THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

June 6, 1941.

These are Red Cross figures, showing available money on June 6, 1941, given to me by Norman H. Davis.
$450,000 - unallocated

$45,500,000 allocated to Rep. Cons,
$28,650,000 requests submitted –
5,350,000
Pending –
15,000,000 out to R.O.I. –
16,000,000 into govt. agencies –
37,100,000
8,140,000 uncommitted –
2,600,000 – surplus on hand

If $45,000,000 balance is reappropriated we will have about $16,500,000 available & may $12,000,000 to 14,000,000 free to be used for Ireland.
November 15, 1941.

Dear Fieser:

    I got a chance to read your very interesting notes last night. Many thanks for sending them to me. There is no question that in the Red Cross we have almost unlimited opportunity and the country is behind us.

    Always sincerely,

Mr. James L. Fieser,
American Red Cross,
Washington, D. C.
Honorab speaking Franklin Delano Roosevelt,
The White House, 
Washington, 
D.C.

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

My dear Mr. President:

Upon returning from a field trip of approximately seven weeks duration beginning in late September and taking me 11,000 miles across the country, it occurs to me that — off the record — you may welcome a picture of the state of the Nation as seen through the eyes of a Red Cross man, as set forth in the attached copy of my report to Mr. Norman H. Davis, Chairman, American Red Cross.

I know that you do not wish to be loaded up unduly on your forthcoming trip but I do not believe that this will be hard reading and may have relationship to your thinking in connection with further possibilities for the utilization of the Red Cross in the improvement of national unity because it alone continues successfully to have the endorsement of such divergent personalities as are represented by the President of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States, Mr. William Green of the American Federation of Labor, Mr. John L. Lewis of the United Mine Workers, Phil Murray, of the C.I.O., Mr. Edward A. O'Neal, American Farm Bureau Federation, Catholic, Protestant and Jew, worker in city and country, Democrat or Republican, man, woman or child.

I do not believe that we have yet learned how to use it to the maximum in connection with the appeal to the multitude with reference to jobs to be done in time of peace or war.

I regret that you have been suffering from a cold and hope that you will speedily get back to your good, sturdy self and, furthermore, that you will have a delightful trip to Warm Springs.

I heard your addresses while in the field and wish to say Amen on the course which you have set and to wish you full strength and power in your endeavors.

Very sincerely yours,

James L. Fieser
Vice-Chairman in Charge
of Domestic Operations

JLV H - Enclosures
The Chairman

Mr. Fieser

November 12, 1941

Three Area trip report -
Vice Chairman in Charge
of Domestic Operations

With the addition of Philadelphia last Thursday and Newark yesterday I have now completed my schedule in twelve states from the Atlantic to the Pacific and back again during the past seven weeks - a little over 11,000 miles of traveling.

The Philadelphia meeting of Roll Call officials and team captains - 2,500 of them packing the ballroom and every other dining room facility, with the public address system at the Bellevue-Stratford - was the biggest of them all despite the downpour of rain. Yesterday the Newark meeting was remarkable for several reasons among them (1) the acceptance of the deed for a new Chapter building valued originally at $300,000 and which becomes a joint gift of the heirs and the officers and employees of the Bamberger Department store and the officers and members of the Newark Baseball Club; and, (2) the launching of their Roll Call, the second to be held this year. When the Community Chest moved up its date to October they at once decided to occupy November even though they had a Spring Roll Call. They are going out for 75,000 members - double what they had last time. Three years ago, their last year in the Chest, they had 15,700 members with rundown offices and an insignificant program.

A few miscellaneous observations, supplementing those which I wrote you from the field, may be in order, as follows:

STATE OF THE NATION: I did not find the same measure of resistance to international affairs that I found on my other long trip two years ago from Butte, Montana, East. There is, however, a great deal of apathy when you get away from the Eastern or Western seaboard. I was amazed in St. Louis on Navy Day to see the people lined along the street - several deep - watching the Navy Day parade - it was held on the preceding Saturday - with never more than a sporadic cheer by an individual here and there as our colors and some of the Naval units went by.

