

Roosevelt, Belle
(Mrs. Kermit)
1945-52

[Roosevelt]

Belle

~~John~~
John

June 25, 1948

Dear John:

I am delighted that you are going to make the memorial address in Congress. It seems to me rather late to have this memorial, and so I think the only thing to do is to point up the fact that as time passes, the perspective of what a man has lived by is probably more important than the actual things he did, because new situations necessitate new answers and one can not apply the same theories or exact methods. The background of a man's thinking and acting is at all times a living thing.

If you can in some way touch on this, it might help a lot of the progressives who are feeling rather lost and friendless at the present time.

I am so glad you are going to make this speech. No one could do it better. It is a question of feeling and you feel more deeply than most people.

You must be very tired and I wish you would come up for a rest at Hyde Park.

Very cordially yours,

Nine Sutton Place

June 24, 1946

Dearest Eleanor,

If you have even the smallest suggestion for Gil's speech I think it would comfort and please him - and be helpful.

He is profoundly moved by having been chosen to make this memorial address. He, naturally, wants to give the best in him, - but is upset - and rattled by the fact that he is pressed and driven by previous appointments for this coming week - which he cannot cancel now.

Franklin's death hit him very hard at the time, and with renewed force when he returned from England in May. He is now feeling a desperate loneliness which comes inevitably to all those who loved Franklin. First, there was the period of shock and consciousness of world calamity - later, with increasing intensity as time passes, the personal loss.

Gil is very tired - and this honor has affected him emotionally. He wants above all to satisfy you and feels inadequate. He was delighted when I gave him your messages this morning - but I do think a word - or thought or suggestion - or idea from you would mean much - and be constructive ---- though I realize it may be impossible.

