, which I hope remains.

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

Sincerely yours,

Viola
Viola Ilma

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DUN & BRADSTREET, INC.
Room 415, 551 Fifth Avenue
New York City

Payne, Louis

or 184 1 December 15, 1942

He is about 57, married, and of Russian descent. Louis Payne, originally known as Louis Perlman, was originally from Cincinnati, Ohio, where for a number of years, he was variously employed. At one time, he was manager of the New United Artists Corp., and during 1925, entered partnership with William Bein, doing business as Theatre Poster Supply Co., Inc. That company, Payne said, operated profitably, and he held his interest in the enterprise until 1927, at which time, he claims to have been employed by Milligan-Morrison Corp., of Seattle, Washington, and Prince Edward Island, B.C., an organization operating a large number of silver fox farms. Payne, it is reported, was sales manager of silver fox farms, and also handled the distribution of furs from 91 fox branches of that company. He came to New York, during 1920, and continued his connections with Milligan-Morrison Corp. until 1931, but on August 5, 1931, he registered the trade style, Consolidated Fur Sales Company, and continued in that line for the next two years. During 1933, he entered the brokerage business and during January, 1934, he began operating as Payne & Payne, business brokers, from 405 Lexington Avenue. He moved to the present location during the early part of 1935, and then engaged, it is reported, in the gold mine financing business, selling stock and bonds for several various gold mining organizations. It is understood that he participated for a time in the underwriting of a \$500,000 stock issue for the London Deed Mine Co., of Denver, Colo., during the latter part of 1936, but during the early part of 1937, he discontinued the active operations in that line, and organized the present venture. While he is said to retain his broker's license, he is reported to devote his entire activities to the conduct of this enterprise.

A notice was published on April 1, 1939, by the Securities & Exchange Commission, and Department of Justice, reporting the arrest of Louis Payne and two others, on charges of violating the fraud provisions of the Securities Act of 1933, mail fraud and conspiracy in the sale of debentures of Consolidated Mines Syndicate, a corporation engaged in mining activities in Idaho. The arrests followed the return of an indictment on March 15, 1939, by the Federal Grand Jury, at Pocatello, Idaho before United States District Judge, Charles C. Cavanaugh. Bail was fixed at \$2,5000 for each defendant.

It was alleged in the indictment that the Consolidated Mines Syndicate, through Payne, an underwriter, offered for sale during 1928 some \$83,000 of three year 8% first mortgage debentures, and that the defendants in the sale of the securities made false and fraudulent representations as to the use to be made of the proceeds. The indictment charges that contrary to representations made by the defendants, the largest part of the proceeds was used to pay commissions as high as 50% to Payne, for the sale of the debentures, and to pay the other two indicted, who were officers in the corporation, current and back salary, and were not used in the development of the mine. On April 3, 1939, receipt was acknowledged of enclosure of bond of \$2,500 for Payne sent from New York to Boise, Idaho. According to Payne, he pleaded "Nolle Contendre" and he states that the charges were dropped.

Payne, Louis--2.

The Securities & Exchange Commission announced on June 30, 1939, that it had filed an action of injunction in the United States District Court, Southern District of New York, charging that Louis Payne, trading as Louis Payne Diversified Fur Farms, with violation of the registration provisions of the Securities Act of 1933, in selling agreement for the purchase of live silver foxes, together with the bills of sale, without having in effect a registration statement with the Commission.

The Commission, in its complaint, charged that the agreement for the purchase of live silver foxes, together with bills of sale, which were being sold by Payne, were securities within the meaning of the Act, and requested the Court to permanently enjoin Payne from selling these securities through the use of medium of a prospectus or otherwise, or of causing them to carry through the mails or in inter-state commerce for the purpose of sale or delivery after sale, unless a registration statement is in effect with the Commission as to such security.

According to information released on November 20, 1940, by the Securities & Exchange Commission at Washington, D.C., Judge Edward A. Conger, of the United States District Court in New York City, had granted the Commission's motion for a summary judgment of restraining Louis Payne, doing business under the above style from the future sale of certain securities in violation of the Registration Provisions of the Securities Act of 1933.

According to a letter, submitted by Louis Payne, on October 22, 1941, the decision of the case of the Securities & Exchange Commission against Louis Payne, was that it did not stop this venture from breeding, feeding, and selling the pelts, but carrying on business in general. According to the communication, Payne stated that he was stopped from selling live silver foxes until registration statements have been filed.

Interviewed on October 22, 1941, Louis Payne stated that William H. Hoffman in August, 1939, and residing at 60-43 - 60th Street, Maspeth, L. I., brought an action for \$4,464 against who was connected with the Louis Payne Diversified Fur Farms, at 551 Fifth Avenue, New York City. On October 22, 1941, John Phelan, attorney, Chrysler Building, New York City, stated that suit was settled and dismissed in June, 1940, but an appeal was taken by the plaintiff, and the case was dismissed in the fall of 1940, by Judge Fennelly, in the Appellate Divisions, Second Division, and department of the Supreme Court, Brooklyn, N. Y.

Louis Payne is also a principal at interest in the Louis Payne Diversified Fur Farms, Inc., chartered under New York laws, April 8, 1938, with an authorized capital of \$100,000, divided into common shares of par value of \$10 each. The records show that on February 4, 1941, that concern changed its name to the Louis Payne Diversified Fur Farms, Inc. The corporation, however, was not active, although the charter was retained to protect the name. On October 22, 1941, Louis Payne stated that he is also the principal in Louis Payne Diversified Fur Farms, Inc., which was chartered under New York laws, April 8, 1938, with an authorized capital of \$100,000. That company on February 4, 1941, changed its name to Lynxville Fur Sales, Inc. On October 22, 1941, Louis Payne added that that company has all along been inactive since its inception, but is soon to commence activity, shortly for the purpose of starting a silver fox ranch, either in the State of New York or New Jersey.

Payne, Louis---3.

At the present time, Payne operates under the style of Louis Payne Diversified Fur Farms, at the caption address, engaged in breeding and wholesaling silver fox. No financial information is available on that business. In addition, he is now the financial backer of Black-Out Control, Inc., a New York company, chartered March 14, 1942, with an authorized capital of 20 no par value shares of common stock. In a current interview, Payne stated that he recently acquired control of this company, which was engaged in the manufacture of a device known as "Raid-O-Alarm." The corporation is stated to be just starting production, but no sales available of a financial nature.

There are no financial details of a personal nature available on Louis Payne, and there is no record of credit accommodations, received by Payne individually.

12-15-42(41)

April 22, 1943

100

My dear Miss Ilma:

Mrs. Roosevelt and her secretary are away and in their absence I have been asked to acknowledge their mail.

I am sorry that it will not be possible to get your letter of April 16 to Mrs. Roosevelt in time for her to consider your request for a message for the souvenir book of the Father Duffy Canteen. Mrs. Roosevelt will not return to Washington until the last of April and very little mail is being forwarded to her as she is traveling almost constantly.

Very sincerely yours,

Administrative Officer
Social Correspondence

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

DD

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APR 17 1943

YOUNG MEN'S VOCATIONAL FOUNDATION, INC.

95th Street, New York
MISERABLE HANDS 5425x
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April 16th, 1943

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

At the meeting of the Finance Committee yesterday Alan Corelli told me that they were having a benefit on April 25th for the Father Duffy Canteen. I know you are familiar with the Canteen and I need not tell you what a splendid job they are doing, for actually the work stands quite on its own.

They would very much like to have letters from you and the President for their souvenir book. The result of the tea did raise approximately eighteen thousand dollars and I would like to reciprocate for all Alan has done for us.

The letters should be sent to Mr. Alan Corelli, Chairman of the Father Duffy Canteen, Music Box Theatre, April 25th, 1943. His office address is 545-5th Avenue, New York City.

Most appreciatively,

Viola
Viola Ilma

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

vi/mi

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APR 28 1943

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HAROLD G. OERTHER—Negro Affairs

*Lester Granger
see to mail*

*John Jordan
122 E 22nd St*

April 27th, 1943

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

The other night I saw a very interesting and dynamic film, Hangmen Also Die. I think you would enjoy this picture very much and hope you will have a chance to see it. I would be interested to know what you think of it.

Do you recall last year, at one of our small finance tea meetings, you met Mrs. Lisa Reitler? Her outstanding spot with the Foundation is that she is one of our large contributors who doesn't have to be worked on every year. Her husband has an interest in the Film Company that made this picture and it is rather encouraging because they are liberal and progressive and she is very much interested in the idea of doing a film on delinquent youth.

Have you spoken to any Hollywood people and actors who have given thought to such a film, or any writers who have shown any interest in such an idea? The type picture we have in mind is like LaMaternelle, the old French film. It is only an idea but it is well worth considering if we could get a production that would dramatically and intelligently tell the story thru film. So far the only two films I can recall that have to do with juvenile delinquency are Boys Town, which was excellent, but there is even a truer picture to show of the origin and development, as well as the outcome, if proper direction is given these youth, and the Russian film, the Road to Life, which was closer to the kind of picture I have in mind.

All I can contribute is the enthusiasm that such a picture would be most worthwhile and should be done, but the writer, the actors and direction belong in the hands of those who know the business.

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

Most sincerely,
Viola
Viola Ilma

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Keyes Winter



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/ 80

April 30, 1943.

Dear Viola:

I should be glad to have you and your husband for the night of May 10th or 11th. I can not promise, however, that the President will be at dinner.

The plan for raising money frightens me and I can of course take no responsibility.

Very sincerely,

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

VDS

YOUNG MEN'S VOCATIONAL FOUNDATION, INC.

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HAROLD G. OERTHER—*Negro Affairs*

April 19th, 1943

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Pepe will be inducted May 5th, which means he has a week afterwards, before he goes into the Army. I think he would get a great thrill out of dining with you at the White House, so almost any day before or after May 5th would be fine for him.

Most sincerely,

Viola
Viola Ilma

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

vi/mi

P.S. Have you had a chance to write to Mr. Kaiser?

*Twenty to go to Com. Dept. for
signed to look them up
and James P. ...
for to them ...
of ...
12 10 ...*

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MIAMI BEACH, FLA. 33145
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April 20th, 1943

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

For the first time in the history of the Vocational Foundation, a finance committee actually met and they agreed upon two tactics.

One, to form a committee of twenty, each to raise twenty-five hundred dollars.

Secondly, Harry Brandt, of the Brandt Theatres, last year recommended that we take over the Madison Square Garden and at that time I felt it was too large a project, but both Mr. Brandt and Alan Corelli assure me that it is just as much work to take over a small theatre as at the Garden. They feel confident it can be a success and that the income would be for the post war problems, which certainly will be thunderous in relationship to the increase in juvenile delinquency. There was general agreement that if Alan Corelli, Harry Brandt and Ed. Sullivan take the leadership in this venture, we should go ahead with it in the early fall. They have been amazingly successful with all the affairs they have directed at the Garden.

At the moment Harry Brandt is directing a big program for the Greek War Relief, and Ed. Sullivan, with Judge Shalleck, just completed the Red Cross Show, in which all these people played a role, and Alan Corelli is directing the Father Duffy Canteen benefit, so that these men really know of what they speak. Their interest in juvenile delinquency is very real and encouraging, so that the certainty of this project, if undertaken, seems positive. This we will know within a few weeks.

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

Most sincerely,

Viola
Viola Ilma

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May 4, 1943.

May 10
/ 70

My dear Miss Ilma:

Mrs. Roosevelt has your note
and suggests you come any time in the
late afternoon on May 10th.

She will send a car for you
if you will advise her of the time of
your arrival.

Very sincerely yours,

Secretary to
Mrs. Roosevelt.

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

VDS

YOUNG MEN'S VOCATIONAL FOUNDATION, INC.

930 Madison Ave. New York, N. Y.
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mk
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*Rate afternoon
anytime - will
send car if the
arrived*

May 3rd, 1943

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Pepe and I shall be more than delighted to

accept your invitation on May 10th.

Would you be kind enough to let me know what
time you want us to be there.

Most sincerely,

Viola
Viola Ilma

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

vi/mi

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100
May 6, 1943.

Dear Viola:

I think I would answer Nick Giamio's letter by saying that you think the Army is going to hang on to people and help them to get their jobs back if that is possible, but if for any reason those jobs are no longer open, every effort will be made to find them some other jobs. The training which they have received in the Army many times make them want to change to a different kind of job from what they had in the past.

One thing is important, I believe, and that is that every boy in the Army should study the National Resources Planning Board report because unless we insist on having an economy which is based on full employment, we may go through the same kind of difficulties which we went through after the last war and it is therefore very important that everyone of us as citizens, understands what needs to be done and see that our representatives in the government are the kind of people who will do it.

Very sincerely,

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

VDS

YOUNG MEN'S VOCATIONAL FOUNDATION, INC.

122 E. 22nd Street

NEW YORK, N. Y.
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Aut.
5/2/43

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May 3rd, 1943

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Attached is the last Youth Morale Corps letter I sent to our boys all over the world.

I was interested to see your enthusiasm related to Saroyan's Human Comedy. On Page 2 you will see the letter Homer received from his older brother which I felt important enough to send to the boys.

I have always felt that the boys should know the true facts behind the problems of running a social agency, such as ours, for in this democratic process they share our problems as well as taking a deeper responsibility in our growth which in turn makes them better citizens.

I was moved to ask the boys to give me their views on whether or not the agency should close or make every effort to continue. Typical answers that are coming to me are expressed by the following:

Arthur Wilson, who is now in Fort Meade, Maryland, 304th Infantry Corps, said: "Many fellows that have strayed aside previously, will be tempted again under these complete world changes. So the continuous needs of the Foundation must go on at all costs".

Nick Giamio, from Camp Maxey, Texas, (a really tough type boy from Avenue B) writes: "YMVF has really done a lot for me. You have really changed my way of doing things. Also, within the two and a half years that I have had YMVF as a friend I can really say I have learnt how to do things for myself, how to get along with people, what to do in my spare time, and most of all, to keep my self respect and to be independent. Before I close this letter, Miss Ilma, I really would like to know if you can answer me a question which has got me thinking and that is, will most of us boys who are in the Army now, get our jobs back that we left when we got in the Army, or will we have to find a new job? Also will we still

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- 2 -

Mrs. Roosevelt

April 3rd, 1943

be getting a salary on which one can live on because that is a subject which comes up a lot in the barracks."

Mrs. Roosevelt, I would be very interested to know in what way would you answer this letter? It is very typical of the questions that are coming in to the office more and more.

I chuckled a bit from your note of April 30th: "The plan for raising money frightens me". Last year, when Harry Brandt volunteered to accept the responsibility I was petrified at the idea, but I am convinced that those who raise funds in a professional way are much more successful than a person such as myself, who sees mainly the social importance of the work, and sells the agency with deep convictions, rather than a shrewd business sense. At the Finance Committee meeting the Board members were amused at me for I seemed the conservative of the group, versus Alan Corelli, who is so positive of the success of the Garden All Star Show. It was the same at the Reuben's Tea, finding myself sitting on pins and needles while Alan hit the people over the head. His technique proves successful with far less effort than mine, which, if not a failure is at least tedious and time consuming. If we do the Garden Show Alan Corelli and his co-workers would take the complete responsibility. Even YMVF could not do so. Our only request to you is to be honorary chairman. Practically everybody of any importance will be sponsors, nation-wide, state-wide, and city-wide. It has even occurred to me that all agencies in New York City directly connected with problems in juvenile delinquency be part of the sponsorship, as well as part sharers in the proceeds - one way of getting these organizations together, but this is only an idea at the present.

As ever,

Viola

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YOUNG MEN'S VOCATIONAL FOUNDATION, INC.

