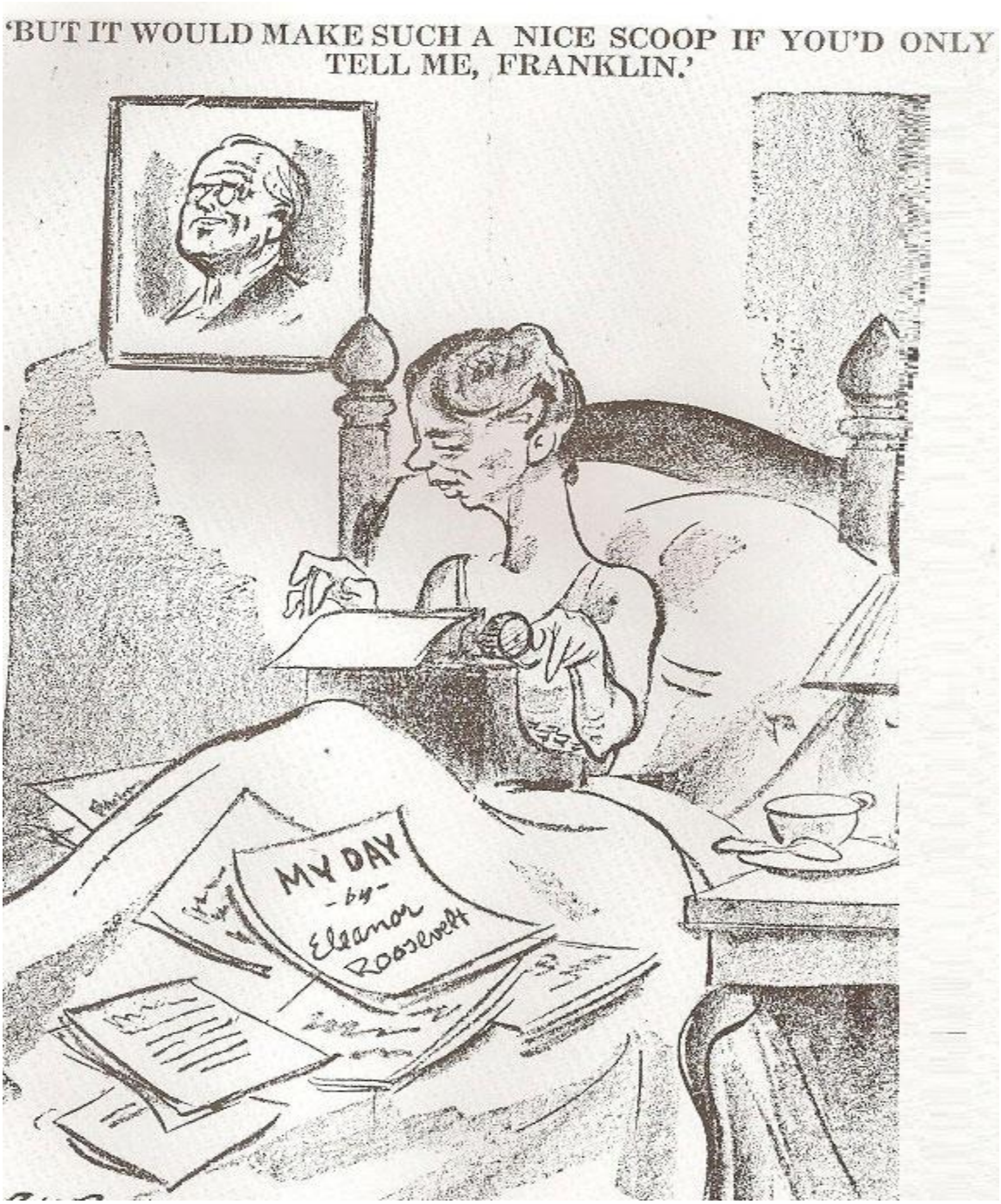
Primary Source 1



A cartoon suggesting the First Lady used the President for scoops that she could break in her newspaper column, when actually he often gave her ideas he was considering to test public response to it. She so liked this cartoon that she asked the cartoonist for the original.

(carlanthonyonline.com)

Primary Source 2

The famous New Yorker cartoon depicting coal miners as they react to the appearance of the First Lady descending towards them. (The New Yorker)

http://i0.wp.com/carlanthonyonlinedotcom.files.wordpress.com/2013/10/the-famous-new-yorker-cartoon-referencing-eleanor-roosevelts-numerous-inspections-of-working-conditions-in-coal-mines.jpg?resize=684%2C719

