

In Re Rosenwald
Facts - R.

October 25, 1927

Hon. Henry Horner
The Probate Court
Chicago, Ill.

My dear Judge Horner:

Last Friday I called on Mr. Oliver Barrett of Chicago, seeking help in an article that I am preparing on Mary Todd Lincoln. Mr. Barrett was, as always, very generous in showing me items in his collection, and among other things he loaned me photostats in the case of the commitment of Mrs. Lincoln in 1875. I had already examined part of these papers in Springfield, but only part of them. Mr. Barrett was good enough to loan me the full collection.

In going through the package I find there a photograph of a letter of Mrs. Lincoln's, written on July 18, 1868 from Cresson, Pa. to a Mrs. White. I should very much like to have a copy of this letter. Could you tell me where I could get a photograph. If not, are you willing that I should have a typewritten copy made? Portions of the letter I think I have seen already in print though never all of it.

If you have other letters of Mrs. Lincoln's or any information that you think would be useful to me in a study of her life, I should very much appreciate knowing about it. I had hoped to spend the last week end in Chicago and to ask you for an interview but I was obliged to return at once to New York.

While I was with Mr. Barrett he asked me if it would be possible for me to undertake the writing of a life of Mr. Julius Rosenwald. He said that you were interested in the matter and I think said that you had already talked to him about my doing the work. He urged me to take the matter up with you.

So far as the subject is concerned, I should be very glad to undertake it. I know enough of Mr. Rosenwald's life to know how honorable and important it has been in more than one field. My difficulty would be in finding time for the work. I already have three book contracts on hand. One of them is under way and should be finished by next summer. I would have to make re-adjustments and cancellations of the journalistic work by which I support myself, books, you know, my dear Judge Horner, never do that unless you produce a lucky "best

seller". That is, the first thing I should want to know in considering the matter is when the work should be done. It would need a full year, I am sure, if not more.

Then, I should have to know whether I could afford to do it. I understood from Mr. Barrett that Mr. Rosenwald's family or friends were having the work done. Am I right in this? Am I to understand that they are to pay for having the work done? What are their ideas about publication? I should like to know more of the project before I give it more serious consideration. In any case, before agreeing to it, I feel I should go to Chicago and talk to Mr. Rosenwald.

I should be very grateful to you, my dear Judge Horner, if you will, at your convenience, let me know more fully about the project.

Very sincerely yours