~~122 E. 22nd Street~~
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April 19th, 1943

Dear Friends, North, South, East and West:

Spring fever is under way. A sort of peep show through my office window reveals a sparkling slice of the East River. The sun throws a diamond glitter over the water. Now and then a tug boat tugs along - here a barge, loaded with cargo, puffs along like an old man, and occasionally a troop ship sneaks out, quietly, to unknown waters, carrying the heroes who we will all come to know. Spring nostalgia is a two way run - a) there is work to be done, and b), duck all work and meander in endless directions, leading nowhere.

The news on our office front tells that we have had many changes. Our new name is Vocational Foundation (for Young Men and Women). Since December we have been going through what we term reorganization, which simply means we didn't have enough money to carry on our work on as large a scale as last year. Also, we felt that the job problem was easier, for there are more jobs to be had and fewer people needing help to get them. We felt, however, that at all costs YMVF should keep going, for the needs after the war will be tremendous. Your views on this would be of interest to me.

Bob Hannum is no longer with us. I need not tell you of that particular loss, for those of you who know Bob know that after they made him they threw away the pattern, but wherever he may be we can all be sure he is serving youth. The news on Bob is that another baby will shortly arrive and I am quite certain he will be delighted to hear from you. His address is 29 Oak Street, Irvington, New York.

Lt. Harold Oerther has been shipped to San Francisco, which means we will be sending him V letters.

Ruth Manoff at the moment is minding her baby Eva, as she rolls into her second year. Polly Winter, by now, is in overalls on the assembly line in a defense plant, and Genevieve Ferro is working with the Red Cross.

Our new placement director is Miss Doris Maddow. She has a nack that makes you want to spill the beans and make promises that you know darn well you will never keep.

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Mrs. Falek, who is her secretary, gets you ready for the kill. Lili Gielgud handles the calls, sees that the right people get through, handles the books and listens to all the extra gripings, etc., etc.

Miriam Isaacs and I are planning to get excited about an added activity in the agency or else make a change for something more directly related to the war effort. The issue before me is the importance of sticking to the job, or else being more useful somewhere else. One thing I feel keenly is that the agency should keep its finger in the pie of social work for there is lots of room to make all of social work more human and that means more progressive.

I know there is no sense to write about the good movies because you see the best ones before we do. My nomination, however, for the year's best is Casablanca. For a gorgeous female, Ingrid Bergman is tops, and for good looks, for a movie heart-beat, I throw my vote to Paul Henreid. For activity on the spinal cord, Hitchcock's latest thriller, Shadow Of A Doubt, is tops. It seems that the stream '43 menace is the smooth, intellectual type, with a nerve center that leads to murder because he can't help it. A perfect holiday for the psychos. For the heart nothing can touch Journey For Margaret, the story of the destiny of two kids, victims of the Nazi terror. It's bad enough when adults are hurt, but when children are made to suffer for the ills of society it touches the depth of all feeling.

The most exciting concert that I went to, was, of all concerts, one given by the great Duke Ellington at Carnegie Hall. Of course he played his famous Black & Tan Fantasy, and Mood Indigo. He took a crack at a new hot symphony which told the story of the development of the Negro race. In my opinion it didn't quite come off, but the idea still remains good, for I still think the best way to tell a story of social significance is through theatrical devices, for at least this way people will listen and they get that far, emotionally, maybe they will go a little further into trying to understand all the enormous problems with which we are faced, to build a new world.

On books, my favorite so far is Saroyan, and I must take time out to quote some lines on his new book "The Human Comedy". It's a story about the Macauleys, mostly about Homer, who is a western union messenger (graduates of western union, please take notice), and his brother Ulysses, a slip of four, who gets a great kick out of people who wave to him as he stands by the railroad tracks. The only guy who ever waved to him was a Negro on his way down south, and he, forever, became the symbol of humanity to Ulysses. Now that is enough to prove it is a Saroyan story. Homer's mother is like all mothers - his family background is enough said that Homer is working at the age of fourteen. His brother Marcus is in the army and Homer has all kinds of struggles. He is still going to school but bored stiff and even though he is only fourteen he begins to learn a lot about life, simply by delivering telegrams. He knows when it is bad news and bad news makes him start thinking. One of the touching scenes is a letter that Homer got from his brother Marcus. The day that Homer got the letter from his brother "was one of the longest and most eventful days of Homer Macauleys' life". You can well realize that any kid is impressed, particularly a youngster, when he hears from his older brother in the Army. It has all the significance that heroism always holds for a youngster.

"I miss you, of course, and I think of you all the time. I am happy, and even though I have never believed in wars - and know them to be foolish, even when they are necessary - I am proud that I am serving my country - which to me is Ithaca, our home, and all of the Macauleys. I do not recognize any enemy which is human, for no human being can be my enemy. Whoever he is, whatever color he is, however mistaken he may be in what he believes, he is my friend, not my enemy, for he is no different from myself. I do not feel like a hero. I have no talent for such feelings. I hate no one. I do not feel patriotic either, for I have always loved my country, its people,

its towns, my home, and my family, I would rather I were not in the Army. I would rather there were no War, but as I am in the Army and as there is a War, I have long since made up my mind to be the best soldier it is possible for me to be. I have no idea what is ahead, but whatever it is I am humbly ready for it. I am terribly afraid - I must tell you this - but I know that when the time comes I shall do what is expected of me, and maybe even more than what is expected of me, but I want you to know I shall be obeying no command other than the command of my own heart. More than anything else in the world I want to come back to Ithaca, and spend many long years with you and with my mother and sister and brother. I can write to you what I could never say in words. You are the best of the Macauleys. You must go on being the best. Nothing must ever stop you. You are fourteen years old, but you must live to be twenty and then thirty and forty and fifty and sixty. You must live, in the years of your life, forever. I shall always be watching you (because you are what we are fighting the War for). How could I ever tell you such things if we were together? You would jump on me and wrestle with me and call me a fool, but even so everything I have said is true. Now I will write your name here, to remind you: Homer Macauley. That's who you are. I miss you very much. I can't wait until I see you again. When that happens, when we meet again, I will let you wrestle me and put me down on my back in the parlor in front of Ma and Bess and Ulysses and maybe Mary even - I'll let you do that because I will be so glad to see you again. God bless you. So long. Your brother, Marcus."

Saroyan's words have expressed all the feelings I have towards this war and why we are fighting is to keep all the things that we love, the hot dog stands, the landlords away, graduation, a raise in salary, weddings, babies, all the things that are warm and fun and important and real, not the big shot stuff because the whole global war means mainly that we want to see throughout the world a simple kind of life, where people can be perfectly swell because that is the way they want to be.

And talking about a better world - you boys are certainly helping to make it. I am always tremendously thrilled when I think of the varied contributions you are all making towards winning the war - in the air, on land and on the sea, and surely the great thrill of seeing the Germans and the Japanese licked, which means wiping out fascism once and for all, is an objective which, when reached will bring us all to new heights and making us the kind of human beings we want to be. Away with prejudices and on to opportunities for everybody.

Only the other day I heard of a chap who for many years was on relief, just sort of floating around, with no direction whatsoever. Through the war effort he became a deep sea diver and as he learned more about deep sea diving he began to contribute to the whole field of diving - how to see more things under the ocean and changes in technical developments. It's a very gratifying feeling to know that a person, who for such a long time was aimlessly wandering around, was finally able to hit upon a career in which he has a special talent.

The main thing is to find the line wherein you are talented and follow it through because it ends in wonderful paths and leads to all kinds of happiness and accomplishments.

So keep on fighting, getting the war over with as soon as possible, and what a celebration it will be when all the boys come home.

The entire staff joins in with me with best wishes to all of you.

Do write when you have time.

Most sincerely,

Viola Ilma

Viola Ilma

YOUNG MEN'S VOCATIONAL FOUNDATION, INC.

122 E. 22nd Street

NEW YORK, N. Y.
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May 21st, 1943

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

The other night I attended the Greek War Relief show at the Madison Square Garden, directed and given leadership by Harry Brandt. I was sorry you weren't there.

The presentation of the Greek Cause was done with dignity and social thoughtfulness and behind this, a galaxy of stars to make the evening a most successful event. Not only was it a financial success but it brought home to the enormous audience the importance of the war.

I would have full confidence in doing a garden show if Harry Brandt would take the chairmanship, but there have been no definite developments since last I spoke to you. In the meantime I have gathered together a committee of twenty people in the hopes that they will each raise two thousand dollars which will at least keep the agency going for two years. This I want to accomplish, and if the Garden show could be presented I would like to bring it under the sponsorship of all related agencies in the field of juvenile delinquency, with a division of the proceeds.

Pepe is still at Camp Upton waiting to be assigned and I only hope that the fact that he fought in Loyalist Spain will not be a hindrance.

Most sincerely,

Viola
Viola Ilma

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt

The White House
Washington, D. C.

vi/mi

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May 26, 1945

Dear Miss Ilma:

Mrs. Roosevelt has your letter of May 25th and asks me to say that she did write to Mr. Kaiser.

As to your other question, Mrs. Roosevelt thinks it would be a good idea to try the Red Cross.

Sincerely yours,

Secretary to
Mrs. Roosevelt

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

5/26
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May 25th, 1943

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

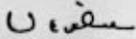
Have you had a chance to write to Mr. Kaiser? I am very busy rounding up money for the agency, and things do look encouraging, so that if an opportunity turns up I can leave with a clear conscience. ms

I still have the firm desire to have an opportunity to go abroad and get into the global arena. I might add that I volunteered for the W.A.A.C.'s and discovered that one foot is an inch shorter than the other. I have had foot trouble in a minor way but I certainly would love to have a penny for every mile I have walked, for it has never been an obstacle in working and therefore I am not too concerned.

The Lehman Commission opportunity to go abroad looks like a dead end because the War Department and the State Department are both against women going abroad. What other channels are there? Do you think the Red Cross a good idea? I would appreciate any ideas that you may have. How I would love the opportunity to work with John Winant, a man for whom I have tremendous respect and admiration.

You will be interested to hear that our agency is considering going into an investigation on the S.P.C.C. but this would be a complete new project and then again, any new project would depend very much on what my plans would be. I do, however, want to make every effort to make a real constructive change before I get wrapped up in further work in the agency.

Most sincerely,


Viola Ilma

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt
The White House
Washington, D. C.
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June 11, 1943.

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My dear Miss Ilma:

Mrs. Roosevelt has your letter of June 9th and is so glad things are settling for you. She spoke to Mr. Kaiser who said he would see you.

Very sincerely yours,

Secretary to
Mrs. Roosevelt.

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

VDS

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June 9th, 1943

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I thought the enclosed article would be of interest to you. So often these small projects are really the most successful.

At present the Y.M.V.F. machinery is getting formalized for the duration.

I am very sorry to report, from our personal point of view, that Walter Thayer, within a week, will have left for England for the duration. We also have two other Board members abroad. Marshall MacDuffie is in Egypt for the War Economics Board, and Armар Archbold, our treasurer, is flying with the R.A.F. We feel the loss of our men Board members for they seem to be more active in making new contacts for us and have always added a good deal of prestige to our development.

I hope within the next two weeks to have stabilized the income for two years. In the meantime I have written to Norman Davis and received a favorable reply which now will be followed up with an interview in New York. I also sent my application in to the Lehman Commission where certainly I was given a most considerate series of interviews.

The entire picture looks as follows:

1. If I have any opportunity whatsoever, that is directly tied up with the war effort, to make a change for the better, I shall not hesitate.
2. Y.M.V.F. will continue, with or without me. If I am to stay, we

Y.M.V.F. article
to be followed up
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Mrs. Roosevelt

June 9th, 1943

no doubt shall go into an investigation of the S.P.C.C. We are all ready beginning to read the history and reports of the various social and civic agencies that have attempted to make changes. If recommendations find that we can pry open this so far untouched wall, we shall do so. That means that I shall remain.

My darling Pepe is still at Camp Upton. He was in last week on a sixty hour furlough. (He had some little duty to carry out for the Captain). He looks well, is terribly enthusiastic about his opportunity to affect the young boys who come in, but of course is looking forward to being assigned elsewhere, but on the whole he is vigorously happy to be in the armed forces. He sends his very best regards. It was rather touching when I found your little good luck piece attached to his dog tag, which also had my name on it (in case his number turns up). I was very moved by it and I know he treasures this as a great inspiration when he is low.

Most sincerely,

Viola

Viola Ilma

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

vi/mi
enc.

XXXXXXXXXXXX
122 N. 22nd Street

XXXXXXXXXXXX
Gr. 5-3636

June 9th, 1943

My dear Mrs. Payne:

At our last Board of Directors meeting, held June 3rd, Miss Ilma reported that she had tried to contact you by mail and phone on a great number of occasions, but without success.

On May 3rd Miss Ilma sent you a letter asking what your plans were with respect to the agency, but failed to receive a reply.

The Board therefore regrets to inform you that the only recourse is to drop you as a member of the Board of Directors of the Young Men's Vocational Foundation.

May I, at this time, in behalf of the Board, express my appreciation for the work you have done in the past for the organization.

Very sincerely yours,

Walter N. Thayer, 3rd
President

Mrs. Laura Payne
The Hemlocks
Elberon, New Jersey

wnt/mi

cc to Mrs. Roosevelt
cc to Walter Thayer

100

June 16, 1943

Dear Viola:

I spoke to Mr. Kaiser and he said
he would see you.

If you go, just be yourself. He seems
to like youth and energy and ideas.

Sincerely yours,

0

Miss Viola Ilma
144 E 24th St.
NYC

VIOLA ILMA KAYE

Will see an effort
to let Kaiser - you
know the idea
June 15, 1943.
I'll be a
big
idea

My dear Mrs Roosevelt,

I am writing this letter by hand
and at home.. I didn't want my loyal secretary
to know how anxious I am to have the
opportunity to work for Mr Kaiser. And now
that he is opening office in Radio City the
reality seems a little closer.

I am so keen to see you
and get your advice on:

a- How can I see him?

b- I would like to get some highlights

1- What is he like?

2- Is there any way I can find
out where I would fit in?

If I have some knowledge my interview
would be more successful.. Or would
my creative & organizational experience be
sufficient.

Naturally the post war social planning
is what appeals to me. But I don't want to
be vague if I can present some practical
ideas. But I'm just so excited about

VIOLA ILMA KAYE

this possibility. I shall be forever grateful
to you for your advice and introduction.

Then too, if I could work for him
I could put my spare time to hard
work for the coming election. Will

Betty kindly work on the National Woman's
Committee? I've always had a special "glow"
to work with her and I feel I can no
longer be an independent voter. I want
to in any small positive way be sure
the Democrats keep advancing the New
Deal and any place you suggest I start
is fine.

I long to pour out my new hopes
to you. I love you with all my heart
and want to reflect in usefulness my
deep feelings

Love
Viola.

June 29, 1945

190

Dear Viola:

I agree with you in all you say, in your letter of June 24. I am suggesting to Miss Hicok and Mrs. Tillet that your name be proposed for the Democratic Women's Committee.

Sincerely yours,

0

Miss Viola Ilma
122 E 22d St.
NYC

106.14

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HAROLD G. OERTHER—*Negro Affairs*

June 24th, 1943

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I am sure that I am amongst thousands of Americans who are very disturbed by the news of the last week on the home front - the Negro riots, Lewis, O.P.A., O.W.I., and I find it all the more imperative that we most seriously get active for the coming presidential election for the forces of reaction are in many known as well as unknown devious ways directing a frontal attack on the home front, a sample of which we are in the midst of right now.

There is no doubt that there will be a big fight for the reactionaries to step in with a solidity of phraseology that will guarantee efficiency and where, because of newness - the charge of bureaucracy is heralded.

All of us must be active in working amongst groups of many types to develop the consciousness of the masses of people. Unfortunately the press is controlled by those who want to see the defeat of the New Deal and it is more serious than ever because of the war and any change that is not in the interest of advancement will move us on the run of the heel of fascism.

