

American Red Cross -

Subject File

P.S.F. Box ~~██████~~

PSF Red Cross Folder

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.

✓ \$ 4,500,000 - unallocated

\$ 45,500,000 allocated to Red Cross,

\$ 28,650,000 requests submitted -

5,350,000 " pending -

1,500,000 costs to R.C.I. -

1,600,000 " govt agencies -

37,100,000

8,400,000 uncommitted -

2,600,000 - supplies on hand

If \$ 4,500,000 balance is reappropriated
we will have about \$ 16,500,000
available or say \$ 12,000,000 to \$ 14,000,000
free to be used for England.

PSF

Amer. Red Cross
Folder
2-41

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.

Franklin D. Roosevelt, President
 Charles Evans Hughes, Vice President
 Herbert Hoover, Vice President
 Robert H. Jackson, Counselor
 Daniel W. Bell, Treasurer
 Daniel T. Boardman, Secretary

Norman H. Davis, Chairman
 Charles L. Fieser, Vice Chairman
 Charles K. McClintock, Vice Chairman
 Robert J. Swift, Vice Chairman



2

AMERICAN RED CROSS

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

WASHINGTON, D. C.

November 14, 1941

Norman H. Davis, Chairman
 Daniel W. Bell
 Mrs. August Belmont
 Mabel T. Boardman
 Mrs. Dwight F. Davis
 Mrs. Henry P. Davison
 James B. Forgan
 William Fortune
 George L. Harrison
 Robert H. Jackson
 Maj. Gen. James Carroll
 Rear Admiral Ross T. McClintock
 Gurney E. Newlin
 Gustavus D. Pope
 Henry Upson Sims
 Elliot Wedsworth
 Sumner Wallis
 Lloyd B. Wilson

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

JLF:H - Enclosures

The Chairman

November 12, 1941

Mr. Fieser

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.

In the Midwestern states where I was moving about, the topic was hardly one to be given priority in conversation. There is much concern about the economic outcome of our affairs. As I told you, there is an awareness of the prospect of reemployment as priorities shift down some of the industries, especially smaller businesses. There seems to be an absence of any large scale Government work in connection with the War away from the seaboard and the Southern camp areas. This may, in part, account for this economic turn of discussion, particularly in states which are predominantly agricultural and small business.

Everyone is already aware of the rise in the cost of living. Those of us who travel are now paying \$3.50 for a \$3.00 room, \$4.00 for a \$3.50 room. The cost of meals in restaurants is up from 10¢ to 25¢. People - even in places like Wichita and Eldorado, Kansas - talk of the increase in cost of clothing, shaving soap, and other big and little things. I heard several who had small children and wondered what curtailment their plans might be subjected to ultimately. There was wonderment about the ability to carry interest charges, payments on homes, debts, insurance, taxes, etc. Most of this, of course, affects the middle class of people, the kind of people who mostly supply our Chapter and Committee leadership and that of groups like women's clubs and the Kiwanians and Rotarians, etc.

I came away feeling that if the President or Congress, or both, said definitely that we were at War that a lot of the quibbling and worrying would stop and people would set their energies in one direction, namely, to back the Nation in this fight. As it now stands, it is an indefinite kind of a war psychosis which leads to much confusion, uncertainty and disunity.

STATUS OF RED CROSS. The American National Red Cross with its 3,700 Chapters and its 6,000 Branches and its wide flung membership, is perhaps the most unifying force in America today. There is no debate whatsoever about it anywhere. There is debate about Civilian Defense and Civilian Defense machinery. In fact, in the Midwestern country the office of Civilian Defense seems to me almost to be ignored. One hardly hears reference to it and rarely sees comment about it in the newspapers. In some instances it is definitely discounted and not infrequently referred to as the LaGuardia affair which has a New York brain storm.

Incidentally, it would be wise both from the standpoint of the Government and from the standpoint of the Red Cross, to draw upon other sections of the country to a greater degree for leadership. Again I repeat that while there may be debate about a lot of things - our international policy, our national policy, and our civilian defense developments - there is no debate anywhere about the Red Cross. Everyone is for it.

