

Adm. Assts: James M. Barros -

Subject file

P.S.F. By [REDACTED]

Adm. Ass'ts. PSF Barnes for file 2-114  
file

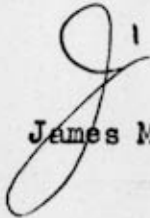
THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

June 26, 1944

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

RE: MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON.

I talked to Secretary Forrester about  
this today.

  
James M. Barnes

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

June 13, 1944.

*JMB  
Tell this to  
Forrestal*

MEMORANDUM

FOR: THE PRESIDENT

IN RE: MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON  
(Under Secretary of the Navy)

William H. Harrison was born in Brooklyn, N. York. He attended grammar school and completed two years of high school. He went to night school and graduated from Pratt Institute and has received two honorary degrees from Polytech Institute and Notre Dame University.

He started to work for the New York Telephone Company and has held many positions in the various subsidiaries of the American T. and T. Before coming to Washington he was Vice President and Chief Engineer of A.T.&T.

He came to Washington in 1940 with the National Defense Council and was chief of Shipbuilding, Construction and Supplies Branch of O.P.M., and was then with the W.P.B. At the present time he is attached to General Somervell on Contract and Procurement. I am attaching a statement from "Who's Who".

There is no record of him being in politics, or having any political background.

He is very capable in certain respects but ~~is~~ quite rigid and inflexible and inclined toward military rigidity. I understand that Don Nelson and Charlie Wilson think he is of insufficient stature for this position.

  
JAMES M. BARNES.

HARRISON, William Henry, - telephone exec.; b. Brooklyn, N.Y., June 11, 1892; s. John and Ann (Terahin) H.; student Boys High Sch., Brooklyn, 1906-09, Pratt Inst., 1913-15; D. Engring. (hon.), Polytech, Inst. Brooklyn, 1938; LL.D. (hon.), Notre Dame U., 1939; m. Habel Gilchrist Ouchterloney, Apr. 14, 1916; children - William Henry, John Grant. Repairman and wireman, N.Y. Telephone Co., 1909-14; in engring. dept., Western Electric Co., New York, N.Y. 1914-18; engr., equipment and bldg. engr., and plant engr., Am. Telephone and Telegraph Co., N.Y. City, 1918-33; v.p. and dir. The Bell Telephone Co. of Pa. and The Diamond State Telephone Co., 1933-37; asst. v.p., Am. Telephone and Telegraph Co., N.Y. City, 1937-38; v.p. and chief engr. since 1938; dir. Construction Div., Nat. Defense Council, 1940; chief of Shipbuilding, Construction and Supplies Branch, director of production, O.P.M., 1941; dir. 195 Broadway Corp., Bell Labs., Inc., The Bell Telephone of Can.; trustee, Village of Garden City, Inc.; past pres. Am. Inst. E.E.; mem. of bd., Polytech. Inst. of Brooklyn; mem. N.Y. Elec. Soc., Newcomen Soc., Eta Kappa Nu, Tau Beta Pi. Catholic. Clubs; University, Downtown Athletic (N.Y. City); North Fork Country (Cutchogue, N.Y.); Garden City Golf, Cherry Valley (Garden City, N.Y.). Home: 120 Kensington Rd., Garden City, N.Y. Office: 195 Broadway, New York, N.Y.

*Adm Assts*

PSF; Barnes folder 2-44

*Subject*

*File Personal*

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

September 4, 1944

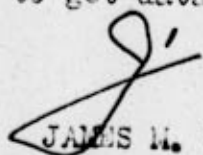
MEMORANDUM FOR:

THE PRESIDENT

In talking with Charles Olson, Head of the Foreign Language Group of the Democratic Committee, he thinks it might be advantageous to use Columbus Day, (October 12th), to make a speech or issue a proclamation channeled particularly to these groups.

He feels that attacks on our foreign policy have had their effect among the foreign language groups. The Republicans are making a play by organizing "All American" committees, while at the same time permitting and inspiring attacks on "foreignism" and "immigrants". They are also trying to put the blame on you personally by saying you are "in Stalin's pocket", and that the President "does not like Italians". He thinks you could utilize this day to pay tribute, in the hour of the liberation of Europe, to the way people of the United States, who have come from all nations of Europe and the world, have worked and fought as Americans, united and strong.

If you desire, I will try to get data for you on this subject.

  
JAMES M. BARNES

Adm. Assts.

PSF

Barnes folder 2-44  
Subj. File

*file  
per [unclear]*

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

September 11, 1944.

MEMORANDUM FOR:

THE PRESIDENT

I am wondering if it would be presumptuous in suggesting that you contact Churchill and Eden and have them keep as quiet as possible in regard to statements between now and October.

Churchill and Eden's statements, and especially the latter, have hurt the Italian situation in this country tremendously. The boys feel that if they would be present for about thirty days, it would be a great help.



JAMES H. BARNES,  
Administrative Assistant  
to the President.