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LEHMAN
1945-52 [HERBERT]

HERBERT H. LEHMAN
820 PARK AVENUE
NEW YORK 21, NEW YORK

February 8, 1947

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt,
Apartment 15-A,
29 Washington Square, West,
New York 11, N.Y.

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Many thanks for sending me the letter from
General Marshall which I am herewith returning to you.

I am also enclosing copy of a letter which I
wrote a few days ago to Mr. Julius Henry Cohen concerning
a passage in his book. I am sure that your recollection of
the situation will coincide with mine. Mr. Cohen has
written me that in future editions of the book the
offensive paragraphs will be omitted.

With kind regards, I am

Yours,

Herbert

*Wanted
quite true*

11 LEHMAN

COPY

February 5, 1947

Mr. Julius Henry Cohen
44 Wall Street
New York 5, New York

My dear Mr. Cohen:

I am in receipt of your letter of January 22, asking me to endorse your recent book, **THEY BUILT BETTER THAN THEY KNEW**.

Although I have not had the privilege of knowing many of the people and occurrences about which you have written, your book, so far as I have read it, is interesting and very readable. There is, however, one paragraph that I did take note of, which I know from first-hand knowledge is entirely inaccurate. I refer to the following paragraph on Page 127:

"Yet, in 1932, when Al was defeated for the nomination of the Presidency, he did take it very much to heart. His enemy, Hearst, sought and secured his revenge. He ganged up on Al with the Ku Kluxers and all the other 'antis.' But the thing that hurt Al most was the act of a friend. It was the result of Al's recommendation in 1928 that Franklin D. Roosevelt was nominated for Governor of New York. Al and his friends expected Roosevelt to join in giving Al another chance in 1932 to run for the Presidency. Thomas L. Stokes, in his column 'Comment' in the 'New York World-Telegram,' October 5, 1944, entitled 'Al Smith, Trail Blazer,' says:

" . . . On the way to the 1932 Chicago convention, I asked what had caused the rift between them.' (Alfred E. Smith and Franklin D. Roosevelt). 'And Al snapped: "Frank Roosevelt just threw me out of the window."'

"Al never ran out on anyone. He understood what political ambition could do to any man."

This paragraph gives the impression that F.D.R. wanted the nomination as Governor of the State of New York in 1928 and that it was given to him as a favor by Alfred E. Smith. Just the opposite is the case. F.D.R. took the nomination under great pressure and in loyalty to Al's candidacy for the Presidency. Since I was one of the actors at the time F.D.R. was persuaded to take the nomination, I know beyond any doubt that this implication is entirely inaccurate and unjust to him. The facts are as follows:

Before the Convention met in Rochester, it became evident that the only man who could keep New York State in the Democratic column was Franklin D. Roosevelt. The Convention when it met was

confused and the delegates discouraged. The Convention marked time until a further effort could be made by Governor Smith to persuade F.D.R. to accept the nomination.

We spent a whole day trying to get F.D.R. (who was at Warm Springs) on the 'phone to talk to Al. After following him from place to place, we finally located him at Warm Springs a little after midnight. As previously, he refused even to consider the nomination as he felt that a year or two more of medical treatment might bring about his recovery or at least further improvement.

Al made an insistent personal plea to F.D.R. to run. This was seconded by me. Again F.D.R. refused. It was only when it was made clear to him that he alone could help Al to win a battle in which he and Mrs. Roosevelt were deeply interested, did he reluctantly agree to accept the nomination.

Al and all of his friends considered themselves under great obligation to F.D.R., and there never was any question in my mind when he accepted the nomination that F.D.R. felt he was making a real sacrifice and furnishing an act of friendship and loyalty to Al.

No one has a greater affection and admiration for Governor Smith than I. I believe that no one gave more fully of his time, strength and resources than I did in his campaigns both for the Governorship and the Presidency. I can vouch, too, that F.D.R. and Mrs. Roosevelt both in 1924 and in 1928 demonstrated an unusual degree of loyalty to Al and refused to spare themselves in the fight for his nomination and later during the campaign.

It is because of these facts, that I greatly deplore the expression given in your book that F.D.R. was disloyal to Al and the implication that he ran out on a friend.

I feel that if I were to endorse your book, I would indicate that I approve and agree with what you have written. Since this is, of course, obviously not the fact, I am sure you will understand why it is not possible for me to accede to your request for an endorsement.

