

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION

WALKER-JOHNSON BUILDING
1734 NEW YORK AVENUE NW.
WASHINGTON, D. C.

HARRY L. HOPKINS
ADMINISTRATOR

October 19, 1938

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt
The White House

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

This is in reply to your letter of
October 13 about Donald Jeffrey Hayes of Atlantic
City, some of whose poetry was enclosed in your
letter.

I have talked to Mr. Henry Alsberg, the
Director of the Federal Writers' Project, about this,
and I feel sure that it will be possible to employ
Mr. Hayes on the Writers' Project in North Carolina.
Mr. Alsberg is going to look into this for me im-
mediately.

*I will let you hear
again -*

Sincerely yours,

Ellen Woodward

Ellen S. Woodward
Assistant Administrator

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION
WASHINGTON

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WOODWARD

fill

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I can't begin to tell you how much we enjoyed our visit to you at Hyde Park. It was so good of you to let me come and bring my Regional women. You sent us home with a lot of new ideas and plans and inspired us to do a more effective job.

I wish I could make you know how much it means to talk things over with you.

We were thrilled to death to have the chance to talk with the President. I felt that I got the Institutional projects matter satisfactorily settled. When I reached home I immediately had the N.Y. City project rewritten in line with the President's expressed feelings about these projects,

and he signed it promptly after it
went through the regular procedure. I
tried to reach you by phone that night
to tell you the good news - but found
you were away from Hyde Park.

Thank you for everything -
My very best wishes to you and the
President and please express to him
our thanks for seeing ^{us} and talking
to us -

Sincerely,
Ellen Woodward

Monday -

November 6, 1938

My dear Mrs. Woodward:

Mrs. Roosevelt asked me to thank
you for your report on the case of Mrs. Edith
Monroe, Indianapolis, Indiana, and for returning
the check. She is glad that the situation in
this family is not so bad as it at first appeared.

Very sincerely yours,

Secretary to
Mrs. Roosevelt

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

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WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION

WALKER-JOHNSON BUILDING
1734 NEW YORK AVENUE NW.
WASHINGTON, D. C.

HARRY L. HOPKINS
ADMINISTRATOR

October 31, 1938

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

Dear Miss Thompson:

This is in reference to my letter of August 4 regarding the case of Mrs. Edith Monroe, 1148 Linden Street, Indianapolis, Indiana, who requested Mrs. Roosevelt's assistance in securing a transfer for her husband to a WPA project in Arizona.

The Works Progress Administration in Indiana has made a very careful investigation of the situation, and recommends that the family remain in Indianapolis. I am attaching a copy of the report we have received and also a copy of the letter we have written to Mrs. Monroe.

Since the family is not to move to Arizona and does not appear to be in any unusual need of financial assistance, I am returning Mrs. Roosevelt's check for twenty-five dollars (\$25.00).

Sincerely yours,

Ellen S. Woodward

Ellen S. Woodward
Assistant Administrator

October 31, 1938

Mrs. Edith Monroe
1149 Linden Street
Indianapolis, Indiana

Dear Mrs. Monroe:

This is in further reference to your letter of October 11 in which you asked about the decision of the local authorities as to transferring you and your family from Indiana to Arizona.

The report for which we were waiting has just been received. The authorities who have been working on this matter considered that it would be inadvisable for you to go to Arizona because of the expense of moving, the uncertainty of employment for your husband in the new location, and especially because you would not be eligible for benefits of medical assistance or relief until you had established residence by living in the state continuously for three years.

I am glad to learn from the report that your little boy is now attending a fresh air school, and that his health is improving.

I feel sure that under the circumstances the decision that you should remain in Indianapolis is for the best, and I hope you will be able to work out your problems satisfactorily.

Sincerely yours,

Ellen S. Woodward
Assistant Administrator

October 27th, 1938

Miss Ellen S. Woodward, Assistant Administrator,
Works Progress Administration,
1734 New York Ave., N.Y.
Washington, D.C.

Dear Miss Woodward:

We wish to apologize for our delay in replying to your letter of October 19th relative to the case of Mrs. Edith Monroe, 1149 Linden Street, Indianapolis, Indiana, who has been desirous of the transfer of her family to Arizona, however, we have experienced considerable difficulties and delays in obtaining information from the various local clinics and hospitals which the family has visited in recent months.

