

Dean Acheson - Subject File

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Sub. File

RSF

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Acheson

*Journal
file*

February 7, 1939

MEMORANDUM:

This place on the United States
Circuit Court of Appeals for the
District of Columbia was offered
to Dean Acheson February 5th and
declined by him in a personal
note in the President's files.

Re an Acheson letter attached

F. D. R.

2805 P STREET

My dear Mr. President,

I expressed most inadequately, when you spoke with me over the telephone, how deeply I was touched and honored by the suggestion you made to me. The honor of the confidence you expressed in me is plain enough, but that you should feel and express it seems to me so fine an act of sportsmanship that I shall never forget it. I wish with all my heart that I could feel fitted for the life which you opened to me. But I know that my instinct is right

2805 P STREET

and that I could not be successful
or happy in it. I would be less than
fair to you or to myself to go into
something which would not have my
whole heart and head & soul.

I think my gratitude to you is
even greater than if I could accept
the nomination. It certainly is greater
than I can ever express.

most respectfully

Dean Acheson

February 6, 1939.



Office of the Attorney General
Washington, D. C.

February 2, 1939.

My dear Mr. President:

I have the honor to enclose herewith a nomination in favor of Dean G. Acheson, of Maryland, to be an Associate Justice of the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia, to fill a position created by the Act of Congress of May 31, 1938.

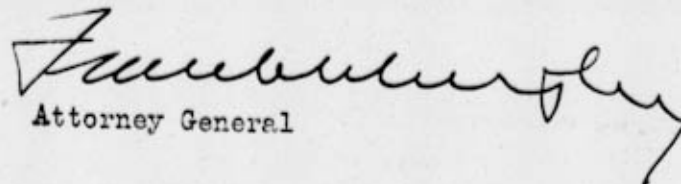
Mr. Acheson was born in Middletown, Connecticut, April 11, 1893, is forty-five years old, married and has three children. He was graduated from Yale University in 1915, with the degree of A.B. and received the degree of LL.B. from the Harvard Law School in 1918. He is a member of the Maryland and District of Columbia Bars, having been admitted to the latter Bar in 1921. He served as Secretary to the Honorable Louis D. Brandeis, Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States from September, 1919 to July, 1921, when he began the practice of law in Washington, D. C. On May 19, 1933, he was appointed Under Secretary of the Treasury, from which post he resigned on November 15, 1933, and reentered the private practice of law. During the World War he served as a commissioned officer in the United States Navy. At the present time Mr. Acheson is associated with the firm of Covington, Burling, Rublee, Acheson and Shorb.

Our investigations disclose that Mr. Acheson is a lawyer of distinction, a man of unusual talents, of judicial temperament and imminently well qualified to serve as an Associate Justice of the United States Court of Appeals, for the District of Columbia.

He is endorsed by outstanding members of the Bench and Bar and others.

I recommend the nomination.

Respectfully,


Attorney General

The President,



Office of the Attorney General

Washington, D.C.

February 2, 1939

My dear Mr. President:

Attached herewith you will find nominations in favor of Honorable Dean G. Acheson of Maryland, Honorable Robert F. Patterson of New York, and Honorable Francis Biddle of Philadelphia, to fill positions on the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia, the United States Circuit Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, and the United States Circuit Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit, respectively.

In addition you already have the nomination of Honorable Herschel W. Arant, Dean of the Law School of Ohio State University, for the United States Circuit Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit, together with memorandum which explains the situation in that Circuit.

These four men in my judgment are men of superior attainments, of distinguished achievement in the law, and of outstanding integrity. It is my belief that if their nominations are sent immediately to the Senate they would be promptly confirmed, and the criticism generally current in the press relative to the delay in the filling of judicial vacancies considerably allayed.

Relative to the new judicial position created by the Act of Congress last spring in the Eastern District of Michigan, you at present have before you the nomination of the Honorable Frank A. Picard, and unless there is some difficulty in the way I would like to make the suggestion also that this nomination be sent along to the Senate together with the others herein referred to.

Respectfully,

Frank B. Rowley
Attorney General.

The President

The White House

To the Senate of the United States:

I nominate Dean G. Acheson, of Maryland, to be an Associate Justice of the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia, to fill a position created by the Act of Congress of May 31, 1938.

True.

The White House,

Washington, _____.

No.

..... CONG. | EXECUTIVE
..... SESS. |

NOMINATION OF

.....

TO BE

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193...., Read, and
referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

..... Reported

..... Confirmed.