CHANING TOBIAS

1942 - 1944
June 25, 1942

Dear Mr. Tobias:

I like your speech and it represents my own desires. Thank you for sending it to me.

Very sincerely yours,

Mr. Channing H. Tobias
National Council of YMCA's
347 Madison Avenue, NYC
June 19, 1942

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

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Recalling your interest in the outcome of the two mass rallies in which Negro citizens participated in large numbers, namely, the War Savings Rally at Lewishohn Stadium, over which I had the honor to preside; and the March-On-Washington Committee Rally at Madison Square Garden, I am enclosing material—a account of the Lewishohn Stadium Rally, clipped from the Monthly War Savings News Letter; and a copy of the address that I delivered at the Madison Square Garden meeting.

I enclose this address, because without pre-consultation or arrangement most of the several addresses followed the same line of thought. I trust that you may have an opportunity to talk with Mrs. Bethune about the Rally, since she was one of the speakers.

With sincere appreciation of your continuing interest in all matters affecting the welfare of Negro citizens, I am

Cordially yours,

Channing H. Tobias
Senior Secretary, Colored Work Dept.
National Council of YMCA's.
Remarks by Channing H. Tobias

Madison Square Garden Rally
MARCH ON WASHINGTON MOVEMENT
New York City - June 16, 1942

No man, whatever his race, creed or color, can afford to be indifferent to the fight that the Allied Nations are making for the survival of civilization. Especially is this true of disadvantaged minorities, for a victory for the Axis powers in this war would destroy the very means by which oppressed peoples of the earth would make their protests known, namely, free assemblies such as this meeting tonight. It is this consciousness of the gravity of the issues in the war that makes it important that no nation or group within a nation shall be prevented from doing its rightful part in achieving a United Nations victory.
If I understand correctly the purpose of this meeting tonight, it is to insist that every restriction and handicap that prevent thirteen million Negro citizens from full and free participation in the war be removed.

We are not here to display our sores or to comfort the enemies without by manifesting any lack of enthusiasm for the war effort; but we are here to insist that our government shall call a halt on those traitorous elements within our country who think more of their prejudices than they do of an Allied victory.

We are here to insist upon a single standard of citizenship, not so much because it is fair and just to the Negro, but because a double standard of citizenship has never won a war.

We are here to insist that the Negro, who has never
shot a bullet through the American flag, shall not be
humiliated by those who, through lawlessness and vio-
ence to personality, daily trample the flag under foot.

We are here to insist that the Negro shall not be
the only exception among the many racial groups that make
up our cosmopolitan population when it comes to integra-
tion of men into the armed services of the country.

We are here to insist that the principle laid down
by the President of the United States, that no man shall
be discriminated against in defense industries because of
his race, creed, color or national origin, shall be ob-
served, not by token employment but by full and free
participation on the part of all qualified workers.

Finally, we are here to remind the nation that the
denial of fundamental citizenship rights under the Consti-
tution of the United States and the Bill of rights,
and not the protest against that denial, is the real
threat to successful prosecution of the war effort.
The Inter-Racial Rally

THOMAS E. DEWEY, former district attorney of New York County and Pearl Buck, the noted novelist, made strong pleas for an end to racial discrimination.

Bill Robinson, the “Mayor of Harlem” danced and Paul Robeson and Marian Anderson sang. Erskine Hawkins and his dance orchestra played. Olivia De Havilland, the screen actress, read “Fifty Years,” the poem by James Weldon Johnson, the Negro poet, commemorating the fiftieth anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation.

Nevil Ford and John T. Madden explained the need for buying War Bonds, “putting dollars into uniform.”

Dr. Marshall Shepard, Negro Baptist preacher of Philadelphia, a member of the Pennsylvania legislature, whose father was a slave, spoke to all white men in the name of democracy and asked for their trust.

These, among other things, all combined to make the inter-racial rally, staged by the War Savings Staff at Lewisohn Stadium, in New York, a short while ago, an outstanding success among all rallies held by the staff thus far.
More than 10,000 jammed the stadium, home of the Philharmonic Orchestra as well as the athletic teams of the City College of New York. It was staged under curtailed lighting in accordance with the dimout regulations of the Army, but there was no dimout as far as the enthusiasm with which it was received by the crowd was concerned.