Incidentally, our Chapter was not sufficiently alive to have a unit in the parade. On the other hand, I got into the Missouri Ozarks at Fredericktown on Monday which was Navy Day. They had quite a turnout of men, women and children with no one but Legionnaires and Red Cross workers to fall back upon for color. They, however, had a creditable parade led by the High School band.

I would say that the country West of the Mississippi - perhaps West of the Alleghenies and North of the Mason and Dixon Line - is now in a state of rather sober curiosity about where we are going. I looked for sparks of popular fighting resentment when the first stories came in of one of our destroyers being hit and, later, about one of our destroyers being sunk. I remembered how I helped build a bonfire as a boy at Alexandria, Indiana, the night that we first heard of the sinking of the Maine and of the Universal resentment over the sinking of the Lusitania in connection with the World War.
our program and to publicise this fact. Except for the handful of states where civilian defense needs are already recognised, Red Cross attendance while larger in numbers, showed a diminished ratio of men. As I pointed out in another communication, if we are lopsided in our emphasis, we will confirm the feeling expressed by Governor Lehman and by many another person "That the Red Cross is a fine women's organisation". It must be a fine organisation for men, women and children in every walk of life. I am wondering whether in advance of our spring canvass, we should not work diligently on much emphasis upon disaster preparedness, first aid and safety factors and the Military and Naval Welfare angles to stir up masculine interest and a degree of increased attendance. It is our opportunity to emphasise the trinity of interest. We all know the women and the Juniors all have a sizeable turnout. What we need now is man power as well.

The tide of membership and program interest seems to grow with the inspiration of our convention, state and regional meetings. The regionals this fall have given us an amazing quantity of publicity at the state level - publicity that we never see here. Certainly each state was flooded for two or three days with Red Cross news and pictures. On my trip I made no less than twelve radio appearances over important state stations. Others were doing the same thing. Some people still express disbelief and consider meetings a nuisance. They are, however, among our most important vehicles not only for inspiration but for face to face realization of the interlock of our national staff and chapter organization. We still have a great advance to make in connection with this phase of our work. I cited the St. Louis and Fredericktown, Missouri, Navy Day parades. Every town and city will have lots of parades from here on, on every possible patriotic occasion - Washington's Birthday, Army Day, Memorial Day, the Fourth of July and others. In Newark, New Jersey, yesterday the Chapter had five blocks of Red Cross people - men, women and children - in the Armistice Day parade. However, all the space in the reviewing stand was occupied by Red Cross nurses with their red lined capes. Many others were in the parade. The Chapter had the parade move to the Memorial Square where the Mayor unveiled one of our big twenty-four sheet posters. All of that took the desire to do it and organising skill in accomplishing it, and, as a result, the 50,000 people who lined the streets as well as the thousands who participated in the two-hour long parade, were aware of the Red Cross. All of this has to do with national unity and national security and the fight for democracy and the preservation of civilization. The people like the Red Cross and like to have showmanship in it. I have no question about our ability to do a job and do it well but I question in my own mind whether we have ever sufficiently realized the importance of showmanship and salesmanship in an appeal to the multitude.

Everywhere I found the most wholesome attitude over our national, area, camp and chapter staffs. Only once did anyone raise the question of salaries in a critical sense whereas on numerous occasions staff people were complimented for their leadership. Particular amazement was expressed over the ability of the Red Cross to get and retain employees at such reasonable rates. It would have done your heart good to have heard the applause which often followed reference to one of our field representatives, or a field director in camp. A bond of affection and reliance is there.

PRODUCTION interest continues high. There is a little lag in the interest in foreign work and an increase in the interest in production for home use. If we had the same amount of money available for yarn, etc., and
first aid time saving home and farm accident prevention

MILITARY AND NAVY WEIGHTS SHOWN: We had only and really

...
industrial plants, stores and other units by the thousand within the next year.

