

● PSF

Justice Dept. : Homer Cummings

1933
~~1936~~-37

BSF
Justice
The White House
WASHINGTON

The President + " Cummings"

Would it be all
right for me to leave
at 3 o'clock?
I plan to go to
Pinehurst for the week
end -

H.S.C.

1933 or 1934

PSP

Justice
Cummings

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

file
per N

Dear Mr President:

I think the US att
for the Middle District of Tenn
should be removed
and Hon. Horace Frierson of
Columbia Tenn. appointed
in his place.

I will leave the papers
with Mr McIntyre -
The reasons for the removal
seem to me quite adequate
and are set forth in a
memo accompanying the
papers. Winnings

PSE
Justice
Cummings

November 13, 1933.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

MEMORANDUM FROM THE PRESIDENT
FOR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Will you talk over with me the U. S.
Attorneyship in New York? Please give con-
sideration to George Trosk and Carl Austrian
in addition to the names you already have.

OFFICE OF
THE ATTORNEY GENERAL



November 6, 1933.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

My dear Mr. President:

United States Attorney Medalis, of New York, desires to retire on his fiftieth birthday, which happens to fall on the twenty-first day of this month. I imagine that in a very few days you will receive his resignation taking effect November 21. This makes acute the question of his successor. Needless to say that position is of the highest importance.

I wonder if you will consider the advisability of going outside of the usual channels and drafting someone of consequence for the position, like Martin Conboy, George W. Whiteside, or men of that type.

There are any number of candidates and I shall be glad to talk the matter over with you whenever you are ready.

Respectfully yours,

William C. Clegg
Attorney General

The President

The White House.

November 6, 1933.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

My dear Mr. President:

United States Attorney Medalie, of New York, desires to retire on his fiftieth birthday, which happens to fall on the twenty-first day of this month. I imagine that in a very few days you will receive his resignation taking effect November 21. This makes acute the question of his successor. Needless to say that position is of the highest importance.

I wonder if you will consider the advisability of going outside of the usual channels and drafting someone of consequence for the position, like Martin Conboy, George W. Whiteside, or man of that type.

There are any number of candidates and I shall be glad to talk the matter over with you whenever you are ready.

Respectfully yours,

Attorney General.

The President

The White House.

FDR-MD

File Personal

*BF
Justice
Cummings*

At Warm Springs, Georgia,
November 27, 1933.

MEMORANDUM FROM THE PRESIDENT
FOR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

On all sides I hear that Mr. Van Dorn
would be the best man we could select
for District Attorney in the District of
Columbia. Will you speak to me about
it when I get back?

Washington
Sunday - Nov 19 - 1977

Dear Franklin -

I want to congratulate you on the splendid way you handled the Russian recognition! - Even the hardest boiled "Tories" have to admit it. By the way, your use of the word Tory was entirely proper. I define Tories as men who by nature place their private (and moneyed) interests above their public duty.

This does not mean that all patriots are unselfish, but it does put the men of George Washington stature very high!

I want to say a word about the United States District Atty for this District - I hear that 20 are being considered and I hold a brief for none, but I do know that the selection is very important to you and your administration. So much Supreme Court Legislation is started right here in Washington and you will realize the importance of (1) a Competent man; (2) of a man who is in sympathy with what you are trying to do.

Of the men named two are said to qualify in the way I speak - Mr. Van Doren approved by the Bar Association or (I am told) better still, Mr. Roth whom you know. - I know neither of them, but I am passing this on for your consideration.

My affectionate greetings -
Get all the rest you can! -

Your affectionate
Uncle - F. A. D.



*"file
personal"*

Office of the Attorney General
Washington, D.C.

*PSF
Justice
Cummings*

October 8, 1934.

The President,
The White House.

My dear Mr. President:

I am taking a great deal of satisfaction today in the fact that the Supreme Court denied the writ of certiorari in the tax case instituted by the William Waldorf Astor Estate to obtain a refund of the Tax paid in August 1922, amounting to more than ten million dollars. Judgment was entered against the United States Government in the District Court on July 8, 1931. In view of the importance of the matter and the delay incident to getting the record in shape, I asked Mr. William Stanley, the Assistant to the Attorney General, to look into the matter and take charge of it. He did so in glorious fashion.

He finally got the case before the Circuit Court of Appeals in the Second District and argued the matter to that court in such persuasive fashion that the judgment was reversed. His argument was one that reflected great credit on himself as well as upon the Department of Justice. John W. Davis represented the Estate and it is no exaggeration to say that Stanley did a better job than did the famous "John W." Since then strenuous efforts have been made by the attorneys for the Estate to secure a writ of certiorari. As above stated, this application was denied today and that ends the matter.

The original judgment with interest thereon amounted to about nineteen million dollars. It was a difficult and complicated matter and naturally I am greatly pleased with the result. Incidentally the attorneys for the Estate will have to do without their twenty-five per cent contingency - a matter of a bit more than four million dollars - quite a sum in these days. Moreover, it may cut down John W.'s contribution to the Liberty League.

Respectfully yours,

Wm Cummings
Attorney General.



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

10/29

*file
"Personal"
Homer Cummings
(S) (1)*

MEMO FOR THE PRESIDENT:

You may want to glance
at this before it is filed.
It seems that the incident is
now closed.

MHM



Office of the Attorney General
Washington, D.C.

October 29, 1934

file

The President,
The White House.

My dear Mr. President:

On September 13, I believe, you telephoned to Mr. J. Edgar Hoover in connection with a complaint made by Upton Sinclair relative to a certain fund of \$15,000 which had been received at New York from Los Angeles in order to send gangsters to California to break up the Sinclair movement. Later, I believe, Mr. Sinclair wrote to Mrs. Roosevelt about the same subject and that letter came over to this office.

Attached hereto is a memorandum showing the result of the inquiries made. The information has been communicated to Mr. Sinclair in a personal interview and it is my understanding that he is satisfied with the situation and has expressed appreciation for the manner in which the inquiry has been conducted and considers the incident closed.

Respectfully yours,

Norman Thomas
Attorney General.

October 26, 1934

MEMORANDUM

Mr. Upton Sinclair was interviewed at Los Angeles, California on September 13, 1934 and advised that when he went East he took with him Richard Crane Gartz who is about thirty or thirty-five years of age, the son of a wealthy woman in Los Angeles, and a member of the Crane family in Chicago, Illinois. Mr. Gartz had been living in California and had been indulging in intoxicants for a long period of time, but had attempted to abstain from drinking. When Mr. Sinclair left New York for Los Angeles, Mr. Gartz stated that he intended to remain in New York for a time and that he had received information from the former secretary of Arnold Rothstein that some person or persons in Los Angeles had sent \$15,000 to New York City for the purpose of importing hoodlums into Los Angeles to interfere with Mr. Sinclair's activities there.

Mr. Gartz was located and interviewed at Chicago, Illinois. He advised that while in New York he met one Sidney Stager, who was formerly a secretary or associate of Arnold Rothstein, and stated he was the man who had informed him that \$15,000 had been sent to New York to be used in hiring thirty gangsters to go to California for the purpose of organizing the underworld there in opposition to Mr. Sinclair. Mr. Gartz stated that Stager further advised him that this money did not go to the right party and that the man who had received the money would probably keep it and would not use it for the purpose for which it was sent.

Mr. Gartz stated that when he first met Stager, Stager stated that he did not understand Mr. Sinclair's policies and that he was not in sympathy with him. Mr. Gartz stated that after talking with Stager for a considerable period of time and explaining to him all the principles for which Mr. Sinclair stood, he succeeded in converting Stager who indicated that he was now in sympathy with Mr. Sinclair. Stager then informed Mr. Gartz that in return for some assistance at election time he and other members of the underworld in New York wanted the Commissary Department and the Prison Department in California. Mr. Gartz stated that by this was meant that Stager and his associates wanted the patronage from these two departments. Stager also wanted Mr. Sinclair to refrain from interfering with any of Stager's gambling activities in California in the

event Mr. Sinclair were elected Governor. Mr. Gartz stated that he informed Stager that Mr. Sinclair would not promise anything, but that in his opinion Mr. Sinclair would not interfere with the gamblers if they did not commit any overt act or do anything to arouse public opinion which would force Mr. Sinclair to take action.

