

SWAR ← SWET

Sweeney

Alvin D. Sweeney,
Mount Holly, New Jersey
April 20, 1947

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt,
Hyde Park, New York

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I am taking the liberty of sending you a bit of verse, the inspiration for it came to me while viewing pictures of the American cemeteries of World War #1. I am not a pacifist, having been a member of the National and State Guard for about seventeen years. Nevertheless, in view of events since November 11, 1918, including the untimely passing of your beloved husband, which left us floundering again in another sea of political hates and chicanery, I can not but wonder, and doubt, the possibility of the world ever living within the concepts of the brotherhood of man. I, being the father of two boys of military age, am hoping---and praying---that God will provide us with a leader, one who will carry on the fight started by your husband. Unfortunately, to date, I have heard of no one competent for such a task.

With kind personal regards, I am,

Sincerely yours,

A. D. Sweeney

Sweeney

THE LAST CAMPAIGN

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Last night I had a vivid dream;
An Angel did appear---
She placed a trumpet to her lips
And blew it strong and clear.

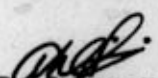
It was a call to battle,
To those who died in vain!
"Arise, ye Dead, and take up arms,
To free the world again!

And as the trumpet sounded
And echoed through the night,
They came from their Valhalla
To carry on the fight!

The men who died for Freedom
Were on the march again;
They had a score to settle,
It would be the last campaign!

Again the trumpet sounded
As I watched this weird sight;
A crusade of Immortals---
Armed with righteous might!

They stormed across the universe;
Their wrath a searing flame---
That purged the earth of tyranny,
And cleansed it of its' shame!


By A. D. Sweeney - 4-28-47
Mt. Holly, N.J.
ex-Capt. Inf. NJSG.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Sweet
file

October 1, 1947

Dear Malvina:

I caused inquiry to be made through our personnel office regarding the case of Miss Ethyl L. Sweet, who wrote to Mrs. Roosevelt under date of September eighth.

I enclose copy of memorandum from our Personnel Officer. While it probably will not satisfy Miss Sweet, it seems to be the best that can be done in her behalf. Anyway, she is able to keep her job and to continue to reside in Washington. She seemed to have strenuous objection to pulling up stakes and transferring to Chicago.

I am also returning Miss Sweet's letter to Mrs. Roosevelt.

As always,

Ever affectionately,

Bill

Miss Malvina Thompson,
Val-Kill Cottage,
Hyde Park, New York.

Enclosure.



Sweet

September 30, 1947

MEMORANDUM FOR WILLIAM D. HASSETT

Dear Bill:

On receipt of your memorandum of the 26th regarding Miss Ethyl L. Sweet, I immediately called the Department of the Army and arrangements have been made to keep Miss Sweet in Washington at her present grade, CAF-6. This will not completely satisfy her, but it is the best that can be done.

As to her claim that she transferred within the War Department from one job to another with reemployment rights in the old job, I am informed that such was not the case, and I hardly see how it could be within a Department as that would almost completely tie the hands of the executive in shifting his personnel. Some one may have inadvertently told her she would get her old job back.

The War Department has been undergoing rather severe down-grading due to three factors -- reduction in force, reorganization, and the Royall plan which has affected nearly everyone.

Last January, so I am told, the function to which Miss Sweet was assigned was moved from the city, but arrangements were made to keep her in Washington. Now again the function in which she is working is moved from the city and arrangements have been made to keep her in Washington.

I think that everything has been done at this moment that can properly be done.

DONALD S. DAWSON



Tell Bill Hassett facts and ask if he feels
that she should be helped to do so.

W. that Folaco



ADDRESS REPLY TO
CHIEF OF ENGINEERS, U. S. ARMY
WASHINGTON, D. C.

WAR DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF ENGINEERS
WASHINGTON

REFER TO FILE NO. _____

*Tell Bill Foster
father work of the fields that
the field he helped to
develop*

1726 M Street, N.W.,
8 September 1947

*(Rec'd 9/25/47)
AW.*

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt;

In writing this letter to you, I know that I am being very presumptuous, but I need assistance so very badly in the matter outlined that I have taken the liberty to communicate with you. I am most humble, however.

Briefly, I was born and reared in Fulton, N.Y. and attended the school where Nancy Cook and Marion Dickerman taught many years ago. We have many, many mutual friends but I doubt if Miss Cook and Miss Dickerman would remember me although I recall them very well. We had one mutual friend - Will Branche (now deceased) the name of whom would bring back happy memories. Before coming to Washington in 1918, I was city court stenographer under Hon. Victor C. Lewis, then mayor, and was associated with Mr. Langdon C. Foster, whom I feel sure visited you and Mr. Roosevelt at the White House. Am well acquainted with Mr. William Hartnett, who was appointed our postmaster by your beloved husband. Mother (who was recently passed away) and I were only two of the millions who worshipped your beloved husband.