Primary Source 3

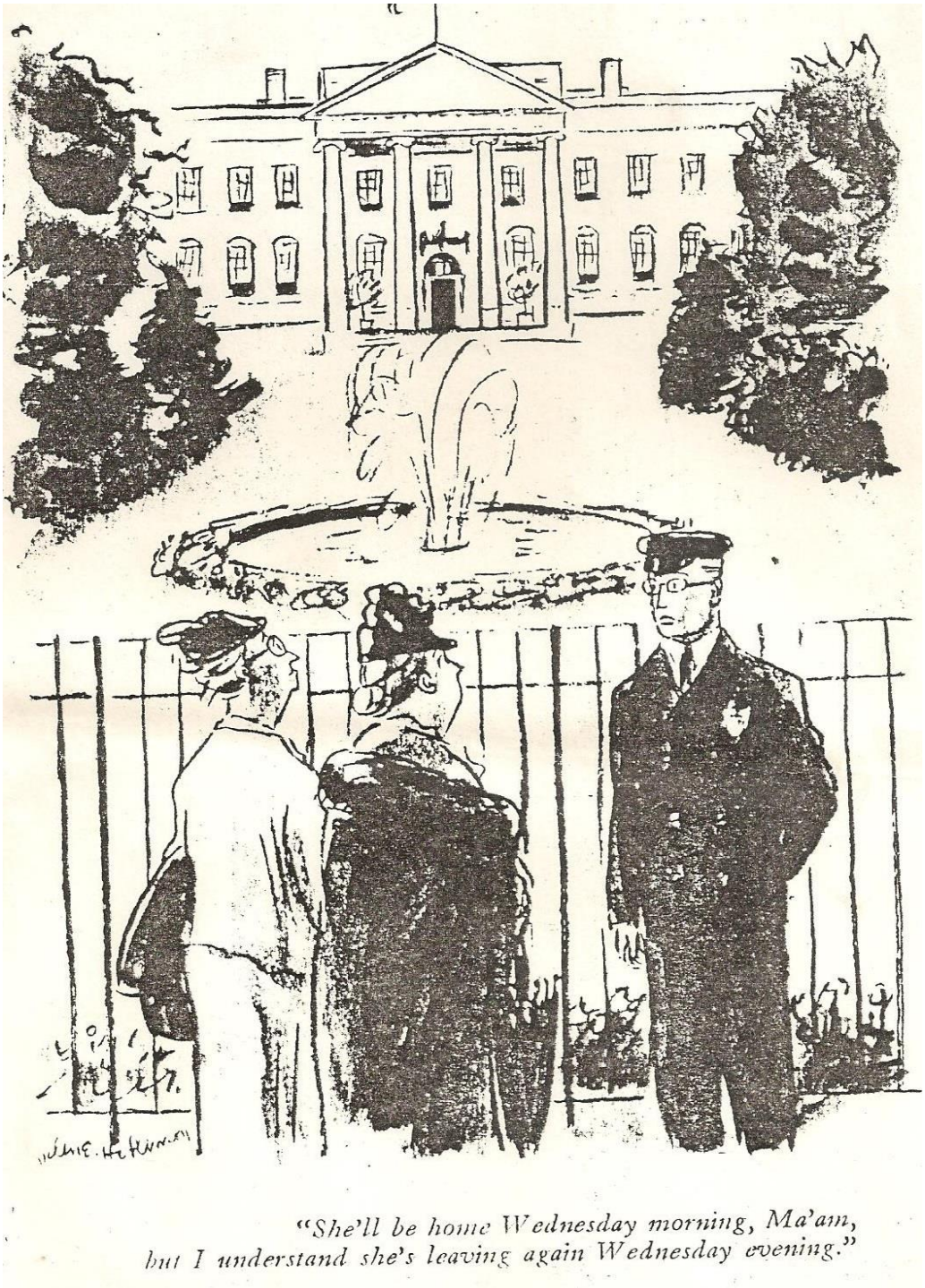
Many critics suggested that the First Lady was behind the President's social programs as a means of promoting an agenda of socialism and communism

https://carlanthonyonlinedotcom.files.wordpress.com/2013/10/wpid-20131013_031509-e1381663287688.jpg

Primary Source 4

https://carlanthonyonline.com/2013/10/13/honoring-the-first-lady-of-the-world-in-cartoons/

Primary Source 5



http://i0.wp.com/carlanthonyonlinedotcom.files.wordpress.com/2013/10/another-cartoon-referencing-the-fact-that-eleanor-roosevelt-was-rarely-in-residence-at-the-white-house.jpg?resize=700%2C1026

Primary Source 6

https://carlanthonyonline.com/2013/10/13/honoring-the-first-lady-of-the-world-in-cartoons/

Primary Source 7

https://carlanthonyonline.com/2013/10/13/honoring-the-first-lady-of-the-world-in-cartoons/

Primary Source 8

Cartoon drawn by Herbert Block, professionally known as Herblock

Herblock, "Political Cartoon of ER," *Stevenson Library Digital Collections*, accessed June 16, 2017, http://omekalib.bard.edu/items/show/1541.

Primary Source 9

Das Schwarze, the weekly newspaper of the Nazi SS hatefully depicted Eleanor as asking FDR if they'd lost a lot of money on the war to which he responded, no – just lives.

