

Tully Archives: FDR Papers

Franklin D. Roosevelt Library & Museum

Collection: Grace Tully Archive

Series: Franklin D. Roosevelt Papers

Box 11; Folder = Correspondence: Day, Joseph P., 1934

Correspondence: Day, Joseph P., 1934

COPY

The White House,
Washington,

Warm Springs, Ga.,
November 26, 1934.

Dear Joe:

I perfectly well see your point but you still have not answered the question in my mind. Let us forget for the moment about rural housing - which is a somewhat different problem.

Here, however, is one phase of urban housing that I should like to have your slant on. Let us suppose for the sake of example that there are ten thousand families in a given city whose earning power is so low and whose families are so large that they can only afford to spend say ten dollars a month for the item of rent in their budget. What are we going to do with them? Are we going to compel them to live under slum conditions, let us say in one room, for which they pay ten dollars a month? Has society as a whole no obligation to these people? Or is society as a whole going to say we are "licked" by that problem? Private capital cannot afford to do anything about it and, therefore, these ten thousand families must continue to live in one room for each family.

You quote one President. Another President said "We are faced with a condition and not a theory." I wish you would give me a solution.

Always sincerely,

(Signed) Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Joseph P. Day, Esq.,
67 Liberty St.,
New York, N.Y.