Mr. Gartz further stated that one Morris Traickiner is the so-called boss of the underworld in New York and that another person associated with Traickiner is an individual named Moe Sedway, sometimes being called "Little Moe". He indicated that these individuals were associated with Stager in connection with the underworld activities in New York.

Investigation by the New York City Office disclosed that Sidney Stager is a Broadway character and is usually found in the vicinity of Broadway and 50th Street. There is no information or evidence indicating that he was associated with Rothstein in a secretarial or any other capacity, although it may very well be that he was somewhat acquainted with Rothstein. Stager is not considered important in New York City. Morris Traickiner, mentioned by Mr. Gartz, is evidently an individual who resides at #4 Kate Street, Albany, New York, but there is no information available concerning his underworld contacts. Moe Sedway is an important, although little known mobster in New York City. During the prohibition era he was associated with Waxey Gordon and other liquor rings. A few months ago he was contemplating financing a night club in New York City with Harry Richman as the chief entertainer, but this deal fell through.

On October 12, 1934 Mr. Gartz was again interviewed at Los Angeles, California in an attempt to obtain more details from him concerning this matter. At this time he repeated in substance the information he had given in the interview at Chicago, and in addition stated that Stager had initiated the meeting between himself and Stager by telephoning to Mr. Gartz at the Algonquin Hotel where the Sinclair party resided during its stay in New York City. According to Mr. Gartz, in his various conversations with Stager the subject of race-track and other forms of gambling was discussed. They speculated concerning the matter of protection for gambling and it was rather apparent that the interest of Stager was to find out whether Mr. Sinclair would be liberal in those matters and also whether he would be liberal only to the favored organization. Mr. Stager and possibly

some of his associates made very elaborate explanations to Mr. Gartz as to the workings of various so-called rackets in New York City, such as the milk racket, the liquor racket, the snow removal racket and others. Mr. Gartz stated that he had informed Stager and his associates that in his judgment, Mr. Sinclair would have no objection to the building of any number of race-tracks in California, provided they were built along the lines of real community service, and he described an enterprise which would combine tennis courts, children's playgrounds, swimming pools, and parks with race-tracks. He said he was sure that so long as it was not State money, but private capital to be invested in such enterprises, Mr. Sinclair would encourage their development.

At this interview Mr. Gartz stated that Sidney Stager was then at Los Angeles, having arrived on about October 10, 1934, in accordance with an agreement previously made between Mr. Gartz and Stager. He also stated that Stager had informed him that eight New York gangsters had also come to Los Angeles.

From the information supplied by Mr. Gartz and the manner in which he supplied this information, as well as his general attitude, it was concluded that there was a possibility that Stager was merely working on his credulity in an effort to obtain some personal advantage for himself. It was decided, therefore, to interview Stager while he was in Los Angeles.

Stager, upon being interviewed, stated that he had had certain conversations with Mr. Gartz wherein he had discussed generally the matter of racketeering in connection with elections and stated that he had described the operation of gang politics in New York, and had also discussed the benefits which accrued to those who successfully exercised pressure of this nature in political campaigns. He also frankly admitted that the purpose of his contact with Mr. Gartz at New York and his subsequent conversations with him there, and his trip to Los Angeles were for the purpose of "chiseling" into the picture. He stated that having known Mr. Gartz for a number of years as the son of an extremely wealthy family, and having observed his close and intimate association with Mr. Sinclair, he thought that he recognized an opportunity to gain distinct personal advantage.

Stager denied that he had ever advised Mr. Gartz that a sum of money had been sent from California to New York for the purpose of engaging gangsters to come to California to interfere with Mr. Sinclair's campaign. He also denied that he had told Mr. Gartz that eight New York gangsters were already in Los Angeles. Stager stated it was his belief that the idea of personal violence and rough tactics to obstruct the Sinclair campaign or any campaign, was the rankest foolishness and he disclaimed any idea of ever having personally considered any such scheme, further stating that he believed no other persons representing any interest for or against any candidate in the California elections, contemplated such tactics.

When questioned as to what important contributions he could make to the election of Mr. Sinclair, Stager countered with the inquiry, "What about the support of William Randolph Hearst?" Questioned as to whether he could deliver the Hearst support to Mr. Sinclair, Stager replied, "I could try to do it and I am trying to do it."

He indicated that the purpose of his trip to Los Angeles was to contact a representative of Mr. Hearst in order to arrange for the Hearst support. He stated, however, that he had been unable to contact this party and he had decided to return to New York.

Stager stated that he had a strong personal liking for Mr. Gartz, and that Mr. Gartz had many fine qualities, but that he was a very impressionable individual. Stager stated that during the various conversations with Mr. Gartz, both in New York and in Los Angeles, he had been filling the mind of Mr. Gartz with many ideas or suggestions which obviously impressed Mr. Gartz highly. Stager stated that the reason for doing this was for the purpose of laying a foundation for some future personal benefits to himself.

The information obtained as a result of the interviews with Mr. Gartz and Stager was communicated to Mr. Sinclair in an interview, and Mr. Sinclair expressed his appreciation of the manner in which this inquiry had been conducted, and was very well pleased with the action taken in this matter. He indicated that he was now considering the entire matter closed.

PSF: Justice

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL

December 19, 1934.

MEMORANDUM FOR

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Will you speak to me
about Husdon and Miller of the
Solicitor General's office -- also
about percentage of cercearari ap-
plications by the Government being
denied by the Supreme Court?

F. D. R.



file personal

*PSF: JCH:le
file
Cummings
(S) (D)*

Office of the Attorney General
Washington, D.C.

February 4, 1935.

The President,

The White House.

My dear Mr. President:

The attached you may have seen.

No importance should be attached to the conclusion that Justice Van Devanter is writing an opinion in the gold clause cases because of his failure to submit an opinion today. He has not submitted any opinions thus far this term of Court, so Judge Biggs informs me.

The fact, however, that the Chief Justice did not render an opinion may have some significance as he has rendered an opinion on every opinion day this term, until today. Sometimes he has rendered two opinions. There is some basis, therefore, for concluding that he may be engaged in writing an opinion in the gold clause cases, though I think it is fair to say that it has generally been anticipated that he would do so, in view of their outstanding importance.

Respectfully yours,

Wm Cummings
Attorney General.

Encl.

WCNS105

ALMOST CERTAIN PROOF THAT THE SUPREME COURT HAS DECIDED THE GOLD CASES AND THAT THE OPINIONS WILL BE WRITTEN BY CHIEF JUSTICE HUGHES AND JUSTICE WILLIS VAN DEVANTER WAS GIVEN IN THE COURT TODAY AT THE READING OF OPINIONS.

IT IS CUSTOMARY FOR EVERY MEMBER OF THE COURT TO DELIVER AT LEAST ONE OPINION. NEITHER HUGHES NOR VAN DEVANTER DELIVERED ANY. THE RESULT WAS AN UNUSUALLY SHORT DECISION SESSION LASTING LESS THAN TWO HOURS.

THE DEDUCTION WAS THAT THE TWO JUSTICES WHO DID NOT ACT HAVE BEEN TOO BUSY TO DO SO. THE GOLD CASE IS THE ONLY ONE OF OUTSTANDING IMPORTANCE AND ALMOST THE ONLY CASE LEFT UNDECIDED AFTER THE NOON SESSION.

(COPYRIGHT BY UNITED PRESS)

2/4--R223P

File correspondence from
the Attorney General.

"Personal"

THE SECRETARY GENERAL
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

PERSONAL

February 6, 1935.

MEMORANDUM FOR

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR

In that Grand Jury case in the District of Columbia, I find that Interior took it up directly with Mr. Garnett and that the latter did not notify the Department of Justice. I am inclined to think that in future cases of this kind, especially in Washington, the Department involved and the District Attorney should at least notify the Department of Justice. Will you please tell your people?

F. D. R.



Office of the Attorney General
Washington, D.C.

February 4, 1935.