Translation

Das geschaft mit dem Tode The business with the death

Verlust-Liste Loss List

Have we already lost a lot of dollars, Delano? Peace of mind, Eleanor, Peace of mind, Eleanor we pay only with human life

Background information

***Das Schwarze Korps* (German for *The Black Corps*) was the official newspaper of the *Schutzstaffel* (SS). This newspaper was published on Wednesdays and distributed free of charge. Each SS member was encouraged to read it. The chief editor was SS leader Gunter d'Alquen;[1] the publisher was Max Amann of the Franz-Eher-Verlag publishing company. The paper was hostile to many groups, with frequent articles condemning the Catholic Church (any act interfering with the state being denounced as "political Catholicism"), Jews, Communism, Freemasonry and others**

https://carlanthonyonlinedotcom.files.wordpress.com/2013/10/das-schwarze-the-weekly-newspaper-of-the-ss-depicted-eleanor-as-asking-fdr-if-theyd-lost-a-lot-of-money-on-the-war-to-which-he-responded-no-just-lives.jpg

Primary Source 10

Eleanor Roosevelt speaks to a group of Civilian Conservation Corps workers in Tennessee. (Tennessee History for Kids)

http://www.firstladies.org/biographies/firstladies.aspx?biography=33

Primary Source 11

First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt visits American troops in the South Pacific, 1943. ***Photo credit: Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library***

Background Information

During WWII, in 1943, Eleanor Roosevelt wanted to travel to the Pacific War Zones and visit wounded American soldiers. Her trip met resistance from top Navy brass. Initially, Admiral Halsey regarded her trip as a nuisance and insisted on surrounding her with so much protection that she felt cut off from the ordinary soldiers she had come to see. However, Eleanor's indomitable energy and kindness staggered the mind of everyone she met.

When Eleanor Roosevelt visited the wounded soldiers, it wasn't just a wave and a smile, then on to the next hospital. Eleanor spoke directly to each soldier, comforted them with the words a mother would use with her son, took messages back to their loved ones, and passed along heart felt wishes from the President. The soldiers loved her maternal compassion. Admiral Halsey said "It was a sight I will never forget."

Halsey later admitted "I was ashamed of my original surliness. She alone had accomplished more good than any other person, or any other group of civilians who had passed through my area."

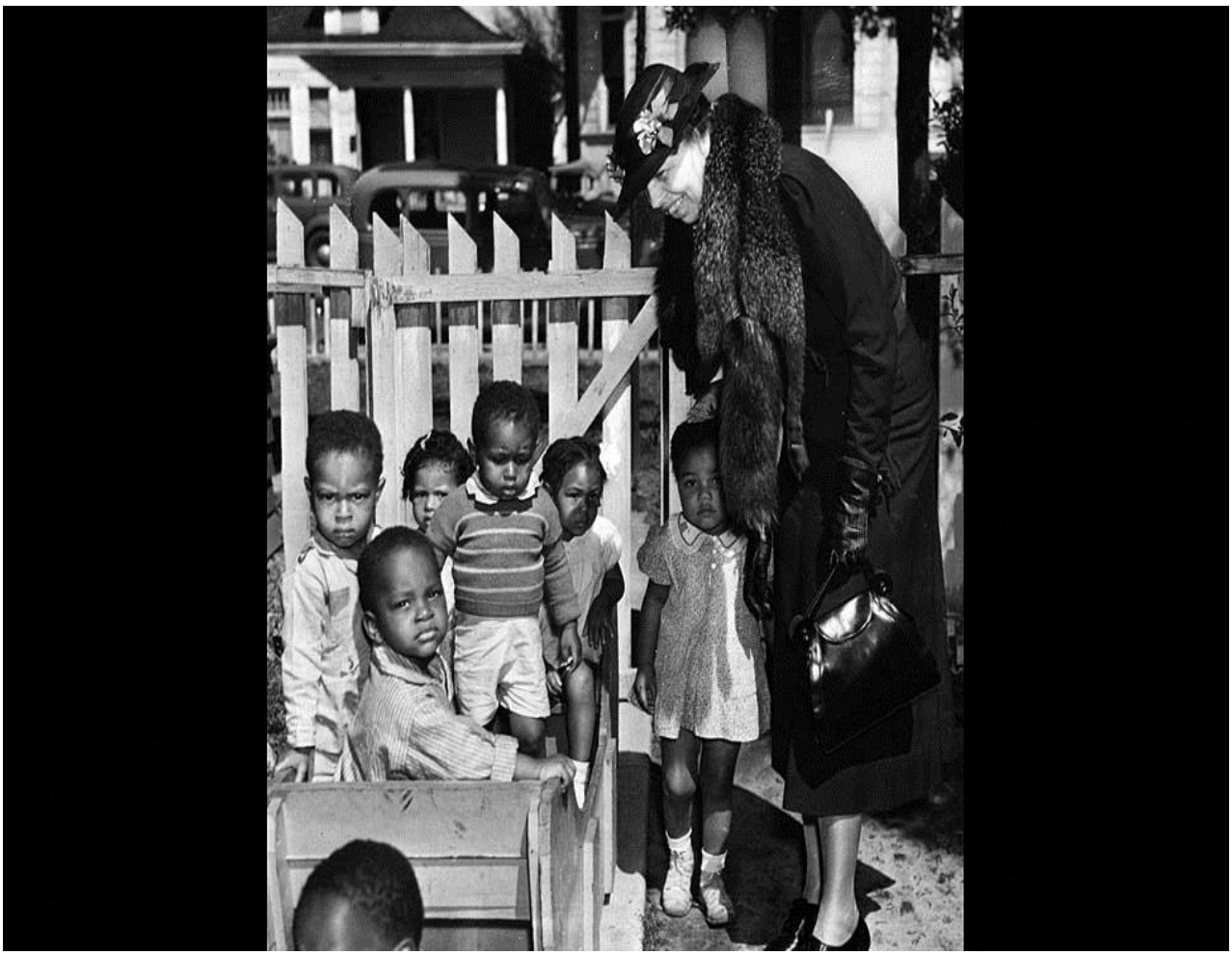
https://www.bing.com/images/search?view=detailV2&ccid=dHvaTush&id=A534A3A8A3D01BBB099E17E301AA91BA75354353&thid=OIP.dHvaTushF4VPFtYwMLXEkgEsDv&q=eleanor+visiting+troops+in+wwII&simid=608014246581505947&selectedIndex=11&ajaxhist=0

