ELLEN S. WOODWARD
1934 - 1939
March 25, 1934

Dear Mrs. Woodward:

Mrs. Roosevelt asked me to thank you for your letter about placing Little Pearl Roberts in the Women's Work in Texas. She was glad indeed to know that this woman is doing so well in the job that was found for her.

Very sincerely yours,

[Signature]

Secretary to
Mrs. Roosevelt

Mrs. Ellen B. Woodward
Walker-Johnson Building
Washington
D.C.
TWO COLORED CITIZENS OF
JASPER, TEXAS GET CWA POSTS

Feb. 24, 1934

JASPER, Tex., Feb. 24.—In order to
insure the colored people of the
town of Jasper, and Jasper country
a square deal in the "New Deal" Mr.
B. R. Adams, and Mrs. Lillie Pearl
Roberts have been appointed Social
Service Workers among the colored
people by the local C. W. A. Admin-
istration, Mr. Harold N. West.

Mr. Adams and Mrs. Roberts work
together as they go from house to
house, in town and in the rural com-
unities investigating the living and
working conditions of the civil
work employees and those in need of work
or relief. After a close survey, they
make their report to the local C. W.
A. officials.

All persons in need of work or re-
lief are requested to submit their ap-
plication to these case workers and
they in turn contact the local author-
ity in behalf of the colored group.

During the three weeks they have
been employed many persons have
been re-employed who were dropped
and many have been given work who
had not been fortunate in getting any
work before. And some persons who
were not able to work, but in a
needy condition have been provided
with direct relief at first and em-
ployment afterwards.
March 22, 1934

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

One of the letters sent to us from you was from a colored woman in Texas named Lillie Pearl Roberts. We sent this letter to Mrs. Margaret R. Conger, Director of Women's Work in Texas, who in turn asked the county administration to see what they could do for Lillie Pearl. She was soon placed in charge of their work with colored women and is "making good" in no mistaken terms. The enclosed clipping tells us the story.

Very sincerely yours,

Ellen S. Woodward,
Director of Women's Work

Enclosure

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt,
The White House
My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

A short time ago you sent us a letter written by a boy of 18—William Behrens—a copy of which letter is enclosed. We sent this letter to Miss Ross in New York, and we are now forwarding to you a report which she sent us.

We thought you would be interested and glad to know that William may be started on a self-sustaining career.

Sincerely yours,

Ellen S. Woodward
Director, Women's Work.

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt,
The White House.
659 Rogers Avenue,
Brooklyn, New York
February 16, 1934

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I realize that your numerous activities take up most of your time and leave you very few leisure moments, nevertheless I am writing this letter in the hope that you'll be able to spare several seconds to listen to the plea that it brings.

I am a young man eighteen years of age. Last June I was graduated with honors, from the Alexander Hamilton High School and since then I have been seeking a position. Up to the present I have been unsuccessful mainly because of a physical handicap. About nine years ago I had an accident the result of which cost me my left arm. The employers, because they have so many others who look more physically fit to choose from, will not consider me an applicant although I know that I can do the work as good as good as any other fellow.

My folks had originally planned to have me continue my education in College but this plan had to be disregarded when my father's place of business closed. He was thrown out of work three years ago and has been unable to secure any work since. During all this time we have been struggling along on what little money my sister had been able to give us. Even this source of revenue has diminished for in the last year my sister's wages have been reduced fifteen percent.

Now that I have told you the predicament that my family is in I want to ask your aid in finding me a position. Any kind of work will be satisfactory for I know that I can do anything as good if not better than the next fellow. If you can and I fervently hope that you will be able to secure me a position you will be lessening a financial burden that is threatening to bury my family under its weight and for this I'll ever be indebted to you.

Yours truly,

William Bahena,
At your suggestion William Behrens called at this office on 3/16/34.

I learned from him that he is the younger of two children residing with their parents at the above address. His father was employed until three years ago, as checker in a warehouse, earning thirty-five dollars per week. Since that time he has had no employment. At present the only income in the household is seventeen dollars per week earned by William's sister, a telephone operator.

William, whose left arm is amputated above the elbow due to an accident, was graduated from High School, with honors, in June of 1933. He took the general course because he anticipated going to college. This plan has necessarily been abandoned for the present because of the precarious financial condition of the family.

In view of the fact that William is physically handicapped, we contacted the Employment Center for the Handicapped and arranged for him to receive from them vocational guidance and training, and possibly employment.

Very truly yours,

Bessie J. Segal (Signed)
Supervisor, Information Bureau
Dept. Public Welfare
Wm. I, Borough Hall, Brooklyn, N.Y.
July 27, 1934

My dear Mrs. Woodward:

Mrs. Roosevelt received the enclosed letter from [redacted], Terrace, Riverside, California, on her travels in the west. She asked me to send it to you, telling you that she is really interested in the case, and asking if something could be found for the girl, either in California or Illinois. Mrs. Roosevelt could pay her way home if work could be found there.

Very sincerely yours,

Secretary to
Mrs. Roosevelt

Mrs. Lilian E. Woodward
Director Women's Work, FHA
Washington
D.C.
September 11, 1934

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt,
The Executive Mansion,
Hyde Park, N.Y.

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Some time ago you sent us a letter enclosing a communication from Miss Elmira A. Tidd of Atlanta, Illinois.

We have received a report from the Director of Women's Work in Illinois as follows:

"Miss Elmira Tidd of Atlanta, was contacted by a visitor from the Logan County Emergency Relief Office at Lincoln, Illinois, at your request.

Miss Tidd is 69 years old, the last member of an old well known family. The father left some valuable land to his wife and two children, Charles and Elmira Tidd, but because of poor management on the part of the mother and daughter, the estate has been lost. The brother, Charles, died in Bartonville - a State Institution for the insane, and back of the family is a long line of ancestors with a strong strain of insanity.

Miss Tidd, who is educated and cultured, has hallucinations in regard to the treatment accorded her by certain parties in Atlanta, and thinks that she still owns her home and land. The bank owns her home but permits her to live there. She has been too proud to accept help but when visitor explained to her that she would not be considered a pauper but only as an unemployed person she gladly agreed to accept help.

Visitor called upon Mr. Wiley Montgomery, her legal advisor for years, and he says she is all right in all other respects except about her property and that it could have been saved but she would not allow anyone to advise her. He says she is in need of help for the necessities of life but would not allow anyone to help her in any way until this week when the Red Cross representative of Atlanta Chapter, Mrs. Maude Miller, told her to go to a grocery store and get what she needed. As she had reached the place where she had nothing to eat, she accepted this offer to the extent of one dollar.

She told the visitor about the letter she received from Mrs. Roosevelt's Secretary and was deeply grateful and happy to have received such a gracious reply.
Miss Tidd is unable to work but the Logan County Emergency Relief will certainly see that she has proper care."

It would seem that Miss Tidd's needs are now being met; but if you receive other letters from her we shall be glad to follow them up.

Very sincerely yours,

Ellen S. Woodward,
Director, Women's Work

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt,
The Executive Mansion
Hyde Park, N.Y.
My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

We wrote you a short time ago in sending you a short statement about Miss Ann Culbertson, whom you have referred to us earlier. We were not satisfied with the reports which we have had before, and so we wrote Mr. Conrad Van Hyning, who is in charge of the Social Service Division at the New York Emergency Relief Administration.

He has sent us a very complete report on Miss Culbertson and I am enclosing a copy of it.

Some time ago you had sent to us, correspondence from Miss Pakenham Byrne of New York City.

The very sad thing about both of these situations is that neither person is really capable of earning her living. The New York Administration is doing its best to place Miss Culbertson, but has grave doubts of a proper solution. They have asked her for complete information about her farm in Pennsylvania. I am sure that they will do all that is possible about this too.

From the report on Miss Byrne, it would seem that there is really nothing that can be done for her until such time after she becomes a permanent ward of the City of New York and will probably be cared for in some institution.

It would have been a more happy and satisfying letter if I could have sent you more optimistic reports.

Very sincerely yours,

Ellen S. Woodward
Director, Women's Work

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt,
The White House
TEMPORARY EMERGENCY RELIEF ADMINISTRATION

79 Madison Avenue
New York City

September 26, 1934

PERSONAL

S E P 2 7 1 9 3 4

Mrs. Ellen S. Woodward
Director of Women's Work
Federal Emergency Relief Administration
1734 New York Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mrs. Woodward:

I have had a personal conference with Miss Ann Culbertson whom you referred to me in your letter of September 12th.

I had Miss Summer, a psychiatric social worker with a good deal of experience, interview Miss Pakenham Byrne. Her report is attached.

Miss Culbertson is an old fashioned, rather quaint woman of about fifty. She has never been employed in any capacity other than that of social secretary, and in only one such position where she stayed for about ten years.

Previous to her employment, she and her sisters lived on the income from investments which had been left to them by their father who was president of a bank here in New York City. Evidently Miss Culbertson took secretarial training as a means of securing a position. She finished the course in 1919 and had had no practice in it other than that which would come from writing letters for her employer.

Miss Culbertson's purpose in writing to Mrs. Roosevelt was to secure her interest and help in finding another position of the same type. She had no idea that she was able to do any other type of work. I discussed with her all of the possible positions which we might be able to place her in, such as routine clerical work, secretarial, filing, etc., all of which she admitted quite frankly she would be unable to do. She felt her experience was insufficient to take office work and that her temperament would be such that she could not possibly stand the office routine. She hoped for some position in the social work field, but realized that she would be unable to stand the strain of a position as investigator in the New York City Home Relief Bureau which would be the only possibility of this kind.
I suggested to her that she might take a position as a reception clerk in one of the local Home Relief offices, but that the wages paid would be not more than $25.00 per week and probably not over $18.00 per week. She thought that she might be able to do this work, but said that the income would be too small to maintain her and her sisters for whom she is responsible. She inquired whether the work would be every day or whether she would have time off to find odd positions to supplement her income. I explained that such an arrangement would be impossible in such a large organization, and that it would be a full five day week.

We discussed this position at length, as it seemed to me the only possible opening we could find for her. Miss Culbertson agreed that she would try it, but felt it would be only a temporary assistance to her.

We discussed the farm which Miss Culbertson owns, which is in Pennsylvania, about eighteen miles from Harrisburg. It consists of about 180 acres of good land, and buildings which are considerably run down. It is rented at present, but the income barely covers the taxes. She has been holding the price at $12,000, but would sell for as low as $8,000. She hoped that some assistance might be given to her in disposing of this farm. One of her thoughts was that perhaps the A.A.A. might purchase it in their program of the acquiring of marginal and sub-marginal land. I have asked her to send in full details in regard to the farm as a means of doing whatever might be possible, although it seems that this would not be within the scope of the A.A.A. purchasing program. Also it would be extremely difficult for a public agency to attempt to act as agents in the sale of private property. The farm has been in the hands of several different real estate agents for a period of time, none of whom have been successful in getting any kind of an offer.

Miss Culbertson's situation seems to me to be not only a very serious one so far as she and her sisters are concerned, but an almost impossible one in which we can be of any assistance. I explained this to her quite frankly, and believe that she left realizing that while we understood her problem and were willing to help, that there was very little that could be done. In view of the resources which she has, there is no possibility of her qualifying as a relief recipient, and this, of course, was the last thing she wished to consider.

The income from her holdings is now reduced to approximately $600 per year, and interest against that on a $4,500 loan amounts to about $225 per year. One of these interest payments was due last May, and another is due in November. She is most concerned about meeting these payments in order to conserve the securities against which the loan is made. She feels that the loss of securities would leave them no resources.
She realizes also that it would be almost impossible for her to earn enough to accumulate this amount of money by the time the next payment is due and to maintain herself at the same time.

I discussed with her the question of a personal loan from some of her friends, but this, she said, would be impossible for her to request.

Miss Culbertson's own suggestion that some assistance be given to her in trying to find a position of the type that she has held seems to be the only possibility. How to conserve the resources of persons in her status to prevent the eventuality of their becoming public welfare cases is a problem to which the present relief program does not seem to offer any satisfactory answer.

We shall do our best to find some type of work which Miss Culbertson can do, and explore all possibilities in the white collar program. I am afraid, however, that the solution will not be found. As a first move I am writing to Miss Ball, Director of Personnel in the Home Relief Bureau in New York City to see whether there is any possibility of a position such as a reception clerk.

If you can make any suggestions to us that we might pass on to Miss Culbertson about disposing of her property in Pennsylvania, we shall be glad to have you do so.

Very sincerely yours,

/s/ CONRAD VAN DYNING
Conrad Van Dyning
Assistant Executive Director.

CVH:MA
Enclosure
At your request, Miss Pakenham Byrne was interviewed on 9-30-54. She is a tall, shabbily dressed, unkempt woman, probably about sixty years old. She accepted the contact with interviewer in lieu of yourself apparently without question. Her first approach was businesslike and her requests for work were modest, but during the course of the interview the same erratic ideas expressed in her letter to Mrs. Roosevelt began to assert themselves, and she exhibited a strong sense of injury with apparently definite delusions of persecution and grandeur. She spoke of the senate and government being peopled with her relatives; of people in high social positions parading under false names; said she did not see what could be gained by injuring her in order to give high salaries to officials; claimed that the money won by her "cousin", Mrs. Sloan, on her horse "Cavalcade" was actually put up by the government; and declared that she was brought up in Chicago by some cousins named Mansfield, that Secretary Hull, a first cousin, was really a Mansfield, that he maintained a brokerage business in Chicago under that name, and that he was also "Don Byrne" of the movies.

She also revealed that she had come to this country from Ireland in 1906 at the age of 29, had become an American citizen, had worked in department stores and had had a general merchandise store of her own in Brooklyn (She showed confusion here) which she closed up, without debt (another time she stated the government took it away from her) about 1930; that she had done some work for the Brooklyn Bureau of Charities, and that she was now receiving Home Relief. She remained calm and pleasant throughout the interview, seemed to have some realization of the fact that the TERA could not provide her with a job, and was apparently satisfied with our promise to get in touch with the Home Relief supervisor and pass on any information about suitable jobs if we should learn of any.

Further investigation has confirmed the impression that this woman is obviously psychotic and unemployable. She was referred to the Brooklyn Bureau of Charities in 1928 by the Y.W.C.A., apparently about the time her second hand furniture store was broken up. She was diagnosed by their psychiatrist as a case of "dementia praecox, paranoid type," with "a very bad outlook for the future". She was helped by that agency for a year, after which she seemed able to manage by herself.
They communicated with her relatives in Ireland, one of whom was the principal of a small rural school, but these were unable to help her. They did find that on coming to this country she had lived with an uncle in Chicago named Michael Mansfield, now dead, that she had been in a sanatorium in Illinois, and that she was a second cousin of Mr. Dodd who was then District Attorney of Brooklyn.

In 1932 Miss Byrne was known to the New York Association for Improving the Condition of the Poor, and a similar diagnosis of her mental state was given by their psychiatrist. She has also been assisted by the Emergency Work Bureau and Riverside Church, and the Central Registration Bureau for Women. She has received aid from the Home Relief Bureau since December, 1933. They find her difficult to deal with though friendly with the investigators and apparently able to make an adjustment in the community. It would seem that this woman has had about as much help as can be provided by the community in a case of this type. She will no doubt continue to write letters of complaint and if her condition grows any more serious, the interested agencies will take steps to have her cared for in a mental hospital.

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Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt,
The White House
My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

A short time ago you sent us a letter from Mrs. Elene Willis of Inman, New York, asking that it be fairly investigated.

We referred the matter to Mr. Tweedy, our Regional Engineer, and it has been handled through the Director of Information and Review, of the New York Emergency Relief Administration, who has just sent us a report, a copy of which I am enclosing.

Very sincerely yours,

[Signature]

Ellen S. Woodward,
Director, Women's Work.

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt
The White House
Washington, D.C.
October 5, 1934

Miss Ellen S. Woodward
Director, Women's Work
Federal Emergency Relief Administration
Washington, D. C.

Dear Miss Woodward:

After thorough investigation of the circumstances as described by Mrs. Elene Willis, of Inman, New York, in a letter to Mrs. Roosevelt, I have the following report to make.

The statement that the woman and her husband have been completely ignored by State and Local Welfare offices is untrue. Our Field Representative is interested in this case, and the local Welfare Officer is following the rules and regulations of the Temporary Emergency Relief Administration in adjusting the relief to be granted to the Willis couple.

Mr. Willis has admitted that he has refused work which has been offered to him and the family circumstances are such that they are not immediately in want.

The community in which they live is made up of locally minded persons and it is quite probable that the neighbors are none too cordial.

The Local Welfare Officer, who purportedly jeered at the Willis family, has been removed from office.

The person from Troy who, Mrs. Willis reported, worked on F.E.R.A. work, had never been and is not now on work relief payrolls.

Mrs. Willis has been unable to retain any positions which she had because of her trouble-making temperament and seems to be somewhat to blame for her supposed troubles.

As I have mentioned before, our representative in that district is working on a possible solution of this case which may involve transferring the Willis Couple to another locality where their neighborhood difficulties will not loom too large.
Miss Woodward, Director
Women's Work, F.E.R.A.

October 5, 1934

I hope that this report covers the reaction which you had to Mrs. Willis' presentation of her problem, as we are anxious to adjust such difficulties as these.

Sincerely yours,

/s/
Lisle Burroughs
Director
Division of Information and Review

LB:eh
November 10, 1934.

My dear Mrs. Scheider:

You sent us sometime ago a letter which you had received from Miss Lydia Meidels, 701 Hunting Place, Baltimore, Maryland about Mrs. John Hirsch of Medford, Wisconsin. I am enclosing a copy of this letter, together with a copy of the report which has just come to us.

The delay in receiving a report is explained in the letter received from Miss Goodwin, Acting Director of Social Service Division, of which I enclose a copy.

I know that you will feel glad that you sent us the letter, because the visit of the social worker has been of help to the family, and it will result in a helpful follow-up of the situation.

Very sincerely yours,

[Signature]

Ellen S. Woodward,
Director, Women's Work.

Mrs. Melvina T. Scheider,
Secretary to Mrs. Roosevelt
The White House.
Mrs. Ellen S. Woodward,
Director, Women's Work.
Federal Emergency Relief Administration
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mrs. Woodward:

I regret exceedingly that there has been a delay in reporting on the investigation of the conditions of Mrs. John Hirsch of Medford, Wisconsin, about whom you wrote us last month.

As I told you at that time, I was anxious to have one of our field representatives make this investigation and because of a very full program it has not been possible for the visit to Mrs. Hirsch to be made until just recently.

I am enclosing a report just received from our field representative regarding Mr. and Mrs. Hirsch. As you will see, their condition has been gone into very thoroughly and I believe the best possible arrangement for them has been made.

Very sincerely yours,

(signed) Kathryn D. Goodwin
Acting Director Social Service Division
Wisconsin Emergency Relief Administration
Subject: Hirsch, John and Catherine
Taylor County

Sometime ago you referred to me a request from Mrs. Woodward for an investigation in regard to this family.

I spent October 26 and 27 in Taylor County and am glad to have had the opportunity of helping to straighten out this difficulty. The Hirsch's are an elderly couple who have been living for the past 14 years on a 40 acre farm near Medford. The land and some stock and equipment was purchased in 1920 for $7450, $2000 being paid in cash. The assessed valuation on the farm in 1933 was $3120 and there is a mortgage of $4000 on the farm and a $500 mortgage on the stock, both of these mortgages being held by Charles Mathey from whom the purchase was made. In addition the State Bank at Medford has a chattel mortgage of $180 and there is due Mr. Mathey interest to the amount of $504. The taxes for 1932 are paid but the 1932 tax, amounting to $76.75 is unpaid, the certificate having been sold to Mrs. Mathey. Besides the initial investment Mr. Hirsch states that he has purchased $1000 worth of machinery, has improved the buildings in the amount of $500 and has cleared and broken 10 acres of ground.

The letter to Mrs. Roosevelt indicated that the mortgage was being foreclosed; this, however, is not the case. Mr. and Mrs. Hirsch have simply become so discouraged and so convinced that there is nothing to be gained by putting more time and effort into the place that they have decided to give up and turn it over to their creditors. I discussed this situation with them, and with Mr. Hirsch's cousin, Vincent Hirsch, cashier of the State Bank, and with Paul Jentsch, secretary of the Taylor County Farm Loan Association, and am convinced that this is the wisest course for them to pursue. Mr. Hirsch is 65 years old and is handicapped by varicose veins so that the physical labor necessary to operate the farm is almost too great for him. Mrs. Hirsch is bedfast and it is necessary to employ someone to take care of her; the 40 acres is not an economical unit and the debt is too heavy for the place. Mr. Hirsch has been further handicapped by the fact that his cattle are infected with Bang's disease, against which he has been unsuccessfully struggling for the past 5 years.

The Hirschs had planned to hold an auction October 30, 1934 and dispose of most of their equipment, retaining only their household furniture. They then plan to go to the home of Mrs. Hirsch's sister, Mrs. Paul May, a widow, living in Medford. Mr. Mathey had visited them the night before I arrived requesting their signatures to some sort of paper, agreeing that if the auction did not bring sufficient returns to cover his chattel mortgage and the interest, they would assume payment at a later date, and while they had not signed the paper they fully expected to be held responsible for all this payment. After consulting Mr. Andreasen, the District Attorney, a meeting was arranged between Mr. Hirsch and Mr. Mathey, and Mr. Mathey was persuaded to agree to accept payment of $250 from the proceeds of the auction and the deed to the place in full settlement of all his claims against the Hirschs. Mr. Vincent Hirsch, cashier of the bank, agreed to make a similar discount on their mortgage of $180.
This arrangement was a great relief to the Hirschs, who had been troubled and worried about their debt.

It was arranged with the Relief Department that glasses would be provided Mrs. Hirsch after she has moved into Medford. It may be necessary that she be taken to Marshfield to have her eyes tested. In this case Mr. Vincent Hirsch agreed that the relatives would be willing to pay the ambulance charges and the Relief Department will furnish the medical care and glasses. The Hirschs received some relief last fall and early this spring in the form of groceries and have been receiving medical care since then.

I visited the home of Mrs. May and am assured that Mrs. Hirsch will have a comfortable home. Mrs. May is much concerned about her brother and sister in law and very eager to help them. She will give Mrs. Hirsch her living room because it is sunny and pleasant and seems intent upon doing everything she can for her. A niece across the road, who has had some training in nursing, will come over to give hypodermics and other care.

I am particularly glad that we were able to take time to go into this matter. The Relief Department had not realized that they could do anything beyond providing material relief and the Hirschs are really in a tragic situation. Mrs. Hirsch became ill with T.B. of the bone four years after her marriage and spent 8 years after that in the Marshfield Hospital, having in all 22 operations performed in an effort to stop the disease. One leg has been completely removed and abdominal operations have been performed, but she still suffers a great deal of pain. She is very eager to save expense and administers her own hypodermics. A few years ago she tried to do her housework in a semi-reclining position in a wheel chair, doing all her cooking and baking. Mr. Hirsch has been devoted to her and states that everything he has made has gone to pay for her medical care. He is spoken of as a hard working thoroughly honest man. It is possible that the Hirschs would be subjects for rehabilitation. It might be possible to supply them with a little place on the edge of town where they could have a cow and chickens. Mr. Hirsch is a carpenter as well as a farmer and could get some odd jobs to do. However, it may be more satisfactory for them to continue living with Mrs. May. The Relief Department will be asked to follow it up.
Belto, Md
Sept 21, 1934

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt,

I would like to tell you about a very dear friend of mine, with whom I have been corresponding for twenty-five years.