I mentioned in my personal letter to you of my interest in becoming a member of the National Women's Democratic Committee. Now I am all the more certain that in some way I must join up, along with many others, for the protection of the security that we now have, along with the hopes that the New Deal has constantly been giving the common people.

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

Most sincerely,

Viola
Viola Ilma

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RUTH MANOFF—*Girl's Division*

HAROLD G. OERTHER—*Negro Affairs*

June 16th, 1943

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

This past Monday I read in the New York Times that Henry J. Kaiser had decided to establish his own personal offices here in New York City. He said he had taken part of the third floor of the British Empire Building in Rockefeller Center for this purpose and was assembling a staff for it.

Upon my arrival at the office I received your note of June 11th, informing me that you had spoken to Mr. Kaiser and that he expressed he would grant me an interview. I am keener than ever to have the opportunity to meet Mr. Kaiser for now it will not involve a trip to the coast. I want terribly to make a change and I somehow have a feeling that I would fit in some where in the numerous plans of Mr. Kaiser's realm. Should I call him up or could Miss Thompson arrange an appointment? This seems the opportune time to contact him.

Anxiously awaiting to hear from you. Also, would it be possible to see you for a short time in New York, mostly in relationship to Vocational Foundation problems.

Most sincerely,

Viola Ilma

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

vi/ml

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July 14, 1945

Dear Miss Ilma:

Your letter of July 15 has been received since Mrs. Roosevelt's departure for the West. She will be away until the 25d and I will give her your letter then.

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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*Must
away
within
23rd -
under five
has your letter*

July 13th, 1943

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Again I am sending you copy of a letter from one of our old boys because it shows the reason why I feel that every effort should be made to have our agency prepared for the problems that will come up after the war.

There are a few matters that I would very much like to discuss with you and would appreciate it if I could see you some time within the next two weeks.

I haven't seen Henry Kaiser as yet. I believe he went to the coast and hence am swamped with Vocational Foundation problems which again are mostly financial at the moment. Then, too, I believe in crossing each bridge as I come to it. I am quite sure that if Mr. Kaiser offers me a job I will be more than concerned as to what will become of the agency if I leave, and these letters that arrive, spasmodically enough, are, however, just enough to give me a guilt sense that some one must be preparing for the agency.

At present we have just enough funds to hold us until the middle of August. An increase of boys is very evident, which indicates clearly that we must make every effort to keep going. Worse yet, I have been out for almost two weeks with bronchitis, which puts me in a mental turmoil of seeing time go by without money coming in, for at least when I am well and active I can always save the ship somehow.

Hoping I can see you soon, I am,

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt

The White House

Washington, D. C.

vi/mi-enc.

P.S. I was utterly delighted with your p.s.

Most sincerely,

Viola
Viola Ilma

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C O P Y

July 4, 1943

Dear Miss Ilma:

Your letter received and I was very glad to hear from you. I am sorry I did not write sooner but have been pretty busy. I am feeling fine and I hope you are the same.

I was down to the new office several times while I was home. Miss Isaacs told me what had happened. I am glad that you are back on your feet again. (When this mess is over all of the men returning will have a lot of readjustments to make. It will not be easy to go from military life and right back into civilian life. It will take quite some time. A lot of the men don't know what they want to do when they come back. They will want somebody to turn to and help them make the necessary adjustments. Most of them will have changed. Some will be bitter if things don't work out for them.)

Sorry to hear that Mr. Hannum and Mr. Certher are no longer on the staff. Glad that another bundle of joy is on the way for Mr. Hannum. I remember when he was waiting for the first one. He was certainly happy then. Will write him shortly.

Saw the picture Journey for Margaret. It was ^avery good picture. Would like to see the picture The Human Comedy. I hear it is just like the book.

Received a letter from my brother Jerry. It was the first word from him in over six months. Also heard from my brother Vinnie who joined the Navy. They are both doing fine.

Will close now. Give my regards to all. Hope to hear from you again soon. I remain as ever,

Sincerely yours,

Jimmie

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HAROLD G. OERTHER—*Negro Affairs*

JUL 22 1943

July 21st, 1943

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Do you recall some months ago you suggested I dig up a few Republicans for the Agency? The enclosed letter speaks for itself.

I must confess that I wrote to Dewey who, since he has become Governor, is "too busy" and my preference to have Mr. Willkie's support led to my action.

You will be interested to know that the following people have also been added to the Board of Directors. Mathias Correa, and Whitman Knapp, District Attorney. Dorothy Perera was elected Acting President, and Walter remains as President though he is now in London.

On the Advisory Board we have the following new ones:

Mrs. Marjorie Bell, Assistant Director of the National Probation Association.
Harry Brandt, owner of the Brandt Theatres.
Mrs. Harriet S. Butcher of the Russell Sage Foundation.
Miss Doris Clarke of the Wayward Minors Court.
Alan Corelli of the Theatre Authority.
J. Frederic Dewhurst of the Twentieth Century Fund.
Frederic G. Elton, District Supervisor of the Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation.
Mrs. Elinor Gimbel of the Committee for the Care of Children in War Time.
Grace Gosselin of the East Side Settlement.
S. Park Harman of Edward Fenton & Associates.
Conrad M. Kaye.
J. Edward Lombard, Jr., Society for the Prevention of Crime.
Carey Belle Maddox, Case Worker of the Kruse School.

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Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt

July 21st, 1943

Mrs. Estelle Milgrim of the Milgrim Brothers family.
Jerome Nathanson of the Ethical Culture Society.
A. Clayton Powell, Jr., Chairman of The People's Committee
Boris Pregel, President of Canadian Radium & Uranium Corp.
Arnold Reuben of Reuben Restaurant.
Viola Lewis Scott of N.A.A.C.P.
Robert W. Searle, General Secy. of Greater N.Y. Federation of Churches.
John W. Young, President of the Excel Foundry Co.

On the whole you can see that I have tried to get more people in different organizations on our Advisory Board as a start in coordinating these agencies and I was more than surprised that so many came on.

There is a definite heightening of interest in the juvenile delinquency problem and although at present we are low in funds, many good plans and campaigns are under way and I feel rather hopeful.

By the by, Philip Heimlich, a member of our Board of Directors, who is head of the Youth Counsel Bureau in the District Attorney's office, has a daughter, Ensign Cecelia Heimlich who is stationed with Senator J. J. Johnson, 4975 Hillbrook Lane, N.W., Spring Valley, Washington, D. C. She is just a slip of a girl and we were all thrilled that she was able to become an officer. I think she would have the thrill of her life if she could ever be invited to tea by you.

All my best Washington friends have gone abroad. Do you know that from our Board of Directors alone Walter is gone, Armar Archbold is in London as a Lt. in the A.A.F., Marshall MacDuffie is in Egypt for the War Economics Board. An amusing incident happened to Walter the first day he arrived in London, for he bumped into Armar Archbold. I received a V letter from him telling me the story and it was very exiting. And now we have spiritual headquarters in London with our president and treasurer both there.

Looking forward to seeing you, I am,

Most sincerely,

Viola
Viola Ilma

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

vi/mi

Pending

W

100

July 25, 1945

Dear Miss Ilma:

Mrs. Roosevelt has returned and has seen your letter of July 15. She will be glad to have you come to tea on August 2, at her apartment, 29 Washington Square West, at 5:30.

Sincerely yours,

Secretary to
Mrs. Roosevelt

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

0

July 30, 1943

Dear Viola:

I had a letter from your husband, in which he told me of his discouragement at being left at Camp Upton without any training.

The report that I get seems an indication that the many different organizations to which he has belonged have caused the officers to suspect he is a Communist.

I do not know of anything that can be done, as the Military Intelligence Service is pretty tough.

Sincerely yours,

Miss Viola Iling
Young Men's Vocational Foundation
122 E 22, NYC

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Emm

WAR DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF
WASHINGTON

July 29, 1943.

MEMORANDUM FOR MRS. ROOSEVELT:

I have looked into the case of Private Conrad Kaye, who, you stated in your note of July 24, had been held at Camp Upton for over two months without being sent to a Replacement Training Center for basic training.

Our intelligence authorities in New York and at Camp Upton wrote the Military Intelligence Service on July 15 regarding the assignment of Private Kaye and on July 22 the Military Intelligence Service recommended that Private Kaye be made available for reassignment and basic training.

In civilian life Mr. Kaye has been under surveillance by more than one Federal investigating agency. The investigations have revealed that this man has been closely associated with Communist front organizations and has been particularly active with the Citizens Committee to Free Earl Browder. While the association of a young man with one such organization would not cause him to be branded as a Communist, Private Kaye has been associated with so many different Communist front organizations that the Military Intelligence Service believes there is no doubt but that he is an outright Communist.

Franklin D. Roosevelt Library

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DDO DIR 5200.9 (9/27/88)

Date- 9-30-70

Signature- *[Handwritten Signature]*

B. W. Davenport

B. W. DAVENPORT
Major, General Staff,
Asst. Secretary, General Staff.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

August 20, 1943.

100

My dear Miss Ilma:

I am so sorry Mrs. Roosevelt will not be in Washington on September 2nd or 3rd and the White House is having its annual cleaning, painting, etc., during her absence.

Very sincerely yours,

Secretary to
Mrs. Roosevelt.

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

VDS

Sorry Mrs R will not be in
Wash. Sept 2 or 3 + house is
having its annual cleaning,
painting etc during Mrs R's
absence -

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ack
8/20/45

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AUG 1 REC'D

August 10th, 1943

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I received a letter from the Lehman Commission "We aren't much further along yet, in specific opportunities to use women than we were when you talked with Mr. Wolcott and Mr. Dilloncourt. We are, however, anxious to build up a reserve of people who will be qualified and available for foreign service when the need arises and when it is possible to send women in other than secretarial capacities. I wonder if you would be willing to come down to Washington again for several more interviews and possibly a physical examination".

I have written that I will be able to come down either September 2nd or 3rd. Could I possibly stay with you the night of September 2nd?

You will be amused to hear that when Pepe returned to camp (he's still there) they asked him to give a lecture to about a thousand men on his experiences in Spain. There were leaflets and posters all over the camp that he was going to speak. Needless to say he was bowled over by this request, considering the situation in which he finds himself.

Lastly, did you ever have a chance to talk to some one on the National Democratic Committee?

Aside from all these extra curricula ideas, the agency's news is that we are moving along at a rapid pace, and I will not make a change unless it is considerably more important.

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

Love,
Viola
Viola Ilma

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Keyes Winter

October 4, 1943

100

My dear Miss Ilma:

Mrs. Roosevelt asks me to tell you that she is sorry she can not go to the Golden Gate Ballroom on November fourth. She forgot a previous engagement which she has for that night.

Very sincerely yours,

Secretary to
Mrs. Roosevelt

Miss Viola Ilma
Vocational Foundation, Inc.
122 East 22nd Street
New York, New York

L

September 28, 1943

Pending

Nov 4 -

My dear Miss Ilma:

Mrs. Roosevelt will be very glad
to come to the dance at the Golden Gate
Ballroom on November 4.

Very sincerely yours,

Secretary to
Mrs. Roosevelt

Miss Viola Ilma
Vocational Foundation, Inc.
122 East 22d Street
New York, New York

d.

FOR YOUNG MEN AND YOUNG WOMEN SEP 24 1943

Vocational Foundation, INC.

122 EAST 22ND ST., NEW YORK, 10, N. Y. • GRAMERCY 5-3636
September 23rd, 1943

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My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I have just written you a letter on the office front, and now for a few words on my personal front.

A few weeks ago I went down to the Lehman Commission and had my final physical examination, and as far as I know, from the Lehman Commission end, they are very anxious to send me abroad. All that is left is the investigation by the State Department, which I trust will be satisfactory.

I also received a call from Henry Kaiser's office and expect to see him some time next week.

As for my darling Pepe, he is in the infantry at Camp Croft, South Carolina, and most unhappy. With his many talents, this was one place where he fit leasat. Purely on a physical basis, his age, which is 35, makes this grind extremely difficult. He says that most of the men are at least ten years younger and he is quite broken hearted about the situation. He just wrote me that he was made Acting Corporal which, though meaningless, shows that he is making every effort to be equal to the task.

It is possible that he could be transferred by request, after his six weeks basic training, of which four have all ready been passed. He would so love to get in the Air Corps Administration School or the Army Specialist Training Program. In my opinion he definitely could be most useful in morale work with youth. He expressed that twenty percent of the men in his small circle have been transferred by request so it is not impossible. Unfortunately I have no contacts with the Army whatsoever. Yes, so far as helping my boys, which never requires transferring quite so much as just contacts to get them in, I have been of use, but purely from a professional status. Naturally I am extremely upset to find myself in a strange contradiction of constantly helping other people and now unable to help the person I love most in the world. When I spoke to him last Sunday he was so down-hearted that I have made arrangements to fly down just to spend Sunday with him and return on Monday. It just seems incredible that Pepe's high spirits and courageous attitude can be as broken down as it is right now.

My love to you.

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

As ever,
Viola Ilma

vi/mi

FOR YOUNG MEN AND YOUNG WOMEN

Vocational Foundation, INC.

122 EAST 22ND ST., NEW YORK, 10, N. Y. • GRAMERCY 5-3636

September 23rd, 1943

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My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I hope by the time you read this letter you are safely back in the United States.

I want very much to bring you up to date with the news of the Vocational Foundation. Although at the present time we are pretty broke, due to the results of the usual financial lull that summer brings, a few specific programs are under way and I thought they would be of interest to you.

1. On October 1st we are having a get-together in Arnold Reuben's Victory Room. This actually is the winding up of a raffle that was held amongst the friends of the agency, handled mainly by young people who have formed a Jr. Auxiliary Corps. I imagine a total of about \$2000 will be the result, which I think is extremely encouraging. Out of this project has also come a typewriting corps, a Mother's Morale Corps. (To become a member one must contribute \$3.03 which is the carfare for a Mother to visit her son in the New York State Training School for Boys). Many small gatherings at homes have resulted from this particular campaign, and it is a very healthy base for getting small contributions from many people.

2. On November 4th we are having a gala dance at the Golden Gate Ballroom in Harlem. The way it looks now we will have a distinguished Negro Committee sponsor it. Mr. Charles Buchanan, the owner of the Golden Gate, has donated the ballroom. We are hoping to get Count Basie as the leading feature, as far as bands go, and if we are lucky, the outlook for having Duke Ellington and Lena Horne as guest artists looks very promising - this thanks to John Hammond and Milton Ebbins of the William Morris office. I am particularly pleased about this event because it means publicizing our work in Harlem, and due to the fact that seventy percent of our intake are Negro youth, the spreading of the news of our contribution to the Negro race is important. I would be most delighted if you could be guest of honor for the evening. You would only have to show up for a few minutes.

This is an opportune time because delinquency in Harlem is well recognized as a serious problem and I think that your presence in connection with our work would be most heartening.

3. We have taken an option on Carnegie Hall for January 15th, a Saturday night. At the moment we are trying to make arrangements to

9-28-43

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt

September 23rd, 1943

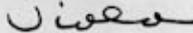
have Serge Koussevitsky. If that does not work out we shall have a few leading artists. Elsa Maxwell has accepted the chairmanship of this particular occasion. The details of this, of course, will come later.

The development of putting our agency on a sound basis, from a financial end, has been the result of the cooperation of Mr. Leonard Bronner, who is president of Camp Sussex. He has been working these plans out with my sister, Lili Ilma, who has joined our agency.

Will you let me know on the November 4th occasion?

With kindest personal regards, I am,

Most sincerely,



Viola Ilma

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

vi/mi

October 11, 1945

100

Dear Miss Ilma:

Mrs. Roosevelt would like to know if you have a recent address for Anthony Castorino as she wishes to send him a package for Christmas. The last time she sent him a package it was returned.

You will remember that he was one of the three boys you asked Mrs. Roosevelt to correspond with.