Primary Source 12

Eleanor Roosevelt visits Puerto Rico in March 1934.

https://s-media-cache-ak0.pinimg.com/originals/9c/72/26/9c7226a087105487cd485919c04a763c.jpg

Primary Source 13



Eleanor Roosevelt visits the Federal Nursery School in Los Angeles, California, on March 17, 1938.

photo by Times staff photographer Horton Churchill.

http://framework.latimes.com/2011/06/24/eleanor-roosevelt-in-l-a/

Primary Source 14

Eleanor Roosevelt visiting a coal mine in Neff, Ohio in 1935

https://www.pinterest.com/pin/224617100140394648/

Primary Source 15

Eleanor Roosevelt presents Marian Anderson with the Spingarn Medal in Richmond, Virginia, on July 2, 1939

https://www.pinterest.com/pin/222576406559442603/

Primary Source 16

First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt pins the Soldier's Medal on Private Sam Morris at a ceremony in Seattle in April 1943. Morris saved the lives of several people trapped in a burning packing plant when a bomber crashed into the building.

https://www.pinterest.com/Glasgowrose/eleanor-roosevelt/

AMERICAN RADIO WORKS

NOVEMBER 12, 2014 • STEPHEN SMITH

The Roosevelts as a political team

President Franklin D. Roosevelt and First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt. (Photo: March of Dimes)

This essay is part of the larger project The First Family of Radio: Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt's Historic Broadcasts. You can download the entire radio hour from our podcast feed (iTunes).

Eleanor and Franklin Roosevelt were not the first White House couple to act as political partners, but they were the first to do so in such a public fashion. Eleanor Roosevelt was a first lady of firsts. She was the first president's wife to fly in an airplane. She was the first to testify before Congress. She was the first to hold a government job and to address a national political convention. FDR supported her public activities, in part, because they benefited his own political ends.

Eleanor Roosevelt's public appearances, newspaper columns and radio broadcasts were not managed by the FDR's advisers. But ER knew what her husband's goals were, and many of her public statements helped move the president's agenda forward. ER also sometimes nudged his policies in directions she cared about. Some of FDR's advisers, who were mostly men, wished for a first lady who was more of a conventional White House hostess. But FDR himself supported his wife's work.

"In all the years we were in the White House, he never asked me not to do anything," ER told an interviewer after FDR's death. "But I remember once sending him a column because I thought I touched on something controversial the he might think was harmful. And I got it back with one word changed. And a simple little note: 'This word seems to me less antagonistic.'"

Still, in 1936, the New Yorker reported that FDR either instructed or asked ER to decline a series of 13 commercial broadcasts. "He has put his foot down several other times, too," the article said. "We don't know what the objections have been." It was an election year, and ER kept a markedly low radio profile. She did no commercial broadcasting in 1936, and made far fewer unpaid radio appearances than in other years.

Most of the time, however, ER had free rein to say what was on her mind. Historian Blanche Wiesen Cook writes that FDR encouraged the first lady to engage in the public debate on issues. "She served as a sounding board and a front runner," Cook writes. "He knew he could restrain her, but he rarely tried." Cook says FDR seldom acknowledged ER's influence, but that Eleanor did have the president's ear. She undertook fact-finding missions around the country – and even to wartime Great Britain — and reported back to him on what she found. When she was home, they might talk politics over the dinner table. ER said that vigorous arguments were not uncommon. Eleanor's idealism sometimes clashed with Franklin's political pragmatism.

