

*Unsurveyed England
from Colorado
Springs*

LEWIS *and* WRIGLEY

Publicity

NATIONAL PRESS BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D. C.

March 3, 1939

Mrs. Henry M. Robert, Jr., President General,
Daughters of the American Revolution,
The Broadmoor Hotel,
Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Dear Mrs. Robert:

Just a letter to let you know that the situation here is "well in hand," as they say.

This whole affair, as revealed by the newspapers, is so obviously a political move that the reaction is bound to reflect to the credit of the D.A.R. I say this, regardless of what action the Board of Education takes this afternoon in regard to Central High School.

Newspaper stories here show clearly that Secretary Ickes' letter was political in character, that Mrs. Roosevelt's announcement of her resignation was made for political purposes. Senator Wagner criticized the position of the D.A.R. and the Board of Education. Anyone could see he was speaking in terms of the Harlem vote. Representative Gavagan, whose district embraces part of Harlem, also criticized the action taken and it was crystal clear just why he was pushing himself into print.

Statements by the singer's manager were, of course, for publicity purposes. A Mr. Katz of the CIO also injected himself into the picture for political reasons.

I have talked to all of the newspapermen and women who were interested and have explained to them that the D.A.R., during your absence, had no comment. I told them I knew nothing of any letter of resignation and that I was unable to find out from anyone at D.A.R. headquarters that such a letter was at headquarters.

Yesterday the controversy, insofar as the D.A.R. is concerned, quieted down. Chief interest, of course, now is in the action taken by the Board of Education.

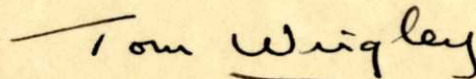
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Yesterday the Parent-Teachers Association of Central High School held a meeting and adopted resolutions which were sent to the Board, declaring that the action of the Board should be upheld and that the dual system of schools should be maintained.

I think the matter here has been handled satisfactorily even though Mrs. Schondau has been ill. She did go down to her office one day because she thought she should be on the firing line. I have kept in close contact with her, and I would like to assure you that there is nothing in this entire situation to give you any concern. As a matter of fact, I think that the publicity the D.A.R. has secured from it will help, rather than harm the Society. All that is necessary is to take a firm position and maintain it, and this is being done.

Trusting you are enjoying your trip through the West, and with best wishes, I am,

Sincerely,



Tom Wrigley

TW:jh

P.S. The Associated Press this morning carried from Denver a brief statement from you to the effect that the rules governing the use of Constitution Hall are of long standing and have always been in accordance with the custom prevailing in Washington, I think that statement is splendid. T.W.

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Publicity

NATIONAL PRESS BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D. C.

March 4, 1939

Mrs. Henry M. Robert, President General
Daughters of the American Revolution
Evans Hotel
Columbus, Nebraska

Dear Mrs. Robert:

Mrs. Schondau informs me she is sending you clips on yesterday's action by the Board of Education and also the column by Westbrook Pegler regarding the matter. I have written Pegler, whom I know, thanking him for the column and telling him that his statements were absolutely correct.

Newspaper accounts here regarding the whole incident were very fair this morning and you can easily see that a reaction has set in against all of the emotional hysteria stirred up by politicians and troublemakers.

I believe the action by the Board, in view of the circumstances, was the best thing to do. It has been made very clear that such an incident must not happen again and that it would be well not to make applications for the use of white school auditoriums by colored people as long as Congress has enacted a law providing for a dual school system.

I venture to say that most people of Washington will be heartily pleased when the singer has departed and, in my opinion, the action of the D.A.R. is much more praised than criticized by thinking people.

I do not think the situation calls for any further statement from you whatsoever. If there are any developments which I believe warrant a statement, I will be quick to place them before you.

Enclosed is a clipping from yesterday's Washington Post, containing two of the letters to the editor upholding the position of the D.A.R. I think both letters have correctly set forth the situation here.

With best regards,

Sincerely,

Tom Wrigley

Tom Wrigley

TW:jh
Enc.