

Box 116

CONTINUED

PSF

January 8, 1940

Dear Vincent:

You are an angel to give away that delicious champagne but I assure you it is very deeply appreciated. That was a grand Christmas present. Thank you ever so much. Because I have a feeling that you are being robbed, I shall save some for your next visit when we can enjoy it together.

I do hope you had a grand Christmas. I am anxious to hear all about it.

All the boxes which you delivered at Hyde Park were much enjoyed by all of us during the Christmas holidays. I only wish you could have been here with us.

As ever yours,

Vincent Astor, Esq.,  
130 East 80th Street,  
New York, New York.

VINCENT ASTOR  
NO 23 WEST 26TH STREET

130 East 80th St  
X

New York, December 16th, 19 39.

Dear Missy:

Here is the "merchandise" that  
we discussed. One of the cases has a Christmas  
card attached, and this I wish you would set  
aside and give to the President from the pope  
and me. *on Tomos day.*

Yours,

*Vincent*

VA:SW

*P.S. I ordered Haight Haight  
instead of John Walker  
as a man who  
ought to know  
said that it was  
slightly better.*

Miss Marguerite A. LeHand,  
Hyde Park,  
Dutchess County, New York.

*file  
personal*

*RSF  
Actar*

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

February 8, 1940.

MEMORANDUM FOR  
THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

Please read and return.  
Can nothing be done to cut down  
on this?

F. D. R.

SECRETARY OF THE ARMY

040 FEB 9 AM 9 30

10:06

RECEIVED

VINCENT ASTOR  
NO 23 WEST 26<sup>TH</sup> STREET

*New York*, February 5th, 19 40.

Dear Mr. President:

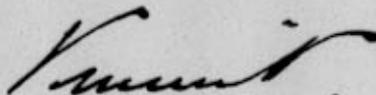
You might be interested to know that since December 30th Amtorg's weekly drawings on their main Chase Bank account have been as follows:

	<u>Total Payments</u>	<u>For Metals</u>
From Dec. 30th to Jan. 5th	\$2,094,993.47	\$1,411,863.93
" Jan. 6th to Jan. 12th	2,714,070.54	1,451,170.93
" Jan. 13th to Jan. 19th	2,213,032.19	1,095,538.05
" Jan. 20th to Jan. 26th	2,056,334.20	843,212.28
" Jan. 27th to Feb. 2nd	<u>2,407,832.97</u>	<u>1,793,839.98</u>
	\$11,486,263.37	\$6,595,625.17

The payments for metals are included in the totals.

The enclosed sheets show the individual payments during the past week. Those to American Smelting & Refining Company come to \$1,455,647.

Respectfully,



VA:SW  
Encs.

The President,  
Washington, D.C.

OFFICE  
SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

1940 FEB 9 AM 9 38

TREASURY DEPARTMENT

(1/27/40)

(\$2,275,653.73)

\$1,334.60	Stolp Co., Inc.	
859.17	Ingersoll Milling Machine Co.	
333.50	Special Machine Tool Engineering Works, Inc.	
110.00	Sperry Gyroscope Co., Inc.	
589.00	Sperry Gyroscope Co., Inc.	
2,940.15	Feedrail Corporation	
✓ 607,606.63	American Smelting & Refining Co.	
3,326.38	The Brown Instrument Company	
5,058.44	City Pattern Works	
✓ 525,842.74	American Smelting & Refining Co.	
10,636.86	Draft - Kingsbury Machine Tool Corp.	
21,690.49	Draft - Cone Automatic Machine Co.	\$5,208.06
689.02	National Vulcanized Fibre Co.	
1,850.00	United Engineering & Foundry Co.	
5.36	Theo H. Davies & Co., Ltd.	
184.15	Harry W. Dietert Co.	
✓ 7,868.14	Duquesne-Smelting Corporation	
16,059.00	W. F. & John Barnes Co.	
12,586.83	National City Bank	
329.40	American Meter Company, Inc.	
59.66	Ford Motor Co.	
90.94	Acme Tile & Marble Co., Inc.	
712.37	General Motors Overseas Operations	
382.52	General Motors Overseas Operations	
31,221.07	Norton Co.	
26,822.11	A. G. Parsner, MZN	
3,781.02	Irving Trust Co.	
539.39	Guaranty Trust Co.	
743.85	Guaranty Trust Co.	\$1,000,000.
789.06	Howell Electric Motors Co.	
827.87	Howell Electric Motors Co.	
538.79	Norton Co.	
1,078.00	Morse Bros. Machinery Co. - Draft	
181.50	Draft - Leeds Northrup Co.	
1,036.84	The Ideal Electric & Mfg. Co.	
67,834.30	E. F. Hutton & Company	
8,647.13	Draft - Gleason Works	
✓ 181,101.89	Draft - Revere, Copper & Brass, Inc.	
2,543.11	Atlas Electric Devices Co.	
✓ 322,198.00	American Smelting & Refining Co.	
5,121.73	Howell Electric Motors Co.	
6,520.00	Toledo Scale Company	
62,088.89	New York Trust Co.	
94,393.31	New York Trust Co.	
1,654.08	Central Hanover National Bank	
12,624.00	First National Bank	
18,556.61	Irving Trust Co.	
17,262.55	New York Trust Co.	
✓ 141,382.58	E. J. Schwaback & Co.	
61,597.95	To meet eventual drawings against -	
	L/C #24273 in f/o Kingsburg Machine Tool Co., Keene, N.H.	211.50
	L/C #25282 in f/o Sundstrand Machine Tool Co.,	
	Rockford, Ill.	80.71
	L/C #23197 - Greenlee Bros. & Co., Rockford, Ill.	\$32,304.86
	L/C #24170 - Greenlee Bros. & Co., Rockford, Ill.	\$ 2,169.41
	L/C #25643 - Snyder Tool & Engineering Co., Detroit, Mich.	\$4,962.25
	L/C #25641 - Pratt & Whitney Div., Hartford, Conn.	\$2,906.46
	L/C #25642 - Snyder Tool & Engineering Co., Detroit, Mich.	\$678.75
	L/C #25640 - Federal Products Corp., Providence, R.I.	\$17,054.97
	L/C #25639 - Barber Coleman Co., Rockford, Ill.	\$1,229.04
374.52	Norton Pike Co.	
240.10	Precision Scientific Co.	
618.86	Spencer Lens Company	
688.14	Joseph Weidenhoff Inc.	
980.50	Heller Machine Company	
79.12	General Motors Overseas Operations	

