

THE ELEANOR ROOSEVELT PROGRAM

January 29th, 1951

Description: In the opening segment, ER and Elliott Roosevelt respond to a listener's question about the issues that the United States faces with "isms" such as Nazism, Communism and Fascism. In the interview segment ER's guest is African American professional baseball star Jackie Robinson.

Participants: ER, Elliott Roosevelt, Jackie Robinson

[Elliott Roosevelt:] Mother, today we have a question from Mrs. Lubin of Brooklyn who's written in uh with an interesting observation that uh we might discuss. She says, "I heard your discussion with Dr. Millikan [Dr. Robert Millikan, 1868-1953] about the menace of Communism, and I'm wondering why the other 'isms' are over looked? We all know that there are far more Nazis in America than Commies, yet no one is worried about them. Why? Are they so well protected or are they all reformed? What is it? All of them are the same to me and all need a cure: nothing but another 'ism'-- humanism."

[ER:] Well, I don't think there are more Nazi uh Nazis probably in the country than communists. Um there are undoubtedly uh I-what I would call "fascists," because the actual Nazis passed away with the Nazi regime. And um now uh I would say that we had in this country, without any question, a certain number of fascists, and I would say you were quite right that both communists and fascists might be cured. Um I don't exactly know what you mean by "humanism," but might be cured by a better understanding of the needs of humanity or the real desires of most human beings.

[Elliott Roosevelt:] Mhm.

[ER:] Communism ignores, I think, the desire of people to be free. It lays its greatest stress on the need of people to have certain material things. For instance, they think it's absolutely vital to consider economic rights in the document on human rights. That comes ahead of any civil liberties or anything else. Um uh the right, for instance, to work because um if you haven't that right to work they say uh you don't have any possibility of living. Can't eat, in other words. Um now, they think it's perfectly all right if they give you the right to work for you to be bound down in that right to certain rules which they lay down. Um uh they don't think you should have any freedom in that area. Uh they want to give you um certain other rights: the right to education. But in the USSR, it will be the right to the kind of education that the state lays down [ER laughs]. (2:47)

[Elliott Roosevelt:] Yeah.

[ER:] You won't have that freedom. Now the fascists are very much the same in their beliefs. They're really not interested in the rights of the average human being. They are interested in the rights of the privileged few, oh and uh they consider it quite normal uh to um ignore or to control the rights of the average human being. So perhaps if what you mean by "humanism" is a real interest in getting for people, as a whole, um certain rights and freedoms, then the acceptance of that doctrine might cure both fascism and communism [ER laughs]. (3:37)

[Elliott Roosevelt:] Yes, but I think that Mrs. Lubin's question is uh is quite uh overlooked today because of our preoccupation uh with communism in this country and the adherence to communism, uh because if you read, for instance, there are some people uh such as Walter Winchell [1897-1972] who are still waging an unceasing fight against the uh the fascists or former Nazis who exist in this country, and who

do lead rather large blocks of people. For instance, uh Gerald L.K. Smith [1898-1976] is one, uh um Mr. [William Dudley] Pelley [1890-1965] who headed the uh-the Silver Shirts. And there are a number of people who actively are working in this country to change our form of government, to bring about a tyranny of uh certain groups of people. They advocate, for instance, discrimination against Jews, they advocate uh a leadership of-of the few, they are definitely--

[ER:] And discrimination against Negroes or uh any-any minority group, really.

[Elliott Roosevelt:] That-that is correct. [ER: Well--] Now those people, uh Mrs. Lubin is pointing out, are people who uh who are--exist in large numbers. Really she feels, and I think a great many of us do, that there are more of those people and they're operating more successfully today because they operate under the guise of being anti-communist.

[ER:] Well, I think that's true. I think there probably are a number of people. I had not um thought of it so seriously until it was a considerable shock to me to find that in the attack that was made against Mrs. Anna Rosenberg [1902-1983], some of those cooked-up affidavits um were from-were-were arranged by Gerald K. Smith and one or two others in the office of Congressman [John Elliot] Rankin [1882-1960], and so the newspapers reported. Um that was a shock to me. I was-I was uh-uh struck an-uh by the fact that this was uh something that had actually occurred in our government. And uh that seems to me quite dangerous.

