

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION/PRIVACY ACTS SECTION
COVER SHEET

SUBJECT: HELEN KELLER

June 24, 1964

HELEN ADAMS KELLER
Born: June 27, 1880
Tusculum, Alabama

Foreign files

Name Checks

In response to your request for a check of the *Comm* files of this Bureau concerning the captioned individual, you are advised that no investigation concerning her has been conducted by the FBI.

There is enclosed herewith one copy of a memorandum dated November 8, 1956, summarizing information in our files concerning captioned individual as of that time.
(62-60527-48495)

Our files additionally reveal that an article appeared in the "Daily Worker," former East Coast communist newspaper, on July 18, 1957, indicating that Helen Keller had sent loving birthday greetings to Elizabeth Gurley Flynn, a prominent communist leader, on her 65th birthday. The article indicated that Miss Keller had sent the note to Mrs. Flynn in connection with her 65th birthday on August 7, 1955. Mrs. Flynn, at that time, was confined in the Federal Women's Prison at Alderson, West Virginia, following her conviction under the Smith Act of 1940.

(100-1287-A)

Enclosure

Original & 1 - CSC
Request Received-6-23-64

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6 REG-5-19862

12 JUN 30 1964

ENCLOSURE

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI, and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency. This is in answer to your request for a check of FBI files.

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UNITED STATES CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION
BUREAU OF PERSONNEL INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

ADDRESS REPLY TO
"CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION"
AND REFER TO
FILE
AND DATE OF THIS LETTER

KELLER, Helen Adams
BORN: June 27, 1880
Tuscombia, Alabama

WHO'S WHO IN AMERICA 1960 - 1961
(Volume 31)

KELLER, Helen Adams, counselor on internat. relations Am. Found. for Blind; b. Tuscombia, Ala., June 27, 1880; d. Capt. Arthur H. and Katherine (Adams) Keller; deaf and blind since age of 19 mos. as result of illness; ed. under direction of Anne Sullivan Macy, 1887-1936; A.B. cum laude, Radcliffe Coll., 1904; D.H.L., Temple U., 1931; LL.D., Univ. Glasgow, Scotland, 1932 U. Witwatersand, Johannesburg, South Africa, 1951; Hon. Fellow Ednl. Inst. of Scotland; Litt.D., U. Delhi, 1955; M.D. (hon.), Free U. of Berlin, 1955; LL.D. (honorary), Harvard Univ., 1955. Lectr in behalf of blind throughout U. S. and in Australia, Can. Egypt, France, Gr. Britain, Greece, Ireland, Israel, Hashemite Kingdom of the Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Italy, Japan, Yugoslavia, Korea, Manchukuo, New Zealand, Scotland, S. Africa, So. Rhodesia, Hoe counselor on nat. and internat. relations Am. Found. for Blind, Inc., N.Y.C. Recipient Achievement Prize Pictorial Ref., 1931; Order of St. Sava Yugoslavia, 1931; Roosevelt medal, 1936; gold key Nat. Educ. Assn., 1938; Scroll of honor for pioneer work in relief of handicapped Internat. Fedn. Women's Clubs, 1941; W.U.S. Achievement Certificate, 1949; sward of dir. Gen. Lions Internat. 1951; D.S.M. from Am. Assn. of Workers for the Blind, 1951, Nat. Humanitarian Award Variety Clubs, Intl., 1951 gold medal Nat. Inst. of Social Scis., 1952, meritorious service award Nat. Rehabilitation assn., 1952 Medal of Merit (Lebanon), 1952, Chevalier Medal of Honor (France), 1952 Southern Cross, (Brazil), 1953, award for best feature length documentary film Nat. Academy Motion Picture Arts and Scis., 1955; also recipient many other honors and rewards from fgn. govts. and from civic ednl., welfare organ. throughout U.S. 1951--; made alumni member Phi. Beta Kappa, Radcliffe Coll., 1933. Member trustees Am. Hall of Fame, Nat. Inst. Arts and Letters. Author: Story of My Life, 1902; Optimism (essay), 1903; The World I Live In, 1908; The Song Of The Stone Wall, 1910; Out of the Dark, 1913; My Religion, 1927; Midstream-- My Later Life, 1930; Helen Keller's Journal, 1938; Let Us Have Faith, 1941; Teacher, 1955; The Open Door, 1957; Appeared on TV Program Wide, Wide World, 1957. Home: Arcan Ridge, R.I. Westport, Conn. Address: Care Am. Foundation for the Blind, Inc., 15 W. 16th St., N.Y.C. 11.

SEE INFORMATION -

No Record

In response to your request
there are attached
reports which appear to relate
to the subject of your inquiry.

62-5-1981-67C
ENCLOSURE

NAME CHECKS

July 1, 1953

HELEN ADAMS KELLER

Born: June 27, 1880

Tuscumbia, Alabama

The FBI has not conducted an investigation with regard to Helen Adams Keller. The files of this Bureau, however, do reflect the following pertinent information concerning this individual. This information may be presumed to have been obtained from reliable sources unless it is indicated otherwise.

The "Daily Worker," east coast Communist newspaper, issue of April 9, 1938, contained an article captioned "Appeal for Lifting of Arms Embargo on Spanish Government." The article stated that an appeal to the democratic countries of the world and to the President of the United States to end the Arms Embargo against Spain and give the Spanish people "a fighting chance" had been made public today by the American Friends of Spanish Democracy. One of the signers of the petition according to the article was Helen Keller. The American Friends of Spanish Democracy was referred to by the Special Committee on Un-American Activities, in its report dated March 29, 1944, as follows: "in 1937-38 the Communist Party threw itself whole-heartedly into the campaign for the support of the Spanish Loyalist cause, recruiting men and organizing multifarious so-called relief organizations..... such as..... American Friends of Spanish Democracy." 61-7561-208X

There appeared in the "Daily Worker" issue of October 6 1938, an article captioned "Helen Keller Hails Robert Raven As Friends Plan To Honor Veteran." The article stated that Robert Raven had just returned from a nation-wide tour on behalf of the campaign launched by the Friends of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade to bring home the American Volunteers who fought in Spain. The article set forth the contents of two letters which Miss Keller had sent Raven. In one of these letters she stated, "It makes me proud to have as a friend such a true soldier in the cause of Loyalist Spain." The "Daily Worker" issue dated February 15, 1939, reported that Helen Keller would speak at a memorial meeting to be held under the auspices of the Friends of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade. The Friends of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade

- Tolson
- Ladd
- Nichols
- Belmont
- Clegg
- Glavin
- Harbo
- Rosen
- Tracy
- Laughlin
- Mohr
- Winterrowd
- Tele. Rm.
- Holloman
- Gandy

was referred to as a Communist-front organization by the Special Committee on Un-American Activities. 61-7561-214X17 and 61-7561-243X42
 RECORDED-86 62-60521-34606
 Original to State Department
 Request received May 6, 1953

INDEXED-86

SECURITY INFORMATION - CONFIDENTIAL

63 JUL 9 1953

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A letterhead of the United American Spanish Aid Committee made available to this Bureau in July 1940 carried the name of Helen Keller as a sponsor. The United American Spanish Aid Committee was cited as a Communist organization by the Attorney General. 61-7561-555X

There appeared in the "New York Times" issue of February 8, 1941, an article "Miss Keller Quits Rescue Ship Drive." The article stated that Helen Keller, on February 7, 1941, announced that she had resigned as Honorary National Chairman of the American Rescue Ship Mission. The article indicated that Miss Keller had been investigating the evidence that she had been used as a front for controlling figures more interested in Communism than in the avowed purpose of the Ship Mission to Rescue Spanish Republican Refugees from France. It is set forth in the article that Miss Keller made efforts to satisfy herself concerning the Spanish Rescue Mission and that she thereafter resigned. The American Rescue Ship Mission was cited by the Attorney General as an organization within the purview of Executive Order 10450. 100-7061-A New York Times 2-8-41

It was reported that Helen Keller sent a congratulatory telegram to a dinner at the Hotel Commodore, New York City, celebrating the 25th Anniversary of the Red Army, which dinner was held on February 22, 1943. 61-737-53

The "Daily Worker" issue dated September 29, 1943, reported that Helen Keller was a sponsor of a dinner which was held at the Hotel New Yorker, New York City, under the auspices of the Congress of American-Soviet Friendship. The Congress of American-Soviet Friendship was cited as a Communist front by the Special Committee on Un-American Activities.