(1/27/40) - Cont.

8.25	General Motors Overseas Operations	
7,840.00	Duquesne Smelting Corporation	527.88
21,531.84	G & N Trading Company	
31,318.48	American Wool Stock Corp.	
103.95	Timken Roller Bearing Co.	
182.96	Chrysler Corp.-Export	500,000.00
811.33	Jones & Lamson Machine Co.	
2,182.87	Timken Roller Bearing Co.	
9,005.15	E.F. Hutton & Co.	
28,743.51	Transfer to regular account	
2,891.70	Jones & Lamson Machine Co.	
159.87	John Bean Mfg. Co.	
7,840.15	To meet eventual drawings against -	
	L/C #24734 -LaPointe Machine Tool Co.,Hudson, Mass.	2,747.68
	L/C #25671 -Heald Machine Co., Worcester, Mass.	2,909.60
	L/C #25672 -Timken Roller Bearing Co.,Canton,Ohio	2,182.87

Balance 1/27/40 - \$2,275,653.73  
Credits - 1,505,735.94  
3,781,389.67  
Debits - 2,407,832.97  
Balance 2/2/40 \$1,373,556.70

OFFICE  
SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

1940 FEB 9 AM 9 40

TREASURY DEPARTMENT

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

December 1, 1939.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT:

In the week prior to November 28th the deposits to one of the Amtorg accounts in New York amounted to \$2,480,000.

On the debit side for purchases the larger items were:

\$646,000 for molybdenum

\$246,000 for other metals,

\$225,000 for grain and

\$157,000 for equipment from the  
Westinghouse Company

VINCENT ASTOR  
NO 23 WEST 26<sup>TH</sup> STREET

*File Personal Confidential*  
New York, November 28th, 1939.  
*ten - 11*

4  
*Dear Mr. President:*

You might be interested to know that last week the deposits to one of the foreign accounts amounted to \$2,480,000.

On the debit side the larger items were:

\$646,000. for molybdenum,  
246,000. for other metals,  
225,000. for grain, and  
157,000. for equipment from the  
Westinghouse Company.

*Respectfully*  
*Vincent*

PSF  
Aster

Dear Missy:-

I know

that I probably ought  
to be kicked for  
bothering you and the  
President with my  
letters when you are  
off in Warm Springs  
having, I hope, a nice  
vacation. And here I am  
being guilty of just that.

Yours  
Yount

VINCENT ASTOR  
NO 23 WEST 26<sup>TH</sup> STREET

*New York,* April 20th, 19 40.

Dear Mr. President:

Verbal instructions along the lines that you suggested have been given to Captain Richardson of the MANHATTAN, and similar ones will be given to Manning of the WASHINGTON, when he reaches port.

After seeing you in Hyde Park, I told John Franklin of our having discussed the new AMERICA's future, and that you felt that placing her in the Mediterranean service was undesirable psychologically, etc. To my surprise, he largely agreed. Admiral Land, however, is disappointed, and I believe wants to talk the matter over with you. I have thought of a possible compromise, which perhaps has merit, i.e.: To run her in the western hemisphere this summer (Bermuda appears to be by long odds the best bet), thereby preserving her maidenly virtues from the Italians during her extreme youth. In October and November, MANHATTAN and WASHINGTON should be withdrawn for one voyage apiece, in order to effect needed repairs and the rearrangement of their stewards' accommodations, which at present are a disgrace. Assuming that the Mediterranean is still open to our ships, AMERICA might replace each one for one voyage. By that time the winter season will be approaching, and AMERICA can perhaps once more find support nearby. Although the present time is definitely an in-between season, the ROOSEVELT's accommodations are proving somewhat inadequate for the Bermuda trade.