In later interviews, Eleanor Roosevelt downplayed her influence on FDR. "I don't think that the wife of a president should ever forget that it is he who is doing the important job," she said. "And whatever she does must be of help to that job." But politicians and activists of the time knew better. They would often approach Eleanor with proposals or objections she might agree with and pass on to her husband.

Eleanor Roosevelt addresses the Democratic National Convention in Chicago on behalf of her husband, July 18, 1940. (Photo: Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library)

FDR speechwriter Samuel Rosenman said ER would often read drafts of the president's speeches, and was "very helpful" on scripts related to youth, education or consumer interests. And ER regularly left FDR a basket of reading to take to bed with him, letters and newspaper clippings she thought he should see.

FDR's radio appearances were more carefully scripted than ER's. He had Pulitzer Prize winner Robert Sherwood helping him craft his Fireside Chats; she wrote all of her own material and gave live interviews. Radio historian Jason Loviglio contends that FDR's radio speeches tended to emphasize national unity, while ER's radio talks emphasized diversity and respect for social, cultural and gender differences. Her writings, speeches and broadcasts often dealt with homey topics rather than politics, such as whether chaperones were going out of style, or a mother's responsibility as a citizen. But she also took on controversial subjects.

ER has been widely described as the conscience of the Roosevelt administration. She often staked out progressive-left positions on controversial issues where FDR felt politically constrained. Her public position on civil rights, for example, was to the left of her husband's. He had to retain the support of southern Democrats, but she was able to be outspoken in her advocacy for equal treatment for people of color.

ER's passionate belief in civil rights led to conflict with her husband after the United States' entrance into World War II, when FDR decided to imprison Japanese-American citizens in internment camps. ER opposed this idea, but when it became administration policy, she supported it publicly. After FDR's death, Eleanor Roosevelt said internment had been a mistake.

Throughout their partnership, though, Franklin and Eleanor respected and relied on each other's judgment. They shared many of the same progressive, democratic ideals and worked alongside one another to bring about their visions of what the United States should be.

FDR with Eleanor and James after the inauguration, March 4, 1933.

EIGHT

A President's Wife

"I never wanted to be a president's wife, and I don't want it now. . . . Now I shall have to work out my own salvation."

An expectant, windswept crowd of one hundred thousand had gathered in front of the capitol under gray skies to watch Franklin Delano Roosevelt take his oath as the nation's thirty-second president. Eleanor Roosevelt—wearing a blue coat and a bouquet of white orchids—stood among eighty dark-suited men on the inaugural platform. She listened intently as her husband spoke.

On that raw winter day—March 4, 1933—the Great Depression was in its fourth destructive year. As many as fifteen million men and women—one-third of the available work force—had lost their jobs and could not find work. Thousands of banks had failed, wiping out the savings of their depositors. In America's great cities, hungry and homeless people stood in long lines at charity soup kitchens and foraged for food in garbage cans. Not since 1861, when Abraham Lincoln assumed leadership of a divided nation, had a new president faced such a crisis.

"This nation asks for action, and action now," Roosevelt declared. "I shall ask Congress for . . . broad Executive power to wage a war against the emergency, as great as the power that would be given to me if we were in fact invaded by a foreign foe."

Back at the White House, Lorena Hickok waited in the room that had

once been Abraham Lincoln's bedroom and would now be Eleanor Roosevelt's sitting room and study. During the presidential campaign, the two women had formed a close bond of friendship and mutual affection. Hick knew better than anyone Eleanor's private anguish as she faced the prospect of life in the White House.

Eleanor had promised her friend an exclusive interview following the inauguration. "It was very, very solemn and a little terrifying," she told Hick. "The crowds were so tremendous, and you felt that they would do *anything*—if only someone would tell them *what* to do."

As he had promised, President Roosevelt acted swiftly to meet the crisis and restore confidence. During his first hundred days in office he pushed through Congress the most far-reaching legislative program in American history. At the same time, Eleanor Roosevelt proved to herself and to an astonished nation of Roosevelt watchers that she did not intend to be a conventional White House hostess.

She broke with tradition when she announced that she would hold regular press conferences open to women reporters only—an idea suggested by Lorena Hickok. They would be the first press conferences ever given by a First Lady, on the record, in the White House. Other presidential wives, shielded from the press, had refused even to grant interviews. Eleanor believed that the nation's citizens had a right to know what the people in the White House were thinking and doing. She met with thirty-five "press girls" for the first time on March 6, just two days after FDR's inauguration.

The White House staff was flabbergasted by the First Lady's easy informality. In her eagerness to get settled, Eleanor pitched in and helped move furniture around. She insisted on running the little wood-paneled elevator herself, without waiting for a porter to run it for her. And she refused to be shadowed by Secret Service agents whenever she went out. "No one's going to hurt me," she said. "I simply can't imagine being afraid of going among [Americans] as I always have, as I always shall."