Regional conferences were better attended and a greater percentage of Chapters represented than in any year to my recollection even during the World War. Chapter interest in Red Cross responsibilities is at a high pitch and will doubtless receive tremendous impetus and stimulation from the state and regional conferences just held. We must, however, be very careful in every utterance and in every act to encourage the participation of men in

our program and to publicize this fact. Except for the handful of states where civilian defense needs are already recognized, 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 organization". It must be a fine organization 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 emphasize 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 organizing 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

for camp production that we had out of our own War Fund Campaign and the government allotment, we would certainly "go to town".

I found a little resentment here and there to so much of our relief work going to Britain. This was perhaps natural in view of the territory in which I was working.

MILITARY AND NAVAL WELFARE SERVICES: We had Army and Navy people present at almost every meeting including a field representative at Newark, each vying with the other in praise of the Red Cross personnel at military stations and the fine support received from Chapters. There is an extraordinarily fine public attitude over our military and naval welfare work. I wish that our Special Committee and others could have gotten this slant at first-hand as I did from the Atlantic to the Pacific. Home Service work is recognized as the key to this humanitarian effort. There never was a single mention in all of my travels by officers, men or Chapter people, of the failure of the Red Cross to do something, to supply Venetian blinds in camps, or something else. I was amazed to come home and find that type of discussion taking priority over other things. Ninety-nine per cent of the people in the United States, in and out of camps, are convinced that we are doing a fine job. Most of them would not know what a Venetian blind was and few of them will ever own them.

We must avoid Headquarters hysteria over situations in camps near big centers that have a social leadership class to stir up things. The American Red Cross will make its record or lose it on the substantials. After all, there is a great variety of camps. I told you that the men and most of the officers at Camp Robinson in Arkansas are living in tents. At Camp Robinson and Camp Leonard Wood, and also some other camps in the United States, one of our embarrassments may be that our Red Cross buildings housing our staffs are to be of more permanent type and, therefore, more deluxe than those supplied others in the camp, excepting possibly the Commanding Officer. I am convinced that the Army and Navy know what they are doing and would hate to see the Red Cross become a nuisance by trying to "pretty up" things where they are trying "to put hair on the chest" of the enlisted men. After all, I would judge that what we have to do with Hitler and his crew - judging by the sample of conflict between Germany and Russia - involves a good bit of realism and toughening. If we are to stomach the mud, sweat, and vermin that must be endured in the long race.

FIRST AID, LIFE SAVING, HOME AND FARM ACCIDENT PREVENTION, EMERGENCY FIRST AID STATIONS ON THE HIGHWAYS, all have won their place without argument in the minds of Chapter and community leaders even in the Midwest where they are not yet ready to talk about fire wardens and anti-aircraft defense. The country is ready, to an extent taking our facilities, for whatever number of safety leaders and instructors we can supply. It is up to us. At a number of camps we have not yet started our First Aid training for enlisted men. This is in part due to either the Army not having gotten around to it or our failure to get around to it. Even little communities are asking for help pronto in setting up their First Aid organizations. I believe that with some fanfare we can have first aid squads in

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 superbodies, 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 man 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

THE SYSTEMS
GEORGIA
Michigan Boulevard
at Balbo Drive
WABASH 4400

October 31, 1941

Dear Mr. Chairman:

When I get home from this trip I will have traveled 10,400 miles, over 1400 of it by automobile - not the easiest trip in the world but one which I hope will be of benefit to the organization. The meetings have been the biggest and best in my recollection and I've been doing some of them all over the country for 24 years. Arrangements have been better as to program and publicity. In addition I have talked from 11 radio stations in nearly as many states west of the Mississippi for whatever value that has. Of one thing I am sure: the trip has given me a sense of values and attitudes of all kinds of people in this great country of ours, the variety of their troubles and, at bottom, despite their occasional conservatism, their loyalty to our country and their belief in the Red Cross.

