

● PSF

Interior Dept.: Harold L. Ickes

1937-39

Box 72

1937(?)

?

RBF. ✓  
Jehow

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

I think that it is the  
fight of Jackson against  
the U. S. Bank all over again  
with concentrated capital  
in <sup>the</sup> place of the Bank

# 2. P.



*P.S.F.*  
*clerk*

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR  
WASHINGTON



January 6, 1937.

*P.F.*

My dear Mr. President:

I have already told you how wonderful I thought your message to Congress was this afternoon, but I am so enthusiastic over it that I want to tell you again. Once more you have made history, and enduring history at that. What you said needed greatly to be said, but no one could have done the job as expertly as you did it. You are skillful with the rapier and can deal more deadly blows with it than others can with a bludgeon.

It was a great speech and an outstanding event in our constitutional history. Your perfect delivery added to its effectiveness and the response that you evoked showed that you were discussing a subject that loomed large in the minds of those who heard you.

Sincerely yours,

*Harold Z. Ickes*

Secretary of the Interior.

The President,  
The White House.



*file  
private*

*PSF  
Chalmers  
Jekes*

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR  
WASHINGTON

January 20, 1937.

My dear Mr. President:

This is my resignation as Secretary of the Interior,  
for acceptance at your convenience.

Sincerely yours,

*Harold L. Ickes*

Secretary of the Interior.

The President,  
The White House.

STANDARD FORM No. 14A  
APPROVED BY THE PRESIDENT  
MARCH 10, 1926

*PSF Ickes*

# TELEGRAM

OFFICIAL BUSINESS—GOVERNMENT RATES

HONORABLE HAROLD L. ICKES  
VIA COAST GUARD

GREATLY DISTURBED ABOUT ALIGATORS STOP AS SENIOR OFFICER PRESENT PLEASE INSIST  
HOPKINS DELIVER TO YOU COLONEL WATSONS BOTTLE OF BAIT STOP PA BEGS WHOLE WEST  
POINT SCANDAL BE NOT REVIVED AT THIS TIME STOP HIS PROMOTION DEPENDS ON HIS  
AFFAIR WITH THE ALIGATORS BEING FORGOTTEN STOP NATIONAL BUDGET ALMOST IN  
BALANCE IF YOU BOTH STAY AWAY ANOTHER WEEK DEBTOR NATIONS WILL PAY WAR DEBTS  
AND WE CAN ALL HEAD FOR SAMOA

F D R

FROM

The White House

Washington

APRIL 20 1937

*file personal*

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 112609

DECLASSIFIED  
By Deputy Archivist of the U.S.

By W. J. Stewart Date FEB 24 1972

May 21, 1937.

MEMORANDUM FOR  
THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR

I have read with interest Colonel Hackett's letter to you under date of May seventeenth but, frankly, I am not at all satisfied with the way he has handled these municipal applications.

Not a day goes by that some Senator, Congressman, Governor or Mayor does not come in and tell me that all through last Summer and last Autumn, and even as late as this Winter and Spring, Colonel Hackett has given them the impression -- the very strong impression -- that if they would hold a bond election it would definitely help them to get a 45% grant.

All these people may exaggerate -- but the fact remains that they all insist that they have been encouraged by Colonel Hackett to go ahead with elections.

Furthermore, Senators, Congressmen, Governors and Mayors and other officials who have talked with Colonel Hackett tell me when I get them to talk confidentially that Colonel Hackett is saying to them in effect "I would very much like to give you this grant and I heartily approve of it -- but Secretary Ickes and the President are the two people responsible for turning them down -- so don't blame me for I am doing everything I can for you."

You and I, as you know, have been thereby placed in a much more difficult situation than the facts or the policy warrant -- and frankly I cannot really feel that Colonel Hackett has shown complete loyalty to you or to me in this whole matter. I do not know that you and I should do anything about it until this year's legislation is completed but I think that you and I ought seriously to consider getting someone in the Colonel's place by August -- and I hope you will be inclined to agree with that idea, for I gathered from what you said that you were not wholly satisfied.

F. D. R.



PSF Interior  
files  
Shapett memo  
dches

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR  
WASHINGTON

May 22, 1937.

My dear Mr. President:

This will acknowledge receipt of your communication of  
May 20, to which was attached a document marked "secret."  
I will be governed by your instructions in this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Harold I. Ickes

Secretary of the Interior.

The President,  
The White House.



*file  
personal*

*PST  
Lakes*

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR  
WASHINGTON

June 10, 1937.

The President,

The White House.

My dear Mr. President:

Your letter of June 9, with reference to the proposed Puerto Rico investigation, has been handed to me by Under Secretary West.

I shall, of course, implicitly follow your instructions, but I regret a situation that might have been prevented if we had moved as quickly as you and I had wanted. I hope that we do not find ourselves in that vicious circle where the Federal authority tramples upon or ignores constitutional rights, the people denied those rights resort to violence and then the Federal authority, in order to assert itself, further denies civil rights. You will recall that when I suggested an investigation of Puerto Rico I expressed the fear that unless it was undertaken quickly we would find ourselves in the situation where, regardless of civil rights and constitutional guarantees, we would have to uphold the hand of the Governor.

I do not believe that if an announcement had been made that the Administration proposed to conduct a fair and impartial investigation the incident of two days ago, when Judge Cooper was shot at, would have occurred. That this announcement was not made was entirely the fault of Governor Winship. You suggested three weeks ago tomorrow that I ask him to request an investigation. I did so immediately by a code radiogram. Not having heard from him, I got him on the telephone the following Monday, May 24. The excuse he gave me for not answering my radiogram was that he was in a different part of the Island, although just why it should be impossible to reach the Governor of Puerto Rico, for two or three days, with an important official radiogram from Washington, I do not understand.

In our telephone conversation on Monday, May 24, Governor Winship had a good deal to say about "riff-raff" and "the best people". He was strongly opposed to an investigation of any sort. I insisted that as the head of the Department, responsible in some degree at least for Puerto Rico, I had a right to make an administrative investigation for my own information. I pointed out that I did not know the facts and that I was entitled to know them. I said that an investigation, at his request, would be in his own interest. He said he was coming to Washington the end of that week with Dr. Gruening and asked me to defer action until his arrival.

On Friday morning, May 28, after I had become ill, I had Mr. Burlew bring Governor Winship and Dr. Gruening to my home. I said that the issues seemed clear. It was simply a question whether as Secretary of the Interior I had the right to make an investigation to inform myself. I disclaimed any intention of doing anything that would interfere with the processes of justice on the Island. Both Governor Winship and Dr. Gruening agreed and they left with the understanding that Governor Winship was to write to me suggesting an investigation, which Dr. Gruening was to approve.

The following week matters seemed to drag. I sent a peremptory memorandum from the Naval Hospital that the matter be brought to a conclusion. I am informed that several conferences were held, presided over by Under Secretary West, at which time the whole matter was thoroughly canvassed with the result that Governor Winship once more agreed to ask for an investigation.

Then ensued two or three days of stalling and evasion on the part of both Governor Winship and Dr. Gruening. I was pressing Mr. Burlew to get results and he couldn't get in touch with either one. Finally Governor Winship declined to carry out his agreement to ask for an investigation, whereupon I proceeded to set up a Commission for an investigation. The Commission was already selected, the travel authorities signed and everything was in shape to go forward when the unfortunate incident occurred in San Juan two days ago. Then came your letter of the 9th.

As a matter of fact, on the day on which Under Secretary West and Mr. Burlew were trying to get in touch with Governor Winship and Dr. Gruening, they were at the Capitol reporting to Senator Tydings without the prior approval of either the Secretary or the Acting Secretary of the Interior. I anticipate a Congressional investigation of this whole Puerto Rico situation, and unless the Department is timely in informing itself, we may be in serious difficulty, especially considering the attitude of Senator Tydings toward the Administration. Furthermore, I do not know what to say to the protestants who demand an investigation and who have criticized Governor Winship and Dr. Gruening to the point of demanding their removal.

You know better than I what may be the repercussion in Central and South America if we have further serious disturbances in Puerto Rico. But quite aside from this, it seems to me that since Puerto Rico is in my Department I should be in a position to advise myself as to the facts

in such a situation as has arisen. I don't pretend to know what the facts are and I have no disposition to pre-judge, but, I am frank to say, that on the basis of such facts as have come to me there is much to be explained on the part of Governor Winship and his administration, so far as the Ponce disturbance is concerned. I have honestly tried to digest such facts as have come to me, but here is a situation where, necessarily, both parties are making self-serving statements.

The situation gets down to this: Governor Winship by his evasions and delays prevented the announcement of the appointment of a Commission to investigate at a time when this might have done much to allay feeling. In the meantime an "incident" occurs and now he pleads that incident as a further reason against an investigation. I know that if I were in his place I would have asked for an investigation voluntarily some time ago. If he is not afraid of the facts, why is he so anxious not to have them brought to the surface by the Administration itself which, naturally, may be supposed not to want to do anything that would hurt its prestige either in Puerto Rico, the continental United States or Latin America.

As a matter of course, I will carry out your instructions, but I hope you will pardon me if I say that the more incidents of the sort that have been occurring for some time in Puerto Rico, the more clearly is a fair and impartial investigation by your own Administration indicated.

When everything is going on happily, there is no reason for an investigation, and it seems to be Governor Winship's theory that when there are disturbances that is no time for an investigation. I am not particularly interested in what may happen to Governor Winship, but I am very much interested in the record that your Administration will leave for justice and fair play in our Possessions, especially where the issue of civil liberties is involved.

Sincerely yours,

*Harold Z. Felt*

Secretary of the Interior.

PSF Ickes

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

26 Jan '39

**NOTE:**

THE PRESIDENT TOOK THIS  
UP PERSONALLY WITH THE SECRETARY  
OF THE INTERIOR.



THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR  
WASHINGTON

January 26, 1939.

175F I c 1200  
THE WHITE HOUSE  
JAN 26 4 16 PM '39  
RECEIVED

My dear Mr. President:

I feel deeply the desperate situation in which the Spanish Loyalists find themselves today with their backs against the wall fighting heroically a battle which I profoundly believe is in no small degree ours. I do not want to add to your heavy burden of responsibility at a critical time in the world's history, but I would not be true to myself if I failed to make a last appeal that the embargo be lifted if it can possibly be done. It may now be too late, but perhaps the inevitable uplift in morale that would come to the Loyalists when they learned that they did not stand alone in the world might sustain them until additional armaments could reach them with which they might still beat back Franco and his Moors, his Italian Fascists and his German Nazis.

These three enclosures have just come to me and I am forwarding them to you. You know Mary Dreier and the Paul Kelloggs, senders of the telegrams. Dr. Graham is the chief surgeon on the staff of the hospital on whose letterhead he writes.

Sincerely yours,

*Harold Z. Ickes*

Secretary of the Interior.

The President,  
The White House.

Encs.

PSF Ickes

Sec

June 22, 1937.

Dear Harold:-

I do wish I could have come to see you but I did not want to give you a perfectly vile cold which settled in my right nostril and became exceedingly athletic!

I am so glad you really are feeling better. I will try to come in next Monday to tell you about the Jefferson Island party.

Yours for cracking the whip!

Honorable Harold I. Ickes,  
Secretary of the Interior,  
Naval Hospital,  
Washington, D. C.

OFFICE OF  
THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR

My dear Mr. President:

The people are with you and you hold the whip hand over Senators and Representatives who think they are bigger than their party. They want you to forgive and forget. I hope you will crack the whip, force roll calls on your measures and, if necessary, make them issues in 1938 and 1940. You can win and I don't want to see you end your term except in a blaze of glory.

I am getting better every day and will soon be ready for the trenches again.

Most sincerely,

Harold T. Peters

June 22, 1937.

73F Ickes:  
Ickes

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

July 21, 1937.

Letter from Ickes to Pres. enclosing speech  
made by Gifford Pinchot at National Convention  
of the Izaak Walton League in Chicago.

SEE--Pinchot-Gen-corres-Drawer 2--1937

PSF

(1) Jakes

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

August 25, 1937.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

MEMORANDUM FOR  
THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR

The Housing Bill has not come to me yet but, of course, I will sign it.

The more I go into the names of suggested Administrators, the more I lean to Mr. John Ihlder, the Executive Officer of the Alley Dwelling Authority of the District of Columbia. He is widely regarded as one of the ablest man in the public housing field. We can talk this over when you get back.

F. D. R.



*file  
Parsons  
confidential*

*PSF  
Interior  
files*

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR  
WASHINGTON

November 20, 1937.

My dear Mr. President:

I make the following charges against Under-Secretary West:

On November 1, Mr. West came to my office at my instance because I wanted to satisfy myself with respect to his relationship with Mr. Louis R. Glavis subsequent to the latter's resignation as Director of the Division of Investigations. During this conversation Mr. West repeated a charge that he had made to me some six months previously to the effect that his telephone wire had been tapped. He also alleged that he had been followed, the inference being by some one under my direction and control. A third allegation was that his telephone was cross-connected during conversations, thus enabling someone else to listen in.

I denied specifically and categorically the allegation of espionage and in a three-cornered telephone conversation with Mr. Smith, Director of the Division of Investigations of the Department of the Interior, Mr. Smith made clear that at no time had he caused Mr. West to be followed; that under the rules of the Department he could not do this sort of thing without prior written authority from me and that he had never had any such authority from me. Mr. West professed himself to be satisfied with Mr. Smith's statement and my own in this regard.

With reference to cross-connecting on Mr. West's telephone, I called in the chief operator, the assistant chief operator and the two women who handle Mr. West's calls. These four women were questioned in Mr. West's presence and he professed to be satisfied with their statements that while it would be possible to cross-connect, it had never been done. They all averred that on no one's orders except my own would they cross-connect on any telephone and that I had never given any such orders.

In the matter of the alleged telephone tapping, in Mr. West's presence I called up the President of the Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company. I told him that Mr. West thought that his telephone had been tapped and asked him to send an expert to test Mr. West's line, both for a present tap as well as for evidence of a prior one, if any such evidence existed.

The General Manager of the Company, Mr. C. A. Robinson, accompanied by a technician and Mr. Gascoigne, who is in charge of the Government telephone service, called that same day on Mr. West. Please note that my order to the telephone company, which was given in Mr. West's presence, was that Mr. West's telephone wire be tested for a possible tap.

Mr. West, without prior authority or subsequent ratification from me, in fact without my knowledge, ordered that my telephone line, and those of First Assistant Secretary Walters and Assistant Secretary Chapman be also tested. The day following Mr. West suggested to me that the Walters and the Chapman lines be tested and I gave orders to that effect. On this occasion, Mr. West failed to mention to me that he had already given such orders nor did he say anything about the instructions that he had given with respect to my own line.

The investigation developed that there was no present tap on any of the four lines investigated or any evidence of an earlier tap. It did develop in the investigation that my telephone line into my private office had a dictaphone connection. The telephone people, without consulting me and apparently acting under orders from Mr. West, or at least in understanding cooperation with him, wrote a report which contained the above facts.

Mr. West knew all about this report and the time when its delivery was to be expected in my office. When the report reached my desk I ascertained for the first time that my own wire had been investigated. The report referred to an "obstruction" on my wire. The telephone people discussed this "obstruction" with Mr. West, who questioned whether it might be a dictaphone tap. He was answered in the affirmative.

On the theory that it was no concern of subordinates in this Department what my own line might or might not show, I called the President of the Telephone Company when his report reached my desk and told him that I wanted the language with reference to my line deleted. This he did after withdrawing his original letter. The following morning he sent me a substitute report in like form but referring only to the condition of the lines of the three assistant secretaries. A copy of this I sent to Mr. West and the other copy I supplied to the other two assistant secretaries for their information.

Subsequently, some two or three days ago, Mr. West wrote to the telephone company asking for a copy of its original report containing a reference to the "obstruction" on my line.

On November 18 a sensational newspaper story broke to the effect that my personal line had been tapped, with the result that one of my confidential aides (apparently meaning Mr. Burlew) could hear everything that was said in my office. This, of course, was not true. It represented merely another effort to frame Mr. Burlew, with me as a fellow victim.

I charge, and I am prepared to prove, that Mr. West furnished the basic facts upon which this newspaper story, which was originally written by David Friendly of the Washington Daily News, was built up. I am prepared to prove that Mr. West wrote to the Washington Telephone Company for a copy of its original report referring to the "obstruction" on my line. I am prepared to prove that Mr. West showed a copy of this letter to Mr. Friendly.

Mr. West has shown himself by this act to be disloyal not only to his immediate chief but to the President of the United States. Nothing but discredit can follow from the publication of such a story. In my judgment this incident will seriously hamper you in your effort to change the name of this Department to that of Department of Conservation. I had had occasion prior to this to mistrust Mr. West and to doubt his loyalty. In my opinion, he is not a fit person to be employed in this Department, or, in fact, in any position of responsibility and trust.

You know the difficulties that we have had here as a result of Mr. Glavis' activities. For Mr. Glavis I can blame no one but myself. All that I can say in condonation of my judgment with respect to him is that when I realized the damage that Mr. Glavis was doing and the real

threat to the Administration that he constituted, I lost no time first in curbing him and then in easing him out of this Department. I thought that I had paid dearly enough for employing Mr. Glavis and in allowing him a freer hand than he proceeded to demonstrate he could not be trusted with. We have done our best in the Interior Department to live down Mr. Glavis but Mr. West, by his disloyal act, not only has revived the scandals of the Glavis era, he has inaugurated one of his own. Unfortunately, this Department is not the one in the Government in which scandals can best be neutralized.

I have laid these facts before you in the belief that it was my duty to do so. I am prepared either to prove every allegation made or to withdraw it.

Sincerely yours,

*Arnold Z. Schan*

Secretary of the Interior.

The President,  
The White House.

file  
personal

27 Dec

1937

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR

P5F  
clerk

My dear Mr. President:

I am delighted with my Christmas gift. Quite aside from its historical and artistic value, it is a rare gift that I shall always prize. I am proud of it and I thank you for it.

Very sincerely yours,  
Harold T. Pokes

The President,  
The White House,  
Christmas, 1937.

THE WHITE HOUSE  
DEC 27 9 37 AM '37  
RECEIVED

1938

PSF Ickes  
Sec. Interior

Confidential Telegram from Wilson--Germany

To Cordell Hull

In re-Helium

Attached letter from Cordell Hull to President  
and copy of his letter to Sec. of the Interior,  
copy of Sec. Swanson's letter to Sec. of Interior,  
and copy of Sec. Woodring's letter to Sec. of Interior.  
All pertaining to the exportation of helium.

SEE--Hugh Wilson--foreign file--Drawer 2--1938

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

PSF Ickes  
Ickes

January 18, 1938.

**MEMORANDUM FOR  
THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR**

**How about a Government Secretary  
for the Virgin Islands? The place  
seems to be vacant.**

**F. D. R.**



*file  
personal*

*PSF Ickes*  
THE WHITE HOUSE

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR  
WASHINGTON  
RECEIVED  
January 31, 1938.

