PAUL McNUJT
1934 - 1941
April 17, 1934.

Dear Governor:

I am enclosing herewith a letter from Mrs. T. G. Blue of 1126 Lodge Avenue, Evansville, Indiana, which I have received in connection with my articles in Women's Home Companion. I think this woman raises a very good point. It seems to me that the bank should have foreclosed and taken the lot.

I may be a great nuisance in writing to you about this but little things, after all, are big things to the people who are going through them, and I do hope you will try to do something to help her out.

I very much enjoyed your speech, and wish I had had an opportunity to speak to you at that time.

Very cordially yours,

Honorable Paul V. McNutt,
Governor of Indiana,
Indianapolis, Indiana.
TELEGRAM
OFFICIAL BUSINESS—GOVERNMENT RATES

FROM
The White House
Washington

April 25, 1934

[Signature]

Hon. Paul V. McNutt
Governor of Indiana
Indianapolis, Indiana

Deeply appreciate invitation. Could not be away from Washington. Many thanks for inviting me.

Eleanor Roosevelt

Cross
Indiana State Teacher

From
TELEGRAM

The White House
Washington
Indiana Ind Apr 4th-1934.

Mrs. Franklin D Roosevelt,
The White House.

We take pleasure in extending to you our most cordial invitation to address the Indiana State Teachers Association in the city of Indianapolis on October eighteenth or nineteenth, nineteen thirty four. This organization consists of sixteen thousand teachers. The address may be one of your own choice. We sincerely hope that you will find it convenient to wire acceptance.

Paul V McNutt Govr of Indiana,
Floyd I McMurray State Supt of Public Instruction.

800 PM
May 15, 1934

Dear Governor McNutt:

Thank you very much for your letter about the case of Mrs. T. G. Blue. I was interested to know that you were already working on the case.

Very sincerely yours,

Hon. Paul V. McNutt
Governor of Indiana
STATE OF INDIANA
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
INDIANAPOLIS
May 7, 1934

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

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

The case of Mrs. T. G. Blue, 1126 Lodge Avenue, Evansville, Indiana, referred to in your letter of April 17, was presented to me in a letter from her husband dated March 18.

Practically the same facts were set out and at that time I wrote to the firm of attorneys bringing the action against Mr. Blue. If I am correctly informed the obligation was on a promissory note and was not secured by a mortgage on the lot referred to in Mrs. Blue's letter.

Very cordially yours,

[Signature]

Paul V. McNutt

PVMcNis
September 4, 1934

My dear Governor McNutt:

Thank you very much for the report on the case of Mrs. Elizabeth H. Smith. I deeply appreciate the special efforts made by the State Administrator's office in investigating this case.

Very sincerely yours,

Hon. Paul V. McNutt
The Governor
Indianapolis, Ind.
Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Your letter of August 8, enclosing a letter from
Mrs. Elizabeth H. Shute, Indianapolis, has been
investigated by the office of the State Administrator
of the Federal Emergency Relief Administration.
For your information I am enclosing a copy of the
report on the Shute family. I think the report
answers in detail her letter to you. I am returning
herewith Mrs. Shute's letter addressed to you.

Cordially yours,

[Signature]

Enc. Paul V. McNutt
Clearance in the Social Service Exchange revealed that the Shute family is known to the Family Welfare Society. Contact with that agency was accordingly made. Since the case is active, Miss Kiersted, case consultant, gave information in the absence of Miss Reed, the regular visitor.

The Family Welfare Record contains the same history given by Mrs. Shute in her letter. In October of 1933, the Family Welfare verified the legal Indianapolis residence of the family for a Kansas City agency from whom the Shutes sought assistance on route to Indianapolis from Texas. Nothing was heard from the family themselves until Mrs. Shute appeared at F.W.S. on June 4, 1934.

Mrs. Shute did not ask for relief, in fact, refused to accept this when it was offered, but discussed her financial difficulties in some detail. Prior to this time, she had obtained a Home Loan, on which her contract was to be $18.00 per month. She had had an $8500 equity in her 11 room home at 1144 N. Alabama St., which the family had undertaken to purchase in 1917. The family had a regular $12.00 monthly income from some garages, and additional income from an apartment building at Ogden and Walnut Sts. The latter barely covered the expense of operating the building. The family owned a 1929 ton and a half truck (make not mentioned) and a 1929 Chandler automobile, either of which Mrs. Shute offered for sale.

F.W.S. contacts were made on 6-4, 6-14, 6-18, 6-27 and 6-29. Mrs. Shute was put in touch with a possible purchaser for the truck and it is not known how this plan worked out. As she was so insistent upon not accepting relief, it was difficult to plan with her. One or two small utility bills were paid and non-payment of a personal tax return was arranged. The agency offered further service and relief if necessary, but Mrs. Shute made no effort to continue the contact. F.W.S. plan according to Miss Kiersted would probably not have included application for public relief as Mrs. Shute was felt to be the type of person for whom it would have been difficult. In her last two conversations with the visitor, Mrs. Shute stated she felt strongly she should be given a mother’s pension. F.W.S. visitor did not discuss this with her and it is not known whether she took any steps to secure a pension.