According to a reliable source, Helen Keller was a sponsor of the Independent Citizens Committee of the Arts, Sciences and Professions (New York City) in December, 1944. Helen Keller was listed as one of the Speakers at a rally at Madison Square Gardens in New York City on December 4, 1945, which was sponsored by the Independent Citizens Committee of the Arts, Sciences and Professions, Incorporated, which organization was cited as a Communist front by the Special Committee on Un-American Activities, U. S. House of Representatives. 100-197270-21 page 7

There appeared in the New York newspaper "Morning Freiheit" issue of November 10, 1945, information concerning a reception held at the Soviet Consulate in New York on November 1945, commemorating the 28th Anniversary of the Russian Revolution. One of the guests was Helen Keller. When she entered the Consulate she reportedly said "Finally I am on Soviet Soil." 100-829-713 p

Helen Keller was listed as one of a group of individuals who sent messages of greeting to the Eastern Seaboard Conference of the Veterans of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade held in February

1946, at Manhattan Center in New York City. The Veterans of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade was cited by the Attorney General as a Communist organization.

c. There was made available to a representative of this Bureau a copy of a letter dated June 1, 1947, from the Communist Party Headquarters, 250 South Broad Street, Philadelphia 2, Pennsylvania, addressed to the membership of the Communist Party in that area. The letter stated that on June 20, 1947, at the Bellevue-Stratford Hotel in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, the Communist Party and many other individuals would play host to Mother Ella Beeve Bloor. Issued in connection with the occasion was a folder which carried greetings to Mother Bloor by the National Committee of the Communist Party. Included in the Booklet was a statement of greeting signed "Fraternally Yours, Helen Keller." 61-155-93

The Washington, D. C., "Times Herald" issue dated January 24, 1948, carried an article captioned "Plan To Smear Red-Probers Hit By Congressmen" wherein it was reported that Helen Keller was one of the original sponsors of the Committee of One Thousand. The Committee of One Thousand was cited by the California Committee on Un-American Activities in its report issued in 1948 as "a Communist created and controlled front organization." 100-353406-A "Times Herald", 1-24-48

In March 1948, there was made available to this Bureau a copy of a letter which was sent to the Speaker of the House of Representatives in protest against the action of the Committee on Un-American Activities of the House of Representatives. Helen Keller was listed as one of the signers of this letter. 61-7582-150

A letterhead of the National Council of American-Soviet Friendship, Incorporated, 114 East 32nd. Street, New York City, dated November 10, 1948, reflected that Helen Keller was a sponsor of that organization. The National Council of American-Soviet Friendship, Incorporated, was cited by the Attorney General as a Communist organization. 100-146964-1425 page 5

It was reported that Helen Keller, blind author and educator, was one of a group of individuals sending messages of condolence on the occasion of the funeral of Mother Bloor, well-known Communist Party member on August 14, 1951. 100-3-74-776

There appeared in the "Washington Star" Washington, D. C. issue of December 13, 1952, an article "Helen Keller Denies Endorsing Red Parley." The article stated that Helen Keller had called on a Czechoslovakian newspaper to retract a story in which

~~SECURITY INFORMATION CONFIDENTIAL~~

it said she endorsed the "Communist-run Vienna 'Peace' Conference." It was indicated that the State Department reported that Miss Keller had repudiated the story in a Voice of America broadcast to Czechoslovakia. The article pointed out that the Prague newspaper "Rude Pravo" reported on December 6, 1952, that Miss Keller stated "I am with you in your wonderful movement with all my heart" but that actually Miss Keller, a few days earlier, had assailed the Vienna Congress as "a mask for the products of Stalinist propaganda." 100-361031-A

The foregoing information is being furnished as the result of your request for an FBI file check only and is not to be construed as a clearance or nonclearance of the individual involved. It is furnished for your confidential information and is not to be disseminated outside of your agency.

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~~SECURITY INFORMATION CONFIDENTIAL~~

November 8, 1956

HELEN ADAMS KELLER
Born: June 27, 1930
Tusculum, Alabama

Reference is made to your name check request concerning the captioned individual. No investigation has been conducted by this Bureau with regard to Helen Adams Keller. The files of this Bureau do reflect the following pertinent information concerning this individual. This information may be presumed to have been obtained from reliable sources unless it is indicated otherwise.

The "Daily Worker," an east coast communist newspaper, issue of April 9, 1938, contained an article captioned "Appeal for Lifting of Arms Embargo on Spanish Government." The article stated that an appeal to the democratic countries of the world and to the President of the United States to end the Arms Embargo against Spain and give the Spanish people "a fighting chance" had been made public today by the American Friends of Spanish Democracy. One of the signers of the petition according to the article was Helen Keller. The American Friends of Spanish Democracy was referred to by the Special Committee on Un-American Activities, in its report dated March 29, 1944, as follows: "in 1937-38 the Communist Party threw itself whole-heartedly into the campaign for the support of the Spanish Loyalist cause, recruiting men and organizing multifarious so-called relief organizations..... such as..... American Friends of Spanish Democracy." 61-7561-208X

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Tolson _____
Nichols _____
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Parsons _____
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Nease _____
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Tele. Room _____
Holloman _____
Gandy _____

Orig. and one to USIA
Reg. rec'd: 10/16/56

RECORDED - 23
INDEXED - 23

EX-117

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62-60527-489

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Helen Adams Keller

November 8, 1956

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Helen Adams Keller

November 8, 1956

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A confidential informant who has furnished reliable information in the past made available to a representative of this Bureau a copy of a letter dated June 1, 1947, from the Communist Party Headquarters, 250 South Broad Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, addressed to the membership of the Communist Party in that area. The letter stated that on June 20, 1947, at the Bellevue-Stratford Hotel in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, the Communist Party and many other individuals would play host to Mother Ella Reeve Bloor. Issued in connection with the occasion was a folder which carried greetings to Mother Bloor by the National Committee of the Communist Party. Included in the Booklet was a statement of greeting signed "Fraternally Yours, Helen Keller." 61-155-93

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

8

Helen Adams Keller

November 8, 1956

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JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR



BLE

**Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice**

Washington, D. C.

February 8, 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. LADD

SECURITY COPIES OF
-RECEIVED-

Mr. [REDACTED]
Mr. [REDACTED]
Mr. [REDACTED]
Mr. [REDACTED]
Mr. [REDACTED]
Mr. [REDACTED]
Mr. [REDACTED]
Mr. [REDACTED]
Mr. [REDACTED]

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Please be advised that an examination of the Congressional Record of even date reveals that the following individuals were charged therein as being members of the Communist, Nazi, or Fascist parties, or previous allegations of membership in such parties are denied:

Record Page	Name	Subversive Organization	Place of Employment	Address (if given)	Allegation	Denial
763	Frank E. Allen		City Board of Education	Los Angeles, California		
763	Frank E. Baker		State Teachers College,	Milwaukee, Wisconsin		
763	Harold Benjamin		University of Maryland			
763	Mary McLeod Bethune		National Council of Negro Women	Washington, D. C.		
763	John W. Bollinger		Farmers Union Livestock Commission Company	Flasher, North Dakota		
763	Mary E. Branch		Tillotson College,	Austin, Texas		
763	Mrs. Louis D. Brandeis		Washington, D. C.			
763	Dr. Charlotte Hawkins Brown		Palmer Institute,	Sedalia, North Carolina		
763	Zechariah Chafee, Jr.		Cambridge, Massachusetts			
763	Alvin E. Christmas		Pennsylvania Farmers Union,	Centerport, Penn.		
763	Harold G. Coffman		George Williams College,	Chicago, Illinois		
763	Rabbi Henry Cohen		Galveston, Texas			
763	George Dahl		Yale Divinity School,	New Haven, Connecticut		
763	John W. Davis		West Virginia State College,	Institute West Virginia		
763	Rev. John Warren Day		Grace Cathedral,	Topeka, Kansas		
763	Albert Einstein		Princeton, New Jersey			
763	Charles A. Ellwood		Duke University,	Durham, North Carolina		
763	Alvin E. Evan		University of Kentucky,	Lexington, Kentucky		
763	Dr. Ernest Feise		Johns Hopkins,	Baltimore, Maryland		
763	Robert J. Harris		Louisiana State University,	Eaton Rouge, Louisiana		
763	Rev. W. H. Jernagin		Washington, D. C.	66-1731-418X2		
763	Helen Keller		Westport, Connecticut			

(No allegations against the above persons or denials were made. They are signers of a petition that the Dies Committee not be continued.)

Respectfully,

W. R. Glavin

MONTHLY SUMMARY OF TRENDS AND DEVELOPMENTS

DATE: June, 1947

VOL. 1 #3

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Communism Abroad	15.
Quips and Bits, The Lighter Side.	16.
Forgotten Facts from History. . . .	18.
Monthly Checklist of Books, Articles, and Pamphlets	19.

SOURCE: THE NATIONAL AMERICANISM COMMISSION
SUB COMMITTEE ON SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES
THE AMERICAN LEGION
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
INDIANAPOLIS 6, INDIANA

53 JAN 12 1949

INDEXED - 113

NOT RECORDED
12 DEC 10 1948

EX 109

File in 94-1-17998

94-1-17998

* * * * *

REPRODUCTION, QUOTATION, And DISCLOSURE TO NON-LEGION SOURCES

Departments and Legion officials receiving the MONTHLY SUMMARY are invited to give the widest possible Legion dissemination to any or all of the non-restricted matter down to post Americanism officers. Budget considerations limit the average monthly issues to about 500 copies.

Where the material is obviously in the public domain such as quotations from other publications there is no objection to making this material available to persons and publications outside of the American Legion.