Feb 2 10 06 AM '38

My dear Mr. President:

Thank you for sending me an autographed copy of "Log of the Cruise of President Franklin D. Roosevelt to Dry Tortugas, Florida." This trip was lots of fun and I am glad to have a permanent record of it, although I suspect that "Pa" Watson resorted to nefarious practices in suppressing the true account of the magnificent efforts he made to see to it that a proper military salute was accorded you upon arrival. However, moral turpitude is to be expected of a man who, acknowledging that he owes me a nickel on a "debt of honor", steadfastly refuses or neglects to pay it.

Sincerely yours,

*Harold I. Ickes*

Secretary of the Interior.

The President,  
The White House.



THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR  
WASHINGTON

THE WHITE HOUSE

FEB 2 11 40 AM '38

FEB -2 1938 RECEIVED

*PSF Ickes  
Ickes*

Memorandum to the President:

Governor E. W. Marland of Oklahoma, in his telegram to you of December 29, 1937, suggested that representatives of the Departments of Navy, Commerce and Interior be designated to attend the conference of Governors of oil-producing states at Hot Springs, Arkansas, on January 24, 1938. In your reply of January 19, 1938, you informed Governor Marland that E. B. Swanson, Associate Director, Petroleum Conservation Division, Department of the Interior, would attend the meeting and prepare a report thereon for transmission by you to the Secretaries of Navy and Commerce.

The original and two copies of said report are enclosed herewith, together with memoranda for your signature, transmitting the duplicate copies to the Secretaries of Navy and Commerce.

*Harold I. Ickes*

Secretary of the Interior.

Enclosures

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
PETROLEUM CONSERVATION DIVISION

WASHINGTON

REPORT ON OIL CONSERVATION CONFERENCE  
CALLED BY GOVERNOR E. W. MARLAND OF OKLAHOMA

HOT SPRINGS, ARKANSAS  
JANUARY 24-25, 1938.

The oil conservation conference called by Governor E. W. Marland of Oklahoma met at the Eastman Hotel, Hot Springs, Arkansas, January 24 and 25, 1938. Governor Clyde Tingley of New Mexico and Governor Carl E. Bailey of Arkansas were present as were also the representatives designated by the Governors of Utah, Illinois, West Virginia and Louisiana. As a result, seven oil-producing States were represented. Invitations to the conference were reported to have been accepted by the Governors of California, Pennsylvania and Kansas, but their designated representatives did not appear. The Governor of Texas was said to have declined the invitation sent to him. Tom Anglin of Oklahoma City was present as an observer on behalf of the Interstate Oil Compact Commission and E. B. Swanson, Associate Director, Petroleum Conservation Division, Department of the Interior, was present as an observer on behalf of the Federal Government.

The conference was called, Governor Marland stated in his opening remarks, in order to study the future demand for petroleum in the United States and our ability to produce a supply sufficient to meet

that demand, as well as to discuss the responsibilities of the governors of the oil-producing States in connection with the problem.

"The States have the sole right to control the production of oil within their own borders but with that right there is the accompanying duty to so exercise that right as to insure the greatest benefit for the Nation", Governor Marland said. "I can see no other authority which can control the production of oil except the authority vested in the oil-producing States. It is our duty to keep a supply of oil available in the United States adequate to meet the demand in the United States. We and we alone can make and enforce conservation measures. We can prevent waste in connection with the production of oil. We can prevent that greater waste that occurs underground after the discovery of every new oil field. We can encourage or discourage the drilling of new wells. We must do more than prevent waste. We must encourage and protect the men who discover new oil fields or endeavor to discover them."

Governor Marland stated that the estimates presented to the conference would show that as much oil would have to be discovered in the United States during the next twenty years, if contemplated demand is to be met, as was discovered in the past eighty years. To the layman, he said, the division of our present proved reserves by our probable annual demand would indicate that we had approximately a ten years' supply on hand but this, he said, is not true because our reserves cannot be produced in that time.

"If we produce our known oil fields at their maximum ability, we could take care of the demand for not quite four years," the Governor said. "Hence, new discoveries must be made and encouraged. If we cannot make these discoveries at the present cost of production, we must secure at least the cost of production necessary to encourage the industry to find new fields, because nothing could be more disastrous to the country and industry than to have a temporary shortage of oil. In the past history of the producing branch of the petroleum industry, whenever new fields were needed, the purchasing companies posted a price to encourage finding them. And they found them, but our problem is much larger now than in the old days."

Governor Marland stated that it would be necessary to discover one billion barrels of oil annually for each of the next five years and an increasing amount thereafter to a possible amount of two billion barrels annually, twenty years hence.

"When there is a thorough understanding of the petroleum needs of the country, when it is understood that we must continue and even accelerate the discovery of new oil fields, I am sure that the petroleum industry, with the encouragement of the oil-producing States, will meet the situation", Governor Marland said. "When we understand that we have not ten years' supply of oil in sight but only four years' supply from existing fields and that new discoveries must be made soon in order to guarantee the fifth year's supply, and that we must discover at the rate of a billion barrels a year or more for the next five years,

and a great deal more than a billion barrels a year after the next five years in order to meet the demand; when the Nation and the oil-producing States and the petroleum industry and the public realize these facts and act on this knowledge, I entertain no fear for the shortage of oil. It is only ignorance of the true situation we need to fear." State Geologist, as to the probability of encountering a

At the close of the conference, the governors and governors' representatives in attendance agreed that a second meeting would be held sometime during the coming fall, for the purpose of further reviewing the data and giving detailed consideration to the methods whereby an ample supply of oil could be made available to meet the future demand for oil in the United States.

Five charts and a detailed report, "Estimate of Petroleum Reserves, United States", submitted to Governor Marland on January 6, 1938 by Alex W. McCoy, a geologist of Ponca City, Oklahoma, were studied in some detail during the conference.

Chart A portrays the total domestic consumption of petroleum in the United States from 1918 through 1937 and the estimated future rate of the domestic demand for petroleum in the United States from 1938 to 1957, inclusive. The estimate of future domestic demand for petroleum was based upon a 4.1 per cent rate of increase during each of the next ten years and a 2.4 per cent rate of increase during each of the following ten years. Governor Marland stated that he had asked Mr. McCoy to limit his study to the domestic demand, leaving out

consideration of imports and exports, as he stated it was his belief that the imports and exports of petroleum would, within a few years, balance one another.

In the discussion which followed the presentation of these charts, some doubt was expressed, particularly by Dr. M. M. Leighton, Illinois State Geologist, as to the probability of encountering a uniform increase in demand as indicated on this chart, it being thought that some recessions in demand would be encountered during the 20-year period. Governor Marland stated, however, that even if there were no increase in demand subsequent to 1942, the petroleum situation subsequent to that date would be of approximately the same intensity as that shown in the table on Chart D and its graphic presentation on Chart E.

Chart B shows the accumulated discoveries of petroleum in the United States from 1900 to January 1, 1938, the accumulated production of petroleum in the United States during the same period; and the accumulated drilled petroleum reserves in the United States from 1928 to January 1, 1938. This chart indicates that, as of January 1, 1900, the accumulated production of petroleum in the United States totaled approximately one billion barrels, with accumulated discoveries as of that date equal to approximately  $2\frac{1}{2}$  billion barrels, or accumulated discoveries equal to approximately  $2\frac{1}{2}$  times the accumulated production. In general, a corresponding relationship is shown up to 1920 when accumulated production was slightly in excess of 5 billion barrels

and accumulated discoveries approximately 12½ billion barrels. The line portraying United States accumulated discoveries began to rise sharply in 1925 and continued at that increased rate through 1930, this period including such major discoveries as Seminole, Oklahoma City, East Texas, and Kettleman Hills. At the close of 1930 accumulated production in the United States totaled 13 billion barrels with accumulated discoveries in the United States equal approximately to 28 billion barrels, leaving the oil reserves of the United States as of the close of 1930 equal approximately to 15 billion barrels. From 1930 to the close of 1937 the accumulated production of petroleum in the United States increased by nearly 7 billion barrels, whereas accumulated discoveries of petroleum in the United States increased by slightly less than 5 billion barrels, indicating that the oil reserves of the United States, as of the close of 1930, had been drawn on to the extent of approximately 2 billion barrels by the close of 1937. The chart also shows that, of the approximately 15 billion barrels of oil in reserves at the close of 1930, approximately 3 billion barrels of said reserves existed in then known and drilled acreage and approximately 12 billion barrels existed in then known but undrilled acreage. The proportion of reserves existing in drilled acreage increased annually until, at the close of 1937, the total estimated reserves of 12.9 billion barrels were calculated to consist of 9.6 billion barrels existing in drilled acreage and 3.3 billion barrels in undrilled acreage. It was pointed out that the increasing proportion of reserves

existing in drilled acreage is indicative of the fact that a substantial portion of the oil wells which have been completed since 1930 were drilled to develop reserves in known productive acreage and that if this trend is continued without new discoveries, the present undrilled oil reserves would be classed as drilled reserves within two years.

Chart C. This chart shows in monthly detail from January 1, 1931 to October 1, 1937 the United States accumulated reserves, the United States accumulated drilled reserves, the United States monthly drilled reserves, and the United States monthly reserves produced. This chart is of particular interest in that it shows, for what is believed to be the first time, a figure of 15 billion barrels as the aggregate petroleum reserves in the United States as of January 1, 1931.

Chart D. This chart portrays the estimated producing ability of the known drilled reserves which, as of January 1, 1938, were estimated to total 9.6 billion barrels. The chart also shows that, of this reserve, 1.5 billion barrels are in fields capable of extreme flush production, 1.3 billion barrels in fields of flush production, 2.5 billion barrels in fields of semi-flush production, and 4.3 billion barrels in fields of settled production. By applying production decline curves to the four classes of reserves mentioned, it is calculated that the wells in the known drilled reserves would be capable of a daily average production of 6,660,000 barrels during 1938 but that this producing ability would decline rapidly and during 1939

would amount to 3,588,000 barrels daily, an amount which would be equal approximately to the daily average demand during 1939. By the close of 1940 these wells would have declined to a point where they would be capable of producing only 2,470,000 barrels daily, and by November, 1941 would be capable of producing at a daily rate of 1,770,000 barrels. If these wells were allowed to produce without restraint, they would be capable of producing, in excess of demand, 1,218,000,000 barrels of petroleum until the time would be reached when their producing ability would be equal to the current rate of demand. Subsequent thereto their producing ability would be less than the demand and the excess production previously placed in storage then would have to be drawn upon. Such drafts from storage, in conjunction with the declining producing ability of our known drilled reserves, would be capable of meeting the estimated demand until November, 1941, which date, on the chart, is labeled the critical point. It is this situation which Governor Marland had in mind when he stated in his opening remarks that we have not ten years' supply of oil in sight but only four years' supply from existing fields.

Chart D also contains a table showing the discoveries of petroleum which would be necessary over a 6-year period, assuming a demand increase of 100 million barrels yearly and a constant discovery rate of one billion barrels annually through 1941. This table is as follows:

Oil Discovery in Next 5 Years - 5,000,000,000 Barrels  
Total Supply of Oil Discovered Previous to 1942 - All Class of 1944  
5,000,000,000 Barrels

YEARS	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	Per Cent Depleted
All Figures in Millions of Barrels									
Assumed Demand	1,200	1,300	1,400	1,500	1,600	1,700	1,800	1,900	
Estimated Average Rate of Production Under Present Proration Rulings									
Production from: Drilled Reserve: (9,600)	1,100	1,000	900	850	800	750	700	420	67%
Production from: Present Known but Undrilled Reserve (3,300)	100	200	300	250	250	200	150	100	47%
Production from: 1938 Discover- ies (1,000)		100	100	200	150	100	50	30	73%
Production from: 1939 Discover- ies (1,000)			100	100	200	150	100	50	70%
Production from: 1940 Discover- ies (1,000)				100	100	200	150	100	65%
Production from: 1941 Discover- ies (1,000)					100	100	200	150	55%
Necessary Pro- duction from 1942-43-44 Discoveries						200	450	1,050	
(Necessary Discovery 1942 - 2,000,000,000 bbls.)									
Total Produc- tion	1,200	1,300	1,400	1,500	1,600	1,700	1,800	1,900	

Total Discovery Necessary in Next 5 Years 6,000,000,000 Barrels.

Total Reserve of All Discoveries Previous to 1942 - At Close of 1944  
6,200,000,000 barrels.

The calculations upon which this table is based indicate that by the close of 1945 our present drilled reserves of 9.6 billion barrels will have been depleted to an extent of 67 per cent; our known but undrilled reserves of 3.3 billion barrels will have been depleted to an extent of 47 per cent; the discoveries of one billion barrels contemplated for 1938 will have been depleted to an extent of 73 per cent; the discoveries of one billion barrels contemplated for 1939 will have been depleted to an extent of 70 per cent; the discoveries of one billion barrels contemplated for 1940 will have been depleted to an extent of 65 per cent; and that the discoveries of one billion barrels contemplated for 1941 will have been depleted to an extent of 55 per cent. The application of these depletion percentages, as shown in the table, indicates that at the close of 1945 there would remain 6,287,000,000 barrels of oil from our present drilled and undrilled reserves and the discoveries which are contemplated for 1938, 1939, 1940 and 1941. The chart indicates further that a discovery of two billion barrels during 1942 will be necessary.

Chart E. This chart portrays graphically the data shown in the table contained in Chart D.

A set of the charts referred to was obtained and may be consulted in the office of the Associate Director for Production, Petroleum Conservation Division, Room 7315, Interior Building.

There is attached a copy of the report as prepared and submitted to Governor Marland by Alex W. McCoy. This report contains the letter

of transmittal, table of contents, a summary of the more important points, the total crude oil reserves from known fields in the United States as of January 1, 1938, a discussion of some of the major items treated in the report, the estimated cost of finding, drilling and producing the 18 billion barrels discovered between 1925 and 1937, inclusive, and the estimated cost of finding, drilling and producing the 28 billion barrels necessary to be found from 1938 to 1957, inclusive, a record of drilling in the United States from 1925 to 1937, a record of average crude oil prices in Oklahoma and Kansas from 1911 to 1937, stocks of crude oil held in the United States from 1920 to 1937, a detailed record of production and reserves by pools in the major oil-producing States.

A summary of major points is as follows:

"1. The total known or proved reserve of crude oil in the United States as of January 1, 1938, is estimated at approximately 12,900,000,000 barrels.

2. Of this reserve, 9,600,000,000 barrels are drilled at the present time; 3,300,000,000 barrels of this reserve are known but undrilled.

3. The total demand for crude oil in the United States for the next twenty years is estimated at approximately 34,000,000,000 barrels. The total amount of oil discovered to date in the United States is approximately 33,000,000,000 barrels. The total amount produced to date is approximately 20,000,000,000 barrels.

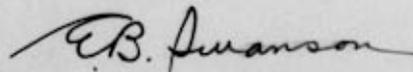
4. In order to meet expected demand during the next twenty years, it is necessary, in addition to the production from the known reserve, to discover 28,000,000,000 barrels of new oil. This rate of discovery is equal to the rate of discovery in the United States since 1924. Discovery rates have declined over 50% during the last seven years as compared with discovery rates from 1924 - 1930, inclusive.

5. The average total cost to the industry for delivering one barrel of oil to the pipe line, considering all investment with interest, is estimated as follows:

- (a) For oil discovered between 1924 and 1938 ..... \$1.11
- (b) For oil necessary to be discovered during  
the next twenty-year period ..... 1.89

6. Considering no additional development, present drilled reserves are estimated to be capable of supplying demand until November, 1941.

7. Discoveries necessary during the next five years in order to balance supply with demand in 1945 - 6,000,000,000 barrels."



Associate Director.

Attachment

January 29, 1938.

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

February 3, 1938.

MEMORANDUM FOR

CHAIRMAN DOUGHTON  
REPRESENTATIVE VINSON

I am sending you herewith for your information copy of estimate of Petroleum Reserves in the United States which has just been prepared by the Petroleum Conservation Division of the Department of the Interior. This report was prepared for the Conference of Governors of oil-producing States, held at Hot Springs, Arkansas, January 24, 1938.

I am also enclosing copy of report on this Oil Conservation Conference made by Mr. E. B. Swanson, the Associate Director of the Petroleum Conservation Division of the Department of the Interior.

This is sent to your Committee because there has been raised the question of placing a small tax on crude petroleum, not only for the purpose of producing revenue but also for the purpose of conserving our oil resources, both for the use of industry and for national defense.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

-2-

The report in regard to reserves is somewhat more alarming than I had previously believed. For instance, present drilled reserves are estimated to be capable of supplying demand only until November, 1941, and to meet expected demand during twenty years to come it would be necessary, in addition to production from known reserves, to discover twenty-eight billion barrels of new oil. Such new discoveries would have to be made at a rate of discovery greatly exceeding discoveries made during the past seven years.

F. D. R.

[2-7-38]

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR

file  
personal  
TBF  
Ickes

My dear Mr. President:

I am so sorry that  
I was not at home on  
Saturday when you called.  
I hope you will do me  
the honor of doing it a-  
gain.

Sincerely yours,  
Harold L. Ickes

The President  
The White House

THE WHITE HOUSE  
FEB 7 10 55 AM '38  
RECEIVED

1 P5F  
Ickes

Feb. 14, 1938.

Memo to Steve Early  
FRom the President

Asks him to remind him to speak to Sec. Ickes about  
attached tentative statement

In re-Governmental reorganization bill

See Steve Early folder-Drawer 2--1938

PSF Ickes



THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR  
WASHINGTON

*file  
personal*

March 24, 1938.

My dear Mr. President:

I enclose a rough draft of a speech that I have written to be delivered in Chicago on April 3. I am sending this so that you may have it in case any question with reference to it is raised. It may be also that you will want to do a little editing on your own account. As usual, a draft has gone to Steve Early's office in the White House.

Sincerely yours,

*Harold Z. Ickes*

Secretary of the Interior.

The President,  
The White House.

Enc.

*Inac  
Will you read &  
see if you think it  
is all right & prepare  
a little love for me  
to send to Deeks*

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
DIVISION OF INVESTIGATION  
WASHINGTON, D. C.



PSF Ickes

~~(CONFIDENTIAL)~~

Draft of address by Hon. Harold L. Ickes, Secretary of the Interior, on the 50th Anniversary of the Chicago Jewish Courier, Hotel Sherman, Chicago, Illinois, April 3, 1938.

-----

1           A golden jubilee is always an occasion for rejoicing. Fifty years  
2 is a good round period in the life of any individual or institution.  
3 Measured against the one hundred years that our city boasts, the half cen-  
4 tury during which the Jewish Daily Courier has advanced the cause of its  
5 own people and has made its very real contribution to the greatness of  
6 Chicago stands out in bold relief.

