

CHARL O. WILLIAMS

1933 - 1945

December 4, 1953

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Dear Miss Williams:

I would like very much to write an article for the Women's Home Companion on schools and I wonder if there are any points which you would like me to bring out in your article. If so and you would let me have it as soon as possible I would appreciate it.

Very sincerely yours,

Miss Charl Williams
National Education Association
Washington
D.C.

THE NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION
OF THE UNITED STATES

1201 SIXTEENTH STREET
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Dec. 8, 1933

File 100

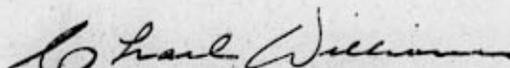
My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Your letter requesting material for your article for the WOMAN'S HOME COMPANION reached me this morning, and I hasten to reply that I am already at work gathering together such facts and viewpoints as I think may be useful to you. It would be very easy to send you a mass of material with paragraphs noted here and there, but I not going to do that because I know how heavy are the demands from every quarter on your time and strength.

It is a great opportunity you have given me to serve our common cause--the welfare of the children of this country--and I shall work enthusiastically to put into your hands within the next week the material you requested.

You already know how glad I am to serve you personally.

Sincerely yours,



Charl Williams, Field Secretary

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

April 10, 1935

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My dear Miss Williams:

I have talked again with my husband and he says that if Congress does adjourn he will probably be going West. In that case, I will surely be at the meeting. Could you tell me the last possible date? If I possibly can I will fly out but cannot make a definite promise at this time because I do not know what the situation will be in July.

Very sincerely yours,

Miss Charl Williams
Nat'l Education Ass'n.
1201 - 16th Street, N.W.
Washington, D. C.

S:DD

April 16, 1935

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My dear Miss Williams:

I will give you a definite answer by May 15. I cannot find out before then just exactly what the plans will be for early July.

Very sincerely yours,

Miss Charl Williams
The Nat'l Education Ass'n.
1201 - 16th St.
Washington, D. C.

S:DD

THE NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION
OF THE UNITED STATES
1201 SIXTEENTH STREET
WASHINGTON, D. C.

April 13, 1935

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4-16-35*

*Will give her definite
date by May 15-*

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

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I was delighted to have your letter and to learn that you are still trying to think out a way to attend our Denver convention. It is my firm conviction that your presence in that group will inspire and give courage to our teachers who have rendered fine service during these past five years even though the going has been a little difficult. In order to be of assistance to you, we suggest three dates for your address to us, all of which are evening sessions:

Thursday, July 4--first choice, closing session
of convention

Monday, July 1----second choice, opening session
of convention

Tuesday, July 2---third choice

It would be very helpful if we could know by May 15 that you will go, for a substitute must be found if you cannot. I won't let myself even think about that possibility, however, for my heart is set upon it. Our program will go to press May 25 and the possibility that the printing will be done in Denver complicates the situation considerably.

In my enthusiasm, I forgot all about telling you that the National Education Association will gladly provide ample funds to take care of every expense of this trip by train or plane.

I sometimes wonder if you have any idea what a drawing card you will be out there in the very heart of the western half of our country. I am enclosing my itinerary for April 18 to July 16. From Miami to Seattle in three months with strategic points in between will give me an extraordinary opportunity to reach many, many people. I should like to be able to tell them all along the way that you will be in Denver.

Mrs. Roosevelt--page 2

At the close of your speech, with your approval, Colorado would like to arrange a reception for you to which the delegates and the proper state and local officials and civic leaders would be invited. Would this tax your strength too much? Every person privileged to attend would prize the memory of that occasion.

In addition to all the other valid reasons for your going which I have set before you, I want to tell you--understanding person that you are--that it will mean more to me personally than you can ever know. I am leaving Washington April 18 and returning May 9 and leaving again on May 15 for the rest of my trip. If there is any way in which I can serve you, do not hesitate to call upon me.

Faithfully yours,

Charl Williams

Charl Williams, Field Secretary

I T I N E R A R Y

Miss Charl Williams, Field Secretary
National Education Association
1201 Sixteenth Street N. W.
Washington, D. C.