Very sincerely yours,

Secretary to
Mrs. Roosevelt

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

L

Miss Thompson:

The other young man was Anthony
Caatorino - the last package sent to him
was returned to us. He is one of the
three Viola Ilma wrote about. Do you want
to ask her if she knows where he is now?

Yes Viola Ilma
ML

Miss Thompson:

We don't seem to have any others - do you want to add Heavey, altho he is still in this country?

What about Gil Harrison?

Peterson + Payne +
me actor I remember -
Heavey - no
Harrison - yes

Authenticity
10/1/80

rc

100
10/4

October 14, 1943.

My dear Miss Ilma:

Mrs. Roosevelt has your letter of October 11th and while she had planned to be in Washington, she can change her engagements and come on the 4th for a short time early in the evening.

Very sincerely yours,

Secretary to
Mrs. Roosevelt.

Miss Viola Ilma
Vocational Foundation, Inc.
122 East 22nd Street
New York (10), New York.

VDS

Y/Ilma

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10/14/43

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October 11th, 1943

My dear Miss Thompson:

I had all ready informed the Harlem Committee that Mrs. Roosevelt would be guest of honor at the Golden Gate Ballroom and needless to say, it met with vigorous enthusiasm.

May I express that if Mrs. Roosevelt could arrive between twelve and twelve-thirty, midnight, it still would not be late, but rather the appropriate time and she would only have to stay but five minutes.

Hoping that this might work out, because the Harlem Committee is extremely important and I would not like to disappoint them, especially insofar as this is the first time we have been able to get a working committee of women in Harlem for the Vocational Foundation, the outcome of which, I am certain, will be constructive and useful to our total goal, I am,

Most sincerely,

Viola Ilma

Viola Ilma

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

vi/mi

Handwritten notes:
 10 you inform that
 do it by the way
 how low can it be
 Viola Ilma

This should be attached to former
correspondence which Mrs. Lund
probably has.

Mumert

9 truck

this has

been cancelled

VDS

NR

FOR YOUNG MEN AND YOUNG WOMEN

*V*ocational Foundation, INC.

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226
10/12/42

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October 7, 1942 - RECD

OCT 9 - RECD

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

As chairman of the Harlem Committee of the Vocational Foundation, may I, in behalf of my committee, express our pleasure in knowing that you will be honorary guest at our dance at the Golden Gate Ballroom on November 4th, the proceeds of which will go towards the continuance and furtherance of the work of the Foundation.

The increase in juvenile delinquency has had a number of citizens concerned for a long period of time. We are now anxious to contribute our interest concretely through activities for the Vocational Foundation.

We feel that they have all ready done a pioneering job, with their backlog of thousands of placements for boys and girls upon their release from training schools and reform schools, and now it is their due to have larger community cooperation.

Miss Ilma has told us of your continuous interest in the growth of the agency, as well as the many things you have done to make its growth possible.

We in Harlem are mindful that more than fifty percent of their intake are our own Negro youth and for this alone our pledge of cooperation holds deep sincerity and hope, towards a valuable contribution for its future.

Sincerely yours,

Francis E. Rivers
m. c.

Judge Francis E. Rivers,
Honorary Chairman

Lillian Sharpe Hunter
m. c.

Lillian Sharpe Hunter,
Co-chairman

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

lsh/mi

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October 16th, 1943

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I wish that on this dreary Saturday morning I was seated in the country with you to have a warm opportunity to tell you how deeply you constantly stir my heart and mind.

It seems that you have an inexhaustible flexibility to inconvenience yourself, if the result is for the benefit of helping others.

I don't believe that it is possible for the public to know of your minute deeds, that over the years, add up to herculean heights. It is only a treasure that belongs to those who work with you.

In reflection, it was eleven years ago that my mother tenderly made a special hat which I was to wear when, as editor of Modern Youth Magazine, I came as awkwardly as Mr. Deeds, to Washington to visit you in the interest of the youth problem. Then came my illegitimate child, the American Youth Congress - an experience that brought growth, through pain, for me and for many, many young people. But the richest development of our friendship has been over the past six years, in the challenging work of the Vocational Foundation.

The sentiment of this letter is aroused by Miss Thompson's note "she can change her engagements and come on the 4th".

I love you very much.

Viola ILMA

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

vi/ml

^{Feb}
V FOR YOUNG MEN AND YOUNG WOMEN
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Pendues

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My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I am most excited about our Harlem dance and have been meeting some wonderful people who have been helping us put it over.

The Dance Committee have appointed Mrs. Isadora Rowe and Miss Evelyn Sherrer to call for you and I would appreciate it if you would let me know when and where.

The best time would be about 10:30 for they have expressed that before that hour nothing happens and very few people arrive.

They are all so enthusiastic about the dance that it makes me feel wonderful.

Most sincerely,

Viola Ilma
Viola Ilma

Sherrill Sherrill

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

vi/ml

2007

4/1

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file

October 28, 1943

Dear Miss Ilma:

Mrs. Roosevelt asks me to tell you that she will be at the theatre the evening of November 4, and you can call for her there. I will let you know which theatre.

Sincerely yours,

Secretary to
Mrs. Roosevelt

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

0

Have you taken care of the rest of
the note - about the tickets?

Dear Sam -

I am looking forward
to seeing you & Elaine
dine with me at 7 at
my apart- 29 West 54th St.
on the 4th I will
get tickets for a play &
I'll ask Fusch & Tommy &
Major Hooker -

ER

ask Major Hooker to
dine w/ me to play hrs 4
7pm -

ER -

Tell Alma Mrs R
will be at theatre can
call for her there I'll

The Junior Literary Guild



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ew 6-1747

October 29 1947

*Book - just to take
New York
NOV 1 - RECD.*

Dearest Mrs. Roosevelt:

Sometime during the coming week a publisher is to send us galleys of a book on which we shall need to make a quick decision. I am writing you this morning, therefore, to ask you whether we shall send the galleys to The White House or to your apartment here in New York or to Hyde Park! When you write, I shall also appreciate your giving me information as to possible mailing the week of November eighth. The reason for this is that the galleys themselves may be delayed in coming from the printer and we shall wish to send them to you as soon as they arrive.

The book is a story in which I think you will be very much interested (I have already read it in carbon form) about a Dutch boy who escapes from the Nazis and goes to Java. Then he decides to return to Holland to take part in the underground movement. It seems to me that the author has done a mighty good job, based as it is on actual fact; but it is the kind of book on which we very much need your broad-gauge opinion.

I hope that you have gotten rested after your strenuous trip to the islands of the Pacific. Bless your heart, I know how much it meant to our men there to catch a glimpse of you. I saw you in the movies addressing a vast throng--and I thought of you and hoped you didn't get too fatigued.

Ever affectionately,

Helen Ferris

P.S. Your letter about the Wiltwyck School has just come in. I shall be glad to keep it in mind and mention it to my publisher friends as I make my rounds. Meanwhile, I shall gather together a nice package of books here to send. Can you let me have the address of the school and whether there is any certain person to whom the package should be addressed? I know I should know about the Wiltwyck School--but I don't.

*Tell her about it
if you can give
address*

14a - L

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Arnold Reuben
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Anne M. Rosenberg
Mrs. Viola Lewis Scott
Robert W. Searle, D.D.
Robert K. Siraus
John W. Stuchbaker, Ph.D.
Odelway Teard
Mrs. Lester H. Weil
Keyes Winter
John W. Young

bc
VIOLA
LMA / 100
November 5th, 1941

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

So long Laura Payne wishes to see you, I want to simply reiterate my point of view.

A. I was so delighted to meet a young person, capable of raising funds in large amounts and so rapidly. I liked her personally very much. The reason I wanted you to meet her was that I thought that with the many useful causes you are interested in she could be of tremendous help.

B. The relationship with Laura Payne became clouded when she attended her first Board of Directors meeting with Vocational Foundation and demanded she be elected treasurer immediately. She had the upper hand in so far as the ability of raising money was concerned. In less than three weeks she raised more than ten thousand dollars. Her insistence created suspicion, for if my Board of Directors are not top notch money raisers, they are serious in their interest of the work. The fact that Laura also had her husband present, and that he participated as though he were a board member, did not help this first impression.

C. Her insistence that we put her name on our door was of concern to me, plus the rumors of her close friendship with you, which I knew to be false.

D. Then came the Dun & Bradstreet report on her husband.

E. Then came the attached report from a business man's letter that goes to security firms.

The Board of Directors felt as you and I did. We hoped she would work with us because of the purpose of Vocational Foundation. For several months the Board invited her to cooperate but she never answered the letters. Finally she was dropped as a board member. No sooner come than gone. It was my warm hope that she would help us without regalia.

The attached letter explains what my attitude was towards her at the time. Many of the people we met through her have become sponsors of our various projects. Unfortunately the stories surrounding her get more involved constantly but they all have an affection and admiration for her. I know that General VanDusen almost lost his job and that Major General Gregory severed all connections with her - the reasons I do not know.

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt

November 5th, 1943

My attitude today is the following:

I still hope that she can function somewhere because she is talented and high spirited, but my hope is tempered because of her extravagant statements concerning you. For example - everyone in Elberon has heard that she was seeing you for the past three weeks. So that she presents the situation in an upside down manner, giving a false point of view concerning her relationship with you. I also tried to let her know that regardless of her husband's record, surely my very job made me more than considerate towards people whose pasts are not perfect.

Finally, I feel, without proof, that she and her husband work together down strange paths. Despite all this I would still like to see her function. Naturally I am sorry that she has caused inconvenience to you and I feel responsible for any further work she may do with you - to the point that at least I wanted you to fully understand the action of both my Board of Directors as well as myself.

Sincerely,

Viola Ilma
Viola Ilma

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

vi/mi

C O P Y

June 9th, 1943

My dear Mrs. Payne:

At our last Board of Directors meeting, held June 3rd, Miss Ilma reported that she had tried to contact you by mail and phone on a great number of occasions, but without success.

On May 3rd Miss Ilma sent you a letter asking what your plans were with respect to the agency, but failed to received a reply.

The Board therefore regrets to inform you that the only recourse is to drop you as a member of the Board of Directors of the Young Men's Vocational Foundation.

May I, at this time, in behalf of the Board, express my appreciation for the work you have done in the past for the organization.

Very sincerely yours,

Walter N. Thayer, 3rd
President

Mrs. Laura Payne
The Hemlocks
Elberon, New Jersey

C O P Y

February 5, 1943

My dear Laura:

This is not a business letter but a letter from a friend. What is a friend? You can count them on one hand. In my opinion, a friend is a person who can be counted on, not so much when things are easy, but more so when the wind blows the wrong way.

I told you some time ago that the more you accomplish, the more people would be after your scalp. The process is already taking place. If you are as capable and as courageous as I believe you are, you have one strong ace that all you do is directed towards making this world a better place to live in, and from my vantage point, your contribution to Y.M.V.F. has already been tremendous. The reflection of the happiness of the men of Gregory Hall and Ft. Monmouth is a practical demonstration of accomplishments on your part.

I happen to be one of those people who appreciate accomplishment in a social direction and that is why, in a short time, I have become attached to you. I am thoroughly familiar with attacks, gossip, misstatements, and have the kind of glandular system that refuses to accept anything but the truth. I would not be in my kind of work if I did not have sympathy to people whose pasts are very often imperfect. I happen to be more interested in people and their futures rather than their pasts. I have heard, through my own activities, of very intricate stories which form a pattern of a human being. I have the kind of basic human tolerance that makes it possible for me to understand many facts which others easily reject.

I write this way because of two reasons. The attached statement came to me through the mails. It involves two women who are very important to both me, personally, and to my work. It is hard to separate one's enthusiasms. I naturally love those who feel about life as I do and because we feel the same way, to a large extent we have the same objectives. Of course I am talking about you and Mrs. Roosevelt. As far as Mrs. Roosevelt goes, without hesitation, if necessary, I would give up my life for her and I value my life considerably. She is great because she is tolerant. Most people

who would be attacked as much as she is would never have been able to withstand what she has. They would become discouraged, disheartened, resentful, and finally bitter but she fights and works because she has her firm beliefs and this no one can squelch. She is mainly a symbol of all people who have faith and are willing to die in the interests of their beliefs but prefer to live and fight so that they live more.

You have all the stuff necessary to build a stimulating career. Your barricades must be encouragement and more accomplishment. This is my way of fighting back. The rest necessarily dies because there is no reason it should live, but it is a painful process. Like a rose, there are the thorns, so that where there is beauty there is always pain.

I know of what I speak. I still am living down the results of my activities of eleven years ago, where the communists attacked me as a fascist, and the fascists attacked me as a communist. I still have strong resentment to the unfairness of the whole business but I was not unafraid to learn to understand on what grounds the communists attacked me. It was not all a black and white matter and this is where the tolerance comes in. Two factors made it possible for me to grow - I was willing to learn and discover wherein I was wrong and then change my opinions, and secondly, I could temper my reactions through understanding the other viewpoints. Back in 1934, when I left the Youth Congress and realized what I was up against, (this realization took a year to come to), I made up my mind that only through accomplishment could I be judged and it has been so ever since.

I could survive because, regardless of mistakes consciously or unconsciously made, I knew I was basically honest if not too smart.

Do not think that his statement disturbs me. I only want to be capable of standing firmly behind you, knowing with full confidence that now that you have tried your wings, experienced air pockets, your solos can be more and more successful. No doubt this statement is all mixed up. At least I do know that the reason we had our dinner party in strict confidence was because it was my wish, not Mrs. R's. wish for you, and further, that certainly Gregory was not servicing you to protect Mrs. R., so that if this is incorrect, the rest must be. But I would rather have facts come from you so that I can know of what I speak. On the whole, I am apt to disregard this statement but I must have knowledge and I know you want me to.

I hope you recognize that this is a very warm and sincere letter because I want to protect both you and Mrs. R. and I prefer to know of what I speak. As I initially said in the letter, I am a real friend, I hope warm and intelligent.

As ever,

C O P Y

For February 1, 1943

Not far from the office of Major General Gregory is another office identified on the printed card at the door as that of "General Payne." The "general" is an oldtime stage & silent film actress formerly known as Laura Lee, who married a Mr. Louis Payne a decade ago. She is known as the friend of Mrs. Roosevelt and by strict orders was shielded from publicity. Her function seems to have been to distribute largesse. There was no apparent limit to what she could afford. Her money was billed as being the gifts of her husband, who was "in the fur business" in New York, and from his wealthy business associates. As the friend of Mrs. Roosevelt, Gen. Laura Lee Payne was under the direct protection of Maj. Gen. Gregory. She was resented, of course. When she decided to give a cocktail party for the officers of the Quartermaster Corps, it took personal, and almost peremptory, calls from Maj. Gen. Gregory to round up a quorum. Investigation by your faithful correspondent revealed that Mr. Louis Payne was not known at all to the fur business of New York. He existed, as a matter of fact, without any visible means of support. He had been born Perelman and the record also showed that he had been convicted of a blue sky mining fraud in Montana. Unfortunately for those Republicans who might have made political capital of "General Payne," she was swept out in a hurried housecleaning which preceded the opening of the present "Republican" Congress.

The Writer, David A. Munro

The writer has acted in a confidential capacity in reporting the foregoing facts and opinions.

FOR YOUNG MEN AND YOUNG WOMEN

Vocational Foundation, INC.

122 EAST 22ND ST., NEW YORK, 10, N. Y. - GRAMERCY 5-3636
COPY

November 16th, 1943

100

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My dear Mr. Field:

ILMA

In 1941 you were kind enough to give us a grant of \$5000. This enabled us to add to our staff and develop particularly our work with Negro delinquents. We are coming to you again at this time with a report of our work and the hope that you will see in it enough achievement and purpose to warrant your continued confidence and support.