7           It is a matter of particular congratulation that M. Ph. Ginsburg, the  
8 publisher of the Jewish Daily Courier, has been spared for so many fruitful  
9 years to guide the destinies of his paper. There has been nothing transi-  
10 tory nor ephemeral about the Jewish Daily Courier. Its character has been  
11 as outstanding as that of its publisher. Its achievements as an institu-  
12 tion have been a measure of the ability of Mr. Ginsburg and the able staff  
13 with which he has always surrounded himself. It is distinctly a pleasure  
14 to me to pay tribute to an able editor who has devoted his life to the  
15 interpretation of his people to America and of America to his people; a  
16 man whose ideals of citizenship have been an inspiration to the rest of us,  
17 whether our ancestors happened to come earlier or later to this land where,  
18 having come, all of us have labored together to build up a civilization  
19 firmly grounded upon democratic institutions. Ladies and gentlemen I have  
20 the honor to give you the Jewish Daily Courier and M. Ph. Ginsburg, the man  
21 who, with steady hand and clear eye, has guided it for fifty years until  
22 it has come to occupy the position of power and influence that it now

1 occupies, ~~W. Ph. Gineburg.~~

2       America was founded on the theory of liberty; political liberty,  
3 liberty for every man to live his own life in his own way, subject only to  
4 the right of others to live their own lives in their own way; liberty of  
5 religion; liberty of conscience. It was natural that the oppressed of other  
6 countries, those reaching out for that liberty which has been the aspira-  
7 tion of mankind since man first began to project his thoughts beyond the  
8 immediate and pressing questions of food and shelter, should have come to  
9 this land of freedom by the millions; come from every nation in Europe and  
10 even from Asia, come to fuse together into a new race, to mould a higher  
11 and better civilization than the world had ever seen.

12       It is only necessary to recall the names of some of the outstanding  
13 heroes of the Revolutionary War to realize what a melting pot this America  
14 of ours has been from the beginning - Washington, the man of English  
15 descent; LaFayette, the Frenchman; Kosciusko, the Pole; Kossuth, the  
16 Hungarian; Von Steuben, the German; Hayam Solomon, the Jew, and many others  
17 of lesser note, from the Scandinavian countries, from Russia, from Holland,  
18 from Spain, from Ireland and Scotland, from the Iberian peninsula, from  
19 Italy, from the Balkan States. Our gates were wide open to all and through  
20 them flowed a constant stream of humanity seeking surcease from intolerable  
21 inequities inflicted by despots and tyrants, seeking a land where they  
22 could breathe the air of freedom and find security and peace for themselves  
23 and their children.

24       With few exceptions, these immigrants were persons of substance,

1 persons of character eager to improve their lot while, at the same time,  
2 willing to help others to obtain that same measure of freedom that they so  
3 desperately wanted for themselves. They brought with them the language of  
4 their homeland. They brought with them the culture that they had inherited  
5 from their ancestors. All of these eager comers from foreign lands, in the  
6 white flame of liberty to which they were subjected, became fused into this  
7 great nation that is consecrated to the maintenance of those principles of  
8 freedom which was the loadstone which attracted to our shores lovers of  
9 liberty from all parts of the world.

10 As far back as 1793 there is a record of a Jewish citizen who settled  
11 in the State of Illinois and not long thereafter one of this faith came to  
12 Chicago to be quickly followed by others. Be it noted in passing that among  
13 these early settlers was one Henry Horner, the grandfather of the great  
14 Governor of this State. The Jewish community in Chicago grew quickly and  
15 soon became a valued segment of our metropolitan population. Here Jews who  
16 had been persecuted in other lands soon learned that they could live in  
17 peace and amity with other immigrants from Europe with whom in Europe they  
18 had not always been able to live in peace and amity. Here, despite his  
19 origin, "a man was a man for all of that."

20 From the lone Jew who came here in the early 80's the number of his  
21 co-religionists increased so rapidly that at about the beginning of the  
22 twentieth century there were some eighty thousand Jews in Chicago, the  
23 number of which, I believe, has since increased five fold. It is not to be  
24 wondered at that the Jews think of America as a "blessed land" because they  
25 have found it responsive to their eager desire for freedom and liberty,

1 because it has offered opportunities on equal terms, not only with citizens  
2 of longer American lineage, but with other newly arrived immigrants from  
3 Poland, Lithuania, Germany and Russia and all the kaleidoscopic nations of  
4 Europe.

5 The America that we have known is the America that we want to continue  
6 far into the indefinite future. But if this is to be we must take measures  
7 to maintain our institutions as they were handed down to us. We must be  
8 prepared to guard them not only from assaults from without, but from  
9 insidious sappings from within. If it was worth-while for our forefathers  
10 to fight to acquire freedom it is no less worth-while for us to fight, if  
11 need be, to maintain freedom.

12 Well might every one of us declare with Thomas Jefferson, that great  
13 democrat whose birthday we also celebrate today, "I have sworn upon the  
14 altar of God eternal hostility against every form of tyranny over the mind  
15 of man."

16 There would be no suggestion of mock heroics if there were such an  
17 affirmation today in ringing tones, for our times are fraught with a  
18 serious threat to democracy as we have known it. When we look in one di-  
19 rection we see the leering visage of communism; in another the threatening  
20 countenance of fascism. Countries that yesterday enjoyed the blessings of  
21 liberty under democratic forms of government today find themselves forcibly  
22 absorbed into a despotism as ruthless and cruel as any that has ever existed  
23 Purges, concentration camps, liquidations have become common expressions on  
24 the tongues of supposedly humanitarians and liberty loving peoples. Men

1 and women whose unfortunate lot it is to live under a modern despotism are  
2 not permitted to seek happiness as individuals. They are pawns of a  
3 totalitarian state, cannon fodder, political robots, sterilized intelli-  
4 gences, who may not live their own lives in their own way, who may not  
5 express their thoughts freely, who may not worship God according to their  
6 own consciences, who may not vote unless they are prepared to vote "yes",  
7 who may not even determine the size of their own families.

8 In countries that, only a few years ago, were notable for their en-  
9 lightenment, outstanding for their culture, and apparently impregnable  
10 as to their democracy, a generation of political slaves has suddenly come  
11 into being -- slaves whose lot is more desperate even than those physical  
12 slaves who used to be offered for sale on the auction block. It is not to  
13 be wondered at that men of culture and sensitiveness and fine spirit prefer  
14 to inflict death upon their dear ones as well as upon themselves, when  
15 only death can offer an escape from the terrible fate of threatening  
16 Naziism.

17 May I say in passing that if communism constituted the threat to this  
18 country today that fascism does I would be as unsparing in my denunciation  
19 of this equally obnoxious and un-American system. But if we are realists,  
20 if we are taking note of what is happening today in other parts of the  
21 world, we cannot escape the conviction that, so far at least as the present  
22 is concerned, fascism is the deadly and insidious foe that we must prepare  
23 to combat without any delay. For this reason I suspect either the motives  
24 or the intelligence of those who would have us marshal our forces against

1 a little more than imaginary communism while fascism thunders at the very  
2 gates of the citadel of our liberty.

3 Let us make no mistake. Fascism is a real threat to our institutions.  
4 We can make no more fatal mistake than to settle back with a comfortable  
5 self-assurance that while fascism might be the active concern of other  
6 parts of the world, there is nothing in the situation to cause us alarm.  
7 More and more people are coming to recognize the danger even to America of  
8 this wild political beast that hunts by day and prowls by night. They are  
9 coming to realize that unless we are luckier than we are likely to be, our  
10 concern for the safety of our democratic institutions will increase rather  
11 than diminish. For fascism -- ruthless, arrogant, devoid of conscience  
12 and knowing no mercy for man, woman or child -- is on the march. And it  
13 will move from victim to victim the more rapidly in proportion to the in-  
14 ertness and the pusillanimity of those democratic countries to which for  
15 so long the world has looked to bear the torch of civilization and liberty.

16 Make no mistake, fascism is insidiously boring today from within the  
17 temple of our liberties. Never has any foe of civilization moved so  
18 mysteriously, so unerringly, with such deadly swiftness, or over so wide  
19 a territory. The urgent and the unpostponable duty of every American who  
20 loves liberty is not only to let the light of reason guard him from within  
21 against this treacherous foe, but to join with others in resisting it from  
22 without. And those who have bravely carried on a continuing tradition of  
23 civilized living through many dark periods are now in a position to help  
24 democracy maintain such a tradition at a critical period of social and  
25 economic change.

1       It is not easy to guide by the light of reason through the dark night.  
2       Subtle pressures are constantly exerted upon minority groups by those whose  
3       special economic interests appear at the time to be similar to array them-  
4       selves not with but against those who are struggling to preserve democracy.

5       It should be remembered that the foes of democracy in other lands  
6       were financed by economic groups that professedly were only attempting to  
7       protect their property from political incompetence. We have only to look  
8       abroad to discover that while, in theory, fascism is "controlled capitalism",  
9       before long there is always someone ready and able to seize control of  
10      "controlled capitalism."

11      It should be remembered that most of those now suffering in other  
12      lands from the oppressions of dictators foolishly believed that they could  
13      protect themselves by supporting the foes of democracy. They persuaded  
14      themselves to the self-deception that the intolerance of tyrannical power  
15      was really not aimed, and certainly would not be directed, against them,  
16      but only against so-called enemies of law and order.

17      It should be remembered that the only tolerance that is not illusory  
18      is tolerance not of ourselves, but of others. The only freedom of thought  
19      that is worth while is freedom for the thoughts of others, even for the  
20      expression of opinions which we loathe, even for the opinions of people  
21      whom we despise.

22      The Jews of America should be particularly alert to the danger implicit  
23      in fascism. It seems that fascism is an engine of two cylinders. One  
24      cylinder is powered by the illusion, that will prove to be transitory, of

1 greater economic security, of a higher degree of social justice, of more  
2 widespread personal happiness. The other cylinder runs on hate -- racial  
3 hate, religious hate, hate of a minority group.

4       It happens that in those nations in Europe that have gone fascist the  
5 Jews constitute the racial minority against which bitter hate is fanned into  
6 a searing flame. It seems that the false god of fascism must have its devil  
7 upon which it can pour out its objurations, wreak its bloody vengeance, But  
8 do not forget that in America the Jews are not the only minority group. One  
9 has only to turn his mind from the International Ku Kluxism of fascism to the  
10 Ku Kluxism that is natively American in order to discover here a rich field  
11 for oppressions and terrorisms. Nor does the mind have to go back many years  
12 before it comes upon that disgraceful period in our own history when cowardly  
13 men, boasting their long line of disgraced American lineage, rode forth in  
14 the anonymity of night shirts and pillow-cases to harass, to torture, to  
15 terrorize and even to slay helpless victims whose only crime was that they  
16 had been born in another land, had inherited different customs from their  
17 forefathers, had been nurtured in a different religion.

18       Against this background it is not difficult to foresee that fascism,  
19 if it ever became established in this country, would have not only its  
20 Jewish devil, it would have its Negro devil, its Catholic devil, to say  
21 nothing of an assorted variety of devils, fashioned out of different  
22 nationalities that had come to our shores to seek peace and freedom.

23       If you do not now know how deeply prejudice may run against the Jews,  
24 not only on the continent of Europe, where a devil is needed to satisfy

1 fascist lust, but even here in America, I wish you might read some of the  
2 letters that come to my desk after I have made, as I have on several occa-  
3 sions, addresses directed against fascism or addresses to Jewish audiences.  
4 I may not even repeat before this audience some of the epithets that have  
5 been applied to me. Fortunately, epithets which are born of a base union  
6 between ignorance and hate do not disturb me. No one toughened by the  
7 editorial abuse that I have undergone here in Chicago worries much about  
8 being called names or having his motives impugned.

9 It happens that I am what is called a Nordic. I am also a Protestant.  
10 Through no volition on my own part it also happens that in every line my  
11 ancestry in this country goes back to pre-Revolutionary days. In my longest  
12 line I am a tenth generation American. Yet if I were a Jew I would not be  
13 ashamed of it. But if I were a Jew, remembering the harrowing persecutions,  
14 the valleys of the shadow of death through which my people had passed for  
15 well-nigh two thousand years, I would lose no time in making my position  
16 clear on the issue of democracy vs. absolutism. I would do my utmost to  
17 purify and keep clear the sources of democratic power in this country so  
18 that no one because of corruption and fraud in our civil processes could  
19 find any justification for choosing another political system as superior  
20 to our own.

21 If I were a Jew I would not add to the power or the wealth of any man  
22 or any institution that in his heart nurtured fascism. And right here in  
23 Chicago there are men as well as institutions that are doing their devilish  
24 best to tear down democracy, to make a mockery of our institutions under

1 the pretense of protecting and defending those very liberties which they  
2 are insidiously undermining. And what I would do if I were a Jew I would  
3 do if I were a member of any other racial, nationalistic or religious  
4 minority. And what I would do if I were a Jew I would propose to continue  
5 to do as an American who belongs to the majority group.

6 After all, regardless of the place whence we came or the time of our  
7 coming, regardless of our race, religion or creed, we are American citizens  
8 and as such we are all entitled to the rights, privileges and immunities  
9 that go with American citizenship. To the degree that we recognize these  
10 principles, to the degree that we are willing to stand together as American  
11 citizens in defense of our institutions will we be secure from either  
12 communism or fascism.

13 The citizenship that I am talking about is the citizenship of complete  
14 loyalty to our institutions. An American citizenship recognizes no hyphen.  
15 Such a citizenship gives the lie to those who traitorously entertain the  
16 belief that the forswearing of allegiance to a foreign ruler still leaves  
17 them subject to the tyrannical demands of an alien government. An American  
18 is either an American or he is something else. He cannot be one thing and  
19 another. An American cannot consistently parade in the uniform of an alien  
20 power. He cannot consistently adhere to a secret nationalistic organiza-  
21 tion whose eyes are constantly turned back to an alien land. Hyphenated  
22 Americans are not Americans. And those who encourage a divided allegiance  
23 are inimical to the welfare of America.

24 On February 28, there was published in American newspapers an

1 Associated Press dispatch from a foreign country - a fascist country. The  
2 despotic ruler of this country graciously made it known that former citizens  
3 from his country now living in the United States must not belong to certain  
4 organizations; that if they did belong they must forthwith resign.

5 Quite apart from the impertinence of the ruler of a foreign country  
6 issuing orders to citizens of America, what a commentary it is upon the  
7 loyalty to their adopted country of men whose subversive activities have  
8 become so notorious that it appeared necessary to the ruler of the country  
9 from which these citizens had voluntarily expatriated themselves to remon-  
10 strate with them. America does not want this kind of citizens. It wants  
11 men who, when they take the oath of allegiance to the American flag really  
12 mean what they say; men who will not forswear themselves; men who will not  
13 conspire or combine to betray the hospitality of the country that they  
14 have chosen for their new home; men who would scorn to undermine the in-  
15 stitutions of their adopted land.

16 America wants no man who is half American and half something else.  
17 America cannot spare even a square foot of its precious soil for the mili-  
18 tary training of aliens who have not yet cut the umbilical cord that unites  
19 them to the land of their birth. America cannot spare even a square foot  
20 of its precious soil for the regimentation of hyphenated feet. Tolerant  
21 though we be, we will not brook practices that are a threat to our liberties.  
22 Nor is liberty merely a thing of today; it is a boon as well for tomorrow  
23 and the day after.

24 All my life I have fought for the civil liberties that are guaranteed

1 to us in the Bill of Rights of our Constitution, but I believe in the  
2 substance of liberty and not merely in the shadow. What every American  
3 who loves liberty should strive for is a continuing and enduring liberty,  
4 Civil rights are not only of yesterday or of today, they are of tomorrow.  
5 The civil rights that we enjoy are intended to buttress and support our  
6 liberty and it would be a perversion of the principles underlying our  
7 cherished civil rights if we were to interpret them in such a way as to  
8 permit a present day license that would have the ultimate effect of de-  
9 stroying our liberties.

10 There is another danger against which I would warn you. In the clash  
11 and clamor of political strivings we often indulge in exaggerated state-  
12 ments. In ordinary times this does not matter. But since I am speaking to  
13 an audience gathered to celebrate the golden anniversary of a newspaper I  
14 may be permitted to sound a word of warning. At a time when new dictators  
15 are appearing in different parts of the world, at a time when existing  
16 dictators are extending their power, those who cry out in tones of simu-  
17 lated anguish that at this moment in the United States there is either an  
18 existing or an attempted dictatorship, are doing a distinct disservice to  
19 their country.

20 If there were any threat of dictatorship here I would be one of the  
21 first to raise my voice against it, no matter who might be involved, but  
22 so long as our institutions are preserved, as they have been preserved, so  
23 long as men and women may freely vote and express their opinions as they  
24 now do; so long as people may live together in peace and freedom; so long

1 as all may worship according to the dictates of their conscience, there  
2 need be no fear of dictatorship. But it is worse than folly, it is in  
3 fact disloyalty and treachery to our institutions, merely for a mean  
4 political advantage, to try to instill in the minds of the unthinking the  
5 thought that a dictatorship exists or is presently threatened in these  
6 United States.

7       It is obvious that people who are made to believe that they are living  
8 under a dictatorship might be willing to exchange one dictator for another.  
9 It is unthinkable that people living under a democratic form of government  
10 would willingly shift to a dictatorship if they knew what they were doing.  
11 We do need to guard against fascism, as does every democratic country that  
12 is left in the world. But to shout dictatorship when none exists is only  
13 to cause confusion. It plays into the hands of the enemy. It detracts  
14 attention from the danger that threatens. It weakens our resistance.

15       There never was a time when it was so necessary for Americans to stand  
16 together against a danger that threatens all of us; that threatens the  
17 very core and substance of our America. Let us criticize our public of-  
18 ficials vigorously, trenchantly, when criticism is due. But let us guard  
19 against the danger that is inherent in gross exaggeration in mischarging  
20 a dictatorship when none exists. It is a poor way to prepare the minds  
21 of people to resist a dictatorship by cultivating in their minds the belief  
22 that a dictatorship controls us. Regardless of factional strife, of  
23 political maneuverings, of personal ambitions, let us serve notice on all  
24 the world that when our democracy is threatened, the only vying between

1 Americans will be to determine who shall first spring to the defense of  
2 democracy.

3 On this occasion that is so significant of what the Jews of America  
4 have contributed to the civilization of America, I want to urge your co-  
5 operation in a democratic solution of the grave problems confronting  
6 democracy in the modern world. Men may differ as to how these grave pro-  
7 blems may be solved. You will differ among yourselves, not as Jews, but  
8 as Americans. But what I am asking you to agree upon, and to all Americans  
9 to agree upon, is that these problems should be solved in a democratic way;  
10 solved not by physical or economic forces, but by reason and fair-play.

11 The world may not listen to our preachments, but the world cannot  
12 ignore our example. There is nothing so much that we in the United States  
13 can do to promote peace, good-will and tolerance throughout the world as  
14 to show to the world an example of the kind of government that peace-loving,  
15 liberty-loving people can have, if they will; a government without dicta-  
16 tors, a government which can enable its citizens who want to work to find  
17 work and to maintain a standard of living limited only by their capacity to  
18 produce, a government which recognizes the dignity and worth of the humblest  
19 of humanity and which values freedom of thought and speech of all men re-  
20 gardless of their race or religion.