Relative to the condition of her son, we have a report that he is now in attendance at a fresh air school and has been there since the beginning of the present school term, September 8th.

Before entrance to this school the family physician stated that the boy was suffering from asthma and did not respond to treatment. We now have a report from the nurse at the fresh air school stating that the child has recently gained weight, does not have active tuberculosis, and that sufficient rest and proper food has proven a very satisfactory treatment in his case. His nervousness is also reported to have been greatly improved since his entrance in this school.

A report from the physician attending Mrs. Monroe indicates that she is in a poor physical condition but further states that a change in climate would be of no material benefit to her condition.

A report from the Veterans' Hospital at Indianapolis reveals that Mr. Monroe was a patient at the hospital for the period June 29th to July 12th, 1938, claiming to suffer from flat feet, hemorrhoids, neurasthenia and arthritis. The Hospital officials report however that his stay in the hospital did not demonstrate that he was a sufferer of these ailments.

Mr. Monroe is still employed on a local W.P.A. project at the skilled rate of \$85.00 per month. He has been in the office several times since the question of a transfer was discussed and fully understands some of the problems that would be entailed should the move to Arizona be made. Such problems as the expense of moving, uncertainty of employment in the new location, loss of benefits of medical assistance, etc. were all pointed out to him.

According to Mr. Monroe's own statement, an examination at the Veterans' hospital disclosed that he was not suffering from tuberculosis. His claim for Veterans' Disability Compensation was therefore disallowed.

On one of his visits to this office he frankly stated that by presenting his claim in another locality that it might meet with more favorable consideration. We are inclined to believe that this factor might possibly have influenced Mr. Monroe's decision to move.

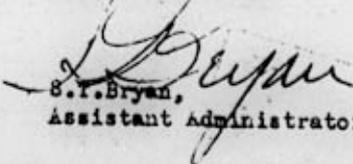
From our investigation we are very dubious that the health of the family would be materially effected by a change in climate. From an economic standpoint they would, no doubt, encounter many difficulties that would not be involved if their present residence is retained.

I hand you herewith a communication which we recently received from Mr. P.H. Brooks, Commissioner of the State Department of Social Security and welfare of Arizona. As you will note, this State evidently makes no provision for non-residents or transient cases.

Under these conditions the Monroe family would therefore not be able to receive the public clinic and hospital services which have been available to them here.

Trusting that the above information will be of assistance to you in arriving at a proper disposition of the case, I am,

Very truly yours,


S. I. Bryan,
Assistant Administrator

/p
cc
K.E. Lancet

Mrs. E. W. McLearn, 909 W. Baltimore St. Flint, Mich.

December 12, 1938

My dear Mrs. Woodward:

Mrs. Roosevelt would appreciate it if you would have this case investigated immediately to see what can be done. Perhaps this woman could get the operation for nothing. If not, would you have some one obtain the minimum price and Mrs. Roosevelt says she will pay if necessary.

Very sincerely yours,

Secretary to
Mrs. Roosevelt

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

DD

file

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION

WALKER-JOHNSON BUILDING
1734 NEW YORK AVENUE NW.
WASHINGTON, D. C.

HARRY L. HOPKINS
ADMINISTRATOR

December 19, 1938

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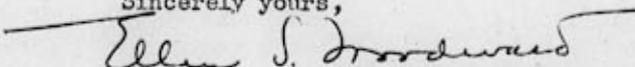
Miss Malvina C. Thompson
Secretary to Mrs. Roosevelt
The White House

Dear Miss Thompson:

Attached is a report from Mr. George Hoffman, Social Worker in the Michigan Works Progress Administration, regarding the case of Mrs. E. W. McLearn of 909 West Baltimore Street, Flint, Michigan, about which you wrote me on December 12.

If there is any additional information Mrs. Roosevelt would like to have, we would be glad to obtain it for her. It appears, however, that the situation is being adequately handled in Flint.

Sincerely yours,



Ellen S. Woodward
Assistant Administrator

Enclosure

Telephone conversation Mr. Hoffman - Michigan to
Mrs. Burgoon 12-15-38

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Under date of December 14 our District Social worker interviewed Earle W. McLearn who did not know of any letter of appeal which had been made. He had arrangements in mind for his wife and he had planned for her to go to the hospital last Friday, December 9, but at the last minute the wife lost her nerve and said she wanted to stay home until after Christmas.