[ER and Elliott Roosevelt overlap]

[Elliott Roosevelt:] Well, uh after all um, why should you be-why uh-um- why should you be particularly shocked when you consider that Congressman Rankin has always advocated uh "white supremacy," as he calls it? (6:19)

[ER:] Well, that seemed to me quite different from actually being willing to sit down with someone. I mean the advocacy by a Southerner like Congressman Rankin of white supremacy doesn't seem to me so strange, but to be willing to have people actually sit in your office and think up affidavits that you know are not true against a-a woman who has been a pub-appointed for public service. That just seemed to me something that frightened me very much.

[Elliott Roosevelt:] Well we are-we're thoroughly aware of the fact that Congressman Rankin does not only advocate a suppression of the rights of the Negro, he has always been very anti-Semitic. (7:03)

[ER:] Well, I don't think it had quite uh struck me as forcibly as it did in-in this particular case, and I was really frightened that such a thing could happen in our government. It seemed to me quite dreadful.

[ER and Elliott Roosevelt overlap]

[Elliott Roosevelt:] Well, it seems to me that uh one of the things that is important in this letter is that uh-uh that these people are having the opportunity of lining up on the side of all people who believe in democracy and are fighting communism, and uh they are able to put a cloak of--

[ER:] Simply because they are against communism.

[Elliott Roosevelt:] That's right.

[ER:] Yes.

[Elliott Roosevelt:] And actually what they advocate is nothing that is different from communism in any respect except it's got a different uniform and a different name.

[ER:] Well, and, of course, it appeals to the people in power.

[Elliott Roosevelt:] Well, the-the--

[ER:] Because it gives people in power more power. (7:54)

[Elliott Roosevelt:] Well, that's what communism does.

[ER:] Well, of course, that--communism does that too. Um well there isn't much difference between fascism and communism [ER laughs].

[Elliott Roosevelt:] There's no difference. But my feeling is that uh there uh should be a campaign today that exposes all elements of our makeup in uh-uh in our country and the different people in our country, who are fighting against democracy as a true force.

[ER:] Well, I agree entirely on that. I would be uh completely convinced that it was very much better to expose all types of totalitarianism, and if possible to orient ourselves more on the positive um-- [Elliott Roosevelt: Sales of democracy and what it really stands for--] Um uh the positive goods--good and the desire of people to live for democracy.

[Elliott Roosevelt:] Well, that raises another interesting point and that would be uh those uh groups who sincerely are working for peace and other great aims who unconsciously align themselves with uh communist uh teachings and communist line uh, and do not uh take into account the fact that what they're doing is aiding and abetting uh the communist line and-uh and propaganda. Uh when they advocate their very high minded uh programs for world peace and for peace between Russia and the United States and an understanding between the two systems, that they must take into account the willingness of the rulers of the Soviet Union to also uh come half way to meet us.

[ER: What do you mean?

[Elliott Roosevelt:] I'm thinking for instance of, well, for instance, I know of a group known as Moral Rearmament which advocate uh a uh an approach which is very high minded in its purpose, but they uh do not take into account that you cannot work on just one side for peace; it's got to be a move from both sides.

[ER:] Oh that you must--in other words, what you are really saying, I didn't understand at first, what you're really saying is that um it's one thing to get us to agree to certain things, but it's quite another thing to get the Russians to agree. Therefore, when people, like the Moral Rearmament people who are now appearing in the papers I notice almost every day, say that they have succeeded in um making certain groups of people come to an agreement, what they must do is at the same time to bring the Russians uh to uh the same point of agreement, and that, of course, I haven't seen anywhere that they had accomplished.

[Elliott Roosevelt: No.] I should be very much interested when I hear that they've actually held some meetings in Russia, and that the Russians are willing to give up certain things that they have so far advocated. When that day comes I shall feel the Moral Rearmament people have really won a victory. (11:22)

[Elliott Roosevelt:] Yes, well I think now we have to leave this subject, because I think that we must hear from the sponsors that make this program possible.

(Break 11:29-11:40)

[ER:] Some English statesman is supposed to have said that "the Battle of Waterloo was won on the playing fields of Eaton." In more recent times, General of the Army Douglas MacArthur used many more words to express the same thought when he pointed out that the athletic fields at West Point were "the crucible in which the defenders of our country were forged." No matter who said it, it's a good thought that in friendly competition and team spirit lies the basis of the character that wins and triumphs over obstacles. With me this afternoon is one who is an outstanding example of this thought. It gives me great pleasure to introduce to you Jackie Robinson. (12:26)

[Jackie Robinson:] Well, thank you very much, Mrs. Roosevelt, I assure you that it is my extreme pleasure to be on with you. It certainly is an honor to be on.

