

Draft letter, Eleanor Roosevelt to Harry S. Truman, November 13, 1947. Mrs. Roosevelt was troubled when President Truman instituted a loyalty program to remove communists and other leftists from the ranks of federal workers. In this draft letter, she expresses concern that 'we are doing what the Soviets would do to in trying to repress anything which we are afraid might not command public support, in order to insure acceptance of our own actions.'

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Dear Mr. President,

I have wanted to write you for a long time as I have been getting from all of my friends, Republicans and Democrats alike, such violent reactions to the Loyalty Tests. And now, after the dismissal of the 10 people from the State Department and the article in the Herald Tribune, I feel I must write you.

I particularly do not feel that ~~Wm.~~ ^{meta} Glass (Z) should be the ~~head~~ ^{in name} of the Committee as she is not a strong enough person. I feel ^{another} ~~another~~ woman ~~should~~ ^{be} appointed. Perhaps Mrs. Louis Thompson of Red Bank New Jersey who is a strong ~~Republican~~ ^{Republican} but also a liberal, ~~admitted~~ ^{with other women who might want to be on the committee, if it is possible to put any more people on it at the present time.}

Certain things ~~which have been done~~ ^{need to} should be interpreted to the public. My own reaction is anything but happy. I feel we have capitulated to our fear of Communism, and instead of fighting to improve Democracy, we are doing what the Soviets would do in trying to repress anything ~~we~~ ^{which} we are afraid might not command public support, in order to insure ^{success} ~~acceptance~~ of our own ~~actions.~~

I am sorry that I cannot see you before I go to Geneva ^{on} the Human Rights Commission ^{meeting} and since this session of the General Assembly is drawing to an end, I want to thank you for your kindness in appointing me. It has been interesting work and I hope that I have been helpful. When I return from Geneva and the holidays are over, I will try to come to Washington in order to see you again.

With best wishes to Mrs. Truman and Margaret and congratulations to her on her successes, and wishing you all a Happy Thanksgiving and Christmas season, I am,

Very sincerely yours,
Eleanor Roosevelt
Teehan about 11/13/47