The Shute home is an attractive one. Mrs. Shute’s fine arts training is reflected in rather good pictures, some of them her own work. The furniture is good, some of it having possible value for antique fanciers. Mrs. Shute had worked out a cosmetic formula in which L.&S. Ayres & Co. were interested. Nothing is known of the outcome of this situation. From reading the record, one feels that Mrs. Shute is a person of wide interests and capabilities. She has tried so many plans, one wonders whether it would not have been wiser for her to concentrate rather than scatter her energies. She is emotional and evidently inclined to react excitedly to her situation.

Miss Kiersted asks that the Family Welfare be given a copy of the letter addressed to Mrs. Roosevelt, since it covers the situation much more fully than Mrs. Shute did in her conversations with the agency. F.W.S. will make no effort to contact the family because of the letter, since Mrs. Shute has been urged several times to communicate with the agency if she finds herself in difficulties.

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

Dear Madam:

I shall make this as short as possible, but I'm desperate and there is much to tell so you may understand our case, you see we are fast becoming that instead of persons with an individuality of our own.

My husband died in July 1930, and following his death I carried on his business successfully until— I made about $3,500 clear from July until November 6 of that year, but since then there has been nothing. The clear real estate we owned had to be sold to pay our taxes and inheritance tax. With interest and taxes, empties, and rents in arrears our situation became desperate, and I traded a piece of property for a grapefruit grove in southern Texas. That, like my own place was mortgaged— truck farming in the valley was at a low ebb, and some of the fruit would only bring 2¢ per pound, so we had a struggle in the first part of '32. The promise of a fine crop of fruit in the fall of that year was very encouraging—— the hurricane took it.

I tried to secure a loan from the Govt. to raise a fall and winter crop— no success. The only thing left to do was return to Indianapolis and try to save my home. I had enough
new hatchets to trade for gas and oil on the way, for our truck and car—some one stole them. You see we went to make our home there, and took our furniture with us. I knew if I'd sell it I'd not be able to buy enough to furnish our home here, besides the people there after the storm wouldn't buy—I could not afford to give it away. A tire blew out near San Antonio and I had to appeal to the Red Cross for aid—my first experience at that end of the line. I've records here showing where my husband has given hundreds, even at one time, to others.

They gave me a tire and 35.00 dollars to make the trip from San Antonio with a truck, two children, and a man who was driving the truck thru for me, but it wouldn't buy oil and gas for the two, the car and truck. I had another blowout at Waco, Texas, and they bought another tire for me, but said I'd have to get along without further help from them. I borrowed money from friends, and begged along the way. It took me four weeks to come from Mercedes Texas to Indianapolis—some days begging was not very profitable, and the RFC in many towns refused to help us.

We slept in our car many of the nights, I couldn't stand to go to the Salvation Army for the only time we had to go there the sheet had been used and the towel too—and the quilt we had to cover with had seen much service. I'm a graduate nurse, and you can readily see why I'd rather keep my children in the car than sleep on unwashed sheets.

When we reached Indianapolis and were settled in our home, my children were born here, I then went to the Indiana Employ-
ment Bureau to seek something to do. I have had several years experience in art work, and my pictures have hung in exhibits with the best of the Indiana artists. I have been a Social worker in Louisville Ky., with the Medical School there, and the Infant Welfare department, I'm an expert seamstress---- I know the girl in charge of the professional dept.----have for many years and explained the fact that we'd been eating our furniture, our mules, lumber and many things to keep from begging. There has been nothing for me.

One of the foremen on W.A projects knew of our plight and gave my sixteen-year-old son a pick and shovel job ---- some weeks he made $12.00 more frequently it was $4.00 or $6.00 and there was one week he couldn't work at all. It was too heavy for him, but he and his twin sister preferred to be a bit hungry in place of begging. She had to stay at home all winter because we couldn't buy a winter coat for her and she had outgrown her old one. I was unable to send her --- them, to finish high school, couldn't buy books for them. I am almost insane from worry, and now I'm afraid I shall have to lose our home---- I haven't been able to secure a thing to do---- have arthritis in my entire body and it's hard to do house to house canvassing, because of that, there seems to be no place for us.

I have wished that I could trade our place here for a small farm near Washington where we could raise chickens, a garden, flowers, and specialize in lavender for sachets and its oil. If we could have about ten acres in apple orchard, and the other land that we could cultivate, I feel that with painting and a poem occasionally
and chickens, we shall be able to finish paying anything we may have to assume on such a place.

I was born in the country and love it, would like a place where my son and daughter can take up the things they are interested in— the daughter, music and art, the son, automotive engineering, or landscape gardening. I am reasonably lucky with chickens, produced enough eggs from ten hens in Texas to provide a family of seven with all they needed. I love growing flowers, and have had a dream of a lavender plantation for many years.

