

January 5, 1945

Mrs. Walter Gregg
1901 Parkdale Place
Montrose, California

Dear Calla:

I acknowledge that I was in error because when you sent me a copy of your letter of May 24, 1944, I remembered having received it.

What you say about the control of music publishing houses and the theatres does not begin to tell the story. The same influences have very largely controlled the administration of FDR. Rosenman was one of his earliest consultants and advisers in running for Governor of New York and has since been a mainstay. The Frankfurters, the Cohens, the Morgenthau, and thousands upon thousands of others indicate that a small percentage numerically of the population of the United States has a throttle hold upon government, courts, and politics. The work of Sidney Hillman is enough to damn the whole outfit in the minds of unprejudiced persons.

I don't know that anything can be done about Norma being caught in their trap in regard to getting her music published. I do know that Petrillo has so controlled the use of music on the radio that pre-civil war music is now largely used. "Jeannie With The Light Brown Hair", the Stephen Foster melodies, "I Danced With The Girl With The Hole In Her Stocking" and many others are tunes and songs almost a hundred years old. I wonder if you were aware that the "Prisoner's Song", presumed to have been composed by a man in the penitentiary, and by reason of which he finally was released, was almost the identical music of a pre-civil war song, one verse of which was as follows:

"I remember at Langdon we parted.
I swore that I worshipped you then,
But I was a maid broken hearted,
And you the most charming of men."

and then the chorus

"Don't kneel at my feet, I implore you,
Nor boast of the offerings you present.
Don't ask me to say I adore you,
For indeed I do no such a thing.