National convention	Delta Kappa Gamma Society Birmingham, Alabama	April 20
State convention	Alabama Congress of Parents and Teachers, Montgomery, Alabama	April 22-24
Local meeting	Business and Professional Women's Club, Montgomery, Alabama	April 23
Regional convention	Business and professional women's clubs, Miami, Florida	April 28
National convention	National Congress of Parents and Teachers, Miami, Florida	April 26-May 4
State convention	Florida Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs, West Palm Beach, Florida	May 5
Regional convention	Business and professional women's clubs, Smithfield, North Carolina	(Not definitely settled)
May 8-15--One week in Washington, D. C.		
State convention	Iowa Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Des Moines, Iowa	May 17-19
State convention	Minnesota Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Virginia, Minnesota	May 24-26
Conference with leaders of three national or- ganizations	Chicago, Illinois	May 28
State convention	Texas Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Mineral Wells, Texas	June 8-10
State convention	Colorado Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs	(Not definitely settled)
National convention	National Education Association, Denver, Colorado	June 29-July 5
National convention	National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Seattle, Washington	July 14-20

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May 18, 1935

Dear Miss Williams:

I just hate to have to write this to you, but my husband says there is no chance that he will go west this summer and he does not feel that I should take the long trip out to Denver. It is a very expensive trip and, though you have offered to pay my expenses, he does not feel that I should accept them when I am not doing anything official. Therefore, much as I regret it, I am afraid that I cannot be present. I realize that it would be a great opportunity to meet a great many teachers throughout the country and for my own pleasure and profit I deeply regret not being able to go. There seem to be, however, a great number of things that I should do in this part of the country.

With many regrets, I am

Very sincerely yours,

Miss Charl Williams
National Education Association
Washington

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THE NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION
OF THE UNITED STATES

1201 SIXTEENTH STREET
WASHINGTON, D. C.

May 15, 1935

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

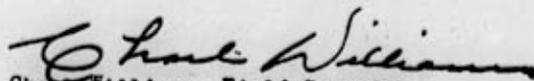
My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

A call at the White House yesterday gave me the information that you are out of the city. I had wanted to talk further with you about your speaking to our Denver convention. The reports which come to me are that the adjournment of Congress will probably fit in with your plans for a Western trip.

I am so deeply interested in your meeting with the teachers of the nation that I cannot forbear saying one more word about it. You thought you would be able to give us your answer by May 15, and I am still hoping for a favorable one. Although I leave tonight for state conventions in Iowa and Minnesota, my mail will be opened and your message will be relayed by wire.

I had wanted to talk to you further to see if there were any help of any kind that we could render you in the preparation of your speech. There may be certain facts and figures which our research division could easily supply you. I shall return to Washington on May 29 and shall be in the city until June 3 when I go to a Texas convention. During that time I should be glad to serve you in any possible way. You see that I am still holding the thought that you are to be our guest.

Sincerely yours,


Chas. Williams, Field Secretary

Received and given to Mrs. Roosevelt to be sent at once 7/17/35 RCH

July 11, 1935

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My dear Miss Williams:

Mrs. Roosevelt is desirous of obtaining the following information as soon as possible. If you would be good enough to send it to me, I will see that she receives it promptly.

1. Anything you can give her on the subject of teacher's preparation in various states in the United States.
2. Comparative salaries
3. Opportunities for further education after teaching has begun.
4. Comparative cost of public education as regards numbers of scholars and requirements in various states.
5. Methods of taxation for public education.
6. Any other information which you think might be helpful. Mrs. Roosevelt has been asked to write two articles on the training and cost of public education.

Very sincerely yours,

Miss Charl O. Williams
National Education Association
1201 - 16th Street, N.W.
Washington, D. C.

DD

Natl Education Association
1201 - 16 St. NW

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Mr. Maguire or Mr. Doyle -

Please ask Natl Educ. Assn
(Wash) to send you for Mrs. A. as
soon as possible

Any information which they could
on subject of teachers preparation
in various states in U.S. Comparative
Salaries opportunities for further
education after teaching, has begun.
Comparative cost of public education
as regards numbers of scholars
& requirements in various states
available. Methods of taxation
for public education. Any other
information that they think

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Keppel as Mrs. D has been
asked to write 2 articles
on the training of teachers &
cost of public education.

Mr. Maguire
Mr. Sawyer
Mrs. O'Connell

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Miss Charl Williams
Olympic Hotel
Seattle
Washington

July 23, 1935

Congratulations on being elected President of the
Professional and Business Womens Clubs. All good
wishes for a successful term.

Eleanor Roosevelt

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October 28, 1935

My dear Miss Williams:

Mrs. Roosevelt asks me to return
the accompanying papers and to thank you
for your kindness in sending this informa-
tion to her.