**JUNIOR RED CROSS** is in a strong position. Wherever Junior speakers appear on the program they take the place by storm. You could see people nod their heads when I gave the Junior membership slogan as follows: "Every child in every room in every school in America a member." I cribbed this from Mr. Blair. Having both the Senior and Junior enrollment simultaneously will, I believe, help both. The big need is to get a clearer definition of our program. Making a few albums and a few menu covers and some nut cups will not fill the bill. In fact, Mr. Livingston Blair as the Acting Director of Junior Red Cross almost from the beginning of his tenure with us, has given us a lot of new sights on this whole question. A surprising number of local Junior councils are finding their own answers. At Oakland, California the Junior Council took the job of making an untold number of First Aid kits for the emergency squads which will be lined up at all fire stations and elsewhere as a part of the Civilian Defense program. As I wrote you in another letter, the Civilian Defense interest on the Pacific Coast is very real but directed toward defense from Japan.

Our **VOLUNTEER SPECIAL SERVICES** have done a tremendous lot to put the Red Cross on the map with the women of America. Everywhere they seem to like the new uniforms. I found no enthusiasm for the cap which goes with it. They refer to it facetiously as a "miner's cap". At almost every regional and Chapter meeting a style show using these uniforms was put on. The style show usually also included display of the garments made by the women for refugees and for hospital use.

A number of people especially in the smaller places expressed the hope that we would not regiment the women of the Red Cross. They felt that millions of women including country women and small town women who do their own house work and who are themselves pretty close to the line where every penny counts, should be protected from the necessity of keeping up with the Joneses by buying uniforms. It was pointed out that the clothing budget this year will be tightened more than ever and the Red Cross, with our increasing membership - more than ever the expression of the democracy of America - should not become too definite a vehicle for limiting its workers to the uniform type or make people feel self-conscious when they are unable to supply one. If we are not careful we will block out a majority of the women who belong to the Red Cross and like to work for it.

**THE NURSE'S AIDE PROGRAM** in all of its ramifications, is moving on apace. There is a lot of doubt about the Nurse's Aide program. Many feel that it is poorly digested as something to apply to the whole country and that it would be better for us to emphasize a much wider popular training in Home Nursing.

**NUTRITION** is stirring as a point of interest largely because half of the young men eligible for selective service were rejected on account of physical disabilities, perhaps thirty per cent of these for reasons associated in some way with defective diet. Again we can go quite a distance on
this if we get busy. However, it will be hard to get under way until we expand our concept on top leadership. Miss Bakkie has one Assistant nationally. There is one person on the staff of the Eastern Area. Up to this time neither the Midwestern nor the Pacific areas has added a Director. This is not much to make a beginning on. If we can not do better we could tell the U. S. Public Health Service or the Extension Service of the Department of Agriculture which already has given a lot of thought to the question, to take it over.

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS, next to Military and Naval Welfare Services, along with our safety program, continues to be the biggest factor in all of our relationships. It involves integrating so many phases of our own program with governmental activity. Circumstantially, I found myself surrounded on my trip by floods in Kansas, cyclones in Arkansas, floods in Missouri and Oklahoma. I was delighted to find that our Red Cross workers operated smoothly despite all of the new machinery of civilian defense and that there was seemingly no problem on relationship with federal, state or local authorities which could not be readily taken care of. I feel, however, that internally we need to do something to strengthen our disaster leadership at the top just as we did in Military and Naval Welfare Services. It is unwise to let it continue a part-time problem of a person as busy as the Assistant to the Vice Chairman who can only give fragmentary time to a subject which interlocks so definitely with our civilian defense relationships on top of its normal burdens. In other words, there is some general realization in the Branch Offices and among the staff that some solution to this temporary doubling up which has continued for two and a half years, should be found.

The Red Cross is doing more work for MORALE AND NATIONAL UNITY than one could ever appreciate unless he got out into the United States occasionally. The thing that I was most particularly impressed by was our strength with the little people of America and their devotion to the Red Cross. Several thousand emergency highway stations are manned not by the big chain oil companies but by little people who are at the side of the road "Being a friend to man". You heard some of these people like the man and his wife amidst the whirl of the factory machinery in St. Louis as it came over the air on our program last night. Others are working in Nursing or Junior or Volunteer Service or Home Service or some of the other categories of our work. The Red Cross is truly an expression of the Democracy that we are prepared to fight for. I wish that there were a way to recognize this fine body of men and women more definitely in our national structure - our superboodies, our committees and the Board of Incorporators. We use them for display and to carry on the day by day work. It is these people who occasionally resent Northeastern dominance of all of our top activities and the dominance of financial and social leadership, particularly the influence of New York City. I found this resistance to New York influence very strong in Philadelphia last week. If we are smart we will come out of this Roll Call and out of the next twelve months with new devotion on the part of the people of America who are our support and main power differentiating us from even the Red Cross societies of other countries in the world.