It is a big country. To some the important thing is cattle or cotton or corn or wheat or hogs. To others, it is commerce and manufacture. All of these blend in enthusiasm for Red Cross. I feel quite encouraged after the sampling. The chapters of the Midwest, many of them, are fighting floods, as in Oklahoma, Arkansas, Missouri and Kansas or coming out of hurricane damage in Texas and New Mexico. Others, as here in Chicago, say business is not so good. Farm country is generally "in the money". Cotton prices and crops are excellent if rains only stop. All of these people plan to put it over on Roll Call. The staff in this territory is working tooth and claw on disasters, regular program and membership. The line is thin but is holding. Mr. Durfee, Assistant to the Manager with whom I traveled, who has supervision of Kansas, Nebraska, Missouri and Arkansas, told me in Little Rock that he just had a wire from one of the Federal Loan Agencies offering him the post of Regional Personnel Officer at \$400 a month. That was his former field personnel director of the Nebraska State Welfare Department. We pay him \$250 a month. He has a wife and son to think about. The Midwest Office says we are way below other fields in salary and that it is harder to hold loyal people in the face of better opportunities elsewhere, especially with the increase in the cost of living of which everyone is aware. In Washington we think usually of those close at hand and cannot visualize those representing us in the far reaches.

It has been great to live close to earth with chapter and staff people.

After the sampling I feel better about Red Cross and the state of the nation; also, about our relationship to the armed forces. It would have done your heart good to hear the compliment paid by the Executive Officer of Camp Robinson to Charles Burkitt, our field director there; also, to the whole Red Cross in his speech at the Arkansas State meeting at Little Rock. Over 400 were there in the banquet hall. One of the Army bands played in the morning and at the luncheon. The Navy and Marine recruiting officers were also at the speakers table. The whole note, as at so many other meetings, was that of patriotism. I had opportunity in the late afternoon to inspect Camp Robinson. As usual, all of the niches of time were filled with something.

Another point of inspiration is the effort of chapter people to make these home service investigations for our field directors. At Fredericktown, Missouri, where we had 150 from the Ozark Mountain country we had a Navy Day setting, - band, songs, Legion, etc. One man said in his county he often went as far into the hills as he could in his car on these investigations, then borrowed a mule and went as far as he could and "swung in the balance of the way on a grapevine". These people are truly volunteers in little places as well as big.

On roll call we have a fighting chance. We must work for it. Unfortunately too few of our leaders are peppy salesmen, go-getter fellows; too many debating, it can't be done fellows. Some field people said they were glad to hear we say we had a real chance to double our membership because at the Midwestern Roll Call Field Conference DeWitt Smith, in his speech, expressed doubt at our being able to do it. We need more inspiration and belief in our Red Cross destiny and less stodgy book-keeping, and more affirmative encouragement in our attitudes if we want to stir people to the belief that hard jobs can be done. Hunt, Schaefer, Henry Baker, Reddy, Heckman, Ramona Eaton, Bondy, Ernst and some few others have it. We have too many "gloomy gusses". Either attitude is contagious - from us to the staff - from the staff to Chapters, from Chapters to the people. I wish Midwest had a few more spark-plugs to stir things up. I may have helped despite storm and flood.

The little people of America - and they will become more numerous with every passing year, the way the world looks, are our reliance. Their belief in us is our anchor. The preacher in Kansas, from a dust bowl county who said "We must double roll call even if we must wear our hat and coat a while longer", expressed a spirit which I wish New York and some other places would get. No doubt Red Cross is in the hearts of the people. That is the big thing I got out of this trip: confidence in the attitude of Tom, Dick and Harry and their sisters in Red Cross, and Uncle Sam.

Cordially,

(Signed) James L. Flesser

P.S. - It has been a hard trip. I may stay at home Monday to clean up mail, bills, etc. accumulated there.

THE POXI EXPRESS

October 15, 1941

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This train from San Francisco should have been in Denver at 8:30 this morning but it is 1½ 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.

Met with Chapter people here at luncheon 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 on 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 farther. 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. Fergan also.