I'm not begging for anything but a chance to get back on my feet and become once more a useful citizen— a chance to let my children finish their education. I'd like a comfortable place near a stream, I do landscape painting, with cultured neighbors so we'd not be lonely. We are alone in the world so far as help is concerned, charity from relatives is sometimes more bitter than from strangers. We have been used to the better things of life, used to keep two servants, but we'll each gladly work very hard to get back on the road to plenty— neither my daughter nor I have stockings, our underwear is in rags, the greater part of it and we wouldn't have a decent dress to put on but for the charity of our friends.

Is there anything you are able to suggest that we can do now for my children are seventeen now, and we are each so tired of wondering if we shall have enough to eat— enough clothes to wear; enough coal to keep us warm this winter without begging for it. If there were only a chance to take up my husband's business again
I can manage it, but any kind of construction work seems to be out of the question. Is there no place in the U.S. for us? My family came to this country when it was a wilderness and fought step by step to make it a place to be proud of, for they were among the first settlers of Virginia, but it seems that we have no place left, there is only trouble for the woman left with children of high school age when she is fifty.

Will or can you help us to get something—-it becomes a tragedy—-we simply aren't able to see a funny side when we say that we have eaten our furniture, our mules, piano etc.

Forgive the long letter, it may be incoherent, but so has my life been for the past three and a half years. I can give any kind of reference you may like if you wish to know whether we are deserving of a chance. We'd rather starve than ask the county to help us.

Very sincerely yours,

E.H.S.

P.S.
I notice that in writing this I've failed to tell you that Mr. Harris foreclosed on my farm in Texas—-didn't give me a chance to secure a loan on it. I'd ask for a loan to repurchase it but I'm afraid of the storms there. We'd rather go to Virginia, and gradually build up a business in growing lavender and apples.
Mrs. E.H. Shute

1144 N. Alabama Street

Indianapolis, Ind.
January 29, 1936

My dear Governor McNutt:

I am enclosing two letters from a woman in Indiana, and I meant to speak to you about the case when you were here. Do you think there is any way in which this woman could be helped?

Very sincerely yours,

Hon. Paul V. McNutt
Indianapolis
Ind.

Mrs. Bess P. Mayhall to James Roosevelt was asst. to manager of Clark and Reed campaign is having difficulty running paper in Rep. section "we want to come out full tilt for Roosevelt but it would be ruination to us unless there is some way to have assurance of not losing our business and home" - etc.
January 28, 1936

Dearest Mummy:

Enclosed is another letter from Mrs. Mayhall which I think you will find interesting; also copy of my reply to her.

With much love,

Yours,

[Signature]

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt
The White House
Washington, D. C.
February 20, 1936

My dear Mrs. McNutt:

I cannot be with my husband on June 7 at Vincennes because I promised to speak at Drake University in Iowa on the eighth. I am then going to stop for a day or two with Mrs. Helm at Grayville, Illinois, but, if you wanted me to, I could probably get to you on Thursday, June 11, and then take the train that night to New York. Or, as I have written to Dr. Elliott, I could stop at Purdue on my way East and go on to New York the following day. I have not made up the train schedule but if you have an idea that either of these things would be valuable, I will be glad to try to work them out.

If you want me to speak at the Tom Hall, it must be a non-partisan speech and I would like so much to have you suggest a subject.

Very sincerely yours,

Mrs. Paul McNutt
The Executive Mansion
Indianapolis, Indiana
My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Dr. Elliott tells me that you will not be able to come to Purdue in June. We are still very eager to hear you speak to the town here and yet as a spokesman for item 2 refuse to ask.
you to make a special trip—
though it be possible to arrange if when
the President comes
to Vienna on June
17th? My husband
would be so happy
to have you meet
by plane and follow
anywhere any time.
I do feel that your
appearance...
Indiana seemed to a fine
thing at this point -
I'll be grateful for any
suggestions -
Cardially yours,

Kathleen Hemolaf N. Ruth
(Mrs. Paul)

February 27th.
New York, N.Y.
July 25, 1939.

My dear Mr. McNutt:

I am asking Mrs. Charles-Long to go to you with an idea which she has presented to me. I think it is most interesting and I leave it to your judgment whether your department, or any group under you, could cooperate with her, or whether you feel she should go to some other department.

I feel sure you will be interested.

Very sincerely yours,
July 27, 1939

Dear Mr. McNutt:

Will you please look into this to see if it is a thing in which you can and should help?

Very sincerely yours,

[Signature]

Hon. Paul V. McNutt
Federal Security Adm.
Washington, D.C.

Veterans Educational Program
Montgomery County, Ohio

R.F. Biddle, Administrator
Dear First Lady,

We thank you for the interest you are showing in our program.

We are keeping our "hands off" Mr. McNutt. You are the only person in Washington, so far, to actually act in our behalf. Anything you would have us do, you need but to command.

We have our own paper, and have a circulation of 5,000, may we print an account of what you are doing for us. I believe the "boys" would spunk up a bit if they knew someone, besides a bunch of sleepy congressmen, were interested in their cause.