Her name is Katherine Hirsch, she lives in Medford, Wis. Mrs. Hirsch has been and invalid and shut-in for twenty-six years; cannot walk. Spends most of the time in bed, part of the time in a wheelchair.

We have never seen each other, but look forward to a happy meeting face to face some day.

I have been writing to shut-ins since I was 17 and now I am 52 years old. It gave me pleasure as well as it gave them and I would love to send them a surprise box now and then. Their troubles became my troubles and their pleasures made me happy. I missed them as much as some friend who passed away in my own city.

I have read so much of your helping others, and taking so much interest in their problems. I feel as if perhaps you in your kind way could send some advice or cheer to this poor shut-in.

Mr. and Mrs. Hirsch expect to lose their little farm of 40 acres, cannot keep up their interest. Have a $4000.00 Real Estate Mortgage, the same party holds a Chattel Mortgage of $500, and the State Bank holds Chattel mortgage of $1300, on personal property. Would you be kind enough to write to them if there is something they could do to save their home? It must be a terrible fear to have such a thought constantly in one's mind. I would love to do something now, then the little I can, but for the past eight years, I have been lame and cannot go out to work. Now I cannot send Mrs. Hirsch as much as I would like too.

Please do not think this is a begging letter, but if some of your friends would like to help the dear soul to get enough money together to buy her new glasses which she needs so badly, it would be so appreciated. Mrs. Hirsch is a good Christian woman, she seldom complains and still finds so much to be thankful for. Said prayer has helped her over many a rough spot. Her name and address is -

Mrs. John Hirsch
Medford, Wis.

R.R. 5
Box 64.
Please do not think me forward in writing to you, but I am thinking and praying for some way out for my friend. I feel in my heart, if it is in your power to help, you will do so, and God surely will guide you. I thank you.

Sincerely yours,

(Miss) Lydia Maldeis
701 Hunting Place
Balto., Md.
December 20, 1934

Dear Mrs. Woodward:

Thank you so much for sending me the pictures of the little pickaninnies. They certainly are amusing and the President was very much amused by it.

I always have time for anything you care to send.

Very sincerely yours,
December 18, 1934.

My dear Mrs. Scheider:

The enclosed letter which we have just received from Ella G. Agnew, State Director of Women's Work in Virginia, is self-explanatory.

We know that you receive many foolish things but the pickaninnies are right cute! Also we note that it took three children to bear the one name, Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

Very sincerely yours,

Ellen S. Woodward,
Director, Women's Work.

Mrs. Malvina T. Scheider
Secretary to Mrs. Roosevelt
The White House.
December 14, 1934

Mrs. Ellen S. Woodward,
1734 New York Avenue, NW,
Washington, D. C.

dear Mrs. Woodward,

Some one came in from the field bringing an attractive little photograph of three namesakes of the President.

I thought you would be interested in seeing it and would pass it on for us. We want to be sure that either Mr. or Mrs. Roosevelt sees it.

I visited Norfolk this week and they are asking if you can postpone your trip until soon after the first of the year, when they believe they will have something interesting to show you.

They are planning a report of the Service Centers to be sent you with our December report.

With the season's greetings and best wishes for the New Year, I am,

Sincerely yours,

Ella G. Agnew
State Director
Women's Work

Enclosure
Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt,

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

As I did not know of any other way to get a letter to you I may be doing wrong by writing this letter, as my husband was working on that Relief work he has been discharged by only made $10.30 and there are three of us in family. He has one pay coming to him this Thursday. Now I have no coat or other adequate clothing for the cold months. I have been back for Relief and my visitor said I had another pay and I could get no relief. I was going to take the check and buy myself a coat and if I do they won't help me I wonder if it would be asking too much if in any of your traveling you had friends that are throwing away old clothes, I could make over.

I only have a thin sweater to wear which I got from charity last winter. Also as I am lame in one leg it makes it hard for me to try to do work in which I would have to stand at. My husband has never refused to work if only they would let him and get a moderate salary to live on and not half get by. If I could get a coat and some underwear I would try to find work myself but I would have to take my baby along who is 3 yrs she right now has no winter clothing and I simply cannot get it from my visitor. When I asked her she talks' to me like I was the dirt under her feet. So please don't make this public as I have so much faith in you. I hope you wont think ill of me for writing you but it is sickening to be cold, hungry and not a penny in your hand and have to depend on charity, because they will let the rent get bad and then wont pay it. Well then the landlords usually hold the belongings for the back rent.

So here is hoping I hear from you, and Oblige and Respect

Mary Ferley
2054 Vaverly Place, City.
January 11, 1935

Dear Mrs. Woodward:

The need for clothing everywhere seems to be becoming very much greater. This family evidently is not on relief. They have enough to eat and have shelter and I think sound honest as to the clothing situation and the bedding. Could you have an investigator visit them and see if anything can be arranged to meet this situation? This condition seems from my mail to be growing everywhere.

Very sincerely yours,

S:O

Mrs. Ellen S. Woodward

Letter from Mrs. Joseph Premo
Massena, N.Y.
January 17, 1935.

My dear Mrs. Scheider:

You sent us sometime ago a letter from Mrs. Mary Farley of St. Louis, Missouri, and I am sending you a report which we have just received on this family.

It is really heartening to find that in so many instances like this the Relief Administration of the state involved has been already looking after the needs of the families.

Very sincerely yours,

Ellen S. Woodward,
Director, Women's Work.

Mrs. Malvina T. Scheider
Secretary to Mrs. Roosevelt
The White House.
St. Louis, Missouri
January 10, 1955
JAN 17 1935
RE: FARLEY, Thomas -1972
      Mary -1905
      Marlene -1950
2054 Waverly Place (White)

Miss Lucille Bruner,
Missouri Relief and Reconstruction Commission,
412 East High Street,
Jefferson City, Missouri

My dear Miss Bruner:

We are sorry that our report pertaining to the letter which our client, Mrs. Mary Farley, wrote to Mrs. Franklin Roosevelt, has been so long delayed.

The family, composed of Mr. and Mrs. Farley and daughter Marlene, lives in one large furnished room. Mr. Farley, who is now unemployed, was on a Work Relief job from April to November, 1954. When placed on the Work Relief job, the budget was carefully discussed with him and it was agreed that with the $10.80 a week they could manage their ordinary expenses including $5.50 rent, $4.50 groceries, $.70 carfare, $.75 lunches and still have $1.35 left for incidentals and small articles of clothing. Supplementation for larger articles of clothing was given. The family seemed unable to make an adjustment to their income.

They continually telephoned or came to the office stating that their money was gone and that they needed a grocery order to last until payday.

According to a definite plan, relief was not given until one week after Mr. Farley was laid off, since each pay was to last one week. At the end of that time, we assumed responsibility for rent and groceries so that their needs have been consistently met at all times.

We have not discussed employment with Mrs. Farley because she has the four year old child at home. Then too, she is so obese we feel she would be unable to secure work.

Since Mrs. Farley had a good sweater, was not working, and it was not necessary for her to leave the home much, we felt that it was advisable to postpone purchasing a coat for her until they were cheaper. She is such an enormous size that it was impossible to find a second-hand coat. Arrangements were made for her to take advantage of the January coat sales. We presume she has secured her coat by this time.

We hope the above information is satisfactory.

Very truly yours,

/s/ (Miss) L.C. Rhue,
Superintendent, District 6
April 19, 1935

My dear Mrs. Scheider:

A little while ago we received from the White House, with no letter attached, a long handwritten letter to Mrs. Roosevelt from Mrs. Mary S. Martin of Wise County, Virginia.

You did not ask for a report on this, but it is so typical of what so often happens I thought you would like to have the file, so I am sending you a copy of Mrs. Martin’s letter and a copy of the report on the situation.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

Ellen S. Woodward, Director, Women’s Work.

Enclosures.

Mrs. Melvina T. Scheider,
Secretary to Mrs. Roosevelt,
The White House
My dear Mrs. Roosevelt,

I am just a poor mountain Missionary, but my heart is very warm toward the poor ignorant people. I will have finished my 15th year in this field first Sunday in May next. I work under the Abingdon presbytery of the Southern Presbyterian Church. I have been heart sore over the way this relief money has been handled, here, and I am enclosing these letters which will identify me. The Gov. of Va. is my friend, he gave me the first $25.00 on my little Ford when I came to this field. He is the largest Stockholder in this Luma County where I live. The Va. Iron and Coal Company lease the coal rights. This plant has not been working for several years and I have been so anxious to see some kind of a plant here that would give these people permanent employment. What will they do when this relief stops? Worse off than ever. The main thing we have thought of is our over-all factory. We are right here in the heart of the coal fields, where they wear nothing but over-alls. Empty houses a plenty for them to live in buildings for manufacturing electricity. Invest this money where it will be lasting.

We are trying to get them to farm and plant everything possible. I am sending you a little picture of myself at 70 years, January 19th, our great Generals birthday too, (Lee) and this is my house, the Coal Company enlarged and have paid no rent since coming to it. I am also sending you picture of private bus, what carried 35 of my children in my Mission Field to High School, pass my door every-morning. The D.A.R. in Philadelphia have sent me $16.00 per mo. for three years to help operate this bus. I have built three new Chapels, one here where I came, built 45 years ago. I attended four Sunday schools on Sunday, teach four Bible Classes, and come back home for a little prayer meeting in my home.

Can you suggest anything we could do to change conditions? I would love to talk to you 10 minutes. I was told of a family yesterday starving and not a days work will they give them. A family living right here under my view, a new baby expected not a rag to put on it. The welfare woman was notified, said she had no baby clothes, but went to a store and bought her two gowns 75¢ per gown, and told the man he would have to work it out. He told me, he worked 25 hours, for two small pairs of over-alls, two sweaters to wear with them, and a few other things. Do you think I got the baby clothes? Right there Washington, Mrs. James Trimble 1814 Carnon St. Mrs. James Trimble is a banker and older in central Pres. chronicle.

If you are at all interested call Mrs. Trimble, by phone, they can tell you about my work. The men tell me. The woman in charge tells
the men when they apply for work. Says will you trade at my brothers store? If you will, I'll see you get work. They gave a man work, that had two farms, and no children, and was carried and hidden several times for being drunk (Saw files.) These sewing rooms are a failure in Wise Co. I tell you my dear it costs more to get their little to them than it helps. Those men should be paid enough to get their clothes, and garden seed and let them trade where they can get it the cheapest. Think of the cost of handling the food and clothing and when they give it to them they have to work it out, and nothing to live on while they are working. What did these people do before, who never worked on public works? Farmers on their little mountain farms. I wish you could just see, what I see. I am no calamity howler, and not a person to report anyone did not call any names, but conditions are sad. I have clothed this mother and three of the little children where the baby is expected.

My hand is lame; and just had to get this out of my system. If you can help us, please do. May I ask that you return the letters. I saw you at "White Top" summer before last. I'm just an atom in these mountains but my heart beats warmly for these poor people, all good wished for you and our good President.

Mrs. Mary S. Martin
My dear Mrs. Scheider:

On March 9th you sent us the attached letter from Mrs. Edith A. Johnson of Detroit, and I'm sure Mrs. Roosevelt will be interested in reading the report on the case.

Sincerely yours,

Ellen S. Woodward
Director, Women's Work

Mrs. Malvina Scheider,
Secretary to Mrs. Roosevelt,
The White House.
5451 Vinewood,
Detroit, Mich.
Feb. 23, 1933.

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

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

While listening to a Radio Program, commemorating the birthday of our George Washington, I feel inspired to write a protest of a personal matter to you.

My grandfather's father fought in the Revolutionary War under George Washington and at the conclusion of the War my great grandfather was told by Mr. Washington to go home and be a good slave to his Master.

My maternal grandfather was James Madison Randall of Nashville, Tenn., and who at the conclusion of the Civil War took the name Green after his Master.

I am wondering Mrs. Roosevelt whether slavery was abolished at the conclusion of that War. I am a mother of four children. My oldest and incidentally my only daughter Clementine Edith Anna Johnson 16 years old, has recently entered Wayne University of this City. My youngest, a 7 months old baby boy is named after my maternal grandfather only I didn't like James but I have an uncle named Robert Madison and so that is Bobby's name.

My Bobby and my Warren do not look at all like colored boys, and if you think back you will recall that there is a reason why we colored people of African descent show our white blood.

My husband is one of the surveying engineers of Mich. through being a good democrat.

Personally, I have always been a Republican because we were told that Republicans were for our folks.

I have watched with interest your husband's experimental program, and I can't say that I feel he has not done his "bastus" and worked untiringly to alleviate the suffering of the poor masses.

My husband, Clement Charles Johnson, was a designer of special machinery at Ford's for 14 years. He was let out in March 1933.

I represent the 3rd generation of musicians on my maternal side.
Mrs. Laura F. Asborn, member of the Detroit Board of Education for the past 19 years, well tell you that I know my "piano" I have taught day school here and in Cincinnati, also piano for the past twenty years.

I applied in December for a chance to teach in this S.E.R.A. program. Where color was I put nothing and later Negro was printed in that space. Am I a Negro? I can't say. My father was 1/4 French 1/4 Indian and 1/4 white. My mother's mother and father were 1/2 white, 1/2 Negro, so what am I? I cannot say.

To make a long story short I was denied the opportunity to teach because my husband earns $100 per month, he is stationed 250 miles away. Must pay $1.00 a day for board and room $30 per month. That leaves $70 for all our expenses who can live on that with lard 17c/1b, bacon 27c/1b, butter 42c/1b, etc.?

Mrs. Searle claims I am not eligible to teach because my husband is working. Yet Mrs. Carr, a very estimable lady has charge of this program here, and she told me that she drives her husband back and forth to work. Many member of my acquaintances are teaching and their husbands are also working.

Why the unfairness? Why are cheaters allowed to cheat?

I am not conceited enough to think that you will help me but I'm writing just the same.

My husband bought me an electric sewing machine (paid down on it) and so I sew, I teach those I can get, my daughter takes subscriptions for the Ladies Home Journal etc. My boys sell the Free Press and clean snow also do odd jobs, but how can I keep my girl at Wayne? I must get $17 together by the 5th March, 5th April and 5th of May.

Money Money to you I realize is not scarce, yet I realize also that from what I have read of you that if you had $1,000,000 to give away I believe you would spend it quickly for good causes.

I greatly disagreed with your attitude toward smoking and drinking. I do not feel it is right for girls to smoke because with smoking goes drinking with drinking goes insensibility with insensibility rides a landslide and what has your daughter to boast of not even her self respect.

Yours sincerely,

Edith A. Johnson
April 3, 1935

Mrs. Ellen S. Woodward
Director, Women's Work
1754 New York Avenue, N.W.
New York, New York

My dear Mrs. Woodward:

At the request of Dr. William Haber, to whom you wrote on March 20 concerning a letter which Mrs. Edith A. Johnson, 5451 Vinewood Avenue, Detroit, Michigan, had addressed to Mrs. Roosevelt, I am advising you of the manner in which this case was handled.

Mrs. Ruth Searle, Wayne County Director of Work Relief in Education, visited the Johnson home at 4 o'clock in the afternoon, thus meeting all the children as well as the mother. She was able to confirm all the statements Mrs. Johnson made to Mrs. Roosevelt except that relating to employment of two members of the same family in several relief cases of Mrs. Johnson's acquaintance. Mrs. Johnson was unwilling to give the names of the persons involved.

Mrs. Searle's report indicates that she met all Mrs. Johnson's questions and fears in a tactful way. She explained that color of applicants must be noted for purposes of placement; she recited FERA regulations to show why Mrs. Johnson is not eligible for work relief in education; she described Freshman College and student aid programs. The latter were particularly interesting to Mrs. Johnson because her chief worry seems to be that her daughter, Clementine, may not be able to continue in school.

It was Mrs. Searle's impression that Mrs. Johnson would enjoy contacts outside of the home which temporarily (she has a baby 7 months old) she is forced to forego. However, Mrs. Searle thinks she succeeded in changing Mrs. Johnson's attitude to one more friendly to the relief program.

I am enclosing a copy of Mrs. Searle's letter to us. If you think of other steps we might take at this end of the line, please advise.

Very truly yours,

/s/ Orin K. Kaye
Orin K. Kaye
Director of Emergency Education

OSKb
Wayne County Emergency Relief Commission
555 Clinton Street
Detroit

March 29, 1935

Mr. Orin W. Kaye
Director of Emergency Education
709 Prudden Building
Lansing, Michigan

Re: Mrs. Edith A. Johnson
5451 Vinewood Avenue
Detroit, Michigan

Dear Mr. Kaye:

The writer called on Mrs. Edith Johnson in response to your request of March 27 for the purpose of investigating the family situation. The call was made at 4 o'clock in the afternoon when the mother and all the children were at home.

Mrs. Johnson was quite surprised at the response to her letter stating that she hadn't expected a reply of any kind. The house was very, very dirty and quite cold. One of the boys was attempting to build a fire in the furnace when the writer called. Mrs. Johnson apologized stating that very often during the day her fire would go out and it was difficult to get it started again. From all indications, she was preparing to do some laundry work because there were piles of dirty clothes in the dining room.

One of Mrs. Johnson's greatest worries is that her daughter, Clementine, may not be able to continue classes in school because of lack of funds. She had never heard of the freshman college program until it was explained by the writer; neither, did she know anything about part-time employment for students in colleges.

Mrs. Johnson teaches piano. Clementine sells magazines, both of the boys have paper routes and Mr. Johnson has steady employment in Everett, Michigan and drives home to visit with his family every second week.

The writer explained to Mrs. Johnson that it is necessary to note the color of applicants with a view to placement (there would be no mistaking the fact that the Johnson family are colored— they are all quite dark, although, they lack the heavy negroid expressions that some colored people have).

The writer questioned Mrs. Johnson about those friends whom she states are teaching on the EMA program where other members of the family are employed and Mrs. Johnson stated they were friends and she did not like to expose them.

The writer spent some time in the home and explained to Mrs. Johnson just why under our present policy she is not certifiable for an EMA job.
The situation summed up is probably this; Mrs. Johnson very evidently does not like house work. She is tied down with a young baby after having been free of this responsibility for a number of years and she feels very sorry for herself. She would like to get out of her home and renew contacts that she has been forced to drop.

The writer agreed with Mrs. Johnson that her situation is rather a trying one, but convinced her that the solution to her problem is something other than S.E.A. employment.

Sincerely yours,

Mrs. Ruth Searle
County Director
Work Relief in Education
COMMUNWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

EMERGENCY RELIEF ADMINISTRATION

11 South 12th Street

RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

April 2, 1935.

Mrs. Ellen S. Woodward,
Director, Women's Work,
Federal Emergency Relief Administration,
1734 New York Avenue, NW,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mrs. Woodward:

We have your letter of March 8th which included a letter from Mrs. Martin of Wise County which had been sent to Mrs. Roosevelt and which you forwarded to us. We are sending you a copy of a report which our Senior Case Worker sent to us regarding the situation in Wise.

It would seem that the difficulties are ironed out and Mrs. Martin is satisfied that we are trying to help all families who are in need in that county.

Very sincerely yours,

/s/ Ruth Baker

(Miss) Ruth Baker,
Asst. Director Social Service.

Enc.
March 28, 1936.

Miss Ruth Baker,
Asst. Director Social Service,
Emergency Relief Administration,
11 South 12th Street,
Richmond, Virginia.

My dear Miss Baker:

Your letter of March 19 has been received and I have made numerous inquiries regarding the criticism which has been directed toward the V. E. R. A. here in Wise County, by one Missionary friend, Mrs. Mary S. Martin. I have also had the privilege of meeting and discussing at quite some length our program with her. In this way, there have been quite a number of the misunderstandings ironed out.

In considering the criticism offered, we must keep in mind that Mrs. Martin is in her seventies and she is finding it quite difficult to get around to visit the homes of the people who are attending her schools and chapels. She has a real interest in building up something constructive and is exerting an influence of an uplifting nature among the people with whom she works. She has been located in the particular vicinity of Virginia City for the past thirteen years and although she is interested in the people in this section, she finds it difficult to make home contacts and collateral contacts in order to verify the statements made by the people who come to her requesting assistance. In her particular case, it is quite natural for her to request aid specifically for the people with whom she is acquainted, and she has, as I understand, made no number of attempts to influence the Case Workers in the Lipps district so that they should give direct aid to the people who come to her for help. In many instances, the facts connected with the cases she has referred to us, have not warranted our helping these cases and we have rejected them, much to her dissatisfaction. Due to her age which has made it difficult to investigate her cases adequately and her eagerness to be of help to the people of her mission, she has often confused the facts.

As you will see, in the third paragraph of her letter to Mrs. Roosevelt, she continually refers to the fact that someone told her this and that and she has taken the say-so of the client as being the actual conditions. As for the mortality case which she states we did very little for, and which prompted the letter from Mrs. James Trinkle, I have made a personal investigation in this home and found that what she said is not true.
The client's name is George Hyatt. I went personally with Mrs. Coman and Miss Bolton to Mr. Hyatt's home and found that a layette, sheets, and gowns had been given to Mr. Hyatt for the birth of the baby. In questioning Mrs. Hyatt, I discovered that Mrs. Martin had not been in her home for over a year. Mr. Hyatt had mentioned the fact that his wife was expecting a baby and asked Mrs. Martin if she could help. At the time that the layette and the other articles sent by Mrs. Martin, came to the Hyatt home, we had given her a layette and sufficient material in anticipation of the child. We also saw that she was attending in her delivery by a competent physician. As for relief, this family has been getting the maximum amount of everything, work and direct relief, which we had available to give. We know this has not been entirely sufficient but there is no reason for complaint because of other families receiving more than this particular family has and is receiving.

As for the specific charge which is made that only these cases are allowed to work who deal at the store owned by the brother of one of our Junior Visitors, I have made numerous inquiries and find that this is a rumor with not the least bit of truth connected with it. I have the greatest confidence in the judgment and honesty of Miss Bolton and Mrs. Coman and they enjoy the confidence of the majority of people who know what our work consists of. It is true that some people who have been rejected have spread this rumor attempting to harm our Visitors. There is also a matter of politics which comes into the question. Miss Bolton is a Republican, whereas Mrs. Martin is a Democrat. It may be that this has something to do with Mrs. Martin's feelings toward the work being done by Miss Bolton. As far as I can discover, there is no expression of politics on the part of Miss Bolton and there is no way in which she compels people to trade at her brother's store in order to maintain the client's status of relief. In order to dispel any question in this respect, we are making a notice on all our Work Assignment Sheets to the effect that our men will be paid by checks and that those checks can be cashed and purchases made at any place which might be chosen by the clients.

In regard to the sewing rooms, it was explained to Mrs. Martin that we can produce only a limited amount of clothing but that we are providing work for a large number of women. Due to the limitations of the amount of clothing, it might seem that the sewing rooms were not providing sufficient quantity to take care of the needs.
I trust that what I have said explains the situation as far as I have been able to gather the facts in my investigation. If there are any other criticisms which are made of our organization, I shall appreciate having these, in order to clear up any misunderstanding.

