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 feel that you might be interested 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

[Signature]
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.

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 es-
lished 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 propaganda 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, es-
pecially 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 in-
dicate.

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
dramatically needed to awaken them.

In my considered opinion, as one who has been politically active in the Demo-
ocratic 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:
Lack of Interest: First and foremost, which almost always works to the dis-
advantage of the progressive Party or the progressive elements with it in that
doubtful if the independent vote will bother to go to the polls this coming
degree. The recent primary in Illinois reflected this trend to a alarming
death. 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 vote 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 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 what employment possible.

4-The opposition press, as shown by the current and past record, will distort
, vilify, and use every trick, "fair or foul" to defeat the administration,
since in most 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 befor
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 role in our
Country’s destiny 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.