Dr. Channing H. Tobias, Negro leader and associate administrator of the New York War Savings Staff, was chairman of the meeting, which was designed to show the unity of Americans of all bloods and colors. Minute Men pledge cards also were distributed among the audience and collected by sixty girls.

Some quotes:

Mr. Dewey: “We are told that one of our war aims is to wipe out international discrimination between peoples because of race, color or creed. In all sincerity, I suggest that we should first wipe out discrimination at home. I want to hear that in the factories colored workers have been hired in mass. I do not mean the token hiring by handfuls that is going on today. A large segment of our population is actually being thwarted in its patriotism, deprived of its right to take full part in our national effort. That is not only ugly and hateful. It is downright stupid.”

Mrs. Buck: “Colored people are right in the middle of the war and they are going to be right in the middle of the peace. Their relation to the white peoples is and must be the central theme of the future... What we have to fight for today literally is the sort of world in which we shall be free to go on fighting against race discrimination and for human equality.”

Dr. Shepard: “In the name of the democracy that we all love and cherish, in the name of America at her best, in the name of the America that can and must be, my plea tonight is that you loose us and let us go. And we will not disappoint you. We will not betray our trust. We will give a good account of ourselves.”


Mrs. Pearl S. Buck, the author, with Dr. Channing H. Tobias, at the rally.

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Eunice H. Carter, Mr. Dewey and Mr. Ford, talking it over before the program started.

Saunders, Dr. P. M. H. Savory, W. Jay Schieffelin, Hope R. Stevens, Samuel H. Sweeney, Ordway Tead, J. O. Thomas, Harry Uviller, James S. Watson, Ludlow W. Werner, George E. Wibecan, and Andrew Wilson, Jr.

The Col. Patterson Dinner

FOURTY-EIGHT Powers models, representing the forty-eight states, marshaled “Man Power for Victory” at the award dinner to Col. Richard C. Patterson Jr., state chairman, at the Hotel Astor. Col. Patterson was presented with the 27th annual Distinguished Service Award of the New York Young Democratic Club in recognition of his outstanding service during the past year as dollar-a-year head of the Treasury Department’s War Savings Staff in New York State. Other recipients of the award have been President Wilson, President Roosevelt, Governor Lehman, James A. Farley and Supreme Court Justice Robert H. Jackson.

The forty-eight models, all volunteers, circulated among the 1,200 guests to sign up more volunteers.

Among the speakers were State Senator Frederic Coudert, Jr., Mr. Farley and Frederick E. Crane, former chief judge of the New York State Court of Appeals. John Post, president of the club, made the award to Col. Patterson and Robert Daru, a director, was toastmaster.

—“We Pledge Our . . . Fortunes . . .”—

ENDICOTT—The Messrs. Johnson who own and manage the Endicott-Johnson shoe factory have become world famous for their industrial foresightfulness. For many years their workers have enjoyed privileges that were unknown to most laboring organizations. Recently the company announced the gift to its workers of a sum equivalent to one day’s pay for the Memorial holiday. This gift was in the form of credits to the War Bond accounts of its employees under the payroll savings plan. A day’s pay for the organization amounts to about $140,000. For many workers who were not already under the payroll plan the owners hoped that this gift would be the instrument to the signing of a regular subscription.

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Who's Who in the War

W. F. ARNOLD
Chairman of the Enrollment Division

HORACE W. DENGLER
Executive Assistant to the Chairman

MRS. C. BARNES
Vice Chairman

RICHARD C. BORDEN
Chairman of the Training Division

L. J. DIMITROFF
Kings County Chairman

RICHARD H. CROWE
Richmond County Chairman

SAMUEL D. FUSON
Director of the Information Division

MRS. H. D. GIBSON
Vice Chairman

COL. R. C. PATTERSON, JR.
State Chairman
January 5, 1944

Dear Mr. Tobias:

Thank you very much for sending me a copy of the address you delivered at Carnegie Hall. It is a fine speech and I am glad to have had the opportunity to see it.