Where the item is specifically marked "CONFIDENTIAL" it is deemed to be in best Legion interest to restrict its circulation to key Legion officials charged with Americanism duties. Such confidential material will be appended separately on the last page or pages so that it can be easily detached and retained before passing the remainder of the SUMMARY along to other interested parties.

AMERICANISM DIVISION
National Headquarters

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**FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET**

Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

- ☐ Deletions were made pursuant to the exemptions indicated below with no segregable material available for release to you.

Section 552Section 552a☐ (b)(1)☐ (b)(7)(A)☐ (d)(5)☐ (b)(2)☐ (b)(7)(B)☐ (j)(2)☐ (b)(3)☐ (b)(7)(C)☐ (k)(1)☐ (b)(7)(D)☐ (k)(2)☐ (b)(7)(E)☐ (k)(3)☐ (b)(7)(F)☐ (k)(4)☐ (b)(4)☐ (b)(8)☐ (k)(5)☐ (b)(5)☐ (b)(9)☐ (k)(6)☐ (b)(6)☐ (k)(7)

- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.

- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.

- ☐ Documents originated with another Government agency(ies). These documents were referred to that agency(ies) for review and direct response to you.

Pages contain information furnished by another Government agency(ies). You will be advised by the FBI as to the releasability of this information following our consultation with the other agency(ies).

16 Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s): Outside scope of request.

- ☒ For your information: _____

- ☒ The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:

94-1-17998-836p.1-11,15-19

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 XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
 X DELETED PAGE(S) X
 X NO DUPLICATION FEE X
 X FOR THIS PAGE X
 XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

OTHER COMMUNIST ACTIVITIES, FRONTS, and MISCELLANEOUS

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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~~NATIONAL COUNCIL OF AMERICAN-SOVIET FRIENDSHIP~~. Created ostensibly to promote American-Soviet relations, this leading C.P. front recently once again demonstrated its unilateral and Un-American function of supporting and defending Russian foreign policy and at the same time criticizing and opposing American policy. As its latest contribution to international amity and understanding it has set up the ~~UNITED COMMITTEE AGAINST INTERVENTION IN GREECE AND TURKEY~~. The ~~UNITED COMMITTEE~~ consists of such well-known Communist fronts as: ~~AMERICAN SLAV CONGRESS~~, ~~COUNCIL ON AFRICAN AFFAIRS~~, ~~CONGRESS OF AMERICAN WOMEN~~, ~~VETERANS OF THE ABRAHAM LINCOLN BRIGADE~~, and the ~~AMERICAN COUNCIL FOR A DEMOCRATIC GREECE~~. It also claims the support of the ~~AMERICAN LABOR PARTY~~ and some fifty A.F.L. and C.I.O. unions, not identified. The COUNCIL also sought to discredit and reject the Baruch Atomic Control Plan put forward by the United States

HAROLD L. ICKES, Senators SALTONSTALL of Massachusetts and CAPPER of Kansas, Dr. KARL COMPTON, Judge LEARNED HAND, WILLIAM L. BATT and a number of other prominent Americans promptly withdrew their names as sponsors or supporter of NCASF but to date ~~RAYMOND MASSEY~~, ~~FIORIELLO LA GUARDIA~~, ~~GERARD SMOPE~~, ~~ALBERT~~

~~EINSTEIN~~, ~~HELEN KELLER~~, Bishop HENRY ~~D. SHERRILL~~, and a number of other non-
Communists still permit the use of their names on the pro-Soviet organization's
letterhead.

* * * * *

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

PUBLICATION FILE

CURRENT BIOGRAPHY

WHO'S NEWS AND WHY

Vol. 3 No. 12 December 1942

The H. W. Wilson Co., New York

94-3-4-1115-15

RECEIVED

JAN 4 4 53 AM '42

INTER-DEPARTMENTAL
OFFICE OF JUSTICE

IN THIS ISSUE

Government— United States

(See also Military and Naval)
Eberstadt, Ferdinand
Metcalf, Jesse H(oughton)
obit
Stokes, Edward-C(asper) obit

Military

Davis, Benjamin O(liver)
George, Harold L(ee)
Giraud, Henri Honoré
Harmon, Millard F(illmore)
Montgomery, Sir Bernard Law

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Harmon, Millard F(illmore)

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Clark
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Grant, Elihu obit
Greenwood, Allen obit
Irwin, Elisabeth (Antoinette)
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Joseph, Sister Mary
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chand)
Hácha, Emil

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S(chultz) obit
Greenwood, Allen obit
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Theatre

Cherry, Addie (Rose Alma)
obit
Goodwin, Harry obit
Robson, May obit
Tempest, Dame Marie obit

CURRENT BIOGRAPHY

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Explanations

Authorities for forms of names are the Library of Congress and the Wilson Company bibliographical indexes. Exception is made to the authorized form when the shortened form of a name is better known: e.g., Monty Woolley instead of Edgar Montillion Woolley. If the full name is not given in the heading it will be found in the sketch itself.

After the name, pronunciation is given if the name is difficult, and then the date of birth as fully as possible. The date of death is given for those who have died. The occupation of the subject follows. Next comes the sketch itself, followed by a list of references for further study. These include magazine and newspaper references (in one alphabet) and books. If the person is not living, references are made to obituaries in newspapers and magazines. Only books of an autobiographical or biographical nature are listed, including such well known reference works as *Who's Who*, *Who's Who in America*, etc.

The magazine articles listed under *References* are in abbreviated form (see list "Periodical and Newspaper Abbreviations" for complete title). The form of entry is as follows: Sat Eve Post 56:78-9 S '39 por. This means that an article supplementing our sketch will be found in *Saturday Evening Post*, volume 56, pages 78-9, in the September 1939 number. The abbreviation *por* means that the article is accompanied by a portrait. In the case of newspapers, the name of the paper is followed by paging and date.

When a name in a sketch is followed by ⁴⁰ a biography of that person may be found in the 1940 *Current Biography Yearbook* published in December 1940; for a name followed by ⁴¹ see the 1941 *Current Biography Yearbook*; for a ⁴² name see index in this issue.

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KEY TO PRONUNCIATION

(By permission of Thorndike Century Senior Dictionary)

a hat
 ă age
 ȃ care
 ȃ far

 e let
 ɛ equal
 ɛ term

 i pin
 ɪ ice

 o hot
 ɔ open
 ɔ order
 oi oil
 ou house

 th thin
 th then, smooth

u cup
 ū full
 ū rule
 ū use

zh measure

ə represents:

a in about
 e in taken
 i in pencil
 o in lemon
 u in circus

FOREIGN SOUNDS

Y as in French du.
 Pronounce ɛ with
 the lips rounded
 as for English ū
 in rule.

œ as in French peu.
 Pronounce ɛ with
 the lips rounded
 as for ō.

N as in French bon.
 The N is not
 pronounced, but
 shows that the
 vowel before it is
 nasal.

h as in German ach.
 Pronounce k with-
 out closing the
 breath passage.

' = main accent.

" = secondary accent

STATEMENT OF THE OWNERSHIP, MANAGE-
 MENT, CIRCULATION, ETC., REQUIRED BY
 THE ACTS OF CONGRESS OF AUGUST 24,
 1912, AND MARCH 3, 1933, of Current Biography
 published monthly at New York, N. Y., for October
 1, 1942.

STATE OF NEW YORK COUNTY OF BRONX

Before me, a Notary Public in and for the State
 and county aforesaid, personally appeared E. M.
 Phelps, who, having been duly sworn according to
 law, deposes and says that she is the Secretary,
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 Current Biography and that the following is, to the
 best of her knowledge and belief, a true statement of
 the ownership, management (and if a daily paper,
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 the date shown in the above caption, required by the
 Act of August 24, 1912, as amended by the Act of
 March 3, 1933, embodied in section 537, Postal Laws
 and Regulations, printed on the reverse of this form,
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 950-972 University Ave., New York, N. Y.

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 950-972 University Ave., New York, N. Y.

Business Managers, None

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 tion, the names and addresses of the individual
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 the books of the company but also, in cases where
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 fiduciary relation, the name of the person or cor-
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The H. W. WILSON COMPANY
 Per E. M. Phelps, Secretary.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 28th day
 of September, 1942. A. LAHEY.

[SEAL] Notary Public, Bronx Co., N. Y.
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 Commission expires March 30, 1943.

getter, they exaggerated their woe-begone expressions and laid the quavering voice on in extra-thick layers." "This technique," Miss Kay asserts, "must be pretty nearly perfect, because it still brings out roars of laughter" in present-day audiences. According to CBS, she consults such old-time singers as Joe Howard and Emma Frances for details, not only about the voices of the bygone stars upon whom she bases her interpretations, but also about their mannerisms, their gestures, and even their costumes.

The *New York Post*, however, quotes Miss Kay as having said: "We found that we had to sing the old numbers in a rollicking or burlesque fashion. Take *That Loin' Ray* that Elsie Janis used to sing so very slow—why, we wouldn't be tolerated on the air with it. . . . The only squawks we get come from people who remember some song with a great deal of sentiment. They remember an old girl or an old beau by it, and they don't want it jazzed up." Whether or not the songs are really sung in an authentic manner, they certainly have an appeal for "both the younger listeners and those who grow a bit nostalgic around the edges." Miss Kay's folio of Columbia recordings has "sold out as no similar set of discs has in years."