With personal best wishes, I remain,

Yours very sincerely,

ALBERT N. POWELL
Senior Case Worker.

cc:
Miss Haude Evans,
Field Supervisor,
Emergency Relief Administration,
Abingdon, Virginia.
Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Won't you please ask the President to emphasize in his talk Sunday night that employable women on relief will receive their fair proportion of jobs in the new program. I think this is important Mrs. Roosevelt, for when Civil Works was initiated, many people, including otherwise intelligent state administrators interpreted the statement "four million men will be put to work" to mean literally men and not men and women. It took weeks of effort and thousands of wires and letters to correct the erroneous impressions.

Today I have had local and long distance calls from a number of women connected with national organizations asking whether or not women on relief rolls were going to be given a chance for jobs in the new program. Although assurance has been given them by us, I think it would be a very fine thing if the President would make some reference to this matter, relieving the anxiety which now exists among many women. Since the projects mentioned in the press have been mainly projects on which only men work, there is much uneasiness felt by women all over the country.

I feel apologetic about writing you along this line for you are always on the alert to safeguard the welfare of needy women. I thought I should tell you, however, about the letters, wires and phone calls I have received.

My best wishes.

Sincerely yours,

Ellen S. Woodward
Director, Women's Work

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt
The White House
May 27, 1935

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I thought you would like to read the enclosed correspondence regarding Galen Allen, of Harold, Kentucky, who wired you on May 6th. It is gratifying to note the assistance that is being given in this case, which is apparently a very worthy one.

Sincerely yours,

Ellen S. Woodward
Ellen S. Woodward,
Director, Women's Work

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt,
The White House.
May 21, 1935

Miss Ellen S. Woodward
Director Woman's Work
Federal Emergency Relief Administration
1734 New York Avenue, N. W.
Washington, D.C.

Dear Miss Woodward:

RE: ALLEN, Galen
Harold, Kentucky

We are enclosing in duplicate, additional information regarding Galen Allen, in whom Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt is interested.

Sincerely,

(Mrs.) Loney J. Washbon
Social Service Director

LJ: NML:ar

CC - Pikeville AA
KENTUCKY EMERGENCY RELIEF ADMINISTRATION

Pikeville Area
Floyd County
Prestonsburg, Kentucky.
May 17th, 1935.

Mrs. Lucy J. Washbon,
Social Service Director,
Kentucky Emergency Relief Administration,
Louisville, Kentucky.

Re: Allen, Galen
Harold, Kentucky.

Dear Mrs. Washbon:

Mr. Allen is the boy in whom Mrs. Roosevelt was interested. The town raised enough money to send him to Arizona. Citizens appealed to us to help keep him there. We agreed at once to supply work relief in the home which is border-line, and requested that all or part of the money be forwarded this young man.

Home Visitor states that the boys father refuses to have his name on relief rolls at all, and would not permit her to take the application. Hence, thus far, it is only a service case with us.

An interested citizen has assured me he will notify me where they boy locates. I will then request you to get in touch with the office there and ask that some assistance be given him.

Will keep you notified of our contacts with the case.

Cordially yours,

Wilma G., May
Relief Worker
My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I am very eager to have a talk with you about the appointment of a State Director of Women's Work for New York. Mr. Herzog will soon be recommending someone and I would like to have your suggestions and guidance before anything definite is done.

I had a talk with Mrs. O'Day last week about this same matter and she has promised to think about this and give me the benefit of her advice.

It is too bad to intrude upon your much needed vacation, but I feel the need of your help very much. It is so important to secure the right person now.

Would you please let me hear from you? If you would prefer to discuss the matter with me personally I would be glad to go anywhere you suggest to meet you for even a few minutes talk.

I hope you are getting a little rest.

My best wishes,

Sincerely yours,

Ellen S. Woodward

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt
The White House
September 4, 1935

My dear Mrs. Woodward:

Mrs. Roosevelt will be glad to buy the hooked rug made by Miss Pearle Kennedy of Waterbury, Vermont. However, she has forgotten the price. Will you be good enough to let her know how much it is?

Very sincerely yours,

Secretary to
Mrs. Roosevelt.

Mrs. Ellen S. Woodward
Federal Emergency Relief Administration
Washington, D. C.
August 29, 1935

My dear Mrs. Scheider:

In compliance with your letter of August 8th we are forwarding herewith a report received from the Director of Women's Work in Vermont, concerning the hooked rug made by Miss Fearl Kennedy, of Waterbury, Vermont.

If you desire any further information about the rug we shall be happy to write for it.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

Ellen S. Woodward,
Assistant Administrator.

Mrs. Malvina Scheider,
Secretary to Mrs. Roosevelt,
The White House.
Mrs. Ellen S. Woodward,
Assistant Administrator, WPA
1754 New York Avenue, N. W.
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mrs. Woodward:

On Tuesday, August 20th, I drove up to Waterbury to see
Miss Kennedy and inspect the rugs. I find that she does not
live in Waterbury although her address is Waterbury, R. F. D.,
but on a farm in North Duxbury about five miles from Waterbury
village. We drove out there over a narrow, winding, country
road only to find Miss Kennedy away from home enjoying the un-
usual pleasure of an automobile trip with some friends.

I looked at her rugs and my conclusion was that the work-
manship was excellent but the color and proportion of the
design not so good. On Saturday afternoon, on my way home, I
went to North Duxbury again and had a nice chat with Miss
Kennedy. She lives in a tiny house at the edge of a wood and
in spite of very cluttered and uncomfortable surroundings, was
cheerful and happy. She is crippled as a result of infantile
paralysis but is attractive and intelligent.

Miss Kennedy is handicapped in making her rugs by lack of
materials as she has to depend upon donations of woollen scraps
and cannot always select the colors which she likes. I felt
that her prices were rather high but she said that they were set
by the young woman who has charge of the handicraft work for the
crippled polio victims and were in line with prices asked for
similar work done by other cripples throughout the state.

With Miss Kennedy's permission I took several of her rugs,
including the one about which she wrote to Mrs. Roosevelt, home
with me so that I might have the benefit of the expert opinion
of an aunt of mine who is herself a collector of such rugs and
upon whose taste and judgment I can rely. She agreed with me
that the workmanship is unusually fine, especially in the large
rug in which Mrs. Roosevelt is interested. Her criticism of
it is that the colors are a bit dull and the proportions not
perfect. The rug has a narrow black border. The design is that
of a whaling vessel, done in grey outlined in black, against
a background of shades of tan. There are touches of bright blue, yellow, and brown. The rug is hooked in what we know as the "ribbon stitch" which is beautifully done. We both feel that if Mrs. Roosevelt buys the rug she will be getting a piece of excellent workmanship even though the colors could be improved.

I have this morning returned the rugs to Miss Kennedy, except one small one which I was able to sell for her. I have written out the suggestions made by my aunt for improving her work and I am trying to secure more material and find a better market for her. I was very much impressed by her pluck and courage and her apparent ability to rise above her surroundings.

Please express to Mrs. Roosevelt my thanks for this opportunity of serving her.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ MARY JEAN SIMPSON

Director, Women's Division, V.E.A.

MJS/C
November 16, 1935

My dear Mrs. Woodward:

I think for a national advisory committee that Mrs. June Hamilton Rhodes, 366 Fifth Avenue, New York City, and Mrs. Mary Dillon of the Consolidated Gas Company of Brooklyn, would be two good people. Mrs. Dillon is a Republican but very forward looking. I think it would be a very good idea to have men also on the committee.

I will send you any other suggestions I can think of.

Very sincerely yours,

Mrs. Ellen S. Woodward
F.E.R.A.
My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Recently I have been discussing with Mr. Hopkins plans for appointing a national advisory committee to assist us with the direction of the women's work program. I believe the time has arrived when we should consider future objectives very carefully; I am especially eager to have this committee devise ways and means if possible for preparing at least some of the women assigned to work projects to go back into private industry. Mr. Hopkins agrees with me that it would be very helpful to have such a group.

I am at present preparing a list of names of women whom we should consider for membership on this committee. I should appreciate it so much if you could take a little time to give some thought to this matter and pass on to me names of persons who you think would be suitable in this capacity.

I feel that the group should be kept as small as possible but of course I realize that there are many excellent organizations which must be represented so that it will probably turn out to be a fairly sizeable committee. Do you feel it would be wise to appoint a few outstanding men, for instance, industrialists who could logically be expected to make constructive efforts to work out plans for placing some of our women back in private employment?

My Regional Directors of Women's Activities are at the present time helping me to select state advisory committees; we shall be ready very soon to confirm these appointments.

I am starting on Wednesday morning, November 13th, for a short trip, in the course of which I shall make contacts with the Directors of Women's Activities in most of the western states and in one or two other states en route. I shall stay for a week in Salt Lake City, from there I go to San Francisco and Los Angeles, and then back by way of New Mexico, Texas, Oklahoma, and Arkansas.

I shall be back here in Washington during the first week in December. If you should have any messages for me my assistant, Miss Agnes S. Cronin, will be glad to transmit them to me promptly since, of course, I am going to keep in close touch with headquarters.

Very sincerely yours,

Ellen S. Woodward
Assistant Administrator

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt
The White House
Washington, D. C.
December 17, 1935

Dear Mrs. Scheider:

I thought Mrs. Roosevelt might like to see the attached file of correspondence with Mrs. Gladys Wilder Smith of Swainsboro, Georgia. It includes the original letter from Mrs. Smith referred to us, which you may remember was quite critical of the Administration, a copy of our reply, and Mrs. Smith's answering letter. We were much gratified by the very favorable change of attitude shown in Mrs. Smith's second letter.

Miss Jane Van de Vrede, State Director of Women's Activities for Georgia, was in the office yesterday and told me there is a good possibility that Mrs. Smith will be given a position in the Commodity Distribution Division.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

Ellen S. Woodward
Assistant Administrator

Mrs. Malvina T. Scheider
Secretary to Mrs. Roosevelt
The White House

My dear Miss Downey,

Enclosed is a copy of the letter that I am enclosing here, as one of the many people interested in the letter that the President wrote me. I am writing to inform you of the interest of all the people living in all eleven of those houses.
In our Country, I only want the opportunity to show them that free Georgians are their loyal friends. I have endeavored to explain the New Deal to critics as I have understood it and to convince them of the good of the program. To show them the necessity of such a program, I have tried to contact organizations and to interest them in the unemployed.

I am writing once Jefferson, as you suggested, applying for a place with N.P.A. I will greatly appreciate your writing let in my behalf. Whether the time now the position is not I await in some way it come time to show it done. Accept this and you my appreciation in some way by deed rather than word, and in the coming 1936 campaign, will exert every effort in my small way to help your great leader.

Sincerely,

Hodge Dr. Smith.

Mrs. D.D. Smith, Bradenton, Fla.
for some time I have debated
writing this letter to you, but for
several reasons have hesitated,
however, the more I mingle with
the people of my County the more
impressed I am that I should write.

My reasons for not writing
more first, because I have seen and
answer to many, many "complain"
letters from Relief applicants and
clients that I do not care for a letter
I write to be thus classed nor to
be through the regular channels of
such letters. Not that I would care
that officials "hunker up" would see
what I am going to say but I want to
have a personal talk with the wife
of one great leader because I know
she is interested in - the "New Deal"
program. If this is accepted as
absolutely personal and private
please read on, if not please delete
at once.

My second reason - I have
until September first been a Case
worker and do want you to
think I am writing a "For Free"
letter. I was not discharged, but
since funds for F.E.A. were short
and the transfer to F.E.A. Connery
and some of the County Aides (the
only ones whose homes were in this
County) had not had special training
under the program 1 was relieved
more or less continued with a very
pleasing letter of appreciation
from Mr. Ford County Aide. I
also were offered special training
at the University of Virginia. I
accepted, made all arrangements,
was housed and packed and were
all ready when most came that
money was out so our County had
not part in the Aide training pro-
grame.

Now I think I had best introduce
myself, for a person can better un-
derstand another after knowing some-
thing of them. Had I not read of your
interest in different classes of humanity
and read articles written by your
words never have dared write this.

First, I am in the forties, an
age when it has been said “life
begins” but that cease was to be consid-
ered too old for profitable work.
I am the mother of five children
and the wife of a decimal physi-
cian, a physician, who has had
a good practice for a number of years. The stretch with nothing, together we saved and lived comfortably, bought a home and invested in necessary instruments for his practice and in our children until the depression came. Then those patients who had always paid paid me months if we could go to the already non-paying part of practice once added to some of the best people of the county. They must be cared for as greatly and our payments went for expenses and then it became necessary to mortgage the home and also take the oldest boy out of college. When the second boy finished High School he began working in a drug store and I suppose with time been more had rest. The New Deal program started... because of the fact that I had always taken in the activities of the town, I was selected by the County Committee under Mr. Salmadge as Social Worker. May I tell you of these activities and then come back to my Relief work? I was an A. B. MedHum & Baccio Diet.
College, May 7, 20. Have always been interested in the work of the church, having been teacher of Bible Class and Missionary Class. Have held office for six years as local president of Parent Teacher Association, from 1906 to 1912, as district president and for one year as state officer. Am at present time first vice-president of State Tuberculosis Department. Am a B.A.R. member of my chapter and fully supporting the necessity of such an organization,organized during the depression and Associate Committee for our town.

Am giving this personal history to show how intensely interested am in my people and that I saw the necessity of the policies of the Red Cross. These in always combined with the good and I want you to know all as here goes.

When Georgia changed from State to Federal supervision and Miss Edith Drew was made District Supervisor, I was placed in charge of supervisor tree sent to our county, who did not agree with the policies of some committee.
Knowing the men of the Committee and knowing how interested they are in the people of the County, even if they had been Delaware supporters, I agreed with the local Committee on the needs of the County. We had investigated needs there are so few people only came to office and were facing the demands of statistics and theory I tried to foster one joint and to draw her down but together with my appointment with the Delaware administration made the party I should be displaced. Nothing was wrong with my rank, however, until C. W. A. transferred the right of the transfer a sister of mine was passing the crisis in a very critical illness at our local hospital. We worked until three o'clock in morning in spite of this and some mistakes were made in transfer. Several people were transferred who should not have been and I was declared inefficient in an administrative and offered a place as Commissioner. I think I should have been given such a position. I could have explained but I lost my
October 7, 1939.

Citizens and Accepts Core - work. I really have enjoyed coming in direct contact with the people much more. I have made lasting friends. I have found things exciting. I did not dream that I would play in my country. Above all, things I have been able to interpret to the people, my regular friends and associates, the program, that the New Deal means its excellence. I have been able to show them existing conditions in our County, to prove to them the condition of a family will not always their fault. I have been able to make plans for families whom the New Deal can not help. But above all I have been able to instill a hope in a person that had lost hope. I have been a light, maybe after months of work, talk, and discouragement, come into a person’s face. I have been told I know now I have a friend.

Mrs. Roosevelt it’s a great and glorious feeling even if it takes years.

Forget sometimes I am no
longer a farmer, but only an old pair. And why this long explanation? Mrs. Rosencrantz people need care. Work on the C.W.A. program to avoid a failure. I believe because of looking alike. The people who are on relief. Roles in the rural sections are people who are customers, unable to buy anything except for the day, never paying over $5. The landlord will return the money. These people need permission. Some of them are already taught to walk and many of them I help secure a permanent place by talking to the landlord and having firm from the persons involved. But the others are our CCC boy families!! Will they be at the end of the year as he of my belief. Client who came back after the trip nothing, not even winter clothing and stated "forever in my life I had plenty to eat." Somewhere got in a grand thing but will the A.A. last a year? If it does not then m
will have the peace until to fight again. In this section of according to the individual opinion by a looks back on the Great New Deal program, the F.D.R. program was feet in the foot, first relief feels sick for those who carried the burdens the unemployed before the program. They gave to the needy until it hurt and during the program they have begun to "get on their feet" against feet of the those who cannot be transferred. The are the same back in the community we will soon to as we were before the program started.

I know him saying everything that contradicts the idea of how who control this program stated that they say "rich and such, improvement should be" they are right according to them, but at rock bottom according to humanity, are they? Your mind to theIDDLE AIDED economic situations why not in Rural South.
Georgia? In making a program
why not call in some of the
families to give their
opinions on the situation?

Once upon a time I was
asked by a Mr. Leaven Relief
Agency in Washington on
ideas of closing Relief insti-
tutions. I studied every section
of my county for three weeks;
then went into every corner of
the land, small, cow, hog, and
chicken and a garden. Of course
I realize I was not the only one
asked not the only answer of
this kind but I am very proud of
the fact that I had a little finger
in the Re-settlement Program.

It may be I am prejudiced
against W.P.A. for another reason.
One of my aides who was re-
moved was a woman with two
children. She was not paid,
the work was not finished, paying for
her car. She had not been
approved as a teacher.
Another side need tremendous to pay back taxes and paying notes and after paying present taxes will have nothing. She cannot qualify for non-disabled.

A stenographer went recently if sick and a husband who was out of work and his family is out of work.

A girl from Enterprise and helping her brother through college was notified Sept. 10th of her release. She has been unable to find anything and needs taking the brother out of college.

These are examples of some marginal cases who cannot qualify for Relief and yet need work. Is there no place for them? Had the administrative staff not been cut this month and perhaps by other Districts there is work to procure. And not a single person living in our County, one kept in the County offices to see every day money spent for welfare.
by a worker not thinking the County that could have been

Every penny of my salary was spent on a College education for
my two children. One is already
not and the other, who takes pre-
take. At 16 if I can, see's being taken
after suate. That are my
people who can eat three meals
a day and have a change of
Clothing to do about the education of our children? The Relief
Rolle have the largest number
in their families but don't at
these are indifferent to edu-
cation? What will our future
citizens be if our children are
not educated?

Speaking of things "higher-up
officials" do not see I want to
mention a pet project on led
in this County - a furniture
project. Our people on Relief
made everything a home-
used. I kept Relief people they
and developed the homes. These my first started, and found homes without beds or chairs. The people thought these articles when given there, the most wonderful. One man even threw a nail in the wall to hang his chair on so that the nice could use it when she invited him. The engineers did not think the project practical even tho' once they became himself came to see it and no argument could stop them from abolishing the project. After the Borden Bell last year one of these lines together with the donations went to the little white house.

It's a wonderful work! If I were able to finance myself I'd gladly do this work always for the joy of doing, not since the New Deal is in existence. I could not work with those people without authority. This is what I'm begging for.
want to work with my people. Even if I haven't had college social work training, I have had training in the school of experience. I have worked with these people as a hired hand three times. People are literal. Conditions, people and circumstances. They want to feel and do. From the County, gave letters understanding them. One does not absent and give letters secretly. I love my people. But cannot work with them. Without authority. And if I could tell you the history of the conditions the people of County three years ago and the gradual development of our program in our County.

Here I complained. I wasn't intended to. Every person is making their do a good job. I'm just so free of it. I want to be a part of it.

Come and see me there.
Sincerely,

Hedge Welden Smith

Mrs. J. D. Smith

Roxana, Ill.
December 2, 1935

Mrs. D. D. Smith
Swainsboro, Georgia

Dear Mrs. Smith:

Mrs. Roosevelt has asked me to answer your letter of October 27. I hope you will understand that this is in no way a violation of your confidence. It is impossible for Mrs. Roosevelt to answer personally the many letters she receives and she has asked me to answer this letter for her since my work is so closely allied to the problems in which you are interested. She asked me particularly to tell you how much interested she was in the views expressed in your letter and also to express to you her appreciation for your sincere interest and devotion to the people of your county. We both understand fully your desire to continue helping them.

We here realize that it takes considerable time to put into effect a national program of such vast scope as the W.P.A. During this time and until the shifts from FERA to WPA can be accomplished certain individuals are no doubt suffering hardships which the most conscientious and hardworking administrator cannot possibly avoid. There is, as you know, no sure and certain road to success but we are confident that WPA will give useful and self-sustaining employment to millions of persons who would otherwise be on relief, and that in so doing it will stimulate private initiative and create employment opportunities for them and for other persons who are in need of work.

You will be interested to know that we in this office receive many reports from persons who have been able to secure employment in private industry because of the skill and training they received on work projects. As you know, it is our aim to do away with the necessity for government relief. We want to return American citizens to a basis of self-respecting independence and we believe that the WPA is one method of bringing about this result. I hope we may have your sympathetic interest and cooperation in this program.

With regard to your own situation I want you to know that under WPA we in Washington neither select nor appoint personnel in the states. This matter is entirely in the hands of the State Works Progress Administrations. As you probably know, Miss Gay Shepperson is the State Works Progress Administrator for Georgia, and her address is 10 Forsyth Street Building, Atlanta. I would suggest that you write to her stating your qualifications and your desire to be considered for work in the new program. In an effort to be helpful to you, I shall be very glad to write to Miss Shepperson, telling her of your interest in the people of your county, and of my suggestion to you that you communicate with her.

Sincerely yours,

Ellen S. Woodward
Assistant Administrator
January 10, 1935

HARRY L. HOPKINS
ADMINISTRATOR

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION

WALKER-JOHNSON BUILDING
1744 NEW YORK AVENUE NW.
WASHINGTON, D.C.

December 21, 1935

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I think you will remember that I told you last week I was anticipating some difficulty in connection with maintaining the proper place of the Women's Division in our organization.

At the present time plans are being made to reorganize the administrative set-up in the states so that the machinery will be more simple and the work more efficient, we hope. In principle I am heartily in accord with this idea but I am rather perturbed by recommendations which have been made which would remove the State Directors of Women's Activities from the staff of the State Administrator and put them into an Operations Division under the direction of an Operations Manager, who would probably be an engineer. This procedure, I am very much afraid, would greatly narrow the sphere of their activities. In fact, I do not think that this arrangement would work out well for the women. I am convinced that the only way of safeguarding the idea of putting women to work in the same proportion as men is to give the State Director a position of prestige on the staff of the Administrator, where her counsel will be regarded in connection with any project which might employ women.

I know that Mr. Hopkins has a genuine appreciation of what the Women's Division has been able to accomplish, and that he realizes the need of reaffirming from time to time the necessity of giving women a fair and just share in the Works Program. I have told him that I do not think he can afford to agree to any reorganization plan that would tend to lose any of the ground we have gained for women in this program.

The engineers who have made recommendations for this new plan of organization have only recently come into our Administration and they do not know about the difficulties inherent in putting women to work. It is very hard to make them see anything but the construction side of the Works Program. I feel very strongly that our women who have proved their ability must be given a pretty free hand — they must be entrusted with the task of planning and operating women's projects or, inevitably, the proper insight and understanding of women's problems will be lacking. Approximately one-sixth of the persons to be given jobs on this program are women. From every standpoint — political and otherwise — I think it would be very bad to minimize the women's program in the states.

I dislike to take your time at this busy season, but I
feel that I should pass on to you the present status of this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Ellen S. Woodward
Assistant Administrator

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt
The White House
April 10, 1936

Dear Mrs. Woodward:

I have your letter of the sixth, and I would be very glad to have the story written as you suggest.

Very sincerely yours,
Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Your mail, that we are proud to be answering in the Women's Division, has recently taken interesting and significant new trends, which are indicated in the copy of a memorandum herewith attached.

Miss Eleanor Carroll, of our press staff, suggests that this is a good time to release a story about the problems which your mail reflects, the happy endings that are sometimes a result of the answers, the national need for social security and minimum wage legislation which the letters to you inarticulately stress.