21 The flame of liberty must be kept burning even as the everlasting fire  
22 lights up the Ark of the Law in the temple.

23 In conclusion may I paraphrase Jeremiah **xxix. 7**:

24 "Seek ye the welfare of the land whither I have sent you, and pray unto the  
25 Lord for it, for in the welfare thereof shall ye fare well."



THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR  
WASHINGTON

APR 13 1938

CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM for the President:

Upon my return to Washington, I received your confidential memorandum of March 21 and the accompanying papers which I return herewith as you requested.

*Harold Z. Ickes*

Secretary of the Interior.

*BF Ickes*

*file  
personal*



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
WASHINGTON

PSF Ickes  
THE WHITE HOUSE  
MAR 18 9 05 AM '38  
RECEIVED

March 17, 1938.

The President,

The White House.

Dear Mr. President:

On February 2 I sent you a preliminary response to your note of January 17 concerning the prices at which timber has been sold to the Brooks-Scanlon Lumber Company from the Deschutes National Forest, and promised to send you a more detailed report later.

Your note mentioned a sale made at \$1.80 per M feet. This sale was made in June, 1935. The sale area was over 55 miles from Bend, Oregon, in the extreme southeast portion of the Deschutes National Forest. The area bordered on dry sagebrush-covered lands to the south and east and the timber was relatively short and limby due to the poor site on the edge of these open lands. Surface water is lacking. As reported to you, this timber had suffered severely from insect attack and especially from the cumulative effects of a series of years of abnormally low rainfall. Over 25 per cent of the volume of the original stand had been lost during the five-year period 1930-1934, inclusive. The advice of an expert of the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine confirmed the opinion of the officers of the Forest Service in the following terms: "The poor condition of much of the living timber indicates that the loss will probably continue for a time in spite of any possible improvement in moisture conditions. The situation seems to justify immediate and heavy cutting."

A careful examination and appraisal of the timber was made, in the course of which some of the poorest and least accessible timber was segregated and not considered in estimating logging costs and possible returns. This appraisal indicated that if the customary margin for profit and risk to the purchaser were allowed, the timber, exclusive of that so segregated, would not be worth \$1.50 per thousand feet. After negotiation with the Brooks-Scanlon Company as the only probable purchaser in view of the location of the timber, an advertisement was published offering the timber at \$1.80 per M, with a requirement for a deposit of an additional \$.20 per M to cover the cost of slash disposal and the felling of worthless snags in order to reduce

the fire hazard. This made the cost of the stumpage to the purchaser practically \$2.00 per M from his viewpoint, since the State law did not necessitate so great a slash disposal expense on private lands. The offering also included the option to take timber from the areas of exceptionally poor quality and accessibility as mentioned above, at \$.80 per M plus deposits of \$.20 per M for slash disposal and snag felling. The Brooks-Scanlon Company bid the advertised prices and logged the timber in the amounts of 31,823 M at the \$1.80 price and 19,967 M at the \$.80 price, with the additional \$.20 per M deposits in each case.

The sale was the salvage of damaged and deteriorating Government property at prices which were certainly all the property was worth. If the Brooks-Scanlon Company had not had its logging railroad in the vicinity, the timber could not have been sold at any price.

Your note mentions another sale made at \$2.25 per M. This sale involved 11,500 M board feet of stumpage on scattered areas of Government-owned land, mostly on the desert side of adjacent timberland holdings of the Brooks-Scanlon Company. These areas also were at an average distance of about 55 miles from Bend over the applicant's logging railroad. No one else showed the slightest interest in it when, after appraisal, the timber was advertised. The timber is of distinctly poorer quality than the average for the region and this, together with the distance from any established mill or common-carrier railroad, made \$2.25 per M, at which the timber was advertised and bid for, a fair and reasonable price.

Your note mentions a third sale of 3,000,000 board feet at \$2.90 per M. I believe that this must refer to a sale of this amount and at this rate for stumpage, plus \$.20 per M required deposits for slash disposal and stand improvement, awarded to the Shevlin-Hixon Lumber Company, which also operates a mill at Bend. There has been no sale at this rate to the Brooks-Scanlon Company. This sale was on the portion of the Deschutes Forest which has been set aside as the Pringle Falls Experimental Forest and was essentially a test of 7 different ways of marking timber in a fairly uniform stand, so as to leave reserve stands varying from 20 per cent to 80 per cent of the original volume. An object in this case was to obtain information on logging costs and lumber recovery values for different types of cutting and to establish permanent sample plots where the effects of the different treatments could be studied for many years.

The average quality of the timber in this sale was better than in the sales previously discussed. The timber was carefully

appraised and was advertised at \$2.90 per M stumpage plus \$.10 per M deposit for slash disposal and \$.10 per M deposit for treatment to improve future conditions of growth. The total cash deposited was therefore \$3.10 per M.

The logs from this sale were trucked about 6 miles to a common-carrier railroad, loaded on cars and hauled about 30 miles to Bend.

The Brooks-Scanlon sales were about 55 miles southeast of Bend. Northwest of Bend, some 20 to 35 miles, two timber companies have quite large holdings in the vicinity of the town of Sisters. Some of this privately owned timber has been sold to small portable mills for about \$3.50 per M in 1937, but now some of it is being offered at \$3.00 per M. The small mills have been set up on roads or where water was obtainable, with an average truck haul for the logs from the woods to mill of between 5 and 10 miles. The lumber, after being air-dried, has been trucked from the mills to the common-carrier railroad at Redmond, a distance averaging perhaps 25 miles.

Nearly all of these small sawmill operations in private timber have been unsuccessful. Many have been discontinued. This may not have been due entirely to payment of too high prices for stumpage, but it is distinctly possible that the prices paid for this private timber were factors in the general lack of success.

Southwest of Bend the Deschutes Lumber Company has a mill on the Southern Pacific Railroad. It has bought private timber of better quality than that in any of the operations previously discussed, paying \$4.00 per M for it. The average log truck haul to the mill and lumber shipping point is only 12 miles. In the judgment of the officers of the Forest Service, the price paid for this stumpage in comparison with that paid for the National Forest stumpage or for the private stumpage northeast of Bend is warranted by differences in accessibility and quality.

In view of these facts and those furnished you in my response of February 2, I believe that the Forest Service has been obtaining reasonably high prices for the timber which it has been selling on the Deschutes National Forest.

Very respectfully,

*H A Wallace*

Secretary.

STANDARD FORM No. 14A  
APPROVED BY THE PRESIDENT  
MARCH 10, 1926

*PSE*  
*clerk*

FROM

The White House  
Washington

*CS*  
*Drawer 1 -*

# TELEGRAM

OFFICIAL BUSINESS—GOVERNMENT RATES

CABLEGRAM

COPY

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1934

*May [24?] 1938*

ICKES  
AMEMBASSY  
DUBLIN  
IRELAND

AFFECTIONATE GREETINGS AND CONGRATULATIONS TO YOU BOTH  
ABILITY OF AMERICAN GOVERNMENT TO KEEP A SECRET FIRMLY  
ESTABLISHED FOR FIRST TIME IN HISTORY

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT



PSF  
Interior  
clerk

[5-2F-38]

GROSVENOR HOUSE,  
PARK LANE,  
LONDON, W. I.

TELEPHONE: GROSVENOR 6363.

TELEGRAMS:  
GROVHWS, AUDLEY, LONDON.

My dear Mr. President:

James and I loved your  
celebration. We are happy to  
be married and it was fun  
to beat the newspapers - a  
victory that could not have  
been achieved without the  
big push from your mighty  
arm. Neither of us will ever  
forget your courtesy and  
consideration.

Joe Kennedy is doing  
better than well by us here  
in London. He has been  
very kind. Next week we  
plan to go to Paris for a  
few days and then back to  
Washington where we will  
arrive about June 11.

I do not know what is



GROSVENOR HOUSE,  
PARK LANE,  
LONDON, W. 1.

TELEPHONE: GROSVENOR 6365.

TELEGRAMS:  
GROVHOWS, AUDLEY, LONDON.

going on in the United States  
but I hope that all goes  
well and that Congress is  
eating out of your hand.

Thanking you for all your  
help and consideration and  
with affectionate regards I  
am

Very sincerely yours,  
Harold T. Pches

May 28, 1935.

I wish that I had bor-  
rowed Pa Watson from you.  
He was all that for me and I  
lacked to put on a real for-  
ade when the scooped news-  
paper reporters and photo-  
graphers caught up with us.

#29.



GROSVENOR HOUSE,  
PARK LANE,  
LONDON, W. I.

TELEPHONE: GROSVENOR 6363.

TELEGRAMS:  
GROVHWS, AUDLEY, LONDON.

May 28, 1935

My dear Mr. President —

At last the strain and worry of how, when, where is over. And we have accomplished the impossible — beating the press. Without your help and secret-keeping abilities, we should have been exercised. I am very grateful to you, not only for your material assistance but for your encouraging words to Harold when all the world was unanimous against him and Mrs.



GROSVENOR HOUSE,  
PARK LANE,  
LONDON, W. I.

TELEPHONE: GROSVENOR 6363.

TELEGRAMS:  
GROVHWS, AUDLEY, LONDON.

Already he is beginning to chafe at the bit of unaccustomed leisure, and so you may expect to see him shortly. But he is happy — and I mean to keep him so.

The ungrateful wretch is telling me that you will be unable to read my writing. If you do have to summon a squad of decipherers, don't tell him, will you? — he would be way out of control!

Again, Mr. President, my profound gratitude is yours. I shall never forget what you have done.

Yours sincerely —  
Alan D. Jones.

*File  
family!*



EMERGENCY  
EXHIBITION  
GLASGOW  
MAY-OCTOBER



*The President,  
The White House,  
Washington,  
D. C.*

*Personal*

*U.S.A.*

PSF 12126

1-1-38

July 6, 1938.

Dear Harold:-

It was certainly good of you and Jane to think of me on your trip, and that print is a most delightful one. It is not only a good print but I can assure you it is also a good ship -- one of the first iron sailing ships ever built.

Into my bedroom it goes.

Affectionately,

The Honorable  
The Secretary of the Interior,  
Department of the Interior,  
Washington, D. C.

PSF Ickes



THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR  
WASHINGTON

July 4, 1939.

THE WHITE HOUSE  
JUL 5 2 23 PM '39  
RECEIVED

My dear Mr. President:

Jane and I do not pretend to know anything about this sort of thing, but we found this print in London, and, recognizing it for a ship, we thought that it might interest you at least momentarily. It will serve at any rate to show that we were thinking of you with affection and gratitude for helping to further a cause in which we are coming to believe more strongly every day.

Sincerely yours,

Harold T. Ickes

The President,  
The White House.

Enc.



THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR  
WASHINGTON

July 7, 1938.

PSIF I-1220

File  
Personal

My dear Mr. President:

It is my duty to make grave charges against one Edwin Watson, Colonel, F.A., Military Aide to the President, who, I believe, is not unknown to you.

Yesterday, under the skillful cross-examination of one of the most worthy, if submerged, members of the Administration, Colonel Watson admitted that, in preparation for a fishing trip that he was about to take with the President of the United States, he had purchased, or was about to purchase, six bottles of Bacardi rum. Even the most eloquent argument to the effect that this inferior rum would constitute an obnoxious offense to the Presidential palate, failed to move him. It was only when his interlocutor, out of a sense of loyalty to our institutions, volunteered to supply that best of all beverages, namely, Government House Rum, that the Colonel yielded. Even so, there still lingers in my mind a grave suspicion that he may surreptitiously substitute a base form of rum for that which is trod out by the tender feet of beautiful virgins in that gem in the Caribbean where the glorious Stars and Stripes salute each rising sun.

I feel that one ought to have the right to count upon the patriotism of Edwin Watson, Colonel, F.A., Military Aide to the President, even if his taste is rummy. Apparently he did not know when he placed his treasonable order for Bacardi rum that in the Virgin Islands, under the American flag, the best rum in the world is made. But this might be expected from a man who, although a Colonel in more or less good standing in the United States

Army, ordered the garrison at Ft. Jefferson to be standing at attention ready to fire the Presidential salute when you approached Dry Tortugas not many months since.

Since there should be a punishment to fit every crime, I suggest that if Colonel Watson, in spite of the effort that has been made to prevent such nefarious conduct, has smuggled aboard the "boat" on which he is to have the honor of sailing certain "medical supplies"; if it is found that "downstairs" under his "bed" he has hidden six bottles of Bacardi rum, more or less, he be required to drink it all himself while the rest of the party enjoys the bouquet, to say nothing of the kick, of the glorious, delicious and unexcelled golden rum of the Virgin Islands.

Selah.

*Harold Z. Fisher*

Secretary of the Interior.

P.S. Incidentally, the Virgin Island rum above referred to is our new "White Label" brand which I believe you have not yet sampled.

P.P.S. Colonel Watson, in his customary urbane and gracious manner may "allow it to be known" that he is the host so far as this rum is concerned, but believe him not. He will be acting only as bartender for the Virgin Islands Company. I don't know who paid for the rest of his "medicine".

P.P.P.S. The Colonel told me yesterday in his modest manner that if he

hooked a 300-pound fish, the fish would either come into the boat or he (the Col.) would go out. On the rare chance that some ignoble fish larger than a minnow might by mistake grab the Colonel's hook, I bade him an everlasting farewell. If the Colonel's slender and graceful posterior should disappear over the side of the boat, I hope that someone on my behalf will be impartial enough to exclaim "Go it Pa, go it fish".

P.P.P.P.S. You will find aboard your ship containers supplied with 100,000 feet of helium gas. This is for the purpose of reinflating the piscatorious Colonel after he attempts to explain the rum episode and on other occasions when a customary oozing of gas at every seam leaves him in a speechless condition. I can assure you that in such a case helium gas will not be used for a military purpose.



*file  
Personal*

*PSF Ickes*

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR  
WASHINGTON

WHITE HOUSE  
November 23, 1938.

RECEIVED

My dear Mr. President:

I have had an interesting letter from Ambassador Daniels which you may like to read. Therefore I am enclosing a copy.

Sincerely yours,

*Harold G. Ickes*

Secretary of the Interior.

The President,  
The White House.

Enclosure.

PSF Ickes

COPY

Mexico, November 15, 1938.

PERSONAL

My dear Mr. Secretary:

I heard you over the radio last night in the Round Table talk about strengthening the ties, particularly between the countries of this hemisphere, and it reminded me to do what I have been intending to do for several days, and that is to write and congratulate you upon your militant and vigorous address in Pennsylvania during the campaign. The tide was running so strong against us there, for reasons you understand better than I do and particularly for the reason that congenitally for half a century the majority of the people of Pennsylvania are Republicans, that nothing could have changed it. What I wished to say to you was this - that I was disturbed during the campaign because of the lack of militancy by our people. Some who ought to have been on the firing line were saying nothing and some others who held high positions seemed to be apologizing for the New Deal and its policies by their attitude rather than their words. I saw the Democratic party under Cleveland go out of power because it was preaching militant Democracy and many of its members were hand in glove with Wall Street. I saw the Democratic party go out of power under Wilson because the Lansings and the Lanes and others imperialistically inclined had no sympathy whatever with Wilson's idealism. If the Democratic party ceases to be militantly liberal and progressive it will have no excuse for continued existence. Even if it wanted to be conservative and reactionary, the Republicans have appropriated that field and the reactionary or conservative who votes a Democratic ticket is voting against what he really wishes. If the country wishes to be conservative and reactionary it is clear that they will elect a Landon or a Hoover. They ought to do it. If we do not nominate a militant progressive for 1940 our candidate will be as badly defeated as Al Smith or John Davis. It cheers and heartens me, far away as I am from the scene, to find you and others keeping the faith and doing so militantly.

I am hoping to be home at Christmas time and wish to talk with you about these and other matters.

With my high regards and admiration, as always,

Sincerely yours,

(signed) Josephus Daniels

The Honorable  
Harold L. Ickes,  
Secretary of the Interior,  
Washington, D.C.

P.S. Benjamin Disraeli once said: "A conservative government is an organized hypocrisy."

1

*file presumed PSF*  
*Anterior*  
*clerk*

Warm Springs, Ga.,  
November 25, 1938.

Dear Harold:-

You are absolutely right in principle about Chip Robert -- and I think steps should be taken through Jim Farley either to end his official position as Secretary of the National Committee or to tell him quite frankly that we cannot accept him hereafter as architect for PWA or other buildings to which the Government contributes a large portion of the cost.

The difficulty is that as a matter of fairness to the individual, due notice ought to be given. In this case Robert had already done a large amount of work on the proposed hospital and has a comparatively large force at work on it. I was rather definitely thinking of the men in his office, in addition to Robert himself. In other words, it was the timing I objected to and not the principle.

I am writing to Jim and I think Jim had best take it up with Robert himself.

My statement down here in regard to the failure of the State of Georgia to heed our warnings for over four years was a bombshell and I am glad you followed it up. It is already having an excellent effect.

Yours about the Spanish embargo has just come. I agree absolutely with the desirability of making a change. My difficulty is the legal one and the brief does not clear up that point entirely. The original resolution obviously does not let me revoke the embargo. Whether the subsequent resolution, which is a general one, supersedes the first, is rather definitely open to argument.

I hope you had a grand time in Havana. All well here.

As ever yours,

The Honorable  
The Secretary of the Interior,  
Washington, D. C.

FEDERAL EMERGENCY ADMINISTRATOR  
OF PUBLIC WORKS  
WASHINGTON

*file  
personal*

November 21, 1938.

My dear Mr. President:

Upon my return to my office this morning after my trip to Havana, I found that, pursuant to your instructions, First Assistant Secretary Burlew had telephoned to Governor Graves, of Alabama, giving him the privilege of reinstating the Robert firm as consulting engineers and architects in connection with the Milledgeville Project.

After several days' careful thought I must confess that I have not changed my views on this matter, although necessarily I have accepted your decision. I do not see how we can permit participation of members of the National Committee in public business in some instances and deny it in others. It does not seem to me that it makes any difference in this regard that Mr. Robert is Secretary of the Committee and not a member thereof. It has been my experience that a clever secretary, and no one can doubt Mr. Robert's ability, is of more influence than the average member of the National Committee.

I may say that I have been informed that Camp, whom we supported for Senator in Georgia, feels as I do about Robert's connection with this project.

Quite regardless of other considerations, Mr. Robert is now in a position to advertise his ability to get results. He is the first man on record who has succeeded in having the Administrator of Public Works overruled by his superior officer in a manner that is so clear as to be

unmistakable. PWA in the past has broadly taken politics into consideration in certain instances. This was natural and does not require apology. It seems to me to be a different matter when personal politics outside of the Administration itself can be permitted to interfere in an administrative matter.

One reason that I objected to Mr. Robert's association with this project was because I thought that his charges were excessive. We have always reserved the right to object to excessive charges and require them to be brought within reasonable limits.

With personal regards,

Sincerely yours,

*Harold T. Pches*

Administrator.

The President,  
The White House.

file  
Sches  
personal

PSE

Washington, D. C.