Very sincerely yours,

Secretary to
Mrs. Roosevelt

(Miss Charl C. Williams)
National Education Association
1201 16th Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C.

BW

PATRONS ARE REQUESTED TO FAVOR THE COMPANY BY CRITICISM AND SUGGESTION CONCERNING ITS SERVICE

12019

CLASS OF SERVICE

This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable sign above or preceding the address.

WESTERN UNION

NEWCOMB CARLTON, PRESIDENT

J. C. WILLEVER, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

SIGNS

DL = Day Letter
NM = Night Message
NL = Night Letter
LCO = Deferred Cable
NLT = Cable Night Letter
WLT = Week-End Letter

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Received at

QM88 50 DL=H DENVER COLO NOV 29 628P

MRS FRANKLIN D ROOSEVELT=

WARMSPRINGS GA=

MINUTES IN TRANSIT	
FULL-RATE	DAY LETTER

JUST LEARNED OUR PRESIDENT MISS SAMUELSON YOUR GUEST TOMORROW
CANNOT REFRAIN FROM WIRING YOU MY GREAT DELIGHT AND SATISFACTION
OVER THIS CONFERENCE GOODWILL AND UNDERSTANDING WILL SURELY
RESULT HER STERLING WORTH AND INTIMATE KNOWLEDGE OF RURAL LIFE
AND EDUCATION GIVES US LEADERSHIP MUCH NEEDED AT THIS TIME BEST
WISHES ALWAYS=

CHARL WILLIAMS.

845PM..

THE QUICKEST, SUREST AND SAFEST WAY TO SEND MONEY IS BY TELEGRAPH OR CABLE

November 16, 1935

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My dear Miss Williams:

Thank you so much for your letter. I have no objection, of course, to your reprinting the speech.

I hope you will have a most successful and enjoyable trip.

With all good wishes, I am
Very cordially yours,

Miss Charl Williams
1210 16th Street
Washington

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11-16

THE NATIONAL FEDERATION of BUSINESS
and PROFESSIONAL WOMEN'S CLUBS, INC.

1819 BROADWAY · NEW YORK, N. Y.

Telephones: Columbus 5-3934 and 5-3935

OFFICE OF THE
PRESIDENT

Nov. 12, 1935
1210--16th St. N.W.
Washington, D.C.

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

Williams

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I read in the paper a few days ago that you were to speak to the Town Hall in February on the topic, "Has Every Woman the Right to Work?" I am writing now to tell you how interested I shall be in all that you will have to say. That subject is of paramount concern to countless thousands of women in this country, and it will strike a responsive cord in the heart of everyone of them. At a dinner at the Mayflower given by the Washington Business and Professional Women's Club, I called the attention of those present to the speech of yours and urged them all to plan to hear it. If it is permissible, I should be glad to have it reprinted in an early issue of the Independent Woman.

At the National Broadcasting Company last week, I talked for about an hour with an ardent admirer of yours, Miss Cuthbert, who expressed profound gratitude for the excellent broadcasts which you have made in her series.

I am leaving in a few days for a field trip to the West Coast and then to Honolulu, stopping at a number of cities enroute. You may count upon me to say everything that my present position permits that will help in the days ahead.

Cordially yours,

Charl Ormond Williams

Charl Ormond Williams
President

January 10, 1936

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Dear Miss Williams:

Both the President and I were delighted to have your message from Honolulu. It was more than kind of you to wire.

With many thanks and every good wish to you, I am

Very cordially yours,

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Miss Charl Williams
Care N.E.A.
Washington DC

THE COMPANY WILL APPRECIATE SUGGESTIONS FROM ITS PATRONS CONCERNING ITS SERVICE

1201-S

CLASS OF SERVICE

This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable symbol above or preceding the address.

WESTERN UNION

R. B. WHITE
PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

J. C. WILLEVER
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

SYMBOLS

DL = Day Letter
NM = Night Message
NL = Night Letter
LC = Deferred Cable
NLT = Cable Night Letter
Ship Radiogram

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Received at 708 14th St., N. W. Washington, D. C.

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FAB VIA RCA=F HONOLULU 15 8 511P

MRS ELEANOR ROOSEVELT=

WHITEHOUSE WASHINGTON DC=

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PRESIDENTS SPEECH WONDERFUL LONGED TO BE THERE=

CHARL ORMOND WILLIAMS.