Rather than go everywhere in a limousine, she bought a light-blue Plymouth roadster—a sporty convertible with a rumble seat. She would drive it herself, she announced, as she was accustomed to doing—without a chauffeur or police escort. That summer, she invited Hick to join her on

Mrs. Roosevelt's White House press conferences gave women journalists a unique opportunity to report on political issues.

a three-week motor tour of New England and Canada. Eleanor had not yet been photographed often enough to be recognized. The two friends traveled as "ordinary tourists" without anyone realizing who they were.

Early in her husband's administration, Mrs. Roosevelt made a surprise appearance that dramatized her resolve to stay in touch with ordinary citizens. The year before, when Herbert Hoover was still president, thousands of unemployed war veterans had marched on Washington, demanding that bonuses promised them in the future be paid immediately. Hoover was so alarmed that he called out the Army. Troops commanded by General Douglas MacArthur routed the jobless veterans with tear gas and burned their encampment.

Shortly after FDR took office, the bonus marchers returned to the capital. This time the government opened an old army camp to house the men and provided them with food and medical care. Even so, many people

feared that violence would erupt again. Critics charged that the unemployed veterans were led by Communist agitators who wanted to stir up trouble.

One afternoon, Eleanor took Louis Howe for a drive in her new roadster. He suggested that they stop by the veterans' encampment. When they arrived, he announced that he was going to sit in the car and wait while Eleanor toured the rows of tents. "Hesitatingly, I got out and walked over to where I saw a line-up of men waiting for food," she wrote later. "They looked at me curiously and one of them asked my name and what I wanted. When I said I just wanted to see how they were getting on, they asked me to join them."

Eleanor spent an hour chatting with the men. Before leaving, she joined in as everyone sang "There's a Long, Long Trail." "Then I got into the car and drove away," she recalled. "Everyone waved and I called, 'Good luck,' and they answered, 'Good-bye and good luck to you.' "

At her next press conference, Mrs. Roosevelt described the camp as "remarkably clean and orderly" and the veterans as "grand-looking boys with a fine spirit." Her unannounced visit and courteous reception helped calm the public's fears about the bonus marchers and created sympathy for their demands. She had discovered that a personal appearance by the First Lady could have a powerful impact on public opinion. As one of the veterans remarked: "Hoover sent the Army. Roosevelt sent his wife."

Never before had the American people seen a First Lady like Eleanor Roosevelt. Soon she was flying off all over the country, serving as her husband's personal investigative reporter and gathering material for her columns, articles, radio talks, and books. Reporters who covered the White House and traveled with Mrs. Roosevelt marveled at her energy and pace.

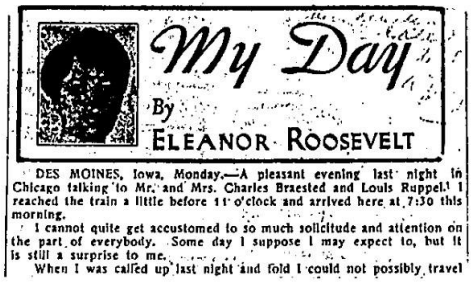
She was a frequent flier at a time when a trip in an airplane was considered a great adventure. Once, in order to impress the public with the ease and safety of air travel, Amelia Earhart invited the First Lady to join her on a flight from Washington to Baltimore. They both wore evening dresses. "How do you feel being piloted by a woman?" Eleanor was asked. "Absolutely safe," she replied. "I'd give a lot to do it myself!"

The first president's wife to fly, she earned the nickname "Eleanor Everywhere."

Eleanor seemed to go everywhere. Since she could travel more freely than Franklin, she again became his "eyes and ears." She dropped in on coal miners in Appalachia, slum-dwellers in Puerto Rico, and sharecroppers in their tarpaper shacks in southern cotton fields. And she inspected government relief projects from one end of the country to the other, "often managing to arrive without advance notice so that they could not be polished up for my inspection." Her sympathetic visits created a feeling among millions of Americans that someone in the highest levels of government cared about their problems.

She had been writing for newspapers and magazines since the 1920s. As First Lady, she began a daily syndicated newspaper column called "My Day," which reported on her travels and her life in the White House. She also wrote a monthly column, and turned out a steady flow of articles for magazines. And she wrote every word herself.

A newspaper cartoon salutes the First Lady's far-flung travels. "My Day" appeared six times a week in some 180 newspapers.



My Day

By

ELEANOR ROOSEVELT

DES MOINES, Iowa, Monday.—A pleasant evening last night in Chicago talking to Mr. and Mrs. Charles Braested and Louis Ruppel.[1] I reached the train a little before 11 o'clock and arrived here at 7:30 this morning.

I cannot quite get accustomed to so much solicitude and attention on the part of everybody. Some day I suppose I may expect to, but it is still a surprise to me.

When I was called up last night and told I could not possibly travel

When critics complained that the First Lady's sentences were wordy and her topics trivial, magazine writer Bruce Bliven came to her defense: "I have a feeling that the New York sophisticates are all wrong and that the country as a whole likes the sort of person Mrs. Roosevelt has in her column demonstrated herself to be—friendly, unpretentious, possessed of inexhaustible vitality, a broad interest in all sorts of people and a human wish for their welfare."