We are, as you know, a small organization with a small staff and modest budget, but we think we are meeting a specific need not met by any other organization in the city. In times like this, when employment is easy to get and when the winning of the war is the nation's chief objective, social agencies and particularly employment bureaus must reevaluate their services in the community to see if they are really needed. We have done this; in fact a year ago the idea of closing the agency, because of the prevalence of jobs and the expansion of the United States Employment Service, was seriously considered. There was immediate protest by the social agencies concerned and insistence that our work go on. The New York State Training School for Boys, through Mr. Louis D. Horwitz, the Case Supervisor, presented the following statement on behalf of the After Care Department to the Board of Directors of Vocational Foundation:

"Vocational Foundation has provided a service that has gone beyond the mere placement of socially handicapped boys and we view its contribution as being invaluable. We make this recommendation particularly in view of the fact that a substantial number of our boys will be affected by the curtailment of other private agencies. The Puerto Rican Employment Service has closed its doors and the Y.M.C.A. is considering withdrawing its Harlem unit. Over and beyond the fact that there is an immediate need for continued service, we would like to emphasize our feeling that Vocational Foundation has done a unique job. There is no other agency that would be able to take its place. Further, we look to the day when the present conflict will be concluded. The situation in all probability will, by comparison, dwarf the problems that followed the closing of the last war. We believe that the best way to be prepared for this will be to have agencies like the Vocational Foundation continue in active service for the duration. If such agencies drop their work now and attempt to pick it up again, the best interests of the community and the individual will not be served. There will obviously be a lag that will develop out of the fact that an inactive organization cannot adequately focus attention upon a problem it is not actively working on."

Mr. Marshall Field

November 16th, 1943

It is not necessary to indicate to any thinking person that one of the most serious indictments of our modern industrial system is the incidence of juvenile delinquency. In wartime the problem stands out particularly but those of us who work in this field know that it is a continuous problem. Its causes have deep roots - crowded housing, bad familial relationships, insecurity of various kinds. While our organization cannot reach these except indirectly, we are providing for young people referred from reformatories, training schools, and courts one of the most important elements in stabilizing their environments, namely, suitable employment carefully selected on the basis of their abilities and personalities in relation to the prevailing labor market. Where further training is needed, we provide scholarships to make possible additional schooling.

Boys and girls who come to us because of serious maladjustments are not able to make an easy transition to the industrial world without help or support for a shorter or longer period after their release. The wartime situation only adds to their confusion in making intelligent employment choices. We interview each applicant carefully, get from the caseworker a summary of his background, training, and interests, prepare the applicant for meeting the employer, and follow up afterwards to make sure the placement is a satisfactory one. Contentment and progress in work is one safeguard against delinquency. The postwar period will present additional complications. Many of the boys we know, who are serving overseas, will return and want help in adjusting to peacetime living so that the full advantages of their wartime experience and training may be utilized most effectively.

Our report shows that up to 70% of our applicants are Negroes. We have from the beginning conceived of our agency as non-racial and non-sectarian, and we have not been afraid to tackle the problem of racial minorities. We take pride in the fact that we have in case after case in our daily work in contacting employers, opened opportunities for Negroes where none previously existed. We have sent Negro applicants not merely to job opportunities but to the very best job opportunities we could procure for them.

We have educated employers to the knowledge that the "juvenile delinquent" can make good if given a fair chance in a work environment suited to his abilities and personality. We have also secured the active cooperation of the most important trade unions in New York City in opening opportunities for our boys and girls in their industries.

The achievements of our boys in the army prove that our belief and faith in them is justified. Many of them are serving with distinction in the army, navy, and merchant marine. To keep in touch with them we organized our Youth Morale Corps, made up of friends of the Vocational Foundation, who correspond with the boys and send them Christmas packages.

It is our conviction that our work is urgently needed. We know you will share that conviction with us and give us financial support. We must depend on liberal, progressive people like you for our chief backing. We hope the Board of Directors of the Field Foundation will see fit to grant us at least \$5000 this year.

Sincerely yours,

Viola Ilma

Mr. Marshall Field
250 Park Avenue
New York, New York

vi/ml
encs.

VOCATIONAL FOUNDATION - PLACEMENT REPORT
(For Nov. 1st. 1941 - Sept. 30th, 1943)

<u>NO. PERSONS SEEN</u>	<u>NO. JOBS OBTAINED</u>	<u>NO. BOYS AND GIRLS PLACED</u>
1403	1346	965

BREAKDOWN OF PLACEMENT:

<u>FEMALE</u>			<u>MALE</u>			
<u>White</u>	<u>Negro</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>White</u>	<u>Negro</u>	<u>Total</u>	
96	122	218	402	345	747	: WHITE GIRLS & BOYS-498
						: NEGRO GIRLS & BOYS-467
						: TOTAL 965

	<u>BOYS</u>	<u>GIRLS</u>
Office Interviews	3575	582
Employer Contacts	2961	680
Appointments arranged with Employers for our Clients	1832	349
Miscellaneous Contacts	2356	650

SOURCES OF REFERRALS

Berkshire Farm	The Children's Village
Catholic Protective Society	United States District Court
Cheshire Reform School	Women's Prison Assoc. & Isaac T. Hopper
Hawthorne - Cedar Knolls	Westfield State Farms For Girls
House of Detention for Women	Youth Counsel Bureau
House of Good Sheperd - Villa Loretto	<u>Miscellaneous:</u>
Lincolndale	Big Brother Movement
New York State Training School for Boys	--Board of Education, New York City
N. Y. State Training School for Girls	Boys' Club of New York
New York State Vocational Institute	Boy Scouts of America
New York State Parole	Catholic Charities
New York City Parole	Children's Aid Society
New York City Probation:	Crime Prevention Bureau
Manhattan Children's Court	Jewish Board of Guardians
Brooklyn Children's Court	Lenox Hill Settlement
Brooklyn Adolescent's Court	United States Employment Service
Kings County Court	Westchester Co.-Dept. of Public Welfare
New York Court of General Sessions	Chemical, Drug & Cosmetic Workers Union
New York Court of Special Sessions	Hotel Front Service Employees Union
Magistrates' Court-Manhattan	Friends, Interested Individuals, Relatives

VOCATIONAL FOUNDATION
(Proposed Budget -1944)

Salaries:	
Executive Director	\$5000.00
Vocational "	3700.00
Staff (4)	8120.00
Rent	1764.00
Telephone	1500.00
Electric	66.00
Stationery, Postage	1500.00
Loans to Boys & Girls (For clothing, carfares, lunches, room rent)	850.00
Scholarships (For further training)	1500.00
Miscellaneous (Travelling, publicity, entertainment)	1000.00

FOR YOUNG MEN AND YOUNG WOMEN

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122 EAST 22ND ST., NEW YORK, 10, N. Y. • GRAMERCY 5-3636

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Mrs. Lester H. Weil
Keyes Winter
John W. Young

November 23rd, 1943

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I am enclosing herewith copy of our application for a grant of \$5000 from the Field Foundation which Miss Ilma thought you would like to see.

Very sincerely yours,

Miriam Isaacs
Miriam Isaacs,
Secy. to Viola Ilma

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

enc.

Nov. 21

file
100

November 19, 1945

Miss Viola Ilma
Vocational Foundation, Inc.
122 East 22d St.
New York 10, N.Y.

Mrs. Roosevelt can see you Sunday 21st ten a.m. at 29 Washington Square West.

Malvina Thompson
Secretary to Mrs. Roosevelt

FOR YOUNG MEN AND YOUNG WOMEN

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November 18th, 1943

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Here are a few things I would like to bring up to date.

1. The Harlem Dance brought in about \$1500.00 net. Two committees have been formed. (a) The Women's Committee. They will concentrate their efforts on a yearly fund raising drive with a goal of \$5000 a year. We have approximately 50 women members now and want to build it up to 500. (b) The Men's Committee. This is mainly concerned with an area project which we are discussing, to be conducted by the people of Harlem themselves, on a block to block basis, calling it the war against delinquency. It is only in the discussion stage. There will be more to be said as it develops. It is agreed it must be done well or not at all. About 15 men are in this at present.
2. On January 12th Vocational Foundation presents Nathan Milstein at Carnegie Hall. My sister, Lili Ilma, who started in with Vocational as switchboard operator, has now advanced to the handling of the entire concert. She would like very much to meet you and tell you of the plans. Miss Elsa Maxwell is the chairman, and I have a suspicion she will ask you to be Honorary Chairman. I would indeed be honored if you would be my guest, in my box, that evening.
3. I think the financial projection of Vocational Foundation is finally moving in the correct direction. One large affair each year (like Carnegie), where all friends of the Foundation can participate. \$5,000 to be raised by the Harlem Committee. \$5,000 by the Junior Auxiliary. The Christmas Campaign, as well as private contributions and constant attempts to interest Foundations.

On non-Vocational Foundation news, I would like very much to invite you to see the Army-Air Corps show, Winged Victory, December 7th, if you have not seen it by then.

I never did hear from the National Democratic Committee, and feel more strongly every day that I do wish to serve if I can.

There is news on Pepe which I will hold until I have a chance to see you.

Could you arrange a date when my sister and I could see you in New York?

Lovingly,

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt
 Washington, D.C.
 vi/mi

Viola

100
November 30, 1943.

My dear Miss Ilma:

Mrs. Roosevelt has your letter of November 26th and will be glad to take one of the \$50.00 boxes for the Carnegie Hall Concert.

Mrs. Roosevelt suggests that you give the tickets to Service men.

I am enclosing Mrs. Roosevelt's check for \$50.00.

Very sincerely yours,

Secretary to
Mrs. Roosevelt.

Miss Lili Ilma
Vocational Foundation, Inc.
122 East 22nd Street
New York (10), New York.

VLS

FOR YOUNG MEN AND YOUNG WOMEN

Vocational Foundation, INC. ^{act.} 11/3/43

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 Robert N. Stearns
 John W. Studebaker, Ph.D.
 Orsbury Teas
 Mrs. Lester H. Weil
 Keyes Winter
 John W. Young

November 26, 1943

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt,

I enjoyed meeting you and wish to thank you for accepting the Honorary Chairmanship of our January 12th Carnegie Hall Concert.

The tickets are going nicely but as there are so many we still have to give our attention to furthering the sale. Our orchestra prices are \$9:90, \$7:70 and \$5:50. All our \$100 boxes are sold but we still have many \$75 and \$50 boxes, each box seating 8 people.

Aside from tickets we are hoping to find 100 Patrons at \$100 a Patron. We are also seeking contributions to enable us to invite members of our armed forces. I believe Viola told you we were host to 700 soldiers at our Harlem dance. I would be delighted to have many service men and women attend our concert as guests of the friends of Vocational Foundation.

If you will let me know which tickets you are interested in, I'll be pleased to send them at once.

My warmest personal regards,

Lili Ilma

Lili Ilma

for 50.00
They pay for the tickets
Walter Reed

100

Miss Viola Ilma
Vocational Foundation, Inc.
122 East 22d Street
New York, N.Y.

December 4, 1943

Mrs. Roosevelt appreciates offer to show picture but regrets too busy
now. Every minute filled.

Malvina Thompson
Secretary to Mrs. Roosevelt

Viola Ilma has seen the film on juvenile delinquency
which Mrs. Simkhovitch wrote you about. She thinks it
is excellent and wants to arrange a private showing for you.
I explained that you did not have time right now. The
girl who plays the lead is a Gail Storm and aside from
being an actress is "a wonderful person". Viola wants
to bring her down here Monday, Tuesday or Weds. *Stacy Smith - Portland*

*were
Viola Ilma
too busy now
with every minute
filled*

FOR YOUNG MEN AND YOUNG WOMEN
*V*ocational Foundation, INC.
 122 EAST 22ND ST., NEW YORK, 10, N. Y. • GRAMERCY 5-3636

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December 8, 1943

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt;

Thank you ever so much for your wholehearted cooperation. Your check of fifty dollars arrived and will give a beautiful evening of music to several soldiers.

I hope to be able to give you a magnificent report on our concert, as I am feeling encouraged to date.

Once again, thank you.

Sincerely yours,

Lili Ilma

Lili Ilma

Mrs. Roosevelt
 29 Washington Square
 New York, N.Y.

December 9, 1943.

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My dear Miss Ilma:

Mrs. Roosevelt has asked me to
thank you very much for your letter and
to tell you she will try to go to the
Vocational Foundation offices sometime.

Very sincerely yours,

Secretary to
Mrs. Roosevelt.

Miss Viola Ilma
Vocational Foundation, Inc.
122 East 22nd Street
New York (10), New York.

VDS

46
12/9/43

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John W. Young

December 6th, 1943

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

When Carnegie Hall is filled January 12th I will know that the audience is the result of the recognition of a job well done. They will all be friends of Vocational Foundation.

A review in my mind of how Vocational was created a stormy winter day when the boys of New York City Reformatory wrote the Crisis Issue of the Voice of Youth - how, soon after, they straggled to my little office - - I began to realize they had no place to go - 1936 - how I went to Austin McCormick simply for the information as to where I could send these young boys for immediate help, carefare, food, a job, a home and the answer "There is No Agency Handling This Problem". Recognizing that a need must be filled, I ventured into what was for me the unknown field of social work but I knew that technical verbiage would not be the solution. Soon Vocational Foundation was incorporated - just a few friends. Dorothy Perera, Armar Archbold, Robert K. Straus, James Wallerstein and Anne Morgan.

The first year 81 boys were placed. Those were the days when I took a boy by the hand and we went from a building, top to bottom, to find the job that was like a needle in a hay stack. Our techniques were crude, but the boys were placed - they were getting a new start. As the years roll by the Board of Directors increase, the Advisory Board grew and funds increased, but we always had more boys, and more work than funds. That situation has never changed. As our funds increased we were able to develop our work through having well trained personnel. The cooperation of case workers and parole officers was all forward looking and today more than 50 agencies refer their boys and girls to Vocational Foundation.

Now I feel as though we are really just beginning. There is so much to learn and so much to do but it is a collective job and at Carnegie Hall there will be many faces that can share in the daily struggle of which they played a part towards helping the thousands of young men and young women who have been serviced through Vocational. Of this audience you are an integral part. Your support, your public appearances, your press statements and your financial contribution is a symbol of our responsibilities.

Our appreciation is expressed by the Bill Coynes, George Grimes, the Cecil Petersons, of today and tomorrow.

- 2 -

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt

December 6th, 1943

I hope some day you will have time to visit the offices of Vocational Foundation. I would like you to know how we handle each boy, how our records are kept, how we coordinate our work with case workers of the various institutions and courts. The office is never crowded - each boy has his own appointment. There is no suggestion of an employment office. It is warm and friendly, and at the same time efficient and dignified. The boys drop in on their lunch hours, with good news or bad news. They drop in on their furloughs. I am especially anxious for you to meet Miss Maddow who is directing the placements. You will find how much patience and time and consideration we have for each and every boy and girl. We cannot always succeed but we do not know the word "Fail".

I would like you to meet Mr. Horwitz, the case supervisor of Warwick. For again, a positive picture of our work, through objectivity, would be another way of expressing gratitude to you for your support.

Sincerely,

Viola Ilma
Viola Ilma

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

vi/mi

1190

December 10, 1943

Miss Viola Ilms
Vocational Foundation, Inc.
122 East 22d Street
New York 10, NY

Mrs. Roosevelt cannot be in New York. Will send wire to Mr. Reuben tomorrow

Malvina Thompson
Secretary to Mrs. Roosevelt

100 ✓

December 11, 1943

Dear Miss Ilma:

Mrs. Roosevelt asks me to send you the enclosed report of the ~~the~~ Youth Counsel Bureau of New York County and to ask if, in your work, you cooperate with this Bureau.

