

Documents

Administrative Matters: Personnel

Christie, Loring C.
(Mrs.)

March 16, 1944

: Mr. Fehle
: Myles Standish
Re : Mrs. Loring C. Christie, possible
WRB representative in London

With reference to my suggestion at the Staff Meeting yesterday that Mrs. Loring C. Christie be chosen as our special representative in London I submit the following statement of her background and experience.

Mrs. Christie is an exceptionally able, intelligent woman in her early 40's. She has shown, during my acquaintance with her of the past year and a half, considerable energy. She was educated in private schools in this country and speaks several foreign languages.

From 1933 to 1940 she was the only woman member of the Board of Directors of the Federal Storage Company of Washington, which company is, as you know, one of the largest shipping and packing organizations in this part of the country. During this period she was in complete charge of their foreign shipping activities, having developed this foreign business from nothing to one of considerable magnitude. She was also advertising manager of the Company and as such handled their advertising program in the United States as well as abroad. During this time she travelled extensively abroad for the company.

At present Mrs. Christie is employed by the Office of the Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs at \$5600 per annum, a salary level indicative of her ability. She administers the Miami, New York, and Washington offices of CIAA which handles all foreign visitors brought into this country under the programs of CIAA and the Department of State. This position calls for considerable administrative ability as well as a great deal of tact and diplomacy.

For a number of years prior to her connection with the Federal Storage Company, and during it, Mrs. Christie has been the paid social adviser to numerous foreign embassies in Washington,

including those of Holland, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Poland, France, and Great Britain. Through this work, through her own strong personality, and through the connections of her late husband, Mrs. Christie has become the friend of many of the political leaders of the world. Mr. Christie, who died in 1941, had been since 1911 the legal and foreign affairs advisor to successive Canadian Governments. Justice Frankfurter, incidentally, was a classmate of Mr. Christie at Harvard Law School, remained one of his closest friends, and can give any further information that may be desired concerning Mrs. Christie's personality and ability. Many of the leaders of the governments-in-exile in London are either old acquaintances or friends of Mrs. Christie. This is also true of a great number of the leaders of the British Government. Ambassador Winant at London is likewise well acquainted with Mrs. Christie and she can count on the personal and official support of Secretary Hull and Mr. Stettinius. Secretary Morgenthau will also, I am sure, be pleased to recommend Mrs. Christie to you.

Aside from all this glittering array of personal contacts and references I feel that Mrs. Christie could do an excellent job for us in London because she is a down-to-earth, matter-of-fact person, who has reached her present position entirely due to her own efforts. I feel that she could meet the representatives of the various Undergrounds on their own levels and could gain from them the cooperation that means so much to the success of our program. The fact that she is a woman would, I think, enable her more readily to gain the confidence of those representatives. She would prove invaluable, I feel, in being able to reach the various authorities of the British Government who are connected with our work, in which she herself is genuinely interested.

I shall arrange for her to come to see you at any time you wish.

MStandish:dh 3/17/44 