Sincerely,

(Signed)

James L. Fieser

THE PORTLAND
Portland, Oregon, U.S.A.

En route San Francisco

October 8, 1941

Dear Mr. Davis:

Will observe my birthday as I ride from Portland to San Francisco on an all day run of one of the Southern Pacific's poorest trains by writing you a brief report to date. Will use pencil as offset to rough riding.

Meetings to date have reflected high interest and enthusiasm and better attendance than on other trips which I have made in other years:

Salt Lake City	300
Boise, Idaho	140
Spokane, Wash.	250
Portland, Oregon	250

In addition, I addressed the Utah Congress of Social Workers before I took the train from there and last night I addressed 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 be by being timid, afraid to raise our voice for fear we won't be victorious. I'm not afraid of losing face through a licking 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, enervating 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 patter and a lep-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 hear 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 clippings. 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 lot of them drive 250 miles 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 place. 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 then come these regionals. 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 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 Chairman 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 close to their command and inspire them to inspire the people to action. I hope you go to Chicago and any other regionals 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 that because our membership 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 note of discontent, "not enough" 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 "het 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 are 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 tax our imagination on how to use him because

-3-

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

Publi

*PSF Red Cross Folder
2-41*

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.

See Russian Folder for original letters.

AMERICAN RED CROSS
WASHINGTON, D. C.

*file
journal*

CHAIRMAN'S OFFICE

*To The President -
For information -
NHD*

COPY OF INCOMING CABLEGRAM

AMERICAN RED CROSS
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

*RF Amer. Red Cross
The Chairman*

Date received: November 22, 1941

Cablegram received from: HELSINKI (FINLAND)

Secretary of State

Washington

596, twenty-first

FOR AMCROSS

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 AMCROSS assistance can secure complete control distribution.

Thelen #33 (signed) SCHOENFELD

cc Regular Routing
and
Mr. Geo. Smith

BF Red Cross file
2-43

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)

(1779)

hms

PSF

Am. Red Cross folder

2-49

**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

11/1/38

T-144

*Am. Red Cross file
2-43*

**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".

AMERICAN RED CROSS

WASHINGTON, D. C.

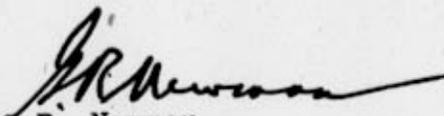
CHAIRMAN'S OFFICE

Sept. 23, 1943

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

*Memo referred to Mr. Roschard State
Sept. 9/23/43, to attach to Mr. Bliss'
ltr 9/16/43 + memo, sent to Secy State,
9/20/43.*

CONFIDENTIAL

SEP 15 1943

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

September 15, 1943.

HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM FOR HON. NORMAN DAVIS:

To speak to me about.

F.D.R.

11

Am

*BF Red Cross folder
2-48*

September 25, 1943

My dear ~~Mr. Bliss~~ *Neil*

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 these supplies may be forwarded to their destination.

Sincerely yours,

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

The Honorable

Cornelius Bliss,

American Red Cross,

Washington, D.C.



AMERICAN RED CROSS

WASHINGTON, D. C.

THE WHITE HOUSE

CHAIRMAN'S OFFICE

SEP 17 3 33 PM '43 September 16, 1943

RECEIVED

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,

Lawrence H. Davis

The Honorable
Franklin D. Roosevelt
The President
The White House
Washington, D. C.



AMERICAN RED CROSS

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

WASHINGTON, D. C.

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.

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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.

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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

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

September 25, 1943

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.

CH

Enclosures:

Original enclosures
to memorandum of
September 20 returned.

PSF
Am. Red Cross

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 /

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

*PSF
Red Cross*

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.

Handwritten scribbles at the top of the page.

RECEIVED
JULY 11 1951
MAIL ROOM

Handwritten note: O'Connor folder 2

~~STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL~~
~~STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL~~
~~STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL~~

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.





AMERICAN RED CROSS
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
WASHINGTON 13, D. C.

*PSF ARC folder -
file 2-45*

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

George Korson