James L. Fieser
Vice Chairman in Charge
of Domestic Operations
October 21, 1941

Dear Mr. Chastain,

WHEN YOU ARRIVE AT THE AIRPORT
I WILL BE THERE TO MEET YOU.

The Stetsons

SIGNED
and the little people of America — and they will become more important with every

The little people of America — and they will become more important with every

The little people of America — and they will become more important with every

The little people of America — and they will become more important with every

The little people of America — and they will become more important with every
Dear Mr. Chairman:

This train from San Francisco should have been in Denver at 8:30 this morning but it is 2 hours late. Most trains, even good ones, are late. Fast freight has priority. Industry is humming. I saw whole acres of fields covered with planes under process of completion, each with a group working on it at midnight under electric light.

Meet with Chapter people here at 11:30 and proceed to Garden City, Kansas, leaving at 4 P.M. I am about half through although one or two have been added — addressing 2,000 roll call captains at Philadelphia on November 6th for example. I've already spent 10 nights in sleepers and 6 in hotels in my travels of about 6,000 miles — from that point of view harder than the Lima trip where I could spread out after I got there.

This is the country of magnificent distances. Great average distribution of fine educational institutions. Just passed through Greeley where the University of Colorado is located. They have their own setting and culture which they think as good or better than that of "The New Yorker." The Red Cross is better known and stands higher than in many places in the East. Our program is more active per capita. Incidentally, these people are more indigenous to America — fewer immigrants and children of immigrants than New York, Buffalo or Boston.

It is refreshing and stimulating to have this contact and to see these people and talk with them. Many come 200 or 250 miles to our meetings, some further. As someone remarked the audiences are made up of fine looking people. Few are in the social register but they are real. Jefferson would call them the "natural aristocracy among men." The others, as you know, he called the "artificial aristocracy, founded on wealth and birth, without either virtue or talents." They have turned out as never before.

Salt Lake City 300
Boise, Idaho 140
Spokane, Wash. 250
Portland, Oregon 250
Oakland, Calif. 450
Pasadena, Calif. 550

Perhaps the significant thing is the representativeness of these groups. Over 90% of the Chapters involved sent delegates. Next in importance was the sober acceptance of the "All Out" idea in membership and program. No one objected to the quotas of 15% of population enrolled. If all the country did this we would have 19,500,000 members. They talked about how to handle ranch and mining communities remote from headquarters towns.

I feel much encouraged on every count — attitude of Chapters and of our staff. The people out here are not warlike but are not running away from anything. I wish the "debating belt" of New York, Massachusetts and Illinois could be counted on to do as much in membership. I wish every time they stuck up their heads, you would wave the roll call map in this issue of the Courier at them. Schafer certain-
ly has done a fine promotional job. I now move into Midwest where the promotional side is less developed but where except in the South – Texas – Red Cross is very strong.

Hope everything is well with you and the office. If you find it desirable I'll be glad to do Chicago for you, while I'm out here but I should know soon, one way or the other. Forgan also.

Sincerely,

(Signed) James L. Fieser
The Portland Federation of Community Clubs — a representative federation of 55 Citizens Associations in that City. In each place I have had a radio broadcast to make in addition to my luncheon address. Always there are newspaper interviews and usually photographers also. All in all, there has been no chance for sight-seeing. Every waking moment is taken up with conferences, talks with local people, our field directors in from their army or navy stations, field representatives, chapter people, etc. There is no let up ever to see the new boulevard out of Portland, to look at Mt. Hood from afar, to take a drive in Boise with the town’s richest men. The work must go on.