*File Cummins
(S) (1)*

*PSF
Justice*

The President,
The White House.

My dear Mr. President:

A few days ago you asked me whether the Department of Justice had been informed of the calling of the Grand Jury in the District of Columbia. I stated, at that time, that I had not heard that a special Grand Jury was to be called. Since then I have checked up and find that the Department of the Interior took up the matter directly with Mr. Garnett, and that the latter did not notify this office, presumably as a result of an over-sight.

The original letter of explanation from Mr. Garnett is attached hereto.

Very sincerely yours,

Wm. C. Clegg

Attorney General.

Encl.

OFFICE OF THE
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
WASHINGTON, D. C.

IN REPLY PLEASE REFER TO
INITIALS AND NUMBER

JWE/lmr

The Attorney General,
Department of Justice,
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

This matter is to supplement the information given yesterday by telephone to Assistant Attorney General Stanley, relative to an alleged conspiracy to defraud the United States in connection with a Public Works Administration project in the State of Texas. //

This matter was referred to this office direct by the Secretary of the Interior, it being stated that the case was of the utmost importance to that Department, and demanded immediate and special attention in view of the fact that several of their engineers were apparently involved, and if the apparent conspiracy was not broken up at once, the Government would soon have to begin letting contracts and making payments on a P.W.A. allotment of several million dollars for this project, on plans and specifications which, as a result of the conspiracy, were obviously fraudulent and inimical to the interests of the United States.

The evidence presented to this office by the Secretary of the Interior discloses briefly these facts. That some months ago approximately four million dollars was allotted by the Public Works Administration for an irrigation project in the State of Texas. The plan to carry out the work called specifically for a canal system. The project itself was and is fundamentally sound. Prior to the allotment of the money by the Public Works Administration and prior to the beginning of the conspiracy, the project and plans were approved by one of the alleged conspirators who was in charge of all irrigation matters in the Washington office of the Public Works Administration. He, accordingly, had approved of the canal system previously referred to. After the allotment had been made, as aforesaid, further details of the canal system were presented to another alleged member of the conspiracy who was one of the local P.W.A. engineers in Texas. He disapproved the canal plan and recommended in lieu thereof a pipe pressure plan. In this connection it can be demonstrated that the canal system was a far

January 29, 1935

CRIMINAL DIVISION

FEB 1 1935

RECEIVED



46-75-6-

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
JAN 30 1935 P.M.
DIVISION OF RECORDS
T KEENAN-GARDNER, JR.

superior and more economical one. The engineer in question, even before he had disapproved the canal system, got in touch with certain officials of the red wood industry in California, some of whom he was acquainted with, and got them interested in furnishing red wood pipe for the project. This enterprise was to be a self-liquidating one and the bonds to be issued and taken over by the Government were to mature in thirty years. Accordingly, granting that the pipe pressure system was a better one, which seems impossible to prove, the material to be used in the pipe pressure system should have been of the type and durability to at least last the life of the bonds. It can be demonstrated beyond any doubt that red wood would not last but in the neighborhood of fifteen years, under the conditions it would have to face and be used in on this project. Other materials such as concrete, pipe and even fir would last at least thirty years.

The alleged conspirators, including the two P. W. A. officials referred to, one officer of the State Water District in Texas, a Texas contractor and at least three officials of the red wood industry, met in Texas and conferred in the interests of the red wood companies and in furtherance generally of the conspiracy. Plans were made to stifle competition and assure the fact that red wood and only red wood was to be used on the project. The P. W. A. engineer who was stationed in Texas, and who had turned down the canal system and approved of the pipe pressure plan, was offered and accepted a position as engineer with the State Water District, having made sure, however, that there was a fellow worker in the State P. W. A. office who would assist him in carrying out the plans and details of the conspiracy in connection with that office whenever necessary.

It was also part of the conspiracy to offer the engineer in charge of the irrigation work for the Public Works Administration in Washington, a position as consulting engineer for the project in Texas, if and when he approved the pipe pressure system and the form of the plans and specifications insuring the stifling of competition and the certain use of red wood for pipes on the project. A resolution appointing him was passed by the State Water District Board but for obvious reasons it was kept from the minute records. The engineer in question made several trips to Texas while still in the Government employment and took part in several conferences of the conspirators, in some of which plans were consummated to stifle competition, to assure success for the red wood interests and for the conspiracy.

Mail and wires essential to the furtherance of the conspiracy were received by the Washington engineer employed by the P. W. A., not at the

Government offices of the P. W. A. but at a club to which the engineer belonged in this City. Several such letters and wires of an incriminating nature are available. It was part of the scheme not only to make certain of the use of red wood but to sell it at an exorbitant price, all of the red wood companies being a party to the plans, a fair competition thus having been rendered impossible.

The Government was to be defrauded in three main respects: 1. Of the honest and faithful services of at least three of its employees; 2. Of its right to contract freely and fully; 3. Of its moneys through the excessive profits to be paid and possibly to incur further financial loss through the insecurity of the bonds, because the conspiracy, if carried out, would undoubtedly have made the project a non-liquidating one and a financial failure.

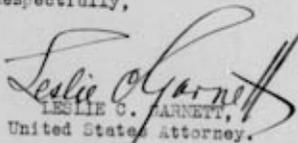
The conspiracy was obviously a detailed and intricate one involving not only a mass of documents, letters and wires, but many involved engineering and scientific facts.

It was estimated that it would take at least two to three weeks to present the case to a grand jury. It was, from its very nature, a case demanding the full and undivided attention of the investigating body. It was, accordingly, deemed advisable to ask for a special grand jury, under the provisions of the District of Columbia Code. This was accordingly done on Saturday last and the Chief Justice granted the request and ordered the Jury Commission to take the proper and necessary steps to have a special grand jury selected on February 6th next.

My assistant, Mr. Fihelly, to whom I have assigned this case, and who has been giving it his entire attention, will present this matter to the special grand jury when it is convened.

I will see that the Department is kept advised of subsequent developments.

Respectfully,


LESLIE C. BARNETT,
United States Attorney.



File Personal

PSF Justice

Office of the Attorney General
Washington, D.C.

*File
Cummings
(5) (13)*

March 6, 1935.

The President,
The White House.

My dear Mr. President:

On Monday, February the twenty-fifth, I spent practically the entire day in New York, going over the situation in the Customs Court. The court, as you know, is located at 201 Varick Street, and, on the same floor of the building, there are located the offices of Assistant Attorney General Jackson. I conferred with all of the Judges, except one or two who were out of town. I also inspected the Clerk's office, the file rooms, and the hearing rooms, and met all of the attendants. I also got in touch personally with the various members of Mr. Jackson's staff and the clerical help as well.

I had a long conference with the Judges, and I think I have a little clearer idea of their problems than I had before. I think also the visit was extremely stimulating and helpful to the Court. I may say, incidentally, that there is no record that any previous Attorney General had ever visited the Court in its entire history.

To put it mildly, the Judges were delighted and they are prepared to cooperate to the fullest extent of their ability in clearing up and speeding up the work of the Court. Already distinct improvement has been made and the Presiding Judge, in behalf of his associates, asked me to extend their compliments to you and to assure you that with a little patience they are confident that you will be pleased with the results.

Respectfully yours,

Attorney General.



PSF - Justice
File Homer
Cummings

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

October 31, 1935.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

What would you think of a Cuban lawyer representing the Cuban Government or Cuban planters filing a Brief Amicus Curiae with the Supreme Court in the triple A case? Unusual--but possibly good.

The same thing might be done on behalf of Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands and Hawaii---each by a separate brief.

F. D. R.

OFFICE OF
THE ATTORNEY GENERAL



Dec 25/35-

My dear Mr President:-

The attached has some
historic interest and is
amusing as well.

Merry Christmas!
Sincerely,

Carson

file
personal

ADDRESS REPLY TO
"THE ATTORNEY GENERAL"
AND REFER TO
INITIALS AND NUMBER

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
WASHINGTON, D. C.

December 11, 1935.