Although she has achieved her greatest success as "the little lass with the Mauve Decade sob in her voice," Beatrice Kay can sing in the modern manner too, having begun her vocal career as a "rhythm singer." It is, however, with such pieces as *The Curse of an Aching Heart* and *Harmony Joe* that she evokes the greatest response.

As the Gay Nineties soubrette, Miss Kay made many vaudeville appearances throughout New England and New York in 1941 and 1942. "It is a trifle upsetting," she says, "and at the same time immensely flattering, the way in which the stagehands and managers, particularly the older ones, welcome me. They've heard of the woman who sings as Eva Tanguay used to, and they expect me to be at least sixty years old. They have prepared for the comfort of the dear old lady they imagine me to be, and they wait deferentially to help her from the carriage. I've grown accustomed to seeing bewilderment as I step from a cab under my own power."

According to the *New York World-Telegram*, for a long time Miss Kay refused motion-picture offers of "dramatic roles and modern comedy parts" because she knew her forte to be such "biting lyrics" as *Don't Go in the Lion's Cage*, *Tonight, Mother*. "At long last," however, "she has succumbed to the lures of Hollywood." In 1943 she will take a six weeks' vacation from her CBS show to star in a story of New Orleans. In it she'll play "a bespangled soubrette, a frivolous frail who wrings men's hearts and shakes the gaslights with her lusty serenades."

Miss Kay in her personal life is not an "old-fashioned girl." Once, wrote Earl Wilson, "she had to get back to New York from Jamestown, where she had been appearing, to do a radio rehearsal. The air line wanted to



BEATRICE KAY

put her on a local plane which would require that she make transfers. 'Listen,' she announced, 'Kay's on, and not getting off till she gets to New York. She's getting in her little seat, and she doesn't want to be disturbed. If she is put off, she'll have to be taken in an ambulance to the nearest hospital, where she'll suffer a nervous breakdown and then file suit.' Miss Kay rolled up and went to sleep, and the next thing she knew she was in New York. 'I understand two people had to be left behind somewhere,' she said, 'but frankly I didn't care about them. They didn't have a radio broadcast, and I was an hour late as it was.'

Physically, Miss Kay is a "smallish, jovial," husky-voiced person with "big gray" eyes and "reddish-blond" hair that photographs black. She lives in a ten-room early American farmhouse in Closter, New Jersey. "There's no mail route past the house, and her nearest neighbors are some horses in a stable a mile down the road. But Beatrice loves her . . . home." In her library she collects early Edison records of bygone singers to help her with her work. She is married to Sylvan Green.

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- N Y Post p4 J1 9 '41 por
- N Y World-Telegram p3 Je 14 '41 por

KELLER, HELEN (ADAMS) June 27, 1880- Author; social worker
Address: h. Westport, Conn.

Helen Keller, "one of America's twelve great women leaders during the past hundred years," is best known for her will power, her courage, her outstanding achievements in spite of her handicaps, and her self-



HELEN KELLER

sacrificing work to improve the condition of the blind.

The beginning of Helen Adams Keller's life was simple and much like that of every other baby. She was born, healthy and sound, on June 27, 1880 in Tuscumbia, Alabama, the daughter of Captain Arthur H. and Kate (Adams) Keller. At the age of six months she could pipe out "How d'ye" and "tea," and when she was one year old she could talk. She enjoyed the flowers in her family's garden, the play of sun and shadow on the walls of her room, and the singing of the birds. Disaster struck in February 1881. An illness, diagnosed as brain fever, plunged her into unconsciousness. The doctor thought she could not live, and there was great rejoicing when the fever one morning left her as suddenly as it had come. Nobody, not even the doctor, knew then that she would never see or hear again.

Captain Arthur Keller was a prominent man in his community. He was the editor of the *North Alabamian* and under the Cleveland administration was appointed marshal of North Alabama. As owner of a large estate he found himself in the condition typical of many Southerners of that time: he was land-poor. He could not afford expert care for Helen, and she grew into childhood "wild and unruly, giggling and chuckling to express pleasure; kicking, scratching, uttering the choked screams of the deaf-mute to indicate the opposite." When in 1886 Captain Keller heard of Dr. Chisholm, a famous oculist in Baltimore, he took Helen to him—only to hear that there was no hope. But contrary to the common belief that brain fever leaves its victim an idiot, Dr. Chisholm thought she could be educated. He advised her father to consult Dr. Alexander Graham Bell in Washington; and father and daughter proceeded to

Washington immediately. Dr. Bell advised them to write to the Perkins Institution for the Blind in Boston, and on March 3, 1887 Anne Mansfield Sullivan, a girl of twenty, arrived in Tuscumbia to educate Helen Keller.

When Anne Sullivan had left the Institute the children had given her a little doll for Helen which became the object of her first lesson. After Helen had played with it a while, "Teacher," as she was soon called, spelled into her pupil's hand the word "d-o-l-l." Helen was much interested in the finger play and tried to imitate it. In the days that followed she learned many more words, but it was not until a cool stream of water gushed over her one hand and "Teacher" spelled the word "w-a-t-e-r" into the other that she realized that everything had a name, and the mystery of language was revealed to her.

From the beginning Anne Sullivan always answered all of Helen's questions so that they were intelligible to her and at the same time truthful. She did not keep certain class hours, but spelled into Helen's hand everything they did all day long. Having observed that normal children understand much before they themselves utter their first words—they point out the right things in response to questions, they obey commands like "come" and "go"—she proceeded as if this were also true of Helen. She assumed that Helen had a normal child's capacity to assimilate and imitate and proceeded to talk into her hand as others talk into a baby's ear. The result was phenomenal: after three years Helen Keller knew the alphabet, manual and Braille, and could read and write.

When the rumor reached Helen that somewhere in Sweden a dumb child had been taught to talk, she did not rest until arrangements were made for her to take speech lessons. In March 1890 she started her speech classes with Miss Sarah Fuller, principal of the Horace Mann School for the Deaf in Boston. Her education proceeded rapidly, and in October 1894 she entered the Wright-Humason School for the Deaf in New York, where she stayed two years. This school had been chosen to give her all possible advantage in vocal culture and training in lip reading. While there she also studied arithmetic, physical geography, French, and German.

Helen's determination to enter college became stronger and stronger. To prepare for Radcliffe College she went to the Cambridge School for Young Ladies in 1896 and for the first time enjoyed the companionship of girls of her own age. When she entered Radcliffe four years later she was elected vice-president of the freshman class and soon made friends with many of her classmates. Throughout her school days "Teacher" patiently interpreted—through the manual alphabet—all classes, lectures, books, and references. Yet college was not all Helen had expected it to be. She enjoyed it but suffered from lack of time and from the distance of the professors. "One does not meet the great and the wise face to face, one does not even feel their living touch," she

once wrote. In June 1904 she received her B. A. *cum laude* from Radcliffe College, with "special mention for her excellence in English literature."

"Teacher" and Helen then moved to Wrentham, outside of Boston, where they bought a house and a little farm. Helen began to study the problems of the blind whose state at that time was deplorable. The adults were idle and in dire need. Prevention of blindness in new-born children could not be discussed publicly—even though the medical profession had known since 1887 that *ophthalmia neonatorum* was preventable—because it was connected with venereal diseases. It took a Helen Keller to bring light to the blind. She had already started to work for them when she was a junior in college and had joined an association that had been founded by the Women's Educational and Industrial Union in Boston to promote the welfare of adult blind people. Upon her request, a state commission was appointed which made them its special care, and she was asked to serve on it. A few years later she succeeded in persuading Colonel Nelson, editor of the *Kansas City Star*, to discuss blindness in the newborn in his paper. In 1907 Edward Bok opened the pages of the *Ladies' Home Journal* to a similar discussion, for which Helen wrote several articles.

A year after Helen's graduation Anne Sullivan was married to John A. Macy, the famous literary critic. Living with the Macys, Helen did not lose her teacher and steady companion but merely won another friend. It was John A. Macy who advised her and edited her autobiography, *The Story of My Life*, published in 1902 as a serial in the *Ladies' Home Journal*. This story of her early struggle "to get into communication with the world of knowledge and of her development therein" was eagerly awaited and read by the public. *Optimism, an Essay* (1903), and *The World I Live In* (1908), both mostly autobiographical, followed the first account of her life. *The Song of the Stone Wall* (1910) "chronicled in unrhymed verses New England's history of toil and triumph."

After some more lessons Helen Keller's voice had so improved that in February 1913 she agreed to speak in public. The same year she spoke in Washington and on that occasion was asked to cover the inauguration of Woodrow Wilson for the United Press. Other engagements followed. Later, however, Mrs. Macy became seriously ill. She had had no time to recover from an operation, and worry about lack of money and the fact that her husband had left her and Helen had contributed considerably to the breakdown. In her desperation Helen asked her old friend Andrew Carnegie for help and in the return mail received a check with the assurance of an annuity.