December 2, 1938

~~\_\_\_\_\_~~  
~~\_\_\_\_\_~~  
~~\_\_\_\_\_~~

~~\_\_\_\_\_~~

With regard to the properties of the several oil companies of the United States which were expropriated by the Mexican Government, my son and myself have been in Washington for several weeks. We have explained the status of the problem as we see it to your Special Assistant, Mr. Macnamee.

We have had intimate contact with the Administration in Mexico and almost daily contact with President Cardenas through his Secretary of the Treasury, Eduardo Suarez.

During the last two weeks we have had a number of interviews with the Standard Oil Company, through its Washington representative, Mr. Bohannon, who called upon us at the request of Mr. Walter Teagle. The problem can be solved at this time, but it seems highly desirable that to this end an interview along somewhat informal lines may be arranged between President Cardenas and President Roosevelt.

It seems to us that an adjustment of this problem and its settlement as between the oil companies and Mexico is extremely important for very many reasons. We feel that further action along these general lines is wholly dependent upon your consideration of the matter and your advice and, if possible, your intervention. We fully realize the many grave duties and burdens under which you labor, but you are the only man that at this time can act.

Mr. Teagle of the Standard Oil Company represents the other U.S. oil companies and has great confidence in your ability as is also true of President Cardenas.

We proposed a settlement on the basis of the placing of the properties in a trust, under a joint board of control, the oil companies to administer the properties under the general direction and control of the joint board and the net proceeds to be applied to the payment of the amounts found to be owing to the oil companies. We have

explained this to Mr. Macnamee somewhat in detail. Mr. Cardenas favored this general theory and was prepared to work matters out on these lines. We discussed the plan in detail with Mr. Bohannon and have been informed that the plan was the simplest and most feasible that had been presented. Mr. Cardenas had even authorized us to state that Mexico would include in the trust all the oil property owned and operated by Mexico, known formerly as Petro Mex, which includes oil wells and refineries, distribution stations, etc.

Mr. Teagle states, however, that he desires to secure re-consideration of the oil companies' request that the properties be returned to the companies. We are frankly told that the reason for this policy is primarily due to the rapid spread of the expropriation thought or "disease" among the other Latin American Republics, notably Colombia and Venezuela. It has even spread to the Persian and other foreign fields, so that the precedent in Mexico, whatever it may finally prove to be, actually affects many millions of dollars of U. S. investments abroad, outside of Mexico. Therefore, they now state that the oil companies will go to very considerable lengths, far beyond what has previously been mentioned, in order to meet Mr. Cardenas' views and bring about an amicable and highly satisfactory settlement to all concerned.

That they would enter into contracts covering all matters in dispute, providing for a satisfactory settlement of the wage problem, administration and control, taxes and imposts, development of the fields, improvement of the plants, increased production, intensive exploration, agreements as to marketing of products, etc. They argue that they are able to demonstrate that the net result to the Mexican Government would be immediate and continued, result in increasing receipts, and the immediate adjustment of the social and political problems, etc. Mr. Teagle has indicated that he is prepared to come to Washington at any moment to confer with you on these matters either formally or informally.

President Cardenas is a great admirer of President Roosevelt and he has confidence in you, Mr. Secretary. President Cardenas is ready to come to Washington or elsewhere to meet President Roosevelt and you, if a meeting can be arranged. The suggestion has been that if such a meeting were arranged, it might apparently be for purposes of conference on general matters of interest to the two Governments under President Roosevelt's policy of the "Good Neighbor". Mr. Teagle states that he favors this course, if it can be arranged.

This never has occurred in the history of the United States and Mexico, and at this time in the light of the Lima Conference, it would seem to be of great value, not only on present problems but upon the future of Latin American relations.

As to the Royal Dutch Shell Oil Company, we have reason to believe that it would ask to be included in any settlement arrived at, but we have not concerned ourselves as to the Shell Oil Company, because it is British owned. There is no doubt that it would follow suit.

All of the statements made above are familiar to and are fully understood by President Cardenas. Our informal conferences with Standard Oil Company were at his suggestion and we have reported the same in detail to President Cardenas through Secretary of the Treasury, Eduardo Suarez.

We trust that we may have a brief interview with you, Mr. Secretary, for in a few minutes we can explain some features of this matter that cannot well be explained on paper. Ambassador Najera two weeks ago was called to Mexico City by President Cardenas to confer on these matters. He went by plane, spent thirty-six hours there, returned by plane, saw us immediately upon arrival, and left two hours later for Lima. We have not called upon the State Department in Washington, nor is the State Department of Mexico involved in the discussions. At the proper time, undoubtedly, the two State Departments would be called upon to act.

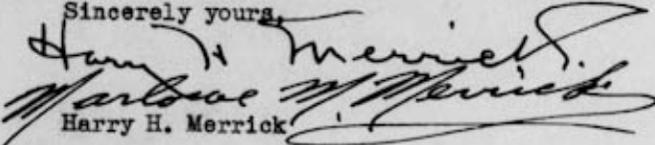
As matters stand there is one man, namely, President Roosevelt, who is in position to bring this to a satisfactory conclusion. There is only one other man, namely, Secretary Ickes, who can suggest and bring about the desired action. Unless this is solved and Mexican matters placed on a more stable basis, disaster and chaos will result.

The present and future of Latin American relations and the spread of Fascism and Communism hinge upon this adjustment. Such an adjustment will bring about the possibility of the United States obtaining an important naval base at Vera Cruz. This base would be nearly 800 miles nearer the Panama Canal than their present Caribbean base, which is at Guantanamo. The City of Vera Cruz would guarantee the disposition of a portion of its custom revenues for the deepening of the

channel to forty-five feet, so that it could be used by the largest capital ships of the American Navy. It is possible that the deflection of customs revenues would be sufficient even to bring about the fortification of the Vera Cruz harbor. This is the only available naval base in the Gulf of Mexico between the United States-Mexican border and the Panama Canal. I have discussed this important point with Admiral Leahy, Chief of Naval Operations, who unreservedly approves the idea. There is a correlation between this proposal and one which would establish a permanent fuel oil supply for the American Navy on the Pacific side of Mexico at Acapulco. The adjustment would entail the laying of a pipe line from the Mexican oil fields westward to Acapulco so that the American Navy, in addition to having an almost impregnable naval base at Vera Cruz, would have a vital fuel supply on the Pacific side as well. You will understand, of course, that all the capital ships of the Navy of the dreadnaught and superdreadnaught type are oil burning.

The Japanese Government has made a formal written overture to the Mexican Government that they, (the Japanese) construct this pipe line so that it will supply the Japanese Navy with fuel oil.

Sincerely yours,

  
Harry H. Merrick

JDI

File  
Personal

38

December 28, 1935

My dear Mr. President \_\_\_\_\_

When Harold gave me the \_\_\_\_\_  
Bonneville book, I crushed him by show-  
ing no interest \_\_\_\_\_ until, turn-  
ing back the cover, I found your  
autograph and message \_\_\_\_\_. How

Sweet, of you to have done that  
for me. I shall treasure it.

Harold says that the only reason  
you wrote "my old friend" was be-  
cause of my advanced age. Isn't he  
awful!

We shall see you next Wednesday—  
you could not guess how exciting that  
is for us!

Gratefully,  
Jane D. Lyles

1  
PSF  
1939

PSF  
File Ickes

For correspondence with Secretary Ickes and others  
in the Interior Dept about the Fred Vanderbilt estate  
which Mrs. James Laurens Van Alen is willing to give to  
the U.S. Government as a Historic Site.

See: Mrs. James Laurens Van Alen folder-Drawer 3-1939

PEM

PSF *clerk*

SEE ALSO: P.S.P.: PUBLIC WORKS ADMINISTRATION

*file  
H.P.*

*BSF  
Interior  
Archives*

1939?

FEDERAL EMERGENCY ADMINISTRATOR  
OF PUBLIC WORKS  
WASHINGTON

The President,

The White House.

My dear Mr. President:

Docket No. N. Y. 1903-F comprises three schools, East Park, Fairview, and Hyde Park. Total estimate cost of the three buildings, \$1,300,000. Grant, \$585,000. The general contracts have been awarded and contractors started work:

- East Park, March 27
- Fairview, March 27
- Hyde Park, April 10

A small start on all three of these projects was made by the applicant on December 19.

We have paid the first 25 per cent advance grant; approved architectural fees for the three buildings of \$68,702; approved legal fees of \$6,000. On the certificate of purposes for the requisition, the architects were to be paid \$11,877; legal fees were to be \$4,000. Legal fees originally claimed were \$18,000. The Borrower was advised that no such amount would be allowed; the Legal Division approved \$6,000. I am advised by the Legal Division in New York that the lawyer originally retained has resigned, and that the Borrower now has no legal advice and does not think that it will employ anyone until the need arises. We have received no substantiation of the \$18,000 claim for legal fees. The Borrower has been advised through our New York Legal Division that any such figure would have to have good substantiation. The New York Legal Division is of the opinion that the lawyer, when he found there was no more money coming to him, resigned.

Sincerely yours,

*Harold C. Folger*  
Administrator.

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

*File personal*  
FBI: Ickes

January 13, 1939

Memorandum For The President.

Harold Ickes, the Secretary of the Interior, suggests T. V. Smith to be a member of the Dies Committee.

Also Dempsey suggested to Ickes that the leadership of the house designate somebody as attorney for the Committee.

M. A. LeHand



THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR  
WASHINGTON

January 31, 1939.

PSF Ickes  
THE WHITE HOUSE  
JAN 31 3 47 PM '39  
RECEIVED

My dear Mr. President:

Henry Wallace suggested a conference to consider merely the matter of national parks. My proposal was aside from this question. There are several points of acute irritation between Interior and Agriculture that ought to have the attention of the Chief Surgeon. I may be seeing ghosts, but my thought is that I ought to set up a Board of Erosion Control to prevent all of the good, rich soil of this Department from being washed into the hollows and crevices of Agriculture.

Sincerely yours,

*Harold I. Ickes*

Secretary of the Interior.

The President,  
The White House.



*Confidential  
file*

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR  
WASHINGTON

*BF  
Interior  
clerk*

Feb. 11, 1939

THE WHITE HOUSE  
FEB 13 12 43 PM '39  
RECEIVED

My dear Mr. President:

I am sorry to see by the papers that you are ill in bed with a temperature, and I hope that you will make your usual quick recovery.

Last night, at the dinner of the Lawyers Guild of America, Jane sat next to Judge Devaney, of Minnesota. He told her that he had recently had two hours with Jim Farley. Jim told him that he wants to be on the ticket next year as the candidate for Vice President, with either Hull or Garner. He asked Devaney whether he could count on the Minnesota delegation, and Devaney told him that he might get the delegation but he wouldn't get the State.

Devaney thinks that Minnesota is in such bad shape that it is lost to the Democratic Party next year unless you are the candidate. He isn't even sure that you could carry Minnesota, but he is sure that either of the tickets mentioned by Jim would certainly lose the State. He said that Jim Farley was a nice person but that he didn't have any ability and no range of knowledge.

According to Devaney, the farmers in Minnesota are in very bad shape, and Jim has done nothing to organize the State.

My speech on the freedom of the press last night went over very well indeed.

Early this evening Jane and I start for San Francisco, where I hope we'll find better weather than this typically beastly Chicago spring weather.

With affectionate regards,

Sincerely yours,

*Harold Z. Ickes*

The President  
White House  
Washington, D. C.



PSF Ickes  
File  
Personnel

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR  
WASHINGTON

April 20, 1939.

My dear Mr. President:

Two or three days ago I received from you a memorandum instructing me to notify you what suggestions for changes I cared to make in connection with the powers given to you under the Reorganization Act. I at once called a conference and set members of my staff to work. However, on further consideration, I have come to the conclusion not to make any suggestions.

I have been working now for several years for the transfer of Forestry to Interior but this plan does not seem to have commended itself to you. I wrote you a long letter to Warm Springs on the subject, and I have tried on two or three occasions recently to discuss it with you. So far, I haven't had much luck. This being so, I see no good object to be served in again offering a suggestion that seems to be foredoomed.

Accordingly, I shall make no further suggestions about reorganization. Although you haven't told me so in so many words, I have learned from other sources that you do not propose to transfer the national forests, and if this is the fact, I have no interest in any transfers either from or to this Department.

Sincerely yours,

*Harold T. Ickes*

Secretary of the Interior.

The President,  
The White House.

file  
personal  
PSP  
Ickes'

OFFICE OF  
THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR

Noted:  
APR 22 1939  
H.L.S.

Addendum.

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I forgot to say that our information is that the Acting Administrator at Bonanza, Mr. Carey, is a little too satisfactory to the private utility group in the Northwest to be acceptable to the public power advocates. Also, we feel he would not do the reorganizing necessary.

Yours, etc.,

S. Stephenson Smith

21 April 39



*file  
personal*

*PSF: J. Ross*

*4/23*

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR  
WASHINGTON

April 22, 1939.

My dear Mr. President:

I hear nothing but disturbing reports from Bonneville. Matters there grow worse every day. I think it of imperative importance that a new Administrator be appointed, and, naturally, I do not care to appoint one without your concurrence. I had hoped that the appointment of Mr. Krug, who is at present attached to the Tennessee Valley Authority, might have been announced before this.

I am writing this note in urgency because I do not want to be held responsible for the chaos which exists at Bonneville.

Sincerely yours,

*Harold G. Ickes*

Secretary of the Interior.

The President,  
The White House.



*file  
personal*

*P5F desks*

*P5F 3/26/39*

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR  
WASHINGTON

April 29, 1939.

My dear Mr. President:

Have you ever written letters and then had large doubts whether you should send them? Some such letters I have written and destroyed; others I have sent.

This is a letter which I have twice told you I would not even write let alone send; a letter on the subject of reorganization as it affects this Department in relation to Public Works and Forestry.

But I am sending it to you -- in the hope that it goes to you as my friend as well as my President -- and that even if it is long you will as my friend yourself read it through for me.

As you know, my most cherished hope has been that under your Administration and while I could help you do it, you would build up a Department of Conservation. I have not been interested, as I sometimes fear the newspapers have made you feel, merely in the size of something under my jurisdiction. I have honestly felt that the creation of such a Department with its recognition of the conservation principle as a primary purpose of the Federal Government would be a great thing for the direction of the thought of the country and one of the permanent and historically important attainments of your Administration.

CONFIDENTIAL



You now have the power to do this. But a failure to exercise that power now will mean that no President will be able to create a Department of Conservation for many years to come. Very seldom can this huge leviathan of a government be goaded into altering its habits; it has taken all of your own titanic energy and courage to create this opportunity.

Furthermore every move you make this year will be used as a reason why no further move need be made in future years: if the leviathan is made to move over in the bed, even if ever so slightly, its disposition will be to settle down even more comfortably, in the assurance that nothing more will be expected of it. What moves you do not make now you foreclose not only for yourself but for other Presidents for years to come.

I organized Public Works and saw it through its most trying years. But I have been willing at all times to give up Public Works if instead I were to have a Department of Conservation, of which Forestry, necessarily and naturally, would be the keystone.

My conversation with you on Tuesday indicated that you mean both to take Public Works from me and to refuse to give Forestry to me.

To deprive me of Public Works, to which I personally am so deeply attached, while at the same time denying me Forestry (and with it the possibility of a bona fide Department of Conservation) cuts me so deeply that I gravely doubt whether I have the spirit and courage to go on and do my work as it ought to be done.

Please do not misunderstand me. Unlike some of my confreres at the Cabinet table I have not lost my comprehension that you are President

of the Administration, the National Resources Board, and central over Govern-

from whom the powers of all the rest of us derive, and I have not lost my sense of humor to lay down presumptuous conditions on which I would stay within or depart from the circle of the honor of your confidence.

On the other hand I know myself pretty well. I know that my work is my life; I know that although I will never consciously sulk in disloyalty, the fine edge of enthusiasm which has made me so much want to achieve for you, cannot help but be dulled if you pluck out for others all the plums of the pudding of my dreams and leave me only the mess of uninteresting dough.

I do not say this to high-pressure you to do something which you think for the sake of the country ought not be done. I do not want you to reorganize my Department or any other department in a manner which you do not fully approve simply to keep me from making a scene. My pride is still above that kind of emotional graft.

But I would not be fair to you and certainly not to myself if, feeling as I do, I should not apprise you of that feeling -- for it is not beyond the possibilities that as an unenthusiastic disappointed you might not think me of sufficient usefulness to you as Secretary of the Interior.

May I at some length summarize the problems of the reorganization as they affect my work.

1. The Effect of the First Order of Reorganization on Interior.

The first order of reorganization hit me harder than any other member of your Administration. This order takes from me administration over the Office of Education, the United States Housing Administration, the Public Works Administration, the National Resources Board, and control over Govern-

ment buildings in the District of Columbia. Nothing is given by this order to compensate for this denudation.

I hope that you will not misunderstand my references to the Office of Education and the National Resources Board. I have always said that the Office of Education does not belong logically in this Department. I have always said that the National Resources Board ought to be directly under the President himself. The only point that I am trying to make is that to deprive me of these and other important agencies without giving me in return anything that, by the widest stretch of the imagination, could be held to compensate for this loss, might be interpreted as a lack of confidence, the result of which was a determination on your part to make of this a purely minor and unimportant Department.

Of course, it may be your determination to send to this Department additional functions which will make it possible for it to hold the modest place that it has held among its sister departments. However, my talk with you last Tuesday, left me in considerable doubt as to what you might do. You indicated that you might send Fisheries and Biological Survey here but these are the only two agencies that you definitely mentioned. On an earlier occasion you had suggested combining the Coast and Geodetic Survey with the surveying and mapping activities that already exist in this Department. I am sure that I need not say to you that even if these three additional functions of government should be transferred to Interior, this Department would still be the net loser to a considerable degree. Moreover, I have had no intimation as to what activities, if any, now in Interior you propose to transfer to other departments.

What I do hope, of course, above all else is that you will be willing to transfer Forestry to Interior. If you will bear with me I will argue that case in full a little later in this letter, but for the moment let me discuss a distinct second choice — that if you do think that I can be helpful to your Administration as Secretary of the Interior, you will be willing to appoint me additionally as Administrator of the new Federal Works Agency.

2. Public Works.

As I have said, you not only have performed a major operation on this Department, or at least upon my administrative responsibilities, by your Executive Order already issued, but you have indicated that it is not your purpose to transfer Forestry to Interior. This would mean that the Department of the Interior, instead of emerging from the reorganization bath fresh and reinvigorated should be sent to a nursing home for a long convalescence. In light of these circumstances, if you will bear with me a little longer, I would like to discuss the effect on this Department of the severance from it of PWA. I would also like to discuss the possible political implications in that severance.

Your pending order dispossesses me of PWA, the United States Housing Administration, the Office of Education, the National Resources Board, and the administration of Government buildings in the District of Columbia — five important and far-reaching activities. You set up a new agency consisting of the Public Works Administration, the Works Progress Administration, the Bureau of Public Roads, the Architectural Office from the Treasury, and the management of the public buildings in the District of Columbia — agencies, also five in number, and perhaps exceeding in

importance the five that you have elided from this Department.