I’m very much encouraged. Not one single “itchy, scratchy” note as Mr. Ernst calls it has been sounded at any place yet by anyone in meeting or out. They have all accepted chapter quotas of 15% without a flicker of an eyelash. Portland boosted it to near 20%. They are going after 75,000 members. 15% of the nation is near 20,000,000, Of course not all will do it. You need only look at the Roll Call map in this month’s Courier. Other places will go above 15%. If everyone sounds a good stiff note I think we will get our 18,000,000. We will not by being timid, afraid to raise our voice for fear we won’t be victorious. I’m not afraid of losing face through a lacking if I’ve done my best to win. So our effort toward success must be more than a convenient amount. That is why I have little patience with the small talk squabbles about who did or didn’t do something at an Eastern Area field conference which the field people said pepped them up for a fighting job in the field more than any others. I am thankful that the small, evervary bickerings of our marble halls are there and do not reach the United States. They seem unimportant when you get out where the people are and away from the society patron and a lop-sided professional unionism which takes up too much time when there is a job to do. Send everyone out to ‘holler’ for the roll call. My son, Jim, the other day said to his mother, “I could not bear my conscience on account of your ‘hollering’ at me”. At headquarters we often miss the main issues on account of what Jimmy calls the “hollering” on the minor ones.

The press has been fine. I enclose a raft of slippings. They are sometimes a bit garbled but the net effect is good. Usually the A.P. and U.P. put some of it on the wires, so you see quite a story in a Salt Lake City paper on a Boise meeting 450 miles away. If we had 25 headquarters people, top people, out
traveling you can imagine the publicity we would get. A person from Washington
is copy, whereas a news release from Washington is not. Then you have your
audiences made up of leaders who will go home and work. A Republican
25 miles away to get to meetings. Then there are hundreds of thousands of people
who get it by ear over these important radio stations, at least 15 minutes at
each station. Perhaps no news releases have been issued from Washington since I
left. Yet every paper has Red Cross news, locals, meetings, first aid classes
and some in the region. This month and next should be concentrated on
for membership and program building and a moratorium declared on every other
thing. If we would seriously go after our precincts and parishes where the
votes are we would get somewhere — and it would be good for our souls to meet
to the people to whom Red Cross is not something to be manifested socially
and otherwise but a religion of service for the multitude.

Funny how slogans develop. At a meeting in Portland a few weeks ago
the Roll Call Chairman sat next to someone who was impressed by the size of the
audiences and said, "See all the people" — a big turn out. The Roll Call Chair-
man said, "By George, there is our Roll Call slogan. That is the way to get
75,000 members. 'See all the People'. So that is what they tell team captains,
etc. "See all the People". Like the one I've used for years, 'More People to
ask more People to join, means more Members'. That is why I think it is so
important for our Colonels and Generals and Admirals to keep in close touch with
them and inspire them to inspire the people to action. I hope you go to Chicago
and any other regions you can and get the other "sitters down" to do the same.

I notice Atlee, British Labor man, is coming over. Can't you have
Stewart get him over for pictures, shaking hands with you, thanking you for his
people, the common people of England, for what Red Cross had done? Put him on
the air. Interview him. Have him go to some big cities to be "made over" by
chapter people - New York, Chicago, etc., if they have the stomach for it. Have
some of the local labor leaders in to meet him. We need because our member-
ship must come from the little people of America. I wish he might see my speech
before he does it so that he got the touch of the common man, too often missing
in our stuff on royalty, debutants, Junior League, society, etc.

I'm glad you liked my speech. I sat up till 5 A.M. one morning writing
it. Hughes says he just tears the top off where my name is and uses it as a
hand out to the press on his regional trip. Others use it as source material for
speeches. It has gone well on this trip. Its not "out of date" or "out of touch"
in these times, and the need for "all out" for the Red Cross in effort seems to
hit the mark.

I find the West soberly militant about Hitler and Japan. By that I
mean, not yet "hot up", but intellectually reconciled even though not aggressively
so. This country finds Russia hard to swallow as an ally but the note is coming
on that she should be helped in her battle. Soldiers everywhere. They are
our boys. That is what counts.

Several good lines have come out on this trip. One woman said of our
shipping losses, "The more they sink the more I'll knit." Another woman said
that not every woman wanted to knit so they should help on Roll Call. She put it
this way: "Some can knock and some can knit."

This is enough of this. I hope something is done about Atlee and every
other man who comes over. It will test our imagination on how to use him because
we are geared to other standards. I hope to have a wire also saying that you are going to the Chicago meeting. If not, I will be glad to represent you.