I hope you will understand the spirit in which I have written so freely. I would not feel that I were loyal either to the memory of F.D.R. or Al if I had not done so.

Very sincerely yours,

HERBERT H. LEHMAN

Bx 3761

Campobello Island, N.B.
July 19, 1947

Dear Governor Lehman:

I did write to the President about your desire to be appointed as United States Representative on the Social and Economic Council of the UN. He told me that he had made another commitment but he did not mention Mr. Biddle to me.

I am so glad that you and Edith are enjoying your stay at Lake Placid. I am here with Elliott and four children, so I know how much fun it is to have grandchildren around.

My affectionate greetings to Edith and to you.

Very cordially yours,

HERBERT H. LEHMAN
41 EAST 87TH STREET
NEW YORK 22, N. Y.

SUITE 2700
PLAZA 9-1133

*I did the Whiteface Inn
July 14, 1947
Whiteface, New York
I had the Whiteface Inn
Whiteface, New York
July 14, 1947
I had the Whiteface Inn
Whiteface, New York
July 14, 1947*

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

You will undoubtedly remember my discussions with you regarding my desire to be appointed as United States Representative on the Social and Economic Council of the UN. I had advised President Truman by wire from California on or about January 2nd of my desire to be appointed. When I called on the President at the White House on or about January 15th, he told me that he had already offered the appointment to Francis Biddle before learning that I was interested, but gave me to understand that had he not done so he would have been glad to appoint me, as he considered me eminently well qualified for this work. I was therefore greatly surprised and much disappointed when on the withdrawal of Biddle's nomination the President failed to appoint me.

You were good enough to recommend me to the President for appointment. I am under the impression that you received substantially the same advices from him as I did. I would greatly appreciate it if you would let me know what your recollection is in the matter and whether the President discussed the matter with you either orally or in writing.

We are enjoying our stay here in Lake Placid very much indeed. We have Peter's two little girls with us and now Hilda Jane and her husband and baby have also joined us, so we are having a very good time in spite of the bad weather for the past few days.

I hope you are getting a good rest. With kindest regards in which Edith joins me, I am

Yours,
Herbert H. Lehman

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt
29 Washington Square West
New York, N. Y.

ORIGINAL RETIRED FOR PRESERVATION

*Edith
I had the Whiteface Inn
Whiteface, New York
July 14, 1947*

Lehman

THE SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON

January 28, 1947

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Thank you for your letter of January 15, 1947 concerning the appointment of Herbert Lehman to the vacancy on the Economic and Social Council. I will have in mind his interest in continuing his activities in the international field.

I appreciate very much your good wishes on my appointment, and was particularly appreciative of your call Thursday evening.

Faithfully yours,

W. A. Rouse
Jan 28

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt,
Apartment 15-A,
29 Washington Square, West,
New York 11, New York.

Lehman

January 8, 1947

Dear Mr. President:

You will remember that I told you how sorry I was that John Winant resigned from the Economic and Social Council.

I have heard from people here Herbert Lehman might be interested in taking that work. I know that Mr. Byrnes hoped that it would be Mr. LaFollette. I am just passing along the suggestion of Herbert Lehman because he seems to me far better fitted than anyone else, if he is willing to consider it.

I am not, of course, asking for any favor, I am simply passing on the information in case it is helpful to you. Mr. Lehman's contacts and knowledge of people and countries in the whole world would be which he would bring, would be helpful to a new member of the Economic and Social Council.

Very cordially yours,

Lehman

January 15, 1947

Dear General Marshall:

I wrote the President the other day and I feel I ought to write you also, that I have heard that Herbert Lehman would very much like to fill the place from which John Winant has just resigned, on the Economic and Social Council. I am simply passing this information along because Herbert Lehman would seem to me to have good qualifications and contacts which would make it easier for him than for some one who had not been in the international field, to come in at this stage.

I have never asked for an appointment and I am not doing so in this instance.

With every good wish in what I know must be for you a most difficult job, I am,

Very cordially yours,



VETERANS ADMINISTRATION

Branch Office No. 2
346 Broadway
New York 13, N. Y.

May 7, 1947

YOUR FILE REFERENCE:

IN REPLY REFER TO: NY6D

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt
29 Washington Square
New York 11, N. Y.

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I hope will pick
to go to pick
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be less
busy

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

On behalf of the Veterans Administration I want to thank you for your active interest in hospitalized veterans in this area, as most recently expressed through your visit to the V. A. Hospital, Castle Point, New York, on Sunday afternoon, May 4, and your fine column of May 2, 1947, entitled "Vets to Remember".