If this Department was not to be made a Department of Conservation, then I respectfully suggest that you might well consider appointing me additionally as Administrator of this new agency.

It would not add appreciably, if at all, to my present responsibilities. I now have PWA and the public buildings of the District of Columbia, and you may recall that, as early as 1933, you suggested to me on one occasion that it was your purpose to transfer to the then Public Works Administration, the Architectural Office then in the Treasury and the Bureau of Public Roads. At that time such transfers would have added enormously to my duties because PWA was a thing of the future. It had to be organized and got going. To add these functions now to PWA, with PWA the strongly going concern that it is, would hardly cause a ripple. Nor would that part of WPA which has to do with construction add to the burdens of PWA. As a matter of fact, it would remove a lot of confusion and misunderstanding and would make for more efficient administration.

Now as to the political implications. Next year we go into a national campaign during which this Administration will have to defend its record. And if, as I hope, you will be the Democratic candidate for President, you will have to win on the record of your Administration.

Whether it is a fact or not, people generally seem to believe that I have made a creditable record as Administrator of Public Works. You, yourself, have said that there has been no scandal connected with PWA. Friends on the Hill assure me that they would like to see PWA go forward under my administration. Looking at the situation as objectively as I can, it

seems to me that a good deal of sound political reason is involved in not changing an administration which has been generally acclaimed throughout the country for its honesty and efficiency and for its very tangible accomplishments. On the other hand, would there not be a feeling of assurance and satisfaction if it were known that the building activities of WPA were to be administered in the future by the PWA organization which has already established itself in public confidence? It seems to me that to do this would be more convincing than a thousand joint debates or political speeches.

Naturally, as you indicated in the beginning, the Bureau of Public Roads and the Architectural Branch of the Treasury belong with Public Works. I believe that as to these also there would be something to be gained from the assurance that the administration of these two agencies was to be in tested and experienced hands.

There is a related question which I should bring to your attention. To take Public Works away from me without some readjustment of administrative expenses would deprive me of several vital and essential tools. It has been the practice of the Bureau of the Budget during the last several years when we asked for additional personnel for Interior, especially in the Secretary's Office, to suggest that we draw on Public Works for this personnel rather than to make the necessary additions to the budget for Interior. This we have done. Now to cut off this source of supply would cripple me badly. In fact, I do not see how I could continue to function effectively unless I were allowed to carry members of my own staff who are being paid by PWA or unless I were given an increased appropriation for

Interior.

5. Power Activities.

It is my hope, too, that you will want to concentrate in this Department the power interests and activities of the Federal Government to the extent that they can be concentrated under the Reorganization Act. The attitude of this Department toward power has been your attitude. The staff here has been educated on that attitude, has come to believe in it and is willing to fight for it. The Boulder Canyon, Bonneville and Grand Coulee projects are already under the jurisdiction of Interior. The development and distribution of power to the best interests of the people is a great conservation enterprise that can be carried out most effectively and economically if it is properly concentrated.

4. Forestry.

(a) Forestry and other conservation work belongs in Interior.

We also discussed on Tuesday at considerable length the question of Forestry. I left the White House with no hope that you had any intention at this time to transfer Forestry to Interior. This despite the fact that I had been clearly under the impression over a course of years that you not only believed that Forestry as it relates to land in public ownership, not only should be transferred to Interior but that if you ever were given the power to make such a transfer you would do this. I emphasize what I understood to be your own belief because I would not on personal grounds press for any transfer to which I knew you were in principle opposed. But I have always understood, at least up until last Tuesday, that you agreed that Forestry ought to be the keystone of a Department of Conservation. We also discussed the possibility of "nibbling" at Forestry by transferring

to this Department grazing in the national forests, the recreational activities now carried on in the national forests, and the setting aside of certain areas as national monuments, but I did not gather that this indicated that you had any objection in principle to the transfer of Forestry to Interior. On the contrary I thought that it indicated that you believed that Forestry should ultimately come to Interior.

Of course, if Fisheries and Biological Survey are not to be transferred to Interior there would be no particular point in transferring Forestry. Because even with Forestry, Fisheries and Biological Survey, this Department as reconstructed, while it would be a cohesive and compact Department, would not be a large one, in view of the inroads on the Department that have already been made. It would seem to me that the grazing and recreational activities now carried on in national forests should also come to Interior. The Taylor Grazing Act, passed in 1933, gave you the right to transfer Forestry Grazing to the Grazing Division. Here was a clear intention of the desire of Congress, which expression, however, has never been carried out.

So thoroughly am I convinced that a bona fide Department of Conservation would have greater potentialities for the economic welfare and the social well-being of the people in the long run than some of the temporary expedients that, by force of circumstances, we have been compelled to resort to, that I am willing to make any personal sacrifice in the interest of such a Department. If your hesitation to go ahead with a Department of Conservation is due to any question in your mind as to whether I would have the necessary qualifications to head such a Department, then, in all sincer-

cerity, I say to you that I am willing to resign as a member of your Cabinet. If this doubt exists in your mind, please consider this letter as my resignation, to take effect at your pleasure. I do not want my personality, and I should like to think that any other member of your Cabinet would not want his personality to stand in the way of a comprehensive reorganization. At no time have I had any desire except to support your Administration to the utmost and to add, if I could, to its prestige on the basis of a job well done. I have had no personal ambitions that could possibly have raised an issue between my loyalty to my Commander-in-Chief and my desire to realize on those ambitions. I have wanted to serve you because I have a deep personal affection for you and because I believe in your general social objectives. But I know that I cannot serve you effectively except on the basis of mutual confidence and mutual esteem.

(b) The Congressional Situation Regarding Forestry.

You told me that some of your advisers had indicated that to attempt to transfer even Fisheries and the Biological Survey here might cause your order to be rejected by the Congress. Frankly, I think that whoever gave you that advice either did not know what he was talking about or had some ulterior purpose in mind. I have canvassed this situation, I think, more thoroughly than most others because I have been personally interested, and my information is all to the contrary.

Neither am I persuaded that Forestry itself would not be able to run the gauntlet of the Congress if you chose to include it in your order. On the Senate side, Senator McNary has assured me that Forestry would stand the test. He told me also that, in his opinion, Forestry, Biological Survey and Fisheries should be in this Department, and he gave me liberty to quote him

to you to this effect. Undoubtedly you noticed a newspaper statement by Senator McNary commenting on your first order, in which he said that he would not be a partisan in considering that order.

Senator Byrnes also told me that, except for such opposition as Senator Pittman might offer, he believed that there would be no question of your order going through as to Forestry. As he put it to me: "Why, we have won that fight." I may say parenthetically that I am trying to find out just what is the real basis for Senator Pittman's opposition to the transfer of Forestry and his confidence that it cannot be transferred.

On the House side, I am even more confident. Congressman Cochran, of Missouri, has said that Forestry could be transferred. Congressman Woodrum told me the same thing in my own office about ten days ago. Congressman Warren Lindsay, I am told, is equally confident. He said to Congressman Dempsey substantially what Senator Byrnes said to me, namely, "Why, we have won that fight."

But my chief reliance is based upon what Congressman Dempsey has told me over and over again. I have great confidence in Congressman Dempsey's judgment and in his ability to make good on what he says. I still believe that if his advice had been followed at the last session you would have had your reorganization bill at that session in much better shape than you have it now. Congressman Dempsey tells me that there is no doubt that a transfer of Forestry could be made to stick.

(c) How the Congressional Situation, if it really stands in the way of the transfer of Forestry, can be tested.

I had hoped, of course, that Forestry would be included in your general interdepartmental order. You have said that you did not want to defeat that

order by including Forestry. Therefore, I make you this suggestion: Will you be willing, as the last of your orders, to send up one dealing with Forestry alone, transferring it, so far as it relates to the public lands, from the Department of Agriculture to this Department? If Congress really wishes this transfer to be made, Henry Wallace cannot complain if it is given an opportunity so to indicate. And, after all, the only way really to find out what Congress will or will not do is to put the issue up to Congress.

5. Equitable Distribution of Work among Departments.

You told me on Tuesday that one purpose you had in mind was to even up the Departments so far as possible. May I respectfully suggest that, so far as Agriculture is concerned, there seems to be no leveling down. I have not the exact figures before me but I know that during the last two fiscal years the appropriation for Agriculture has been approximately a billion dollars each year. The appropriation for this Department for the next fiscal year is \$173,674,765.25. Your first reorganization order takes from Agriculture the Bureau of Public Roads, but it adds to Agriculture three lending agencies so that I suspect that the net result will not be a substantial curtailment of Agriculture from the point of view of annual expenditures rather than a curtailment of Agriculture. Even if Agriculture loses Biological Survey and Forestry in addition, I doubt whether this very behemoth of a Department will find itself much, if any, reduced in size after the whole reorganization plan has been given effect. Interior with Forestry would not be large compared with most of the other departments.

Sincerely yours,

*Harold Z. Fisher*

Secretary of the Interior.

The President,  
The White House.

*PSF: John  
Curtis*

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

May 10, 1939.

MEMORANDUM FOR

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR

In regard to Winship and Puerto  
Rico:

1. I will tell the Press on  
Friday that I expect to send  
Admiral Leahy to Puerto Rico  
this Summer as Governor.

2. I suggest that you write  
to Winship and tell him that  
the President decided to make  
this announcement and that he  
will be informed a little later  
as to the date the change will  
be made.

3. In regard to the Bureau of  
Territories and Islands, I  
think you have a good chance  
to make a change there in view  
of my adding the Philippines  
to it!

F. D. R.



THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR  
WASHINGTON

May 8, 1939

THE WHITE HOUSE

MAY 9 1 24 PM '39

RECEIVED

My dear Mr. President:

I can see your point of view about refraining from pressing Governor Winship for his resignation at this time but I am nevertheless very much disturbed about the Puerto Rican situation.

Congressman Marcantonio called on you a week or two ago and after he came out of your office he told the newspapermen that he had requested you to demand Governor Winship's resignation. This news was published subsequently in Puerto Rico, as well as here. This was a foolish thing for Marcantonio to do, in view of the fact that he knew, both from you and from me, that we were trying to work out the situation.

Last Friday I talked with Marcantonio over the telephone. I told him that he had gummed up the cards pretty thoroughly and that if Winship continued as Governor he could have himself to thank for it. Marcantonio is threatening to offer a resolution calling for a Congressional investigation of affairs in Puerto Rico. I am trying to persuade him to hold his horses in conformity with your suggestion over the telephone on Thursday. I told him that if he would go along for a few weeks and keep his mouth shut, things would work out all right. Whether he can be persuaded to do this, I do not know. He is both volatile and irrepressible. However, I will do my best.

One thing that has made Marcantonio an active enemy of Winship's

is the fact that both Winship and Dr. Gruening actively intervened in Marcantonio's district in support of Marcantonio's opponent at the last election. Marcantonio insists that he is a New Dealer and that if he was not entitled to Administration support, he was at least entitled to an absence of Administration opposition. I did not know at the time of Gruening's activities in Marcantonio's district any more than I knew of his activities in behalf of Delegate King in Hawaii. If I had known, I would have called him sharply to account. It was Marcantonio himself who told me of Gruening's active intervention, but I have verified this fact myself, although Marcantonio does not know this.

As to Puerto Rico, I think that we are sitting on a powder keg. Governor Winship has been a good policeman but beyond that I cannot hand him very much. In our governance of Puerto Rico under Winship we seem to go from one untoward event to another untoward event. I was on the point of asking you to demand his resignation when he was shot at some months ago. In view of that event, I did not even ask you. Now he doesn't want to resign because of Marcantonio's indiscretion. Even if Marcantonio can be held in leash, I suspect that Winship will find some other perfectly good reason for not resigning if he should be asked to do so in the weeks or months to come.

Of course, Governor Winship is entitled to every proper consideration but it seems to me that the welfare of the people of Puerto Rico is of greater concern than Governor Winship's face. If he has created a situation which seems to call for his removal as Governor, then he ought to pay the

price and not the people of Puerto Rico. If he is not the proper man for Governor, then, it seems to me, he ought to be removed. After all, the Administration cannot be held responsible for wild statements that Marcantonio has made or may make. He is not a member of the Administration and is not even a party democrat.

As you know, I wanted a comprehensive investigation of Puerto Rico after the Fonce affair. You were willing to support this but we could not find any way of doing it in conformity with the laws, unless we asked Congress to investigate and that neither of us favored. Whether Marcantonio can force an investigation or not, I do not know. But I suspect that a thorough investigation would not reflect any great credit upon the administration that Puerto Rico has had. I believe that Governor Winship is hand in glove with the worst political elements in the Island. The one hand is washing the other. Unfortunately, I cannot rely on Dr. Gruening with respect to Puerto Rico because he reacted so violently from his early implicit confidence in the so-called local liberals that he has gone over to Governor Winship and Nadal, horse, foot and dragoons.

The task you gave me of asking for Governor Winship's resignation was not a pleasant one. I do not like to do that sort of thing, but orders were orders. It is curious that in a long interview with me, Governor Winship never even mentioned Marcantonio. He saved that for you when he saw you three or four days later. All of which causes me to believe that perhaps Governor Winship is not as sincere in the matter as he might be.

There came from your office to me at the end of the week a sheaf of telegrams on Puerto Rico, demanding that Governor Winship be permitted to continue as Governor. My suspicion is that it was the Governor himself who saw to the loosing of this avalanche. As a matter of fact, I have been advised from Puerto Rico that an active campaign was put on for these telegrams at La Fortaleza and some of those who sent telegrams, curiously enough, were persons who theretofore had privately expressed themselves as being anxious to see a new Governor.

I did not see Governor Winship after his interview with you but probably that is just as well because there was nothing, in my embarrassment, that I could have said to him. Very likely he did not think it worth while to ask me for another interview because of what must have been his conviction that I was not in a position to speak to him with authority.

Sincerely yours,

*Harold G. Fisher*

Secretary of the Interior.

The President,  
The White House.

PSF Ickes



THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR  
WASHINGTON

JUN -2 1939

The President,

The White House.

My dear Mr. President:

It gives me great pleasure to present to you, on behalf of the American National Committee of the Third World Power Conference of which I was chairman, sets of the transactions of the Third World Power Conference and of the Second Congress on Large Dams, which were held concurrently in Washington in September, 1936.

Sincerely yours,

*Harold T. Ickes*

Secretary of the Interior.

517-11-57





THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR  
WASHINGTON

June 23, 1939.

*BF I-kes*  
*File*  
*Personal*  
*(11)*

My dear Mr. President:

I have just read a release given out to the press consisting of your letter to Senator James F. Byrnes with reference to H. Res. No. 326, and Senator Byrnes' letter to you, to which yours was a reply.

We discussed briefly Wednesday the relief program for the fiscal year 1940, especially with reference to a possible Public Works program. Up to that time I had known nothing of the alternative plan which you now propose except from what I was able to gather from the newspapers. As I see it, the situation next year will be so serious unless there is an upturn in business, which cannot now be predicted, that, despite your letter to Senator Byrnes, and despite even your desire to keep down Government expenditures, I feel that it is my duty to emphasize what I said in a very hasty and sketchy manner on Wednesday.

In your letter you list several types of expenditures which you estimate will call for loan disbursements during the fiscal year of 1940 in the amount of \$870,000,000. I respectfully beg leave to express the following doubts with respect to these items:

The first item anticipates an expenditure of \$150,000,000 for non-Federal Public Works "to be financed by loans at sufficiently low

rates of interest to stimulate borrowing for this purpose." Even if States and political subdivisions were disposed to participate in a program of this kind, it would necessarily mean that every application already filed with PWA would have to be thrown into the wastepaper basket and entirely new applications sought. Of itself, this would mean weeks, if not months, of delay. In many instances it would mean new bond elections. Over 80% of the bond elections held with respect to non-Federal projects during the past year or more have been approved by the voters, but it should be remembered that these bond elections contemplated an expenditure by the applicant of only 55% of the total cost of the project. Many communities that are able to raise 55% cannot raise 100%, even at a low rate of interest. Many other communities, even if they could raise the 100%, would be reluctant to do so, especially if that 100% came close to the limit of permissible bonded indebtedness. I cannot predict how much money might be put up for this type of project, but I gravely doubt whether any such sum as \$150,000,000 could be spent, and I am pessimistic enough to believe that the amount would be very small indeed.

You suggest the expenditure of an equal amount (\$150,000,000) "for express post roads." I take it that these express post roads would not comprehend existing roads but if they did then existing roads would have to be enlarged, re-graded, rebuilt, etc. If these proposed roads are new roads, my guess would be that title to lands

required for the roads, if condemnation proceedings had to be resorted to, would hold up the program months and perhaps even two or three years. In this connection it should be noted that we have not yet bought the land required for the Jefferson Memorial at St. Louis, although the project was approved December 21, 1935. Moreover, based on my experience as Public Works Administrator, I am prepared to say that there is no agency in the Government where the gap between performance and promise is so great as it is in the Bureau of Public Roads. In 1933 Senator Hayden and others urged that the quickest way to spend Public Works funds was by building roads and that it meant more actual employment. You allocated money generously to the Bureau of Public Roads on my recommendation and later I was astounded to find that months, and even in some instances one or two years, passed before some of this money was put to work. Another point: If you expect the States or counties to give rights-of-way for these post roads, there would be no telling when you would have title.

The railroad equipment item looks as if it might be all right, and the purchase of railroad equipment is one of the best things that could be done because of the stimulating effect that it would have on the heavy industries.

Even if \$20,000,000 additional could be spent on Rural Electrification, and you told me Wednesday that Mr. Carmody had an exceptionally fine record in living up to his estimates, it would only be a drop in the bucket.

As to the farm tenant program, which would call for an expenditure of \$250,000,000, this would mean very little in the way of employment. Also, this looks like a further discrimination against the unemployed in the cities for the benefit of the farmers. Please understand that I am in full sympathy with the plight of the farmers, but after all a man can exist in the country where he would freeze or starve in the city.

I am in favor of a program of foreign loans, if by that is meant loans to Central and South American countries. Personally I have no experience upon which to express a judgment as to how quickly \$200,000,000 could be spent or what the indirect beneficial effects on employment and industry in this country would be. However, based upon my general experience, I am very skeptical as to how fast such a program would move and once the money is loaned the use of it and the celerity with which it would be used would have to be determined by others.

In your release you speak of the expansion of the public housing program of the United States Housing Authority by extending its borrowing power by \$800,000,000 as something that can be looked to for an increase in employment next year. I suspect that there has been some misapprehension as to what has actually been accomplished by U. S. H. A. No housing project has yet been built by that organization, although I understand that two or three are nearing completion. To announce the earmarking of funds for housing is not to build housing, although the effect of this seems to have been to

assure the public that great strides were being made in housing. The Housing Administration has been in existence for almost two years. When it took over the PWA program practically all of the spade work had been done. With few exceptions all of the States had adopted housing laws that we had drafted for them, and in some States and cities housing authorities had been set up and were at work. We even possessed and turned over to U. S. H. A. sites in two cities and the Congress appropriated generous sums of money. You may recall that a year ago the theory was advanced by some that a PWA program was not necessary for the fiscal year of 1939 because Housing would fill the gap. If we had depended upon Housing then we would be in bad shape today. Judging the future by the past, if we are to depend upon Housing for the fiscal year of 1940, we will be making a mistake. I have suggested to you in the past that a thorough investigation of Housing should be made and now that the control of this agency is passing from my own jurisdiction, I respectfully renew this suggestion.