Sincerely yours,

Mr. Channing H. Tobias
347 Madison Avenue, NYC
Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I thought perhaps you might be interested in this copy of a brief address that I delivered recently at Carnegie Hall.

Sincerely yours,

Channing H. Tobias.

Enclosure

CHT: ERR
ADDRESS AT TENTH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION
OF THE REICHSTAG TRIAL

Carnegie Hall
New York City
December 22, 1943

by
Channing H. Tobias
Ladies and Gentlemen:

The Christmas message prepared by Rabbi Stephen S. Wise for the people of the City of New York and read by Mayor LaGuardia over radio last Sunday opened with this sentence: "Whoever stands or acts against a law-abiding fellow-American divides his country and undermines democracy."

When the President of the United States returned home a few days ago after having wrought miracles of international understanding and goodwill at Cairo and Teheran, he should have been acclaimed by a united people singing aloud in the spirit of Christmas, as an expression of future hope, "Peace on Earth, Goodwill toward Men." What did he
actually meet?-- A threatened strike of the
powerful Railroad Brotherhoods, a defiant
declaration by seventeen Railroad Companies of the
South that they would not abide by the directives
of the President's Fair Employment Practice
Committee, a threat by southern Senators to
split the Democratic Party over the F. E. P. C.
and Poll Tax issues, an actual strike by white
workers in the Western Electric Company plant of
Baltimore to force the Company to provide separate
toilet facilities for Negroes and Whites, a rapidly
rising tide of anti-Semitism climaxd by the
gratuitous insult offered to the wives of Jewish
servicemen by Mississippi's Congressman Rankin in
a speech before the House, and a never-ceasing
campaign, both underground and above board, to
embarrass the President's constructive efforts
to bring about and preserve harmony and mutual
cooperation between America and the Soviet Union.

I speak as a member of a major political party
and as a member of a leading Protestant Christian
Communion when I say that with all my heart I join
Rabbi Wise in declaring that such fomenters of
strife are dividing America and undermining
democracy. There can be but one true test of
loyal American citizenship today. It is not to be
determined by how a man worships, what his color
may be, whether he is wealthy or poor, whether he
is native or foreign-born, what his political
Affiliation may be, or what views on postwar
adjustments he may espouse. The only thing
that counts today is how willing he is now
to live, work, fight and, if need be, die for
a free America and the extension of the Four
 Freedoms to the peoples of the uttermost parts
of the earth. The fight for a free America and
a free world must go on at one and the same time,
for just as surely as the Hitler of ten years ago,
under the guise of patriotic nationalism, made
scapegoats of the innocent, so political
reactionaries, religious bigots and race haters
of today are blasting at the foundation of our
national freedom. They must be trodden into
silence by the determined millions of American
men and women who are joining their forces to
those of other United Nations that are pressing
on to victory in the battle for a free world.

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August 23, 1944.

Dear Mr. Tobias:

I have your letter and thank you for your kindness. I think you show great courage and wisdom.

Very sincerely yours,

Mr. Channing H. Tobias
National Council of Y.M.C.A.s
347 Madison Avenue
New York (17), New York.
August 19, 1944

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

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I am enclosing a copy of a letter that I have written to Mr. Sidney Hillman and which will probably be released to the press early next week. I thought perhaps you might want to see it.

With every good wish, I am

Sincerely yours,

Channing Tobias

Enclosure

I hope you will find time to read the first two pages of the letter beginning on the second page of the release.
November 16, 1944.

Dear Mr. Tobias:

Thank you so much for your letter and the one to the President which you enclosed. All you did in the campaign is deeply appreciated.

Very sincerely yours,

Mr. Channing H. Tobias
The National Council of the Young Men's Christian Associations
347 Madison Avenue
New York (17), New York.
November 11, 1944

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

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I thought perhaps you might want to see a copy of my letter to the President. I am therefore enclosing a copy.

Never before have I worked as hard in the interest of a cause, and I can also truthfully say that never before have I so enjoyed hard work as in this case.

You will never know how important your own contribution was toward bringing about the grand results of last Tuesday.

Sincerely yours,

Channing H. Tobias

Enclosure
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