I read this article with great interest, since one of the primary purposes behind the Special Services program in the Veterans Administration is the encouragement of all Voluntary Services Organizations and other qualified Voluntary Groups or individuals to become an active and integral part of the particular V. A. hospital or hospitals located in or adjacent to the community in which they are residents.

For, as you express so well, if what happened after the last war is not to happen again, the veteran in the hospital must be made to feel he is still an integral part of the community. We feel this must first be accomplished by bringing the community to him in the hospital and, as soon as medically possible, by taking him out into the community. The continued assistance of volunteers is essential to the fulfillment of both of these aims. Therefore we feel that one of the most important functions of the Chief, Special Services at each hospital is the guiding of the efforts of these volunteers into the countless different channels whereby they can be of real and constructive service to the patient, as regards Special Services activities, as well as the indoctrination of the individual volunteer in the rules and regulations of the specific hospital.

A Voluntary Services Committee, composed of representatives selected by each National Service Organization, has been appointed at the National, Branch and Hospital Levels. At all three levels, regular meetings of this Committee and the V. A. Services utilizing the services of Volunteers, are held. The V. A. Services to which Voluntary Services are most important include the Medical Service and Special Services.

On this co-ordinated basis, the Volunteer Service Organizations and many other qualified volunteer groups, have during the past year, provided the hospitalized veterans with many fine services, both within and outside the hospitals.

An inquiry by or concerning an ex-service man or woman should, if possible, give veteran's name and file number, whether C, XC, K, N, or V. If such file number is unknown, service or serial number should be given.

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt

In line with this basic premise of making the patient feel he is an integral part of the community the Special Services program has been designed to draw the patient voluntarily into an active community life within the hospital, through encouragement in participation in one or more types of constructive diversional activity, deemed medically advisable, which encourages co-operative effort on the parts of patients and hospital personnel, and which might prove of value to the patient in future life, either as a hobby or as a possible basis for a potential career. This type of participation helps to instill in the patient a desire to return to normal life and living as soon as medically expedient.

In this respect, it has been most gratifying to see the concrete results achieved during this past year in the V. A. hospitals in this area - in the participation in the many outlets of the Athletic program; in the increasing interest in original writing for the hospital newspaper, for shows, etc.; in the number of patients taking individual music lessons, both vocal and instrumental; in the formation of patient orchestras, Glee Clubs, Barber Shop Quartets, small musical combinations; in the growth of hobby groups, both creative and technical in nature; and in the production of their own shows, under the direction and supervision of a member of the V. A. Recreation and Entertainment Staff, experienced in Theatrical Production.

The real purpose and intent of the patient participation aspect of the Special Services program is perhaps most concretely evidenced in these shows, known in this area as "Regular Revels", because, in these shows, such a variety of patient interests, both technical and creative in nature can be expressed. A few of these interests include - acting, lighting, singing, playing of instruments, property making, designing of scenery, novelty acts, makeup, publicity and program art work, athletic acts or exhibitions, layout and printing, writing, stage managing, and sometimes direction.

A further intangible value in the production of these shows lies in the esprit de corps each one evokes in the morale of the hospital as a whole. In the last "Regular Revels" performed at Halloran, for example, five paraplegics took part. This fact was a topic of conversation on the paraplegic ward for days before and after the performance and the show as a whole served, as at all the hospitals, as a fine topic of discussion for patients and personnel alike throughout the entire hospital for several days following the performance.

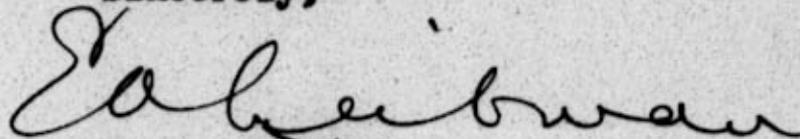
Because you were good enough, to take time out from your more than busy schedule to go to Castle Point on Sunday to be the Guest of Honor at an afternoon made possible through the generosity of a Volunteer Organisation,

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt

perhaps some day, at your convenience, you might be interested in visiting another one of our hospitals to see a little of this active patient participation program. If you would be, we would be extremely happy to have you do so.

In the meantime, I want to say again how much your visit to Castle Point, Sunday, was appreciated by the patients and by the Veterans Administration.

Sincerely,



E. A. LEIBMAN
Director
Special Services