When you return to Washington, I do hope that I shall have a

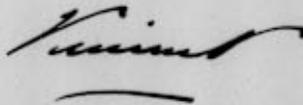
April 20th, 1940.

chance to come down and talk with you for a little while about the "club", which I am up to my neck in; and also about the suggested Chase Bank mission to Japan. This latter appears to me to be a heaven-sent opportunity, provided it is properly organized. However, a few of its members should be given some adequate education by O.N.I., and this, I fear, is where my Admiral will not exercise much imagination.

Apropos of delays in the transmission of news originating in the British Passport Control Office, and transmitted via the State Department - which I have already reported to you - an unfortunate example came to my attention yesterday. Sir James Paget made a report, via the State Department, dated March 6th, which was forwarded to us on April 17th. It is certainly a bit difficult to conduct an effective blitzkrieg of our own against malefactors when information becomes stymied in department files for six weeks.

I know that I should be ashamed of myself for writing you letters while you are having, I hope, a pleasant vacation in Warm Springs.

Respectfully,



VA:SW

The President,  
Warm Springs, Georgia.

Dear Missy:-  
Would you  
give the enclosed  
to the President. 2

Vernon

file  
Confidential

3

*Dear Mr. President* April 18th, 1940.

British Intelligence in this area is in charge of Sir James Paget, assisted by a Mr. Walter Bell, who conduct the so-called British Passport Control Office, although the control of passports occupies but little, if any, of their time.

Shortly after the "club"'s formation, it occurred to me that Paget and Bell might from time to time obtain leads useful to us. I therefore arranged a meeting with Paget, at which I asked for unofficial British co-operation, but made it clear that we, for obvious reasons, could not return the compliment in the sense of turning over to them any of our confidential information. This somewhat one-sided arrangement was gladly accepted. This was natural, inasmuch as any success that we might have in discouraging sabotage, etc., would be to his advantage.

On February 16th, Bell reported to F.B.I. that State Department officials in Washington had registered a complaint because he and his superior had furnished information to U.S. intelligence units. I was away at the time, but it appears that Bell continued to give direct information, feeling that by so doing valuable time would be saved. A week later, however, Paget was instructed by his government to confine all the contacts of his office with U.S. officials to representatives of the State Department. This time both Paget and Bell stated that, though they greatly regretted this situation, there was no course left to them but to follow instructions.

Mr. Hoover thereupon went to the State Department, and was there informed that the action had been taken at the request of Mr. Messersmith, now in his post as Ambassador to Cuba, and that immediate steps would be taken, through our embassy in London, to the end that Sir James Paget's orders should be rescinded. This was in

April 18th, 1940.

early March and since then there have been no developments. In consequence, opportunities to obtain useful information are now probably being lost.

Would it be possible to expedite action by the State Department, provided such action is approved of?

\* \* \* \* \*

The Japanese Ambassador called on Winthrop Aldrich, Chairman of the Board of the Chase National Bank last Monday, and stated that his government is preparing to "liquidate" the Chinese war as rapidly as adequate "policing" arrangements can be made for the occupied areas. The Ambassador also stated that his government is still exceedingly interested in the Chase Bank organizing a commission, *+ sending to Japan* under the bank's guidance, for the purpose of studying present economic conditions in Japan. It seems to me that such a commission might be of great value to us in obtaining valuable information, provided that certain individual members were wisely chosen and adequately educated in advance as to what to look for. Co-operation and encouragement by the State Department will be needed.

\* \* \* \* \*

The Italian government is increasing its credit balances in New York, and is exerting very great pressure to have metal exports to its country expedited.

*Respectfully*  
*Kenneth*

PS  
file confidential  
with material  
papers

PSF  
Astor

Q. T. H.

MEMORANDUM:

Agent W. C. Spears has been instructed to turn over code book and pistol to the captain of ship.

\* \* \* \*

It might be of assistance if the American Consul at Gibraltar could be instructed to board the WASHINGTON on her arrival, in order to take such action as might be necessary to prevent the removal of the two men in whom we are interested.

It might also be of assistance if the American Consuls at Genoa, Italy, and Zurich, Switzerland, were instructed to immediately forward any messages directed to John Edgar Hoover or the FBI in New York, by W. C. Spears. They should perhaps at the same time be instructed to immediately forward, via diplomatic pouch, any written communications from Spears to the FBI.

The WASHINGTON is due in Gibraltar at daylight on Saturday, May 11th.