Dr. P. C. Probert, 711 First National Building, Flint, stated she should really go at once but if she stayed under codine most of the time to relieve the intense pain, she could stay home until after Christmas and then have the operation.

The family consists of husband, wife, and two children. The man works as a salesman for the National Drug Company - salary \$40 per week - out of which he pays his own expenses amounting to \$5 per wee - making a net income of \$35 per week.

He feels he would be able to pay \$20 a month on the hospital and surgery bill, and feels he will be able to make such an arrangement. He felt the operation should be done as soon as possible but quoted the Doctor as saying that a few weeks would not make a great deal of difference.

The WPA social worker offered any assistance that might be useful in making these arrangements.

Medical facilities in Flint are very good. They do have clinics at which they could obtain some help but the rest would have to be obtained from Federal benefit through the Superintendents of the Poor, providing no resources were possible.

Mr. McLearn was grateful for such an offer and agreed to call up this office (WPA) for aid in working out a plan if necessary. It was agreed by the WPA Social worker and Mr. McLearn that Dr. Probert should be interviewed Thursday morning to find out what he would recommend. Our social worker states that Mr. McLearn is alert, intelligent, and has had good medical advice from the Doctor. It would appear that the case is not quite as urgent as first represented. Today, Mr. Young, our social worker, interviewed the Doctor and Mr. Young found that the operation according to the Doctor's advice should be done as soon as possible but that the condition is not a real emergency that could not be taken care of within the next few weeks.

The diagnosis was probable cancerous condition of the uterus. Could be either tumor or fibrous condition.

Mr. McLearn made the statement to the Social worker and in front of the Doctor that after January 1 he would be able to meet the cost on a monthly basis - which was acceptable to the Doctor.

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May 15, 1939

Dear Mrs. Woodward:

I am sending you this letter from Mrs. Agnes Fay, Venice, California, whose case has previously been referred to the Welfare Commissioner in Sacramento. Owing to the fact that a handicapped child is concerned, I wonder if the Social Security Board could help in any way.

Very sincerely yours,

Secretary to
Mrs. Roosevelt

Mrs. Ellen S. Woodward
Social Security Board
Washington
D.C.

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SOCIAL SECURITY BOARD
WASHINGTON, D. C.

*File
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5-14*

May 21, 1939

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

Dear Miss Thompson:

I have your note of May 15, with which you enclosed a communication from Mrs. Agnes Fay of Venice, California, concerning her son.

Apparently Mrs. Fay is now receiving aid to dependent children under the Federal-State program for this type of aid. As you know, under the Social Security Act the States and their local governmental subdivisions determine the amount of assistance which shall be granted in each case. In the California program, the county welfare department and the county board of supervisors in each county decide the budget which will be allowed for each person receiving this type of assistance, and the Federal Government does not have any authority to require more adequate grants.

Since Mrs. Fay's situation has already been referred to the State Department of Social Welfare, there is no way in which we could be of direct assistance to her. However, I am asking the Regional Representative of our Bureau of Public Assistance for the area which includes California to request the State department to look into the possibility of providing more adequate financial assistance for Mrs. Fay and her son, and to ascertain whether the Crippled Children's Division of the State Health Department is aware of the child's situation.

Sincerely yours,

Ellen Woodward
Ellen S. Woodward,
Member of the Board

*As soon as I hear
from our Regional Rep.
I shall let you hear.*

Enclosure

Ellen

SOCIAL SECURITY BOARD
WASHINGTON, D. C.

May 31, 1939

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

Dear Miss Thompson:

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Sincerely yours,

Ellen S. Woodward,
Member of the Board

Enclosure

COPY

May 4, 39

50 Park Ave
Venice
Calif

Dear Miss Thompson

I am writing
to you instead of to Mrs.
Roosevelt because I know
how very busy she is, and
since Dr. Kitchin assures
me that you are very
very nice, I feel sure that
you will not mind.
Dr. Joyce got in touch
with me right away and
he says he will do all
he can to place my son
at Pacific College. I am
afraid however that he
will not be able to do so
for some time as the

blame is over crowded,
in the medicine my
difficultly is my fault
that I have neglected it,
and I don't know what
I can do to do what I
should for the child,
especially in view of
the fact that his health
is not at all what
it should be: I wrote
to Governor Allen and
asked him to intercede
for me and to leave
the boy if possible in
on State Island until he
went to Pacific Colony
after that, it does not
matter, there will only

be me to consider Mr. Allen
did not take the trouble to
reply, so I wondered if you
would explain to Mrs. Russell
and see if she could do
something for me: I do not
want to be insistent but
this boy of mine is all I
have, and I do not want
him to go hungry, and \$26.00
per month for both of us,
with \$14.00 taken out for tent,
does not leave enough to
provide for him, the doctor
says he must have plenty
of milk, they allow \$1.00 per
month for that.