In 1914 Miss Keller and "Teacher" embarked on their first transcontinental tour, where Helen filled speaking engagements in Canada, Michigan, Minnesota, Iowa, other Midwestern states, and California. In Oc-

tober of the same year Polly Thomson from Glasgow, Scotland, became her secretary; she was later to become manager of her household. In 1918 the home at Wrentham had to be sold, and the three women moved to Forest Hills, a suburb of New York City. Helen got an offer from Hollywood which she accepted immediately for a motion picture based on the story of her life. The picture, unfortunately, was a financial loss, but she enjoyed her stay in the film colony immensely.

The necessity of earning more money became imperative. The funds provided for Helen Keller's support would cease with her death, and if she should die before her teacher Mrs. Macy would be left almost destitute. Vaudeville seemed to offer more pay than literary work or lecturing, and the two women therefore went on the stage. For two years they went from coast to coast with the Orpheum Circuit and only in 1924 settled down to the quiet life of ordinary citizens. *Midstream: My Later Life* was published in 1929. "The story has something less of the emotional appeal and the psychological interest and value inherent in her first book," said the *New York Times* reviewer. "But there is compensation for this in the portrayal of her reactions to and activities in the busy world of men and women and of her contacts with famous people" such as Alexander Graham Bell, Andrew Carnegie, and Mark Twain, to mention only a few.

Outside of writing her memoirs, Helen Keller still accepted lecture invitations in behalf of the American Foundation for the Blind, for instance, or any other organization that was connected with the effort to help the blind. She made it her task "to travel up and down the land, and up and down in the elevators of great office buildings, to solicit funds from rich men . . . to plead with some wealthy person to take our precious cause under his golden wing." She started the Helen Keller Endowment Fund of \$2,000,000 for the Foundation and in 1932—in recognition of her work in this connection—received the Achievement Prize of \$5,000 from *Pictorial Review*. This money she designated for the use of those who were both deaf and blind.

On October 20, 1936 Anne Sullivan Macy died. What Helen Keller had often feared (" . . . if she were gone away . . . I should be blind and deaf in very truth") had happened. Yet she was not alone. Polly Thomson immediately applied for citizenship, and two weeks later the two sailed for Scotland "to find a quiet time in which to readjust their lives," and later for Japan. Miss Keller's *Journal* (1938), written in 1936 and 1937, is "a record of her awakening from a great spiritual numbness into a renewed determination to make her life a service to others—to live so that on each third of March to come she can look back upon some achievement that has justified her teacher's faith in her."

KELLER, HELEN *(Continued)*

In 1937 she had been repaid for some of her struggle to interest people in the handicapped: thirty states had established commissions for the blind since the day she had served on the first one in Massachusetts, and more than half of the Helen Keller Endowment Fund had been raised. Still she continued to give unreservedly of her time to complete this fund, helping the cause by appearing before legislatures, by giving lectures, "and above all, by her own shining example of what might be accomplished in spite of severe difficulties." In *Let Us Have Faith* (1940) she herself restates "the ultimate ability of man to conquer despair and tyranny." A. F. Gilmore of the *Christian Science Monitor* referred to the book as "a beautiful message . . . attractively presented."

Miss Keller and Polly Thomson finally settled in Westport, Connecticut, where they live in a white frame house. Helen Keller's cherished plan to write her teacher's biography was interrupted by the outbreak of the Second World War, when she decided to devote most of her time to the help of the war-blinded. Her spare time is taken up by answering the tremendous number of letters that friends, acquaintances, and poor and sick people send her. As a counselor on national and international relations for the American Foundation for the Blind she actively participates in the Foundation work and otherwise contributes to the improvement of conditions among the handicapped. She contributes also to many socially-minded causes, and her name frequently graces the letterheads of liberal political and economic organizations.

As her favorite recreation Helen Keller plays with her dogs and works in her garden. (As a young girl she used to go horseback riding, sailing, and bicycling, and while she got scratched on walks through the underbrush, she would never admit she was hurt and certainly would not stay home the next time.) Music plays an important role in her life. The vibrations penetrate through the floor and the furniture, and by touching these—or the singer's throat—she can feel the rhythm and the spirit of the music. Once when she attended a concert of the NBC Symphony Orchestra with Toscanini²² conducting, the ideal radio transmission—i. e., absence of all vibration—nearly caused an impasse. But a special wooden platform, placed underneath her chair, finally assured her of "hearing."

Helen Keller is interested in every conversation that takes place around her. Her constant question, "What are you talking about?" keeps her informed about events. She hears by means of holding her fingers on the speaker's lips or by manual alphabet translation. Most of her direct knowledge comes from her sense of touch which is, however, not so finely developed as in some other blind people. In her literary work she uses the Braille typewriter first, then copies the manuscript on an ordinary typewriter. Her sense of smell is very

acute. She can orient herself by the smell of perfumes, powder, open fires, paint, and many other animate or inanimate objects and could easily pass as an aromatic specialist. Her speech is easily understood by her intimate friends, who are used to it, but still presents difficulties to those who hear her for the first time.

Enthusiastic and indefatigable, Helen Keller has not only traveled in this country but also in the Orient and in Europe. In recognition of the stimulation her example and presence had given the Yugoslavians to work for their blind, King Alexander in 1931 awarded her the St. Sava Order. Temple University, Philadelphia, honored her that same year with the degree of Doctor of Humane Letters, and the University of Glasgow in 1932 with that of Doctor of Law. In 1936 she and Anne Sullivan Macy were awarded the Roosevelt Medal for "Cooperative Achievement of Unique Character and Far-reaching Significance." Among the magazines to which she has contributed are the *Century Magazine*, *Youth's Companion*, *McClure's Magazine*, and *Atlantic Monthly*.

Friends have described Helen Keller as a "gracious, compassionate woman, of singular intellectual attainments and compelling personal charm." Her sparkling sense of humor, her vitality, and her warm and eager hand-clasp have won her friends wherever she has been. She is tall and has always been in good health. There is nothing mysterious about her achievements. All she is and has done can be explained directly, and there is little she loathes more than a person's reference to a "sixth sense." Her well known optimism and idealistic outlook on life are best expressed in her own words: "My life has been happy because I have had wonderful friends and plenty of interesting work to do. I seldom think about my limitations, and they never make me sad. Perhaps there is just a touch of yearning at times, but it is vague, like a breeze among flowers. The wind passes, and the flowers are content."

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HELEN KELLER

15 WEST 16th STREET, NEW YORK 11, N. Y.

March 31, 1949

Dear Mr. Hoover:

I am indeed happy to inform you that a Committee on the Deaf-blind of America has been started. It is to be one of the departments of the American Foundation for the Blind with which I have worked for twenty-six years.

All that time there has burned within me an unceasing pain because the problems of the doubly handicapped remain for the most part unsolved, and I have made one attempt after another in their behalf.

Now that there is a Committee to study their needs, I am writing to you because it offers a wonderful opportunity for your noble impulses -- effective aid to the most appealing and loneliest group of human beings on earth. They are widely scattered over a vast continent, and it will require careful study and patient search if they are to be properly served.

Try to imagine, if you can, the anguish and horror you would experience bowed down by the twofold weight of blindness and deafness, with no hope of emerging from an utter isolation! Still throbbing with natural emotions and desires, you would feel through the sense of touch the existence of a living world, and desperately but vainly you would seek an escape into its healing light.

ENCLOSURE AFFAIRS

All your pleasures would vanish in a dreadful monotony of silent days. Even work, man's Divine heritage -- work that can bind up broken hearts -- would be lost to you. Family and friends might surround you with love, but consolation alone cannot restore usefulness, or bring release from that hardest prison -- a tomb of the mind and a dungeon of the body.

I doubt if even the most imaginative and tender normal people can realize the peculiar cruelty of such a situation. The blind who are taught can live happily in a world of sounds, and the deaf use their eyes instead of ears, but the deaf-blind have no substitute for sight or hearing. The keenest touch cannot break their immobility. More than any other physically fettered group, they need right teaching and constructive procedures to reclaim them to normal society.

Will you not, dear friend, give some thought to the Helen Keller Committee on the Deaf-blind, so that more of those who cannot see and hear may regain life's goodness and the dignity of useful work? I plead for your financial support of this work, where so much needs to be accomplished.

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Trusting and cordially yours,
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DR. GABRIEL FARRELL
Director, Perkins Institu-
tion and Massachusetts
School for the Blind,
Watertown, Mass.

HARVEY D. GIBSON
President, Manufacturers
Trust Co., New York,
N. Y.

FRANKLIN F. HOPPER
Former Director, New York
Public Library, New
N. Y.

*WINTHROP K. HOWE, JR.
Member, New York State
Commission for the
Blind, Rochester, N. Y.

GEORGE MACDONALD
New York, N. Y.

CHAUNCEY MCCORMICK
Director, The Illinois So-
ciety for the Prevention
of Blindness, Chicago, Ill.