We thank you again, and pray that you are successful in securing the much needed funds for our program.

Respectfully yours,

R.W. Biddle, Ed. Director
P.O. Box 523, V.A.F.
Dayton, Ohio.
October 10, 1939

My dear Mr. McNutt:

Will you please bring the enclosed letter to the head of the U. S. Employment Service and have him report to me if his agency can find a job for this man? Perhaps he could suggest some way that I could help. It seems a pathetic case and there should be some kind of work the man could get.

Very sincerely yours,

Julius Dubak, 36-00 20th Road, Astoria, L.I., N.Y.

Hon. Paul V. McNutt
Federal Security Agency
Wash., D.C.
Miss Malvina C. Thompson,
Secretary to Mrs. Roosevelt,
The White House,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Miss Thompson:

You may remember that Mrs. Roosevelt sent over a letter which she had received from Julius Dubak, Astoria, New York, in the hope that the Governor could help find him some work through the Employment Service.

We have been following the case up continuously and thought you might be interested in having the enclosed report from the man who is handling it locally.

We hope that we may be able to report soon that either Mr. Dubak himself or his daughter has been placed in remunerative employment. We know of Mrs. Roosevelt's deep interest in cases of this sort and are always pleased to have her bring them to our attention so that we can help wherever possible.

Very sincerely yours,

Edith M. Keyes.

Secretary.

Enclosure.
SOCIAL SECURITY BOARD
Interoffice Communication

To: Mr. O. D. Hollenbeck,
Associate Chief Executive Officer,
Bur. of Employment Security,
Social Security Board, Washington, D. C.

From: Mr. George W. Carpenter,
Assistant Veterans' Placement Representative
for New York State

Subject: Julius Dubak,
36-06 20th Road,
Astoria, N.Y.

October 18, 1939

I am attaching hereto copy of a memorandum which I
have just sent Mr. Newcomer regarding your letter of October 13th
in reference to the above applicant.

As this is only a preliminary report, you may expect
to hear further from us in the matter.

(Signed) Geo. W. Carpenter
SOCIAL SECURITY BOARD  
Washington, D.C.

Mr. F. G. Newcomer

Mr. Geo. W. Carpenter, Assistant Veterans' Placement Representative for New York State  

October 18, 1939

Julius Dubak,  
36-09 20th Road, Astoria

During your absence from the office on Monday, October 16th, due to your trip upstate, the office received a letter from Mr. Hollenbeck with copies of correspondence attached, which had been received from the office of Mr. McNutt and Mrs. Roosevelt. All this correspondence, as you will note, refers to the unemployment of Mr. Dubak.

Since the receipt of this letter I have lived continuously with this case and, for your information, this memorandum is to be considered as a preliminary report on my activities regarding this special situation.

On Monday I contacted Mr. Howe, manager of the N.Y. State Employment Office #645 (29-20 41 Avenue, Long Island City) for the purpose of making a check up of their registration files for any possible record of a person with such name at the above or any other address within their local office jurisdiction. This check up was made on instructions of Mr. Howe who phoned our office that no record was found either in the active or inactive files.

I immediately wrote a letter to Mr. Dubak wherein I made note I would be in the Long Island City Office the following afternoon at 2 o'clock and requested him to be on hand if possible so that we might discuss his situation. On Tuesday morning I called at the local office and in confidence discussed with both Mr. Howe and the local Veterans' Representative, Mr. Angus, the efforts of the local office to give every available opportunity and assistance to Mr. Dubak in securing employment if he would become registered with the local office. Up to the hour of 3:30 yesterday afternoon, Mr. Dubak had not called at the office due to the fact that he was out seeking employment. He had not received my letter prior to leaving home at 9:00 o'clock yesterday morning and did not return home until 6:00 o'clock last night. As soon as I returned to the office I sent a telegram to Mr. Dubak advising him I would call at his home this morning no later than 10:30. This visit resulted in the
following accomplishments:

Mr. Dubak had registered with the State Employment Service on September 22, 1937 and thereafter had never called at any local office of the State Employment Service for assistance in securing employment. I therefore had him return with me to local office #545 where I had him registered by Mr. A. C. Syrup, former Local Veterans' Representative for local office #540. While waiting for this registration, I myself made out the attached copy of his registration for our own records. Due to the fact that this registration was not on hand at the local office until about 2:00 o'clock today, we have been unable to do anything for Mr. Dubak prior to this date but we have the definite assurance of not only the manager of the office but the head of the Placement Section and the Local Veterans' Representative to the effect that everything that can be done will be done in securing employment for Mr. Dubak. They have gone over his employment record with him for the purpose of securing every bit of information that would be helpful in placing him.

Mr. Dubak makes a very good appearance, shows neatness in dress, is quite thin due to the fact he has had a long siege of unemployment and is considerably excitable and nervous. He has a very distinct feeling that the world is more or less against him at his age and that nothing or no one could be of assistance to him.