[ER:] Thank you, Mr. Robinson. Everyone today, of course, knows of your achievements in the baseball world. But I think perhaps not many of them know that as a youngster you were just as outstanding as an all-round sporting figure. Would you tell our listeners something about this?

[Jackie Robinson:] Well yes, when I was uh a youngster uh we had lots of time, Mrs. Roosevelt. And uh therefore, whenever one sport went out, we liked to play the sport that was in season uh and we had a lot of space in California, and they took us to these lots, the older boys would play baseball, softball, and then we'd go into football and also basketball. Oh, we played every sport there is, and we just got a big kick out of it simply because it was in season.

[ER:] Well, uh that's-that-that's one great advantage about California, isn't it? That there is never a time when you can't play games of some sort [ER laughs].

[Jackie Robinson:] That's right.

[ER:] And yet you're near enough to get up into the mountains and have winter sports, uh now and then I imagine. But I imagine, that uh you had so much to do with uh baseball and basketball and football that you didn't try much on the other mountain sports.

[Jackie Robinson:] That's right. We uh--I never did like to climb, I mean, so I never did get interested in mountain sports.

[ER:] Never did? [ER laughs]

[Jackie Robinson:] No I didn't.

[ER:] Well now, um how many--how many of you youngsters were there that um--in your family, that took part in sports?

[Jackie Robinson:] Well, uh actually three of us, but only two really took part in it. When I had a--my um next to the oldest brother, he uh he loved sports but he had a uh um bad condition, a heart condition, and he couldn't participate [ER: Heart condition.], but there were two of us, my brother Mack [Matthew Robinson, 1914-2000], who was a-uh an Olympic track man, and myself, we were--participated more than the others.

[ER:] You once, I understand, broke your brother's record in the broad jump, is that right?

[Jackie Robinson:] Yes, uh one year I was always running second to my brother Mack and he kept helping me. Uh it was wonderful to me to see how he would help me and try to get me to improve my broad jumping, and the next year he was usually running second to me because of his help. And uh this just showed he had no feeling uh when I broke his record, he was the first to congratulate me. (14:47)

[ER:] Well, now isn't that really one of the lessons that should come from sports, that um there-- you can be a good loser as well as a winner, and you can take an interest actually in seeing the sport well played, and the sport-- whatever--the um broad jump, seeing someone do it well, even though you yourself didn't do it quite so well. (15:13)

[Jackie Robinson:] Yes, that's what I think uh we in sports try to teach that uh we have to be able to lose as well as win, because uh we realize that we all have a very difficult responsibility if we can't lose and we uh sort of bring on a different sort of feeling for the kids that look after us. If we uh get around and mock and jerk because we lost and act up then the kids will not respect us, and then we have to really learn how to lose and uh that's the reason we work so hard at it.

[ER:] I remember very well when my boys were in boarding school, where they mostly went between the ages of twelve and thirteen, to a school called Groton, that there was one great uh game which was the culmination of the football season and also of the baseball season. They played it with another school called St. Mark's. And when they won, it was the wildest jubilation, but when they lost uh, they were a bit dejected, but nevertheless they had--it was part of the code that you had to take it with grace and good sportsmanship and say, "well the other team really was best and so we lost." [Jackie Robinson: Yes.] And um, of course, there was wide-- I mean all the-- it was always the--the top, the oldest boys who played in that final game and, of course, all the little ones coming along and all the younger ones were watching and thinking what their team could have done and how they would work up to doing better next year. And I always thought that it was as important to know how to lose well and to realize that the point was that you'd done your best. It wasn't so much whether you won.

[Jackie Robinson:] That's right, that's very important. Uh I know last year, a lot of people have asked me how did Carl Furillo [1922-1989] feel, for instance, when he failed to produce a winning run uh against the Philadelphia Phillies in a game that was very important to us. Well, I've always said that uh I know that Carl never feels bad about that because he at all times he was out there giving his best and when we do that we certainly can't feel bad about losing.

[ER:] Can't feel bad about losing.

[Jackie Robinson:] That's right.

[ER:] Where did you attend school?

[Jackie Robinson:] Well I uh attended all the way through uh California out in uh Los Angeles, mostly at the University of California, Los Angeles. (17:37)

[ER:] And you went to school, and then--and uh through high school, and then you went to the University of uh California.

[Jackie Robinson:] Yes.

