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M. Wolf

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April 17, 1942

To the President of the United States

Sir:

Enclosed is a copy of a self-explanatory communication which I have addressed to various Party leaders of the State of Pennsylvania.

I felt that you might be interest in the subject matter discussed therein, and therefore have taken the liberty of sending you a copy.

With every good wish for the election of a Congress devoted as strongly to the interests of our country as you have been during these troublesome years, I am Sir, your most obedient servant,

George B. Wolf.

Geo B. Wolf

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Democratic National Committee

Before introducing my subject, let it be understood that I have nothing for sale. I want no job. I can live within my own limited income. However, I have a matter to propose which is of vital concern to the continued existence of the Democratic Party. In this I do not mean, that your money or your resources should be used for underwriting this project, but I am addressed you because I think that you have an understanding mind. X144

The Democratic Party direly needs a newspaper similar to the NATIONAL RECORD which was published during the last presidential campaign. At least \$1,200,000 should be invested in this, which could be raised by the sale of 100,000 shares at \$10.00 a share for capitalization and two dollars a share for promotion, meeting thereby the requirements of \$1,200,000.00 representing the proceeds from the 100,000 shares. There should be little difficulty in disposing of these shares with the existing number of office holders in the United States today. Likewise, the many republican office holders should be given an opportunity to contribute to the "meal ticket" which the Democratic Party has provided for them and received so little in return. The first thing of course would be to secure the services of an expert promoter. No funds should be paid the promoter but payable to a bank or trust company acting as temporary treasurer. A publishing plant need not be purchased. The paper could be produced in an already established printing plant and distributed from our business office. Additional details relative to publishing, promotion, and so forth can be left in the hands of party leaders like yourself, to whom the rank and file must look for guidance

Our Democratic people are woefully lacking in political information and unbiased news prepared in a handy and continuous form which can be used to readily counteract the insidious republican propoganda which at the present time is such a threat to our American institutions. I might, add, that the republican women are particularly cunning in the manufacture and dissemination of the type of gossip and distortions of fact which seems most effective when our own supporters have nothing available or are incapable of off setting it.

I wish to emphasize the urgent need for such a permanent publication, especially at this time, when we face the dangers of political collapse should our Republican opponents gain control; and who are a far more potent threat in their noisy and unfounded tirades than their mere numbers would seem to indicate.

I believe that you need not be told that the people are dangerously apathetic to the great political issues confronting us today, and that something is drastically needed to awaken them.

In my considered opinion, as one who has been politically active in the Democratic Party for more than 50 years and served as state committeeman for 20 years, I feel that under present conditions, the Party faces an uphill fight of huge proportions in the effort to elect candidates at the coming election, or even to maintain control of Congress. (I might add that in a recent Sunday evening broadcast, Pearson and Allen quoted Jim Farley to the effect that the Democrats would lose control of Congress at the coming election, barring a military victory by the United States or the United Nations). I shudder to think of the fate which might befall our nation should this calamity occur.

I do not wish to seem unduly pessimistic or alarmist, but consider for a moment just a few of the adverse "practical" factors involved in the coming election, which from the background of my experience seem to be:

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LACK OF INTEREST: First and foremost., which almost always works to the disadvantage of the progressive Party or the progressive elements with in that Party. This lack of interest is so pronounced at present that it is extremely doubtful if the independent vote will bother to go to the polls this coming election. The recent primary in Illinois reflected this trend to an alarming degree. In Pennsylvania for instance, in 1938 when over \$3,000,000.00 was spent by the various campaign committees in the primary election, and the people were far more interested in the election, only a little more than 62 % of the total registration was cast, and a far less percentage of the potential vote. In the general election of the same year, almost 300,000 less votes were cast than in 1936 but two years previously, which is about 85,000 more votes than the majority received by Governor James.

2-Millions of voters will be in the armed forces. Past experiences indicate that only a microscopic fraction of these men will **bast** a ballot. Since it is my belief that the largest percentage of these men are either Democrats or independents, considering the economic and social status from which they are taken, this will be another proportionate drawback for our Party.

3-Millions of persons are employed ~~today~~ today who were not so employed a few years ago, or at the last Congressional election, and when working men and women are employed at good wages, it becomes impossible to arouse them from their indifference to political issues or to have them remember the political Party which made that employment possible.

4-The opposition press, as shown by the current and past record, will distort, villify, and use every trick, "fair or foul" to defeat the administration, since in most ~~instances~~ instances they are the direct financial beneficiaries of those elements in our national life, and in the Republican Party who seek to use the war effort as an excuse to wipe out all social reforms, and place the country under a reactionary military regimentation for their own selfish purposes. Already the pattern of their intentions is taking identifiable shape in the base and unwarranted attacks on the administration and its supporters which they have made during the current crisis.

There are many other factors which will present serious drawbacks to our party. But the above seem to me sufficient for anyone to recognize the vast task before us.

It may seem presumptuous for me to suggest that the two main needs of our Party are to arouse the people by means of a newspaper devoted to their political interests, and then to get them to the polls to vote, but I wish to reiterate that I want nothing for myself, and it is just such prosaic conditions as these which may make or break our great democracy.

I do want however, to see our Party continue playing the great rol in our Country's destiney which it has played the last ten years under the leadership of President Roosevelt, because I sincerely believe the very salvation of our country and our way of life is at stake.

In conclusion, if there is any way I could be of assistance, I would be more than willing to do so, and it is in this spirit that these suggestions and reflections are offered.

Respectfully,
George B.Wolf.

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Democratic National Committee
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