I met Mrs. Dubak who is a victim of pernicious anemia and is continually under clinical care at the Jamaica Hospital. The boy, who was also home, is a senior at Fordham University. One daughter graduated from high school last February and has had ten weeks' work since that time as typist-clerk in a real estate office. She is registered at the Long Island City office and I feel there may be a possibility of at least doing something in the way of employment for her before we could secure suitable employment for Mr. Dubak. The only income in the family is from an older daughter who earns $22.00 a week and who, Mr. Dubak claims, pays $8.00 a week for room and board. This daughter is engaged and expects to be married sometime next month. This, as you can see, would leave the family without any income if a placement is not made before that time. Mr. Dubak's home is very neat and clean. He lives in a two-family brick home in a fair residential section and is paying about $40.00 a month for four rooms.

Mr. Dubak speaks somewhat brokenly and you will notice on his registration card that he speaks three foreign languages. He is a salesman by type. Most of his selling experience has been with the Columbia Phonograph Company, 55 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y. Because of his desperate need of employment he has continuously stated he will take anything but he has a limitation in that he considers he cannot accept a
wage less than $22.00 weekly as he claims it would take that amount of money to operate his home. However an apartment house position would be considered for as low as $65.00 a month with four rooms including heat and gas. It must be realized that positions for the latter type of work particularly always come through for couples and in Mr. Dubak's particular case it is not possible for Mrs. Dubak to do any work whatsoever.

I have requested Mr. Dubak to have his daughter call at our office on her next visit to the City. He advised me she was coming to New York tomorrow morning at which time I shall ascertain what may be done for her as well as for her father.

I shall continue to stay with this case and shall make every possible contact. I not only realize the seriousness of Mr. Dubak's personal situation but am very much impressed by Mr. Hollenbeck's desire to have our office do everything possible in this particular case. As you will note, this is a preliminary report to you and I hope my final report in the matter will be one of an early success. I am sending a copy of this memorandum to Mr. Hollenbeck so that he may be informed of what has transpired to date.
November 7, 1939.

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

Dear Miss Thompson:

I am sending to you for Mrs. Roosevelt's information, the final report in the case of Julius Dubak.

We are all very glad that Mr. Dubak was able to get into the work that he enjoyed so much and for which his past experience so well fitted him.

Very sincerely yours,

[Signature]

Secretary

Enclosure.
To:  Mr. O. D. Hollenbeck  
Assistant Chief of Division  
for Veterans' and Farm Placement  

From:  Mr. F. G. Newcomer, Veterans'  
Placement Representative for  
New York State  


Of course, you realize that yours of October 25th crossed in the mails with ours of the same date. Since our report of the 25th, both Mr. Carpenter and I have been consistently in touch with this case. We have been somewhat disturbed, however, that neither Mr. Dubak nor his daughter made contact with the local office in Long Island City, or with our office since we reminded Mr. Dubak on October 25th that such should be done.

Although we had somewhat made up our minds that the Dubak family were not cooperating by following our suggestions, nevertheless, we were constantly on the lookout for opportunities. Yesterday we located the first good break for him, when we found two separate apartment house superintendent jobs, either or both of which he could have filled. We immediately contacted his local office, requesting them to locate Mr. Dubak and make a referral to the office in the Bronx which held both orders. The Local Veterans' Representative successfully tried to reach Mr. Dubak's son by 'phone at his place of business, which is the only telephone contact we have. They also telegraphed Mr. Dubak at his home. Up to closing last evening no response had been received from either the 'phone call or the telegram.

This morning Mr. Dubak reported to the Local Veterans' Representative in response to the telegram. He happily rejected both openings and reported that this morning he was to start working for the Times Appliance Co., 233 West 52nd St., a subsidiary of the Columbia Phonograph Co., with whom he was formerly employed. He is to work as a salesman at $25 per week. Apparently he dug up this work for himself on the very day that we located two other openings for him. Of course, the Times Appliance Co. job is more in keeping with his former experience inasmuch as it is in his own lines of work and at a salary consistent with that desired by him. This report came to us not from Mr. Dubak, but from the Local Veterans' Representative who further advised us that Mr. Dubak purposely delayed going to his new job so that he could report to the local office in response to the telegram and at the same time to thank them and indirectly us for our efforts in his behalf.
It would appear that this should close the case rather satisfactorily, providing of course his new job remains permanent. It was reported to us that Mr. Dubak stated that the job should be as permanent as the gramophone industry. Of course, if his daughter does call on us, we will give her all the information and assistance possible.

Both Mr. Carpenter and I would like to observe at this point that to the best of my recollection, no case in several years has received more concentrated attention and effort than has this. Of course, this effort was solely due to your request and the source of the request. We cannot help but wish that we could report as successfully on a number of veteran cases, in which we are particularly interested.

If there is anything further you would like us to do in this case, kindly advise.

/s/ F. G. Newcomer

FON: WF
October 12, 1939

My dear Mr. McNutt:

Thank you very much for your letter of October 9.