Came to file - May 15th 1940

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

Code to American Consul Gibraltar

"When Washington" arrives  
Saturday morning daylight  
go on board. Use every  
effort, prevent removal  
by British or French  
authorities of Mr. <sup>Capt</sup> Norden  
and Agent W. C. Spears  
of U. S. Government who  
is accompanying Norden.  
Report if any effort of removal  
of either.

PSF  
Astor

3

VINCENT ASTOR  
NO 23 WEST 26<sup>TH</sup> STREET

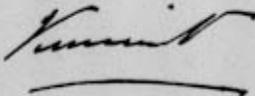
New York, May 14th, 19 40.

Dear Missy:

Since writing you my last letter a half hour ago, I find that Norden's wife - Mrs. Else Fehring Norden - is a citizen of The Netherlands, and that his mother-in-law - Mrs. Fehring - is German. (No one here seems to know what her confounded first name is.) A further fact that I have just learned, and which ought to facilitate their return to the United States, is that Mrs. Norden has lived in the U.S. - at Larchmont and in Brooklyn - for many years; her daughter having been born here.

I am returning to you herewith the letter (and typewritten copy) written by a Mrs. Lawson Johnston to the President. The story about the theft of the bomb-sight, and its having been hidden aboard the BREMEN is the same old song and dance which has cropped up repeatedly in the past. It always comes in the same form, and seems to be regarded as of great importance by the same type of people; the sort that Cholly Knickerbocker calls Cafe Society. In my opinion, there is little to it, but will have another go at it anyway. Wouldn't it be nice if the people of this world could forget bombs and wars?

Yours,



VA:SW  
Encs.

Miss Marguerite A. Le Hand,  
The White House,  
Washington, D. C.

Has been requested  
by England's Royal  
Family to write asking  
that America's "Doubt"  
be sent for use of  
England.

Mentions being  
given at White House

C  
O  
P  
Y

146 East 54th St.,  
New York, N. Y.,  
May 7th

Dear Mr. President -

Some months ago when arriving from England, an English friend in "British Museum" told me in confidence that he had heard Germany had stolen our American Bomb-Site, and had taken it back on the Bremen last September.

My husband being British was gravely alarmed and we did all possible to beg America to let England have this great weapon. Alas! it was refused on the grounds, "the Germans might get an English plane down and seize the Bomb-Site for their use, that America must keep for her own defense and that it was out of the question for Germany to have had access to our model here" -- Throughout the Norway massacre of Allies' troops, we could realize that from the great height the bombs were coming from and so accurately timed, that they must have this new device.

This morning Berlin says "We have a better Bomb-Site than America." If they can boast theirs is superior, they must have had access to our American plans.

What has prompted my taking the liberty in writing you is I have just received a letter from England's Royal family imploring me to approach you about this Bomb-Site. Knowing your affection for the Royal family, and England's great struggle, realizing the danger of England's Navy being imperiled, which might lose the War for the Allies, I have come to you, Mr. President, realizing you are the only great man in our America who realizes and sees the dangers to our America if the Allies are beaten and to beg you with all my heart to release and rush this Bomb-Site to England to save their Navy.

I had the honor of being at the White House, and meeting your dear mother the night your son, Franklin, invited us to see "Gone With the Wind".

Thank God we have you as our President, with your brilliant policy abroad.

- 2. -

Thanking you, and believe me to be gratefully and

Respectfully yours,

Betty Lawson Johnston

(Mrs. Ormond Lawson Johnston)

I alarmed, and we did  
all possible to beg  
America to let England  
have this great weapon.  
Alas! it was refused  
on the grounds "the Germans  
might get an English  
plane down & seize  
the Bomb site for their  
use, that America  
must keep for her  
own defence, & that it  
was out of the question  
for Germany to have  
had access to our  
model here" - Thumpact

146 East 54th St  
New York. May 7th

Dear Mr President -  
Some months ago when  
arriving from England  
an English friend  
in "British Mission"  
told me in confidence  
that he had heard  
Germany had stolen  
our American Bomb-  
site, and had taken  
it back on the Bremen  
last September.  
My husband being  
British was greatly

<sup>3</sup> the Norway massacre  
of Allied troops, we could  
realize that from the  
great height the Bombs  
were coming from &  
so completely timed,  
that they must have  
this new device -

This morning Berlin  
says "We have a better  
Bomb site than America"  
if they can beat their  
is superior, they must  
have had access to  
our American Plans.

<sup>4</sup> What has prompted  
my taking the liberty  
in writing you is  
I have just received  
a letter from England's  
Royal Family imploring  
me to approach you  
about this Bomb site.  
Knowing your affection  
for the Royal Family,  
and England's great  
struggle, realizing  
the danger of England's  
navy being imperiled

which might lose  
the war for the allies,  
I have come to you  
the President realizing  
you are the only great  
man in our America  
who realizes and sees  
the dangers to our  
America if the allies  
are beaten, and to  
help you with all  
my heart to release  
this Bonhôte  
to England to some

their name -

I had the honor of being  
at the White House, and  
meeting your dear mother  
the night your son Franklin  
wrote us to see "you with  
the wind" -

Thank God we have you  
as our President, with your  
isolationist Policy abroad -

Thanking you, and behind  
me to be grateful -

Respectfully yours

Betty Lawson Johnston -

(Mrs Ormond Lawson Johnston -)

**TELEGRAM**

**The White House**  
**Washington**

*PSF: V. Astor*  
*file*  
*personal*  
*3*

47WU. RA. D. H.