Miss Bess Furman, of the Associated Press, has expressed eagerness to write this story. We feel that with her it would be in competent and understanding hands, and that her position with the Associated Press would assure it effective national distribution. I believe that such a story would counteract the heartless misconstruction put upon the handling of the President's distress mail, as published recently in the Washington Merry-Go-Round.

May I know your wish in this matter at the earliest convenient moment?

Sincerely yours,

Ellen S. Woodward  
Assistant Administrator

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

TO: Mr. Harry L. Hopkins
FROM: Mrs. Ellen S. Woodward

SUBJECT: White House Mail

April 6, 1936

In the past few months, the letters referred from the White House to the Women's Division of the Works Progress Administration have increased not only in volume (to about 400 a month), but also in the number of problems raised.

With the new approach to the relief problem, and the transition from direct and budgetary relief to the work program, the method of handling these letters had to be reviewed and some research work done in order to answer them intelligently and helpfully.

Lists of agencies to which the writers may be referred have been compiled, and an effort is made to see that each person receives information which will be of assistance to her in securing aid or employment.

The letters come under the following general headings:

1. Writer considers herself eligible for assignment to WPA but has not yet been assigned.

   The reply advises the writer that this matter is under the jurisdiction of her State or local administration, and a copy of the letter is referred to the proper person in the State, with the request that an investigation be made, and if the facts are as stated, an assignment be made if possible.

   Reports from the States indicate that during the months of January and February about 15% of all letters referred were adjusted in this manner.
2. Writer is ineligible for WPA employment because of disability. --

The reply advises that the person write to the Vocational Rehabilitation Service, or such other service in the State as may seem able to help her. Copy of letter is also referred to agency, with a request that assistance be given.

3. Writer is ineligible because of age. --

The reply advises writer to get in touch with the State Department of Public Welfare, or whatever agency handles old-age pension applications, provided, of course, that there is an old-age pension law in the State in question, and if the person appears from her letter to be eligible for such benefit. The Social Security Act is explained. A copy of the letter is referred to the proper agency in the State with the request that the case be investigated and help be given if possible.

4. Writer is ineligible for WPA because over 65 years old, but State old-age law provides beneficiary must be 70. --

Such persons can only be advised to apply to their county welfare agencies.

5. A mother is ineligible for WPA employment because she must care for children at home. --

The mother is advised, if she cannot provide adequate care for her children while she is employed, to apply for mother's assistance under the "Aid to Dependent Children" laws, if such a law exists in the State in which she lives. The Social Security Act is explained. A copy of the letter is referred to the proper agency in the State, with the request that the case be investigated and help be given if possible.

With regard to paragraphs 3, 4, and 5, it has been interesting to note that in those States -- Georgia, Arkansas, Missouri, etc. -- where social legislation has lagged behind, e much
larger percentage of letters are received from persons in these categories than in those States where there is more advanced legislation.

6. Security Wage not sufficient to meet budget. —

Large families or need of special medical care are usually cited as reason for inadequacy of wage. An explanation of the program is given. The referral letter to the State calls attention to the particular situation, and asks that the case be investigated and requests that supplementary aid be given if the situation warrants such aid, and if it is possible to do so.

7. Wage received in private employment not sufficient to meet budget requirements — writer wants to be assigned to WPA or to receive additional relief. —

This is a situation that is extremely difficult to meet, with the termination of ERA in many States. An explanation of the limitations of the work program is given to writers, and they are advised to apply for supplementary relief from their county welfare agencies. Copies of these letters are referred to State relief or welfare agencies.

With regard to this particular category, again we find a much greater percentage of letters from those States where no minimum wage or maximum hours legislation is in effect.

8. Writer has lost work in private industry because of NRA Supreme Court decision — either the abrogation of Clause 7 a, or the lengthening of hours.

Again a difficult problem, as in most cases these persons are not on the relief rolls, and therefore are not eligible for WPA. Where the need seems to be especially great, it has been suggested to the local administrations that an effort be made to find places for these persons under the 10% non-relief exemption order.
9. Women 35 to 65 years of age unable to secure or hold position in their regular employment because of age, who are still not old enough for old-age pension. --

These persons are advised to apply to vocational agencies for retraining advice.

One letter was from a woman writer who wanted to make a study of this problem as a research project either for WPA or some other public or private agency. We referred this letter to the head of WPA Social Research Division. His reply was that such a study was being made by Mrs. Chase Going Woodhouse, and that another study would be a duplication of effort.

It is to be hoped that this study will offer some solution for this problem, which is an extremely pressing one in the present situation.

10. Many single women resent the fact that married women are working, and ask that these women be forced back into their homes. --

These persons are referred to publications of the Women's Bureau of the Department of Labor. A wider distribution of these publications would appear to be desirable.

There are relatively few cranks; most of the letters are written as a direct result of radio talks, magazine articles, etc., by and concerning Mrs. Roosevelt.

11. At the present time, a number of letters are coming in from persons who have lost their WPA employment because of reductions in quotas. --

We are planning a study of work opportunities in the various communities, so that recommendations as to the number of women that may be included in these reductions may bear some relation to their opportunities for employment in private industry.
Letter from Mrs. V.E.D. Howard, 228 Morgan St., N.W., Washington, D.C.,

wants support for the children of her brother who was lynched.

April 20, 1936

My dear Mrs. Woodward:

Would you have this matter looked into and see if something cannot be done by
the State for these children which would be permanent? I would be willing to give a
small contribution but that is only temporary help.

Very sincerely yours,

Mrs. Ellen S. Woodward
F.E.R.A.
May 16, 1936

My dear Mrs. Woodward:

Mrs. Roosevelt was interested in the report you sent to her on the Dandy family. She asks me to thank you very much for what you are doing in this case.

Very sincerely yours,

Malvina T. Scheider
Secretary to Mrs. Roosevelt.

Mrs. Ellen S. Woodward
Works Progress Administration
Washington, D. C.
May 11, 1936.

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I am enclosing a copy of a report which I have received in the case of the Norris F. Dendy family, of Clinton, South Carolina.

I am making further investigation of this case since the letter from Mrs. V.E.D. Howard, 228 Morgan Street, N.W. Washington, D.C., which you referred to me, would indicate that the situation is rather more distressed than might be inferred from this report.

I shall be glad to send you any further information that I receive on this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Ellen S. Woodward
Assistant Administrator

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt
The White House
TEMPORARY
STATE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE
South Carolina

April 30, 1936

Miss Lavinia Keys
Assistant Commissioner
State Temporary Department of Public Welfare
Columbia
South Carolina

My dear Miss Keys:

Re: The Norris F. Dendy Family

We have no record of the above-named family in our office, but according to your request an investigation has been made. I wish to submit the following information.

Amanda Dendy, wife of Norris Dendy, has remarried and is now Amanda Rose. She has the two eldest children with her, and Martha Dendy, the paternal grandmother keeps the three youngest children. Amanda is a servant in the home of Mrs. William Plaxico, Clinton, S.C., making $2.50 per week. Her husband owns and operates a restaurant in Clinton. Norris Dendy's parents, Young and Martha Dendy, who are now supporting the three youngest children, own six lots and seven buildings in Clinton, valued at $3,160.00, on which the city taxes are paid up to date. The house they occupy is a nine room structure, freshly painted, screened and beautifully furnished. They are respected in the community as quiet, unassuming negroes. Martha does laundry work for the boys at Presbyterian College, making approximately $3.00 per week.

Norris Dendy was lynched in Clinton, July 4, 1933. A white boy had driven a truck of negroes on a pleasure trip to Lake Murry, during which time a quarrel and fight took place between the driver and the Dendy man, who was drinking. Dendy was subsequently locked in the city jail. The night following, he was removed from the jail by a mob. The community at large felt that the bad affair was inexcusable and efforts were made to discover and convict the leaders. A trial was eventually held but resulted in an acquittal.
4/30/36
Miss Lavinia Keys

We trust that this information regarding the present situation will be helpful in making a plan.

Very truly yours,

Mary L. Bailey

Mrs. Mary L. Bailey, Acting Director
County Temporary Dept. of Public Welfare

MLB: od
cc: Miss Martha Pressly
Field Representative
June 4, 1936

Dear Mrs. Woodward:

Could you ask someone in Cleveland to investigate this case? If the girl's statements are true Mrs. Roosevelt will try to do as she asks.

Very sincerely yours,

Malvina T. Scheider
Secretary to
Mrs. Roosevelt

Mrs. Ellen S. Woodward
1734 New York Avenue
Washington
D.C.

Mildred Leas, Lowman Pavillian, City Hospital, Cleveland wants a bathrobe and pajamas - tubercular patient
June 8, 1936

My dear Mrs. Woodward:

Mrs. Roosevelt asked me to thank you for sending her the letters from Mrs. Southworth, Mrs. Bethune and Mr. Blackus. She read them with much interest and with gratification at the success of the program in Florida.

Very sincerely yours,

Malvina T. Scheider
Secretary to Mrs. Roosevelt

Mrs. Ellen S. Woodward
1734 New York Avenue
Washington
D.C.
June 2, 1936.

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I feel that you will be interested in the enclosed two letters from Florida, from Mr. L. G. Blackus, Director of the Negro Welfare Council, and from Mrs. Mary M'Leod Bethune, President of the Florida Emergency Advisory Council for Negroes, which were relayed to me with a covering letter from Mrs. Rolla A. Southworth, State Director of Women's Activities, for purposes of explanation. I am enclosing a copy of her letter also.

Sincerely yours,

Ellen S. Woodward
Assistant Administrator

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt,
The White House.

Enclosures.
Office Of The State Chairman
Bethune-Cookman College
Daytona Beach, Florida

May 12, 1936.

Mrs. Rolla Southworth,
Director, Women's Activities,
Works Progress Administration,
Roberts Building,
Jacksonville, Florida.

Dear Mrs. Southworth:

The Negro Emergency Advisory Council of Florida wishes to congratulate you upon the splendid work that you are doing for all of the people of the State, and to express our gratitude for the work that you are doing, in the field of Women's Work, WPA, for Negro people. The efforts you have put forth, and the results you have achieved command the congratulations and appreciation of any group. I want you to know that our organization is looking with great admiration upon the plans you are fostering for the benefit of Negroes, and the administration of justice that we all so much desire.

We are most happy to note the pressure brought to bear through your good offices, in furtherance of a worth-while program, that is meeting the needs of the masses. We welcome every opportunity that can come to our people, to prove our ambitions for future usefulness.

May God's blessings continue to crown your efforts with success.

Sincerely yours,

[Name]
President,
Florida Emergency Advisory Council,
for Negroes.

May 12, 1936.

Sponsored by National Urban League
MRS. ROLLA A. SOUTHWORTH
STATE DIRECTOR WOMEN'S WORK ACTIVITIES,
FLORIDA WPA, EXCHANGE BUILDING
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA.

DEAR MRS. SOUTHWORTH:

PERMIT ME TO SAY WITH THE WORK BEING DONE BY YOUR DEPARTMENT IN THE TRAINING OF NEGROES FOR LEADERSHIP IN LEISURE TIME ACTIVITIES IS BEYOND THE SHADOW OF A DOUBT ONE OF THE MOST INTERESTING, FUNDAMENTAL AND NEEDED PROGRAMS BEING CARRIED OUT THAT IT HAS BEEN MY PRIVILEGE AND PLEASURE TO WITNESS. AFTER COMING IN CONTACT WITH YOU AND YOUR PERSONNEL IN THIS DEPARTMENT IT IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR AN INDIVIDUAL NOT TO CATCH THE SPIRIT OF YOUR ORGANIZATION AND WORK UNCEASINGLY TOWARD THE FULFILLMENT OF YOUR DREAM FOR THE MORE ABUNDANT LIFE FOR ALL PEOPLE.

MAY I GIVE YOU MY REACTION OF THE ATTITUDES, CAPABILITIES AND PROMISE OF THE INDIVIDUALS TOUCHED DURING THE INSTITUTE AND CONTACT MEETINGS. JUDGING FROM THE INTEREST DISPLAYED AND FROM THE NUMBER OF CONFERENCES SOUGHT THOSE LEADERS THAT ATTENDED THE DAYTONA CONFERENCE ARE MORE THAN ANXIOUS TO BE OF SERVICE IN THEIR RESPECTIVE COMMUNITIES. IT IS FELT THAT USING THESE AS KEY PEOPLE THEY WILL BE ABLE TO WORK WITH MR. OLIVER IN THE INFLUENCING OF OTHERS SO THAT HIS INSTITUTES WILL BE STATE WIDE, BENEFICIAL TO THE MASSES WITH RESULTS IMPOSSIBLE TO COMPUTE AS THESE RESULTS WILL REACH INTO THE VITALS OF THE HOME LIFE OF ALL FLORIDIANS AND WILL RAISE THE RECREATION, ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL LIFE OF THOSE TOUCHED.

THAT GROUP OF STUDENTS AT THE COLLEGE AT ST. AUGUSTINE HAVE CAUGHT THE VISION, MANY HAVE REQUESTED THAT THIS OFFICE SEND THEM MATERIAL TO BE USED THAT THIS OFFICE SEND THEM MATERIAL TO BE USED IN THEIR COMMUNITIES, USING THE CHURCH AS A CENTER FOR A RURAL RECREATION SOCIAL PROGRAM. SUCH MATERIAL IS BEING ASSEMBLED AND WILL REACH THEM IN THE VERY NEAR FUTURE.

AT JACKSONVILLE THE RECREATION COUNCIL IS VITALLY INTERESTED IN THE PROGRAM AS A WHOLE AND FEEL SAFE IN SAYING THAT WITH A LITTLE ENCOURAGEMENT THEY WILL DO MANY THINGS UNDER PRIVATE
SPONSORSHIP AND EVENTUALLY LOOK TO THE WPA FOR PROGRAM GUIDANCE ONLY. THAT WONDERFUL GROUP OF NYA WORKERS IN JACKSONVILLE THAT IT WAS MY PRIVILEGE TO ADDRESS WILL MAKE YOUR HEART BEAT WITH PRIDE WHEN YOU SEE THEM GO ABOUT THEIR DUTIES AND WHEN YOU HEAR THEIR RADIO BROADCAST.

THE STATE SCHOOL FLORIDA A. & M. COLLEGE TALLAHASSEE, IS A BEE HIVE OF A CTIVITY. AFTER AN ADDRESS TO THE STUDENT BODY DR. J. R. E. LEE PRESIDENT, REQUESTED THAT THIS OFFICE PUT HIM IN CONTACT WITH AN INDIVIDUAL TO BE ADDED TO HIS TEACHING FORCE SO THAT THE STUDENTS OF THAT COLLEGE MAY HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY OF A FOUR YEAR COURSE IN SOCIAL RECREATION; THEREBY FLORIDA MAY HAVE TRAINED LEADERSHIP TO BE USED IN THE CHURCHES AND SCHOOLS IN THE FIELD.

THIS OVERVIEW IS REPRESENTATION OF THE INTEREST IN THE FIELD OF SOCIAL RECREATION AND THE WORKING TOWARD LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT BY THE NEGROES OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA.

THE UNFOLDING OF YOUR SOCIAL RECREATION DREAM IN THE FLORIDA IS A BEAUTIFUL THING TO BE-MOLED AND I AM SOMewhat ENvious THAT I AM ONLY A PARTIAL PART OF YOUR GIGANTIC UNDERTAKING DUE TO GEOGRAPHICAL SEPARATION, SOME DAY I TRUST IT WILL BE MY PRIVILEGE TO WORK WITH A CHIEF SO VITALLY INTERESTED, SO HUMAN IN HER UNDERSTANDING; SO PAINSTAKING IN HER EFFORTS TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF MY PEOPLE.

MAY I TAKE THIS OCCASSION TO CALL TO YOUR ATTENTION THAT MR. OLIVER IS EXTENDING HIMSELF TO THE LIMIT IN HIS WORK WITH THE NEGRO INSTITUTE.

RESPECTFULLY YOURS,

[Signature]

L. G. BLACKUS, DIRECTOR NEGRO WELFARE COUNCIL.

[Initials] LGB/red
Ellen S. Woodward  
Assistant Administrator  
Works Progress Administration  
1734 New York Avenue, NW  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mrs. Woodward:

I am attaching two letters which have been sent to me which I think you would appreciate.

As you recall some time back you wrote me that Mrs. Roosevelt had contacted you regarding an adequate and just program for negroes. The letter from Mr. Blackus was given after the close of the training course given for the development of leadership in Leisure Time Activities. As Mrs. Roosevelt knows Mrs. Bethune personally I have sent the original copies in event you wish to pass them on to her.

Yours very cordially,

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION

(Signed) Rolla A. Southworth  
State Director Women's Work Activities

enclosures
June 10, 1936

My dear Mrs. Woodward:

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

Your letter of June 2 with the report on the Morris Bendy case has been received and I shall hold it for Mrs. Roosevelt's attention when she returns to Washington. I know that she would wish me to thank you for this additional report.

Very sincerely yours,

Mrs. Ellen G. Woodward
1734 New York Avenue
Washington
D.C.
June 2, 1936

My dear Mrs. Scheider:

In further reference to Mrs. Roosevelt's letter asking for a report on the Norris Dendy case, I am enclosing a memorandum summarizing the information regarding this case which I have just received from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Sincerely yours,

Ellen S. Woodward
Assistant Administrator

Mrs. Malvina T. Scheider
Secretary to Mrs. Roosevelt
The White House
MEMORANDUM

Re: The Norris F. Dendy Family

I. Two articles regarding the lynching of Norris F. Dendy appeared in the Crisis, organ of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, of December, 1933, and May, 1934. There were also a number of news releases issued by the N. A. A. C. P. regarding this case. These articles indicate that:

1. The Dendy family were industrious and thrifty, and the children, including Norris, had been given good educations at a very great sacrifice to their parents.

2. The lynching of Norris Dendy may have been a premeditated act, since several threats had been made prior to the incident which caused him to be placed in jail.

3. Damages of $2,000 may be paid to the families of lynched persons in South Carolina. However, Governor Blackwood declared this to be a murder and not a lynching, which precludes the payment of damages.

4. That children in the Negro schools of Clinton, South Carolina, must pay $2.00 a year tuition, and also pay for their books. The white schools are free.

II. The present concern of this family is the education of Norris Dendy's six children, who are at present living with their mother, who is employed at housework, receiving $2.50 per week, and their grandmother, a laundress, who makes approximately $3.00 per week. The total cost for tuition and books for these six children in the Negro school of Clinton, would probably be about $60.00. The cost of any higher education would no doubt be much greater.

III. Regarding the payment of damages in lynch cases, a precedent has been set in the case of Fred Moore, who was lynched by a mob on October 11, 1933, near Abbeville, Louisiana. The family of this boy was awarded damages of $2,000 on May 21, 1936. However, in the Dendy case, it would probably be necessary to re-open the case and establish the crime as a lynching and not a murder in order for the damages to be paid.

IV. There are at present no provisions for Aid to Dependent Children in South Carolina.
WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION
WALKER-JOHNSON BUILDING
1734 NEW YORK AVENUE NW.
WASHINGTON, D. C.

July 10, 1936

Dear Mrs. Scheider:

I am enclosing a copy of a letter received from Dr. Carl Watson, Works Progress Administrator for Ohio, regarding Mrs. Mildred Leas, City Hospital, Cleveland, Ohio, about whom you wrote me on June 4th.

As you will note, Mrs. Leas' needs have been taken care of by her family, and the situation is less acute.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

Ellen S. Woodward
Assistant Administrator

Mrs. Malvina T. Scheider
The White House
June 23, 1936

Mrs. Ellen S. Woodward  
Assistant Administrator  
Works Progress Administration  
1734 New York Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C.  

Dear Mrs. Woodward:  

On June 12 I received your letter of June 9 regarding the above case, and have hastened to secure information for your consideration.

As I recall, the complainant requested Mrs. Roosevelt to send her a bath robe and a pair of pajamas. Our report indicates that the hospital provides necessary clothing to all total bed patients. It is true that such gowns and bath robes in their style and cut do not appeal to the aesthetic sense of many patients, but they are quite adequate, and necessarily practicable. Recently the patient received pajamas and a bath robe from some friends. Her husband is expecting a bonus check with the current distribution and this will offer a resource for the further needs of the patient.

Trusting this information will be of interest to you,

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) CARL WATSON  
Administrator
July 31, 1936

Dear Mrs. Woodward:

Mrs. Roosevelt asks that you do not refer this letter, but have someone investigate the charges.

Very sincerely yours,

Malvina T. Scheider
Secretary to Mrs. Roosevelt

Mrs. Ellen S. Woodward
1734 New York Avenue
Washington
D.C.

F. B. Morris, writing for the women on the project at Colorado Springs. Deplorable conditions - bordering on peonage. Appeals have always been referred back to local authorities.
September 9, 1936.

Dear Mrs. Scheider:

Mrs. Roosevelt asked for a report on the women's projects at Colorado Springs, Colorado, in answer to a complaint made by Mr. F. B. Morris.

This Administration has received a number of letters from Mr. Morris but the letter to Mrs. Roosevelt was the first one enumerating definite complaints. A similar letter enumerating the same complaints was mailed at the same time to Mr. Nels Anderson, Director of Labor Relations.

I am sending you excerpts from a report which Mr. Anderson has just received. As soon as our Regional Director in that region has had an opportunity to make a thorough study of the situation in Colorado I shall let you know further.

Sincerely yours,

Ellen S. Woodward
Assistant Administrator

Encl.

Mrs. Malvina T. Scheider,
Secretary to Mrs. Roosevelt,
The White House.
Excerpts from Colorado Works Progress Administration Report, dated August 20, 1936.

TARDINESS

There has been a rule that a woman who is not at work on time would lose one hour's work. This is covered by the following letter, which was written in question of a complaint from the book-binding project, but was transmitted and applied to all of the women's projects:

"District #3, Colorado Springs, Colorado, March 4, 1936.

NOTICE

It has been repeatedly called to our attention that certain workers of the book-binding project persist in being late.

An examination of the records of those persons who are habitually late shows an interesting picture.

One would naturally think that duties at home in larger families would be offered as reason for such lateness. However, the finding is just the opposite. As the size of families increase the number of cases who are tardy decrease. In other words, those who apparently have lesser duties at home are the ones who are persistent in being late. Please note the column on the left shows the number of cases who are habitually late. The column on the right shows the number of persons in that case.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of Cases Habitually Late</th>
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This equals 25% of the number of persons on the project.

Because this problem is increasing to a point where it will be impossible to certify payrolls to the Federal Treasury as being a truthful statement regarding the number
of hours worked by such persons, it is mandatory that deductions be made on the basis of voluntary absence. Therefore, it will be understood that if a worker fails to report on time, that worker will be shown as voluntarily absent for one full hour. The payroll unit cannot accept a deduction for less than one hour.

This will mean that if a worker is late in the forenoon, that worker cannot go to work until 10:00 o'clock. If late at noon, the employee cannot work until 2:00 o'clock.

We are reluctant to take this action but it seems to be the only solution to the problem at the present time.

Abuses of privileges by certain individuals in any walk of life usually result in rules and regulations which are sometimes thought to be unfair.

