

● PSF Post Office DEPT. Harlee Branch

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL

July 26, 1935.

MEMORANDUM FOR

HON. HARLLEE BRANCH

Will you have an investigation made, without bringing the White House into it in any way, into the allegations regarding Mr. Peter F. Tague who was second on the list for Postmaster of Boston? It is alleged that he has been summoned before the Poor Debtor's Court between twenty and thirty times, and that once or twice he has gone through bankruptcy. Furthermore, that he has the general reputation of never paying his debts except under extreme compulsion.

F. D. R.

JAMES H. BRENNAN
18 TREMONT STREET
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

personal

July 24, 1935.

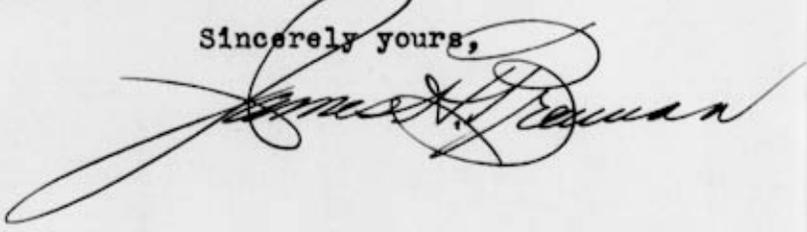
President Franklin D. Roosevelt
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

It occurred to me since you granted me a most pleasant and wonderful interview on Friday, July 19th, that probably it has not been called to your attention that Mr. Peter F. Tague, one of the eligibles for Postmaster of Boston, is at present employed as Election Commissioner of the City of Boston, and that his term does not expire until spring of 1936. His present salary is \$6,000. so that he will be steadily employed, I believe, until April of 1936. I thought probably this information would be of interest to you in connection with the situation.

With highest personal regards, I am

Sincerely yours,



JHB:B

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

P.O. Sept.

September 22, 1936.

PS
Harlee Branch

MEMO FOR THE P. S.

Will you tell this in great
confidence to Harlee Branch but
do not let it come out?

F. D. R.

Messing
telephoned Branch about
this - it is O.K.,
P.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

September 18, 1936.

MEMORANDUM FOR
COLONEL WATSON

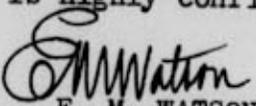
Will you tell me what
I can reply to this?

M. A. LE HAND
Private Secretary

September 19, 1936.

MEMORANDUM FOR MISS LeHAND:

I have personally verified the fact that Colonel Earle D'Arcy Pearce is not on the general officer eligible list, prepared yearly by a board of generals. Under the provisions of the National Defense Act of 1920, it is prescribed that general officers be promoted from this list. If you tell Mr. Branch this, I would suggest that he be cautioned that it is highly confidential.


E. M. WATSON,
Lieut. Colonel, F. A.
Military Aide to The President.

SECOND ASSISTANT POSTMASTER GENERAL
WASHINGTON

September 14, 1936.

Miss Marguerite Le Hand,
Personal Secretary to the President,
The White House,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Miss Le Hand:

For years the principal officials of the Atlanta Journal, with which I was connected so long, have been earnestly hoping that Colonel Earle D'Arcy Pearce would be promoted, and upon each occasion when his name has been passed by the War Department Board they have been greatly disappointed.

I think Major Cohen talked with the President about two years ago concerning Colonel Pearce. He is a son-in-law of the late Mr. James R. Gray, former President, publisher and largest stockholder in the Atlanta Journal, and is a brother-in-law of Inman Gray, present President of the Journal and James R. Gray, present Vice-President and Editor of that newspaper. The Gray family are the largest stockholders in the Journal and they and their paper have been and still are among the most loyal and wholehearted supporters of the President during his administration. Colonel Pearce, who is now Harbor Defense Commandant in Panama and whose term will soon expire, is a splendid gentleman, a fine officer and enjoys a distinguished record. I am attaching a memorandum of his record. Will you please be so kind as to call him to the attention of the President at your first opportunity?

- 2 -

My Atlanta Journal friends have for a long time urged me to do what I could to assist Colonel Pearce and I have mentioned the matter to both the late Secretary Dern and Assistant Secretary Woodring.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

Harlee Branch

Harlee Branch,
Second Assistant
Postmaster General.

RECORD OF COLONEL EARLE D'ARCY PEARCE

Born April 2, 1876.
Distinguished service medal - Order of the Purple Heart.
General Staff Corps eligible list.
(No. 13 on the list of Colonels in the Army, and No. 2
on the list of Colonels in Coast Artillery.)
Graduate of: Army War College, 1914; School of the Line, 1922;
School of Submarine Defense, 1905.
Cadet United States Military Academy, June 15, 1893.
Additional Second Lieutenant of Cavalry, June 11, 1897.
Second Lieutenant, November 19, 1897.
Transferred to Artillery Corps, April 2, 1898.
First Lieutenant, March 31, 1899.
Captain of Artillery Corps, August 22, 1901.
Major Coast Artillery Corps, May 27, 1911.
Lieutenant-Colonel, May 15, 1917.
Colonel, July 1, 1920.

During the World War, Colonel of Field Artillery.
National Army, August 5, 1917.
Accepted August 16, 1917.
During the War commanded 157th and 319th Regiments Field Artillery.
Honorable discharge from National Army, as Colonel, June 30, 1920.
(Colonel permanent granted the next day.)

Since the War, served as Commandant of Jackson Barracks, also of
Georgia Tech R.O.T.C., also at University of Washington.
Harbor Defense Commandant at Philippine Islands.
Harbor Defense Commandant at San Francisco.
Harbor Defense Commandant in Panama for the past two years.