

9
message
no date

127

251 Grey Park Avenue
AMSTERDAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS
AMSTERDAM, NEW YORK
CLARA S. BACON, ASST. SUPERINTENDENT

January 25, 1959

The President of the United States
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. President:

Last Friday
I visited a first grade class
in the Amsterdam Public Schools
to tell the children a story about
Lincoln. In order to orient
them a bit, I asked, "Who was
Abraham Lincoln?" The response
was, "He was President of our
country." Then I asked, "Who
is President of our country
now?" The response was quick
and sure, "Eisenhower."
Then I asked naively, "What does
our President do?"

251 Quay Park Avenue

AMSTERDAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS

AMSTERDAM, NEW YORK

CLARA S. BACON, ASST. SUPERINTENDENT

A moment's hesitation and then the significant reply, "He takes care of all of us." I couldn't think of a finer tribute to you from a little child, and so I am sending it on to warm your heart. The child's name is Donald Green, and his address is 241 Locust Avenue, Amsterdam, New York. Just a line from you, signed by you, would be cherished by this child for the rest of his life.

Respectfully yours,

(Mrs. Charles A.) Clara S. Bacon

Former Asst. Supt. of
Schools

COPY

251 Guy Park Avenue
Amsterdam, New York
Clara S. Bacon

January 25, 1959

The President of the United States
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. President:

Last Friday I visited a first grade class in the Amsterdam Public Schools to tell the children a story about Lincoln. In order to orient them a bit, I asked, "Who was Abraham Lincoln?" The response was "He was President of our country." Then I asked "Who is President of our country now?" The response was quick and sure, "Eisenhower." Then I asked naively, "What does our President do?" A moment's hesitation and then the significant reply, "He takes care of all of us." I couldn't think of a finer tribute to you from a little child, and so I am sending it on to warm your heart. The child's name is Donald Green, and his address is 241 Locust Avenue, Amsterdam, New York. Just a line from you, signed by you, would be cherished by this child for the rest of his life.

Respectfully yours,



(Mrs. Charles A) Clara S. Bacon
Former Asst. Supt.
of Schools

P.P.F.

PH

January 30, 1959

RECEIVED
FEB - 2 1959
CENTRAL FILES

Dear Donald:

Mrs. Bacon has written to tell me that in a discussion of American Presidents in your class, you said that I "take care of all of you." That is a very great compliment coming from a first grader, and I thank you.

X PPZ 308

Actually, while the government does try to "take care" of everybody in this wonderful land of ours, everyone must learn first of all to take care of himself. Americans have always, since the founding of our nation, been strong and courageous and independent -- both as individuals and as a nation -- and this we must continue to be. The business of government, President Lincoln said, is to do those things for all of us that the individual cannot do for himself.

X PPZ 24
X PPZ 308-B

You won't understand all of this now, but perhaps when you grow older you will remember the priceless heritage we have and do your part, and more, toward strengthening it.



With best wishes,

Sincerely,

DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER

X 2
Master Donald Green
241 Locust Avenue
Amsterdam, New York

mg

~~CROSS CARD FOR STAFF SECRETARY~~

57

P.P.F.

28-B

G

RECEIVED
FEB - 3 1959
CENTRAL FILES

February 2, 1959

Dear Mrs. Bacon:

Thank you so much for telling the President - the little story about Donald Green's conception of the Presidency. You were of course perfectly correct to think that Donald's statement would give the President a real lift.

The President has today written [#] Donald a letter, trying to explain that first of all people must rely on their own initiative and independence, but that of course the government wants to do what the individual cannot do for himself.

With personal gratitude for your thoughtfulness,

Sincerely,



Ann C. Whitman
Personal Secretary
to The President

x
Mrs. Charles A. Bacon
251 Guy Park Avenue
Amsterdam, New York

lw

CROSS CARD FOR STAFF SECRETARY.

2

W.P.F.

28-B

G

RECEIVED
FEB - 9 1959
CENTRAL FILES

251 Guy Park Avenue
Amsterdam, New York
February 4, 1959

Dear Miss Whitman:

The inclosed clipping will indicate some of the reactions to the President's kind and thoughtful letter to Donald Green. The joy of Donald and two of his classmates, who were particularly interested in the letter, is apparent. What the letter meant to Donald's family, his class, his school, and the whole city is incalculable.

Yesterday when I asked Donald what he was going to do with the letter, he said, "Put glass over it, and hang it up in my room."

It was an evidence to all of us of the understanding and the love of little children which the President has.

And your letter to me, so gracious and kind, was deeply appreciated.



Very sincerely yours,
Clara S. Bacon

(Mrs. Charles A. Bacon)

Miss Ann C. Whitman
Personal Secretary
to The President
The White House
Washington, D. C.