

with 103/8/6/41

Keep on file

Draft.

Mr. Butler
to
Mr. F.D. Roosevelt
The White House

Private and Personal

Dear Mr. Roosevelt,
May I refer to our
telephone conversation of Jan 2nd
when you told me of the
money spontaneously sent to
me as a result of ~~some~~
remark you made at a
recent press conference?

+ you told me you
were trying to fill
something in your
column.

Have looked up
the legal position

2 pts case

I am afraid there is
no doubt that the Neutrality
Act applies to such a case,
for Section 8(a) makes it
illegal for any person in
the U.S. to solicit or receive
contributions on behalf of a
belligerent government.

Thank
You
D. B. [unclear]

You can hardly be said to have solicited contributions by your remark at the press conference

And I do not suppose you are in any danger of ~~being~~ being prosecuted for having received them. I suggest that the best way of disposing of those which have spontaneously been sent to you is to turn them over to this Embassy (which, of course, occupies a privileged position in respect of U.S. law, ~~and privacy~~ ~~in favor of the contributors that you have done so. The S.D.,~~ James add, do not object to our accepting spontaneous contributions of this sort though they would not like it publicly announced that we are willing to do so, and we for our part do our best to

Disposing of
the money.

Draft.

(2)

It is now which
 causes us a good
 deal of trouble and
 anxiety owing to the
~~our~~ desire of
 so many American
 friends to do some-
 thing more direct
 for us than give
 money to British
 War charities

don't prohibit fake
 acts, & we are
 willing to present
 American money
 not eligible to be
 Ch of R. End...

RR Apply 730

Fifth Avenue

to see that there is no publicity, at least of an exhortatory kind.

You were also kind enough to mention that you were thinking of saying something more on the subject. If I might be so bold

to make a suggestion, it wd be that you sh^d mention, in a general way, your having been sent contributing as a result of your first remark, and then, perhaps, add that you have turned them over to us. This would at least have the effect of letting many people know

That

that we do in fact accept such contributions.

But there is an alternative which, perhaps, I may be so bold as to put before you. There is on foot a plan to create in Canada a fund for the purchase of aircraft, to which American sympathizers, if they hear of it, can mail cheques without any ^{shadow of} illegality ~~at all~~ since the fund will be outside the U.S. ~~If~~ solicitation ~~for~~ such a fund would still be illegal if the solicitation took place inside the U.S., but if you were willing to mention it, in due course, as a news item reserving comment, I can think of no better way of getting its existence known to the country at large.