MEMORANDUM TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

In gathering materials on the Department, I have come across the attached sprightly correspondence between President Theodore Roosevelt and Senator Platt respecting the appointment of Judge Hough — which correspondence may be as amusing to you as it is to me.

Despite the strong objections of "the Republican boss in New York" President Roosevelt nominated Judge Hough and he was confirmed by the Senate.

Carl McFarland

CARL McFARLAND
Special Assistant to the Attorney General.

(C O P Y)

UNITED STATES SENATE,
WASHINGTON.

At 49 Broadway,
New York, June 15th, 1906.

My dear Mr. President:

Answering your letter of June 13, in which you ask me to state my objections to Hough, it ought to suffice for me to simply say that I prefer Young to Hough, both men being admittedly qualified for the position. On a simple statement of this kind, it occurs to me you should hardly hesitate to appoint Mr. Young. The requirements of the Southern District of New York are for an administration of the judicial office having particular reference to the adjudication of criminal cases. The experience of Mr. Hough appertains largely to cases in admiralty. You have two judges here now who were appointed more particularly on account of their familiarity with admiralty practice. It would be a mistake, in my judgment, to appoint another judge whose chief claim to appointment is his experience in admiralty practice. Mr. Young, on the other hand, having been for a considerable time the District Attorney of Westchester County, has had large experience in criminal cases, and his appointment as a District Judge would be eminently fitting, having in view the requirements of the District. I have no aspersions to cast upon Mr. Hough. I simply feel that he is not the proper man to appoint under the circumstances. Beyond this, political considerations operate strongly upon my mind. Here is a section of the District with a population of seven hundred thousand having just claims to judicial recognition. Why ignore geographical considerations? Again, Mr. Hough's affiliations are disagreeable to me. His appointment would be, as I have said, most distasteful to me. It would be recognized at once as an affront to the senior Senator of the State of New York. If Mr. Young were not qualified, my objections to Mr. Hough would be inherently weak, but he is qualified and his appointment would be pleasing to me. Still further, his appointment would infuse into the administration of the District Court a quality of aggressiveness which certainly would not obtain in the selection of Mr. Hough. You and I disagreed some years ago upon a previous judicial appointment in this District. Any fair-minded lawyer, or observer, if he were honest, would tell you today that the appointment which was made was a mistake from the standpoint of superior administration. I hope you will not appoint Mr. Hough, because the efficiency of the Court would suffer thereby. Moreover, you would impose upon me an affront which, under all the circumstances, I think you ought not to do.

I shall be in Washington on Monday and will probably take occasion to communicate with you farther after my arrival.

Faithfully yours,

(signed) T. C. Platt

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

(C O P Y)

THE WHITE HOUSE
Washington

June 17, 1906.

My dear Senator Platt:

I have your letter of the 15th instant. I am not yet prepared to announce my decision about Mr. Hough, but I must emphatically dissent from your statements that "it ought to suffice for me to simply say that I prefer Young to Hough"; and furthermore that the appointment would "be recognized as an affront to the senior Senator from the State of New York"; and furthermore from your statement running as follows: "You and I disagreed some years ago upon a previous judicial appointment in this District. Any fair-minded lawyer, or observer, if he were honest, would tell you to-day that the appointment which was made was a mistake from the standpoint of superior administration." As to that last statement, I presume you refer to Judge Holt; and I take issue absolutely with you. I have taken particular pains to inquire from all the members of the bar whose opinion I regard as most worthy of attention, and it is practically unanimous that Holt is an exceptionally fine Judge and head and shoulders above every other man whom at that time it was possible to obtain for the position.

In the next place, as to the "affront" to you; I do not understand how you can make such a statement. It is my business to nominate or refuse to nominate and yours, together with your colleagues', to confirm or refuse to confirm. Of course the common sense way is to confer together and try to come to an agreement. It is just exactly what I have been doing in this matter. If we both do our duty then each will endeavor to obtain a man for the position who is the best man under the circumstances that can be obtained, and neither of us will insist upon any man for merely personal reasons if there is good ground against him, nor upon any man who is not the best man for the position. This is precisely the course I have followed in reference to Holt, in reference to Stimson, and that I am now following in reference to the Judge about

to be appointed. I never saw Hough until the other day. I have not the slightest interest in his appointment, save from the standpoint of the bench and of the public. As you do not indicate any possible objection to him, save that you insist upon having some one else, I must decline to consider that there will be any affront to you involved in appointing him.

Finally, I am sorry to say I must emphatically disagree with you and disagree with your statement that it ought to suffice me to have you simply say that you prefer Young to Hough. You add that "both men are admittedly qualified for the position." Here you say that Hough is qualified for the position, but insist that your preference for Young should be enough to settle the matter. I cannot consider such a proposition. I have not considered my own individual preference and I cannot consider yours. Neither of us is entitled to have his personal preference considered, and it is the duty of both of us to disregard our individual preferences and take the man who will be most acceptable to the public and the bar, who will be most likely to do his work well and faithfully, showing exact justice to corporation and labor union, rich man and poor man, and to the man who is neither a member of a corporation or a labor union, and is neither rich nor poor. There is a very strong sentiment among the members of the bar that Manhattan and not Westchester should receive the appointment, almost all the court business being from Manhattan. I shall look carefully through the qualifications of Young, of Hough and of any other man who suggests himself to me, but I cannot afford to let it be supposed that an appointment to the bench is to depend upon the mere personal preference of a Senator any more than of the President. Indeed the initiative in such cases as this must properly lie with the President, not the Senator.

Sincerely yours,

THEODORE ROOSEVELT.

Hon. T. C. Platt,
United States Senate.

(C O P Y)

UNITED STATES SENATE
WASHINGTON

June 18, 1906.

My dear Mr. President:

I have just received your lengthy letter of June 17 in further reference to the district judgeship. In view of the wide divergence of opinion between us on this subject, it is hardly necessary for me to make any further argument. I understand, of course, that your attitude is predicated on a desire to please Mr. Parsons and to save him from humiliation; in furtherance of this wish you are proposing to humiliate me.

I am aware that several of Mr. Young's friends have recently received letters from Mr. Loeb in which the statement is made that "we must do something to save Mr. Parsons' face."

Faithfully yours,

T. C. Platt.

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

Sincerely yours,

THOMAS C. PLATT,

Sen. T. C. Platt,
United States Senate.

(C O P Y)

THE WHITE HOUSE
Washington

June 18, 1906.

My dear Senator Platt:

Your letter of the 18th renders it necessary for me to add one more word to the matter. Mr. Loeb assures me that there is no truth in the statement that he has been writing to Mr. Young's friends that "we must do something to save Mr. Parsons' face," and if he had so written it would have been without any authority from me. As a matter of fact, personally Mr. Loeb has strongly favored the appointment of the two men you have recommended to me, first Chatfield and then Young. Of course I have been desirous in all these matters to please Parsons, but I have been much more desirous to please you. If the facts permitted me to think that Young was the better man to appoint, I should have been even more pleased than if they forced to me to feel that Hough was the better man to appoint, because I would rather for many reasons have the man whom I thought to be the best man one whom you recommended than one whom any Congressman recommended. I am perfectly well aware that your judgment in this matter will carry more weight than that of any other Senator; but I wish it to be understood emphatically and categorically that I have not considered Mr. Parsons, and cannot consider him, or yourself, or any one else, to the extent of putting his or their or your feelings above the matter of getting the best and most competent man as judge for this position.

Let me repeat that it is absurd to suppose that I am trying to humiliate you, and that it would not only be absurd but wicked to make the citizens of New York and the bar of New York feel that no man had any chance for an appointment to a judgeship unless he should be selected as a matter of favoritism and personal pride, whether by you or by me. I am not considering your preference or my own, and still less Parsons'. I am considering and intend to consider primarily the question as to who would make the best judge.

Sincerely yours,

THEODORE ROOSEVELT,

Hon. T. C. Platt,
United States Senate.

PBF
Justice
Cummings

December 27, 1935.

Dear Cecelia:-

In a campaign year the final and compelling issue is sartorial. You have re-elected me. What better hands could I be in? I know the years of struggle you had to make Homer presentable. In the old days it was not a question of a good looking tie -- when I first knew him he generally forgot to put his tie on altogether! Now look at the glass of fashion who throughout history will be known as the Beau Brummel of Attorney Generals.

