April 10, 1959

Dear Mr. Nevins:

One of the most interesting and hopeful developments I have ever witnessed is now taking place right here on the West Side.

Sparked by the leadership of Eleanor Roosevelt, Herbert Lehman, and Tom Finletter, immense strides are being made toward replacing old-line Tammany bosses on the West Side with a genuine reform group of young people, the FDR-Woodrow Wilson Independent Democrats.

They have fired the imagination and the enthusiasm of the entire community. On March 30th, Senator Lehman got out of a sick bed to speak on their behalf before a crowd of 600 which turned out on a rainy night. He urged maximum support for the club's attractive, young, anti-Tammany candidates and their realistic program for rehabilitating the West Side.

These candidates, Irving Wolfson and Catherine C. Hemenway, are waging a primary campaign to defeat the incumbent Tammany District Leaders. The importance and the effectiveness of the job they're doing is reflected in the enclosed reprints, which I urge you to read. Hundreds of their fellow citizens are working devotedly and tirelessly in this important cause, but they need our help. They need funds for essential campaign items like printing, mailing, rent, and other expenses. They cannot begin to match the funds that Tammany will pour into this race.

This is the most hopeful anti-Tammany fight being waged in the entire City, but our financial assistance is necessary to put it over the top.

Mrs. Roosevelt is helping by, among other things, being the guest of honor at a small dinner party on April 27th. Since a minimum of $5,000 must be raised through the twenty-five places available at this dinner, invitations will be sent to those who contribute a minimum of $200.

Whether you plan to attend the dinner or not, please join the fight against boss rule in the Democratic Party by making out a generous check to the FDR-Woodrow Wilson Independent Democrats, and return it to me in the enclosed envelope.

Sincerely,

Helen Gahagan Douglas

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