New York, N.Y., May 15, 1940

Miss Marguerite A. LeHand.

Thanks to your promptness our friend and his wife sailing  
Saturday, others returning later.

Vincent.

11:08 a.m.

APR 10 1945  
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

RECEIVED  
APR 10 1945

TELEGRAM

RE. TEL. FRIEND AGREEABLE, VISAS AND PASSAGE  
ARRANGED FOR FRIEND AND WIFE ON WASHINGTON.  
OTHERS NOT READY.

*(Cable received from  
our agent)*

VINCENT ASTOR  
NO 23 WEST 26<sup>TH</sup> STREET

*file  
presmt*

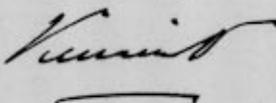
*New York,* May 15th, 19 40.

Dear Missy:

I am very grateful for the help you gave me yesterday, and for the promptness with which you both did the job and notified me of its accomplishment.

Immense delays dishearten me, and I am up against them constantly. Your telephoning me last night did a lot for my morale.

Affectionately,



VA:SW

Miss Marguerite A. Le Hand,  
The White House,  
Washington, D. C.

VINCENT ASTOR  
NO 23 WEST 26<sup>TH</sup> STREET

*ASF  
Astor*      *File*  
*Personal*  
*Confidential*

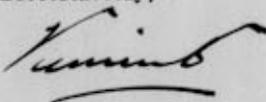
New York, May 22nd, 1940.

Dear Missy:

I am certainly a relieved and very much younger old man this morning. Last night somehow I did not have many hopes left for Mother. For all the help that I have had from you and the President, believe me, I am very grateful. I wish you'd tell him.

Enclosed is a letter to Harry Hopkins which provides another example of how I bother you. The thing is that I don't know how else to get it to him without its probably passing through a lot of other people's hands. This Klotz-Luscombe business may turn out to be more than interesting. Vera, from all accounts, is quite a girl.

Affectionately,



VA:SN  
Enc.

Miss Marguerite A. Le Hand,  
The White House,  
Washington, D. C.

TELEGRAM

55WUDDH

The White House  
Washington

MS New York NY May 28 1940

Miss Marguerite A. LeHand

The White House

Our wandering friend safely arrived this morning.

Vincent.

1030amd

*PSF, V. Astor  
file  
personal*

— PSF  
Astor

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

file  
personal

June 3, 1940.

MEMORANDUM FOR

CAPTAIN CALLAGHAN

Will you speak to me  
about this this afternoon?

F. D. R.

Dear Missy:-

Here is  
another one of my  
literary efforts, brief  
you will be glad to see.

Yours  
Kermit.

VINCENT ASTOR  
NO 23 WEST 26<sup>TH</sup> STREET

*New York*, June 1st, 1940.

Dear Mr. President:

I have been unable to come across anything new concerning Davis, but do find an understandable reluctance on the part of the F.B.I. to pursue the matter further at this time, due to certain background circumstances. These I would like to talk over with you next week, if I get the chance of seeing you, as I hope.

Here is a story which is unimportant, but might give you a small laugh:

The Porcellian Club in Cambridge a little over a year ago had some bad luck, for their treasurer, Arthur Hobson, pinched most of their current funds. In view of the previous incidents of Tom Frothingham and Dick Whitney - both members of the Porc. - the graduate members, it seems, were particularly anxious that knowledge of this latest disaster should not leak out, and therefore did not prosecute Hobson, but dug down into their pockets to make up the missing money. It was all very sad. But the point of this story is that your friend Davis took on Hobson as his personal, confidential secretary. Nice lot, are they not?

Respectfully,

VA:SW

*Vincent*

The President,  
Washington, D. C.

*P.S. The next time you see Capt. Callaghan, I wonder if (over)*

you would ask him how he is  
getting on in arranging for me to  
talk things over with Admiral Stark  
this coming week. I'm perhaps  
all wrong, but have a suspicion  
that the Admiral may be cross  
on account of the Norden  
incident, all of my complaints  
about things up here lately, and  
therefore put off seeing me.

I hope he doesn't, for there  
is so much to be done, and  
maybe not too much time.

V.

VINCENT ASTOR  
NO 23 WEST 26<sup>TH</sup> STREET

*P.S.  
Astor*

*will  
be  
confidential*

New York, June 7th, 1940.

Dear Mr. President:

In accordance with your instructions Wednesday night, I enclose two memoranda regarding the border patrol and plant protection.