There is nothing unfair in asking employees to be on time to their work. It is unfair, however, to allow certain individuals to disregard regulations which all are expected to follow."

FAVORITISM

The W.P.A. "Classifications" of skills, provides for Seamstresses Simple, as Class 1, and Seamstresses Skilled, as Class 2. As rapidly as a Simple Worker becomes proficient enough to merit promotion she is re-classified to a higher rate. The supervisors determine their merit, and consequently this gives rise to statements of discrimination. I cannot determine that there is any favoritism of any kind.

HARSH TREATMENT

Our supervisors are not harsh or inconsiderate in any manner. They have frequently been enjoined to be fair to their people and to their project. They are as considerate of the wishes of the workers, as they can consistently be, in an orderly conduct of the work.

"BUCK PASSING"

There has been no "Buck Passing." Mr. Norris presented himself in this District Office last winter, and received courteous consideration from Mr. Owens, and Mr. Young, and was taken into the work rooms, at which time he felt constrained to admit that he had been victimized by false statements from some workers. It is possible that some of the
women workers carry complaints to Morris that we do not get.

Most of our women, like rural workers engaged for the first time in employment, under the direction of a supervisor, accountable to rules and regulations. They are honest enough in their conceptions but just can't understand that restraint, which goes with employment, is not abuse.

I have discussed the question of women's projects with Mrs. Isham, State Director of Women's and Professional Projects, specifically concerning the complaints of Morris, and she told me that, from her observations, our projects were conducted comparable to others in the State.

We are at this time undertaking to change the working hours to conform to a petition from workers. They request a change for some good sound reasons, in view of school time starting, and they wish to have time to prepare their children for school, etc.
September 16, 1936.

Dear Mrs. Scheider:

I am attaching a copy of a letter and enclosure from Miss Gertrude Ely, our State Director of the Division of Women's and Professional Projects in Pennsylvania, regarding the case of Miss Sara Phillips, 416 Canal Street, Leechburg, Pennsylvania.

This correspondence is the result of a letter written by the Honorable Joseph Gray in Miss Phillips' behalf, which you sent me on August 10.

A copy of this report is also enclosed in case you may wish to send it to Senator Gray.

Sincerely yours,

Ellen S. Woodward
Assistant Administrator

Enclosures

Mrs. Malvina T. Scheider,
Mrs. Roosevelt's Secretary,
The White House.
Mrs. Ellen S. Woodward, Assistant Administrator
Works Progress Administration
1754 New York Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mrs. Woodward:

In reply to your letter of August 11th referring the file
of correspondence regarding Miss Sara Phillips, 416 Canal Street,
Leechburg, Pennsylvania, to me, I have referred this matter to my
District Supervisor of Women's and Professional Projects.

I have now received a report from the Project Head of the
Housekeeper's Aide Project, which I enclose. You will see that
everything possible is being done to assist these women although
they refuse to accept the services of the Housekeeper's Aide.

The District Supervisor states that she will follow up this
case and do everything possible to have Miss Phillips check increased.

Sincerely yours,

(Sgd.) Gertrude Ely

(Miss) Gertrude Ely, State Director
Women's and Professional Projects.
In the above case, the outline of questions used by Sarah Duncan of Pennsylvania State Emergency Relief Board was followed and the same answers given. These two sisters are now living in one bedroom with one window, a very small kitchen and no bathroom. There is a commode but no way of heating the room. For this they pay $12.00 per month.

Miss Sarah Phillips is a helpless invalid. She can, at times, manage to feed herself, but mostly she is not able to do even this and cannot change her position in bed without help. Fortunately her mentality has not been affected. She still can direct her affairs.

She told me her life story which is indeed a sad one. She must have been the mainstay of her family, sacrificing herself in every way for them until both her financial means and her health are gone. She has two brothers, Porter and Jack Phillips, living in Leechburg.

Last January the brother, Jack, took the sisters to his home, allowing them the use of one room. They were contented here, but in May some difficulty arose, and the brother told them that he must have his room, but, it seems, made no effort to find them a place so it was July 10th before a friend found for them the rooms they now have.

Besides her other afflictions Miss Sarah is very anemic probably from lack of nourishment and proper medication. Their aggregate income is $24.00 per month, so it can be readily seen, two persons could not buy the necessary food after paying $12.00 rent besides light, water, etc., to say nothing of clothing.

The Housekeeping Aide Service was explained to her at length, but she could not be persuaded to accept this help. She appears to be afraid of most everything, says she likes being alone as much as possible, and asked if the Government paid for the service offered, why she could not have the money instead or at least part of this. After being convinced that this was impossible, she asked me to go to Dr. H. W. Walsh, Second Street, Leechburg and go over her case with him in the hope that we could evolve some means by which she could have some immediate help. This was done and after much discussion, since State Relief is impossible and the responsibility is referred back to Armstrong County, Dr. Walsh thought it advisable for us to make an appeal to Mr. Edward Shaffer, President of Board of County Commissioners, for the sum of $3.00 each for the two sisters and then he said that upon word from us that the appeal had been made, he would make a trip to Kittanning himself and bring all possible force to bear on Mr. Shaffer to have this allotment made.
Miss Katherine Phillips is a most pathetic figure. She is a mental defective, almost blind and very deaf. Then too she has a spinal condition that makes walking difficult. Her sister says she even does not know how to use money at the stores, yet with Sarah directing her, she moves about doing everything that is done for both of them, much like an automaton. Her whole demeanor is still refined and mild. In fact, these sisters are gentle folk.

Upon seeing and talking with Miss Sarah Phillips, one can readily appreciate her aversion to the thought of being committed to an institution for the care of the destitute. Surely there must be some way to find immediate financial help for these worthy persons, and we mean to pursue the matter to the end. If they do not receive assistance soon, I fear it will be too late.
September 16, 1936.

Dear Mrs. Scheider:

I am attaching a copy of a letter and enclosure from Miss Gertrude Ely, our State Director of the Division of Women's and Professional Projects in Pennsylvania, regarding the case of Miss Sara Phillips, 418 Canal Street, Leechburg, Pennsylvania.

This correspondence is the result of a letter written by the Honorable Joseph Gray in Miss Phillips' behalf, which you sent me on August 10.

A copy of this report is also enclosed in case you may wish to send it to Senator Gray.

Sincerely yours,

Ellen S. Woodward
Assistant Administrator

Enclosures

Mrs. Malvina T. Scheider,
Mrs. Roosevelt's Secretary,
The White House.
Dear Mrs. Woodward:

In reply to your letter of August 11th referring the file of correspondence regarding Miss Sara Phillips, 416 Canal Street, Leechburg, Pennsylvania, to me, I have referred this matter to my District Supervisor of Women's and Professional Projects.

I have now received a report from the Project Head of the Housekeeper's Aide Project, which I enclose. You will see that everything possible is being done to assist these women although they refuse to accept the services of the Housekeeper's Aide.

The District Supervisor states that she will follow up this case and do everything possible to have Miss Phillips check increased.

Sincerely yours,

(Sgd.) Gertrude Ely

(Miss) Gertrude Ely, State Director
Women's and Professional Projects.
Dear Mrs. Schneider:

Please thank Mrs. Roosevelt for her willingness to write to Governor Earle, Mrs. Miller, and the Senator regarding the Gertrude Ely matter. Since Mr. Jones, the Administrator, has stated to Mr. Dryden, the Regional Field Representative, and to Izetta Miller that Miss Ely will remain State Director as long as he is Administrator, I do not think that we need to ask Mrs. Roosevelt to write a letter about this.

Gertrude Ely is now on leave out in Illinois. I am attaching a clipping from The Evening News of Harrisburg -- September 25th -- about Miss Ely. It is too bad that she had so little discretion as to write the letter to her District Supervisors which Miss O'Hare quotes. Emma Guffey Miller was after her so hot about putting Republicans in positions that I believe she did this in order to prove, if necessary, that her appointments were not political.

Although we let Mr. Jones know some time ago that we would not approve taking Gertrude Ely out of the program because of Emma Guffey Miller's demands, we did agree to let her have a few weeks' leave after Izette Miller had gone carefully over the matter with Molly Dawson and Gertrude Ely. Gertrude was eager to render some service in the Campaign, and although Molly did not consider her a very good speaker, she thought that she could help by making personal contacts with some of her League of Women Voters friends in Illinois.

I want you to know that Gertrude Ely told Mr. Jones that she would willingly tender her resignation as State Director if she were embarrassing him or the Administration by serving. Jones told her that she had a job as State Director as long as he was State Administrator.

I thought you might be interested in these details -- pardon the length of them.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Malvina T. Scheider
Secretary to Mrs. Roosevelt
The White House
VENING NEWS, HARRISBURG, PENNA., WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 1936

MISS ELY SAYS NO POLITICS WROTE TO PROVE IT

By John H. Smith

Today in a statement made at the Republican state headquarters in Harrisburg, Miss S. M. O. Staats, Co-Chairman of the party's campaign committee, made a strong statement in defense of the WPA (Works Progress Administration) and its work in Pennsylvania. She charged that the work of the WPA was not political and that it did not influence the elections of supervisors in the state.

At the time the statement was made, Miss Staats was writing a letter to the WPA administration, asking them to provide her with a copy of the letter written by Miss Ely, who is now in Chicago. She said that the letter was written by Miss Ely to a WPA official in Illinois and that it contained political affiliations.

The purpose of the letter was to prove that the WPA was not political and that it did not influence the elections of supervisors in the state. As Miss Staats said, she was only to those in administrative positions.
Dear Mrs. Woodward,

I talked with Mr. Ely yesterday about this and he was not disturbed. He had talked with Miss Ely in Chicago. You will remember it was Emma who freed this situation saying that Ely
had appointed all P. I recolled her for the letter at the turn, but it had already gone out.

This is a brief statement

by Jones.

[Signature]

Pardon haste, just catching places.
October 30, 1916

My dear Mrs. Woodward:

Could you have someone in Florida investigate this case at once? Mrs. Roosevelt will lend the money, if necessary.

Very sincerely yours,

Malvina T. Scheider
Secretary to
Mrs. Roosevelt

Mrs. Ellen S. Woodward
1734 New York Avenue
Washington
D.C.

Mrs. S. L. Bullock
818 13th Ave. S.
Hollywood Calif.

Very touching appeal - Beautifully written
Woman has had long illness and operations - Has to go to hospital for baby - private hospital will not take her without cash. Husband makes $100 a month - wants a loan. Has a ten-year old boy who has given up his daily milk all summer in order that she may have it.
January 29, 1937

Dear Mrs. Woodward:

Is there anyone in Mount Vernon, Ohio, to whom you could refer this letter? The woman apparently needs someone with whom to talk over her personal problems.

Very sincerely yours,

Malvina T. Scheider
Secretary to Mrs. Roosevelt

Mrs. Ellen S. Woodward
1734 New York Avenue
Washington, D.C.

Mrs. Helen Tighe Lepley
Mt. Vernon Ohio (Gen. Del.)

rather sordid tale — lives with her mother — her children not happy — mother makes them uncomfortable — differences of religion, etc. wants to know if she could get a job somewhere so that she could get away.
Dear Mrs. Scheider:

As requested in your letter of January 29, we have asked our State Director to make an investigation in the case of Mrs. Helen Tighe Lepley, General Delivery, Mt. Vernon, Ohio, and enclose a copy of a report which we have just received in the matter.

Sincerely yours,

Ellen S. Woodward,
Assistant Administrator.

Mrs. Malvina T. Scheider,
Secretary to Mrs. Roosevelt,
The White House.
Mrs. Ellen S. Woodward  
Assistant Administrator  
Works Progress Administration  
1734 New York Avenue, N. W.  
Washington, D. C.

SUBJECT: Mrs. Helen Tighe Lepley  
General Delivery  
Mt. Vernon, Ohio

Dear Mrs. Woodward:

"A visit was made to Mt. Vernon, Mrs. Lepley was interviewed and some additional information about her family was obtained from the Relief Office.

"The Tighe and Lepley families have never received relief and are well known and respected in the community. Mrs. Tighe, Mrs. Lepley's mother, was left a widow when her children were very young. She obtained a position as Clerk in the office of the Probate Judge and held that position for about twenty years. After the marriage of her children, she lived alone in a four-room apartment, which she is now sharing with her daughter and her children. A married son lives in Mt. Vernon and another daughter lives with her family in Akron.

"Mrs. Tighe has a small income which is sufficient for her needs. Mr. Bruce Lepley, Mrs. Lepley's former husband, owned an automobile accessory business in Mt. Vernon. He was, I believe, quite prosperous and he and his family lived very comfortably. There are three children, two daughters - one sixteen and one twenty, and a son, fourteen.

"Mrs. Lepley left her husband four years ago, apparently because he drank excessively and was unfaithful to her. She obtained a divorce and alimony. She and the children lived in a small apartment until last fall, when Mr. Lepley claimed that he was ill and unable to work, and Mrs. Lepley released him from further support. She did not have enough work to maintain her apartment, so she stored her furniture and moved in with her mother.

"Mrs. Lepley is a small, rather attractive woman. She has applied for work at all of the stores and factories in Mt. Vernon and is registered at the National Reemployment Service. She has worked from time to time at a ready-to-wear store, Woolson's Novelty Store and the Jewel Creamery Company. She is very devoted to her children and her greatest worry seems to be over their present living conditions, which make it impossible for them to have the social life she thinks they should have.

"Mrs. Tighe's apartment is on the third floor of a shabby old building. There are four rooms - a living room, kitchen and two bed rooms. Mrs. Lepley and her son share one bedroom and the younger daughter sleeps on a couch in the Grandmother's room. Mrs. Lepley complained bitterly because her mother objected to having the friends of her children come..."
to the apartment and said that she continually criticized the children. She admits, however, that her mother has not complained about sharing her apartment and small income with them. Mrs. Tighe has lived alone for so many years, it is probably difficult for her to adjust herself to sharing her small home with four persons, three of them active young people.

"Mrs. Tighe is highly respected in Mt. Vernon and is not known in the community as an eccentric or peculiar person. Mrs. Lepley is, of course, very anxious to leave her mother and have a home for herself and her children and would like to leave Mt. Vernon, if possible. Her older daughter has obtained employment at the Westinghouse Electric Company in Mansfield and she and her younger daughter have applied for work there, also.

"At the time of our visit, Mrs. Lepley was working at the Jewel Creamery Company, and Doris, the younger daughter, had steady employment in a local drug store, earning eight dollars a week. Mrs. Lepley feared that her employment was only temporary.

"It was suggested to Mrs. Lepley that, if her employment did not last at the Creamery and if she was unable to secure other work, she apply for aid for dependent children for her one child under sixteen. She may be eligible for this aid, if her former husband is physically unable to work and, if he is able to work, this might start some action to obtain some support from him.

"We believe that Mrs. Lepley's situation has improved somewhat since she wrote to Mrs. Roosevelt."

The social worker who made this contact has indicated that the need in this particular situation is for guidance and advice.

This type of social case work service should be rendered by some private or public agency in the community in which Mrs. Lepley resides.

Sincerely yours,

Carl Watson, Administrator
February 17, 1937

Dear Mrs. Woodward:

Could you ask someone to investigate this case and, if the facts are true, try to work out a plan for these people?

Very sincerely yours,

Secretary to Mrs. Roosevelt

Mrs. Ellen S. Woodward
1734 New York Avenue
Washington, D.C.

Unsigned letter about Mrs. Thomas G. Day, Route 4, Greensboro., N.C. husband makes $50 a month at wholesale grocery store. She is cashier and package wrapper in Dept. Store - $48 a month. Daughter 5 - expecting a child - no money for hospital bills. Have to support husband's mother and grandmother - lost home live in a shack - no heat or water. Not a case for local relief - would be embarrassed to have letter referred.
April 7, 1937

Dear Mrs. Scheider:

With further reference to your letter of February 17 regarding Mrs. Thomas G. Day, Route No. 4, Greensboro, North Carolina, I am enclosing a report which we have just received from the Director of the Division of Women's and Professional Projects for North Carolina.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

Ellen S. Woodward, Assistant Administrator.

Mrs. Malvina T. Scheider, Secretary to Mrs. Roosevelt, The White House.
April 3, 1937

Mrs. Ellen S. Woodward,
Assistant Administrator,
Works Progress Administration,
1734 New York Avenue, N. W.,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mrs. Woodward:

We have today received a confidential report on the case of Mrs. Thomas G. Day, Route No. 4, Greensboro, North Carolina, about whom you first wrote us on February 17. The information we have obtained is as follows:

"Our investigation shows that the statements made in the letter of February 6 to Mrs. Roosevelt are true. Mrs. Day has been working in Meyer's Department Store. From the information that we can gather, it appears that Mrs. Day and her husband have never known how to manage or to spend what they had wisely. Their income has been spent for things that could very easily be done without, when it is very evident that they need the necessities of life. Mrs. Day has given up her work with the department store and has recently spent a few weeks with a married sister who lives in Washington, D. C. At the present time, however, she is at her home in Greensboro.

"We understand that the employees of the store where Mrs. Day worked presented her with a layette which was valued at approximately $25.00, and it is thought that there will be no doubt of Mrs. Day being properly taken care of when she is confined. The person from whom this information was gotten says that she is confident that members of Mrs. Day's family will see that she has the proper care at that time.

"Since the letter to Mrs. Roosevelt particularly asked that the local relief agency not be contacted, we do not know anything to recommend for Mrs. Day. We understand that she expects to return to work at Meyer's Department Store as soon as she is able after the arrival of her child."

We hope that you will find this report satisfactory and will let us know any suggestions you may have as to how we can help Mrs. Day.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) May E. Campbell, Director
Women's and Professional Projects.
My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I wonder if you haven't some wealthy friends or acquaintances who would really like to help a very poor woman, if they knew positively she was in need.

Mrs. Thomas G. Day, Route No. 4, Greensboro, North Carolina, is going to have a baby in four or five months. She does not have proper food or sufficient food for a woman in her condition, and she is so worried about debts that she cries at night when she should be sleeping. She is about 29 or 30 years old.

She is employed as cashier and package wrapper at Meyers Department Store (second floor), Greensboro, N.C., and receives $45. a month. She will have to stop work in a few days. Her husband is employed by Banner & Truelove (wholesale grocers), Greensboro, N.C., and receives approximately $50. a month. They have a daughter 8 years old, and the husband's father (unemployed) to support, and part of the time within the past 6 or 8 years they have also had the husband's mother and grandmother to support.

They have an old rattle-trap automobile, which they must keep in order to get to and from work, as they live about three miles from town.

A few years ago they attempted to buy a home, but the husband lost his job and they lost the home and all they had paid. They attempted to run a rooming house, but could not keep the rooms rented and lost money. They are still paying on coal bills, rent bills and grocery bills. It of course took more groceries because of the husband's father living with them permanently, and the mother and grandmother part of the time.

A few months ago, before she knew she was going to have another baby, they had the opportunity to buy a small lot immediately adjoining her married sister's home (her sister cares for the 8 year old daughter of Mrs. Day while Mrs. Day works). The lot cost $650. They paid $50 down, and $15 a month. There is no house on the lot proper, but at the extreme back of the lot there is a small 2 or 3 room wooden shack, and Mrs. Day and her family now live in this. There is no heat, water, bath or toilet in the house. She carries water from a block away.

As stated, the grocery, coal and rent bills, together with repairs for the old car, etc., kept them always in debt, and they had no money to pay down on the lot. However, Mrs. Day borrowed $50 from a mutual borrow and loan association composed of the employees of
Meyers Department Store, where she is employed. Two fellow-employees were kind enough to sign her note for $50. Also, her husband had to have a new license for the car, so they could get to and from work, and as he had no money, she borrowed $10 more from another employee.

How she is going to have a baby, and must stop work in a very short time, and she is very much worried about her numerous debts, and money for her hospital and doctor bills when her baby is born.

I am writing this letter in the hope that you have some rich friend or acquaintance who would like to help Mrs. Day pay her hospital and doctor bills.

Investigation can be made to prove that everything stated in this letter is true, and if any help is given, the money could be sent directly to the hospital and to the doctor.

Mrs. Day contemplates going to Sternberger Children's Hospital, Greensboro, North Carolina. She can stay there ten days (in a ward) for $25. If any money is sent, the hospital should be requested to write Mrs. Day that her bill has been paid in advance, as Mrs. Day knows nothing about this letter.

Mrs. Day has not consulted a doctor yet, as she has no money with which to pay one, and believes that the longer she postpones seeing a doctor the smaller his bill will be for attending her before the baby is born and when it is born.

Since Mrs. Day is so poor, a good doctor there would attend her from now on, and when the baby is born, for $40 or $50. The money could be sent to Sternberger Children's Hospital, Greensboro, N.C., and the hospital could turn the money over to the doctor. The Hospital could notify Mrs. Day that her doctor bill has been paid in advance, and request that she select a doctor.

This is not a case for the local relief bureau in Greensboro, as her husband is employed, but on his approximately $50 a month salary, his family will barely exist. Please do not refer this letter to the local relief people in Greensboro, as this would humiliate and embarrass Mrs. Day very much. She does not know this letter is being written, and I am failing to sign my name to this letter so there can be no way of her learning that I wrote this letter. She would not want public relief.

I am employed, but my husband is not employed, and I have a baby to support, and it is impossible for me to help Mrs. Day. It is absolutely impossible for Mrs. Day's family to help her financially, as her father and mother are dependents, and Mrs. Day's husband's family is dependent on him and others, and of course can't help.

Thank you very much for anything you can do.
February 26, 1937

Dear Mrs. Woodward:

I am enclosing Mrs. Roosevelt's check for $150. She does not want to feel that any of the people in Tucson are out of pocket on account of Mary Blanchard. I am also enclosing the hospital bill which was sent to us and which Mrs. Roosevelt would appreciate having someone out there pay without letting it be known that she is furnishing the money.

Mrs. Roosevelt certainly does not want Miss Blanchard to know that she is doing this and would like to have her feel that she is obligated to the people out there to repay what they have given her. If she does repay, it can be returned to Mrs. Roosevelt.

I hate to give you this additional bother, but we did not know any other way of doing it and certainly do not want Miss Blanchard to feel that she can always turn to Mrs. Roosevelt when she is in difficulty, but Mrs. Roosevelt does not want the people out there to be out of pocket.

Very sincerely yours,

Mrs. Ellen S. Woodward
February 17, 1937

My dear Mrs. Scheider:

I am enclosing a copy of a letter received from Miss Jane Rider, our State Director of the Division of Women's and Professional Projects in Arizona, concerning the arrangements which have been made for Miss Mary Blanchard.

It would seem, from this letter, that every consideration is being shown Miss Blanchard and I believe the arrangements which have been made will work out quite satisfactorily.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

Agnes S. Cronin
Administrative Assistant

Enclosure

Mrs. Malvina Scheider
The White House
Washington, D. C.
AIR MAIL

Mrs. Ellen S. Woodward
Assistant Administrator
Works Progress Administration
Washington, D. C.

February 12, 1937

Dear Mrs. Woodward:  Att: Miss Agnes Cronin

I have this morning received a personal note from the District Director, Women's and Professional Projects, located at Tucson, who states that Miss Blanchard is out of the hospital and that her landlady has taken her in and will provide meals until Miss Blanchard is able to return to her project and has a check from the W.P.A. with which to pay her landlady.