I hope you did not do anything for Mr. Somerville—which you would not have done in regular administration of business. I never want you to feel I am making any specific requests. All I ever do is to refer requests made to me.

Very sincerely yours,

Honorable Paul V. McNutt
Federal Security Agency
Wash., D C
October 9, 1939

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Several days ago I received your note in behalf of Mr. James William Sommerville. I believe you will be interested to know that Mr. Sommerville has been transferred to the Staff of the General Counsel of the Federal Security Agency and is working under his immediate supervision.

Sincerely yours,

Administrator

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt
The White House
Washington, D. C.
January 30, 1941

My dear Mr. McNutt:

I am sending you a letter which has come to me. I would appreciate it very much if you would have the matter investigated which Mrs. Honeyman mentions and let her know what, if anything, can be done.

Very sincerely yours,

Letter from Mrs. David T. Honeyman, 1728 S. W. Prospect Drive, Portland, Oregon - about a situation in connection with the U.S. Employment Service.

Honorable Paul V. McNutt
Federal Security Agency
Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

In response to your request I have written to Mrs. Honeyman on the subject which she outlined in her letter to you.

A copy of my letter to Mrs. Honeyman is enclosed for your information.

Sincerely yours,

Administrator

Enclosure

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt,
The White House,
Washington, D. C.
Dear Mrs. Honeyman:

Mrs. Roosevelt has asked that I reply to your letter of January 13, 1941.

Recent developments in the national labor market brought about by the defense program have focused the attention of the United States Employment Service on employment problems of women. Although the United States Employment Service does not have a special women's division, the non-existence of such a separate division in Washington or in the State employment service headquarters has not, in so far as we can determine, affected its efforts in coping with the problems surrounding the employment of women.

As you know, the Wagner-Peyser Act (48 Stat. 113), under the terms of which the United States Employment Service is organized, provides in Section 3(a) "It shall be the province and duty of the bureau to promote and develop a national system of employment offices for men, women, and juniors who are legally qualified to engage in gainful occupations...." In keeping with that mandate, women in search of work through the public employment offices are accorded the same considerations as men.

At present there are about 1,300,000 women registered for work in the various public employment offices. This figure represents a little over 28 per cent of the total number of individuals registered for work. During the first eleven months of 1940 the offices filled approximately 1,354,000 jobs with women. These placements constituted almost 40 per cent of the total number of placements made by the offices.

The above figures are presented for the reason that I feel they indicate that a sizable group of women are being served by the offices. I might state at this point that the active file and placement figures are significant in the light of the total number of women gainfully employed. In ordinary times the census figures show that women constitute a little over 20 per cent of the entire gainfully occupied population.

It may be of interest to you to know that already the offices are reporting that more and more employers are utilizing the services of women as shortages of men arise in various types of occupations.
The United States Employment Service in cooperation with the Women's Bureau of the United States Department of Labor, and the Advisory Commission to the Council of National Defense is presently engaged in a study of employment possibilities for women in the national defense program. A careful analysis is being made of the factors which in the past have limited the employment of women such as physical factors, attitudes of unions, legal barriers, domestic duties, and traditional prejudices maintained by certain employers. More specifically the employment service is outlining the occupations in which women might be reasonably engaged and in which their services might be efficiently utilized to alleviate the shortages of workers occasioned by expanded industrial activity and induction of men into the armed forces.

In your letter you speak of the limited number of occupations for which women are being considered. By and large this limitation has been largely due, as far as we can determine, to prejudices and traditions not within the specific realm of employment service solution. The employment service is hopeful that with the cooperation of the Women's Bureau of the United States Department of Labor and the Advisory Commission to the Council of National Defense some of these barriers may be eliminated. As I indicated previously some of the barriers are being eliminated naturally through the pressure of shortages of men in certain occupations. Experience gained during the last war and a survey of the present action being taken by England in the employment of women has served as a useful background for the suggestions which are going forward to the State employment services within the very near future.

In cooperation with the Women's Bureau the employment service is exploring the possibilities of recommending the extension of various defense training programs to women. As you know, one of the reasons for the limited occupational range for women has been due to women's lack of training for jobs in, for example, the mechanical trades. In other words, for traditional reasons women have not been accorded training opportunities in a variety of occupations and as a result those occupations have customarily been thought of as occupations belonging to men.

Although the United States Employment Service expects that a great many women will come into the labor market during this defense preparation, there have been no plans to segregate from the main stream of employment office operations the placement of women. In the interest of efficient administration and harmonious operating relationships in the various offices, it is felt that it would be wise to continue the placement work on the present basis, namely, that of placing all applicants in jobs which are suitable in terms of their specific abilities and experience.
Mrs. Honeymon

I thought that you would be interested in the foregoing account of the efforts which the United States Employment Service is expending in behalf of women. I am sure that Mr. Martin F. Carpenter, Chief of the United States Employment Service Division, would be extremely interested in talking over with Mr. Stoll, Director of the Oregon State Employment Service, the contents of Mrs. Thames' research on the subject. I am sure also that he would be very much interested in receiving a summary of your conversations with Mr. Stoll on this very important matter.