Cordially,

(Signed) JAMES L. FIESER

P.S. - Please route clippings to Mr. Brown and Library when through with them.

J.L.F.
Stalin's message published in
Stalin's Correspondence with Churchill, Attlee, Roosevelt
and Truman
Vol. 11  P. 17
November 21, 1941

My dear Mr. President:

The Soviet Chargé d'Affaires called upon me this morning and requested me to give you a personal message addressed to you by Stalin, in reply to your recent message to him regarding the question of Red Cross supplies.

I am enclosing the message handed to me by the Chargé d'Affaires.

Believe me

Faithfully yours,

SUMNER WELLES

Enc.

The President,

The White House.
Cablegram received from: HELSINKI (FINLAND)
Secretary of State
Washington
396, twenty-first
FOR AMICROSS

Indications show probably mass exodus starved Leningrad civilian population across ice into Finland. Present acute food shortage Finland makes feeding refugees utterly impossible (repeat utterly impossible). Wish point out ascertained personally Finnish troops remaining passive isthmus border therefore claim cannot be held responsible welfare voluntary influx Russian civilians. Problem requires international humanitarianism. Eventuality AMICROSS assistance can assure complete control distribution.

Thelen #33 (signed) SCHONFELD

cc: Regular Routing
and
Mr. Geo. Smith
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON
February 18, 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR
HON. NORMAN H. DAVIS

I have been asked by Miss Alice Disbrow, who was secretary to the late Congresswoman O'Day, if I would inquire about the application which she has on file with the Foreign and Insular Division of the Red Cross. I think it is for a secretarial position in an administrative field office.

She tells me she filed this application about three months ago but has not heard from it. She is most anxious to serve but if the application is not to be accepted, she would like to accept some other position.

GRACE G. TULLY
Private Secretary

(can be reached through the State Com. at the Biltmore in NYC)
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

September 20, 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR

THE SECRETARY OF STATE:

FOR PREPARATION OF REPLY

FOR MY SIGNATURE.

F.D.R.

Letter from Cornelius Bliss, Acting Chairman, American Red Cross, 9/16/43, to the President, with accompanying memorandum of same date for the President from Mr. Bliss, in reference to the memorandum "Relief Supplies to the Far East", which the President received from the British Government.
September 16, 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT:

I have read with great interest the memorandum "Relief Supplies to the Far East" which you have received from the British Government. Mr. Norman Davis is in North Africa at the present moment but probably will return to Washington about the 25th of September.

This matter of relief to prisoners of war in the Far East is one which has had a great deal of attention by the American Red Cross, State Department, War and Navy Departments, and all other agencies of the United States Government which are concerned with the care of prisoners of war and just within the last few days there has been a development which leads us to hope that a channel of sending relief regularly to Allied prisoners of war in the Far East can be established.

For several months the State Department has been attempting to make an arrangement with the Soviet Government which would permit us to ship prisoners of war supplies to Vladivostok and whereby the Soviet Government would transport these supplies to some point at which they could be turned over to the Japanese. The Soviet Government has now agreed to these shipments to Vladivostok. The arrangement is not yet perfected whereby the Japanese will accept this relief material at some point which may be satisfactory both to the Soviet Government and the Japanese but the Japanese have previously indicated that some such arrangement would be possible.

A Delegation of the British Red Cross has arrived in Washington and we are now preparing an agenda of discussions with them and with representatives of the Canadian Red Cross who are expected to arrive on Monday, September 20th, for conference. While the entire field of prisoners of war relief will be covered, the principal emphasis will be placed on problems of prisoners of war relief in the Far East. The American Red Cross believes that all relief efforts for prisoners of war in the Far East must be closely coordinated and we are hopeful that a plan for permanent, closer liaison between the Red Cross societies of Great Britain, Canada and the United States will be arranged.

The American Red Cross works very closely with the State Department and with the officials of all other agencies of the United States Government interested in prisoners of war work and in working out plans for relief for Allied prisoners of war in the Far East we are depending upon the continued cooperation of United States Government agencies and will keep them completely informed with reference to our conversations with the British Red Cross and Canadian Red Cross representatives.
2.