Sincerely yours,

Secretary to
Mrs. Roosevelt

Miss Viola Ilma
Vocational Foundation, Inc.
122 East 22d Street
New York, New York

0

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

FROM

The White House
Washington

TELEGRAM

OFFICIAL BUSINESS—GOVERNMENT RATES

MISS VIOLA ILMA
144 EAST 24th STREET
NEW YORK CITY

MRS ROOSEVELT CAN SEE YOU AND YOUR BEAU SIX THIRTY
TOMORROW SATURDAY AT APARTMENT ~~FOR~~~~ZK~~~~B~~~~E~~~~E~~~~T~~~~Z~~~~F~~~~Z~~~~F~~~~T~~~~E~~~~Z~~~~M~~
~~M~~~~Z~~~~M~~~~T~~~~E~~~~Z~~~~Z~~ FOR ABOUT HALF HOUR AS SHE HAS DINNER
ENGAGEMENT AT SEVEN

MALVINA C. THOMPSON

YOUNG MEN'S VOCATIONAL FOUNDATION, INC.

25 MADISON AVENUE
122 E. 22nd Street

MTWNY 5-3636
Gra. 5-3636

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Vocational Placement

FRANK W. BALLUFFI—Trade Union

RUTH MANOFF—Girl's Division

HAROLD G. OERTHER—Negro Affairs

December 14th, 1942

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

The Board of Directors of the YMF meeting has been changed from Tuesday, December 15th, to Friday, the 18th, at 8 p.m. at my home, 144 E. 24th Street. I wish you could attend.

As I expressed in my last letter, they feel it very important that we continue, even if our budget must be cut in half. The problem now is to get half the budget.

Laura Payne expressed that she thought this could be accomplished. She suggested that instead of having a large banquet, if you could be guest of honor at her home on January 14th, the goal for the entire year could be reached. She would invite only her personal friends, no more than about twenty people. She lives in Elberon, New Jersey. I recall you said you would be in Red Bank that day and we could easily drive you to her home. She would make it a dinner party, informal and friendly. This seems an ideal solution all way around.

In running the agency on a smaller scale I would like to work some one in to my job while I try to work myself in to the Lehman possibility. I have not contacted Mr. Lehman as yet but shall do so next week.

By the way, I had a very interesting discussion with Mr. Brockway, the head of the New York State Employment Service. It is quite possible that we can develop a liason relationship in the beginning, towards the goal of intergrating personalized placement services for the socially handicapped as part of the mass employment scheme. Walter Thayer is seeing Tom Dewey on a possible chance for funds for YMF in servicing Warwick State Training School. So at the moment I am in between two fires, with plenty of spark.

Speaking of spark, my great love is now in town. All you have to say is when - I cannot tell you how anxious I am for you to meet him.

Love, Lola

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Keyes Winter

You do prefer a smaller scale than a banquet. I am sure you will like to have a dinner party at her home. I will be in Red Bank that day and we could easily drive you to her home. This seems an ideal solution all way around.

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt

100

December 22, 1945

Dear Miss Ilma:

Mrs. Roosevelt was glad to hear from your letter that the outlook for the concert on January 12 is bright. She has mentioned the concert in her column.

Very sincerely yours,

Secretary to
Mrs. Roosevelt

Miss Lili Ilma
Vocational Foundation, Inc.
122 East 22d Street
New York, New York

0

V
12.22

FOR YOUNG MEN AND YOUNG WOMEN

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 Mrs. Lester H. Weil
 Kryn Winter
 John W. Young

December 15, 1943

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt;

I am happy to tell you that the news of our concert is good news. We have only twelve boxes left and there are a few orchestra tickets on hand. We have put aside several hundred seats for the soldiers, and I think it would be most effective to have my second tier boxes for all uniforms, both men and women. Enclosed is a program of the concert.

I am most anxious for the public to hear of our concert and would appreciate mention of it in your column, if you think it advisable.

Once again let me thank you for your donation, and for all you are doing for us.

Sincerely yours,

Lili Ilma

Lili Ilma

LI:df
 Encl.

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

FOR YOUNG MEN AND YOUNG WOMEN

Vocational Foundation, INC.

122 EAST 22ND ST., NEW YORK, 10, N. Y. • GRAMERCY 5-3636

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 Ordway Tead
 Mrs. Lester H. Weil
 Keyes Winter
 John W. Young

December 27th, 1943

My dear Miss Thompson:

Lt. Ted Morrell, now stationed at
 Floyd Bennet Field (the best man at my wedding), expressed
 to me how thrilled his mother would be to have an autographed
 photograph of Mrs. Roosevelt. Her name is Lydia Morrell and
 I know that he would be thrilled to be able to send it to her.
 His address is Squadron BRF -1 Naval Air Station, Brooklyn, N.Y.

Most sincerely,

Viola Ilma
 Viola Ilma

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

vi/mi

Attack
Recd 12-31

100
December 28, 1943

Dear Viola:

How thoughtful of you to send me the
pretty silver chain and cross for Christmas!
I shall enjoy wearing it and I so much
appreciate your kindness.

With many thanks and all good wishes,
I am

Sincerely,

0

Miss Viola Ilma
122 E 22
NYC

January 10, 1944

106

Dear Viola:

I am so sorry to hear of your father's death. Was it sudden?

I do hope your husband escaped mastoid and is really better.

I am sure the concert will go well and I am glad you raised such a large Christmas fund.

I think if you really want to work for the Democratic Party you should see Mrs. Tillett and Miss Hickok the first time you are in Washington. I'll be glad to have you spend the night here.

Sincerely,

0

Miss Viola Ilma
122 E 22, NYC

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

January 5th, 1944

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I am delighted to know that you will be wearing the silver token of my devotion to you.

You will be sorry to hear that I lost my father three days after Christmas. Pepe came home on an emergency furlough and while here complained of a terrific earache and is now in the hospital at Mitchell Field and may have to undergo an operation for an infection of the mastoid.

He finished his basic in South Carolina and all the boys, save he, in his battalion, got their furloughs and are assigned to Fort Meade. However at the moment my greatest anxiety is that he be well.

Within two weeks I will be able to tell you of the success of the Carnegie Hall affair and I am only sorry that so many mental disturbances have interrupted our goal but I am at least hopeful that it will be successful.

You will be interested to know that Mayor LaGuardia sent \$500.00 to our Christmas fund and Laura Payne sent in a thousand dollars and also sold twenty-six \$25.00 boxes which are to be filled by soldiers in the armed forces.

I do look forward to shifting a good deal of my time to the work itself but this will depend on the outcome of Carnegie Hall.

Now 1944 is here and I still would like to work with the National Democratic Party. The winning of the peace on the domestic front becomes more and more acute and I do want to play a definite part, no matter how small, in defense of democracy.

Most sincerely,

Viola Ilma

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

vi/mi

I am anxious to have a talk with you regarding what really happened to Pepe.

Handwritten notes:
 for Mrs. Roosevelt
 to help for Bill
 well -
 why not go to the hospital
 for him to see the doctor
 go ahead of you

100

January 11, 1944

Dear Miss Ilma:

Thank you for your letter of January 6 about the Youth Counsel Bureau. Will you, however, please return the papers which I sent you with my letter of December 11, so that Mrs. Roosevelt can write to Mr. Heilich?

Very sincerely yours,

Secretary to
Mrs. Roosevelt

Miss Viola Ilma
Vocational Foundation, Inc.
122 East 22d Street
New York, New York

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FOR YOUNG MEN AND YOUNG WOMEN

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 Keya Winter
 John W. Young

January 6th, 1944

My dear Miss Thompson:

In answer to your letter of December 11th, Vocational Foundation is quite familiar with the Youth Counsel Bureau. Phil Heimlich, the director, is a member of our Board of Directors and it was his daughter Celia, of the Waves, whom you invited to tea.

Further than that, after the Youth Counsel Bureau functioned inefficiently for a year, it was upon my insistent recommendation, right from the inception, that Phil Heimlich be the man to direct the Bureau.

Specifically, we cooperate with Mr. Heimlich on a number of cases. He has been a guide of the Vocational Foundation since its inception and I have never taken any important move without consulting him. He was also a guest at our dinner at the White House.

With kindest regards and best wishes for a good new year, I am,

Most sincerely,
Viola
 Viola Ilma

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

vi/mi

ask her to return envelope

file *Jan 18*
100

January 15, 1944

Miss Viola Ilma
Vocational Foundation
122 East 22d Street
New York 10, N.Y.

Mrs. Roosevelt will see you 2:30 Tuesday 18th at 29 Washington
Square West. She regrets she will be away from Washington from
22d to 28th

Malvina Thompson
Secretary to Mrs. Roosevelt

V FOR YOUNG MEN AND YOUNG WOMEN
Vocational Foundation, INC.
 122 EAST 22ND ST., NEW YORK, 10, N. Y. • GRAMERCY 5-3636

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 Mrs. Viola Lewis Scott
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 Robert K. Straus
 John W. Stradbaker, Ph.D.
 Ordway Tead
 Mrs. Lester H. Weil
 Keyes Winter
 John W. Young

January 12th, 1944

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I definitely plan to come to Washington the week of January 24th. I do not know the exact day at the moment but will let you know as soon as my appointments are made definite.

I look forward to seeing Mrs. Tillett and Miss Hickok.

I appreciate being able to stay over.

Most sincerely,

Viola
 Viola Ilma

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

vi/mi

P.S. If it is at all possible to see you in New York before then I would appreciate it.

93m in [unclear]

Handwritten notes:
 1/12/44
 1/12/44
 1/12/44

*Pending
Jan 27*

January 22, 1944

My dear Miss Ilma:

Mrs. Roosevelt will be glad to have you come on the 27th and stay until Friday night. She has made an appointment for you with Miss Hickok for 11:00 a.m. on the 28th, and we will also have an appointment for you with Mrs. Tillett if she is in the city at that time. Her plans are indefinite at present.

Very sincerely yours,

Secretary to
Mrs. Roosevelt

Miss Viola Ilma
Vocational Foundation, Inc.
122 East 22nd Street
New York 10, New York

DD

FOR YOUNG MEN AND YOUNG WOMEN

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Ordway Tead
Mrs. Lester H. Weil
Keren Winter
John W. Young

January 20th, 1944

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

If I could come down Thursday, the 27th of
January and stay until Friday night it would be fine. All I want
is a place to put my weary head.

Will I be able to see Mrs. Tillett and Miss
Hickock either Thursday or Friday? I would like to know in advance
so I can arrange all my other appointments accordingly.

Love,

Viola Ilma

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

vi/mi

*I tried to see you
would be away
until 7-8 PM*

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Robert W. Searle, D.D.
Robert K. Siraus
John W. Studebaker, Ph.D.
Ordway Tead
Mrs. Lester H. Weil
Keyes Winter
John W. Young

January 20th, 1944

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I am really thrilled to know that we will have a successful dinner party at Laura's home on the 1st of March.

It will mean so much - the thought that my mind can be relieved and I will be able to do some real thinking and planning in the interest of juvenile delinquents - it is a wonderful feeling.

Pepe is recuperating beautifully and just received your New Year's greeting and needless to say, was delighted.

You are very wonderful.

Love,

Viola Ilma

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

vi/mi

January 20, 1944

Jan 26

Dear Miss Ilma:

Mrs. Roosevelt asks me to tell you that she will not be back in Washington until Friday, the 28th. She will be glad to have you that day.

Very sincerely yours,

Secretary to
Mrs. Roosevelt

Miss Viola Ilma
Vocational Foundation, Inc.
122 East 22d Street
New York, New York

BENEFIT CONCERT
for
VOCATIONAL FOUNDATION, INC.
(For Young Men and Young Women)

JANUARY 12th, 1944



The purpose of Vocational Foundation is the rehabilitation of juvenile delinquents upon their release from training schools and reformatories.

FROM CRIME TO VICTORY

This is a V letter from Jack, a former juvenile delinquent:

"We've been over seas about 13 months and it looks like we may see Uster den Linden in Berlin. That sunny Italy stuff is the bunk—it's always raining. I can speak a little Italian and therefore get along pretty well. The people are poor, no clothes, no homes, no nothing, but now, under Allied guidance, slowly but surely they'll be back on their feet again. The gals here are O.K., better looking than in Africa, but I'd still trade for the American version any day. I'm still a private and proud of it. We're still the backbone of the army. Say—would you do me a favor—I have a kid sister, aged 16. She goes to school until one p.m. every day. The rest of the time is hers. She'd like to find some kind of a part time job where she can gain some experience and also earn a few dollars. She's a neat, bright and ambitious kid and also the apple of my eye. I'd feel good to know she's set and I'd consider it a great favor if you can help her."

In 1937 Jack was referred to Vocational Foundation by the State Charities Aid Society. The Vocational Foundation is not a large organization, not institutionalized, not dehumanized. Jack's first interview summed up: "My mother still gets nervous. If I had a job I wouldn't be in her way." The story of these few words reveals the human net work that leads to crime.

THE ROAD TO DELINQUENCY

Jack's parents separated.

His mother had to support Jack and the little sister.

Jack resembled his father.

Friction.

The mother, weighed down with too much responsibility, sent Jack to an institution where he was most unhappy.

He came out embittered.

Jack, on his own initiative, went to live with his uncle.

Another mouth to feed—the uncle put him out.

Jack went back to his mother, unemployed, more quarrels.

After a quarrel, Jack joined a gang of boys, stole a car, was caught and sent back to reform school.

Violated parole on a technicality.

Back to reform school.

Out—and unemployed once again.

Jack was sent to Vocational Foundation.

THE ROAD TO REHABILITATION

Being in the way, economically, was always Jack's major problem. Vocational Foundation's major objective is guidance and jobs for delinquent youth. It took at least sixty interviews and five different jobs before Jack found himself. On his last job he was making \$36.00 a week as a mechanic. As soon as he got on his feet he got along well with his mother. Jack's slow but definite rehabilitation convinces Vocational Foundation of the wide possibilities that exist for all human beings if given a decent chance.

Since Pearl Harbor more than 1500 boys and girls from training schools, reform schools, children's and adolescents' courts have been counselled and placed in jobs. Over 50 agencies dealing with delinquents have sent their young people to the Vocational Foundation for help in solving their problems.

Vocational Foundation fights Negro discrimination by helping to widen the field of employment opportunities for Negro boys and girls.

Its Youth Morale Corps keeps in touch with the boys in the armed forces. Vocational Foundation is planning now to meet post war employment conditions.

Vocational Foundation is planning now to meet post war conditions in the delinquency field.

YOU CAN HELP

Vocational Foundation is supported solely by private contributions. Your interest in helping us carry on our work means your financial support. Please make checks payable to Vocational Foundation, Inc., 122 East 22nd Street, New York City.