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THERE IS NO DEPENDABLE SUBSTITUTE FOR WESTERN UNION TIME



WILLIAMS
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THE NATIONAL FEDERATION of BUSINESS
and PROFESSIONAL WOMEN'S CLUBS, INC.

1819 BROADWAY · NEW YORK, N. Y.

Telephones: COlumbus 5-5934 and 5-5935

OFFICE OF THE
PRESIDENT

1801--16th St. N.W.
Washington, D.C.
March 4, 1936

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

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I am enclosing in this letter the questions which I suggest for our broadcast on March 18, 6:35 to 6:45 P. M., Eastern Standard Time. I trust that you will approve them.

It is my hope and belief that you will mention somewhere in your answers to these questions universal education as the very foundation stone of democracy. That will give me the opportunity to claim you as a member of the teaching profession, and to tell you that the million teachers in this country believe that the federal government should discharge its responsibility in this field. If you feel that you could express an opinion on this question, I regard it as an excellent time to do so.

I want you to know that President Roosevelt's speech at Temple University made a very fine impression at our St. Louis convention at which 10,000 educators were registered -- the largest convention in the history of the Association. Immediately following the President's broadcast, Miss Florence Hale of Maine, who has been on the air once every week for four years, expressed the appreciation of the National Education Association for the President's views on education. She is a past president and director of radio for the Association. Miss Hale also edits a magazine for grade teachers with a circulation of 150,000. She travels all over the country and speaks to large groups of teachers. I should like so much for her to have the privilege of a short visit with you at the White House in the near future. I think it would help a great deal.

I am sending with this letter a marked copy of the March Journal of the National Education Association which carries Miss Samuelson's letter to President Roosevelt and his very fine reply. Both were favorably received at St. Louis. One entire evening was given over to a discussion of federal aid to education before a vast audience.

Page 2

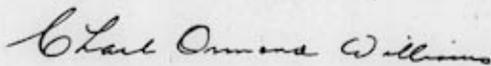
If you approve my asking you an additional question about federal aid, it will mean a corresponding shortening of your answers to the other questions.

I plan to send out 1500 cards announcing our broadcast to a carefully selected list of key people in education. Nation-wide publicity about it is already appearing in the daily papers and is being announced over the radio. I should like as far as possible to have this broadcast help where help is needed.

The final manuscript of this broadcast should be in the hands of the National Broadcasting Company and at our New York office by March 14 at the latest.

I appreciate your help so much.

Cordially yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Charl Ormond Williams".

Charl Ormond Williams, President

WOMEN'S RESPONSIBILITY FOR EFFECTIVE DEMOCRACY

RELEASE MARCH 19th, 1936

Radio talk by Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt and Miss Charl Ormond Williams, president, National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Inc., from 6:35 to 6:45 p. m., Eastern Standard Time at the White House, over the National Broadcasting Company's System.

1 and $\frac{1}{2}$ minute introduction by station announcer, calling attention to the fact that this broadcast is the principal event of National Business Women's Week and that Mrs. Roosevelt and Miss Williams will discuss the theme of the Federation's program for the year ending July, 1936 -- "Women's Responsibility for Effective Democracy." Station announcer will also describe the room in the White House from which the broadcast is made.

Miss Williams: This day marks a milestone in the history of our Federation. It is the first time, Mrs. Roosevelt, that the president of our organization has had the high privilege of broadcasting from the White House -- dear to the heart of every American -- and of presenting to our 60,000 women you, our most distinguished member. The nine million women who earn their living in the United States are deeply interested in the fact that you are the first business and professional woman to be mistress of this historic mansion. That you have been able to keep up your activities which you have carried on for so many years in addition to all your exacting official duties has won the admiration and respect of us all. We feel that you are exceedingly close to women who earn their own living, that you understand our problems and have at heart our interests. Because of the esteem in which we hold you, your opinions are of great importance to us.

Today, the preservation of democratic forms of government is gripping the attention of millions of people, not only in this country but abroad.

Our entire membership will be interested in knowing what, in your judgment, constitutes an effective democracy. Will you tell us?

Answer by Mrs. Roosevelt to consume two minutes -- thirty-four lines of typing.

Miss Williams: Your definition of effective democracy will coincide with that of all intelligent and patriotic men and women. It should be the constant aim of every true American to achieve and maintain the democracy you have set forth. Now for my second question -- what can women do to assure a democracy of the kind that you describe?

