

In answering the enclosed, please say you are doing so at
Mrs. Roosevelt's request.

Edith Hackney
President

APR 7 1941

April 4, 1941

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt
The White House
Washington, D. C.



My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

On behalf of the Briggs-Montgomery Parent-Teacher Association,
I humbly appeal to you for assistance in the housing of the people
of our community.

You are aware of the terrible conditions under which the
people of the Green's Court (26th - 27th, K - I Streets, N. W.)
and the Snow's Court (24th - 25th, K - I Streets, N. W.) live. You
were gracious when you honored us by coming to our groups on two
successive Christmas Eves to bring cheer to these "Forgotten men".
We revere you for your democratic spirit.

On December ninth we had the privilege of listening to you
address an assembly on the Subject of Housing at the Chamber of
Commerce and we remember that you said among other things that we,
in America, should have a way of living worth defending and that
decent housing was of primary importance in that way of living.

We know you are not aware of how the children in these courts
live--the environment to which they are exposed--the stuff of
which education and character are made or not made. We do not wish
to develop criminals--yet what chance have these poor beings,
living as they do a family of five or seven in one room; with from
four to six such families living in one house containing a single
bath or no bath at all; no privacy--young girls and children using
these "public" bath facilities. Yet we spend many times the cost
of a housing project to relieve the disease and delinquency which
such a system has developed.

These people who cannot pull themselves up by their boot-
straps continue to live on under these deplorable conditions,
conditions detrimental to health, the first line of defense.

BRIGGS-MONTGOMERY PARENT-TEACHER ASSOCIATION

WASHINGTON, D. C.

Mrs. Edith Hackney
President

721-24th Street NW.
Wash. D.C.

We have done everything in our power. Last year we appealed to Mr. Ihlder for a low cost housing on this site. He told us that if we were able to get options on a sufficient amount of the ground at \$1.50 a square foot, a price which the authority could afford to pay he would present the case to the United States Housing Authority and ask for a housing project.

At great sacrifice, for we were inexpert and inexperienced, the Parent-Teacher Association accepted the challenge. With arduous labor and untiring efforts we sought out the owners of these properties and finally secured options on 47.9 per cent of the block at a price of \$1.46 per square foot.

When we turned the data over to the authority our request was denied on grounds that we consider inadequate. We have duplicate copies of the options which we secured and of the report which we made and would gladly submit them to you for your examination.

We do not wish to condemn any person nor any office but we do believe that, in a period when so much consideration is given to the suffering of people, when so much money is being spent for relieving distress that these poor miserables should not be overlooked.

We have faith in your integrity, in your justice. We know that you are fair. We believe that you will find a way that we do not have access to.

We most humbly beseech you to assist us in getting better homes, homes worthy of the name, home; homes that will not harbor germs and disease, homes in which our babies may have a chance to grow and develop, homes in which happiness is possible to the underprivileged American family, homes worthy of our great democracy.

We know how you feel about these things. We shall be glad to arrange for you to visit some of these homes and actually see the conditions if you wish it. We believe that if you know the condition you will act.

Very truly yours,

(Mrs) Edith Hackney.

President
Briggs-Montgomery Parent-Teacher
Association

