October 4, 1953

Dear Phyllis Case:

With the kind of schedule you run, you will understand, I hope, the cause of my delay in getting this to you. I am just swamped these days with all the demands that FR et al make upon me.

However, I don't think this need be at all catastrophic because as I explained to you on the phone, your date with us on Tuesday evening, October 6th, is not something which requires elaborate preparation on your part.

First of all, you can't imagine how important just the mere fact of your coming is to this community. Everybody seems to be buzzing and I hope that the turnout of women for you will be a good one. It's hard to tell though. This whole thing is a new idea and Tuesday will be the first session. It may need time to grow, I don't know.

Secondly, you have all the latitude in the world for what you may want to say. The enclosed is an office copy of the letter which was sent out, and if it will help at all in your orientation to the group, this is the pitch as I see it:

1) Boston's so-called "mornings of diversion" have struck me as rather dilettante sort of affairs. We would like these Roxbury gatherings to have depth, meaning and continuity.

2) Without hitting them over the head with it, we would like to get across the need for women to expose themselves to information and opportunities for participation as a means of developing their own personalities and individualities. Subtly, we, too, to approve in this community their doing it across racial, religious, social and economic lines. WOMEN ARE IMPORTANT, but they, themselves, must learn to believe it.

3) Can we convey that concept to them - that this can be done without disrupting home, family life, service to children? that a woman need not be sacrificed as a personality upon the altar of a "successful (?) family?
4) How has this worked out for you in theory and in practice?

Seems to me this ought to be a snap assignment for you, yes?

I do hope that you received the message that Basilla Neilan will call for you at 9:45 a.m. Tuesday the 6th and that transportation will be provided for you to whatever point you may wish the moment you feel that you must leave.

With tight timing, the plan calls for your speaking promptly at 10 o'clock for twenty minutes to half an hour with fifteen minutes for questions and discussions. All told, you should be able to leave at 10:45. O.K. (?)

Thanks heaps for this favor. I can't tell you how much it means to me and to Freedom House. Some day in some way I hope to be able to repay you.

Sincerely,

Muriel Snowden