[ER:] Isn't that the same thing that uh Dr. [Ralph] Bunche did?

[Jackie Robinson:] Well, he went out there yes, but I-I don't know whether he went all through the uh city schools or not, but I know he was out there--

[ER:] No, I don't know that either. I know that he went to the university out there too.

[Jackie Robinson:] Yes, that's right.

[ER:] Because I remember once hearing him uh talk about it, but I wasn't sure. Now how did you get started on your baseball career?

[Jackie Robinson:] Well, Mrs. Roosevelt, I uh actually started out in baseball to try to meet some people in the east that was interested in boys and youth, because I've always wanted to do just a little bit to help out and see if I couldn't be a-a part of uh-uh an organization that was trying to help out kids. And I-I joined baseball simply to meet some people in the east because I thought that my experiences as a kid would give me just a better background to-to pass on to these kids and other people that I think well were in the same boat.

[ER:] You're-you're more interested really in what you can do for the welfare of kids and-and helping them through their adolescent years and to get started. And really you-you've used baseball as an instrument.

[Jackie Robinson:] That's right. We feel that if we can get them started and-and uh find out the-the real bad ones in the crowd and do something about them that 90 percent of the kids are-are really good, and if we can weed out the kid that's really the leader, he's usually the bad one, then we can do something about the good kid and help them along, and that's where we're using our baseball experiences. And we only hope that other athletes and other people that are in the public limelight remember that we've got to uh sort of help these kids on if we expect our country to go on and-and be what we like. Uh I-I know that when Roy Campanella [1921-1993] and I work at the Harlem YMCA it's a-it's a wonderful feeling to see how the kids up there react to our being around them. And I know that if other uh athletes and other professional people would just take a slight interest in the kids it would do a world of good. (19:44)

[ER:] I-I think you're right about that. I think it's um a very interesting thing. Of course, I have a theory that um it's rare that a kid is really bad. It's the environment in which he happens to have to grow up.

[Jackie Robinson: That's right.] And sometimes the background, the heredity, but I think you can overcome a good deal of heredity by environment if a child has good food and a good place to live and proper medical care and then is given a chance at education and entertainment, I mean by that participation in things that are healthy and-and that keep him interested and busy. I don't believe much in the absolute [ER laughs] uh badness of small boys.

[Jackie Robinson:] No, certainly uh we can't say that the kid is born bad because uh you see so many kids that uh that come out and do-do wonderful work when given an opportunity and uh we hope that more people will give these kids an opportunity while they're young because we feel if we catch them at an early age certainly they will do a good job, that's the reason we--

[ER:] Well I-I think that's a grand thing to do. What obstacles did you find in your way when you began your baseball career?

[Jackie Robinson:] Well actually, there weren't uh very many obstacles. We had a wonderful man in Mr. Branch Rickey [1881-1965] guiding my every move, and uh he seemed to know exactly what to do. And if there was an obstacle I didn't have to actually overcome it, because Mr. Rickey was right there with the

right answer, you see? And uh, therefore, I knew exactly what to do before it a-rose because, as I said, he could call me on the phone and do a lot of things: talk to me and ah ensure me that he was behind me in whatever move we took and just "be careful" and "watch out what you're doing," so, therefore, I was always ready. (21:41)

[ER:] Well, that's wonderful to have someone to help you like that. Have you got any outside interest besides the Y which you just spoke of?

[Jackie Robinson:] Well, the Y takes care after the baseball season practically all of our uh interests. They send us to schools. They send us to different organizations to see that our time is very well taken up.

[ER:] So your time is practically filled um uh when you're not actually working?

[Jackie Robinson:] Yes we give it to the Y because we feel that they are doing as good a job as any other organization we know.

[ER:] Well, I think that's um a perfectly wonderful thing. What Y do you work in most of the time?

[ER and Jackie Robinson overlap]

[Jackie Robinson:] We're at the Harlem YMCA 135th street.

[ER:] The Harlem YMCA most of the time? [Jackie Robinson: Yes.] Well, I think that's perfectly fine. Well, now for just a minute we um have to stop, but we'll come right back onto our interview in a few minutes.

(Break 22:32-22:43)

[ER:] Before we go on to anything else, Mr. Robinson, I wonder if you'd tell me a little about the awards that you have won?