Along with her writing, Eleanor spoke regularly on the radio and toured widely as a lecturer. She hired a voice coach who helped her modulate the high-pitched tones that sometimes marred her talks. When she rose to speak, she prayed silently that she would have something meaningful to say to the people in front of her. Then she focused on two or three faces in the audience. By speaking directly to those people, she was able to infuse her talk with warmth and spontaneity. She became one of the most popular lecturers in America.

She was admired for the calm and authoritative manner with which she handled questions after a speech, including those meant to embarrass her.

Speaking at the Chicago World's Fair, November 1, 1933.

One hostile questioner asked: "Do you think your husband's illness has affected his mentality?" Without changing her expression, Eleanor replied: "I am glad that question was asked. The answer is Yes. Anyone who has gone through great suffering is bound to have a greater sympathy and understanding of the problems of mankind." The audience gave her a standing ovation.

Mrs. Roosevelt used her lectures, her radio talks, her columns and articles, her press conferences, and her endless travels through America to publicize her views on social justice, and to help bring the White House closer to the American people. The most outspoken of First Ladies, she became a powerful advocate for the weak and disadvantaged in American society—for blacks and other minorities, for tenant farmers, the unemployed, the hungry and the homeless, for all those who had no platform or spokesperson of their own.

All sorts of people wrote to her appealing for help. During her first year in the White House she received more than three hundred thousand letters. "I have read and heard so many nice things about you, it's almost like writing to a friend," said one correspondent.

Among the many who wrote simply to wish Eleanor well was a young woman named Bertha Brodsky, who apologized for her handwriting. She found it difficult to write because her back was crooked. She had to walk "bent sideways," she added. Eleanor replied with an encouraging letter. She arranged for a specialist to examine Bertha and for the surgery that followed. Later she visited Bertha in the hospital, helped her find a job when she recovered, attended her wedding, and became godmother to her child.

While it was not humanly possible for her to answer every letter personally, each letter did receive a reply. Pleas for employment and complaints about government administrators were forwarded to the appropriate agency with a cover letter signed by the First Lady. One official recalled: "She looked at the thing and decided whose business it was in the government to find out about it and sent that letter with her own initials on it and wrote, 'Find out about this letter. You know what it's all about.' You'd better do it. She never forgot."

Wearing a miner's cap, Mrs. Roosevelt starts a two-and-a-half-mile trip down into an Ohio coal mine, May 21, 1935.

Eleanor Roosevelt's first book, a collection of articles and speeches titled *It's Up to the Women,* was published in 1933. It was a clarion call for women to take an active and progressive role in the nation's affairs.

The First Lady worked closely with Molly Dewson, head of the women's division of the Democratic National Committee. They were determined that women's voices be heard at every level of the new administration. And for the first time, women received more than token recognition. Frances Perkins, FDR's secretary of labor, was the first woman ever chosen to serve in a president's cabinet. Florence Allen became the first woman judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals. By the end of Roosevelt's first term, far more women than ever before held responsible government posts.

Eleanor played down her influence on these appointments. But she admitted that she would sometimes "go to my husband to say that I was very weary of reminding him to remind the members of his Cabinet and his advisers that women were in existence, that they were a factor in the life of the nation. . . . As a result, I was sometimes asked for suggestions and would mention two or three names."

During the depression, more than two million women were unemployed at a time when many jobs were reserved for men only. Mrs. Roosevelt organized a White House conference to gain support for programs that could aid jobless women. Through Eleanor's efforts, women's work relief projects became an important part of federal efforts to ease hardship and get the economy moving again.

Critics charged that the massive government relief programs of FDR's "New Deal" were wasteful or corrupt or socialistic. Mrs. Roosevelt disagreed. She welcomed this new direction in American public policy—the first time that the federal government had attempted to aid those citizens who suffered economic hardship through no fault of their own.

President Roosevelt had seized on the word *liberal* to describe his economic and social programs. New Deal liberalism, he said, "is plain English for a changed concept of the duty and responsibility of government toward economic life." During the 1930s, liberalism came to mean using government action to expand the choices available to the poor and the powerless.

Down and out on a San Francisco bread line.

Eleanor Roosevelt believed that an enlightened and caring government could bring about a more humane and just society. "The big achievement of the past two years is the great change in the thinking of the country," she told a press conference in 1935. "Imperceptibly we have come to recognize that government has a responsibility to defend the weak."

The First Lady took a special interest in government programs for the nation's youth. She worried about the effects of the depression on the lives of millions of young people who could not find jobs when they left school. "I have moments of real terror when I think we might be losing this generation," she said. She pressed government leaders to set up a special agency for young Americans. And she made a special appeal to her husband, who needed little prodding. In 1935, FDR signed an executive order creating the National Youth Administration (NYA). This agency provided grants to help high school and college students stay in school, and offered vocational training for unemployed youth.