By now you will have suspected that I constantly lean towards placing increased dependence and responsibility on the F.B.I. To this I must plead guilty. Leaving out specialized fields such as narcotics, income tax evasion, etc., I am, after some experience, convinced that they are the best equipped and trained, and the most alert and competent of our various intelligence agencies.

Thank you, again, for the pleasant night at the White House.

Respectfully,

*Hermit*

VA:SW  
Encs.

The President,  
Washington, D. C.

*P.S. I have just had a letter from old Hermit.*

*Though undated, and evidently written with a careful eye to the censor, he evidently had been in Norway. I hope he never got to Belgium. V.*

June 7th, 1940.

PLANT GUARDS

The surveys of industrial facilities that have been conducted by the FBI of plants in the priority group, engaged in the manufacture of supplies and equipment for the War and Navy Departments, have disclosed that the guard systems are generally inadequate. The inadequacy arises from the fact that the guards are too few in number, and have received virtually no training in the proper performance of their duties. As a part of the initial program, it was proposed that the Bureau would give instruction to guards in those plants in which the War and Navy Departments were interested, this instruction covering such matters as patrol work, supervision of visitors, proper handling of explosives, etc.

It now transpires that the Department of Justice authorities have declined to permit FBI agents to give this training, in consequence of which the practical results of the surveys are negligible.

It occurs to this writer that this regulation may have been made because of a fear of complications concerning the employer-employee relationship. However, it would seem that reasonably good judgment on the part of the agent in charge could determine which guards function as police, and therefore might be used for the suppression of strikes, dispersal of picket lines, or the protection of strikebreakers. These, of course, should receive no instruction.

F.A.

June 7th, 1940.

BORDER PATROL

This Patrol consists of approximately 725 men, in addition to a clerical staff of about 100. In view of the transfer of this activity from the Department of Labor to Justice, it would seem desirable to incorporate the Patrol into the FBI, rather than to set up a separate organization. Army, Navy and State, I am informed, agree.

My own feelings are due to the fact that complications and lost motion are apt at times to occur between units within the same department, just as they do between departments themselves. It is obvious that the Border Patrol will often have to depend on FBI for co-operation in regard to records, finger-prints, etc.

It now, however, appears that it is planned to set up a separate unit to operate the Patrol within Justice, and to be in no way connected with FBI. My reason for so believing is that a meeting was held last Tuesday between the Coast Guard, the National Park Service, the Solicitor General, and the present head of the Border Patrol, to which FBI was not asked to send a representative. All of this may be due to an alleged (cannot vouch for this) assurance given some, or possibly a long time ago, to the C.I.O., that the Federal Bureau of Investigation would have nothing to do with the Border Patrol if the latter were ever to be transferred from Labor to Justice. Whatever may be the facts concerning this, it does seem of great importance, in view of present conditions on the Mexican border, that everything be done to assure the maximum efficiency of our patrol force.

V.A.

VINCENT ASTOR  
NO 23 WEST 26<sup>TH</sup> STREET

*PST*  
*New York, June 14th, 1940.*

Dear Missy:

I enclose a memorandum, which I found interesting.

The Dr. Westrick who gave the luncheon and dinner is a German special commercial attache, who appears to operate more or less independently of the German Embassy, and reports directly to von Ribbentrop. Last night he was asked by the management to leave the Carlyle Hotel in consequence of the large number of meetings of Germans which he has been holding in his rooms there, and which have been the cause of unfavorable comment on the part of the other tenants.

Baroness von Wagner is a German agent, and a friend of another woman, who is personally known to me to be active in German espionage.

Ralph Deaver, Strassburger you probably know by reputation. I find that he is constantly being visited by prominent Germans, at the Waldorf.

Captain Rieber is the occasion for this letter and my telephone call two nights ago. I, no doubt entirely mistakenly, was under the impression that a certain person had once spoken very favorably of him. In any event, many people here consider him to be "grend". I wonder.

Yours,

*Vincent*

VA:SW  
Enc.

Miss Languerite A. Le Hand,  
The White House,  
Washington, D. C.

New York, N. Y.  
June 13, 1940

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. ASTOR

RE: DR. GERHARD ALOIS WESTRICK

Pursuant to our conversation, I am furnishing below information obtained from Mr. Edwin F. Chinlund, President of the Postal Telegraph-Cable Company, regarding a luncheon and a dinner he attended, at which Dr. Westrick was host.

The luncheon was held on June 7, 1940, in New York City. At this luncheon Dr. Hans Thomsen, Charge d'Affaires of the German Embassy in Washington, D. C., and one Von Stremmler, described as an official of the Embassy, were present. Mr. Chinlund stated that the conversation at this luncheon was not especially noteworthy, except for the confidence which those present exhibited in a swift German victory in the war; and they also expressed the advantages to the United States and to the world if the United States would remain out of the war, inasmuch as hostilities would thereby be brought to a conclusion at a much earlier date than if the United States aided the Allies, even by the supplying of materials and money only.