YOUR DOLLARS HELP FIGHT THE WAR
AGAINST JUVENILE DELINQUENCY

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Honorary Chairman

MISS ELSA MAXWELL
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LILI ILMA
Secretary

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VOCATIONAL FOUNDATION
January-November 1943

Among Sources of Referral Are:

New York State Training School for Boys
New York State Training School for Girls
New York State Parole
New York City Parole
New York City Probation
Manhattan Children's Court
Brooklyn Children's Court
Brooklyn Adolescents' Court
Kings County Court
New York Court of General Sessions
New York Court of Special Sessions
Magistrates' Court - Manhattan
United States District Court
Women's Prison Association & Isaac T. Hopper Home
House of Detention for Women
Lincolndale
House of Good Shepherd - Villa Loretto
Hawthorne - Cedar Knolls
Westfield State Farms for Girls
Youth Counsel Bureau
The Children's Village
Catholic Charities
Children's Aid Society
Jewish Board of Guardians
Boys' Club of New York
Department of Public Welfare
United States Employment Service
Bellevue Mental Hygiene Clinic
Private Psychiatrist
Washable Clothing, Sportswear & Novelty Workers Union
United Wire & Metal Workers of America
Dining Car Employees Union
Cleaners & Dyers Union
Relatives, Friends, Interested Individuals

Myra

COMPARATIVE INCOME AND EXPENSE
FROM 1938 THRU 1943

	<u>'38 - '39</u>	:	<u>'39 - '40</u>	:	<u>'40 - '41</u>	:	<u>'41 - '42</u>	:	<u>'42 - '43</u>
INCOME	\$6178.04	:	\$9818.50	:	\$17542.75	:	\$26708.28	:	\$25526.12
EXPENSE	\$6445.05	:	\$9114.84	:	\$16545.59	:	\$27482.38	:	\$24741.70

	<u>Ruppert</u>	<u>Stork Club</u>	<u>White House</u>	<u>Reuben's Tea</u>
--	----------------	-------------------	--------------------	---------------------

EVENTS FOR 1943

Laura Payne	\$10740.00
Raffle Affair	1714.50
Harlem Dance	1487.66
Xmas. Cont.	490.00

Large Contributions:

Sidney C. Erlanger	500.00
Mrs. F.D. Roosevelt	500.00
Mayor LaGuardia	500.00
Joseph Golding Found.	1000.00
Thru Adolph Meirowitz	2500.00
Annual Contributors	5000.00

TOTAL INCOME FOR 1943 - \$25526.12

TOTAL EXPENSE " " - \$24741.70

No. of Board Meetings held during year - 7

PLACEMENT REPORT - JAN. '43 - DEC. '43

	<u>New Registrations</u>		<u>Re-registrations</u>		<u>Re-interviews</u>		<u>Placements</u>	
	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
TOTAL	245	133	88	25	190	88	272	121
Comp. "	378		113		278		393	

TOTAL NO. OF APPLICANTS SEEN : 596

TOTAL NO. OF INTERVIEWS : 757

TOTAL NO. OF PLACEMENTS : 393

February 4, 1944

My dear Miss Ilma:

Will you kindly present to the Board of Directors of the Young Men's Vocational Foundation, my resignation?

I have been resigning gradually from many of the boards on which I have served in the past because I find that my name and presence is more of a detriment than a help.

I am glad to have had the opportunity to know of your work and I wish you success in the future because I think these young people need guidance.

Very sincerely yours,

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

February 4, 1944

Personal and not to be shown to anyone else.

Dear Viola:

I am sorry to tell you that I feel you put me in an extremely difficult position this afternoon. I did not feel it was up to me to tell Mrs. Payne that I had been told that her husband does not have a very good reputation, because I would have had to tell her that it was you who wrote me.

You told Miss Thompson that the dinner would be held at the Cosmopolitan club and would be given by the board and that it was all settled. When you came in and I found myself confronted with this assumption on your part and on Mrs. Payne's part because it would be very difficult to have the dinner at any other place and that this was her contribution to the Foundation, and after I had told her what my feeling was and that it was nothing that she had done or that people had said about her that had given rise to my feeling, I simply was not going to tell her that I did not care to go to her house. That is really too insulting.

Yet, I do not feel that you should have put me in this position and for that reason I am resigning from the board and I am not going to attend the dinner. I think my being on the board in any case is more of a detriment than a help and brands you politically and brings you nothing in the way of financial help so you will lose nothing and I will be relieved of what might be an embarrassing position.

Very sincerely yours,

FOR YOUNG MEN AND YOUNG WOMEN

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 Mrs. Lester H. Weil
 Keyes Winter
 John W. Young

February 4th, 1944

100

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

At the next Board of Directors meeting, which will be February 11th, representatives will be chosen to attend the dinner at Laura Payne's home on the 28th of February. Most likely the Board will designate me to speak of the work.

I am quite certain Mr. Philip Heimlich of the District Attorney's office, member of our Board, and director of the Youth Counsel Bureau, will attend the dinner. I am also sending his report back to you.

I do hope the Senate Hearings for the boys will be during the week of February 14th and will send the names of the boys and girls attending to Miss Thompson as soon as I know. Fortunately, one boy, who is training on board a ship in Washington, D., C., will be present. Also Victor Dayton, a board member, who is with the Maritime Service, but on leave now, will be there. I shall send you the backgrounds of these individuals which I know will be of interest to you.

Needless to say, we are very grateful for the 28th date because it will mean a vigorous opportunity to spend a much larger part of our time on the work itself.

Love,

Viola Ilma

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

vi/mi

February 8, 1944

100

Dear Viola:

I have your letter and I fully agree with you about the importance of working on the juvenile delinquency problem.

I shall always be interested in your work and glad to see you if I can be of any help, but I must ask you to submit my resignation from the board. This year, especially, it will be better for your work if I am not officially connected with it. I never make hasty decisions and have been considering this for some time.

I have already made another engagement for the 28th and therefore cannot attend the dinner.

I shall look forward to seeing you when you bring the boys to Washington.

Sincerely yours,

Miss Viola Ilma
Vocational Foundation Inc.
122 East 22d St.
NYC

FOR YOUNG MEN AND YOUNG WOMEN

Vocational Foundation, INC.

122 EAST 22ND ST., NEW YORK, 10, N. Y. • GRAMERCY 5-3636

February 6th, 1944

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Arthur E. Archbold

Assistant Treasurer

Miriam Isaacs

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Mathias Cortea

Victor Dayton

Mrs. Betty Hawley Donnell

Philip Heimlich

Julius Hochman

Viola Ima

Whitman Knapp

Markhall MacDuffie, Jr.

Adolph Meisowitz

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Keyes Winter

John W. Young

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

The entire nation has become aware of the increase in juvenile delinquency. Social workers and educators throughout the nation view with no small concern the storm which the post war period will pour upon our youth. States throughout the nation are moving on legislation and finally a Senate Committee, under the leadership of Senator Pepper, is aiming to focus further national attention on the problems and solutions of juvenile delinquency.

Vocational Foundation, like all progressive agencies, recognizes the need for federal leadership and recognizes that every agency must work towards this goal.

The President's campaign against infantile paralysis is a symbol of techniques to come. Some day the Federal government will handle the physically handicapped as a part of social security, which so far has been one of the biggest accomplishments of the New Deal. The campaign against paralysis is a clear announcement that fund raising requires dynamic backing. The nation has proven its ability to be ready to help the physically disabled. Justifiably, when will we use the same campaign for the socially handicapped and mentally disabled? Nothing short of this can ever be a proper answer.

Vocational Foundation is now very active on the amalgamation of organizations working in the same direction in the interest of rehabilitating juvenile delinquents. Mr. John D. Rockefeller, 3rd, Mr. Edwin Lombard, Jr., of the Society for the Prevention of Crime, Philip Heimlich of the District Attorney's Youth Counsel Bureau, all have given me the go ahead sign. This would make combined fund raising for our cause a broader and more successful demand. Until then, however, the Foundation is faced with its annual struggle for fund raising, a story which you know only too well.

I am confident that the Board of Directors will hold a dinner at the Cosmopolitan Club February 28th. Mrs. Whitman Knapp, an Advisory Board member, and member of the Cosmopolitan Club, will sponsor us. The date is available. Mrs. Payne will be invited to bring her guests. In this light I hope you can be present. I am sorry for the misunderstanding all the way around.

In view of the broader aspects of the work, no time such as the present demands the aid of the only too few persons familiar with the problems. Your support simply makes it possible to help break down the lethargy of the public and bring more people into recognizing the problem and activating their concern. Because of your knowledge of the youth problem, of what it was in the relief days, of what it will be in the post war period, I wish to ask you to reconsider your resignation of February 4th.

With love,

Viola

for VIOLA HMA 100

February 6th, 1944

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

The entire nation has become aware of the increase in juvenile delinquency. Social workers and educators throughout the nation view with no small concern the storm which the post war period will pour upon our youth. States throughout the nation are moving on legislation and finally a Senate Committee, under the leadership of Senator Pepper, is aiming to focus further national attention on the problems and solutions of juvenile delinquency.

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consider your resignation of February 4th.

With love,

(Original sent to White House)

Viola

FOR YOUNG MEN AND YOUNG WOMEN
*V*ocational *F*oundation, INC.
 122 EAST 22ND ST., NEW YORK, 10, N. Y. • GRAMERCY 5-3636

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Vocational Director
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100
 February 15th, 1944
 file

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

When the boys receive mail from Vocational Foundation they are very proud of your name, as part of it.

I would like very much to use this V letter which I just received, for our membership campaign which is now being planned.

When I wrote you were an integral part of Vocational, I was thinking of the boys, and this letter expresses the kind of thinking I was doing.

The Board meeting met the day of the snow storm in New York. The meeting was not large enough to present any matters as important as your resignation. Also, I have hopes, with a little time going by, that rays of letters, such as the one I received today, would make your reconsideration possible.

Soon I shall be writing an Easter letter to the boys. I would have no way of accounting for your absence.

Love,

Viola Ilma
 Viola Ilma

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

vi/mi
 enc.

X SGT. JOHN BUTULA

Print the complete address in plain block letters in the space below and your return address in the space provided. Use separate lines for each. Write plainly. Do not crowd writing in any direction.



To Miss Viola ILMA
% Vocational Foundation
122 EAST 22ND ST
New York (10) N.Y.

From
S/Sgt. John Butcher
B. Co., B. 922 A.F.C.
APO # 964 1/2 P7
New York, N.Y.
2-1-42

Dear Miss Ilma

I'm afraid I've neglected you by not writing during the past few weeks and sincerely hope you'll forgive me. I believe I wrote a letter to you not very long, though, I'm not quite sure and promise to write more often in the future.

Yesterday I received a letter from a very prominent lady stating that a package of candy & cookies to me is on the way and wishing me a very christy. That prominent lady was Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt and I think I owe you to thank for being the first recipient of a letter from the First Lady of the Land. I think it was good of Mrs. Roosevelt to take time out from all her activities to write me a letter. It was really swell of you, Miss Ilma to ask the President's wife to write to some of us boys in the service and I'd like you to know that my appreciation simply can't be put into words.

I'm somewhere in "Liberty" now & I have seen a bit of action since my arrival in the combat zone. We're really giving the Japs hell out with people like you & Mrs. Roosevelt looking on. I don't need how it's possible for us to lose. So long for now

S/Sgt. John Butcher

WB6 NL

NEWYORK NY FEB 1 1944

MRS F D ROOSEVELT

THE WHITE HOUSE

FEB 28TH FOR DINNER WILL BE FINE WE ARE MOST GRATEFUL FOR YOUR
CONSIDERATION WILL KEEP FRIDAY APPOINTMENT AS SUGGESTED WITH MRS
PAYNE AS SOON AS I HAVE EXACT DATE OF HEARING WILL SEND BOYS
NAME TONIGHT A BRILLIANT FIRST MEETING WITH THE BOYS INDEED SORRY
YOU COULDN'T BE WITH THEM, THE KIND OF AN EVENING I AM ANXIOUS
FOR YOU TO HAVE

VIOLA ILMA.

Feb. 28

FEB 2 7 25 AM 1944

100

Benjamin

Wes

107

100

March 1, 1944.

My dear Miss Ilma:

Mrs. Roosevelt has your letter
and is sorry she is too busy to make an
appointment and she has just had recent
correspondence with ^{Ellz.} Miss Achelis.

Very sincerely yours,

Secretary to
Mrs. Roosevelt.

Miss Viola Ilma
Vocational Foundation, Inc.
122 East 22nd Street
New York (10), New York.

VDS

Memorandum

Vocational Foundation, INC.

FOR YOUNG MEN AND YOUNG WOMEN

ask
3/1/44

122 EAST 22ND ST., NEW YORK, 10, N. Y. • GRAMERCY 5-3636

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Boris Prager
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Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt
Anna M. Rosenberg
Mrs. Viola Lewis Scott
Robert W. Searle, D.D.
Robert K. Straus
John W. Studebaker, Ph.D.
Ordway Tead
Mrs. Lester H. Weil
Keyes Winter
John W. Young

February 24th, 1944

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Miss Elizabeth Achelis of the World Calendar Association has expressed to me that she would appreciate an opportunity to talk to you in regards to her work.

FEB 20 1944

She is an ardent friend of Vocational Foundation, a very interesting and remarkable woman and I know you will be interested in what she has to say, as well as in her.

If you can arrange an appointment to see her when you are in New York I will be more than pleased to relay the appointed time.

With appreciation for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Viola
Viola Ilma

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

vi/mi

P.S. By the way, I have not as yet received a date with Senator Pepper but hope surely it will be next week and as soon as I hear will let Mrs. Helm know. In the meantime many new plans are developing for Vocational, all of which I shall tell you when I see you.

Miss Achelis I don't love at all but it falls away due to pressing problems of the day (Senate!!!) but she's trying hard & at least a little time with you would be deeply appreciated.

March 29, 1944.

Dear Miss Ilma:

I am delighted with your good news, both personal and organizational.

I would like to have the boys in for an informal supper in New York sometime, and talk with them.

Very sincerely yours,

Miss Viola Ilma
Vocational Foundation, Inc.
122 East 22nd Street
New York (10), New York.

100
VDS

2-6
3/29/44

FOR YOUNG MEN AND YOUNG WOMEN

Vocational Foundation, INC.

122 EAST 22ND ST., NEW YORK, 10, N. Y. • GRAMERCY 5-3636

March 13th, 1944

MAR 14 RECD

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Robert K. Straus
John W. Studenbaker, Ph.D.
Ordway Tead
Mrs. Lester H. Weil
Keyes Winter
John W. Young

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Vocational Foundation news is looking upward. I do not think that any event that we have ever sponsored was as successful and meaningful as the Hearings which Senator Pepper chaired on March 1st. The six boys told their stories and told them well. The four Board members present also testified on different aspects. You will be able to read the entire proceedings as soon as they are published and I know you will find it of great interest.

More than ever I am convinced that Federal funds and a Federal central clearing house must be set up to give national leadership to this problem which is nation wide. I have spoken to a number of colleagues and there seems to be a general opinion that if such funds could be centralized in the Children's Bureau, they could increase their staff and increase their functioning to meet the demands of 1944.

I suppose you have also read that the Welfare Council in New York is reorganizing. This is encouraging news. A few weeks ago the meeting that I wrote you about was held, with representation from almost all the agencies which have something to do, in one way or another, with delinquency and we are planning to form a Federation, awaiting, however, the Welfare Council's plan. If they include an active Federation in this particular field we shall not form a new one. I think the expose of the S.P.C.C. has put a number of agencies, who are living on endowments, on their toes.

A new recommendation has come to Vocational and it will be presented to the Board for at least thought and consideration. Personally I am quite excited about it. It is off the record but Doris Clarke of the Wayward Minor's Court (her group have been using Vocational Constantly) is of the opinion that there is no greater need at the moment than a shelter for girls, on a non-sectarian basis. She feels that our employment service, with an attachment of a shelter for girls, and later on perhaps for the boys as well, is of extreme importance and should be faced. She also feels, with our progressive view point, along with a few other agencies, that the job could be done. It would mean added expenses indeed. Perhaps about \$25,000 a year but I really feel that with this specific project, in relationship to the demands, could receive financial help. Surely the Rosenwald Fund and individuals such as Adele Levy and many others would welcome a home where Negro girls could be accepted. The ages would be 16 to 25. What happens now is that we have the drive such as the Police Department has been having, picking up the girls at 42nd Street, and they are then referred to Doris Clarke and she refers them to us, so they still have no home.

Mrs. Roosevelt

March 13th, 1944

This seems to be the constant problem of delinquency. We cannot solve the problems of the youth who are homeless by court appearances. Legally they cannot be sent to the House of Detention because they have not committed a crime. At any rate this will be given serious thought and I would be extremely interested to know whether or not you would lend any forces you may have towards the creation of such a plan.

Doris Clarke expressed that publicly she couldn't ask for it but officially she can certainly use it. She expressed that the Catholic home for white girls was beautifully run and we could operate with them a good deal now, and we would use the experiences of the best of all of the existing spots to make a modern progressive home for girls. The educational aspect inspires me no end.

This brings me to the question of finances. The dinner that was held February 28th with the Board of Directors was a great success. Laura presented \$7500 and pledged the remainder of the budget which she said she would have within the next few weeks. This coming Friday the Board of Directors and Advisory Board are giving Laura a cocktail party at the home of Mrs. Perera.