Answer by Mrs. Roosevelt to consume two minutes -- thirty-four lines of typing.

Miss Williams: The alternatives to effective democracy, especially for women, are so tragic that I feel very strongly that women must be increasingly alert to the benefits of a true democracy. We are concerned with what has happened to women under European dictatorships where they have been debarred from practicing in their professions and engaging in other occupations outside of their homes. We have noted the condition of women under communism and in the Orient and we know that it is incumbent upon us to help make democracy work. My interest in your career, Mrs. Roosevelt, dates back to 1918 when I first knew you, several years before your husband was Governor of the State of New York. I have watched your activities in connection with better housing conditions, more adequate wages, more reasonable hours of work, and broader educational programs. Because I know many women in this country, and men too -- high and low -- who do not seem at all concerned about these pressing problems, I wish you would tell us how you happened to become interested in them -- because they are, to my way of thinking, the real underpinnings of a practical and workable democracy.

Answer by Mrs. Roosevelt to consume two and one half minutes -- forty-two lines of typing.

Miss Williams: In the name of thousands of our Federation members who are listening in this evening, I want to thank you for your contribution to our program for this year. I want, too, very much, to wish for you a continuance of that vigorous health and buoyant enthusiasm both of which you possess to so marked a degree that you may for years to come strive for the attainment of those democratic ideals that are deeply imbedded in your philosophy of life.

The question is "What in my experience constitutes an effective Democracy?"

An effective Democracy implies first of all, I think, at least a minimum of universal education. By that I mean that every citizen in a Democracy must have the tools in his hands by which he can effectively grasp the problems of self-government, and make up his own mind as to the programs offered him by different political groups and political leaders.

Democracies can never be really effective unless the people as a whole take sufficient interest and responsibility in government to actually keep the control in their own hands. When they allow it to slip from their hands into the hands of a few professionals, they cease to have a Democracy and may become prey to any one of the numerous forms of dictatorship which can be seen in the world to-day.

The question is "What can women do to assure a Democracy of the kind that you describe?"

Women can take a personal interest in education. They can study circumstances of our present civilization and back up such movements as they are willing to back which tend toward the general improvement in our standards of living. This does not mean purely in our material standards of living, for we are coming to realize that money alone does not improve those standards. The minimum of economic security is necessary, but the conception that one can have culture and recreational opportunities that are not entirely dependent on increase in income, is beginning to have a place in our national thought. Women can take the lead in assuming the responsibility for encouraging interest in civic and governmental affairs.

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The question is: "How did I happen to become interested in questions such as housing conditions, adequate wages, reasonable hours of work and broad educational programs?"

I owe my first interest to a very remarkable woman who was the head of a school I attended for three years in England, and who took me travelling with her and saw to it that I should see and understand many things which without guidance, would have remained meaningless to me. Mlle. Marie Souvestre was an old woman when I knew her, but her pupils have done many things and I imagine that she has inspired much liberal thinking for she required that you think out a problem for yourself, though she was quite ready to make a suggestion which would lead you down new pathways.

On my return from Europe, I found myself very shortly associated with older people who were doing such things as investigating labor conditions in stores and factories in New York City. I taught a class in a Settlement House, but all one's interests are really a gradual growth and the moving force is the fact that somewhere along the line you have learned to grasp every opportunity that comes to you for new experiences and new knowledge and above everything else, you realize that no individuals and no conditions must remain foreign to you. Only in this way can you become a really helpful citizen.

Federal Aid to Education.

It is my hope that ultimately when normal conditions are restored and we are not obliged to concentrate primarily on keeping groups of our people from actual want, and economy will not be our main object, then we will be able to have in our national government a new department which will include education, the arts, social welfare and health.

It is becoming increasingly evident, I believe, that the Federal Government must acquaint the nation with the condition of education throughout the nation, and perhaps give certain states some assistance in their educational programs. I know that this thought creates opposition because of the fear that it will mean controlled programs of education and less freedom for individual educators to experiment and carry out independent theories which have brought us progress along educational lines in the past. It seems to me that this can be avoided if the people are sufficiently aroused to the preservation of their own independent rights, in education as in all other matters.

March 21, 1936

Dear Miss Williams:

It was more than kind of you to write, and I am glad you feel the broadcast was helpful.

Thank you so much for the material, which I am very glad to have.

With all good wishes, I am

Cordially yours,

Miss Charl O. Williams
NEA
Washington