I am now at the point Homer was at when you took him in hand. You have already made a new man of me. The women's vote depends almost wholly on the appearance of the candidate. I expect to get the solid women's vote -- in fact, all who are not stone blind.

Ever so many thanks.

Always sincerely,

Mrs. Cummings,
2700 Tilden Street,
Washington, D. C.

The Tale of A Tie
(With no apologies to Thomas Hood)

One day I was at a cocktail party
given by Missy to Hans and Lucy to her 55th B.

"Din almost crazy, I am."

"Are you? You look perfectly normal
to me" say she.

Well, I didn't think much
of that remark, but I had information
to extract so I lets it pass and say:

"Well, normal or crazy, or
vice versa - what I wants
to know is: what does The
President want for Times - and
I ain't goin' to give him no
hand tufted bed spreads, 'cause
I hear to date the Kainucky
mountainers alone has sent
him 756."

"Well, say she, "you'll die
laffin' when I tell you."

The Tale of A Tie
(With no apologies to Thomas Hood)

One day I was at a cocktail party
given by Missy LeHand and I say to her sez I:

"Din almost crazy, I am."

"Are you? You look perfectly normal
to me" sez she.

Well, I didn't think much
of that remark, but I had information
to extract so I lets it pass and sez:

"Well, normal or crazy, or
vicy vicy - what I wants
to know is: what does The
President want for Times - and
I ain't goin' to giv him no
hand tufted bed spreads, 'cause
I hear to date the Kaintucky
mountainess alone has sent
him 756."

"Well, sez she, "you'll die
laffin' when I tell you."

"I might," say I, "and again I mightn't. I've heard Ed Wigner and W. C. Fields and Edward Cantor and Jim Linin' still - but asides from jokes - what does The President of these United (more or less) States need for Xmas?"

"Well, he needs ties," say she - "his ties ~~is~~ all in fraggles and even the fraggles is beginnin' to wear off."

"Oh, that's serious. But how come the P.W.A. or the N.O.H.C. don't do nuthin', ain't they got no money left?"

"O' course, they got money - lots of it - but the P.W.A. say they ain't goin' to giv no money to any project what won't bring in votes and they know The President is goin' to vote for hisself and they ain't goin' to spend no money on no one who is goin' to vote right anyways. And the N.O.H.C. say they ain't goin' to spend no money for ties 'cause they has spent all they is goin' to spend on Mrs. Roosevelt's kitchen, so fraggles or no fraggles the N.O.H.C. is through."

"That's a terrible situation, say I, terrible. Supposin the Republicans who is so hard up for material they is usin Herbert Hoover should hear of a Democratic President wearing worn fraggels. Even worn fraggels is better than Mister Hoover as an issue. Well, what colors does The President favor?"

"O, he likes blue, red and brown."

"What," uttered I, "NO GREEN?"

"Well, he ain't got nuthin that green goes with."

"Green," informed I, "goes with anything, exceptin' English. Anyways thank you for telling me of the situation at The White House. It certainly is serious."

Just then I spies Grace Tully another White House habitue, so I thought I'd better check and double check, so I meanders over and say: "Missy say The President needs ties. Is it true?"

"It is" say she - "he does".

"What colors," ask I, "does The President like?"

IV

"He sure likes blue and he sure likes red, but he just DOTES on green".

"Green - are you sure?"

"Certain," sez she.

"I knew he must like green - it's politick. How is he goin to get the Irish away from Carmody if he don't wear green? Cardinals may help, but there's nuthin like a green tie to get Irish votes. Missy tells me The President likes brown ties.

"No, he don't either," sez Grace, "he ain't got nuthin' to wear brown with 'cept an old tweed suit he wears only in Georgia.

"Well," sez I, "I'm not goin to get any brown ties to wear in Georgia to catch the hill billy vote 'cause I don't like hill billys anyways - they is always a-twangin' and a-whinin'.

"Oh, she's up thar in the ^{mountaines}
and I'm down here in the ^{vall-ee-e,}
and I'll never see my Emme
eny more."

and what makes me so mad is -
they don't stay up thar in the moun-taines

with Annie, but come down here in the valley botherin and annoyin me. So, say I, I aint a-join to give no brown ties to win any hill belly votes, 'cause it won't do us good anyways, they is still a-votin for Jeff Davis and no brown ties is goin to make them literate."

' So, Homer Cummings and I'll give The President green ties to get the Irish vote, red ties to catch the colored vote, and blue ties to scoop in the Ladies vote and a few mixed up ties to catch the odds and ends - and then his election next time is probably in the bag."

And that, dear grandchildren is how your warty old gran-mammy and your dear, sweet gran-daddy happened to give way, way back in 1935 President Roosevelt ties for Xmas instead of a yacht.

... his
personal

PSFCummings
Justice

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
WASHINGTON

Dec. 28, 1935.

My dear Mr. President:—

I prize, more than
I can tell you, the unique
Christmas gift.

I shall now be able
not only to write in the dark, but
to find the keyhole after an
eventful evening.

With sincere thanks
for your unflinching kindness and
with best wishes for a
triumphant New Year,

I am,

Faithfully yours,

Wm Cummings.

To the President,
White House.

April 25, 1936.

CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Mr. Farley requested me to meet Judge Leche of Louisiana, who had been over to the Post Office Department to discuss matters in general with him. Judge Leche is to be sworn in as Governor of Louisiana for four years May 13, 1936. Mr. Farley said that Leche had some matters to talk over with me and would recommend that I be direct and frank with Leche as he thought that Leche deserved such treatment. I met Leche at his room, No. 854, the Mayflower Hotel, with Matthew H. McGuire of the Department. Mr. McGuire visited with Judge Leche and myself a few moments and then left.

Leche went into the matter of the income tax prosecutions in his State, the general relations of the State of Louisiana with the Federal Government, and the unfortunate disputes that had arisen. He stated that he was a Democrat and wanted to get on with the Administration, that these income tax cases were not thought to be meritorious and were generally believed by the people of Louisiana to have been brought from political motives. He asked me if I would listen to Seymour Weiss and hear what he had to say, and I did.

Leche stated, off the record, but very frankly, that Weiss had for many years handled campaign contributions and expenditures in and about New Orleans; that political contests were not run on water, and that people generally had confidence in his honesty and character. Leche pointed out that a continuance of these prosecutions, which he felt would be as fruitless as the ones just completed, would only make it difficult for harmonious relations between the State of Louisiana and the Federal Government; that all of the officers elected were strong Huey Long men and that if Weiss were unsuccessfully prosecuted it would make it very difficult to attain that degree of civility and rapprochement that dictates of common sense require. Judge Leche spoke in the highest terms of Weiss as being a man of substance and character, active in matters of National Rivers and flood control; Vice President of the Hotel Men's Association of America; a man who had worked

his way up from a barber shop in a hotel to a successful operator, with a great number of substantial friends, both in and outside of Louisiana.

Weiss told me that this case against him concerned gross payments alleged to have been made to him, some of which he alleges were true and others were untrue, and cited the failure to recognize the fact that he had spent monies for campaign purposes, (including either \$30,000 or \$35,000, which he sent up to the National Committee in 1932 for the election of Mr. Roosevelt, and some \$35,000 which he says he expended in the States of North and South Dakota for a similar purpose). Leche states that Weiss, from his knowledge, has disbursed and collected campaign funds for many years and, he assumes, without any accurate or detailed set of books being kept. Weiss states that he has no substantial apprehension of being convicted, with the history of the Shushan case in mind. Furthermore, he states he had not been dishonest, neither had he attempted to, nor did he cheat the United States Government. He stated, however, that he had a wife, mother and family, and the disgrace of going through a trial would be unbearable; that it might cause the death of his mother and in the long run be utterly useless. He says that he is a Delegate to the Convention, an active Democratic worker, desirous of supporting the President, but he does not want to be in the ridiculous position of supporting the Administration and, at the same time, being the butt of a senseless, unmeritorious prosecution.