The question of Miss Blanchard's finances has been seriously considered in both the District and State office and we have agreed, informally, to each put up a small sum of money to guarantee her rent and board with the landlady until Miss Blanchard can repay her. This is being done very quietly for there are so many similar cases that we cannot establish a precedent. Miss Blanchard has been requested not to appeal to the White House for help and the district official have tried to impress her with the fact that she already has much to be thankful for and must not annoy her benefactress.

Miss Norton in her letter states that Miss Blanchard has written Mrs. Roosevelt. We regret that this has occurred but we cannot censor her personal correspondence and we wish you to know that she will be taken care of.

Sincerely yours

SIGNED:  Jane H. Rider
Director, Division of Women’s and Professional Projects
February 11th, 1936.

Dear Mrs. Scudder -

Just a note to try and straighten out a situation that will probably prove confusing. It's in regard to all the bills I've managed to stack up in the past few months.

As far as I can gather it seems that my wife was to be responsible at first and then backed out. Then by the time I'd lost my voice, people were talking about 'Mrs. Roosevelt will take care of it all.' I do hope you'll explain to her that I didn't just calmly pass the bills on to her if she should receive any.

The nurse had to get paid in cash, so I paid her all of my last two pay checks, and while it didn't completely cover it, she settled for what I had. The doctor will probably be his feet made a while, and the hospital is really bugging me.
Southern Methodist Hospital and Sanatorium
Tucson, Arizona

February 11, 1937

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt
c/o White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

We have been asked to mail direct to you an itemized statement of Miss Mary Blanchard's hospital account.

Miss Blanchard was here in our hospital eighteen days, receiving the very best care possible. You will note on the itemized bill the room charge is for eighteen days = $8.00 per day, or $54.00. Drug charges only = $5.01. Special Nurses meals = $1.50 per day or a total of $27.00.

We trust that the above charges meet with your approval.

Thanking you, we are

Very truly yours,

SOUTHERN METHODIST HOSPITAL AND SANATORIUM

By [Signature]
Bookkeeper.
May 5, 1937

My dear Mrs. Woodward:

I am enclosing a letter which is very pathetic. Could you ask some agency to try to help?

Very sincerely yours,

Malvina T. Scheider
Secretary to
Mrs. Roosevelt

Mrs. Ellen S. Woodward
1734 New York Avenue
Washington
D.C.

Don L. Bernard
1025 S. Manle Ave.
Los Angeles

little boy has cleft palate and hair lip. Doctor is willing to operate and wait for fee, but needs money for hospitalization. Two operations, he is told, will cure the boy if performed right away.
Stage hand on Fed. Theatre Proj.
August 12, 1937

Dear Mrs. Scheider:

With further reference to your memorandum of May 5, in which you make inquiry about hospitalization for the child of Mr. Don L. Bernard, 10253 South Maple, Los Angeles, California, who wrote to Mrs. Roosevelt, I am enclosing a report which we have just received regarding this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Ellen S. Woodward
Assistant Administrator

Mrs. Malvina T. Scheider
Secretary to Mrs. Roosevelt
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Enclosure
Following is a resume of our findings, as per your request regarding medical attention for Mr. Bernard's child.

Mr. Bernard has been employed on the Federal Theatre Project as a flyman at a salary of $94.00 a month since December 1935. According to our records, the child for whom Mr. Bernard requested service, has been known to the Los Angeles General Hospital since birth.

Their Social Service Division reported that Donald was hospitalized in 1934 for surgery to correct a cleft palate and a hare lip. In 1935 he was again hospitalized, this time because of an upper respiratory infection. On April 29, 1936, he was confined to the hospital as a diphtheria carrier. He was found to have a right otitis media and possible bronchial pneumonia. He was discharged on May 17 at which time Mrs. Bernard was advised to bring the child to the clinic for further service.

Mrs. Bernard returned to the clinic within a few days and requested that a tonsillectomy be performed upon Donald. The doctors advised against such a move because of Donald's recent illness. They suggested that she return within six months. She failed to do so and on September 10, 1936 a letter was sent to her by the clinic in the hospital to report for medical service. The letter was returned unclaimed and the hospital has no record that Mrs. Bernard ever went back to the clinic with the child.

Due to Mr. Bernard's employment, the family is no longer eligible for care at the General Hospital. However, the Children's Hospital is available to Donald and the worker has arranged for an interview with Mrs. Bernard if Mr. Bernard cannot afford to pay for medical care. There is nothing which we can do particularly since Mr. Bernard is on WPA and his earnings are much more than our budgetary allowance for a family of three.

/s/ B. G. Copland.
June 4, 1937

My dear Mrs. Woodwards:

I am enclosing a letter from Mrs.

Gertrude M. Smith, 3175 Glenwood Avenue,
Toledo, Ohio. Could you ask someone in
the state to investigate the case and try
to advise Mrs. Smith? Apparently, what
she needs is legal aid.

Very sincerely yours,

Malvina T. Schaefer
Secretary to
Mrs. Roosevelt

Mrs. Ellen S. Woodward
1734 New York Avenue
Washington
D.C.

Husband died—his former wife and relatives have taken
his fireman's insurance and everything from her. She has a
home loan and only enough money left to make one more payment.
July 31, 1937

Dear Mrs. Scheider:

On June 4 you sent me a copy of a letter to Mrs. Roosevelt from Mrs. Gertrude M. Smith, 3175 Glenwood Avenue, Toledo, Ohio, with the request that we have this case investigated.

I am now in receipt of a report from the Ohio Administration indicating that Mrs. Smith was advised to get in touch with the Family Consultation Service regarding her problems. I hope that they will be able to help her.

Sincerely yours,

Ellen S. Woodward
Assistant Administrator

Mrs. Malvina T. Scheider
Secretary to Mrs. Roosevelt
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Enclosure
From: Mrs. Gertrude M. Smith
1726 Glenwood Avenue
Toledo, Ohio

To: Our First Lady, Mrs. F. D. Roosevelt

I hope you will pardon me for writing directly to you, I will try to make my letter clear and short as possible. I read your articles in our News Bee every day and that is why I am writing you, because I do sincerely believe that after you have read my letter you will explain it to your husband and he will ask help me to get the things back that were deliberately stolen from me and my husband while he was so full of morphine that he did not know he was cutting his signature on. He would sign anything that the relatives and his divorced wife would put in front of him. My husband, Mr. James F. Smith, was on the Fire Department 29 and 6 years and since 1933 he has been doctoring for cancer of the throat and tongue, and a year ago this last April 16, he had 2 very bad hemorrhages and lost part of his tongue, so he was 13 months without solid food. He kept alive on egg nust, clam juice, melted milk, cows milk and strained soups. Dr. Murphy and Dr. Sufford of 421 Michigan St. the cancer Dr's gave Mr. Smith 47 X-ray treatments and burned all the mussels off on both sides of his neck and also the back of his head. It is unbelievable how that man suffered and he had no use of his tongue at all, when he would take his broth he just held his head back and poured it down, then he would check and spare and lose almost of his nourishment and also spit out great lumps of mussels flesh and I would not have time to protect myself because I had to grab him and hold him or he would fall face forward in the basin and I had to inhale that awful odor.

I lost 58 pounds the last year. I was so run down because I could not do very much cooking and I had 5 gall attacks and also the shingles, if you know what they are, they come from nervousness, so the last 9 weeks of his live we had to call in help. His half brother's wife came to help and she nearly drove Mr. Smith insane by telling him lies about me. She told him that I was robbing him and trying to poison him and I cannot even crunch an apple worm. She expected to get this home away from me. Last Sept. 26, I believe that is the correct date, this sister-in-law called in his divorced wife and she brought a lawyer here while I was downtown getting the morphine for Mr. Smith and they had divorce papers drawn up and served to me, and he had absolutely no cause to do so, because I did everything in my power that I could to relieve his suffering and pain, the last two weeks he lived he told me all they said and done to me.

His divorced wife got 15 shares of City Service Stock and she also collected over $1,200 life insurance, which she claimed she kept the payments up on, but I doubt it because she certainly knows how to be a clever lice. She went to the Fire Officials and told them that I ran around to bar rooms and got drunk and sit on men's laps and smoked cigarettes. I have never been in a bar room in my life. I do not smoke and I do not run around with men and every neighbor in this block will swear to that for me. So, thru this lie I do not get the Fireman's pension.

She told the Fire Official that she intended to remarry Mr. Smith as soon as he was divorced from me so she could get the fireman's pension. Here I am without a cent coming in and too sick to go out to work, and she owns a two ant at 2335 Detroit Avenue, Toledo and she got Mr. Smith's insurance and she gets $100.00 a month from her son that Mr. Smith put thru medical school at Cleveland and then
she takes every cent away from me and I have no money to hire an Attorney. Mr. Smith had a daughter born out of wedlock and Mrs. Smith No. 1, wired Mr. Smith down away and took her to the fire officials and collected $200.00 of the $1000 fireman insurance that every widow gets soon as a fireman dies. I had to pay the Dr's and 3 lawyers that they brought in here to make out as many wills, every time a relative came here they would have him make out a new will and not one of them had been near my husband since his mother died in 1922.

There is over $2179.33 Home Loan on this house, my payments are $81.08 a month and I have just enough money left out of my $500. to make one more payment on the loan, then I suppose I will loose this too. If any one had a dirty deal handed to them, I certainly did. There was a retired fireman and his wife came here before Mr. Smith was taken to the hospital and my husband asked Mrs. Osborn to make out a will in my favor so I would not have very much court cost when things were settled. He knew that he could not get well so he wanted every thing fixed up before he passed away and after he was in the hospital the fireman's son's, told Mr. Smith what this Mr. and Mrs. Osborns done to another fireman's wife so my husband would not let Mrs. Osborns make out the will, so when Mr. S. left the hospital he went to an Atty. who belonged to the Daucus Lodge that my husband did and he made out a wonderful will to me and this daughter, so when the Osborns found this out she came here one day and got Mr. Smith out of bed at 8:30 AM and they took him down town and made him tear up the first will and they took him to a new atty. and had another will made and I had to pay the bill, that did not suit them so they took him to another atty. and had another one made fro which I had to pay. I wish you would make them pay it back to me.

We had a 6 grave lot in the Memorial Cemetery and these Osborns took Mr. Smith down town and had him make out a deed to them for half of the lot for which they was to pay us $125, so when Mr. Smith signed the deed Mr. Osborns put the deed in his pocket and walked out and left Mr. Smith sitting there until 4 o'clock in the afternoon without food and his medicine and when he came home he cried like a baby and said that they did not pay him a cent and the girl in the Memorial Office told me that they did not pay my husband any money and that he cried at the office. This was all done unbeknownness to me. I need that half of the lot for my two brothers and I hope you will send some one here to care for everything for me and I most certainly would like you to punish this divorced wife and the Osborns. Mr. Osborn was forced to take the pension because he had the fireman fighting all the time.

Mrs. Roosevelt, I have never known what a home really means until now and must loose it thru all of this fraud. Why they send men to the pen for stealing chickens. I hope these people who took all these things from me will get their punishment.

My father was killed Thanksgiving morning in 1888, caught between the old fashion coupling pairs. The Rail officials would not settle with mother, so the following spring she was taken here to the Toledo Insane Asylum. She was pronounced malleable, us 4 little girls were taken to the German Lutheran Orphans home where they nearly killed us because we could not learn german fast as they expected us to. They took me out of school at the age of 13 yrs. and I will say sold me into slavery. I was supposed to do house work but the people that they sent me to were gardeners and they kept me in the fields from the break of day
until in the moon light and when I went home at the age of 18, I was so sick and sore I could not walk straight so soon as I had money enough, had an operation and my left cava appendix and fallopian tubes were removed. I had to milk 6 cows, clean stables, feed horses, load market wagon, lifting bbls potatoes up on the end gate and other heavy vegetables. After I got well enough to go to work again I met a Boston, Mass. Policeman and we were married, we only had a little over 5 years of happiness and then he too was killed on the same R.R. that my father was killed on. I only got $3000 and I had a very good case against the R.R. I heard afterwards that my case was settled for $5000 and my lawyer was to get 1/4 if the case was settled out of court and 1/3 if it went to court so the case was dismissed here for lack of liabilities, so I carried the case to higher court and it was sent to Cincinnati for trial and the Judge found something in my favor so returned it here for trial under Judge Hahn. So you see this is only just a tiny little bit of what I have had all my life.

Went you please make the Fire Officials pay me that fireman’s pension which is $50.00 a month and I can keep my home and rent 2 rooms and the garage and get along just fine. Please, please went you take care of this soon as possible. I shall be ever so thankful, I am about sick from worry trying to think what under God’s heavens I will do.

Please be kind enough to let me hear from you soon as you have talked this over with Mr. Roosevelt. I cast my first vote last fall and Mr. Smith and I both voted straight ticket in favor of your husband.

I remain very sincerely,

Mrs. Gertrude M. Smith

Please excuse my poor writing and mistakes. I was in the McGuffery’s 4th reader when I was 8 years old when they took us to the orphans home and I never got any further in English studies.
Dear Mrs. Scheider:

I am quoting below a report in the case of Mrs. Jeanne Pawley, whose letter you referred to us on May 20.

"We have today located Mrs. Jeanne Pawley and find her to be a woman approximately forty-eight (48) years old, who has had some teaching and business experience in the past.

"We believe it to be a case of a sensitive woman dealing with too many in-laws, to the place where she has just stepped out from her home feeling that she can provide for herself, but afraid to undertake the care of her child. She has been in Pilsen since May 17th and tells us that she has secured temporary employment in Pilsen Store beginning Tuesday. She has agreed to keep us informed after that as to her condition and we in turn will do what we can to secure employment for her.

"Because of the prospect of work her mental condition is changed considerably since she addressed the letter to Mrs. Roosevelt. I believe her to be capable and unquestionably she will be able to secure work. I fear that it is hopeless to expect her to return to her husband."

Sincerely yours,

Ellen S. Woodward
Assistant Administrator

Mrs. Kalvina T. Scheider
Secretary to Mrs. Roosevelt
The White House.
Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Arrived in this town yesterday morning, registering at a local hotel, with a very definite idea of committing suicide, but searching my mind for a different exit or relief from a situation that is no longer tenable or possible to bear, I chanced to remember something I once read about you and postponed—at least for a time—this act.

My reason: On the last day of December, 1936, I became ill, went from one hospital to another. On the 26th of February this year went to Billings, Montana, from my home near Cody, Wyoming, going to Dr. Frank Lunkle of the Novich-Bridenbaugh Clinic for treatment. Weak and sick on the 13th day of March, I fell and broke my right arm, a paralyzed condition resulting. My husband being in straitened circumstances, due to the past years of depression has ruined himself during my illness, paying my doctor and hospital bills. Because I was unable to care for my home and four year old baby he was obliged to have his brother and family move into our home to help, and without the help this brother is extending my husband would have to give up the ranch—being in debt—put the baby in an orphanage and go to work for thirty five dollars per month—for ranching is all he knows. The in-laws refused to stay on the ranch if I stayed because I cannot do many things for myself. Result—I checked out for the sake of my baby—with the intention—test for all I felt—that mention above.

Went to the rehabilitation director in Billings and asked if I might take up advertising work through that agency, but he informed me that I would have to be divorced from my husband to get this assistance also that all means for regaining use of my arm must have been exhausted. Not, I ask you Mrs. Roosevelt—how am I to get the divorce or the medical treatment without funds? My husband assures me he cannot—and I know this to be true—advance me another penny.

Here I am in a strange city—not a human do I know—with thirty seven dollars between me and what ever the future holds. Charity from welfare bureaus I'd never accept—death is preferable. Do not want to humiliate myself or husband by taking a paupers oath—the government agencies other than the one I mentioned know nothing about. Understand it is destructive to all pride and self respect to comply with requirements to obtain help, and my needs are immediate and desperate. My people have been tax payers, and two brothers gave their lives for their country in our last war, and it would appear that this together with the fact that twice I have voted for a president who originated government departments to assist the unfortunate such as myself happen to be that I might have this assistance without publicity or humiliation resulting. May I ask you Mrs. Roosevelt how the latter can be realized?
My husband is P. E. Fawley, Hootsotse, Wyoming. He is a thirty-second degree Mason—past master, also an Eastern Star, belongs to the Wyoming consistory at Cheyenne, Wyo. My husband is well known through the Shoshone bank and business houses of Cody, Wyoming—our county seat—for his integrity, and that he was at one time recognized as a very successful rancher.

Wrote this with my own left hand, and ask you as a matter of honor to please consider this communication as private and confidential.

Sincerely yours,

Mrs. [illegible] Joanna Fawley

Cannot sign legibly with a pen.
June 23, 1937

My dear Mrs. Woodward:

Do you know of any way in which this girl can be helped? Mrs. Roosevelt has been trying, since the receipt of the letter to find some solution to the problem it presents. Is there any W.P.A. project in New York that would be of benefit to the child?

Very sincerely yours,

Malvina T. Scheider
Secretary to
Mrs. Roosevelt

[Signature]

Mrs. Ellen S. Woodward
1734 New York Avenue
Washington
D.C.

Alice Batterman - 17 - parents on relief - girls paralyzed in one hand - good at drawing - is told she must graduate in dressmaking in order to become a designer - is in third term of dressmaking, but finds it difficult because she only use one hand. Wants to attend a school of design.
Dear Malvina:

The little Batterman girl's things are fair, but she sent for her drawings before I was able to show them to the man who was coming in to see them. I realize that I kept them longer than she expected but I could not control the gentleman.

If the child could be sent to some school of design for a year or two years, I think she could do something. Her color sense is very poor and, of course, she doesn't draw well. She is a pitiful little thing, Jewish, of course, and if there is any way to give her a chance, it would be the fair thing to do because she might be able to earn a good living sketching for some manufacturer even though she did not make the color and design decision.

Do you know of any W.P.A. project which would take care of a child of this type? I don't.

If you are in town next week be sure to come in to see me. Please tell Missy that we are all delighted to hear about her degree. Tell her the best the rest of us can do is to get degrees.

With love.

Devotedly,

JHR:nf

Miss Malvina Scheider
The White House
Washington, D.C.
June 30, 1937

Dear Mrs. Scheider:

I have your note and letter from Miss Alice Batterman requesting advice in regard to the study of design.

I have written to Mrs. Audrey McMahon, Assistant Director of the Federal Art Project of New York City and suggested that Miss Batterman might be helped through the Federal Art Project.

Please tell Mrs. Roosevelt that I hope the WPA art project may prove of direct benefit to the child.

Sincerely yours,

Ellen S. Woodward
Assistant Administrator

Mrs. Malvina T. Scheider
Secretary to Mrs. Roosevelt
The White House
Washington, D. C.
My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I would like you to please give me or advice, if it's possible. I am 17 yrs. old. My parents are very poor, we are on relief now. When I made up my application for high school, I couldn't sign up for anything but dress designing, because I am paralyzed in one hand. I have been drawing since I was a child, and I am talented in this particular work.

I enjoy creating my own designs, and find it very interesting. I was told that I have to graduate dressmaking in order to become a designer. I am now in the third term dressmaking and find it very difficult because I can't use my left hand. I am going to be left back on account of my sewing. I can't afford to. I have to learn the designing and go to work and help my parents. Even if I would graduate, I don't know where to go for designing. My friends have told me to go to several places, but you have to pay, which my parents can't do. I'm stuck now and I don't know what to do. If you can give me some advice I would greatly appreciate it. Thank you very much.

Respectfully yours,

(Miss) Alice Battersman

P.s. I am sending you some drawings which I made last year by mail. I would like to send you some that I have recently, but I can't because they are on exhibition.
July 29, 1937

My dear Mrs. Scheider:

I have just received the attached preliminary report on the Fifield family of East Thompson, Connecticut in whose welfare Mrs. Roosevelt expressed special interest.

I shall forward to you promptly any additional material received in connection with this case.

Sincerely yours

[Signature]

Ellen S. Woodward
Assistant Administrator

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

Enclosure
The Fifield family in East Thompson, Connecticut.

They live on a ten-acre farm in a six-room house, not too well kept, which is listed on the tax books at $300 valuation. Mr. Fifield has kept up the payment of his taxes. They have a large vegetable garden and milk is provided the family by the mother’s mother who has a dairy.

Mr. Fifield has been on CWA, FERA, and is now on WPA receiving $48 a month. The Fifield family has their medical needs taken care of by the town physician, except for dental work.

The Fifields have not applied for any local relief except for surplus commodities which they receive two or three times a week in larger quantities than the average family.

The children attend school regularly and appear to be well fed. Mrs. Fifield, although she is not a good housekeeper, seems to be a pretty good manager in providing regular meals for the family. She is not feeble minded as first reported but is not overly bright.

Since the recent publicity about the family they received some clothing but nothing else in addition to what they were receiving. Not only Mrs. Fifield but most of the children need dental work which has not been and cannot be provided by the local relief agencies. The Fifields have an old car and Miss Joyce is having Miss Murray, Director of Intake and Certification in Connecticut, have someone see that Mrs. Fifield goes to a nearby town where there is a dentist to get an estimate of what it would cost to have her teeth fixed. We will also try to get an estimate of what it would cost to have the children’s teeth fixed. The person who is handling this case for us is the town social worker, Miss Wyla Rawson, whose address is in the office of the Town Selectman at North Grosvenordale, Connecticut.
I am afraid if Mrs. Roosevelt assumes the responsibility for paying for dental work for Mrs. Fifield and the children that it may be fairly expensive. However, we will let you know as soon as possible about this.

As I see it this family is being provided for as well or better than most relief families and I would not suggest that Mrs. Roosevelt provide for any of the "necessities".
Memorandum

I suggest Mrs. Woodward look them up through a known worker. See if mother wishes birth control information, if so, that she gets it. Find out if man could get better job and in what way they could be helped. Will give some money for her teeth and necessities.

E.R.
Mrs. Franklyn D. Roosevelt  
White House  
Washington, D.C.

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Twenty-seven years rector here occasions call me afield and two years ago in the absence of their local Methodist pastor I buried a child in East Thompson, Connecticut of a family to which the twelfth child was born when the eldest was eight years and seven months old.

Occasionally I call, hardly officially, merely to do some favor.

But a few days ago the radio and rather overdone press items told of the sixth birth of twins to that poverty-stricken family. It is said that America has no rival case on record.

A state nurse called, weighed the babies and asked what I asked yesterday, if the town increased the allowance when this recent birth occurred.

Mr. Fifield losing out by changes in Railway employment now at fifty-seven, owns about the least desirable house I have entered. I worked a few years in the Lower East and West Sides while in the General Theological Seminary, New York City. Apparently temperate and industrious and affectionate to his family he works on the highway on a "project". The children welcome his return at night, not for candy but for him.

My call yesterday revealed that the local pastor whose Sunday School shelters the older children of this family has not as yet called since the recent addition. He lives a few miles from the house.

Were a straight line drawn from New York City to Boston it would suggest that the road past the house should become a thoroughfare and that seems planned. The township of Thompson last Sunday saw ten thousand Lithuanians, I read, assembled and simultaneously, a crowd interested in "White Russia" in that exceedingly beautiful village, East Thompson is a sad fringe and the "house" a trifle over a mile from the northeast corner of Connecticut.

Soon, I hope to have friends from a town fifteen miles below call more helpfully than did the reporters recently. I suppose the word squalor might be used by some social service expert as he glances at conditions which are quite beyond the power of that family to change.