If something could be
done about this I would
be so grateful.

Will you please thank
M^{rs} Roosevelt for me
for her interest, one
word from her, did
what I have been
trying to do for over
four years.

Thank you Mrs Thompson

Truly yours

Agnes Fay

SOCIAL SECURITY BOARD
WASHINGTON, D. C.

August 9, 1939

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

Dear Miss Thompson:

You may recall that on May 31 I wrote you concerning the communication that Mrs. Roosevelt had received from Mrs. Agnes Fay of Venice, California, about Mrs. Fay's son. At that time we asked the California State Department of Social Welfare for a report on this case.

After some delay on the part of the State agency, we have just received the following information concerning Mrs. Fay's situation:

"Our file indicates that Mrs. Fay's son, Hugh, was granted Children's Aid in the amount of \$10.00 per month from January 1, 1931 to April 27, 1939 when he became eighteen years of age and therefore was ineligible to further assistance of this type. We assume from Mrs. Fay's letter to Miss Thompson, and in accordance with the usual policy of the county welfare department regarding cases where there is a serious health problem, that indigent aid has been granted to this family, and as you know, the county has complete jurisdiction over the administration of such relief. It would therefore be impossible for this Department to effect any adjustment in the relief budget which seems inadequate inasmuch as Mrs. Fay states that she pays \$14.00 per month for rent out of a total of \$26.00.

"We have also checked the possibility of securing service and assistance for Hugh under the Crippled Children's Act but find that the applicant may not be over eighteen years of age. It is true that Assembly Bill 1070 enacted in the last Legislative Session extends the age to twenty-one 'provided, that this extension of age shall apply only to those

Miss Malvina C. Thompson

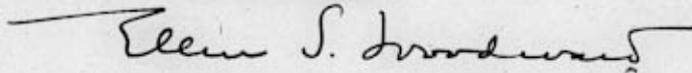
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children for whom services, under Section 251 of Article 2, have been previously arranged.'

"We also have a letter of April 20, 1939 from the Los Angeles Department of Charities which states that although Hugh is being satisfactorily cared for in his own home, placement in Pacific Colony had been requested through Child Welfare District. Inasmuch as there was apparently no need for an emergency placement, however, and as there is a long waiting list, it was felt that care in the Fay home would have to be continued indefinitely."

Since Mrs. Fay apparently is eligible only for general relief, which in California is entirely a county responsibility, there does not seem to be anything the State Department of Social Welfare can do to improve her situation.

Sincerely yours,



Ellen S. Woodward,
Member of the Board

October 14, 1939

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My dear Mrs. Woodward:

Thank you so much for the report on ~~Pearl Whitten~~. I am glad to know that things have worked out so well and I think that it was a grand piece of work. I shall write Mrs. Patterson to tell her how much I appreciate what she did.

Very sincerely yours,

Mrs. Ellen S. Woodward
Social Security Board

DD

IN REPLY REFER TO
FILE NO.

SOCIAL SECURITY BOARD
WASHINGTON, D. C.

ARTHUR J. ALTMAYER, CHAIRMAN
ELLEN S. WOODWARD
GEORGE E. BIGGE

October 12, 1939

Arthur J. Altmeyer
10-14-39

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

*Booked by [unclear]
Office [unclear] [unclear]*

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I know you will be delighted, as I have been, to receive the good news that Mrs. Patterson's letter contains. It has taken a long time for the various agencies and individuals in Mississippi to get everything lined up so that Pearl Whitten, the little crippled girl, can go to school, but the thing that impresses me is that the Supervisor of the Children's Division of the Department of Public Welfare in Mississippi has followed through on the matter and the child will have the opportunity for an education. Since so many agencies now are interested in Pearl's welfare, I have no doubt that she will be looked after right along.

This is just one of the many thousands of instances where you took the time to show an interest in a worthy, handicapped child and because of your expressed interest something happened. I was very happy to receive this letter and I knew that you would be, too.

