

[FLynn]

*Many thanks
for writing me about
Mrs Flynn's
conversation with
Mr Farley -
Paul McNutt*

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Thank you very much

Flynn, A

September 13, 1947

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Ever since the Farley articles were published in Colliers in which Jim stated that President Roosevelt told him in 1939 he did not expect to run again, I have wanted to write and tell you of a particular conversation I had with Jim early in 1940.

At that time Mrs. A. F. Flynn of Logansport, Indiana, whom you will recall as an active Democratic worker and a staunch Roosevelt supporter, called me in Washington by long distance and asked if I would make an appointment for her to see Chairman Farley as she was most anxious to talk to him about an urgent political matter. I got in touch at once with his secretary, Bill Bray, and he assured me that as soon as Chairman Farley returned to Washington from a western trip, as I recall, he would set a date for Mrs. Flynn.

Some weeks later he set a time for Mrs. Flynn and the morning she reached Washington she called me, made a date for lunch, and then later we went to Jim's office. When the time came for her to see him Mrs. Flynn insisted that I go in with her, which I did. Immediately Mrs. Flynn began to tell Jim what her trouble was and asked for his advice. She said that Paul McNutt, or his manager, wanted her to go out and corral McNutt delegates so that he would be in a position to be nominated in case President Roosevelt did not run; said she did not want such a job as she was not a McNutt enthusiast but did not know what to do. Jim replied, "You know how I feel about McNutt; and if I were you I would not take the job, but you can make a statement endorsing him as Indiana's favorite son and let it go at that".

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Then Mrs. Flynn said, "Why, McNutt could never carry Indiana and the only Democrat who would have a chance to carry it is the President. Jim, is Roosevelt going to run for a Third Term?". He replied, "Don't ask me. He has never said a word to me about it." She replied, "Well, I hope he runs for he is the only Democrat who can win". Jim again reiterated, "He has never said a word to me about it but I think he ought to let the people know what he is going to do. It does not seem fair to other candidates". I smiled and remarked, "Rather hard on the Garner people, isn't it?". They had already opened headquarters in Washington. I can still see Jim's expression when I made that remark. It said very plainly, "How about me?". There wasn't much more to the conversation except that Mrs. Flynn and myself reiterated that President Roosevelt was the only Democrat who could win in November.

Like yourself and many of Jim's friends and admirers I have been deeply disappointed in his attitude, and while I agree with you to a certain extent that Mr. Trohan of the Chicago Tribune has set the tone of the articles I feel that the blame for this sorry spectacle lies closer home. Sometime when I see you or "Tommy" I will tell you of an enlightening episode that my sister and I had way back in '35.

One thing that puzzles me very much is that until practically the end of Jim's chairmanship he always expressed the greatest loyalty to you. You may recall that at the request of a number of Democratic National Committeewomen I went to see you in 1938, I think it was, regarding the manner in which the Women's Division of the Democratic National Committee was being administered as there was much dissatisfaction throughout the

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country and I was also asked to take the same complaint to Jim several times by other Democratic workers. When I did he always agreed that he did not approve of what was being done by the Women's Division but always declared, "Emma, I have to be a good soldier and do what my chief wants. It wouldn't matter what Mrs. Roosevelt asked me to do I would do it for if it hadn't been for her I would never have gotten where I am for she gave me my first big chance."

Too bad that the sense of loyalty he had then did not stay with him longer, or if he did not approve of many things why did he not inform you?

I am sure Mrs. Flynn feels as I do - that we want to keep the record straight. Hence, this letter.

Sincerely yours,

Emma Guffey Miller
(Mrs. Carroll Miller)

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt
Hyde Park, New York

egm-m

A. Flynn

Democratic National Committee

MRS. EMMA GUFFEY MILLER
MEMBER FOR PENNSYLVANIA
WOLF CREEK FARM
SLIPPERY ROCK

2928 BENTON PLACE
WASHINGTON, D. C.

5 October 1947.

Dear Mrs Roosevelt;

Am enclosing a letter from Mrs Flynn
which I think will interest you and if you care to, you
are certainly at liberty to keep it as another item in
the record.

Always sincerely,

Emma Guffey Miller

MRS. ADELBERT P. FLYNN 4 806 NORTH STREET 4 LOGANSPORT, INDIANA

SEPTEMBER 20th 1947

Mrs. Carroll Miller,
2929 Benton Place,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Emma:

Your letter was as a breath of pure air. It made me very happy to be remembered by you.

Yes, I remember our conference with Mr. Farley and the gist of the conversation was as you have repeated it. Mr. Farley, in my opinion, has made a very serious mistake. I have been sadly disillusioned---for he was my ideal of an honest politician. It must have taken great pressure or aspirations to have caused him to forget the friendship of the Roosevelt family.

We are "in a bad way" in Indiana. With an old woman on the National Committee, who cannot get about and a man who cannot be trusted, we can not carry the State. Even though the new State Chairman is a fine person and a hard worker. I lost my husband in March of 1946 and have been quite lost and unhappy. Beginning to feel myself again and would enjoy doing something in the line of organization work. Hope something turns up.

My sincere regards to you.

Most sincerely,

Louisa A. P. Flynn
(Mrs. A.P. Flynn)

luf/s