[Jackie Robinson:] Well, I have a room, Mrs. Roosevelt, that um is filled with different trophies. I think that people like to give you trophies to get you to different functions. I mean uh I've found that to be the real reason. But the ones that I treasure most is the uh the one I received for being the Most Valuable Player in the National League last year, and I believe the George Washington Memorial Award that was presented in 1949 was the other award that I treasure very highly. I mean, I have a lot of others, but these I treasure more, I believe. (23:23)

[ER:] More than any others?

[Jackie Robinson:] Yes.

[ER:] Well, I think that's um very nice. Now, um as I've read your story, um I believe your wife has played rather an important part in your success. Tell us how she-she was able to help you.

[Jackie Robinson:] Well, I think she's played an as important a part a-as myself in fact. I believe--actually believe -- that when you have a wife that is understanding and-and knows the problem that uh-are-uh before you and then knows exactly what to do I think a person is very fortunate. That's the type of wife I have. Uh whenever I was in any sort of difficulty, she could tell it the moment I walked into the house, and uh she would always wait for the opportune moment to try to pick out what it was. And then she would work out some way, some problem -- that we could solve the problem, and uh the way that she did

it to me was remarkable and when I look back on it, I say that my wife was as instrumental in-in the little success I've had as anybody I know.

[ER:] That's wonderful for a young woman. She must be very fond of you because you have to be fond of the person to have that sort of intuition about uh what--how they feel about things and be always ready to um uh help in some way.

[Jackie Robinson:] Well, I'd like to say, Mrs. Roosevelt, that I think that our little family is as happy as anybody around. We get along wonderfully well. We've got two kids and we're crazy about them, so I like to sa-think that we are as happy as any two people could be.

[ER:] Well, that's wonderful. How old are the children?

[Jackie Robinson:] Oh, my little girl [Sharon Robinson] was only one on the thirteenth of Januar-January and-or this month. And uh my boy [Jackie Robinson Jr.] was four last month. So we--

[ER:] Oh they're nice ages. One and four. And I'm sure you're crazy about the little girl? [ER laughs]

[Jackie Robinson:] Oh I definitely am! [Jackie Robinson laughs]

[ER:] And uh someday the little boy will be asking you just how to do all the things that you know best, which will be great fun. [ER laughs]

[Jackie Robinson:] I'm looking forward to that, really now-- yeah.

[ER:] You'll be teaching him all the things that you know. Well now, I know that you--that in the last war uh you rose from buck private to a commission as a lieutenant, and um I'm just wondering if after the war you found it difficult to get back into the sports field?

[Jackie Robinson:] Well no, not particularly so. I was fortunate uh my last stop to meh--to have met a fellow with the Kansas City Monarch baseball team and-and uh we were playing around and he asked me if I want to play professional ball, and he gave me the name of the owner of the Kansas City ball club, and we contacted them and uh moved right in to uh baseball the year after I got out of the service. Actually the--just as soon as the baseball season rolled around, and uh I didn't have too much difficulty although uh we found it just a little bit different moving back into civilian life again. But uh it was wonderful getting back into baseball and not too hard at all. (26:18)

[ER:] Uh well that's--I'm very glad to hear that. And you started back then in Kansas?

[Jackie Robinson:] That's right. Kan--with the Kansas City Monarchs.

[ER:] I see. Well now, what's the story behind your finally playing with the Brooklyn Dodgers?

[Jackie Robinson:] Well, that was a story awfully surprising to me. Um when I was first a--approached in Chicago by Clyde Sukeforth [1901-2000], I didn't pay too much attention to him, because we in baseball, in Negro baseball especially, had been approached by a lot of uh fanatics, you know? And they used to tell us things and our hopes would go up, and the next thing you know it was just like uh-uh an inflated balloon being punched. Uh we--all the air would go out of us and uh we actually find out that these people that talked to us are nothing but fakes. But when Clyde Sukeforth offered to take me on in to uh New York to see Mr. Rickey, I hesitated at first simply because I thought that he was one of these fakes,

and uh when he finally showed me the tickets and asked me to meet him, I decided well perhaps I'd better go on with him.