GARFIELD D. MEARNER
San Francisco, California

*GEORGE F. MEYER
Executive Director, New
Jersey Commission for
the Blind, Newark, N. J.

M. C. MIGEL
Ex-Chairman, New York
State Commission for the
Blind, New York, N. Y.

RICHARD H. MIGEL
New York, N. Y.

RICHARD L. MORRIS
New York, N. Y.

JANSEN NOYES, JR.
New York, N. Y.

G. A. PFRIFFER
New York, N. Y.

ROBERT M. PROUTY
Massachusetts Association
for Promoting the Inter-
ests of the Adult Blind,
Boston, Mass.

STETSON K. RYAN
Executive Secretary, Board
of Education of the
Blind, Hartford, Conn.

MRS. ISABEL DODGE SLOANE
New York, N. Y.

WILLIAM ZIEGLER, JR.
President, E. Matilda Zieg-
ler Foundation for the
Blind, New York, N. Y.

*HELEN A. KELLER
Counselor, Bureau of Na-
tional and International
Relations

*ROBERT B. IRWIN
Executive Director

* Blind



Help
for the
DEAF-BLIND

American Foundation for the Blind, Inc., 15 W. 16th St., New York 11, N. Y.

HELP FOR THE DEAF-BLIND

IN EARLY CHILDHOOD, Helen Keller lost all contact with the world about her because illness made her deaf-blind. Fortunately, her parents soon found a teacher-companion, the late Anne Sullivan Macy, whose efforts in piercing the dark silence enveloping her little pupil, although long and laborious, were so successful that many forget Miss Keller had to overcome a dual handicap.

For the past twenty-six years, Miss Keller has visited all parts of the United States, urging her fellow countrymen to support the work of the American Foundation for the Blind so that the lot of blind people can be bettered. Now she is equally determined that every deaf-blind man, woman, and child in our forty-eight states must be sought out and helped, as she was.

THROUGH THE NEW HELEN KELLER COMMITTEE on the Deaf-blind of the American Foundation for the Blind, she hopes to:

1. Improve educational methods for the deaf-blind on an individual basis to provide greater self-resourcefulness, thus compensating for limited contacts with others.
2. Find a shorter and more rapid manual language to speed communication with family and friends.
3. Obtain greater vocational opportunities for the deaf-blind in workshops for the blind and in private industry.
4. Increase the social relationships of the deaf-blind by developing special activities for them and by devising ways to permit them to participate in usual recreations.

Helen Keller knows through personal experience what must be done to penetrate the dark silence surrounding deaf-blind people. Your gift now to the American Foundation for the Blind will bring new hope to the most neglected people in America.

American Foundation
for OVERSEAS BLIND, Inc.

22 WEST 17TH STREET, NEW YORK 11, N. Y.

March 24, 1954

HELEN KELLER
Counselor, International Relations

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. Boardman _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Belmont _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tamm _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Mohr _____
Mr. Winterrowd _____
Tele. Room _____
Mr. Holloman _____
Miss Gandy _____

Dear Miss Hoover:

We who love peace must recognize our eternal indebtedness to the gallant people of South Korea for their bitter sacrifices during the war so recently ended. My mind turns particularly to the plight of the blind men, women and little children in that unhappy land, and my heart is heavy at the knowledge of the cruel privations they must suffer.

You have doubtless read of Korea's countless war casualties, its ten million refugees and the destruction of seventy-five percent of all its buildings. Yet the most poignant aspect of the total disaster is the tragic fate of so many of Korea's children -- their eyes blinded by war, their only school and training center at Seoul laid in ruins, their sole braille printing machine demolished.

Recognizing that there can be no nobler purpose than to comfort suffering children I have asked the American Foundation for Overseas Blind to launch, as part of its world-wide service, a crusade to aid Korea's blind youngsters. The Foundation has already established a fine school and training center for them outside Pusan. There and at the new Taegu School for the Blind and Deaf 250 handicapped young people, inspired with firm faith and dauntless courage, are learning to break through the barriers of darkness and silence. Bravely they look forward to a brighter future when, skilled and self-reliant, they will return to their communities ready to play a part in the restoration of their homeland.

Yet Korean government records list a total of 50,000 sightless children. To provide for their education and training many new centers must be created and the few existing facilities enlarged. The Foundation stands ready to supply the trained staff, the specially designed classroom equipment, braille books and tools for instruction, toys and games for recreation. Funds must also be found to provide food and clothing for their physical necessities.

I have promised the blind children of Korea that my friends in America will ameliorate their terrible needs. Fervently I pray that you will help me keep this pledge by sending a gift today to the American Foundation for Overseas Blind. If you do, you may be sure that it will bring swift and life-giving aid to our young friends across the seas.

Hopefully and sincerely yours,

Helen Keller

ENCLOSURE

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*M. Robert Barnett, Executive Director • *Eric T. Boulter, Field Director

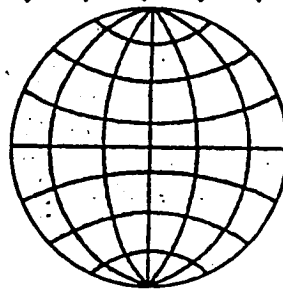
100-100000-10-4

* Blind

■ The American Foundation for Overseas Blind maintains, under Helen Keller's personal supervision, a program of constructive work to blind people in all corners of the globe. It is the world's only agency established for this specific purpose. Trained workers from the Foundation's New York headquarters and regional offices travel constantly in distant lands to establish schools and training centers, install printing plants, institute employment opportunities and promote cultural and recreational activities.

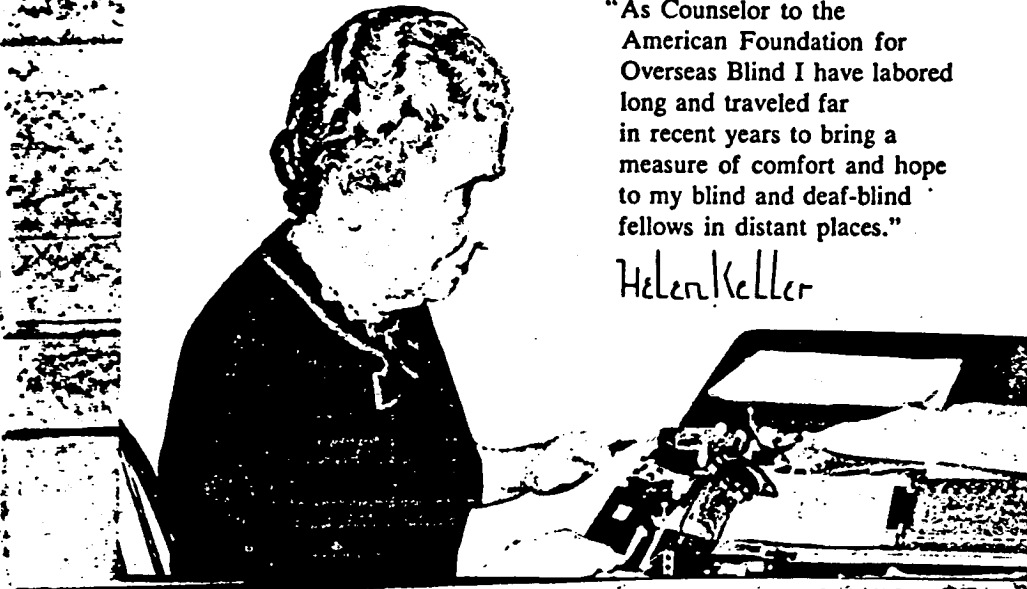
If you wish to help the Foundation achieve Miss Keller's dream "To make all dark places beautiful for the world's blind citizens" please send your contribution today to the American Foundation for Overseas Blind, Inc., 22 West 17th Street, New York 11, N. Y.

AMERICAN FOUNDATION FOR OVERSEAS BLIND, INC.



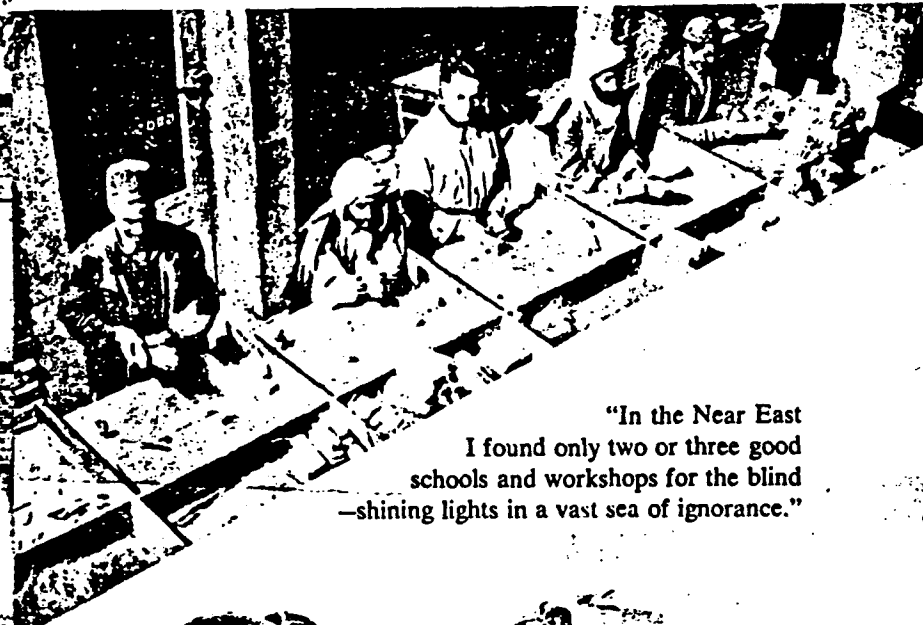
"As Counselor to the American Foundation for Overseas Blind I have labored long and traveled far in recent years to bring a measure of comfort and hope to my blind and deaf-blind fellows in distant places."

