

May 21, 1935

Dear Miss Obenauer:

I am enclosing a letter to the President in the interest of your project. Will you not read it carefully and if you find at any point I have misinterpreted you send it back with your suggestions and I will correct and return immediately.

I hope you will forgive this long delay. I went home from my lunch with you and Miss Morgan to find a piece of wash work which kept me so busy up to the end of last week that I have hardly read a letter let alone write one. However, I am temporarily out of the woods and using my first moment for your letter.

With all good wishes

Very sincerely

Miss Marie Obenauer
Barr Building
Washington, D. C.

May 21, 1935

My dear Mr. President:

May I venture to call your attention to an educational project which if carried out properly would I am convinced be of real value to all of us and particularly to those of us on small incomes? This project proposes popular education on the wise use of personal credit.

It is certainly unnecessary for me to insist to you that the unwise use of credit was a big factor in the embarrassment the depression brought to thousands of hard-working people in this country. My personal acquaintance includes quite as many who lost everything - homes, furnishings, car - because of their abuse of credit, as of those ruined by stock speculation. Moreover, I am convinced from what I know of these people that many of them would have been saved from their mistakes if they had ever had proper instruction.

The project in question proposes to give this instruction. It proposes that the United States Commissioner of Education be empowered to appoint an Operative Committee which with proper co-operating and advisory bodies shall organize from the ranks of unemployed teachers and professors a force which shall collect from all parts of the country data on the extent, cost and consequences of present practices in the use of credit together with full data on state laws concerning loans and liens.

On the basis of such a thorough survey it is proposed that courses of instruction be prepared subject of course to the Commissioner of Education and his advisory committees to be used in schools and colleges, in clubs and grangers and naturally over the radio. Such courses based on a broad and sound investigation, thoroughly digested and properly presented would I am convinced render a fundamental service to the country and there is no question in my mind that youth particularly would welcome such instruction.

As I see it the project should rest entirely under the direction of the Commissioner of Education and ample time for a thorough piece of work should be given.

Trusting I am not imposing on your goodwill in voicing my conviction as to the value of this undertaking,

Believe me my dear Mr. President

Faithfully yours

Franklin D. Roosevelt
President of the United States
White House
Washington, D. C.