June 17, 1942

Dear Mr. President:

In the Spring of 1941 I wrote you concerning a proposal that in the event of war all funds required for relief and welfare work throughout the country, including the Red Cross, should be raised in a single combined campaign. I advised you that due to its national and international responsibilities and the need for freedom of action on a national scale to deal with disasters and other emergencies as they arise, the Red Cross deemed it necessary to maintain direct contact with the people who constitute its membership, contribute to its support and render voluntary service in its work. Under date of June 6, 1941, you wrote expressing your concurrence in that policy.

The Red Cross is now being asked to reconsider the matter of participation in combined campaigns. The question is arising more specifically in certain cities where it is planned to form for the war period special fund raising agencies to conduct only one appeal each year and allocate the funds to such causes as have a proper call for support.

Recognizing the need during wartime for the utmost conservation of effort and manpower the Red Cross has given careful consideration to these further proposals. We have decided to postpone the Roll Call usually held in November and combine it with the next war fund appeal during the month of March 1942 and, unless some major disaster or other unforeseen emergency should arise, this will result in only one Red Cross appeal during the year.

We are convinced, however, that the Red Cross can not be considered as a local agency in view of the national and international scope of its work. Neither can it be regarded as a wartime agency alone as it will continue to serve long after the war. Certainly it should not become merged in special fund raising plans which are created only for the war period and which will include, as to numbers, only a small proportion of the communities in which there are Red Cross Chapters and Branches. The Red Cross can not conduct several different types of campaigns at various times and then have an effective national effort for the rest of the country. In the light of all our experience, and particularly our experience in the war fund campaign just concluded, the Red Cross is convinced that it would be unwise to merge its membership and war fund raising appeals with those of any other organizations.

I hesitate in view of the many demands upon your time to again refer this problem to you, but it is so important that I feel I should ask for your further advice and counsel.

Faithfully yours,

[Signature]

Chairman