A further invitation of Dr. Westrick was accepted by Mr. Chinlund for dinner on June 11, 1940. At this dinner, which was held in a special suite of the Hotel Carlisle, New York City, the following persons were present: Dr. Gerhard Alois Westrick and wife; Dr. Hans Borchers, German Consul General in New York City; Heinrich Freitag, President, Board of Trade for German American Commerce, 230 Fifth Avenue, New York City; Dr. Carl Eggers, a staff physician of the Lenox Hill Hospital, with an office at 850 Park Avenue, New York City; Ralph Beaver Strassburger, residing at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel, New York City; Curtis B. Dall, 70 Wall Street, New York City; Captain T. Rieber and daughter, Captain Rieber being President of the Texas Corporation, Chrysler Building, New York City; Baroness Van Wagner, secretary to Dr. Westrick; Miss Elizabeth Minick of Washington, Iowa, reportedly residing at the Barbizon Plaza Hotel, New York City, and apparently a friend of Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Grazier; C. Frank Reavis, 20 Pine Street, New York City.

Concerning the above mentioned guests, the following may be noted:

Dr. Carl Eggers, according to previous investigation in this case, is a frequent contact of Dr. Westrick, and is listed

as President of the American Committee for the German Relief Fund, Inc., 321 Madison Avenue, New York.

Ralph Beaver Strassburger, according to Mr. Chinlund, is a multimillionaire newspaper publisher in Philadelphia, he is reported to have a home on Fifth Avenue in New York City, and another home in Paris, France, and at the dinner stated that he owns several racing stables, one of his horses having once won the Grand Prix in France. He is also said to be a heavy stockholder in the Singer Sewing Machine Company, which has extensive foreign holdings.

Curtis B. Dall, the former son in law of the President, is presently an investment counsel, with an office at 70 Wall Street, New York City.

C. Frank Reavis, an attorney, is a member of the firm of Hodge, Reavis, Panteleoni and Downey, 20 Pine Street, New York City.

J. A. Grazier was formerly an attorney with Sullivan and Cromwell, lawyers, 48 Wall Street, New York City, and is presently an assistant secretary of the American Radiator and Standard Sanitary Corporation, 40 West 40th Street, New York City.

Mr. Chinlund advised that the dinner impressed him as a definite attempt at the organization of a "fifth column". Prior to the dinner, Dr. Westrick drew him aside and told him that the true picture of Germany was distorted by the American newspapers; that Germany had no hostile intentions against the United States, and there was no reason for the United States entering the war or giving active assistance to the Allies. He stated that German armies would over-run France within thirty days, and thereupon England would ask for peace; that the world would be amazed at the peace which would be given, because of its fairness and generosity. He stated that in making the peace Hitler and the army alone would speak for Germany, while Dr. Goebbels and Heinrich Himmler would have no voice in the matter whatever. According to this aim, he said that all countries would be reorganized on the basis of a sound economy; that the rulers of Norway, Denmark, Holland and Belgium would be restored, and that a United States of Europe would be organized, under German domination. In arranging the peace, Dr. Westrick said that Marshal Goering would speak for the army, while Dr. Hjalmar Schacht will be the civilian representative,

and will arrange the economic aspects of the peace. The peace will involve as a necessary element complete disarmament of all nations, including Germany, and the organization of an international police force to preserve peace, according to Dr. Westrick. Mr. Chinlund asked him what would become of civil liberties under Himmler, and Dr. Westrick replied that a military domination would be necessary for a short period, until constitutions were drafted for the different nations, which constitutions would allow for some measure of civil liberty.

At this time Dr. Westrick also told Mr. Chinlund that the United States had no cause to fear Germany, as Germany had no designs hostile to the United States, especially with reference to South America. He pointed out to him that the expense of armament by the United States would be a great burden, and that if the world were to continue at war, it would only be in general bankruptcy and collapse.

In the course of the dinner Mr. Chinlund said that Dr. Borchers began a discussion of the American attitude towards Germany with special reference to the German-American Bund. He said that the Bund was only a group of political racketeers, and that his office did not support the Bund. He said that publicity and propaganda by American newspapers had blown up the Bund from a fly to an elephant. Mr. Chinlund asked him about the Madison Square Garden rally of the Bund, as an indication of its strength, and Dr. Borchers replied that his office had not even heard about the Madison Square Garden rally. He also stated that the American State Department knew the whole story on the German-American Bund, to the same effect as he had stated it.

The sentiments expressed by those present were favorable to the Nazis, according to Mr. Chinlund, only on the part of Captain Rieber and Mr. Strassburger. Captain Rieber mentioned that he found conditions in Germany the same after the rise of Hitler as under the former regime, as regards the liberty and happiness of the people. Strassburger throughout, according to Mr. Chinlund, expressed viewpoints which were sympathetic to the Nazi government.