I know nothing at all about the facts in the case, but I was rather impressed from my talk with both Judge Leche and Weiss that they were not so much in fear of actual conviction as of the disgrace of the trial, and seemed genuinely desirous of bringing about peace and harmony between Louisiana and the Federal Government.

Leche expressed himself as desirous of giving the State of Louisiana a fine administration, and so to bring it back into the Union. He stated that he had his practical difficulties in contending with the old Long group, of which he is a member.

Mr. Weiss mentioned the fact that Mr. Morgenthau had openly announced sometime back that these cases would proceed to trial and he realized the practical difficulties of his own situation with reference to the merit of the case against him. He says that he refrained from engaging any lawyer to take the matter up with the

various departments involved for some time, because he didn't want to engage some associate of Long's, nor did he want to offend Long by obscuring some anti-Long man. He is now represented by former Congressman Reed from Illinois, with whom he has been associated in Rivers and Harbors and Flood Control matters for some time.

Wells states that Viosea has made the statement, and he believes has reported to this Department, that a conviction would be most improbable and, also, that he has some doubts as to the merits of the case. Wells also stated that it was his belief that Dan Moody had concurred in these conclusions.

I understand that Judge Leche was with Mr. Mainwre at the White House and had hoped to see the President Friday afternoon late, but that the President was not feeling well and he might have to wait until Tuesday to see him.

I explained to Judge Leche and Wells that these were matters that originated in the Treasury Department and, very frankly, at times they indicated the lawyers they wanted to represent them in court and that we attempted to cooperate closely with the Treasury as with other branches of the Government. I further stated that it is a fact that I am utterly unaware of any of the facts concerning the Wells income tax case and if his counsel had any facts by way of defense to submit to the Department, that were not otherwise known, it was not unusual to talk to such legal representative, inasmuch as the Grand Jury proceedings is an ex-parte one and in view of the fact that Wells did not testify before the Grand Jury indicting him.

Wells and Reed are in Washington for the Flood Control Conference and Mr. Reed may come into the Department to discuss the matter further.

I thought you would like to be advised of the foregoing.

Joseph B. Keenan
The Assistant to the Attorney General.

May 18, 1936.

Memo to President
From
Atty. Gen.

- Encloses--
1. Three opinions in the Guffey Coal Act case
 2. A release which I gave out today on the subject.
 3. A summary of the decisions.

SEE--Platform File--(S) Drawer 2--1936

May 25, 1936.

*File TBF Justice
+ Cummings
Drawer 1-36*

Memo to Pres.

From

Attorney Gen.

Decisions handed down by Supreme Court.

Three favorable and two unfavorable.

Favorable-U.S.--v.--Knott, State Treasurer
U.S.--v--Atlantic Mutual Ins. Co.
Warner Bros. Pictures--v--U. S.

Unfavorable--U.S.--v--Elgin, Joliet and Eastern Ry. Co.
Morgan--v--U.S. and the Sec. of Agriculture

SEE--Platform File---(S) Drawer 2--1936

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

June 8, 1936.

MEMORANDUM FOR

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Kopplemann says Spellacy
is more afraid of Frank Hayes of
Waterbury than anybody else.

F. D. R.

PSF
Justice
Cummings

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
WASHINGTON

July 6, 1936.

file
private

Dear Missy:

I enclose herewith a photostat copy of a letter recently received from Mr. Justice Stone. As the letter was marked "Private", I would not want anyone to see it except the President. I am sure he will be especially interested in the second paragraph, which I have marked.

As always,

Sincerely yours,

Wm Cummings

Miss Marguerite LeHand,
The White House.

W *PC*

W
PC

Becker

Supreme Court of the United States
Washington, D. C.

July 2, 1936.

Private.

Dear Mr. Attorney General:

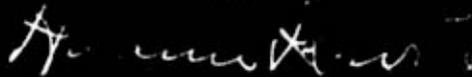
I had hoped to get in and see you for a moment before leaving, but so many things pressed on me at the last that I didn't have the opportunity.

In view of our conversation last year it is a pleasure to be able to tell you that I think the presentation of cases by the Department during the past term has been excellent. A fine group of young men has been brought into the Department and the result is shown both in the briefs and in the arguments. With respect to the important cases in which the Government has been especially interested, you need have no regrets as to the manner of presentation.

I hope you get a good summer. I am off for Isle au Haut, Maine, where I am going to vegetate for a while after all the strenuous doings.

With best regards to you and Mrs. Cummins, I am,

Yours sincerely,



Honorable Homer L. Cummings,
2700 Tilden Street, NW,
Washington, D. C.

1
file
"personal"

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
WASHINGTON

PSF
Justice

October 15, 1936.

File
Cummings

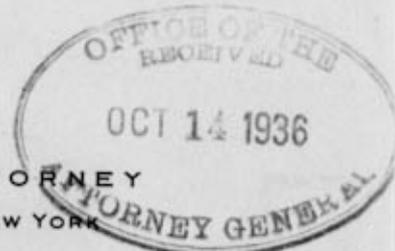
My dear Mr. President:

Inclosed herewith you will find a letter from Lamar Hardy indicating the result of his conference with Henry Epstein. You will recall that I was to ask Mr. Hardy to get in touch with Mr. Epstein and discuss the Compos matter with him. Evidently the arrangement worked out very well indeed.

Sincerely yours,

Norm Cummings

The President,
The White House.



UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK
NEW YORK

LAMAR HARDY

October 13, 1936.

My dear General:-

I saw Mr. Henry Epstein on last Saturday pursuant to the request contained in your note received some days ago. I told him that the President had received his letter and I had been asked to give him some facts concerning the activities of his college friend, Pedro Albizu Compos, now residing in Puerto Rico. I related as tactfully as I could the facts contained in the proposed letter prepared by Dr. Greuning, Director of the Department of Interior.

Mr. Epstein referred to his boyhood friend as being a young man at college of the highest ideals, but after hearing the story of what he had been doing in stirring up trouble which resulted in his trial and conviction, Mr. Epstein then said that he realized that Compos had undoubtedly developed an obsession of persecution on the part of the American government. He seemed entirely satisfied by what was told him, and thanked me for disclosing the facts to him. He also said he would write a note of appreciation to the President, thanking him for going to the trouble of giving him the true picture of Compos's activities.

Sincerely yours,

Honorable Homer S. Cummings,
The Attorney General,
Washington, D.C.

"file
Personal"

P S F Justice

November 5, 1936.

Dear Mr. President -

Governor Landow
was right - "America
is full of Americans".
Unfortunatly for him
most of them were
Roosevelts/Diaas - as well.

Homer is like
a child - he is so
pleased about Comstock.

On November 3rd

the dinner was not only
an Election celebration
but my birthday party.

We were entirely
surrounded by
Republicans who
received the flash

"Warren County
handou 25
Roosevelt 19"

with as much applause
as if it had been
25,000,000. heedless to
say it got good loud
boos from our table.
I'll wager John Hamilton

111

or one of his cohorts
cast 24 of the 25 votes.

Of course I cast
a very indefinite vote
for you, but I cast
just as indefinite a vote
against Mrs. Hanson and her
harp. The thought of
that "flower of American
womanhood" draped around
a harp in the East
Room made me violently
ill. Some one remarked
I needn't worry as, no doubt
we wouldn't be invited
to see her. But I dis-
agreed and said it would

be just the thing they
would invite us to hear.

Can you imagine "Oh,
Susannah" being twanged
out by Mrs. Hanson, with
every third note sour?

Of course you
know how happy we
are. I am visiting in
Greenwich among the
Republicans, but they are
strangely silent.

With deep
affection.

Cecilia Cummings.



OFFICE OF
THE ATTORNEY GENERAL



file

Jan 6 / 137

Dear Mr President:

Thanks, indeed,
for the note. I'll
make a valiant
attempt to see it
through to be reju-
vinated.

A great message
to-day! Infringements,

Sincerely,

Norman Cousins

Jan. 13, 1937.

Dear Mrs. President -

It was so pleasant
to see you three times last
evening.