The NYA was one of the most popular New Deal programs, but it still had its share of critics. Opponents charged that the agency undermined the initiative and self-reliance of the nation's youth. Segregationists objected to the NYA because black youngsters were included in its programs.

Discrimination against black Americans was widely accepted during the 1930s. In many parts of the country, including the nation's capital, blacks were barred from schools, restaurants, and hotels. Even movie theaters were segregated. Throughout the South, most blacks were not permitted to vote.

Like many white Americans of her social class and generation, Eleanor Roosevelt had grown up among people who rarely questioned racial and religious prejudices. Until she entered the White House, virtually all the blacks she had met were servants. As First Lady during a time of economic deprivation and suffering, she began to understand how deeply racial discrimination was embedded in American life.

Mrs. Roosevelt became an outspoken champion of civil rights. She visited black communities and schools, befriended black leaders, and learned at firsthand about the indignities and humiliations endured by

blacks. Her racial views upset some of her husband's advisers. They feared that she was too radical, that "I might hurt my husband politically and socially."

FDR did not attempt to restrain his wife. He sympathized with Eleanor's ideals of social justice, but he preferred to let her take the lead. That way, he could gain political allies in the black community without losing the support of powerful southern segregationists, who controlled so many important committees in Congress. In any case, Franklin knew his wife too well to try to talk her out of any cause she wholeheartedly embraced.

The First Lady and Lorena Hickok visit a Puerto Rican slum.

More than any other public figure during the 1930s, Eleanor Roosevelt conveyed a message in word and deed that the federal government cared about racial justice. She believed that democracy could not fully be realized in America until both poverty and prejudice were conquered. "We have poverty which enslaves and racial prejudice which does the same," she said.

In 1939, Eleanor attended a meeting of the Southern Conference for Human Welfare in Birmingham, Alabama. When she arrived at the auditorium with black educator Mary McLeod Bethune, she was told that blacks and whites were not allowed to sit together at public gatherings in Birmingham. They were required by law to sit on opposite sides of an auditorium's center aisle. The First Lady refused to obey the segregation order. When the police told her that she was violating the law, she had a chair placed in the center aisle and sat there.

A few weeks later, people all over the world were shocked when the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) denied the use of its Washington, D.C., auditorium, Constitution Hall, for a concert by the celebrated black singer Marian Anderson. Three years earlier, Miss Anderson had been invited to sing at the White House. In 1939, however, the president of the DAR declared that no black artist would be permitted to appear in Constitution Hall—the only auditorium in Washington big enough to hold Miss Anderson's fans.

Mrs. Roosevelt was proud of her ancestors who had taken part in the Revolutionary War, but she decided that she could not remain a member of an organization that practiced blatant racism. She resigned from the DAR in protest, focusing worldwide attention on the episode.

Afterward, the Department of the Interior scheduled a free open-air concert on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial. More than seventy-five thousand people gathered on the mall in front of the monument that Sunday to hear the magnificent voice of contralto Anderson. Her opening number was "America," and she ended the concert with "Nobody Knows the Troubles I've Seen." "When I sang that day," Marian Anderson wrote later, "I was singing to the entire Nation."

Because Eleanor Roosevelt never hesitated to take a stand, she made

With educator Mary McLeod Bethune at a Washington conference organized by the National Youth Administration.

enemies as well as friends. Her critics were offended by her liberal views, her highly publicized travels, and her spirited independence. They called her a meddlesome busybody, a do-gooder, a woman who did not know her place. "I wish that Mrs. Roosevelt would stick to her knitting and keep out of the affairs connected with my department," complained Interior Secretary Harold Ickes.

Eleanor replied that she was sorry if her activities offended anyone, but she was determined to pursue her interests and express her beliefs. "Everyone must live their own life in their own way and not according to anybody else's ideas," she told a press conference.

Since she advocated social reforms that went far beyond the proposals of the New Deal, Eleanor was often branded a "socialist" or a "communist." But the most savage attacks came from those who were enraged that the First Lady of the land would speak out against segregation and discrimination. They spread nasty rumors about her personal habits and social life. And they warned that her views on civil rights would ignite violent confrontations between whites and blacks.

Eleanor's admirers saw her as an inspirational figure, a woman of compassion who listened with sympathy and understanding to the concerns of ordinary people. They marveled at her energy, her honesty, and her independent stance as a woman making a mark on the world. For many American parents during the Great Depression, naming a child "Eleanor" was like bestowing the name of a saint.

Anna, Eleanor, and Sara listen to FDR accept the Democratic nomination in 1936.

When FDR ran for his second term in 1936, Eleanor joined her husband aboard his campaign train. At every stop, jubilant crowds who gathered to cheer the president demanded a glimpse of the First Lady, too. "If she failed to appear on the platform, they shouted for her until she did appear, and they cheered her just as heartily as her husband, sometimes more heartily," a reporter wrote.

FDR won a resounding victory that year. He defeated his Republican opponent, Alfred M. Landon of Kansas, by nearly eleven million votes—the biggest popular plurality ever recorded in an American election.