

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

L1 BRARY

June 15, 1962

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I am pleased to be able to send you with this letter an opinion of the Attorney General that will make it possible to open up greater employment opportunities for women who wish to work for the Federal Government.

I believe the Federal career service must provide an equal opportunity for employment and advancement, without discrimination. I have directed the Chairman of the U.S. Civil Service Commission to review pertinent personnel policies and practices affecting the employment of women, with a view to assuring that selection for any career position will be made solely on the basis of ability to meet the requirements of the position and, without regard to sex, individual merit.

The opinion of the Attorney General is to the effect that the question whether a position may be filled by men only or by women only, or by qualified members of either sex, is a matter which may be regulated by the President under his constitutional and statutory authority.

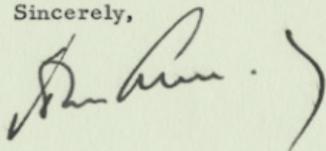
This opinion has enabled me to direct Chairman Macy to take immediate steps to amend the civil service regulations so as to make it necessary for federal appointing officers to justify to the Civil Service Commission any requests to fill positions by men only or by women only and to obtain the concurrence of the Commission before limiting positions to members of one sex. The new regulation should increase the opportunities of women for federal employment.

The equalization of employment opportunities in all areas for all Americans is a matter of simple justice. The work of the

Commission on the Status of Women is an important step forward in the great surge toward human rights which is characteristic of our country in this decade of the twentieth century.

You have my best wishes for a successful conference.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Franklin D. Roosevelt", followed by a closing parenthesis symbol ")", indicating the end of the signature block.

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt
Hyde Park
New York