Sincerely yours,

(S) PAUL V. MCNUTT

Administrator

Mrs. David T. Honeymon,
1728 S. W. Prospect Drive,
Portland, Oregon
MRS. DAVID T. HONEYMAN
1728 S. W. Prospect Drive
Portland, Oregon

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

My dear Eleanor:

This is to ask you to look into a situation that exists here but probably applies in many other states in connection with the U.S. Employment Service. For a long time, beginning when I was in Congress we have tried to get a department created for women that would be on the same status of men.

As it is now they occupy a place of very secondary importance and it seems to me that with the defense program in operation it is of all the more importance to take some action.

Mrs. Maude B. Thames has charge of the women's employment and I have asked her to send you her data on her research on this subject. She has made it from the handling of this subject in England and gives a plan of what can be done here if given the opportunity.

I am asking you to look into it at this time because Mr. L. C. Stoll is in Washington and I hope you can give a little time to talking with him. He has frequently approved this change in the employment service whereby women are given independent and equal consideration but nothing comes of it. It was the same with me when I took it up with Mr. Persons (the service then being in the Department of Labor) but we never could get anywhere. Mr. Stoll is the Director of the Oregon State Employment Service.

He told Mrs. Thames that he would take her report, made at his request to Washington but I thought it best for you to have a copy to look over if you can find the time to do so. Mr. Stoll may be sympathetic to this idea but the State Commission is definitely not so. Women in employment are only considered for the most minor positions, typists, etc., and never given a preference or even an equal chance.

I sense that Mrs. Thames may have said something about my being the State Director if an independent agency for women is created but please ignore this. She is the logical one to direct such a program.

I am still trying to be in Washington for the Inauguration and may possibly succeed in leaving the end of the week. Thank you so much for the invitation to the buffet lunch that day. At present I am deep in the Celebration of the President's Birthday arrangements, being the State Director of Women's Activities. I am sorry not to be there tomorrow for the tea at the White House and the dinner for you tomorrow night but thought I had better finish the preparations here in case I can leave in a few days.

Affectionately,

[Signature]

Jan. 18th.
1941

JAN 18 1941
April 10, 1941

Dear Mr. McNutt:

I have your wire of April 9, inviting me to attend the conference of community leaders which will be held on April 17.

I am sorry that I cannot attend the meeting, as I shall be away on a lecture trip at that time.

Very sincerely yours,

Hon. Paul V. McNutt
Coordinator, Health, Welfare and Related Defense Activities
Federal Security Agency
Washington, D.C.
SECRETARY OF WAR STIMSON AND SECRETARY OF NAVY KNOX WITH APPROVAL OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES JOIN ME IN INVITING YOU TO ATTEND A CONFERENCE OF COMMUNITY LEADERS WHICH WILL BE HELD THURSDAY MORNING, APRIL 17TH AT 10:30 HOTEL WILLARD WASHINGTON. WE WILL DISCUSS METHODS OF PROVIDING OUR ARMED FORCES THE BEST INFLUENCES OF THEIR FORMER HOMES AND COMMUNITIES. MANY TOWNS ADJACENT TO OUR CAMPS LACK THE RESOURCES TO MEET THIS NEED WHICH IS A NATIONAL PROBLEM. PLAN OF ACTION WILL BE PRESENTED BY SIX MEMBER AGENCIES OF THE UNITED STATES SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS FOR NATIONAL DEFENSE. COOPERATION OF THE BEST COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP THROUGHOUT THE NATION REQUIRED. PLEASE REPLY TO ME AT FEDERAL SECURITY AGENCY WASHINGTON.

PAUL V MCNUTT COORDINATOR

HEALTH, WELFARE AND RELATED DEFENSE ACTIVITIES.
May 7, 1941

My dear Mr. McNutt:

I am sending you the enclosed paper which I have received from Mrs. Marian W. Beth, Reed College, Portland, Oregon. I would appreciate it if you would have it analyzed and if you think there is anything worth developing, perhaps you could send for Mrs. Beth.

Very sincerely yours,

Honorable Paul McNutt
Federal Security Agency
Washington, D.C.
November 9, 1941

Dear Governor McNutt:

I have been trying to think through our difficulties on this nutrition chart. First of all, the objective is to get before as many people as possible in this country, the knowledge of the foods which must form a part of any good diet.

Second, the point seems to be that this is the work of the Nutrition Committee, of which Dr. W. L. Wilson is the head.

Third, that the committee seems to have been working on this for some time, and not to have a chart ready, because several months ago, Mr. Kelly asked them for a chart, they told him they had none, and sent him instead a considerable amount of material.

Mr. Kelly gave this material to some experts in Philadelphia, all of whom are people of good standing, who made up his chart. This chart that he has is attractive, and no one, not even Dr. Wilson, says there is anything on it which is not correct. The only objection seems to be that the nutrition people have a chart which is somewhat less colorful and that they have made arrangements for its distribution through their usual avenues, food distributors, extension agents, etc.