Affectionately,

Ellen Woodward



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

TELEPHONE 2-1883

P. O. BOX 1669

JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI

October 10, 1939

W. F. BOND,
COMMISSIONER
PHONE 2-1884

STATE BOARD
R. W. REED, CHAIRMAN, TUPELO
VICTOR H. SCANLAN, NATTIEBURD
R. P. BROOKS, BELZONI

Mrs. Ellen S. Woodward
Social Security Board
Washington, D. C.

Re:- Pearl Whitten
Referred by Mrs. Gladys Pruett
Ballard, Dublin, Mississippi

Dear Mrs. Woodward:-

You may recall that in November 1938 Mrs. Roosevelt referred to you a letter from Mrs. Gladys Pruett Ballard of Dublin, Mississippi, requesting aid for a sixteen year old crippled girl named Pearl. We replied that we would get in touch with Mrs. Ballard and see what could be done. We thought you might be interested in knowing the final plan that has been worked out, and for your convenience we are enclosing a copy for referral to Mrs. Roosevelt.

When Mrs. Ballard gave us the identifying information we needed to locate Pearl Whitten, we referred the matter to the Sunflower County Welfare Agent for investigation. Because of the bad weather and flooded conditions of the northern part of Sunflower County during the winter, the Welfare Agent was unable to get in touch with Pearl's family until late in March of 1939. At that time his report confirmed Mrs. Ballard's information about the family conditions and about Pearl's desire for additional education. He commented that she seemed to be above the average intelligence, and that she was eager to become self-sustaining. Her father was willing for her to go to school but stated that he was financially unable to keep the children in school. According to the Welfare Agent, Mr. Whitten did not seem to realize the importance of making any special efforts to provide for his children's education. His family lives only a mile and a half from the school bus route. The other children can walk to the bus but Pearl cannot because of her artificial limb, especially after the road becomes muddy. Apparently, the only solution to the problem was to make some arrangements for boarding care for Pearl in some town where she might attend school.

Since the school year was so nearly completed and the limits of our program at that particular time made it impossible for the Field

2 - Mrs. Woodward - October 10, 1939

Consultants to give service to any but the most urgent cases in counties where we did not have a full time Children's Worker, we were unable to take any further steps until July. At that time we discussed Pearl's situation with the Vocational Rehabilitation Division in Mississippi and the Crippled Children's Service. This Division was not able to provide any type of boarding home care for Pearl and ordinarily would not be able to use their funds for a child who was no further advanced in school than was Pearl. They were giving supervision and adjustment for the artificial limb which had been provided earlier.

We got in touch with Mrs. Ballard, who had been so much interested in Pearl's welfare. She thought she might be able to find a home in Dublin, Mississippi, where Pearl had formerly attended school, if some funds were available to pay a nominal board. No N.Y.A. scholarships were available since they had already been promised to children who were residents of Coahoma County. Finally, within the next six weeks, through the efforts of the Field Consultant of the Children's Division, the Coahoma County Welfare Agent (Dublin is in Coahoma County), and the Sunflower County Welfare Agent, the following resources were made available. The Vocational Rehabilitation Division of Mississippi allocated forty dollars for school supplies and books after Mrs. Ballard made a special plea for this particular case. The Sunflower County Board of Supervisors appropriated seven dollars a month for the 1939-40 school year from their general fund for aid of the poor to pay part of Pearl's board. The King's Daughters in Coahoma County supplemented this with three dollars a month. A physician and his wife in Dublin are offering Pearl a home for the nominal sum of ten dollars per month. The Coahoma County Red Cross is providing some additional money for clothing. Mrs. Ballard and a neighbor are remodeling some other clothing for the child's use, and the Dublin School has stated that they would provide any school materials not available through the Vocational Rehabilitation Fund. Coahoma County is one of the counties in which we have a full time Children's Worker. She is now accepting supervision of the case and will keep in touch with Pearl and with her family during the following months.

We thought you would be interested in this case as an example of the way in which local resources, both public and private, may be utilized in planning for the welfare of a child. Mrs. Ballard reports that Pearl is overjoyed at the prospect of being able to return to school.

Very truly yours,

Robbie W. Patterson

Mrs. Robbie W. Patterson
Supervisor, Children's Division

W. F. BOND, COMMISSIONER
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE

CMc/h