As I told you yesterday, there will be practically no PWA employment by July 1, 1940. I can see nothing in the proposed program that holds out hopes for even the amount of employment ~~which~~ that PWA has been able to effect during the past years. If the new program succeeds in doing what the proposal of the program of itself admits the need of doing, all well and good. But unless a Public Works program is started this Fall, it will be too late next Summer. Even if the Congress should appropriate \$2,000,000,000 at the next session for

a Public Works program, people out of work will be walking the streets until the Winter of 1940-41. We might have omitted the Public Works program in which we are at present engaged, the peak of which will be reached next month, without the disastrous results that I foresee if we omit it now and rely upon a program which, with all due respect, in my judgment, will not do what it is absolutely necessary to do, and the failure to do which may result in serious social dislocations.

Sincerely yours,

*Harold Z. Ickes*

Secretary of the Interior.

The President,  
The White House.

PSF

Charles F. Feltner 11)

June 29, 1939.

Dear Harold:-

Before you turn over the Public Works Administration to the new agency, I want you to know how very deeply I feel that you have made such a wonderful success of the PWA. In no respect has the PWA failed to live up to my expectations.

I am and have been wholly satisfied both with the schedule of all the projects during all these years, and also with the well recognized honesty of the whole transaction.

You are right that PWA has been definitely successful in bringing out private funds. And, as you say, it has put men to work with private funds long before the Treasury has been called on to pay out government money for the government share of the work.

My dear Harold, I wish you would not make assumptions which have absolutely no basis in fact. If, as you say, you have been conscious that PWA has not been a favorite at the White House, you are just utterly and 100% wrong. If you have been puzzled and distressed it is your own fault for imagining things that do not exist. You and the fine staff of PWA have not been "outside", but just as much inside as any other branch of the Government.

As a matter of practical fact, I have spent less time on PWA because, under your guidance, it has not been a "problem child." The agencies on which I have to spend the most time are the ones which need the most Presidential advice and the most Presidential straightening out. I had hoped that you had learned this little fact before. It is a compliment to your administration that the PWA has given me so few headaches in all these years.

There is, of course, no question about the general opinion throughout the country as being favorable to PWA. The work itself needs no appraisal because public opinion has already appraised the excellence of the work.

My dear Harold, will you ever grow up? Don't you realize that I am thinking in terms of the Government of the

United States, not only during this Administration, but during many Administrations to come. Incidentally, I am entirely confident in my own mind. After many struggles I have succeeded in getting at least a partial reorganization plan through. In carrying out that plan I have been guided by ordinary business judgment in outlining the management of the largest corporation in the world. Every student of business or corporation management knows that one has to have certain forms of similar work under one manager, and that it is a mistake to have one manager in charge of wholly different kinds of work.

Affectionately,

Last year I proposed a Cabinet position for Public Works, another Cabinet position for Welfare, and possibly another Cabinet position to coordinate the quasi-judicial Commissions. That plan was based on a segregation of government functions into natural groups, and it was planned not for this Administration alone but for succeeding Administrations as well.

The Honorable

The Personalities did not enter into it because I was building for the future. You, for example, happen to be the kind of a person who could perfectly well run the Interior Department, which is slowly becoming the Conservation Department, and the Public Works Department as well. But there are mighty few Secretaries of the Interior who could run both of these very different tasks. You will be the first to admit that, and to admit the further fact that Public Works, as represented by the organizations in the new agency, is a very different kind of a job from running a Conservation Department.

In thinking of the Government of the United States in the future, I am trying to leave behind an orderly and logical set-up, which will take care of all the new work we have started in the past six years, and make it easier for my successor to carry on.

Therefore, there has never been any thought from the beginning in my mind or in anybody else's that the head of one Department should be the head of another Department as well. As I have said before, you have shown that you yourself could fill both jobs well at the same time. But there have been no previous Secretaries of the Interior, and probably will be few in the future, who could accomplish that.

In regard to the staff of PWA, I have already spoken to Carmody about keeping them intact, and I wish you would have a friendly talk with him and tell him in detail about the staff.

Work with me, please, to build up the Interior Department into a real Conservation Department, as we both looked forward to. Incidentally, I am entirely confident in my own mind that oil and coal will both be taken more and more under Government supervision in the near future, and that, of course, is a definite function for you to add to Interior. And for the hundredth time, I am not forgetting Forestry.

Affectionately,

The Honorable  
The Secretary of the Interior,  
Washington, D. C.

FEDERAL EMERGENCY ADMINISTRATOR  
OF PUBLIC WORKS  
WASHINGTON

June 26, 1939.

My dear Mr. President:

On Wednesday, when I had the pleasure of lunching with you, you said something to the effect that of all the spending agencies, Rural Electrification under Mr. Carmody, according to reports from the Treasury, came the nearest to attaining the goal that it had set for itself. I do not want in the least to detract from any credit that may be due Mr. Carmody, but naturally I have been wondering in what respect PWA has failed to live up either to your expectations or to its own.

It seems to me that it all depends upon what measuring rod is used. If that agency which spends its appropriation the fastest is the one that is considered the most successful, then I admit that PWA is not in the running with some others. But quick spending of Federal funds has never been our goal. Our object has been to get in as much outside capital as possible and to put as many men to work as soon as we could. Certainly, especially so far as our present program is concerned, not only are we keeping up with our schedule, but, in my opinion, we have realized every reasonable expectation.

When the PWA appropriation was announced last Summer, factories at once went to work to fill orders sent in in expectation of materials required to be used on PWA projects. Contractors repaired or bought new equipment. Architects busied themselves over plans and specifications.

There was a stirring in business and industry in all parts of the country. Yet not one cent was paid out of the Treasury for months thereafter for any of this work, including expenditures for wages. Then contracts were let and contractors employed men and put them to work. Not yet were any drafts made against the United States Treasury.

Contractors at the outset met their expenses out of their own bank balances or they borrowed from the bank. It should be borne in mind, too, as an important factor, that as to non-Federal projects, 55% was required to be put in by the applicant. This 55% was paid out first to a very considerable extent, with the result that contractors and cities were pouring money into public works long before the Treasury of the United States was called upon to pay out anything.

PWA has been far in the lead of all the relief activities of the Government in bringing out private funds. Another of its virtues is that private money goes into the permanent investments made possible by PWA a considerable time before any vouchers are presented to the Treasury for payment. It is more than a little ironical that this outstanding virtue of PWA should be cited to the discredit of PWA merely because the outgoings from the Treasury have been unthinkingly taken to be the measure of the relative success of the various spending agencies. We have had many instances where projects have been practically completed on private and local capital before the United States Treasury has been drawn upon.

This important difference between our program and that of other agencies has been almost universally, and in some instances persistently,

overlooked. It is pretty tough if one administration is held to be less successful than another merely because the first is not spending Federal funds as fast as the other. PWA causes the expenditure of large amounts of money, resulting in a marked regeneration in business, but it does not happen that, at the beginning, this money, beyond a relatively small amount, comes out of the Federal Treasury.

As an example of how PWA works, the amount of private money expended on non-Federal projects under our present program is just about equal to the \$700,000,000 appropriated by the Government for PWA. In other words, when Congress appropriates \$700,000,000 for a non-Federal PWA program, it means the actual expenditure of about \$1,500,000,000. Moreover, if the appropriation is drawn against later, rather than earlier, it means a saving of interest to the Government. Yet in the opinion of some, including people in the Treasury itself who ought to know better, PWA is not the success that other agencies are because the Treasury does not have to put out its money earlier and therefore pay more interest on it.

PWA has done its job, which was to put men to work and bring in matching capital. It has put private dollars to work as no other agency has. It ought to be to our credit, instead of being held against us, that, under our program, it is possible to put hundreds of millions of private funds to work before having recourse to the Treasury.

From an early date, I have been conscious that PWA has not been a favorite at the White House. This has both puzzled and distressed me, not only on my own account, but because of the thousands of sincere, devoted and hard-working members of the PWA staff who have been as conscious as I

have been that, while not literally in the doghouse, PWA was just outside.

This failure of PWA to be rated at its true worth, has undoubtedly been my personal failure, because I have been the contact between PWA and the White House. Apparently I lack the ability to "sell" myself. I was brought up to believe that if a job were well done it spoke more eloquently for the doer than any self-praise in which he might indulge. Perhaps this isn't often true in public life. In any event, apparently, I have relied too strongly upon the eloquence of a job well done. Or, it may be that I have been deceiving myself as to the quality of PWA. Yet, on this point, I would have less doubt than I frankly admit that I do have, if, generally, there had not been a notable absence of criticism of PWA except only for the easily explained slowness in getting under way in an entirely new enterprise in the early days. As a matter of fact, there have been, pretty generally, warm praise of PWA. To the degree that general opinion throughout the country has seemed to be favorable toward the PWA administration, I have felt that I have been sadly deficient in being able to impress its worthwhileness upon the one quarter where I wanted it to be appreciated.

Since 1934, I have never been consulted with respect to a single spending program. On more than one occasion, I have been conscious of an attitude of doubt of, if not of actual opposition to, PWA. For this situation, as I have suggested, I am aware that I have only myself to blame. But it has hurt just the same.

I would appreciate it tremendously if you would assign some competent

and disinterested person to appraise for you not only the value of the PWA program but the manner in which it has been administered.

For six years I have been Administrator of PWA. A newly born child was laid on my doorstep and I have taken care of and loved that child as if it were my own. I had hoped that I would be permitted to continue a relationship that was prized by me, at least until there should be entrusted to my care other interests that would make up the loss.

On Wednesday you seemed surprised at my statement that, under your reorganization orders, you had cut more deeply into my jurisdiction than that of any other member of your official family. I believe that what I said is sustained by the facts. From Interior you elided the Office of Education, the United States Housing Administration and the Management of the Federal Buildings in Washington. In addition, you took from me the Public Works Administration, which was one of the most important administrative agencies in the Government, and the National Resources Committee.

By way of replacement you sent to Interior the Biological Survey and the Bureau of Fisheries, both of which I wanted, and that chief headache of your Administration, the Bituminous Coal Commission, which I was willing to take but which I certainly would never even have thought of asking for. You also sent over the Bureau of Insular Affairs, which also I did not ask for and which came to me as a complete surprise. These replacements did not make up for what you took out of Interior alone, to say nothing of PWA and the National Resources Committee, which were outside of the Department proper. You did not send to me Forestry, the agency that I particularly wanted, although I insisted, and I think that the record will amply bear me out.

that there would have been no difficulty in transferring Forestry. Neither did you send to me, as I had suggested, and as I hoped that you would, the various agencies having to do with public power which are not now in my Department. As I told you on Wednesday, I have not been happy since your reorganization orders were issued. I am far from happy as I write this, and my state of mind is not entirely due to selfish and personal reasons. Word comes to me that the members of my PWA staff are badly broken up. Not only do they not know what is to be their fate, but, strange as it may seem -- with exceptions, of course, -- they do not want to leave me. I have bullied them and driven them to a degree that, at times, I have been ashamed of. Yet, I do not doubt that if I could take all of them with me, practically everyone would volunteer to follow.

You have the right to issue orders, and, during such further time as I may be a member of your Administration, I will continue loyally to obey. But, however much better an Administrator you may consider Mr. Carmody to be, I honestly do not think that in preferring him to me for the Federal Works Agency, you have acted with your usual wisdom. If I, as well as Mr. Carmody was doing a job that was meeting with general public favor, by the shifts that you have made with respect to both of us, you are undoubtedly running the risk of less satisfactory results, either in Rural Electrification or in Public Works or in both. Any readjustment necessarily means some lag, some maladjustment, and the critics of your Administration will overlook no opportunity to magnify even a little slip.

You told me that I could not do two jobs. But I have done two full-time jobs during the past six years, and at times I have done more than two jobs. Of the agencies that have gone to make up the new Federal Works Agency, only three, WPA, the Bureau of Public Roads and the Architectural Division of Procurement, are not at this very minute under my jurisdiction. In other words, if you had chosen to name me as Public Works Administrator, even with the additional burden of these three activities the administrative load that I would have carried would have been no heavier than the responsibilities that I had when, concurrently, I was Secretary of the Interior, Administrator of Public Works and Oil Administrator. I believe this to be a fair statement because FWA now is one of the most efficient and closely knit organizations in the Government. When I took over Public Works and the Oil Administration, both were new and both were untried experiments. They required a tremendous lot of time and energy. I do not believe that the new Federal Works Agency, as now set up, is anywhere near the load that FWA alone was in 1933 to 1935.

Nor is this the whole story. For a considerable period when I was Secretary of the Interior, Administrator of Public Works and Oil Administrator, I was also responsible for Subsistence Homesteads and for Soil Conservation. Both of these were set up as new agencies by me and administered directly by me. The Subsistence Homestead Administration is the only activity where I feel that I did not really make good. I think that you know at least some of the reasons why this Administration was not a success. As to Soil Conservation, it flourished so well in

Interior that when it was moved to Agriculture Dr. Bennett, the Director, was on the point of resigning because of his disappointment. It was so successful that Congress was on the point of passing a law making it a permanent agency in Interior.

But, instead of complaining, I ought to be thanking you for allowing me to be Public Works Administrator during the past six years, even if, as I have always suspected, you haven't thought a great deal of PWA. I have loved this job and I have been devoted to the staff that I built up with my own hands. A better one does not exist in any Department of the Government anywhere. I am really sorrier for them than I am for myself because not a single member of that staff knows when the ax will fall on his own devoted head, excepting only the three or four whom I have advised that I shall take with me into Interior. And I do thank you, Mr. President, with all my heart, for the opportunity that you gave me to perform a unique, and what I firmly believe will be regarded in the future as an outstanding, public job.

Sincerely yours,

*Harold L. Peltus*

Administrator.

The President,  
The White House.

7-19-39

135F

Ickes -  
1

Memo to President  
From Morgenthau  
July 19, 1939

Encloses memo from Dan Bellin regard to letter  
from Mr. S.H.White of London who wrote to Ickes  
making a suggestion on British War debt.

See Henry Morgenthau folder-Drawer 1--1939

PSF: *Lakes*

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

September 16, 1939.

MEMORANDUM FOR

H. L. I.

You are right about reading the right kind of public opinion in this country. As a matter of practical politics I think it is better for us to withhold any speeches, such as talks to Poles, etc., for just a very short time, i.e., until we get the embargo repeal through. In other words, merely a matter of timing.

F. D. R.



THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR  
WASHINGTON

September 11, 1939.

PSF: Jakes

THE WHITE HOUSE  
SEP 12 3 13 PM '39  
RECEIVED

My dear Mr. President:

You are understandably so busy these days, capably handling the international situation, that I can't always get to you when I would like to, and so, if you do not mind, I may occasionally write you letters which I will always make as brief as possible.

I believe that members of your administration, as well as private citizens who can command a hearing and who are in agreement with your objectives, ought to be getting out before the country on the general theme of mutual forbearance and understanding among ourselves, in order to counteract any domestic cross-currents that might have the effect of making it more difficult for you to handle the situation that confronts us and to maintain a true neutrality.

We ought to talk about peace in the international field, as well as cooperation and understanding at home. I believe that much can be done to strengthen the feeling of the people for democracy and to fortify them against any external or internal effort to undermine our institutions. Unfortunately, I believe that this is necessary, but the people will follow the light if it is given to them. In making out a case for democracy, by indirection a strong case can be built up against dictatorships. Condemnation can be as effective by inference as by direct statement. We can depend upon the Fritz Kuhns and perhaps even upon Goebels and Hitler himself to break out at intervals and thus strengthen our efforts.

The people need to be educated in the fundamental issues that are involved in this world situation. Such education will prepare them for any eventuality, however unpleasant or ugly it may be. Of course, we must strengthen our Army and Navy but it is just as important to educate the understanding and strengthen the purpose of the people, from whom, in the final analysis, the Army and the Navy and the Administration itself must draw their strength.

When I told you at the Cabinet meeting on September 1 of the invitation that I had had to speak at a big Polish meeting in Chicago yesterday afternoon, you suggested that I discuss it with Cordell Hull. I did call him up and there seemed to me to be such a lack of enthusiasm on his part that I sent a telegram to the Chicago people declining their invitation.

We have within the United States a great number of first and second generation Poles. I believe that some word to them at this time would have been heartening and that the right word might have served to allay incipient hatreds between the Poles and the Germans. We want to avoid antagonisms between nationalistic groups in this country if we can. My mind goes back to the last World War when there was a strong pro-German sentiment among that particular nationalistic group in this country. Out of this sentiment a cheap and reckless demagogue, William Hale Thompson, Mayor of Chicago, made all the political capital that he could.

I was in charge of patriotic propaganda in Illinois for a period just after we went into that war and I know that the State Council of Defense, of which Samuel Insull was Chairman, and Governor Lowden himself, felt helpless when it came to William Hale Thompson. Fortunately, at this time,

except for a comparatively small number of newly arrived Germans who are likely to follow Fritz Kuhn and other precinct fuhrers who may or may not have been planted here by Hitler, Goebels, et al, the overwhelming mass of our citizens of German descent, in my opinion, are anti-Hitler and pro-America. But we ought to make these Germans feel comfortably assured that we understand and appreciate their loyalty to their adopted land. So far as Chicago is concerned, there is, therefore, a double task: that of reassuring the Germans and of preventing the Poles from getting out of hand through a perfectly understandable resentment against what Germany under Hitler is doing to Poland. There are also large numbers of Poles and Germans in other parts of the country.

With all due respect, I do not believe that this is a matter that can or should be handled by the State Department. It is purely a domestic question. After all, citizens here have the right that you so clearly pointed out, of drawing conclusions, even if they are neutrals. I believe that they have the further right to express their views and this right ought to be encouraged and given leadership if we are to direct the force of public opinion instead of being directed by it. I go so far as to think that, unofficially, and, perhaps, even confidentially, a carefully planned speaking campaign should be worked out.

Sincerely yours,

*Harold Z. Ickes*

Secretary of the Interior.

The President,  
The White House,  
Washington, D.C.



*file  
personal*

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR  
WASHINGTON

September 18, 1939.

THE WHITE HOUSE  
SEP 18 1 02 PM '39  
RECEIVED

My dear Mr. President:

You will see from the enclosed that Assistant Secretary Johnson of the War Department has now taken the coal industry under his capacious wing.

Sincerely yours,

*Harold I. Jones*

Secretary of the Interior.

The President,  
The White House.

Enc.



*file personal* *PSF Interior files*

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR  
WASHINGTON

September 18, 1939.