You thought you
were never going to get
any mushroom soup, didn't
you? A Cummings never
forgets - wife just like
Louise - we couldn't be like
elephants.

I hope you

enjoy it for your lunch.

C.S.

More soup is growing
where this comes from.

Any time you have a year
for it please have Grace
d/s please - Missy has forgotten
how.

Thomas T. Hester would sigh or swear
when he lay down on his "quartzite"
at 5260-5275 Irving Street

WASHINGTON HERALD—An American Paper for

Jan 12/37

He's in the Swim Again



FORMER GOVERNOR ALFRED E. SMITH, OF N. Y. International News Photo
*But Not Politics for "Happy Warrior"—He's Enjoying Sunshine and a Sea Spray Pool
at Palm Beach, Fla.*

Telephone
Criticism From
PRESIDENT
HIT BY
tor Oppo.
re in Au

ome features o
al Governmen
e of Compt
ator Harry
Virginia.
ch he put
save the
s of dol-
if the
ve any
of the
which
niza-

"I SHOT AN ARROW INTO THE AIR
IT FELL TO EARTH I KNEW NOT WHERE"



January 15, 1937

File Cummings

To Pres.
Memo from Cummings
Enc. clipping of text of
Radio address of Ray Moley

SEE--Ray Moley Folder(S) Drawer 2--1937

PSF Justice

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

H. Cummings

January 28, 1937.

MEMORANDUM FOR
THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
FOR YOUR CONFIDENTIAL
INFORMATION.

F. D. R.

Letter from Mrs. Honeyman in re candidates for the Federal Bench in Oregon - also letter from Governor Martin to Mrs. Honeyman.

Note from Miss Dewson enclosing excerpt from letter of Mrs. James H. Wolfe in re appointment of Circuit Judge.

File Cummings

February 3, 1937.

From Justice
Memorandum
In re-

Summary of a Bill "To Prevent Unfair Methods
Of Competition In Commerce, To Amend The
Federal Trade Commission Act, And For Other
Purposes."

SEE--Fair Trade Practices Folder-(S) Drawer 2--1937

Will Cummings

February 3, 1937.

From Justice
Memorandum
In re-

Summary of A " Bill to Prohibit and Prevent
Unfair Competition and to Amend the Antitrust
Acts" Suggested by the Council for Industrial
Relations.

SEE--Fair Trade Practices Folder-(S) Drawer 2--1937

*PSF
Justice
Cummings*

DECLASSIFIED

By Deputy Archivist of the U.S.

By W. J. Stewart Date FEB 29 1972

February 9, 1937.

MEMORANDUM FOR *President*
THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

In the matter of the Chemical
Foundation, please investigate:

- (a) What the date of expiration will be in respect to this patent which it acquired originally from the Government.
- (b) Whether the Chemical Foundation has become the owner of any patents by purchase or as trustee or distributor since 1919.
- (c) What is the capitalization of the Chemical Foundation and how much was actually put into it by the present or original owners of its stock.

I have a plan in mind.

F. D. R.

Letter from the Attorney General enclosing memorandum dealing with the Chemical Foundation Inc.

H. C. Cummings

February 11, 1937.

To President

From Homer Cummings

In re- anti-lynching Bill

See--Lynching Bill Folder-(S) Drawer 2--1937

PST Justice

Dec. 12, 1937.

Dear Mr. President.

Ammy

Pie, Pie on you for
not believing a "Cabinet Wife."
I did indeed sufficiently
to kiss The Blamey Stone.
But the thing that
strikes me to me very
hard is your intimation
that I am not Dowagerish.

For four long years
I've tried to be a Dowager
and I've come to the
conclusion you don't
bring out the Dowager

met Madame Estzyine - whereupon
I stopped in the middle of a
leap and before Doris's very
eyes she came a changeling.

"Why, Madame Estzyine,
how delightful to see you -
etc. etc."

Doris had a frightful
time with her ever since she
wants to be called Madame
O'Donnell.

So you see, I can
be terrifically ho dy Vere de Vere
Beauchamps Montague (no relative
of Mrs. Simpson) - & some time
when you are having some
very ha-ha visitors please

in me.

You've never seen me
Cabine fish. Ask Miss Doris
Hession she knows. She
hasn't recovered yet.

It happened at the
Russian Embassy. As you
perhaps know when they
give a party they entertain
on all four floors with vodka
& caviar on each flight.

By the time some people reach
the fourth floor they just
crawl up and make ~~it~~ a week-
end visit.

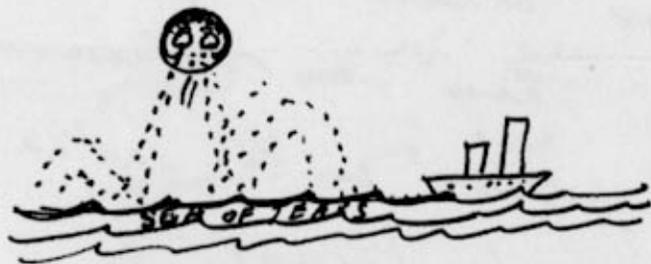
Doris & I were blithly
leaping from floor to floor when we

in it to me over so I may put on
my act.

You've wounded me so
I'm going down to Florida to
recoverate. You'll be sorry—
perhaps I'll come back an
Economic Royalist.

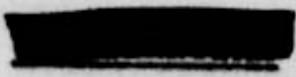
Respectfully,

The Dowager.



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

*PSF
Justice
Cummings*



March 1, 1937.

MEMORANDUM FOR
THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Will you speak to me
about the enclosed?

F. D. R.

Longhand memorandums.

DECLASSIFIED
By Deputy Archivist of the U.S.
By W. J. Stewart Date FEB 20 1972

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

*Homer Cummings
Drawer 1-37*

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

March 2, 1937.

MEMORANDUM FOR

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Senator Barkley says he
thinks McSwinford, thirty-eight
years old, is the best man for
District Judge in Kentucky. Will
you speak to me about this?

F. D. R.

attached memo
in re -
Martin Conboy -

OFFICE OF
THE ATTORNEY GENERAL



file
personal

Mar 27 /
1937

Dear Missy:

I have had
the attached to the
President.

Sincerely,

Wm. Knowles

OFFICE OF
THE ATTORNEY GENERAL



Prismal

Nov 27/37

Dear Mr President:

I have accepted
the (induced) resignation
~~of Martin Anthony~~
Special Asst to the Atty
General - because of
his connection with
the "Lucky" Luciano
Case *

all's well that ends well!

W.S.C.

P.S.F. Justice
Cummings
April 3, 1937.

Dear Mrs. President -

Thank you and
Mrs. Roosevelt so much
for the beautiful flowers
and especially for the
lovely message on your card.

I was particularly
happy to get this and not
have it intercepted by a
"certain party." Do you know
that she cuts off your
signature from letters and

if I did not know your
characteristic phraseology
and the letter head reads "The
White House" I might think
I had an anonymous
correspondent. Perhaps the
G-men ought to be paid.

With all her faults we
love her still & it made us
very happy to have her at
our celebration.

The following telegram
was received yesterday:

"Eight short years ago,
fore The New Deal started its
show,
You staged a marriage without
any pain,

And Happy Days are here again.
Happy Days are here again for you;
The bride is smiling and the groom
is, too.
So keep up the record and double
the score
Just keep being happy for eight
years more

Congratulations from The "Two-
paper Women's Club"
Verse by Jack Daly - Evening Star."

Some mention was made of
your breaking out into verse
to commemorate the happy
occasion, as the orators say.

Between Judiciary Bills, please do.
As always with our
sliding affection.

(scitia)

PSF
Justice
Cummings

File
(10)
April 20, 1937.

Dear Mr. President -

It's a long last
farewell I am sending
some more mushroom soup
"that tastes of mushrooms."

The trouble with most
mushroom soup is simply
they don't put in enough
mushrooms.

I guess I inherit
from my mother the idea
that if you want food to
taste like what it's supposed
to taste like you've just got

to use good ingredients. She never paid any attention to "How delicious this cake tastes without eggs or butter." She always said you could call it "Golden Glow Cake" or any other fancy name, but if it didn't have good eggs & good butter - it was honey. (This took intelligent expression in mind, but that was the gist of it.)