Mr. Kelly is very much upset because he has the chart already set up at the printers, and it can be out tomorrow. He is planning to distribute it through garage people and all
kinds of other agencies that are willing to take it, carrying any names that seem advisable, but putting at the bottom the name of the distributor, thereby paying for the printing.

Mr. Kelly claims that several magazine articles have been approved by the Nutrition Committee which practically said what should be eaten in much the same way, though not as well done as the chart does it.

He is very much depressed because he feels he went through all the regular channels and they did not give him something which he wanted, and when he used their material and got something, they then turned around and put obstacles in his way.

You know Mr. Kelly, and know that he is full of ideas and enthusiasm, but you also know how easily discouraged he is by what looks like mere red-tape.

I have suggested to him that he ought to be pleased that he evidently stimulated the rapidity with which the Department got their own chart ready and that he will be given a chance. I feel sure, to help with wider distribution, but the delay which is necessary and the fact that he likes his own chart better, depresses him very much.

I am wondering if in standing in his way, we are not really hindering the dissemination of knowledge. Would it not be better to allow him to get this out with the acquiescence of the
Nutrition Committee, carrying Dr. Wilson’s name, or the name of some reputable Nutritionist, using his own avenues that are now ready and then taking over the stimulating of the other chart as soon as it is ready, and being very careful not to interfere with the plans of distribution that they have laid down? In the end if we did this, would we not achieve our objective on a wider scale?

I am putting this up to you because it bothers me very much and I have been going over the whole situation in my mind. It is going to extend to other phases and I think the only way to prevent it is for us to get together now and lay down the ways in which we are willing to cooperate.

Mr. Kelly says that the dentists association has offered him cooperation whereby every dentist will be asked to take at least one free patient a day. The patient will be sent them by his representative. I think that a good idea, if instead of his representative only, it was all government agencies. I told him to do nothing about it until we had a chance to talk to you and all those whom you thought were involved.

Unfortunately, I am going to be away most of this week, but there is no reason that there should not be a conference if you will call it and have Mrs. Morgenthau there to keep me informed. I will be back on Thursday, the 13th, and could have everybody meet that.
afternoon in my office from three to four-thirty, if the weather is good and I can fly to New York City. Otherwise I could leave the meeting to Mrs. Morgenthau, as I have to be in New York City that evening.

I wish you would give this serious thought.

The Bureau of the Budget is recommending to the President that Mr. Kelly be moved over to your Department. I will be enchanted to have this done, but I understood that it was considered wiser to keep him in OCD. I assure you that I have no feeling whatsoever if you think it would work better to have him actually in your Department and I hope you will talk it over with him, and persuade him that he will be better able to get his ideas across. At the moment he is realit like a naughty boy - defiant but heart-broken.

Very sincerely yours,
November 17, 1941

Dear Mr. McNutt:

I am enclosing a very interesting letter from Mrs. Elizabeth I. Dussler of Louisville, Kentucky, on the subject of a hand work project for old people. Can anyone in your department advise Mrs. Dussler and take over this idea?

Very sincerely yours,

Hon. Paul V. McNutt
December 30, 1941

Dear Mr. McNutt:

Mrs. Dorothy Liebes tells me that she has talked with you and with Mr. Watson Miller about her plan for rehabilitation through occupational therapy. I was favorably impressed with what I know of her plan and think it has great possibilities.

I am writing to you only to express my interest and to say that I hope some of her ideas can be incorporated in any program for rehabilitation that may be under consideration.

Very sincerely yours,

[Signature]

Mr. McNutt

Hon. Paul McNutt
My dear Miss Thompson:

Thank you for your note of December twentieth. In the meantime I managed to get an appointment with Mr. McNutt and told him of my plan for the occupational therapy work, and also talked to Mr. Watson Miller in the therapy department. Therefore, I will not need to impose on Mrs. Roosevelt to arrange the appointment, but I am sure it would be most helpful if she would add her note of emphasis. I think Mr. Miller and Mr. McNutt were favorably impressed with my ideas for the rehabilitation program for the wounded men but an additional interest might help them to take my plan seriously and do something about it.

If you think it would be in order for me to trace a slight case history of my own qualifications as well as an outline of my plan for the rehabilitation for Mrs. Roosevelt to glance over, I will be more than glad to do so.

Sincerely yours,

Dorothy Liebes

Miss Malvina C. Thompson
The White House
Washington, D.C.
My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Thank you for your note of December 30 in regard to Mrs. Dorothy Liebes. I have conferred with Mrs. Liebes, as has also Mr. Miller, the Assistant Administrator. We found her to be extremely interested and interesting. We had known something about her work in the past, of course.

Both Watson Miller and I have retained some of the graphic material which Mrs. Liebes brought in, and it is to be submitted to a small planning committee which we have at work on the outlines of a vocational rehabilitation program for the consideration of the President. Prominent in this picture, of course, is the proposition of the mobilization of our manpower.

Cordially yours,

Administrator

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