But as the clean table saw a clean blanket spread on it and on that laid Franklyn and Eleanor in immaculate blankets of white with their tenderly adjusted extemporized nursing bottles and the group of children, the eldest eleven years of age and the parents beaming with love and pride as two held the bottles—well, it was a picture. The husband said "we are blessed."
The pitifully stopped mother at thirty-five sadly needing dentistry smiles wearily. I placed a bunch of bananas on the table rather hoping to see numerous youngsters directly engaged but not a word of them nor a suggestion from a child as all seemed more interested in the latest twins.

None suggested my presuming to write you. Doubtless many families repeat your names. I do not know.

Last year you spoke strongly at Yale. The following morning my elder brother, on the Berkeley Divinity School staff, and I chanced to see you as you with two bags descended from the home of Dr. Dan Ladd and offered to assist "help", he said and you characteristically tucking the bags in your Buick straightened up and smiled at us and I ventured "You helped many last night, Mrs. Roosevelt" and you quietly said "Thank you".

I was repaid well for my round trip of about two hundred miles.

Admiring "institutions" duly I can but feel that usually the home is better fitted and this brood in East Thompson is a case." When I add that my son is rector of our Cathedral in Manila you will see I am not a youth. I am impressed as for forty years with the love and loyalty so often among the very poor while conscious of the pitiful problems practical and sentimental.

May I be very presumptuous and add that should you in a motor trip drive your Buick towards Boston and by a direct line and less desirable road bisect the north-east corner of Connecticut and thus go through that little village, East Thompson, and pause and see that family perhaps you would be rather glad I wrote you this.

Faithfully yours

Wolcott Linsley
August 31, 1937

My dear Mrs. Scheider:

This is in further reference to Mrs. Roosevelt's memorandum regarding the Fifield family of East Thompson, Connecticut.

I am enclosing a copy of a report which we have just received in this case, which indicates that the dentist's estimate of the amount needed for Mrs. Fifield's dental treatment is $80.00.

In the preliminary report which was sent to you on July 29 (an additional copy of which I am enclosing) it was indicated that this family is being provided for as well or better than most relief families. In the present report there is also a statement to the effect that the recent publicity given this family has resulted in contributions of cash and clothing.

It appears that, aside from the dental treatment for which there is apparently no provision made by local relief authorities, the needs of this family are being cared for locally.

If there is any further information which Mrs. Roosevelt would care to have us secure in this case, we shall be glad to do so.

Sincerely yours,

Ellen S. Woodward
Assistant Administrator

Mrs. Malvina T. Scheider
Secretary to Mrs. Roosevelt
The White House
WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION
FOR CONNECTICUT
125 Munson Street
New Haven, Conn.
State Armory,
Willimantic, Conn.

August 27, 1937

Mrs. Lulu Martin Scott
Regional Woman's Director
Works Progress Administration
Room 1001, 263 West 14th Street
New York City

Re: Fifield Family
East Thompson, Connecticut

Dear Mrs. Scott:

I am enclosing a copy of the report of the dentist's examination of the Fifield family, Thompson, Connecticut.

I am sorry there has been a delay but it was finally necessary to send the dentist out to the home to complete the examinations since the family did not keep appointments.

The local social worker has also visited the home and again inquired of Mr. Fifield whether the family have actually received any money after their recent publicity. He admitted that they had received about $30 in cash and a contribution of clothing.

The local worker states that the house was as usual indescribably dirty, the children unkempt and that Mr. Fifield seems to have very little sense of responsibility toward his family.

As Miss Joyce suggested, it would seem advisable to send contribution for dental care directly to Miss Wyla Hawson, Selectman's office, North Grosvenordale, Connecticut.

Sincerely yours,

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION
Vincent J. Sullivan, Administrator

By: Elizabeth J. Jenks
Field Supervisor
Intake and Certification
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My dear Mrs. Woodward:

I am sending you a letter from Mrs. Walter J. Born, R. R. #1, Plymouth, Wisconsin. Mrs. Roosevelt would appreciate having the case investigated to see if any help could be given Mrs. Born.

Very sincerely yours,

Malvina T. Scheider
Secretary to Mrs. Roosevelt

Mrs. Ellen S. Woodward
Works Progress Administration
1754 New York Avenue, N. W.
Washington, D. C.

mother of 6 children and is expecting another soon. As she does not have any money is afraid the doctor won’t take care of her.
My dear Mrs. Schaefer:

This is in further reference to your memorandum of August 2nd, in which you requested that we have the case of Mrs. Walter J. Born, R. R. #1, Plymouth, Wisconsin, investigated to see if any help could be given her.

I am enclosing a copy of a report in this matter which we have just received from the Public Welfare Department of the State of Wisconsin. I am sorry that under the circumstances it was not possible for them to be of assistance to Mrs. Born, and I hope that she will be able to work out her problems through the local authorities, as has been suggested to her by the visitor.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

Ellen S. Woodward
Assistant Administrator

Mrs. Malvina T. Schaefer
Secretary to Mrs. Roosevelt
The White House
PUBLIC WELFARE DEPARTMENT
State of Wisconsin
315 South Carroll Street
Madison, Wisconsin

August 24, 1937

Mrs. Ellen S. Woodward
Assistant Administrator
Works Progress Administration
1734 New York Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C.

My dear Mrs. Woodward:

Earlier this month you sent to Miss Goodwin a letter written to Mrs. Roosevelt by Mrs. Walter J. Born of Plymouth, Wisconsin, who is desirous of securing assistance in meeting hospital and doctor bills. In Miss Goodwin's absence I am sending you a report from the Case Supervisor of the Central Application Bureau in Sheboygan County, in which county Plymouth is situated.

For some time Sheboygan County has been on the township system of relief, and the chairman of the township in which the Born family is living would have to authorize any care to be granted. As the report indicates, Miss Runkel has made several suggestions to Mrs. Born which we hope will be of assistance to her. I regret that we are not in a position to take a more active part in the solution of Mrs. Born's problem, but under the circumstances our Central Application Bureau can act only in an advisory capacity.

We shall be very glad to have investigated any other situations in Wisconsin which are called to your attention.

Very sincerely yours,

(Signed) F. D. Plimmer
Director
August 21, 1937

Mr. P. D. Planner
Director, Public Welfare Department
315 South Carroll Street
Madison, Wisconsin

Attention: Miss Aimee Weinstock

Re: Mrs. Walter Born

Mr. dear Mr. Planner,

A call was made at the home of the Walter Born family. The family consists of eight individuals, Mr. and Mrs. Born, and six children, ages two to eight, inclusive. Mrs. Born expects to be confined about the middle of September. She had a cesarean operation at the time of her last delivery and her physician has told her that another will be necessary. During the interview Mrs. Born spoke of having had a nervous breakdown several years ago. All the children seemed to be healthy with the exception of a three year old son who has hernia.

The 100 acre farm which they rent has about 60 acres under cultivation. There are 17 milk cows, but a few of these are dry at the present time. Stock and machinery is valued at about $4000.00, but there is a Federal Land Bank loan of about $1300. Principal and interest payment on this chattel mortgage is made at the rate of $40.00 per month. Other bills amount to about $500 or $600. This estimate includes a $400 feed purchase which was made last year. It will not be necessary to purchase feed for the stock this winter. Rent is paid at the rate of $50.00 per month for nine months of the year. Rent checks amount to about $500. Last year milk checks were as high as $175.00 a month. Deductions are made for the chattel mortgage payment and the rental payment, and this leaves a small amount of cash for current needs. Old medical and hospital bills amount to about $210.00, and nothing has been paid on these bills recently.

Mr. and Mrs. Born would like to pay their old medical bills before incurring any new ones. Their physician has asked them for a payment, but has not been unreasonable in his demands. Mr. Born said that their problem would not be so serious if he were able to sell a cow or two, but he is unable to do this because of the restrictions of the chattel mortgage. No arrangements have so far been made for the hiring of someone to care for the children during the confinement. Mrs. Born has an unmarried sister who has only occasional employment, but she does not like farm life and would be unwilling to come. They have always been able to find someone for Mrs. Born's other confinements. Mr. Born thinks that because there are so many people on relief who do not have to work for a living it is particularly difficult to hire a person now. They have not asked the town chairman for help because Mr. Born does not think that their township will help anyone who has a steady income. The visitor told them that any relief organization would probably not be willing to help them to make a capital payment on their stock and machinery. They are in effect asking that this be done, and would not be in distress if the mortgage payment were reduced.

The visitor also suggested that they see their physician and hospital authorities in order to try to make arrangements for the confinement. In the event that they were refused care it might be necessary to call upon their town chairman.
July 26, 1937

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I am a mother of 6 children and wish to know where I can get some assistance.

I was in the hospital three years ago and didn't get my hospital bill paid when I had to go again. I had a cesarian operation it will be two years the 13th of August. And still have almost $70.00 to pay at the hospital. And nearly $150. left on the Dr. bills. I was paying on that when a man that was helping us with the hay last year tipped over with the hay wagon and broke his right arm. Of course he didn't take any pay for his work so we had to pay his bills.

Now I am expecting another cesarian operation within a month but everyone wants their bills paid before they start this one. So I don't know what to do.

I lost my Mother before I started school and I sure wouldn't like to leave my babies before they are able to take care of themselves.

I'm not even able to hire anyone to take care of them if I do go to the hospital because I haven't the money to pay anyone. 8 years ago I had a young girl here for $6.00 a week but now times have changed - they want more pay.

I just don't know what to do.

Do you think there would be anyone who has money they don't need that would be glad to help me?

It's almost driving me insane worrying about it. I'm afraid the Drs. won't take care of me right if they find that I can't pay that. Last time I went to see the Doctor he asked for some money and I didn't have any to give him. He said to try and raise it and let him know in a week's time. I've been trying to get some money but I don't know where to get it. So I suppose it'll just have to turn out the way the Lord wills it.

A worried Mother,

Mrs. Walter J. Dorn

E. L. 1

Plymouth, Wisconsin
August 3, 1937

My dear Mrs. Woodward:

The enclosed letter was sent to Mrs. Louis McHenry Howe, who forwarded it to Mrs. Roosevelt. Would there be any possibility of helping the writer through your organization?

Very sincerely yours,

Malvina T. Scheider
Secretary to
Mrs. Roosevelt

Mrs. Ellen S. Woodward
Works Progress Administration
Washington, D.C.
October 30, 1937

My dear Mrs. Schneider:

This is to acknowledge your letter of August 3, enclosing a letter addressed to Mrs. Louis McHenry Howe, by Miss Mary Madden, appealing for financial aid.

I regret that such a long period of time has elapsed since receipt of your letter, but we had been in communication with New Hampshire officials and hoped to be able to include a report on the case with our acknowledgment. We have now learned that the State Director of the Writers' Project had been unable to locate Miss Madden.

I regret our inability to have been of aid to Miss Madden and our delay in acknowledging your note.

Sincerely yours,

Ellen S. Woodward
Assistant Administrator

Mrs. Malvina T. Scheider
Secretary to Mrs. Roosevelt
The White House
Washington, D. C.
Dear Mrs. Howe:

It has been suggested that I write to you, inasmuch as your husband was a newspaper man, and members of your family are also in that profession, you might understand my problem a little better than others who have not had that background.

I am a newspaper writer, at present enumerated on a New Hampshire hill-top farm one mile from the nearest neighbor. I syndicated a movie column for many years, wrote for fan magazines and did publicity of almost every kind and description, and, at one time, was a member of the staff of the Worcester Telegram-Cotrace.

As you probably know, these last few years have been rather tough on the wandering newspaper writer, with no permanent address to apply for any kind of relief. I don't believe I have had a permanent address since I left college, but I have never had any difficulty supporting myself, until recently.

Circumstances over which I have no control have stranded me here in Andover. If I can get to New York, there is no doubt in my mind that I can get employment, if not in my own immediate field, in some store or office, to tide me over. Now is the time to get the fall jobs and I must get there if I have to hitch hike.

Incidentally the people who have taken me in here are making my life a hell on earth because I can't pay them ten dollars a week. I owe them for room and board. Cheap enough, I admit, but it might as well be the Ritz, for all my ability to pay. Two days ago I went off in the woods to get away from them, and had to overcome the strongest desire to stay there, let some what may, rather than return to the farmhouse. Fortunately my better judgment overcame my emotionalism and I returned to write this letter to you, for help.

Do you know anyone who will loan me the money to get to New York and pay my obligation here before I leave? I would have to go via White River Junction and can't quote exact figure, but believe it to would do it, and I would have to have something for a weeks room rent and food in the city. My bill here is $30.00. All told if I could borrow a hundred dollars, I have a chance to look at civilization and I know that once there I would require no further assistance. I wouldn't be asking for help now, if I was anywhere I could help myself. It is because I am out of contact, entirely, from the outside world.

Do you think that Mr. Roosevelt can help me or her daughter who is a newspaper woman in the East? If not, do you know of any newspaper organization to whom I could appeal? I have never joined any press club, again for the reason that I was always on the go too much. If you can't make any suggestions, would you be willing to assist me yourself? I realize that is a heap to ask of a stranger, but if you want references, I'll try and give them to you, although I know few people here in the East and my friends in Hollywood are not the easiest people in the world to contact. I have written out
there asking for help, only to find that the very ones who might do something are no longer at the old addresses or I can't get through a barrage of private secretaries.

I used to know Edward Albee Whiting, E. M. Park, John Craig and Katherine Brash, all of Boston. I believe Mr. Craig is dead and where the rest are, the Lord only knows. Katherine Brash is now a well known novelist. She used to be Katherine Duangham of the Boston Traveler and worked under Katherine Lyons, who was the Domestic Editor. I knew "Kitty" Lyons very well, but she also, is dead, so you see I go up a blind alley every time I try to localized assistance.

Whatever your decision may be, Mrs. Howe, I ask you to believe that this letter is perfectly sincere, and the person who does assist me will be paid as promptly as possible and not annoyed by any further requests.

Yours cordially,

Mary Madden
August 27, 1937.

My dear Mrs. Scheider:

This is in further reference to your memorandum of June 23rd, regarding Miss Alice Batterman, 11103 Liberty Avenue, Richmond Hill, New York, who wrote to Mrs. Roosevelt requesting assistance in securing lessons in design. I am quoting below from the report which I just received from Mrs. Audrey McMahon, Assistant to the Director, Federal Art Project in New York City.

"Miss Batterman came in to see me and we had a good talk concerning her problems.

"I sent her to the supervisor in charge of teaching. Unfortunately, he is at present absent and will not return until early in September and I am not aware where he directed her to go.

"I feel certain that she must have reached a satisfactory solution to her problem or else I would have heard from her again. But I shall, of course, communicate with the supervisor in question and inform you further,"

Sincerely yours,

Ellen S. Woodward
Assistant Administrator

Mrs. Malvina T. Scheider
Secretary to Mrs. Roosevelt
The White House
Washington, D.C.
December 9, 1937

My dear Mrs. Woodward:

Mrs. Roosevelt wonders if you would have any contact in Brooklyn which might lead to a permanent copyreading job on a Brooklyn paper for this young man. She would appreciate whatever suggestions you might make.

Very sincerely yours,

Malvina T. Scheider
Secretary to
Mrs. Roosevelt

Mrs. Ellen S. Woodward
Works Progress Administration
Washington, D.C.
December 23, 1937

My dear Mrs. Scheider:

In Mrs. Woodward's absence, I am replying to your letter of December 9th, with which you sent a letter Mrs. Roosevelt had received from Mr. Norman Brundes of Brooklyn.

We communicated with Mr. Henry Alsberg, Director of the Federal Writers' Project, in the hope that Mr. Alsberg would be able to make a suggestion that would be helpful to Mr. Brundes. Mr. Alsberg had occasion to be in New York City just after learning of Mr. Brundes' case and made personal inquiry to see whether anything could be done in the newspaper or allied fields. Because of the recent consolidations of newspapers in New York City and Brooklyn, Mr. Alsberg found that, as he had feared, there is not the slightest chance of finding any regular copy-reading position or reportorial position on one of these newspapers at the present time. At the offices of the New York City Federal Writers' Project, it was found that there are more than a hundred newspaper men trying to secure positions with the project because of these same consolidations.

Mr. Alsberg has made a note of Mr. Brundes' experience and will continue to attempt to find an opening for him. We will communicate with you if Mr. Alsberg is able to find any opening suitable for Mr. Brundes.

Sincerely yours,

Agnes S. Cronin
Administrative Assistant

Mrs. Malvina T. Scheider
Secretary to Mrs. Roosevelt
The White House
Washington, D. C.
Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt  
The White House  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Plain talk, Mrs. Roosevelt, I am in need of your advice and help.

I am the son of poor parents who find it difficult to support me. Physically unable to work at any ordinary job, I have directed my efforts entirely to the literary field, where I believe I have an initial talent. After a year's persistent effort to find an open door in the various departments of the newspapers and magazines in New York with no results (having found that it is next to impossible to obtain an interview with the editors without any special recommendation) I came to the conclusion that no one can help me but you.

I realize that there are hundreds of problems which constantly absorb your attention. Nevertheless, I dare to make a special appeal to you because of the fact that you were presiding at the Twelfth Annual Convention held in the Grand Ballroom of the Hotel Commodore, where I was awarded the Columbia Medal for the "best poem" of 1936.

At a nation-wide contest held the same year by the Scholastic Weekly, I was again a winner for two poems which you will find in the enclosed Scholastic Magazine. A letter of Mr. Kenneth M. Gold, Managing Editor of the Scholastic, is also here enclosed.

Since then, I have tried to acquire practical experience by taking various voluntary positions in the local newspapers without remuneration, and courses in journalism and proof-reading at a neighborhood high school.

I don't want to seem bitter or angry at things, but I cannot help but ask myself this question: Of what use are my poetry prizes and my talent if I cannot find any place to demonstrate my capabilities and support myself.

I hope you will consider my case worthy of your kind attention, and help me in any way you see fit.

Most respectfully yours,

Norman Brandes

P.S. The enclosed copies are the only ones I have, and I would therefore appreciate having them returned.
MEMORANDUM

April 4, 1958

TO:       Mrs. Roosevelt
FROM:     Ellen Woodward
SUBJECT:  Arrangements for Meeting of the Council of Negro Women

The morning meeting of the Council of Negro Women is being held from
nine o'clock until one o'clock in the auditorium of the North Interior
Building. There are about fifty-two representative Negro women attending
including five whose transportation was paid for by this Administration.
The group is to have lunch in the cafeteria of either the North or the
South Interior Building. They will then proceed to the White House at
two o'clock where they will meet with you and the following administrative
heads of government agencies:

Anderson, Miss Mary - Director, Women's Bureau, Dept. of Labor
Barrett, Miss Maude - Administrative Assistant, WPA
Cronin, Miss Agnes S. - Administrative Assistant, WPA
Cole, Mrs. Charley Tid - Coordinator of Information, WPA

Colwell, Miss Helen - Office of Civilian Relief, Red Cross
Dewson, Miss Mary - Social Security Board
Goodykoonts, Miss Bess - Assistant Commissioner, Office of Education
Jordan, Mrs. Atha Carter - National Youth Administration
Kerr, Mrs. Florence S. - Regional Director, WPA

Lenroot, Miss Katharine - Chief, Children's Bureau, Dept. of Labor
Miller, Mrs. Emma Guffey
McIver, Miss Pearl - Senior Nursing Consultant, Public Health Service
Nonsaker, Mrs. Catherine - Correspondence Division, WPA
Price, Miss Virginia - Special Assistant, WPA
Ringe, Miss Irma - Assistant Director, Recreation Division, WPA
Smith, Miss Hilda - Specialist, Worker's Education, WPA
Stanley, Dr. Louise - Chief, Bureau of Home Economics, Dept. of Agriculture
Vann, Mrs. C. D. - Director, Women's & Professional Projects
State of New Jersey, WPA

Wiese, Dr. Mildred - Specialist in Curriculum Material, WPA
Woodward, Mrs. Ellen S. - Assistant Administrator, WPA

I spent some time with Mrs. Bethune on Saturday going over her plans for
the afternoon meeting at the White House. It is her idea that members of
her group will read certain resolutions and recommendations prepared at the
morning meeting. Mrs. Bethune expects no formal response to any of their
requests and recommendations from the government women, whom she wishes to
serve simply as audience. Without any doubt, an insistent plea will be
made by the Negro women that each of the government offices represented
consider the matter of adding to its staff an outstanding Negro woman to
act as advisor on the problems of underprivileged Negro women and children.
I may say to you confidentially that Mr. Richard Brown of N.Y.A. telephoned this morning to say that he had counseled Mrs. Bethune to see to it that her group makes an objective and unemotional presentation of the needs of the Negroes. He seemed to be the least bit apprehensive that the situation might grow a little tense and personal.

Since the point at issue will be the question of appointing more Negro women to Washington positions I might mention to you the fact that we have more than once considered that matter in relation to my Division and have concluded that, since our budget is very limited and since it is almost impossible to find just the ideal person for the position, we would prefer to consider instead the appointing of a small advisory council of Negroes who would meet with my staff three or four times a year. As far as WPA is concerned the real problem in regard to projects for Negroes is, as you know, that of getting local welfare agencies to certify and assign them and of securing local sponsorship. I have discussed this problem frequently with my Regional Directors and we have agreed that it is wisest to work unobtrusively for the Negroes since the whole matter is so highly controversial and too much publicity concerning our efforts for this minority group is bound to prove a boomerang. Of course, we have had similar pressure from other minority groups, such as the Mexican women and Indian women; while my Regional and State Directors are, I think, always responsive to their pleas it is obvious that we cannot add special representatives for each group to our staff.

If it should seem necessary this afternoon I shall be prepared to tell something of WPA's efforts in behalf of Negro women and children. While I have not discussed the procedure of the meeting with any of the government women who have accepted the invitation, since Mrs. Bethune made it clear that she expected no formal response from them to the presentation made by her group, I feel quite sure that each of them will be ready, if you think it desirable to call on her, to make a brief statement about the policy of her office toward Negro women and children.

If you will permit me to make a suggestion, I think it would be well for you to open the meeting in your own fine way and then call on Mrs. Bethune to make her presentation (an attaching copy of the memo she left with me on Saturday) - then the rest of us might fit into the program in any way it all seems best. So glad you are home...

My best wishes - 
Elwin Woodrow
PURPOSE OF THE CONFERENCE

To discuss the extent of the participation of Negro women and children in the various federal social welfare programs with a view towards promoting a larger participation and closer integration of Negroes into the entire federal program.

BASIC QUESTIONS

What is the extent of the participation of Negro women and children in such programs as: Direct Relief Assistance; Old Age Benefits; Aid to the Blind; Child Welfare Services; Aid to Crippled and Dependent Children; Maternal and Child Health Services, etc.; Unemployment Compensation, Housing, Vocational Rehabilitation, etc.?

What are the fundamental reasons for the limited participation of Negro women and children in these various programs?

What actions do we believe could be taken by the federal government to meet these difficulties and promote a larger participation of Negro women and children?

