

G. W. S. MUSGRAVE  
A. W. BOWLING, JR.

W. C. COOK  
A. S. MUSGRAVE

LAW OFFICES  
**MUSGRAVE, BOWLING & COOK**  
SUITE 1520 FIDELITY BUILDING  
**BALTIMORE**

March 15th, 1939.

Mrs. Henry M. Robert, Jr.,  
President General, National Society of the  
Daughters of the American Revolution,  
Memorial Continental Hall,  
17th and D Sts. N.W.  
Washington, D.C.

My dear Mrs. Robert:-

It is quite impossible to refrain from making a few observations anent the Marian Anderson episode, for it may have a greater significance than appears upon the surface.

The involvement of the Board of Education in the controversy, seems rather fortunate in that it materially softened the blow aimed at the D.A.R. and somewhat counteracted its effects.

Thoughtful consideration of the whole affair leads me to the conclusion that insofar as the reported, but not confirmed, resignation of Mrs. Roosevelt is concerned, it will be a tremendous mistake to take it seriously. Presumptively any member of the Society has the inalienable right to resign for any reason which to her may seem sufficient, and doubtless there have been other resignations from time to time, all of which, while probably regretted in some instances, have been treated as merely routine matters, so that, if you will pardon the liberty of the suggestion, the identical routine treatment should be accorded this resignation, if it has actually been filed. The motive underlying the act was an attempt to create an uproar and achieve publicity, so that any unusual recognition, or attempted explanation, beyond the mere courteous acceptance thereof, will crown her efforts with success, whereas, polite acquiescence will effectually silence her.

There is another angle to this incident which is well worth serious thought. Is it not possible that the whole affair was a carefully and premeditatedly concocted attack upon the D.A.R. designed as a double-edged weapon to create both public criticism and disfavor and incite internal dissension in the Society?

Such attacks upon the D.A.R. seem rather complimentary and encouraging, for they indicate that the patriotic work of the organization is highly successful, indeed painful in some quarters, for if your efforts were harmless to the radical element they would not bother to retaliate.

All thinking people realize that there are in our midst many organized bodies, as well as individuals, whose subversive influences are diligently at work to undermine our national institu-

Mrs. Henry M. Robert, Jr.

Page #2.

tions and who seem to have the approval and encouragement of men and women high in the councils of the government, and while all real Americans and patriotic associations are to some degree combatting this element, outstanding in this endeavor is the D.A.R. hence it is naturally the principal object of attack by our country's enemies.

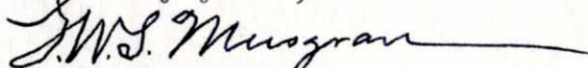
The thought is inescapable that these enemies, in their fanatical desire to cripple or eliminate their most potent opponent, are capable to conspiring to bring about the very situation that became involved in the Anderson incident, aided and comforted by those in high authority. Did they succeed in creating public disfavor against the Society, it would be very helpful to their cause; but better still should they cause a rupture in the organization itself. And what better way of doing that than by injecting sectionalism, inciting the passions and re-enacting some of the conditions that obtained just prior to the War between the States. Every intelligent person knows that that unhappy conflict was based upon considerations other than the abolition of slavery, yet the popular belief has always been that the war was fought solely for the benevolent purpose of benefitting the poor negro. It is reasonable to assume that such a scheme would appeal to your enemies as well worth the attempt, with the hope that by arousing such members of the Society likely to be swayed by the arguments used in 1861, internal discord could be created, seriously damaging, if not disrupting the Society.

The organization of the so-called Descendants of the American Revolution is but another form of attack, which, if ignored will undoubtedly eventually disappear.

If, as hereinbefore suggested, it be true that the Anderson affair was the result of a conspiracy, aided and abetted by those in high authority, then the situation takes on a very serious aspect, for which very reason the whole matter should be treated lightly by your Society, if not ignored entirely, but on the other hand it should become an incentive to greater activity on the part of the Society and all real Americans to fight harder than ever to maintain the precious heritage for which our forefathers sacrificed so much.

More power to you, and with the help of God (and it does seem Providential that the School Board became involved) and all true Americans, may you carry on the glorious work to the complete vanquishment of all such public enemies.

Very sincerely yours,

  
G.W.S. Musgrave.

M/m

P.S. Since writing the above, Mrs. Sisson's contribution to the press has come to my attention and it is very much regretted, as things seemed to be quieting down and it was hoped that no one would stir up the situation until such time as you definitely determine upon your course.

April 11, 1939

Mr. G. W. S. Musgrave,  
Laurel, Maryland.

My dear Mr. Musgrave:

Please let me thank you for your kind letter which reached me while I was on my seven weeks trip in visiting State Conferences. I did appreciate your kindness in analyzing the question so thoroughly. I frankly believe that the incident was definitely a part of a movement and that the appearance of an individual was somewhat incidental to the larger project.

As you well realize, we must be careful, however, in making any definite charges. Enclosed is your ticket for the box on next Monday evening. I am happy to have you with us at that time.

Anne is a tower of strength to me and I want to give you some of the thanks.

Very sincerely yours,

Mrs. Henry M. Robert, Jr.,  
President General, N.S.D.A.R.