Up to this time neither the American Red Cross nor the State, Army and Navy Departments have given extensive publicity with reference to this matter of prisoners of war in the Far East. This subject of publicity will be discussed fully at the conferences which are now being held and with the State, War and Navy Departments.

Cornelius Bliss
Acting Chairman

M/Jlsh
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

September 15, 1943.

HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM! FOR HON. NORMAN DAVIS:

To speak to me about.

F.D.R.

A paper (on Great Britain stationery) entitled, "Relief Supplies to the Far East".
Memo to Miss Tully:

This is the original memorandum of Sept. 15th which The President sent Mr. Norman H. Davis, a reply to which was sent you on Sept. 16th, signed by Mr. Cornelius N. Bliss, as Acting Chairman in the absence of Mr. Davis in Europe.

The President's memorandum was inadvertently omitted when Mr. Bliss's reply was sent to you.

G.R. Newman
Secretary
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

September 15, 1943.

HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM FOR HON. NORMAN DAVIS:

To speak to me about.

F.D.R.
September 25, 1943

My dear Mr. Bliss:

Thank you for the memorandum concerning the shipment of relief supplies to prisoners of war in Japanese custody in the Far East which you sent me under cover of your letter of September 16.

The situation of our people held by the Japanese is of the greatest concern to all of us. The consent of the Soviet Government in agreeing to the immediate shipment of supplies to Vladivostok is indeed gratifying and I am hopeful that we soon shall find it possible to arrange with the Japanese Government a means by which those supplies may be forwarded to their destination.

Sincerely yours,

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

The Honorable
Cornelius Bliss,
American Red Cross,
Washington, D.C.
My dear Mr. President:

I have the memorandum entitled "Relief Supplies to the Far East" which you received from the British Government. I have prepared a memorandum on the subject which I am sending to you herewith.

Mr. Norman Davis is in North Africa. He is expected to return to Washington about the twenty-fifth of September. If, in his absence, there is any way in which I can be of service to you I shall welcome the opportunity.

With warm personal regards, I am

Respectfully yours,

[Signature]

The Honorable
Franklin D. Roosevelt
The President
The White House
Washington, D.C.
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For several months the State Department has been attempting to make an arrangement with the Soviet Government which would permit us to ship prisoners of war supplies to Vladivostok and whereby the Soviet Government would transport these supplies to some point at which they could be turned over to the Japanese. The Soviet Government has now agreed to these shipments to Vladivostok. The arrangement is not yet perfected whereby the Japanese will accept this relief material at some point which may be satisfactory both to the Soviet Government and the Japanese but the Japanese have previously indicated that some such arrangement would be possible.

A Delegation of the British Red Cross has arrived in Washington and we are now preparing an agenda of discussions with them and with representatives of the Canadian Red Cross who are expected to arrive on Monday, September 20th, for conference. While the entire field of prisoners of war relief will be covered, the principal emphasis will be placed on problems of prisoners of war relief in the Far East. The American Red Cross believes that all relief efforts for prisoners of war in the Far East must be closely coordinated and we are hopeful that a plan for permanent, closer liaison between the Red Cross societies of Great Britain, Canada and the United States will be arranged.

The American Red Cross works very closely with the State Department and with the officials of all other agencies of the United States Government interested in prisoners of war work and in working out plans for relief for Allied prisoners of war in the Far East we are depending upon the continued cooperation of United States Government agencies and will keep them completely informed with reference to our conversations with the British Red Cross and Canadian Red Cross representatives.
Up to this time neither the American Red Cross nor the State, Army and Navy Departments have given extensive publicity with reference to this matter of prisoners of war in the Far East. This subject of publicity will be discussed fully at the conferences which are now being held and with the State, War and Navy Departments.

Cornelius Bliss
Acting Chairman
MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

As requested in your memorandum of September 20, there is submitted herewith a suggested reply prepared for your signature to Mr. Bliss' letter of September 16.

I am sure you will be interested in learning that the first of the monthly shipments of relief supplies which the Soviet Government has undertaken to carry to Vladivostok in Soviet ships is now en route.