My problem is somewhat simple but it seems I cannot find anyone sufficiently interested to clarify it. I was appointed to Washington in the War Department in January, 1918 and have had close to 25 years service, the majority of it with Office Chief of Engineers. I am now 53 years of age and have only a few more years before being eligible for retirement. By reason of my service and experience prior to World War II, I had acquired a position of Administrative Assistance, CAF-7 (which is considered having done very well). Immediately after Pearl Harbor disaster, the work which I was doing then was declared non-defense. I was requested to take another position, in the same agency, where my particular skill and experience could be utilized - with the definite understanding that I should be entitled to reemployment rights to my old position after the emergency ceased. I was promoted to Supply Analyst, CAF-9 position, having to do with evaluating the supply and demand of Engineer supplies for overseas use.



2 - 9/8/47

In September, 1946, the work greatly decreased and foreseeing reorganization, I requested permission to return to my old position. This was denied by the Personnel office, under certain regulations, and a veteran was later placed in my old position. In the reorganization which took place later on, I was down-graded to a CAP-6 position which has set me back just about ten years. (For your information certain salaries go with certain grades, CAP-6 being lower than CAP-7, etc.) I have lost practically all that which I acquired prior to World War II. To add to the hardship of losing practically \$50 per month, I am assigned to a group which are scheduled to move to Chicago at the end of this month. That is a little more than I can take.

After 30 years in Washington, it is very difficult for me to break up my home and move there. It is contended that since I had a permanent appointment in Washington and left that position on request - to assist in the war effort - I should be entitled to another position at least comparable to that held before transfer and assigned to a position in the Washington Office Chief of Engineers.

Could you, possibly, in the goodness of your heart, contact someone in Washington who could assist me. I am only requesting that to which I am entitled. I am not insisting that I return to my old position particularly. I am not objecting to being downgraded from CAP-9 since that was war time ~~promotion~~ promotion and it was understood that it was only temporary but I do not feel that I should be downgraded to CAP-6, be penalized below that grade which I had prior to the war and in addition, be sent out of the city. I am not too well and feel that I could not endure assignment in Chicago for any length of time.

Perhaps you know General R.A. Wheeler, Chief of Engineers, sufficiently well to write him. I am so confident that your signature on a letter would help me. A letter would have to be to someone of sufficiently high echelon to request General Wheeler to place me in a CAP-7 position and permit me to stay in the Washington office. Mrs. Perkins - Mr. Ross, Secretary to President Truman, Mr. Forrestal, new Chief of National Defense, under unification of Army and Navy, General Eisenhower, General Omar Bradley - any one would lend considerable weight.

May I humbly ask, if you feel that you can help me, that you do not send this letter through channels. I am very well known in War Department and would not like to have this request circulated.

Since the move to Chicago is scheduled to take place about September 24, may I ask your prompt attention to my request (if you feel that you can help me) that it may be effective. I shall be ever grateful and indeed very humble.

With very best wishes for your continued good health,

Sincerely yours,

(Miss) Ethyl L. Sweet

P.S. My efficiency has not been questioned. Have had "Excellent" rating for majority of years.

Sweetland

Campobello Island
New Brunswick, Canada
July 29, 1947

Dear Mr. Sweetland:

I enjoyed your article very much and appreciate your writing it.

Last month I was sent a question by the Ladies Home Journal, for my questions and answer page on the quotation about me in the first Farley article. I decided that as my answer will not come out for three months, I would answer it, so that is another answer which will be coming along.

A good deal of the material that has appeared in these articles will also be covered in my book and my recollections do not always agree with Mr. Farley's and I think I can support my statements in many cases by the recollections of other people as well.

Very sincerely yours,

Ann
February

Sweetland

Farley 'Hypocrisy' Charge Against Roosevelt Refuted

by MONROE SWEETLAND

Just now COLLIER'S magazine is selling pretty well, thanks to a muck-raking series of articles by 'Jim' Farley, one-time Chairman of the Democratic National Committee, whose niche in fame was carved him by his association with Franklin D. Roosevelt. But as has often happened through history, there proves to be one or more members of the intimate circle around the great who capitalize on those among us who want to believe the worst, who love expose's, and who delight in the innuendoes, gossip and part-truths which can be emitted to smudge the record of great and good men.

Certainly this writer has no objection to having historical fact set straight. Nor do I think Franklin D. Roosevelt wore a halo, nor should be above historical criticism and discussion.

Doubts Farley Facts

But in the fifth and last of the articles is a statement by Farley which the Editor is by accident fit a position to challenge, and which throws grave suspicion around the reliability of Farley's ill-tempered thrusts at his mentor.

