

Enright, Adelaide
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Adelaide M. Enright
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zone 1

April 5, 1945

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Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

After talking with you on the telephone last week about the Federal Judgeship in Minnesota, I should have written you so that you could have the information before you on paper, but on that day I thought the appointment was imminent, so I did not do so.

This ~~week~~^{morning} the newspapers carry another rumor story to the effect that the Judgeship may go to John J. McDonough, who is at present Mayor of Saint Paul. John has been working with me on the appointment of Judge Gustavus Loevinger, about whom I telephoned you, and he is just as eager to see the Judge appointed to this position as I am.

A day or so before I telephoned you, I had a call from one of the business leaders in Saint Paul, suggesting that John McDonough would be the man for the Federal Judgeship.

I am most enthusiastic about Mayor McDonough and his attitude on public matters, but I was suspicious of this call because it came from someone who is heartily opposed to the housing bill which Mayor McDonough is supporting.

We have been working for six years to get an enabling act through the State Legislature which will enable us to clear certain slum areas here with the help of Federal funds. At each session of the Legislature it has been defeated because of the strong influence of the Real Estate Board.

Mayor McDonough, however, has been undaunted by these failures, and I have been working with him to obtain such an act in the present Legislature.

The Senate has now voted out a bill which

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is pretty close to what we want, and with this progress in mind, I was somewhat suspicious of the effort to put the Mayor in a Judgeship, as I thought it might be an attempt to get him out of the way so that he could not take the initiative as he has done on the housing bill and in other matters of similar importance.

There seems to be only one count against Judge Lœvinger, and that is his age, but the fact that he is 62 years of age certainly should not put him on the shelf. He will unquestionably go on serving on the District bench if he is not appointed to the Federal bench, and I cannot see why his age should be more of a detriment to him in the Federal Court than in the District Court.

Even the people who have been affected adversely by decisions of Judge Lœvinger have the friendliest feeling toward him and great respect for his fairness.

As an example: The employees of a certain business house in Saint Paul made application for restoration of pay which had been cut generally during the depression. They were refused time after time. Finally the employer agreed to have Judge Lœvinger review the case and abide by his decision.

The Judge found that this concern could easily make the pay increase and that the cuts made during the depression were entirely unnecessary. He ordered that the pay of all employees be increased and also required the company to make full restitution for the cuts made during the depression. This gave each employee a very sizable check.

In spite of this ruling, which certainly affected management adversely in this case, the head of that business continues to be a loyal friend of the Judge and is working with him on a number of civic projects.

This is only one instance of the esteem in which Judge Lœvinger is held and of the great

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fairness of his work as a Judge.

The fact that Minneapolis already has two Judges on the Federal bench in Minnesota (the third Judge comes from Detroit Lakes) certainly does not make it necessary to appoint another Minneapolis man, namely Justice Gallagher, to the bench, although this would be no reason for not appointing him if he eminently qualified for the job.

It might be said in passing that Justice Gallagher was elected because a great many people thought they were voting for another Gallagher.

It was very kind of you to listen to my tale the other day, and I appreciate so much your taking an interest in what I told you.

I always have a long debate with myself before calling you on such a matter because I know how crowded your time is, but I know you are greatly interested in good government as I am, and I felt that this appointment was important enough to justify my telephoning you.

I hope I shall see you before too long.

With best wishes,

Adell
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Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt
The White House
Washington, D. C.