Enclosures:

Original enclosures to memorandum of September 20 returned.
RELIEF SUPPLIES TO THE FAR EAST

1. In the autumn of 1942 efforts were made on the initiative of the Canadian and United Kingdom Governments to secure the cooperation of the United States Government in setting up in Washington an American-British-Canadian Committee, including both members of the Red Crosses and Government officials, to handle the sending of relief supplies to the Far East. The State Department felt, however, that until Japanese consent was obtained for some method of getting the supplies into Japanese controlled territory, it would be premature to set up machinery for discussing details.

2. The American Red Cross suggested early in 1943 a method of transmission by sea which was turned down by the Japanese. The present situation is that transmission via the U.S.S.R. has been agreed to by the Soviet Government, but the Japanese Government after over three months' delay have still failed to indicate at what point supplies sent by the Soviet Union should enter Japan and what quantity of goods might be sent per month. No supplies can therefore be sent to our prisoners and internees in the Far East except by means of the ships used about once a year for the exchange of nationals.

3. In the meantime, however, there is to be a meeting next week in Washington at which the representatives of the American, British and Canadian Red Crosses will discuss problems connected with relief supplies (e.g., contents of relief parcels, methods of packing, etc.), and
the hope has been expressed that the Conference may lead to the setting up of machinery for permanent closer liaison between the Red Cross Societies of the three countries. What is envisaged is the co-ordination of supplies, packing, transmission and, insofar as possible, distribution of supplies. It is further hoped that as a result of the Conference the co-ordinating machinery, which would involve some degree of official as well as Red Cross participation, will be ready to go into action the moment any way is opened by the Japanese for the regular entry of relief supplies.

4. It is also thought that the Committee handling supplies would be able to bring about the co-ordination of publicity on this subject in the countries concerned and vis-à-vis the Japanese.
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

March 22, 1945.

MEMORANDUM FOR

HON. SOL BLOOM:

Dear Sol:

I am really getting excited about a decent bill to prevent the use of the Red Cross symbol. The Lord only knows that the bill passed by the Senate is pretty weak. I understand that the bill in the House is even worse.

I do hope this will not become a cause celebre but -- the situation is pretty bad and I am afraid I understand rather fully what is behind it.

What can you do?

F.D.R.
Memo to: F.D.R.

Legislation to Prevent Use of
Red Cross Symbol and Words

I spoke to you about this legislation. A bill was passed by the Senate last session which, from my point of view, was very unsatisfactory but with which the American Red Cross is willing to go along.

Bloom has the bill in the House but has so distorted it that it is not only an insult to the Red Cross, but to you. Under it no one would be prevented from using the Red Cross symbol for sixteen years, and no one would be prevented from using the words Red Cross for twenty years.

You know Bloom; therefore, I don't need to tell you the details and ramifications we have had to suffer.

Everyone is agreed that there is only one way we can get any kind of proper action and that is for you personally to call Bloom in and looking him straight in the eye say that you understand fully what is behind the situation and that you don't want any more of it, but want the bill passed in the House as it was passed in the Senate; that that is bad enough but that you are willing to go along with it; that you want that done and done now, pointing out specifically that there is no need for further delay in the Senate nor the House on this bill.

Unless this is done, either one of two things will happen:
1. nothing will come out of the bill; or
2. a bill will come out which I will be forced to ask you to veto, and which I am sure you will have to veto.

DO NOT MENTION MY NAME OR ANYONE ELSE'S TO BLOOM OR HE WILL GO RIGHT BACK AND PUT INTO THE RECORD OF HIS COMMITTEE WHATEVER YOU SAY TO HIM. I FEAR NEITHER BLOOM NOR ANYONE ELSE BUT I KNOW BLOOM'S CONDITION AND I HAVE TO PROTECT THE RED CROSS.
Miss Grace Tully,
The White House,
Washington, D. C.

CONFIDENTIAL
May 5, 1945

Miss Grace G. Tully
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Miss Tully:

I appreciate your courtesy in handing the autographed copy of *At His Side* to Mrs. Roosevelt. Along with the rest of the world, I was profoundly shaken by the President's death.

I trust Mrs. Roosevelt will find time to read the book. Some of her Red Cross activities are reported in it.

Very Sincerely yours,

George Korson