So uh I came on in to see Mr. Rickey and [Jackie Robinson laughs] that first meeting with Mr. Rickey was something I'll never forget. He uh he took you in the office and the very first--after he asked me what I was--did I know why I was there, and I told him "no" he told me that he actually um had me here to make me a member of the Brooklyn ball club if I had the ability. And the next thing he threw at me was "Are you married?" and I says, "No." and he says, "well get married" [ER laughs]. Well [Jackie Robinson laughs] it sort of took me by surprise and I told him very frankly that I wished I could, I had somebody in mind, but she was in nursing school and I was here and it was awfully difficult because of our financial problems. But uh he insisted that um I get married so I approached my wi--uh my wife now, my girl then, and told her what was happening, and uh she agreed that um that the best way to handle this thing was her to be with me, and I certainly am glad that she saw it that way, to go along. But Mr.--

[ER:] So you got married and came into the Brooklyn Dodgers all at once? Is that it?

[Jackie Robinson:] That's right. That's right.

[ER:] And all on Mr. Rickey's recommendation? [ER laughs]

[Jackie Robinson:] That's right. His-his insistence it was, not his-- [Jackie Robinson laughs]

[ER:] I suppose he thought that you'd uh stick to your training better if you had a wife around, wouldn't you? [ER laughs]

[Jackie Robinson:] That's right. That's right, he did.

[ER:] That's a very interesting story. Well, did you feel after becoming a member of the Dodgers team that you had more responsibility as a person than you had before?

[Jackie Robinson:] Well yes, I did, Mrs. Roosevelt. You know just before, in forty-four and forty-five, I wa-had always been a person that was very outspoken if things went all uh against me, if things were--were bad as far as the Negro race is concerned, I was very outspoken about it. And I didn't think before that I said anything about it, and uh I found that was one of my bad traits to-to get a little heated up, and I knew that I would have to overcome that and uh I knew that if I didn't go out and-and uh act the way uh I should act as far as any incidents that happened on the ball field then perhaps the uh whole experiment that Mr. Rickey was trying out would blow up right in his face. And I knew that he was sticking his neck out, and uh not so much for myself but for what he was trying to do, I knew that I had a terrific job ahead of me. And uh with his help, I-I think we succeeded uh the first three or four years to-to act the right way. And the fans around Brooklyn were wonderful and-and they noticed exactly what was going on, and they were on our side from the very outset, and I thought it was wonderful the way they reacted to us when we came into the Brooklyn organization. (29:50)

[ER:] Well, I think, of course, that it's um--it's a terrific responsibility for someone of a minority race who is carrying a uh position which can bring to the whole race um credit or blame. And of course, you've done it in the sports field. Now in the last uh General Assembly of the United Nations, Mrs. [Edith] Sampson [1898-1979] of Chicago did it for the first time as a member of our delegation and she did it simply magnificently. She-she did it as unconsciously. I mean I don't think anyone consciously from anything she did ever thought that she belonged to a minority race. [Jackie Robinson: Mhm.] She was just as calm and as natural and it was simply wonderful the work she did, not only in our own delegation, but in uh the delegations of all the other nations. And she did a great deal for our country and um I think a great deal for the whole problem in this country, you see. So that I was simply delighted, I was very

happy over it--I've always been very happy over what um you have done in the sports field and in the uh field of um showing that in spite of difficulties, slowly, people recognize value, the value of a human being.

[Jackie Robinson:] I-I think, Mrs. Roosevelt, uh that Mrs. Sampson, I met her and I think she's a very wonderful person and uh we all appreciate all that she's done, but I think it only goes to show that uh once a people actually give every person an opportunity on their own, I mean as an individual, not as a member of any particular minority group or as a race or anything else, when they give them an opportunity I think they'll see that- that-- (31:50)

[ER:] They all come up.

[Jackie Robinson:] That's right.

[ER:] Well, that's true but you see if you gave the opportunity and someone didn't meet it. [Jackie Robinson: Ah yes, that's right.] Then you'd be lost, you see? [Jackie Robinson: That's right.] And that's why every time people meet it, you're so pleased [ER laughs] because it's a wonderful step forward. It's-it's grand. Now I want to ask you one more thing before we close: have you any plans for after your baseball days? Of course, you're so young, you've got a lot before you, but I would like to know if you have any plans yet for that.

[Jackie Robinson:] Only-only with working with youngsters, Mrs. Roosevelt. I think my uh contacts with the baseball people have given me a-a lesson that I can pass on to the kids, and I think the kids really should have some one that has been before the public's eye and uh that is my only plan right now. To get out of baseball and get in, if it's not with the YMCA group, some other organization that is closely connected with kids that has supervised activity. We need that so very badly.

[ER:] Well, good luck to you. I think that's just a wonderful future. Good luck.

[Jackie Robinson:] Thank you, Mrs. Roosevelt.

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