Says Farley:

"What I didn't like was the hypocrisy of it all: the effort put forth to make it appear that the President was being drafted . . ."

The ugly word 'hypocrisy' is not hurled lightly by the splenetic Farley. He writes it knowing very well that the dead President will not refute him. In common with all other readers, your editor cannot contradict Farley's allegations based on personal conversation which he says occurred between himself and FDR.

But since Farley speaks of FDR's 'hypocrisy' and immodestly underlines his own unimpeachable integrity throughout the articles, here is related an obscure incident which convinces your editor that Farley does his post-mortem mud-alinging from a very insecure pedestal.

Democratic Convention Incident

Your editor was a member of the 1940 delegation from Oregon to the Democratic National Convention. Late one evening at the Stevens Hotel the writer was engaged in conversation with David K. Niles, then assistant to Harry Hopkins, and Robert S. Allen, then partner with Drew Pearson in "Washington-Merry-Go-Round". As we discussed the forthcoming nomination, we saw the huge, familiar figure of Jim Farley coming our way. He greeted the other two

men where his strength lay. First he named Massachusetts, where he did in fact have support. New York, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Montana were named.

In Michigan he was confident he could count on so many. If Texas and Maryland were released by Garner and Tydings, they were his. And so went the count, nearly all of it the rankest wishful-thinking, as the tally next day on the roll-call clearly showed.

The whole discussion lasted 12 or 15 minutes. Mr. Farley did all the talking. The clear remembrance of this revealing soliloquy has recurred many times. It served well this week to dispell the mood of sanctimonious pretense in which James A. Farley wrote his scurrilous attack.

"Sorehead"

COLLIER'S calls this article "The Parting of the Ways", with a subtitle "Why I Broke with Roosevelt". In his article Farley denies that his defeat for the presidency makes him a 'sorehead'. The sub-title might more accurately have been "A Sorehead's Alibi".

Was Roosevelt "Drafted"

One more fact within the personal knowledge of your editor give further evidence of Farley's inaccurate and unreliable reports.

Farley's 'hypocrisy' charge was that the 3rd term demand was Roosevelt's own notion. Farley calls it "the effort . . . to make it appear that the President was being drafted".

At least in Oregon was conceived an involuntary draft is exactly what it was.

Your editor and others had organized a 'Draft Roosevelt Committee', under the chairmanship of David C. Epps. Early in 1940 this little committee prepared petitions to place President Roosevelt's name on the ballot in Oregon's Democratic Primary. Sufficient signatures were quickly secured. Anti-Roosevelt Democrats led by Ex-Governor Chas. A. Martin, filed John N. Garner of Texas. One evening just before the closing of the filing period your editor received a phone call from Washington, D. C. The President's close friend and mouthpiece, Lowell Mellett, stated that it was the President's wish that his name not be filed in the Oregon Primary, and that the Draft-Roosevelt Committee was expected to find a way to withdraw the petitions. Your editor was advised that the President did not wish to have support organized behind him, and that he was not a candidate.

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Farley Denies Running

Now, in Mr. Farley's articles he makes out that he wasn't really a disappointed candidate, but that he never was in the running. "Some people", he quotes himself to have said in 1940, "have the false idea that I think I am running for the Presidency. I am not running".

But that evening in the Stevens, only a few hours before the balloting, I witnessed one of the most breathlessly-running candidates I ever saw for any office, obscure or exalted.

"Bob! How am I running?" was his opening remark to Mr. Allen.

"This must be a Farley wise-crack" the ogle-eyed Oregonian thought, since FDR's renomination, to every one but Farley, was a foregone conclusion. But from the look on the faces of Niles and Allen it was apparent Farley was not kidding.

Farley Claims Votes

The great politician, reputed to know more precincts by percentage of Democratic votes than any man in America, and who knew legions of Party workers by name, clearly thought he was "in the running". He toted up for the three list-

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President's Request Rejected

The Oregon Committee weighed earnestly the President's express desire, but it also weighed against the President's preference the overwhelming sentiment of Oregon's Democrats. The decision was that wishes of the host of Oregonians who had signed the petitions could not be disregarded, and the filing was completed that eventful day.

President Roosevelt defeated Garner 7-to-1 in the May Primary, and went on to carry Oregon in November even with Oregon's much-loved Senator Charles McNary on the opposing ticket.

Roosevelt Place Secure

The sentiment for President Roosevelt was genuine, deep and insistent. It is folly for a spiteful, disgruntled member of the palace guard to try to deny the historical fact that Franklin D. Roosevelt was 'drafted' in 1940. At least so far as Oregon is concerned the record is clear and indisputable.

The hearts of millions of Americans are Franklin D. Roosevelt's Hall of Fame. No fallen angel can poison nor mere journalistic screed contaminate our faith in the great man of good-will and good works who was four times the decisive first-choice of the American people.