My dear Mr. President:

At three different points last week, I discovered that Walter White, Secretary of the Businessmen's Advisory Committee of the Department of Commerce, without the knowledge of Acting Secretary Noble, had been trying to get names for possible inclusion as members of various committees relating to the coal industry and certain other of the mining industries. It appears that Mr. White was doing this for the Stettinius committee. What use is to be made of these names, I do not know, but I have put a stop to any more information emanating from my department until I receive orders from you.

And now once more I am going off a deep end. But if I am acting in an excess of zeal, I hope that you will excuse it, because I am zealous for the continued success and prestige of your administration. I am afraid that I was never born to be an angel.

You are fully aware of the demand that has been going on, much of it from anti-administration sources, for a "coalition" government. Such a government would be contrary to American precedents. As a matter of fact, such a government would not fit into our scheme of things. What I hope to see, and what I believe you have in mind, is the continued firm control and direction of our government on your own part. The people elected you to run



their affairs because they thought that you were best able to run them and you are still operating under a clear mandate from the people.

However, I do believe that you would be very wise in considering the addition to your Cabinet of two republicans of the type that we have discussed. Perhaps it would meet the situation merely to bring in two republicans to some, if not to all, of the meetings of the Cabinet, as you have brought in the three new administrators, but I doubt this, especially since the republicans would have no administrative duties and therefore no power. My own view is that it would be none the less your administration, under your own firm and wise guidance, if you should take two republicans into the Cabinet itself.

I indicated to you on Friday that, if you were going to do this, I hoped that you would do it before you seemed to be yielding to clamor. I continue to hope this. You can do this without making the administration any less yours than it now is or ought to be.

My belief that Frank Knox would be an admirable Secretary of the Navy continues to grow. He is a stronger and abler man than Landon and I suspect that, when his loyalty has once been engaged, it is more aggressive than that of Landon. I have known Knox for a good many years. He likes to follow strong, affirmative leadership. It was these qualities that attracted him to Theodore Roosevelt. Moreover, he can bring you a public support that Landon can not bring. Next to the Chicago Tribune, the Chicago Daily

News is the most influential newspaper in the Chicago area, in addition to which Knox owns and publishes a paper in Manchester, New Hampshire. Not only was he a candidate for Vice President on the republican ticket in 1936, he is one of the republican leaders most frequently consulted in Illinois and his advice is given great weight there. I am not overlooking the fact, any more than I imagine you are, that he has been antagonistic to Mayor Kelly. It is only fair to take this into account, but then I suspect that any republican would have certain democratic opposition.

Landon is a businessman, and for that reason it seems to me that he would most naturally fit into Commerce, which you indicated was the other post that you had in mind. I have reflected whether the fact that he is in the oil business might disqualify him but I do not think so. Commerce has nothing to do with the control of oil. To whatever extent the Government has administration of oil, it is through the Department of the Interior. Moreover, Landon is an honest-to-God small independent. Of course, no party republican in Commerce should be permitted to have control of the Census Bureau machinery. But, aside from that, there is little political "kudos" in Commerce or Navy.

Confidentially, Frank Murphy is becoming restless. He wants War but he does not want to wait until all contracts are signed and policies are fixed that either will be held to be binding upon him or which he will have to revise or reverse at the cost of slowing up operations or of giving unnecessary offense. He really has his heart set on the Secretaryship of War, and I need not tell you that

Bob Jackson keenly wants the post of Justice. Murphy wants Jackson to have this too. You know, of course, that certain things are not in very good shape in the War Department, and I do not believe that public confidence in the administration generally is enhanced by the bantam cockfight that is going on in the War Department every day.

Murphy in War, Jackson in Justice, and Knox and Landon in other Cabinet posts, in my opinion, would make a great impression on the country. Moreover, in bringing Bob Jackson into the Cabinet, you would be adding not only one of the ablest and most resourceful men in the country, but one of devoted loyalty to yourself.

I understand that you plan to deliver a message to Congress when it meets on Thursday. If, on Friday, nominations should go up along the lines that I have suggested, I believe that your hands would be strengthened tremendously and that your act would be generally acclaimed.

I know you will understand that I am not for a second urging or even suggesting that anything be done to the detriment of Harry Hopkins. I am too fond of him to want to see him hurt in any way. Anyhow, I know and respect your own deep feeling about him.

Sincerely yours,

*Harold I. Johns*

Secretary of the Interior.

The President,  
The White House.

PSF  
Chlorine

2 Oct '39

THE WHITE HOUSE  
OCT 2 9 10 AM '39  
RECEIVED

Y. J. Jones

Dear Mrs. President —

I know that Harold has long ago  
Thanked you for sending me that nice  
Telegram when my son was born (I  
am proud of that Telegram!), but  
I don't mean to let Harold rob me  
of the opportunity to write to you  
myself.

One of the bright spots of this  
Tidious convalescence is my baby's  
nurse and her complete devotion to  
you. She is a tough little girl who

acquired her toughness in a struggle for  
survival in Baltimore's slums. Her devotion  
means something. She believes that, had it  
not been for you in 1932, revolution would  
have swept the country. I agree, as does  
everyone whose vision does not end with  
his nose. And now that the whole world is  
faced with a situation of unprecedented  
seriousness, the millions of us who believe  
in you thank God that you are in control.  
Even your enemies appear to be relenting,  
tho I still don't trust them to have  
checked their hatchets at the door.

Take good care of yourself, Mr.  
President, because we - all of us - need you.

Affectionately,

John Laker.

September 29, 1939.



*PST  
Interior*

*file personal  
under "Dehes"*

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR  
WASHINGTON

THE WHITE HOUSE  
October 5, 1939.

OCT 5 3 30 PM '39

RECEIVED

*1  
W  
7600*

My dear Mr. President:

A mere Chicago lawyer finds himself just a bit dizzy trying to understand these last two communications from Mr. Gordon Strong, and so I am sending them to a New York lawyer, together with a copy of my letter to Mr. Strong which I wrote after our talk about this mountain. I gather that Mr. Strong isn't so sure that he wants to give this property, and that in any event he would want something more imposing built than I suggested was in your mind. Apparently a President isn't to be permitted to relax and throw off the circumstances of his office if he is going to do it on Sugar Loaf Mountain.

If it meets with your wishes, I will send someone from the National Park Service to talk to the Stronges and then we will at least know just what they have in mind and are prepared to do.

Sincerely yours,

*Harold I. Dehes*

Secretary of the Interior.

The President,  
The White House.

Encs.

C O P Y

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR  
WASHINGTON

September 27, 1939.

My dear Mr. Strong:

The President and I have been discussing again the possibility of establishing a summer White House on Sugar Loaf Mountain in accordance with the very generous suggestion of Mrs. Strong and yourself, and he has asked me to write to you.

It might be possible, if agreeable, to have Sugar Loaf Mountain declared a National Monument under the law. If this were done, the government could then legally take possession of and operate it if you and Mrs. Strong were still of a mind to devote it to the purposes that have been under discussion from time to time. You could either reserve a life estate in your home and farm, or you could deed the land with a reservation in fee of such portions as you might wish to retain.

The President has never changed his mind about Sugar Loaf Mountain. He loves that section of Maryland and the fine outlook from the Mountain. Unfortunately, he has not been able to give this matter the attention that it merits and that he would like to give it.

As time has gone on in Washington, he has found himself more and more susceptible to nasal and sinus troubles that are so prevalent in this city. He believes that the President ought to have, for use in the summer months, a place reasonably accessible to the Capital, where he could find better climate and perhaps a surcease from such physical

troubles as I have referred to. The opinion of the President is that no place offers the same advantages and conveniences for a summer capital as does Sugar Loaf Mountain.

If the Federal government should ever have title to this property, it would be the President's idea to build near the top of the Mountain, some very simple structures. Probably, to a large extent, he would use CCC labor. He would like to have a simple dwelling for his own use. Within easy access, he would want a central building to be occupied by the representative of the National Park Service, who would be in charge of the National Monument, if one were established, and on the other side of this building, he would like perhaps three simple cabins for the use of members of the Cabinet who might care to occupy them for week-ends or for longer periods. The occupants of these cabins would take their meals in the central building. I believe that the President would also want to build a road separate from the road that serves your house, and this road would be extended up the Mountain so as to give the public access to it and an opportunity to enjoy the fine views from various places of advantage for that purpose. Only a small section would not be open to the public.

You will see that the President has been thinking about this suggestion of yours and that he appreciates the interest that you have had in having a summer White House established at this point. That the matter has not been brought to a conclusion earlier has simply been on account of the great pressure he has been under. I suspect that the international

situation, requiring, as it does, the presence of the President in or near Washington, has rather sharply turned his attention to this project at this time because he realizes, first, that the President in times of tension or of crisis must be easily accessible from Washington itself, and, second, that Sugar Loaf Mountain is about the only place that is accessible that would afford a tolerable climate during the hot summer months from which Washington suffers.

I hope that you continue to hold your health and that Mrs. Strong is well. It seems incredible that so much time has elapsed between the President's visit to Sugar Loaf Mountain and this letter, which he instructed me yesterday to write to you. He particularly enjoined me to assure Mrs. Strong and yourself of his warm personal regards.

Sincerely yours,

(Sgd.) Harold L. Ickes  
Secretary of the Interior.

Mr. Gordon Strong,  
Stronghold,  
Dickerson, Maryland.

STRONGHOLD  
DICKERSON STATION  
MARYLAND

October 3, 1939

My dear Secretary Ickes,

The subject of this letter is the suggestion of another visit to the mountain by the President and yourself. We have recently finished work on some developments here. And we have for some weeks thought of suggesting that you might find it interesting to come out here to enjoy them. Of course, we had assumed that any action by the Government in connection with the mountain was in abeyance.

Accordingly, this letter has (in our intent) no relation whatsoever with the letter in answer to yours of September 27th.

We have not only macadamized our mountain road and made other developments about our road-end, but we have also finished there a look-out, a sort of squat masonry tower, perched on a spur of rock. This gives almost as much of a view as the top of the mountain - to which many thousands climb each season. It gives five to ten times the view as does that vista through the woods where the President had his supper on the two visits heretofore made. The look-out is not a hundred feet from the roadway. The short flight of broad steps we feel sure that the assistants of the President could readily manage.

It is our further suggestion that, for the purpose of an out-of-door supper, we should transfer to this look-out platform a long, rather massive timber table (which now stands on the ground not far away). A German friend of ours (before the present war, of course) remarked that it was fit for "Wotan und seine ganze Gesellschaft". So we feel that it might accommodate the President, yourself and a dozen or more of your friends.

Now, a supper about that table, on top of that look-out, with a view over lovely Frederick valley, with the sun dropping behind the Blue Ridge, we feel sure that the President, with his appreciation of out-of-door beauty, and you and the rest of the party, would greatly enjoy and long remember.

Much would depend on the right day (as to weather) and the right time (as to sunset). As to the other details the President, if interested, would doubtless send out the usual patrol a few days in advance. We could show and explain to them in detail what I have here but roughly outlined.

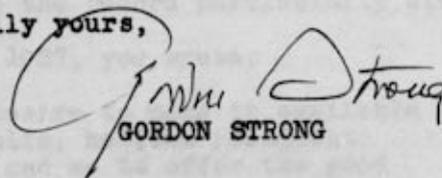
No.2.

We do not suggest any culinary contribution upon our part, since the President has his commissary car. However, we should be glad to render any sort of assistance desired, in this or in any other connection.

Finally, since it would be desirable to have our grounds clear of other visitors on that day, may we urge that no advance publicity be allowed to come out? The avoidance of such would make our efforts toward exclusion much easier and more effective.

Trusting that you will see your way to act upon the above suggestions, I am

Very respectfully yours,



GORDON STRONG

Secretary Harold L. Ickes  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D. C.

STRONGHOLD  
DICKERSON STATION  
MARYLAND

October 3, 1939

My dear Mr. Secretary,

We have your letter of September 27th on the subject of Sugar Loaf Mountain. We quite understand that this matter, which you initiated in May, 1935, has been in abeyance since, by reason of other and much more important matters.

Record to Date: While our mountain of course rates very small in the affairs of the Administration, it nevertheless bulks very large with us. It represents the better part of a life time of work and of savings. In any dealings in regard to the mountain, we want to keep the record particularly clear.

In your first letter, of May 5, 1937, you wrote:

"knowing that it is your desire to make it available in some manner to the public, he (the President) wanted Secretary Wallace and me to offer the good offices of the Federal Government if there was anything that we could do to help you realize your very fine ambition."

In your interview with our attorney, Mr. R. E. L. Smith, on July 26, 1937, Mr. Smith reported:

"He opened the conversation by saying that the President had been greatly interested in the Sugar Loaf Mountain because of its natural beauty and, to quote the Secretary, 'I might as well go straight at the matter and say, that he wants to make it a National Monument' \* \* \* The President wanted to go as far as establishing a summer White House within the limits of the Monument."

But in your letter of September 27, 1939, you refer to

" \* \* \* the possibility of establishing a summer White House on Sugar Loaf Mountain in accordance with the very generous suggestion of Mrs. Strong and yourself."  
\* \* \*

" \* \* \* this suggestion of yours, and that he appreciates the interest that you have had in having a summer White House established at this point."

The point that I am getting at is this: We do not want to be considered in the position of trying to persuade the President to build either a "summer White House", or a sort of a camp, here. We are merely receptive toward suggestions of anything that will be of benefit to the development of this mountain tract now, or a hundred years from now.

No. 2.

"Summer White House" : In 1937 we were under the impression that President Roosevelt had in mind, by this expression, something of the character indicated in the valedictory message to Congress of President Coolidge. Now, from the very clear statement of your recent letter, we see that President Roosevelt has in mind something of the character of the Rapidan(?) fishing camp of President Hoover (as we guess such to have been - we have never seen it).

However, we shall be glad to give the matter every possible consideration. To this end, there should be more definite discussion of the many details - area, location, access, water, sewerage. More than either the President or you would feel that you had time for. Accordingly, further pursuance of this matter would seem to indicate that you should designate someone to come out here once or twice. To have the time and the disposition for us to show him the terrain and discuss the details. So that you and we could more definitely know what would be required and what would best meet those requirements. (As to the qualifications of this representative of yours, I make some suggestions below).

National Monument: Next, as to our conveying still more or all of our holdings here to the Government as a National Monument. At the time of our interview two years ago, when you made the same suggestion, I tried to indicate that this was a right serious proposal to come to people who had devoted themselves toward the creation of a definite, and to our minds important, project. I stated that we must somehow know vastly more what would be done with this property as a National Monument, and how sure we might be of the doing. We asked definite, and to us vital, questions. However, during the two years that ensued, we recognize there were other and more important matters coming before the President and yourself.

In your recent letter you repeat the suggestion of a National Monument. But we remain in the same position as of two years ago. One of ignorance and of question.

Government Representative: Accordingly, further pursuance of this matter also would seem to indicate that you should designate some one to come out here. To look over exactly what we have done here in the past and what we have definitely planned to do for the future. And to be able to tell us, in turn, to just what extent, and with what certainty, any or all of our plans would be carried out. In other words, what consideration the Government would offer (not to us but to the visitors of the future) in return for our conveying to the Government the work of a life-time, almost all that we have.

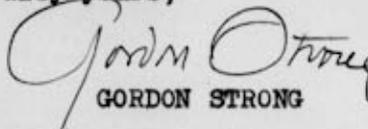
No.3.

As to the qualifications of your representative, the first should of course be that he knows about National Monuments in general, and of the President's plans in particular. The second to tenth inclusive, that he be trustworthy, discreet and reliable to convey nothing of our discussions to anybody but yourself. Any appointment that he may make with us should be by letter. Our telephone (and telegrams relayed by telephone) are as public as a town hall debate.

If you do appoint such a representative, and if we confer with him; or if we merely correspond; I should like to be able to speak frankly about our mountain, our plans, our disposition as to this course and that. And not to limit every statement to avoid commitment. Accordingly, I ask that you do not take any statement of mine, either written or oral, to commit my wife and myself in any way. Otherwise we should have to act through an attorney.

Trusting that you will understand our attitude, and find that it is reasonable, I am

Very respectfully yours,

  
GORDON STRONG

Secretary Harold L. Iokes  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D. C.



*file personal*

*PSF  
Anterior  
Cobles*

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR  
WASHINGTON

October 10, 1939,

OCT 11 1 37 PM '39  
THE WHITE HOUSE

My dear Mr. President:

Yesterday I had an interview with one of the Directors of the Associated Press who had just come to Washington after attending a meeting of the A. P. Board in New York at the end of last week. He told me, confidentially, that an informal poll had been taken of the Directors on the neutrality bill. There were 17 or 19 directors present -- I forget the exact number -- but all but two expressed themselves as being in support of your position on neutrality. You won't need more than two guesses as to who these twain were. You are right -- one was the "Mourning" Colonel of Chicago, and the other was the lacrimose alarmist from Syracuse, New York, Frank E. Gannett.

Sincerely yours,

*Harold G. Cobles*

Secretary of the Interior.

The President,  
The White House.

13F  
Jakes  
1

Letter dated--November 28, 1939 to the President  
from the Secretary of the Interior

Re-suggestion for some reference to be made in the President's  
coming message to Congress about the oil situation. Attached  
is outline of suggestion.

See:Message to Congress folder-Drawer 4-1939



*file  
personal*

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR  
WASHINGTON

December 22, 1939.

THE WHITE HOUSE

DEC 23 1 25 PM '39

RECEIVED

My dear Mr. President:

The enclosed memorandum from the Solicitor of this Department relates to the legal questions involved in the appointment of a new Chief of the Forest Service to succeed Mr. Silcox, whose place from every point of view will indeed be a difficult task to fill.

May I venture the suggestion that it might be advisable at this time to appoint merely an Acting Chief. Lacking assurance of a permanent appointment, an Acting Chief would not be quite so likely to oppose any policy that you may care to inaugurate in the near future with respect to this Service.

Sincerely yours,

*Harold Z. Gehes*

Secretary of the Interior.

The President,  
The White House.

Enc.

*ZSF  
Gehes*



BF gopher

December 25, 1939.

Dear Harold:-

I bet Harold, Jr.,  
will steal this from you  
in a very few years.

This note takes to  
you my very best wishes for  
a Merry Christmas.

As ever yours,



*file personal*

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR  
WASHINGTON

December 30, 1929.

PSF Ickes  
1139  
THE WHITE HOUSE  
JAN 2 4 14 PM '30  
RECEIVED

My dear Mr. President:

When I had the pleasure of lunching with you last Tuesday, I thanked you for the ash tray that, on Christmas, you gave me for life or ability to hold onto it, with remainder to young Harold. As I warned you, I am tenacious of what is mine, and since this particular ash tray is inscribed from you to me, I shall not permit even my own son to have anything to do with it while I am able to defend my title. However, its value in my eyes is enhanced by the fact that, in time, Harold will possess a tangible link with a very great President and a cherished leader and friend.

With best wishes for the New Year.

Sincerely yours,

*Harold G. Ickes*

The President,  
The White House.