So....., I hope you like it. Along with the cream & mushrooms was mixed in a large helping

of affection from us and
admiration from the cook.

This is such a dither that
you like her soup - it is in
danger of not being up to
par. I shall taste it
before it goes down.

It was delightful
being with you the other
evening and I shall make
discreet inquiries about the
Duke of Windsor and Madame
Simpson's reported residence in
Hyde Park.

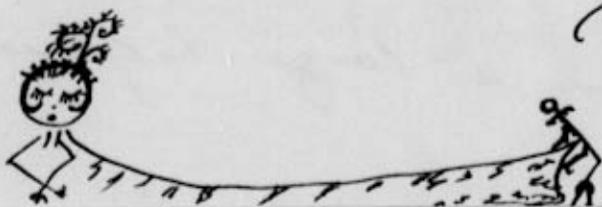
I say discreet because,

if I judge the lady correctly,
if she heard of your inquiry
she would hot-foot it right
back to Washington. To her
a live President would be
far more alluring than a
"dead" King!

Please take good
care of yourself and send
that nice Attorney General of
yours (for the moment his
name escapes me) over to
his itzie-bitzie Toddlinus, pa-lee.

As always with affection
and admiration.

Scilla Tweedings.





file
personal

UNITED STATES LINES

PSF
Justice

On Board S.S. April 26/37

Cummings

Dear Mr. President -

The seas were fairly rough, but the stomach remained smooth & the knees are flexible.

I have passed up mushroom soup and am now on a raw meat diet, so God Save the King!

Thank you so

much for your delightful
radiogram. It was grand
hearing from you in the
middle of the Atlantic.

Please take care
of Homer.

Affectionate
greetings to all.

The Dowager - in
the - working.

25 file
facsimile

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Attorney Gen

May 15, 1937.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL:

Will you speak to me about this.

F.D.R.

Re: File regarding the appointing of a Federal Judge to take the place of Judge John E. Martineau, deceased. Are interested in seeing that they get a judge in sympathy with the policies of the Roosevelt Administration. Mayor R. E. Overman of Little Rock, Ark. has written to Jim Farley regarding same.

May 17: The A.G. is bringing file with him when he meets the Pres. at 1:50 P.M.

May 24, 1937.

Dear Cecilia:-

Ever so many thanks for the
notes and the stamps. I am glad the knees
held out and the feathers did not fall off!
We miss you a lot.

Always sincerely,

Mrs. Homer^{S.} Cummings,
c/o American Embassy,
Paris,
France.

PSF

Justice

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Howe
Cummings
(1)

June 4, 1937.

MEMORANDUM FOR
THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Will you speak to me
about this?

F. D. R.

Longhand memorandum

Congressman Kloeb - Celina, Ohio,
for District Judge. Said something
against Court Plan but not violent.



Savoy-Westend-Hotel
 Villa Cleopatra und Carlton
 Carlsbad (Fektes-Flou.)
 Telegramm-Adr.: Savoyhotel.

PS
 Does the
 require an
 answer? All
 yours
 PST
 Justice
 Cummings

Sunday - June 13, 1937.

Dear Mrs. President -

Your amusing note
 was sent me from Paris.

The knees held out and
 even more of a miracle, the
 feathers held firm. Apparently
 people who did not attend
 the Court were "startled" by
 the red dress. It's amazing
 how startled editors sitting
 3000 miles away can get.

As a matter of fact, the
Lord Chamberlain's Orders for Court
Dress said any color might be
worn & I made doubly sure
by sending sample to American
Embassy, London & it was O.K.
Not only white, but pastels!
Shades were worn & one dark
brown! The "peddles" had to
be white. I had my picture
taken & one colored for Homer
& I'm sure you'll think I
look dowager-ish.

I've been here one
week & intend to spend 3 more
taking a serious cure as my
blood pressure was up what

with the campaign & Court Fight
& being a "charming" (sic) & beautiful wife.
Well, the life here is simple
enough.

I rise at 7:15 (Yes!) &
walk down to get one glass of
Karlquelle & in 15 minutes,
glass of Schlossbrun. I then walk
back & have each morning
 $\frac{1}{2}$ cup hot milk $\frac{1}{2}$ cup Coffee Hag &
 $\frac{1}{2}$ grapefruit.

For lunch I may have a
little cream or swiss cheese & 1
thin graham cracker & glass of milk or
some vegetable puree cooked
without salt or butter & dish
of strawberries.

For dinner I may have
1 piece lamb, veal or chicken &
vegetable & compote - everything
without salt in or over it & no butter or
sugar.

I go to bed & am asleep at
8 or 9 & one night at 6 & rest
a lot during the day. Already
my nerves are better & blood
pressure down.

About July 3rd my 4 weeks
will be up & I believe I shall go
to Austrian Tyrol for what they
call an after cure - that is, as
you no doubt know, just simple
rest & quiet. I expect to be in
Paris about middle of July.

Today I am having
what is known as a rest day -
I do not go out - but have 5
glasses of milk in my room.
Strange, I do not feel hungry
& do not know miss salt &
butter. Life here reminds me of Thomas
Mann's "Magic Mountain" ⁱⁿ going to be a problem-
child to Washington hostesses when

4



P.S. President Benes is coming
to this hotel I believe next
week for rest.

Savoy-Westend-Hotel

Villa Cleopatra und Carlton

Carlsbad (Tcheco-Slov.)

Telegramm-Adr.: Savoyhotel.

I return. I suppose by that
time I can eat food with salt
in it + scrape off all the goo.

I had a grand time
for 3 weeks in London - hardly
went to bed + popped straight
off to Budapest + got off train
all dressed for gala performance
at Opera (It was really an Hungarian
Ballet) for King + Queen of Italy +
The Minister + Mrs. Mon Somery gave
me royal time for one week.
I met + talked quite a

It's with a Mr. Tibor Eckhardt
leader of the Opposition & ^{the} Agrarian
leader. He is an admirer of yours
& understands more what you
are trying to do than most
Americans living abroad & many
at home.

On leaving he gave me an
Hungarian Liqueur bottle that
lights up the liqueur & is most
effective. It might light up
Whiskey, too, we'll shall have
to try it out. I've heard of people
getting ^{lit} but never the bottles.
I met Archduke Albrecht
one of the pretenders to the Throne
of Hungary & he is not only

Charming, but int.elligent & was
interested in our floods on the
Ohio. I had to courtesy to him,
too. It's no place for an old
lady around these parts, unless
she's Royalty & doesn't need to
bob.

Mr. Montgomery allowed me
to take his car & chauffeur &
drive to Vienna, Prague where
I stayed 2 nights with Mrs.
Pottle Wright in the lovely
Legation & then to Carlsbad. I
didn't want any car here.

In Vienna for 4 days I saw
many things including a performance
of Tristan and Isolde at the Opera House

+ Tristan sang as if he had 2 hot
potatoes in his mouth + I had to
leave before the 3rd act as you
know he takes 1½ hours to yelp
+ die + even the thought of the
Liebebad couldn't hold me. I know
it's the first time I ever walked
out on Wagner - but that really
wasn't Wagner! The Opera House is
lovely in ^{the old tradition.}

Homer writes he is
well and the Count B: II has
taken an upturn. Of course
those 9 Gentlemen ^(will not all 9) will react
to their former positions as soon
as they think the fight is over.
You got some good out of the
fight already.

Affectionate remembrance
to you + Mrs. Roosevelt + to
Betsey, Missy, Grace etc. etc.
(1911/2)



Savoy-Westend Hotel mit Villen Cleopatra und Carlton, Carlsbad

SAVOY-WESTEND HOTEL.

CARLSBAD (Tschechoslovakei).

The 2 villas are closed
as the season begins
July, & runs through
August, I believe.

I'm around the
corner from X.

I note they're
not villas they're
Killem, but Heaven
will protect the
wicked, quit.

OFFICE OF
THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

file
personal



June 19/37

To the President:

The attached may
be of interest & use -

Warrings