There are no words to express what this freedom of mind means for me, in relationship to the advancement of Vocational Foundation, in its service to the youth. Vocational has needed some one like Laura because while each and every board member has a special kind of contribution to make, as things are, intellectual contribution, without financial support, is a pretty meaningless thing for we cannot put needs into action without financial support.

It was Laura who, at the Senate Hearings, testified as to the needs for Federal funds, and I hope to have members of the Advisory Board, as well as the few Board members who could, help much more in raising funds by working with her into a lively functioning finance committee.

Words cannot express how I feel, with a year ahead of me, to work on the many problems which I see.

Many thanks for the luncheon which the boys enjoyed, but I must say they would rather be in the automat and have lunch with you than the White House without you. They still would like to invite you to a dinner and perhaps when you have a little time you would enjoy meeting them.

Even the news on my personal front is good. Pepe has recuperated from his mastoid operation and was transferred to the aircorps in Mitchell Field. Exactly what his work will be I do not know, but I am very delighted.

Love,

Viola

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

vi/mi

Handwritten notes:
Suggested by the boys
you want just
of a 9 or 20 minutes
I can't say
an informal
by 9
I'll try
with the
ER

Apr 30

100
✓

April 6, 1944

Dear Viola:

How many boys will you bring? I can not have too many and I could have them on Sunday, April 30th.

We can talk over the shelter for girls at that time.

Sincerely,

Miss Viola Ilma
122 E 22, NYC

0

FOR YOUNG MEN AND YOUNG WOMEN

Vocational Foundation, INC.

122 EAST 22ND ST., NEW YORK, 10, N. Y. • GRAMERCY 5-3636

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Robert K. Straus
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Ordway Tead
Mrs. Lester H. Weil
Keyes Winter
John W. Young

April 4th, 1944

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

If you could give me a date as to when you could have an evening available I could corral the boys, just so long I have a little advance time.

Pepe has been assigned to do rehabilitation work at Pawling, New York. This is ideal for him. He sends his best regards.

Love,
Viola
Viola Ilma

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

vi/mi

Recently the judges of the wayward menon
Court & Dr. Charles. chief liaison officer approached
us on the vital need of a shelter for wayward girls.
There is no place to send negro & protestant
girls. I would like to have you hear
what Miss Clarke has to say... I truly
believe this could be done somehow...
at any rate if you are interested could
we see you in my room?

Handwritten notes:
New York City? I think I want to
Lang. Feb 20
Loudy Feb 25
K...
K...
K...

VOCATIONAL FOUNDATION, INC.

For Young Men and Young Women

122 EAST 22ND STREET • GRAMERCY 5-3636 • NEW YORK, N. Y.

Executive Director
VIOLA ILMA

100
My dear Mrs Roosevelt,
Thought our latest letter
to our boys news would
be of interest to you.

Vocational Director
DORIS MADDOX

April 12th, 1944

Hello Everybody:

VI
Sending out cards to find out where you all are was a great treat because we got wonderful letters from a good many of you. You have made Vocational global, and are we proud.

A few nights ago I went to Loew's State. Martha Raye was putting up. When she got through she was very serious and asked the audience for a very special favor. No-o-, not money, but please, please write to the boys. So everybody appropriately felt like a heel - who doesn't owe letters? So you can all thank Martha Raye for the push.

The Foundation's news is good and eventful. The Carnegie Hall concert which was held January 12th, with Nathan Milstein, the guest violin soloist, was a huge success. We made three thousand dollars. The place was packed. Everybody decked out in their best. Once again my Board of Directors were right in recognizing that a fine musicale would be fitting for the dignity of our work. You know me - my preference was something on the style of the dedication at Carnegie Hall to Fats Waller - a bang up jam session. But I guess it's all a matter of taste. Little did I think that the early days of the agency would spiral, over the five year period, into Carnegie Hall. I sat through the first part quite successfully, but the second half found me with Judge Francis E. Rivers and Whitman Knapp of the District Attorney's office, and who is a member of our Board, and we had a gab fest while the artistic fiends were being "sent". The famous Elsa Maxwell was the chairman and Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, honorary chairman. At the end of the concert Elsa Maxwell spoke about the agency and our work. Everybody was very proud and pleased and musically experienced champagne.

On March list Vocational Foundation was invited to testify its experiences before the Senate Sub-Committee of the Committee on Education and Labor. Senator Pepper was the chairman. Vocational, as usual, turned to its boys. Who else could tell the story of our work. We were lucky that six were available, either working in defense plants or uniform, home on furlough. Victor Dayton was the chairman. He is with the National Maritime Union. 9:30 in the morning they were welcomed by Senator Wagner. I wish you could have been with us in the imposing senate room. A mahogany table, about 20 feet long, with the senators on one side and our gang on the other (including four board members). Behind the senators sat the press. The room was packed with interested visitors. The hearings were opened and I was questioned and explained that our agency wanted practically what all the experts had expressed preceding the hearings of the day - federal funds, more coordination. And then the meeting was turned over to Victor Dayton and the rest of the boys. They spoke of inadequacies of homes for the homeless, the lack of correction in correctional institutions, the danger of bad neighborhoods, the struggle for jobs. The stories were effective because they were told from a personal view point. Even the hard boiled press found a lump in their throats for

the story of how these young people found a way to live in happiness was indeed the hard way, totally unnecessary, if a nation could make security a reality for all. The hope of the presentation is that a bill will be presented in a larger sense for youth protection. I am not so sure a bill will be passed but part of our democratic set up is to move as far forward as possible, and that means hearings, bills, and action. This still seems to be a removed idea to the public in general and the sooner each and every one of us realize that we are a vital part of the machinery called democracy, the sooner we will put it into full effect.

Now we are all talking about post war planning. Of course I am convinced that what we will have for you is what you demand and again it simply means that if you are being educated through your experience, you will know what you want and, just as important, have a voice. I am more than anxious to have your thoughts on this question.

Spring is here. It's hard to get down to work, and speaking of spring, a breath of it is Margaret Sullavan who is in the hit play of the season, called the Voice of the Turtle. If you like wistfulness and youth, you would love the play. The plot is one familiar to you. Two girl friends and a soldier with a week end pass. One girl has a better date, so she thinks, and ditches the soldier, leaving her girl friend with him. Due to the crowdedness of housing, Margaret Sullavan tells the soldier he can park if he wants to. She's in no mood to get mixed up with anybody. She's recuperating from a serious illness called "falling in love". It seems that the man was married and so, enough said. She is beginning to be concerned that the soldier is bored stiff. He, in the meantime, tried to get a date, using her phone, but no luck, and finally he assures her he isn't bored. She starts bothering him in endless questions on true love - a matter which does not interest a soldier on a week end pass. Of course she gets it out of him that he was once in love and he begins to feel unhappy, recalling the situation. They live up, have dinner and a bottle of wine, and he doesn't seem to want to go, and they talk and they talk and they talk. Finally she says yes, with a determination that it should be gay. By this time he has fallen hopelessly in love and it isn't gay at all, it's serious. So serious that he insists that they get married. Curtain. The amusing part of the play is her set up. She lives in an apartment with a dropped living room, of which she is very proud, and at 18 she is struggling to become an actress, and between the frigidaire and the living room she practices her Romeo and Juliet, through the first pangs of a theatrical profession. Believe me, it is easier to become a colonel than get tickets for this show.

Oklahoma is still vocalizing the song "People will say we're in love" and Frank Sinatra is drooling "I couldn't sleep a wink last night". Schnozola Durante is knocking them dead with his "C-A-M-E-L-S" Radio Program.

Then of course comes my favorite division - books, and there are two new ones that are knock outs. Strange Fruit, by Lillian Smith, which has been banned in Boston. Not that that should be an egging on to reading it. It is about time we stopped banning books and encouraged intelligent understanding of a problem. The book is a stirring love story, written against a southern town in Georgia. A white southerner and a Negro girl from across the tracks. Not at all startling when you read the book which concerns the natural flow of two souls finding each other against the tide of attitudes raging in the twisted decadence of the south and the moronic heritage of the white southern crackers. The entire picture presents the entire woven existence of the whites and Negroes from owners to slave owners. The colored folk are wrapped around the lives of the white folk through cooking and sweeping and cleaning and, whether one believes it or not, love. The book ends in the lynching of even the wrong man and lays down the honest picture of the corruptness which has led to this kind of an existence in a world where we are fighting for the highest form of civilization.

You are familiar enough with the problem of the soldier vote where down south it becomes more than significant because they can't vote but only fight and die. Enough of this dramatic story. I know that you would all find it perhaps startling but then, reality is always startling. Oddly enough it does not leave one with a sense of what it suggests but rather with an added drop of tolerance and it is this that makes the book important as well as fascinating reading.

The other book is Shark's Finns & Millet's by Ilona Suez. She is a Polish girl who was working in Geneva during the disarmament conference for some sort of Commission to do with opium and seeing that this conference was ending up nowhere, picked up her cat and typewriter and went to China. As she put it, because it was cheap and she wasn't ambitious. But she had gall and intelligence and what she lacked in any political conviction she gained in basic honesty and saw through very clever eyes. She even landed a job as public relations gal for Madam Chiang Kai Chek. What impressed me about this girl was that she wasn't bowled over by the first lady of China but rather critical. And what she has to say un masks the press' ability to glamorize ladies who happen to be born into certain positions.

Oh yes, she gives Madam Chiang credit for a number of things but she feels that China cannot be interpreted through Wellesley eyes. Madam Chiang went to Wellesley College where, of course, she met the finest in education, but how many people get that chance. On the other hand, Ilona, through more luck in being kicked out of her job, gets to take a trip with the famous 8th Route Army. Yes, a Peoples Army, made up mostly of guerillas and the common people. She met Chu Teh and Mao Tsung, the leaders of the Chinese Peoples Army, and she saw how the youth were educated and how they fight and how, collectively, they work, so that the bottom of the pit begins to heighten and find a level for collective living, and she sees that true democracy is their conviction. This really bowled her over and she sees the future of China a promised land if the people rather than the bigwigs get a chance to run it. Her story is wonderful because it is rather breezy and natural and she isn't a big shot but just a swell gal who responds to the important things in a natural way. Besides, she likes to eat.

Naturally the biggest news in the next several months will be the presidential election. Tom Dewey is definitely giving his all to get the nomination from the Republican Party. His record in the New York legislature this year wouldn't feed an ant. The president has not expressed his plans but lots of us hope he will run. After all, Stalin and Churchill are getting used to calling him up.

The agency's activities are going at full blast. Recently I have been all steamed up about the possibilities of starting a shelter for girls. All I need for all we could do is a few million bucks.

On St. Patrick's Day we had a tea at the home of our president, Mrs. Lionel C. Perera, Jr., in honor of Mrs. Laura Payne, who recently raised \$7500 for us. We had a distinguished group of people. Colonel Haskell from Ft. Monmouth, Councilman Stanley Isaacs, Judge Hugh Delany, Mrs. Elinor Gimbel of the Committee for the Care of Children in War Time, Jerome Nathanson of the Ethical Culture Society, and Evelyn Murray, the head of the Junior Division of the War Man Power Commission (on employment). There were a number of glamour girls, social register, and reform school graduates. Yes, it takes many interests to make our agency.

Do write, and as Carlson's Raiders say, "Gung Ho". (Stick together).

As ever,

Viola Ilma

May 5

file

100

April 28, 1944

Miss Viola Ilma
Vocational Foundation, Inc.
122 East 22nd Street
New York 10, New York

Mrs. Roosevelt must cancel supper on Sunday as she cannot be in New York because of death of Secretary Knox. She could have you and boys Friday evening May fifth at eight oclock but regrets she cannot have for supper.

MALVINA C. THOMPSON
Secretary to
Mrs. Roosevelt

April 28, 1944

Miss Viola Ilma
Vocational Foundation, Inc.
122 East 22nd Street
New York 10, New York

Will you bring group on Sunday at seven for buffet supper instead of at six.

MALVINA C. THOMPSON
Secretary to
Mrs. Roosevelt

Does Mrs. Roosevelt want to meet these two
girls?

She'd bring them
anyway!

179-

April 25, 1944

Dear Miss Ilma:

Mrs. Roosevelt has your letter of April 17th, and will be glad to have you bring Miss Doris Maddow and Mrs. Betty Falek with you on Sunday, April 30th.

Mrs. Roosevelt would like you to come at 6:00 P.M.

Very sincerely yours,

Secretary to
Mrs. Roosevelt

Miss Viola Ilma
Vocational Foundation, Inc.
122 East 22nd Street
New York 10
New York

ceh

Miss Thompson:

I have not seen the later letter
yet. I checked, but nobody seems to have written
it yesterday or today.

Check again

If no letter -

has 6 PM

MUR

MISS THOMPSON:

See attached. No mention of the
hour was made.

There is a
letter
perhaps
etc.

FOR YOUNG MEN AND YOUNG WOMEN

Vocational Foundation, INC.

122 EAST 22ND ST., NEW YORK, 10, N. Y. • GRAMERCY 5-3636

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

April 17th, 1944

My dear Miss Thompson:

Thank you for your letter of the 12th.
I will be there on April 30th, with the six boys and girls.
I would also like to invite Miss Doris Maddow and Mrs. Betty Falek, who are in charge of employment in our office, for I know Mrs. Roosevelt would enjoy meeting them.

May I have the time we are expected?

Most sincerely,

Viola Ilma
Viola Ilma

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

vi/mi

*deduct
get her*

Note.

April 12, 1944.

My dear Miss Ilma:

Mrs. Roosevelt says that Sunday evening, April 30th, will be all right to bring the six boys and girls.

Very sincerely yours,

Secretary to
Mrs. Roosevelt.

Miss Viola Ilma
Vocational Foundation, Inc.
122 East 22nd Street
New York (10), New York.

VDS

FOR YOUNG MEN AND YOUNG WOMEN

*V*ocational Foundation, INC. ²⁻⁴ _{4/12/44}

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Mrs. Viola Lewis Scott
Robert W. Searle, D.D.
Robert K. Straus
John W. Studelsker, Ph.D.
Ordway Tead
Mrs. Lester H. Weil
Keyes Winter
John W. Young

April 11th, 1944

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Sunday, April 30th is an excellent date. Would six boys and girls be all right? *Yes*

I will be delighted to discuss the possibility of a shelter for girls at that time.

Most sincerely,

Viola
Viola Ilma

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

vi/mi

P.S. Will it be Sunday evening? Yes

May 13, 1944

June 1
100
✓

Dear Viola:

I have your letter of May 9 and regret that I can make no more engagements for the present.

I may have time early on June 1st to see you and Mr. Livingston. Will you come to my apartment at ten o'clock that morning?

Sincerely,

0

Miss Viola Ilma
Vocational Foundation
122 E 22, NYC

MAY 7 1944

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May 9th, 1944

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Yesterday I spoke to Goodhue Livingston and he expressed his willingness to help call some people together in the interest of creating a shelter.

We both thought that it might be a good plan if the three of us sat down to compile a list of people to invite. I have about fifteen new people, plus the group that Mr. Livingston might have in mind.

He is tied up with "I Am An American Day" and suggested any time around the first of June. Could we three possibly have dinner.

I am very grateful that he is enthusiastic and I am very confident that this can be done.

In the meantime, Vocational news is moving ahead.

I was delighted that you were able to meet some of our youngsters. I just received a note from Bill Coyne. He has returned from Italy, wounded, and received the Purple Heart. Did you have a chance to read the letter we recently sent to our boys overseas.

With appreciation,

Viola
Viola Ilma

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

vi/mi

I hope you have been able to meet some of our youngsters. I just received a note from Bill Coyne. He has returned from Italy, wounded, and received the Purple Heart. Did you have a chance to read the letter we recently sent to our boys overseas.