Helen Keller





*Returning from a tour of the Orient Helen Keller declared,
"With our aid Asia's two million blind children can learn
to lead full and useful lives."*



*"In the Near East
I found only two or three good
schools and workshops for the blind
—shining lights in a vast sea of ignorance."*



*From Central Africa Helen Keller wrote,
"Here dwell thousands upon thousands of blind natives,
untaught, unbefriended and unwanted."*

American Foundation
for OVERSEAS BLIND, Inc.

22 WEST 17TH STREET, NEW YORK 11, N. Y.

April 5, 1954

HELEN KELTER, Room
Counselor, International Relations
Miss Gandy

Dear Mr. Hoover:

We who love peace must recognize our eternal indebtedness to the gallant people of South Korea for their bitter sacrifices during the war so recently ended. My mind turns particularly to the plight of the blind men, women and little children in that unhappy land, and my heart is heavy at the knowledge of the cruel privations they must suffer.

You have doubtless read of Korea's countless war casualties, its ten million refugees and the destruction of seventy-five percent of all its buildings. Yet the most poignant aspect of the total disaster is the tragic fate of so many of Korea's children -- their eyes blinded by war, their only school and training center at Seoul laid in ruins, their sole braille printing machine demolished.

Recognizing that there can be no nobler purpose than to comfort suffering children I have asked the American Foundation for Overseas Blind to launch, as part of its world-wide service, a crusade to aid Korea's blind youngsters. The Foundation has already established a fine school and training center for them outside Pusan. There and at the new Taegu School for the Blind and Deaf 250 handicapped young people, inspired with firm faith and dauntless courage, are learning to break through the barriers of darkness and silence. Bravely they look forward to a brighter future when, skilled and self-reliant, they will return to their communities ready to play a part in the restoration of their homeland.

Yet Korean government records list a total of 50,000 sightless children. To provide for their education and training many new centers must be created and the few existing facilities enlarged. The Foundation stands ready to supply the trained staff, the specially designed classroom equipment, braille books and tools for instruction, toys and games for recreation. Funds must also be found to provide food and clothing for their physical necessities.

I have promised the blind children of Korea that my friends in America will ameliorate their terrible needs. Fervently I pray that you will help me keep this pledge by sending a gift today to the American Foundation for Overseas Blind. If you do, you may be sure that it will bring swift and life-giving aid to our young friends across the seas.

Hopefully and sincerely yours,

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: William Ziegler, Jr., President • Richard H. Migel, Vice-President • Jansen Noyes, Jr., Vice-President • Max Shoop, Vice-President
Eustace Seligman, Secretary • Alexander M. Laughlin, Treasurer • Col. E. A. Baker, M.C., O.B.E. • Princess Margaret Draper Boncompagni • Dr. John E. F.
Bernard S. Carter • Joseph F. Ciunk • Dr. Gabriel Farrell • Dr. George A. Fitch • Vice-Admiral C. S. Freeman • Dr. C. L. Hsia • Dr. John P. M.
George F. Meyer • M. C. Migel • Stetson K. Ryan • Peter J. Salmon • Frank H. Sanders, Jr.
M. Robert Barnett, Executive Director • Eric T. Boulter, Field Director

HELEN KELLER

15 WEST 16th STREET, NEW YORK 11, N. Y.

April 30, 1954

Mr. Foster
Mr. Boardman
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Rosen

Mr. Tracy
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Winterrowd
Tele. Room
Mr. Holloman
Miss Gandy

Dear Mr. Hoover:

I am indeed happy to inform you that my deaf-blind fellows are receiving constructive help for the first time in the history of America. This work, now nearly nationwide in scope, is being carried forward as one of the many services of the American Foundation for the Blind with which I have been allied for thirty years.

Now that the problems of the doubly handicapped are being studied and solved, I am writing to you because it offers a wonderful opportunity for your noble impulses--effective aid to the most appealing and loneliest group of human beings on earth.

Try to imagine, if you can, the anguish and horror you would experience bowed down by the twofold weight of blindness and deafness, with no hope of emerging from an utter isolation! Still throbbing with natural emotions and desires, you would feel through the sense of touch the existence of a living world, and desperately but vainly you would seek an escape into its healing light.

All of your pleasures would vanish in a dreadful monotony of silent days. Even work, man's Divine heritage--work that can bind up broken hearts--would be lost to you. Family and friends might surround you with love, but consolation alone cannot restore usefulness, or bring release from that hardest prison--a tomb of the mind and a dungeon of the body.

I doubt if even the most imaginative and tender normal people can realize the peculiar cruelty of such a situation. The blind who are taught can live happily in a world of sounds, and the deaf use their eyes instead of ears, but the deaf-blind have no substitute for sight or hearing. The keepest touch cannot break their immobility. More than any other physically fettered group, they must have right teaching and constructive procedures to reclaim them to normal society.

Will you not, dear friend, give some thought to the work of the American Foundation for the Blind, which labors so diligently to restore life's goodness and the dignity of useful work to both deaf-blind and blind people. My associates at the Foundation may be depended upon to use your gift wisely. I plead for your financial support, where so much needs to be accomplished.

Trusting and cordially yours,

RECORDED - 63

INDEXED - 63

SE-43

44-40513

P. S. If you have already sent your gift to the Foundation for this year, will you please accept our renewed thanks and pass my letter along to a friend who may wish to further our work.

53 MAY 14 1954



Help
for the
DEAF-BLIND

94-435-13-7

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Can. Natl. Inst. for the
Blind, Toronto, Ont., Can.
- MASON H. BIGELOW
Pres., Natl. Soc. for the
Prev. of Blindness, New
York, N. Y.
- MISS KATHARINE CORNELL
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- *DR. FRANCIS J. CUMMINGS
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Cambridge, Mass.
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- HOWARD M. LICHITY
Man. Editor, Matilda Ziegler
Pub. Co. for the Blind,
Inc., Monsey, N. Y.
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Ex-Chairman, N. Y. State Com.
on the Blind, New York,
N. Y.
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Mass. Assn. for Promoting the
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- DR. NEAL F. QUIMBY
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gordo, N. Mex.
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M.B.E., Pres., Amer. Assn. of
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- EUSTACE SELIGMAN
New York, N. Y.
- BYRON M. SMITH
Exec. Secy., Minneapolis Soc.
for the Blind, Inc., Minne-
apolis, Minn.
- ROBERT H. THOMPSON
Supt., Missouri School for the
Blind, St. Louis, Mo.
- WILLIAM ZIEGLER, JR.
Pres., E. Matilda Ziegler
Found. for the Blind, New
York, N. Y.
- *HILLEN A. KELLER
Counselor, Bureau of Natl. and
Int. Relations
- *M. ROBERT BARNETT
Executive Director
- * Blind

American Foundation for the Blind, Inc., 15 W. 16th St., New York 11, N.Y.

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. Nichols

DATE:
November 30, 1954

Tolson	_____
Boardman	_____
Nichols	_____
Belmont	_____
Harbo	_____
Mohr	_____
Parsons	_____
Rosen	_____
Tamm	_____
Sizoo	_____
Winterrowd	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Holloman	_____
Gandy	_____

FROM : [REDACTED]

SUBJECT: HELEN KELLER
SOLICITATION FOR AID TO THE BLIND

We have received a form letter dated November 26, 1954, soliciting the Director's aid for the American Foundation for Overseas Blind, Inc., New York, New York. Inasmuch as it is a form letter and in view of the large number of similar requests received by the Director, it is not felt that this letter should be acknowledged.

ALL
b7CRECOMMENDATION:

That this letter not be acknowledged.

(2)

RECORDED - 93

INDEXED - 83

13 DEC 17 1954

22
55 DEC 20 1954

American Foundation
for OVERSEAS BLIND, Inc.

22 WEST 17TH STREET, NEW YORK 11, N. Y.

November 26, 1954

HELEN KELLER
Counselor, International Relations

Dear Mr. Hoover:

We who love peace must recognize our eternal indebtedness to the gallant people of South Korea for their bitter sacrifices during the war so recently ended. My mind turns particularly to the plight of the blind men, women and little children in that unhappy land, and my heart is heavy at the knowledge of the cruel privations they must suffer.