Mr. Chinlund specifically stated that no sympathy with the Nazi government was disclosed by Mr. Dall, or Messrs. Grazier and Reavis, but thought that the latter two individuals might be former law associates of Dr. Westrick, in handling interests of Americans in Germany.

At the conclusion of the dinner, Heinrich Freitag stated that he expected to have lunch with Mr. Chinlund in London by December first. Dr. Westrick also stated to him that he was going back to Germany immediately after the war, and this statement was regarded by Mr. Stone as an indication that Dr. Westrick is in the United States solely for propaganda purposes and not for the purpose of developing commercial relations, as he has alleged.

Very truly yours,

*over* ↘

I have cut off the signature  
~~to this~~ only in consequence of  
having always given my blanket  
word of honour not to disclose  
sources. Of course, I would  
to a certain person, if he wanted  
me to.

V  
—

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

*Mr. Tolson*  
3

June 27, 1940.

MISG:

I will see him this morning.

F.D.R.

*Has been done  
C.M.W.*

VINCENT ASTOR  
NO 23 WEST 26<sup>TH</sup> STREET

PSF  
Astor

*New York*, June 25th, 1940.

Dear Missy:

Will you give the enclosed to the President?

I expect to be in Washington Thursday morning to see Admiral Anderson, and before facing the firing squad, would like to stop in, in hopes of seeing the President, you, and, incidentally, Harry, for I shall have some more dope for him concerning my Stone Cottage.

I have had no reports as yet, but expect any moment now to hear the news that you were up to no good last Sunday night in town.

Affectionately,



W:SW  
Enc.

Miss Marguerite A. Le Hand,  
The White House,  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

Within the  
last few days,  
Wendell Willkie has  
asked J. Edgar Hoover  
to run on his Vice  
Presidential ticket.

Hoover's reply to this  
was that, in view of  
the many fine things  
that you had done  
for him & the F. B. I.,  
he would consider any  
thing of the sort an  
act of great disloyalty  
to you, and therefore

would not entertain  
any such proposition.

Rep. Martin (I  
didn't know he was  
a candidate) has made  
a similar offer & it too  
was turned down.

I did not get  
any of this from  
Hoover, but know it  
to be a fact.

Admiral Anderson  
has asked me to  
come down to see  
him, & this I shall  
do Thursday morning.

Perhaps I shall have  
a chance of seeing you  
for a moment. Anyway,

I hope so.

Maybe I shall  
need you to protect  
me from a firing  
squad!

Respectfully  
Vincent.

---

TELEGRAM

The White House  
Washington

*file  
journal*

*PSF  
Gibson*

16WU.RA. 14- 3:25 p.m.

Yacht NOURMAHAL N Chatham September 27, 1940

THE PRESIDENT.

Married today. Love from us both.

Mary and Vincent.

VINCENT ASTOR  
NO 23 WEST 26<sup>th</sup> STREET

*Personal PSF: Astor*  
*3-40*

*New York, December 26th, 1940.*

Dear Mr. President:

I do want you to know how much I appreciate the writing folder, with your initials and mine. It will be very useful. Mary's immediate comment was that I - probably the world's rottenest correspondent, especially when away - would from now on have no excuse for stalled literary production. Mary at times is not polite.

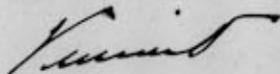
There is another thing on my mind, and that is to let you know, as respectfully as I know how, what a satisfaction it is to serve in the Navy under you, as C. in C. After seeing you Friday, just about the least possible time elapsed before orders were issued which will make it possible for me to do a job in Bermuda. I think and hope that the British Admiral will be pleased. Quite recently he remarked that he was a bit discouraged with trying to make bricks without straw - meaning that he had too few ships - and on top of that, felt no great assurance that his brickyard might not at any time blow up, from sabotage, etc. So I am sure that he will be glad to talk over with an American this last angle, where it should be possible for us to cooperate. The old Governor may be a bit stuffy, for he seems to thoroughly dislike Americans and all our ways. The trouble with him is that he is the wrong sort of Irishman, and is best given the widest berth that politeness permits.

-2-

December 26th, 1940.

For my fine Christmas present, and for all of the other things you do for me, again so many thanks.

Respectfully and affectionately,



VA:SW

The President,  
Washington, D. C.

PSF: ~~Astoria~~ <sup>Stamps</sup>

Saturday

FERNCLIFF

RHINEBECK, N.Y.

- 1940

Dearest Franklin.

I did not write you to Washington, as I realized you were swamped this past week.

But I want to tell you that I have my Aunt's place - signed

on the dotted line! You were  
so sweet and thoughtful about  
the whole business. (except  
for that Sanitation outfit!)

But seriously, I was much  
touched by your interest and  
friendship, and count on  
you to be my first guest

Tookie & I expect to go to  
Washington about the 21<sup>st</sup>.

for ten days - Shall hope you  
will be calling that Woman's  
Committee about them!

Good luck on Tuesday -  
My vote is for you!

Always with affection and  
admiration -

Helen Astor