

R Walton Moore
Box 3
Bull. H., W.C. 1938

Bullitt

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Moore Papers

Box 3

Personal

August 2, 1938.

Dear Bill:

To show you how much I appreciate your letter of July 19th I am acknowledging it on the very day of its arrival.

I make a point of reading all of your cables and see some of your other communications and thus I know how tremendously busy you are in considering problems in which the world is interested, to say nothing of the innumerable other matters you can not neglect. You are being constantly photographed in American newspapers (only this morning you were shown seated in company with Secretary Morgenthau and Mr. Bonnet) and, except that you look very well, I would fear that you may suffer a breakdown from doing more work than anyone man should attempt. I can tell you that you are being praised right along and I am certain that in the estimation of those who are at all aware of the activities of our representatives abroad you stand easily at the head of the list. That is the opinion expressed in a letter I received the other day from John Cudahy and that is certainly my own opinion. You are making a useful and brilliant record which gives your friends deep satisfaction.

I hate to think how more and more disappointing the world situation becomes in spite of all the hopes that are cherished and the guidance that wise men try to exert. When I came to the Department in September, 1933 it was generally believed that the world was becoming gradually more peaceful and with a fair prospect of wars being less frequent and today there are not only wars that were not then dreamed of, but rumors of war that cause you to regard Europe as being on a trembling and perilous balance, to quote the words of Edmund Burke. Here we, of course, feel the greatest concern, but beyond that and a good deal of talk there is nothing that we can do to affect the course of events on the other side.

There is a political evolution in progress here, the outcome of which no one can predict with confidence. My own belief is that the Democratic party will win heavily in November, and that thereafter the Republican party will hardly be a factor and that in 1940 the contest will be between liberals and conservatives, whatever the party names may be. There is increasing discussion as to who will be the liberal nominee in
1940

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1940 and thus there is naturally much speculation as to the possibility of the President running for a third term. On that point he has said nothing to the public ~~now~~ so far as I have heard to any individual among those who are close to him. In this hot weather some of the primaries are being held. Today the people are voting in a democratic primary to select a candidate for Congress to represent the district just across the Potomac River which I once represented. The incumbent, a man named Smith, who has held the job since I retired from Congress, is being opposed by William E. Dodd Jr., son of Dr. Dodd. In spite of the fact that Smith has opposed several of the President's measures I feel certain that he will come out ahead. He is not an admirable person although a very industrious politician. In my judgment, which I was very frank in stating to Dr. Dodd and his son before the latter announced his candidacy, it seems to me rather foolish for a young man to expect to succeed in a district with whose people he had almost no acquaintance and without the support of any of the people who take an active part in politics. But he determined to embark in the adventure and I assume that the anti-Administration people will claim that his defeat is a defeat of the President. Anticipating this and being the President's loyal follower, I declined to be drawn into Dodd's fight. I might speak of more important primaries, but would be only giving what the newspapers will furnish you.

I am just as uncertain about our business conditions as you are about the prospect of a war in Europe. As you know, there has been something of an up-swing recently, but as to whether it will continue and to what extent is a question that no one ventures to feel safe in answering.

Although the heat makes Washington pretty uncomfortable I feel very well and am staying here not only to handle my own work, but in a measure handle the work of others who are away on vacation, among them at this time Messersmith, Sayre and Hackworth. The fact is that so far as I can determine I am as vigorous physically and mentally as when I took office.

I am sending Anne my love. I do not know a more attractive young girl and can understand what a joy she is to you. The people at my house are getting on about as usual and the McCandlish children in whom, as you know, I take the keenest interest are in every way satisfactory. The oldest girl is now doing responsible work in the Archives Office and I am trying to find some work for her sister who graduated with honors at Sweet Briar College in June. The boy made such a good record in his freshman year at Princeton that he has been awarded a scholarship

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scholarship for next year, which very substantially eases the burden his mother carries in educating him. Although he was a freshman, he made a high rating in sophomore mathematics and volunteered in a mathematical competition with the result that he and another youngster divided a money prize.

When you write again tell me, or if you do not write, have Offie tell me when we may expect to see you in Washington.

With all best wishes, I am

Affectionately your friend,

RWM:ABM

Paris, July 19, 1938.

Personal and
Confidential

Dear Judge Moore:

For some reason or another there are not this morning twenty eminent Jews in the waiting room expecting to talk to me about refugees from Germany, and twenty eminent humanitarians expecting to talk to me about events in Spain, and twenty visitors with letters from the White House and the Department of State, and Senators and Representatives, and, to my amazement, I actually have time to write a letter.

I have thought of you very often lately and wanted to hear from you, and you may be sure that when I do not write it is simply because I am going at an impossible pace. Please let me have news of you and all the family.

Anne arrived in magnificent shape and has been enjoying Chantilly thoroughly. Nothing could have been more satisfactory than her first year in Foxcroft
and

The Honorable

R. Walton Moore,

Counselor, Department of State,

Washington, D. C.

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and her development has been lovely. I am not able to spend as much time as I should like with her because of the pressure here, which is almost unendurable during this season of summer tourists and official functions, but we do lots of things together. For example, she went with me when I was made an honorary citizen of Reims, and to see Howard Hughes and his companions take off for Moscow. She has, as you know, that nice little girl from New England, Betsy Davenport, with her, and they enjoy each other tremendously.

I am living at Chantilly altogether and only open the town house when I have to give some sort of official dinner or other function. The ball for the four hundred youngsters from Annapolis was really jolly. From every corner of Paris I have heard applause for the discipline, to say nothing of the good looks of the boys.

I don't like the general situation in Europe at all. I have reported so fully to the Department by telegram that I can add little information; but between ourselves, if I were betting, I should consider that the odds were sixty against and forty in favor of general war this year. I don't believe that Hitler will make war in cold blood without the stimulus of some sort of a bloody incident in
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the Sudeten regions. But I feel sure that the Sudeten will regard the concessions that the Czechs will offer as grossly inadequate, and I fear greatly that the Sudeten will start some sort of physical action which the Czechs will feel that they have to put down by force. If a considerable number of Sudeten should be killed, I think Hitler would march in. He might take over the whole of Czechoslovakia at once - and he could occupy the whole country within three weeks at the outside - or he might just occupy the Sudeten regions and then offer peace.

To say that peace is at the mercy of an incident was never more true than today, and the question of whether the incident will come or not is on the knees of the gods. As a result, I don't expect to leave Paris at all this summer, except perhaps for a two-day visit to John Cudahy in Dublin.

The purpose of that visit will appeal to you as a good Virginian. Mr. William Nelson Cromwell has offered to give Anne a really good riding horse and Cudahy has discovered one that he thinks she will like. So we are planning to fly to Dublin about the 29th or 30th of this month to look at horses. This trip will undoubtedly be filled with diplomatic significance but I can assure you that it has no meaning aside from the oat bin.

From

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From this side of the ocean the economic improvement at home looks real, and my guess is that if it should continue the elections in November would turn out well. What is your opinion? Please write to me.

I really miss you and miss your letters.

Every possible good wish to you and to all the family.

Yours affectionately,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Bill". The signature is stylized with a long horizontal stroke extending to the left and a vertical stroke extending upwards from the top of the "i".

William C. Bullitt