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

9 A. M. Morning session, Auditorium, North Interior Building

12:30 P. M. Luncheon - Cafeteria - North Interior Building

2 P. M. At the White House.

Mary McLeod Bethune, President
National Council of Negro Women
PURPOSE OF THE CONFERENCE

The great humanitarian leadership of the current national administration has placed as one of its foremost objectives the conservation of human resources. Such national legislation as the Social Security Act seeks to protect human beings from the vicissitudes of life. We are especially concerned today with the legislation for the welfare of women and children, and specifically, the problem of the participation of Negro women and children in the benefits of such social legislation.

This group assembled here today represents the active leadership of a large group of women and children, - a considerable and significant sector of American citizenship. We have come primarily to express our eagerness to cooperate with the women of America to achieve together the bright goals of democracy and human welfare. To achieve this end, we would question the extent of the integration of Negroes into the various types of legislation for the social welfare of women and children. We feel definitely that we are severely limited in our participation in these programs and have come to offer our cooperation and our viewpoint in order that we might share the full responsibility and privilege of American citizenship with all other women and children.
FINDINGS OF THE CONFERENCE

Our deliberations have indicated that Negro women and children do not participate in federal welfare programs to any extent in proportion to their need. It is our advised opinion that this condition is the direct result of our virtual exclusion from the administrative or policy forming offices of the various federal departments and bureaus set up for the administration and execution of the programs for women and children.

As good Americans, we should aspire to make our rightful contribution to the social advancement of our nation. We do not feel that this can be accomplished as long as so large a sector as we represent is so largely excluded from the full benefits of social welfare legislation. We therefore definitely recommend that steps be immediately taken to include representative leadership among Negroes in the various administrative posts strategic to the full participation of Negro women and children in the several government programs. Only in this way do we feel that the Negro viewpoint will be adequately presented and the special problems and difficulties of Negro women and children be satisfactorily approached and met.
May 14, 1938

Dear Mrs. Woodward:

Mrs. Roosevelt asks me to send you this letter from Mrs. L. S. Hodges, Eatonville, Washington, and to inquire whether there is any way in which the W.P.A. can help.

Very sincerely yours,

Melvina T. Schneider
Secretary to
Mrs. Roosevelt

Mrs. Ellen S. Woodward
1734 New York Avenue
Washington
D.C.
June 18, 1938

Mrs. Malvina T. Scheider  
Secretary to Mrs. Roosevelt  
The White House  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mrs. Scheider:

I am quoting below a report which I have received in the case of Mrs. L. S. Hodges, Route 1, Eatonville, Washington, about whom you wrote us on May 14.

"Mrs. Hodges was at one time employed as a recreation leader in our Education and Recreation Division. On December 18, 1937, we were informed that Mrs. Hodges' services were quite satisfactory, and later, on December 30, 1937, we received another field form signed by the Zone Supervisor of Education and Recreation, to the effect that Mrs. Hodges' services as a recreation leader were entirely satisfactory.

"On January 10, Mrs. Hodges was assigned to a sewing room as a seamstress. On March 9, she was separated from the service because of voluntary absence. On April 13, when she returned for reassignment, she was immediately reassigned as a seamstress again, and on April 24, she was transferred to a Housekeeping Aides Project.

"It is quite evident from our records that Mrs. Hodges' services as a recreation leader are not desirable or satisfactory. We are, at the present time, unable to assign her to any type of work other than that which she is now performing, in view of the absence of any definite qualifications."

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

Ellen S. Woodward
Assistant Administrator
Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I am taking this method to get a letter to you. I know you are interested in Youth. I have been trying so hard to have my youngest boy go though high school and I want to help him go to college, he has the ambition and is a good clean boy, he doesn't smoke and he takes an interest in all clean sport, but he has to quit school to get work to help us out.

Mr. Hodges has rheumatism and cannot work. I worked on the Adult Education, teaching knitting and art but the supervisor of the handicraft wanted another one put in my place. My classes objected and wrote to Mr. Hughes, the WPA supervisor here in Tacoma at 38th and Warner, but I was laid off and put in the sewing room at $55. a month, with an electric light in front of me and my eyes gave out. I couldn't see to sew. The last two days I stayed in the sewing room was March 4.

Lovell stayed in school until two weeks ago, he quit to find something to do. We do so want him to go on, he has no to work at. I have no work, altho, they tell me I am still certified for work. Mr. Hodges has not been able to work for two years, he could work at taking care of chickens or a few cows and a garden. We could not get the rehabilitation. We wrote about before but the man said we didn't have enough security. Lovell has been cutting some wood to sell but has not sold any yet. He studies his books at night, he hated to quit school so badly and he just has one more year in high school, he is going to try to work at something this summer so he can go to school next year.

If we had a place and a few chickens and a cow or two and a house to tend a garden, I could can vegetables and fruit and we could have our own meat and make our living but we have nothing, there is none of us working and we could not get a grocery order. We haven't had any work since March 4 and he help, only some groceries the other children bought but they have their own families to keep.

I asked the woman at Puyallup, that is the district we are in, she said she would send an investigator out to see if we needed it, she could have called the office at 38th and Warner, Tacoma and found out, that was a week ago tomorrow and no investigator came, and we have no groceries. Please see if you or your husband can tell us what to do to get a home again, we don't want it given to us, we can work and pay for it of ir Mrs. Hodges had something to do or if I had a job at Government work, or something so we can live and help put Lovell through school. Mr. Hodges is 64 and I am 61, but I can work at most anything. Please forgive my bothering you but I have read your letters and I know you are interested in young folks that are trying and people that are thringy to help themselves. Hoping you will forgive the privilege I have taken, I am

Yours truly,

Mrs. L. S. Hodges

Mrs. Roosevelt, through the kindness of your daughter, Anna, bless her heart,
August 11, 1938.

Dear Mrs. Woodward:

I have a note from Anne Lane, Nancy Lane's mother who is very much distressed over two projects which have been rejected by the review division. I am enclosing on a separate sheet what she says.

She feels that this division is not doing an honest-to-goodness fair job to you and that you are perhaps not aware of some of the things which are being turned down. It would be impossible for any one person to follow the work of every division and while ordinarily I would not pass on criticism of this kind, I feel that if you are not familiar with these things, or haven't been watching the work of this division perhaps you would like to do so and make up your own mind without their knowing anything about it.

If you feel that either Aubrey or Barry need a work from me about this, let me know. It seems to me that both of these projects are really very good and I cannot understand with the percentage of the
sponsor's contribution why they should be turned down.

Will you let me know what you find out?

Very cordially yours,
August 16, 1938

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt,
Hyde Park,
New York.

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Did you know that Mr. Frank Bane, Executive Director of the Social Security Board, has tendered his resignation to accept a key position with a national organization in which Mr. Lewis Brownlow and others are interested? I think it is called State Public Administration Councils. I understand that he is also to lecture at the University of Chicago.

It seems to me a terrible blow to the Social Security Board at this time to lose the services of a man who has done such an outstanding job in organizing the various phases of the Social Security work. It is so difficult to get a large administration like that set up and going without a lot of friction, and I understand that in addition to Mr. Bane's splendid technical ability, he has been able to get people to work together amicably. I wish the President would not let him go right now. It seems to me he is much needed.

You will recall that he was the Executive Director of the American Public Welfare Association when he was called to Washington to do this job. In that work he had contact with practically all of the Governors of the States. He assisted many of them in drafting and putting through public welfare legislation. Besides his social welfare interests he has so much political sense and I think that is important in a job of that kind when it is necessary to discuss the program and any needed changes with Senators and Congressmen.

Please pardon this hurried note. I thought you ought to know about this. You may wish to mention it to the President.

Sincerely,

Eleanor S. Woodward
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

September 2, 1938.

MEMORANDUM FOR
MRS. ROOSEVELT

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

F. D. R.
September 1, 1938

MEMORANDUM TO THE PRESIDENT

FROM MR. ALTMEYER

I am returning to you Mrs. Woodward's letter to Mrs. Roosevelt relative to Frank Bane.

We, of course, all regret very much that Mr. Bane has resigned, since he possesses unique qualifications for the position of Executive Director. However, after talking it over with Harry Hopkins we both agreed it would not be fair to Mr. Bane to undertake to bring pressure to bear upon him to reconsider his resignation, inasmuch as the salary in the new position is attractive, it offers life-time security, and furnishes him a wide scope to exercise the special abilities he possesses.

After considering the qualifications of many persons inside and outside of the Board we finally decided to appoint Oscar M. Powell, who has been our Regional Director located in San Antonio, Texas. Mr. Powell is a Southerner, a lawyer by profession, who has demonstrated his ability and his wholehearted sympathy with the objectives of the administration. The appointment does not require Senatorial confirmation; however, I made sure that Senators Sheppard and Connally have no objection.
September 8, 1938

My dear Mrs. Woodward:

Mrs. Roosevelt appreciates the information you gave in your letter of the 1st, concerning the case of Mrs. Ella Gowen. She will be glad if you will have your assistant look into the matter further, as Mrs. Gowen wants to borrow $100.

Very sincerely yours,

Malvina T. Scheider
Secretary to Mrs. Roosevelt

Mrs. Ellen Woodward
Works Progress Administration
Washington, D. C.
September 1, 1938

Mrs. Malvina T. Scheider,
Secretary to Mrs. Roosevelt,
The White House,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mrs. Scheider:

I asked Mary Tinney, who as you know is my New York City Director, to investigate the case of Mrs. Ella Cowen of 333 East 53 Street, New York City, about whom you wrote me on August 20. She phoned me today that both at Altman's and Macy's, where Mrs. Cowen has been selling her cookies and cakes, she was told that her products were very, very good, and that Mrs. Cowen is a fine person.

Mary Tinney sent her confidential assistant out to 333 East 53 Street to talk with Mrs. Cowen, but found that she had left for a two weeks' vacation with Mr. Cowen and no one knew where they might be reached. She talked with the manager of the apartment house, however, and was told that Mr. and Mrs. Cowen have a three room apartment, in an elevator apartment house with doorman. They are paying $60.00 a month rent. They moved to this location about two months ago.

I will be glad to have Miss Tinney look into this matter further when Mrs. Cowen returns from her vacation, if you would like to have other and more detailed information.

Let me know if I can be of further help.

My best wishes.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Understand the Cowens will return about the 15th Sept.
Nothing in files here.

No rent letter to
Mrs. Woodward.

up-and-Mrs. Wi office if they
have any info.
Dear Mrs. Roosevelt,

Thank you for your check for cookies & gingerbread.
I was glad to hear you liked the cookies but a little disappointed that there was no comment on the gingerbread.

When I first wrote you about my baking I asked whether you would loan me some money with which to buy a quantity of supplies so that I would not be buying in round 5 two pounds at a
and also to your charge lots for which I am now paying five cents each at a bakery.

You replied asking how much I needed. To this I replied saying I thought I could do it with careful shopping for one hundred dollars.

I have had no answer to that second letter and am wondering whether you received it.

If you feel one hundred dollars is more than you care to let me have

I shall appreciate it very much if you can let me have it. I will be home in a few days and hope to hear favorably from you by that time as I want to have my supplies ready to get going as soon as my customer returns.

Thank you for your check and I very much appreciate you sending it.

Sincerely,

533 E. 53rd St. Elia Cowan

NYC
enough money on hand to buy supplies for
the next week's orders keeps me awake at
night. So much depends on my making a suc-
cess of this.

Please tell Mrs. Roosevelt my
heart is running over with gratitude to her
and I thank you, too, Mrs. Scheider. I sin-
cerely hope she will like my baked goods.

Gratefully,

Ella Cornew

333 E. 53rd st.
N.Y.C.

August 11, 1938

My dear Mrs. Scheider:

Thank you for your prompt re-
ply to my letter to Mrs. Roosevelt. I will
have the cookies and gingerbread at Mrs.
Roosevelt's apartment on the 16th of this
month as she requests. Only, I should so
much rather give them to her, she does so
much for me through her daily column, she
is so fine, I worship her. I am so poor, I
have nothing to give to show my love for her

You can be sure the day I bake her
gingerbread and cookies will be a red letter
day in my life. I should like for you to
have some, too.

You ask how much money I will need
to purchase supplies. With careful shopping
around I think I can do it with a hundred
dollars. The difference I save in buying
as I do now I can lay aside to replenish the
stock as used. I just started this baking for
people around Easter and soon after that
people began going away for the summer but
the customers I have have given me orders
every week and through them I have gotten
other customers. I'm not afraid of work
but constant worry as to whether I shall have
August 20, 1938

Dear Mrs. Woodward:

Mrs. Roosevelt asks me to send you the enclosed letters and to say that she would like to have Mrs. Cowen’s case investigated.

Mrs. Roosevelt liked the cookies and gingerbread which she bought from Mrs. Cowen. If the facts as stated in the letters are true, Mrs. Roosevelt would be willing to send $100. Will you let her know what the investigator may have to suggest?

Very sincerely yours,

Secretary to
Mrs. Roosevelt

Mrs. Ellen S. Woodward
1734 New York Avenue
Washington, D.C.
March 4, 1937

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I am trying to arrange my itinerary so that I can be in Mississippi to hear you speak when you are there. I should like to do so much, and I think now that I can. Letters to me show that people from all over the State are coming to Jackson to hear you.

I have not seen you in so long to talk to you about our work that I sometimes feel that I am "in the dog house". I miss the inspiration that I always receive from my visits with you, and your suggestions always mean so much.

Mrs. Blanche Ralston is our Regional Director of Women's and Professional Projects in the ten southern states, with headquarters at New Orleans. I have asked her to get in touch with Mrs. Scheider at the Hotel in New Orleans to see if she can be helpful to you in making your plans (outside of speaking appointments) in the Southern States. I am also sending a note to Mrs. Scheider with a few suggestions of my own.

With warm regards, and hoping that your trip into the southern states may be a pleasant one, I am

Sincerely,

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt
The White House
My dear Mrs. Woodward:

Would it be possible for the Works Progress Administration to help this woman in any way? Perhaps you know of someone who could go to see her and help her to work out her problem.

Very sincerely yours,

Malvina T. Scheider
Secretary to
Mrs. Roosevelt

Mrs. Ellen S. Woodward
Works Progress Administration
Washington, D.C.
August 22, 1938

Mrs. Malvina T. Scheider
Secretary to Mrs. Roosevelt
Val-Kill Cottages
Hyde Park, Dutchess County
New York

Dear Mrs. Scheider:

In response to your inquiry of August 18 enclosing a letter from Mrs. Ethel Gibbons of Naples, Long Beach, I am writing to Miss Elizabeth Claus, our State Director in California, asking her to send someone to see Mrs. Gibbons and find out if there is any way to help her work out her problem. I will let you have a report as soon as I hear from Miss Claus.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

Ellen S. Woodward
Assistant Administrator
October 18, 1938

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

Dear Mrs. Thompson:

Colonel Connolly has sent me a further report in connection with the case of Mrs. Ethel Gibbons of Long Beach, California, and regarding employment for her son. I am attaching a copy for your information.

I have written Colonel Connolly urging that he place John Gibbons on a WPA project as soon as possible. When I hear that he has been assigned I will write you again.

Sincerely,

Ellen S. Woodward
Assistant Administrator
September 26, 1938

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

Dear Mrs. Thompson:

I have just received a letter from Colonel Donald H. Connolly, Works Progress Administrator for Southern California, enclosing reports regarding Mrs. Ethel Gibbons of 185 Rivo Alto Canal, Naples, Long Beach, about whom you wrote me on August 18. A copy of his letter together with copies of the reports are attached for your information.

It seems that there is not very much that can be done to assist Mrs. Gibbons at this time, and that her reinstatement on the relief rolls appears to be the only solution.

I have written to Colonel Connolly asking if Mrs. Gibbons' son can be given priority and placed on a WPA project.

Sincerely yours,

Ellen S. Woodward
Assistant Administrator

Attachments
Mrs. Ellen S. Woodward
Assistant Administrator
Works Progress Administration
1734 New York Avenue NW
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mrs. Woodward:

This letter is in reply to your request for information regarding the case of Mrs. Ethel Gibbons of 185 Rivo Alto Canal (Naples), Long Beach, California.

On August 27, 1938 Miss Elizabeth Claus, Director, Division of Women's and Professional Projects, Northern California, forwarded your letter of August 22 to Mrs. June J. Owens, Assistant Director, Division of Women's and Professional Projects, Southern California, requesting that we reply to you direct.

There is attached for your information a complete report on the interview with Mrs. Gibbons. She was informed that we were calling on her in answer to the letter she had written Mrs. Roosevelt, and the object of the visit was an attempt to help her work out her problem. She was advised that in applying for relief she had done the only thing possible under the existing circumstances.

Very truly yours,

/a/ Donald H. Connolly
Lieut. Colonel, Corps of Engineers
Administrator
TO: June J. Owens, Assistant Director
   Women's and Professional Projects
FROM: Kathleen Gavin, Manager
   Women's Activities Department
SUBJECT: Report re: Marie Christien's interview with Ethel Gibbons

Attached letter addressed to Mrs. Roosevelt from Mrs. Ethel Gibbons
185 Rivo Alto Canal
Naples, Long Beach

Miss Marie Christien, Southern Zone Manager, visited Mrs. Gibbons for
the purpose of interviewing her in regard to her letter written to
Mrs. Roosevelt.

Findings:

Mrs. Gibbons has three children, a son of twenty and two daughters
of eighteen and fourteen. During her husband's illness, a couple
of years ago, she worked as a seamstress on Spot #45, Long Beach;
this is the only time she has ever been on WPA rolls. Her husband
was a mental case and was sent to Texas to his people, which left
Mrs. Gibbons free to accept private employment. She is a nurse, a
graduate of Roosevelt Hospital in New York, and has kept busy doing
private nursing; by this means she has averaged about one hundred
dollars per month. She has been forced to give up this work, how­
ever, on account of cataracts on both eyes, and at present can not
leave the house without someone to guide her.

The boy of twenty has finished one year of Junior College, earning
the money for this purpose by washing dishes in a Long Beach hotel.
The past summer he has been working on a fishing barge, but the
season is now over and he is unable to secure work of any kind.
The girl of eighteen hopes to secure a position upon completion of
her high school course in February.

Mrs. Gibbons' idea in writing to Mrs. Roosevelt was an attempt to
secure the loan of enough money to tide the family over until the
boy has finished school and the cataracts have been removed from her
eyes, at which time she feels that they will be able to repay the
loan. She has no security for the loan and no guarantee of ever be­
ing able to repay it, as there is no assurance that the operation on
her eyes will prove successful.

Miss Christien was told by Mrs. Gibbons that she (Mrs. Gibbons) had
written to SRA asking to be reinstated on the relief rolls until
such time as the boy is able to secure work. If he is not success­
f ul, Mrs. Gibbons hopes that he may be given the priority and receive
a WPA work order; he would then be able to keep on with his education.
at night and upon completion of the course could probably support
the family.

Miss Christian feels that Mrs. Gibbons by applying for relief has
done the only thing possible in her situation, and states that
Mrs. Gibbons seems at this time to be resigned to accepting relief
as a temporary measure.

We feel that State Relief is the only solution of the problem at
the present time.

________________________________________
Kathleen Gavin, Manager
Women's Activities Department
TO: Kathleen Gavin, Manager
   Women's Activities

FROM: Marie Christien, Zone Manager
   Women's Activities - Southern Zone

SUBJECT: REPORT OF INTERVIEW WITH MRS. ETHEL GIBBONS

Ethel Gibbons, 185 Rivo Alto Canal, Naples, Long Beach, worked as a Seamstress and was separated from Spot 45, P.M. Shift, on November 4, 1938—Quota Reduction "O".

Mrs. Gibbons is a widow with three children, a son 20 years old, two daughters, 14 and 18.

The son has had one year at Junior College, taking a course in chemical engineering. He saved enough money to do this by washing dishes the previous year at the Riviera Hotel, Long Beach. The past summer, he has worked on a fishing barge, but the season is now over and he is again looking for a position, but has been unable to secure one. He is very much interested in securing work so that he may attend night school, and is willing to do most anything.

The 18-year old daughter graduates from High School in February.

The furnished apartment the family is living in, for which they pay $22.50 per month, is only a temporary home, as it belongs to a friend of Mrs. Gibbons.

Mrs. Gibbons is a graduate nurse from Roosevelt Hospital in New York, and has been doing private nursing for the past year, averaging about one hundred dollars per month. Two months ago, she was forced to give up her last position due to failing eyesight caused by the growth of cataracts on both her eyes. The doctor assured her that as soon as the cataracts mature, they can be removed and her eyesight will be restored. How long a time it will take for this cannot be determined. At present, she cannot leave the house without someone to guide her, as she has had several bad falls when alone.

Mrs. Gibbons had written to the S.W.A. a few days previous to my calling on her, requesting information regarding the procedure to be followed for her re-instatement on S.W.A. rolls. Providing her son does not secure a position, he might then be given a W.P.A. work order, which would furnish a means for the support of the family, and at the same time give him the opportunity of attending night school. Mrs. Gibbons hope that this will only be a temporary measure until an operation could be performed on her eyes, which would enable her to return to nursing.

ELEANOR SAVAY, Chief
   Women's Activities

by Marie Christien, Zone Manager
   Women's Activities—Southern Zone
October 5, 1938

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

Dear Mrs. Thompson:

Mary Tinney had her assistant make a further investigation in the matter of Mrs. Ella Cowen of 333 East 55th Street, New York City, and I am attaching a copy of her report.

I hope that this report will give Mrs. Roosevelt the necessary information, but if not, and you will advise me, I shall be glad to have Miss Tinney go into the matter further.

Sincerely yours,

Ellen S. Woodward
Assistant Administrator

Enclosure
My dear Mrs. Woodward:

With reference to our recent conversation relative to Mrs. Ella Cowen, my investigator, Miss Ellen Brown, interviewed Mrs. Cowen at her home the morning of September 27, 1938.

Mrs. Cowen occupies a three room apartment at a monthly rental of $60.00 at 333 East 55th Street, Manhattan. She decided to move into this apartment after she had been assured that many other tenants would buy her products. She also is arranging dinners and evening suppers for these tenants.

Mrs. Cowen has many nice contacts. Macy's department store has renewed their contract with her, but she needs capital for the initial outlay for supplies, such as flour in barrels instead of in smaller quantities, paper boxes and wrapping paper so that she can start filling orders.

Mr. Cowen works one day a week for a friend and also makes and sells mimeograph machines for the customers of the firm where they were both formerly employed. This income is sufficient only for living expenses.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Mary C. Tinney, Director
Division of Women's and Professional Projects
September 23, 1938

Mrs. Malvina C. Thompson
The White House

Dear Mrs. Thompson:

In reply to your letter of recent date concerning Mrs. Ella Cowen, I want you to know that I am keeping in touch with my assistant in New York and will keep you advised as soon as I have further report.

Sincerely yours,

Ellen S. Woodward,
Assistant Administrator.
Letter dated Oct 10 from Mr. Donald Jeffrey Hayes, 326 Rosemont Pl.
Stanley Holmes Village, Atlantic City, NJ.
Wishes help in becoming located in poetry work.
Cannot find work, has a Civ Serv. examination record for Sr. Emp Interviewer.
October 13, 1938

Dear Mrs. Woodward:

This poetry seems to be rather good. I wonder if there is any try in
which he could use this boy on some of
the newer projects. It must be rather
difficult to find people of this type
and perhaps there is an opening.

Sincerely yours,

Mrs. Ellen S. Woodward
Director Women's Div.
WPA Wash DC