You have doubtless read of Korea's countless war casualties, its ten million refugees and the destruction of seventy-five percent of all its buildings. Yet the most poignant aspect of the total disaster is the tragic fate of so many of Korea's children -- their eyes blinded by war, their only school and training center at Seoul laid in ruins, their sole braille printing machine demolished.

Recognizing that there can be no nobler purpose than to comfort suffering children I have asked the American Foundation for Overseas Blind to launch, as part of its world-wide service, a crusade to aid Korea's blind youngsters. The Foundation has already established a fine school and training center for them outside Pusan. There and at the new Taegu School for the Blind and Deaf 250 handicapped young people, inspired with firm faith and dauntless courage, are learning to break through the barriers of darkness and silence. Bravely they look forward to a brighter future when, skilled and self-reliant, they will return to their communities ready to play a part in the restoration of their homeland.

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I have promised the blind children of Korea that my friends in America will ameliorate their terrible needs. Fervently I pray that you will help me keep this pledge by sending a gift today to the American Foundation for Overseas Blind. If you do, you may be sure that it will bring swift and life-giving aid to our young friends across the seas.

Hopefully and sincerely yours,

RECORDED - 83

INDEXED - 83

13 DEC 17 1954

Helen Keller

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: William Ziegler, Jr., President • Richard H. Migel, Vice-President • Jansen Noyes, Jr., Vice-President • Max Shoop, Vice-President
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Bernard S. Carter • Joseph F. Clunk • Dr. Gabriel Farrell • Dr. George A. Fitch • Vice-Admiral C. S. Freeman • Dr. C. L. Hsia • Dr. John P. M.
• George F. Meyer • M. C. Migel • Stetson K. Ryan • Peter J. Salmon • Frank H. Sanders, Jr.
• M. Robert Barnett, Executive Director • Eric T. Boulter, Field Director

HELEN KELLER

15 WEST 16th STREET, NEW YORK 11, N.Y.

GIR 14

September 30

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Boardman
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Parsons
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Nease
Mr. N. E.
Tele. Room
Mr. Holloman
1957

American Foundation For
The Blind, Inc.

My dear Sir:

I am indeed happy to inform you that the American Foundation for the Blind now is expanding services of benefit to my 6,000 deaf-blind fellows. Heretofore, a few hundred found bright oases of help and understanding in scattered schools and agencies.

Now that the problems of all are being studied on a national basis, I am writing to you because it offers a wonderful opportunity for your noble impulses--effective aid to the most appealing and loneliest group of human beings on earth.

Try to imagine, if you can, the anguish and horror you would experience bowed down by the twofold weight of blindness and deafness. Still throbbing with natural emotions and desires, you would feel through the sense of touch the existence of a living world, and desperately but vainly you would seek an escape into its healing light.

All of your pleasures would vanish in a dreadful monotony of silent days. Even work would be lost to you. Family and friends might surround you with love. But consolation alone cannot restore usefulness, or bring release from that hardest prison, a tomb of the mind and a dungeon of the body.

I doubt if the most imaginative and tender normal people can realize the peculiar cruelty of such a situation. Blind people can live happily in a world of sounds. Deaf individuals use their eyes instead of ears. But my deaf-blind fellows must have expert procedures to reclaim their normal society.

Will you not, dear friend, give some thought to the work of the Foundation, which labors so diligently for deaf-blind and blind Americans in cooperation with existing schools and organizations. My associates at the Foundation may be depended upon to use your gift wisely. I plead for your financial support, where so much needs to be accomplished.

Trusting and cordially yours,

ENCLOSURE

Helen Keller

P.S. If you have already sent your gift to the Foundation for this year, please accept our renewed thanks and pass this letter along to a friend who may wish to further our work.

63 OCT 11 1957

ALL
67C

IN EARLY CHILDHOOD, Helen Keller lost all contact with the world about her because illness made her deaf-blind. Fortunately, her parents soon found a teacher-companion, the late Anne Sullivan Macy, whose efforts in piercing the dark silence enveloping her little pupil, although long and laborious, were so successful that many forget Miss Keller had to overcome a dual handicap.

For the past thirty-four years, Miss Keller has visited all parts of the United States, urging her fellow countrymen to support the work of the American Foundation for the Blind so that the lot of blind people can be bettered. Now she is equally determined that every deaf-blind man, woman, and child in our forty-eight states must be helped as she was.

Through the American Foundation for the Blind, Miss Keller is striving to:

1. Develop and expand facilities for teaching deaf-blind children

to enable each child to realize his American birthright for an education.

2. Establish efficient methods of communication for each deaf-blind person so that he can "talk" freely with family and friends.
3. Promote greater employment opportunities for the deaf-blind in their own homes, in workshops for the blind, and in private industry.
4. Increase the social relationships of the deaf-blind by interpreting their needs to families, friends, and the general public to allow them to join again in the pleasures of everyday living.

Helen Keller knows through personal experience what can be done to penetrate the isolation enveloping deaf-blind people. Your gift now to the American Foundation for the Blind will bring new hope to them and our American blind people.

The Foundation's program for the deaf-blind is one among several major activities. Competent, non-related businessmen supervise its finances to insure equitable distribution to all under a strict budget system. Gifters who wish their gifts to be earmarked for the deaf-blind or its other activities are assured that conscientious accounting will be maintained.

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Carson
Mr. Egan
Mr. Gurnea
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Jones
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Nease

February 18, 1946

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

At the January meeting of the Indiana Press Women's Club, [redacted] I heard a very informative address by one of your operatives, Mr. John J. Gleason. During the discussion at the close of the talk, Mr. Gleason told us that you had published a pamphlet on "The Menace of Communism". I would be very pleased to receive a copy.

I am indeed alarmed about the spread and strength of Communism in our country, but there is something that at the moment concerns me more, and that is Fascism.

At this meeting in Indianapolis I was approached by a casual acquaintance as to present-day conditions in Russia. She offered to send me a publication, which, in her own words, told us things we would otherwise not hear about. Shortly afterwards I received two marked copies of THE NATIONAL REPUBLIC. I am still smarting from that insult to my intelligence, for I thought no one would imagine I would be taken in by that too obvious propaganda.

I read the magazines carefully before answering the woman in returning her copies. One article tried to prove that the movement in Argentina was Communist and used Fascism as a mask for their perfidy! On one page appeared a notice of a new book. This announcement was displayed prominently in a box and was entitled THE BOOK OF THE DAY, and was the advance notice of a new book by, of all people, Hamilton Fish. One article spoke in defense of Gerald L.K. Smith. A list of avowed Communists included such persons as Edgar Keller, Dean Childersleeve, Mrs. Frederick Marsh, Edgar Snow, and Bishop Oxnam. INDEXED

[Large redacted block]

Security Matter - Govt.

mmc
ack 2-27-46
Rld

1946

[REDACTED]

Will you be so kind as to give me any information you may have in regard to [REDACTED]'s political activities? I think the woman is completely innocent in her interest in NATIONAL REPUBLIC, but there is the chance that she is not. At the same time will you kindly give me your evaluation of UNDER COVER by Roy Carlson(pseud.) I would appreciate a list of reliable books that deal authoritatively with subversive agencies in this country.

[REDACTED]

We can pull together for our country as well as for our city - and we do and will. We are happy in the assurance that we have the support of the F.B.I. which is doing all it can to keep our work from being undermined.

Pardon this long letter, but I wanted to make my position clear and our need of help definite.

Sincerely yours,

[REDACTED]

62-9825 -1

JAN 15 1925

January 13, 1925.

b7C

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Youngstown, Ohio.

Dear Madam:

Receipt is acknowledged of your letter of
the 2nd instant with regard to hospitals for the blind.

This Department has no jurisdiction over hos-
pitals for the blind, and no data whatever on the matter
referred to in your letter.

Very truly yours,

Director.

RECORDED & INDEXED

3rd
Greatfull to them for their great
task but the facilities being
utterly inadequate and as I
understand are today and
this great amount of money
being raised I knew of nothing
better than its use along this
line if possible make personal
inquiry and you might
consult Mr Griswald of the
Dollar Bank of our city he
can give some idea of the
amount of funds they have
in charge and I think
Mr Russell somewhere in
Chicago who I understand

Jan 2nd 19

Mr Hoover Dear Sir
Having read in the
press of your appointment
as Director of the Department
of Justice and felt you the
proper one to make this
appeal the well known Bl
girl Helen Keller having
recently been in our city
in the interest of the Bl
a considerable amount
of funds contributed to
that effect and as I
understand in several

4th
is in charge of the funds
through Miss Keller please
pardon this unbecoming
letter as I intended my
stenographer to copy some
for me. She is out of the city
at present kindly write
me concerning this matter
If possible I remain
most cordially

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
and Youngstown Ohio etc

2nd
cities throughout the state.
I thought of the great need of
better advantages in our
state ~~for~~ hospitals for blind
men & several years ago
the matter came to my
attention and has concerned
me greatly I was told by one
in direct charge that the
blind cases were of course
hopeless and the average
span of life from 3 to 10 years
now Mr Hoover I am not
condemning the work of
those splendid people in charge
in fact we cannot be to