...TFULLY REFERS ...
...R CONSIDERATION
...D ...KNOWLEDGMENT

...retary to the President

9-12

Treasury
U.S. Coast Guard

FRANK B. PERRY
ENGINEER AND ARCHITECT
93 CALLA STREET
PROVIDENCE 5, R. I.

September 8, 1946

Engineer
Personnel
Plan. & Control
Pub. Information

Honorable Harry S. Truman,
President of the United States,
White House,
Washington, D. C.

9-19-46 - Wrote 1st Asst (OSW) (681)

My dear President:

Your attention is respectfully called to a deplorable situation that exists at Block Island, R. I. X-Action

About two weeks ago, I visited Block Island for the purpose of taking some photographs to illustrate a book which is being prepared. In order to secure a shot of the North Light, I found it necessary to walk 1½ miles through deep sand, the road having been washed out by the severe storms which occur during the cold weather.

On returning to the taxi waiting for me at the end of the hard road, I saw a man and a woman approaching on bicycles with carriers fully loaded with bottles of milk and bags of provisions. Upon inquiry, I learned that they were the lighthouse keeper and his wife.

At the termination of the hard road they stopped, unloaded the supplies in the tall grass and then rode back a mile to leave their bicycles at a friend's home. The procedure then was to walk a mile to pick up their purchases and trudge through sand with them 1½ miles to their home at the North Light. This routine is repeated every few days when necessary to go to the centre for food supplies.

These people are in the employ of the U. S. Government, rendering a faithful service in caring for an important light and it seems to me that they are deserving of consideration. In other words they should be furnished means of transportation, a jeep, for example which will pullsuccessfully through the sand.

The keeper is an ex-service man, who suffered some sort of injury to his back during the war, and only recently has been obliged to undergo an operation. It doesn't seem fair that he and his wife should be forced to travel on foot several miles and carry their food supplies during all kinds of weather.

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PROVIDENCE 5, R. I.

September 8, 1946

This letter is written on my own account without any solicitation on their part, with the hope and expectation that you will instruct the proper authority to provide adequate means of transportation for these worthy people with the least possible delay.

Respectfully yours,

Frank B. Perry