My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

It was good to have the pleasure of seeing you again last evening and to have the opportunity of visiting with you on the way home. I do hope that Anna was able to get some relief, for I know that she is in severe pain.

I was pleased to have a chance to discuss briefly the whole attitude of the labor movement concerning the short workweek. The continuing high levels of unemployment creates great pressure on the leadership of the American labor movement and much of the activity around the shorter workweek stems from the great sense of insecurity that continuing unemployment has created among the workers.

The problem is further intensified and irritated by the fact that a number of large corporations find it economically advantageous to schedule excessive overtime despite the fact that there are tens of thousands of workers walking the streets unemployed in the very cities where other workers are required to work overtime hours. With this climate of fear and insecurity it is more difficult to achieve a rational discussion of the question of the number of hours that should be worked.

At the UAW Special Collective Bargaining Convention, held in Detroit in April of 1961, where we did our preparatory work for our major collective bargaining for the auto and agricultural implement industries in 1961, we developed what we believe to be a more rational and sensible approach to the question of the workweek. On page 78 in the enclosed booklet, "Workers' Problems are Democracy's Problems," we outlined our concept of the flexible workweek,
which we believe is the kind of sensible and workable approach that a free society should have to this kind of economic and social problem.

With our tremendous unmet needs in the fields of education, health, housing, resource development and the many other things that need doing in America, there is obviously no need for a reduction in the workweek if we will but find a way to full employment and relate the abundance of our developing technology to the satisfying of these basic and unmet needs.

If you have time, you might read my foreword, which outlines the broad sweep of our policies concerning these matters.

May joins in sending our love and best wishes. We both hope that we will have the privilege of visiting with you some time after Labor Day.

Sincerely,

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Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt
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