

PSF Croyley, Ralph E. (Doc) - 1932-1941 - Subject File

Box 142

CONTINUED

124 Beechwood Rd

Summit N. J.

Oct 13th - 1935

PSF
Cropsey

Dear Skipper:

For the Annual Business Show which opens in Commerce Hall to-morrow, there stands \$117,000 of ship models, which to-morrow morning will be increased to \$137,000 when the 3 ton - 22 foot "Queen Mary" is installed - the model reaching N. J. to-day on the "Britannic". In the space of 24 hours I was able to put over an "International Ship Harbor" in the Business Show, to prove to the damn Rockefellers that it could be done & the crowds which will visit it, preferring it to a lot of damn typewriters.

Thanks to McQuaid, who helped me black-mail the lot, I have the newest "Normandie", which just arrived. (The French dropped her on the dock & broke the case) She cost \$20,000 & is there without the case. There's an 18 foot model of the "Bremer" lighted up. (Damn she has a Hitler flag on the stern) There's a huge "Kingston"

which is the most perfect model of the lot.
The Italians in three days panted a
Venice lagoon off St. Marks Plaza & set
a 15 foot "Roma" in front of it as if in
the water. It's most effective by damn
Italiany. As they had accepted before
war broke out, there was no ethical right
to debar them. It's all a gorgeous sight
& I wished I had might see the effect.

This week, of course, I've had a
bellevue time, except for one night
never catch a train home before the 10.05 P.M.
one. Tired - You bet - but very happy
over putting it all across.

Well, dear boy, I sure am glad
Bob had presence of mind & saved
both Jimmy & himself. Of all your
kids tho, I'd hate most to have any
thing happen to young Frank. He's
always been the apple of my
eye for his kindness, his tact &
courtesy. The boy ought to go far if
at first he has to experience a few
hardships of life.

I've heard from the New Bedford
Whaling Museum - and also from
the Peabody Museum, as to attendance.

The Peabody had 67,000 last year. The population of Salem is but 40,000. The new Bedford averaged but 200 a month. The Peabody ~~has~~ attendance expresses volumes.

Well dear boy, I sure hope I'm out having good fishing. I really, now, want to see you very much & keep seeing you. For a long time I've refused to go near you. Yet, even tho I am very much opposed to you in many ways, my actual affection for you has rather gotten the upper hand. I think I've proved my affection by ever refusing the many offers I have which would have netted me much needed money, by refusing to write about you and using my six theme note book. As a citizen, I am a very strong Democrat & I think you respect me for not being a "yes" man. There are many fine things you have started, but as I've ever warned you, you need honest & unbiased analysis of your projects so that the bad parts can be eliminated

ere you start. You know I could
have saved you from many mis-steps.
Yet you've continued to ignore me
because its your nature & temperament
to do so. That I've understood and
haven't been hurt by. I do know that
in spite of your political fame, I am
a bigger caliber man than you are.
You may not like to have me say this.
But its the truth. Look what hell I would
raise if I published that but \$25,000, for
increase of staff is necessary for Decentralization
of Industry against Roper's craziness.
& the terrible waste of funds Tugwell
is doing in his resettlement trust.
But you know I'd never do it because
I honestly love you.

And because I'm fond of you, I am
not willing to go to the expense and
inconvenience of coming to Washington
to see you occasionally. But it must
be to see F.D. I wouldn't go across the
street to see a President or a King. So
you big stiff, snap out of it & lets see
how we can see one another occasionally
& get back to normal.

P.S Love to my & her
damn usq.

cheers
Doc



PSF
Crapley 124 Beechwood Rd
Summit N.J.
Oct 20 1935

Dear Skipper:-

The Annual hat Business Show came to an end last night & you can bet your hollow dollar, this chicken is left a damn tired toy. For two solid weeks its been like a train's home-maury miles (almost) of walking on the hard cement floor of Commerce Hall & many headaches. Still its all been a grand success & tho I feel I could sleep for a week, its been worth while.

The \$25,000 worth of shop models, I had in view, proved a saving attraction, some of the ladies got actual lookings right at the show hall - rather an extraordinary thing. To watch how the different ones acted in the matter of advertising, was a study in characteristics. The German gave out one day 27,000 pieces of literature per orders & kept going it as the German felt that was a cheap way & efficient way of

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advertising. The U.S. Lines, whose
publicity man is a Jew, was
The bad actor. They nailed everything
down - even went so far as to
say no other line but the U.S. Lines
should have been allowed in the
show. (Of 18 lines I invited, 11 were
American). As a matter of fact it
was the Guard who would die +
dog it all + invited all lines
to join them. All lines are much
obliged + appreciative of the Guard's
courtesy + the U.S. Lines by its rotten
attitude has made a bad blood.

You're always that Phil Fambler
a fine S.S. man. Well I can tell
you differently I assure you.

Rockefeller Center has been
acting very badly about my
Ship Harbor - in fact they've stalled
while trying to make a deal
to get the N.Y. Museum of Science
& History to come to the Center.
They should have been honest
with me from the beginning. But
apparently that is not the way
that one does business. They've
got the museum + no doubt

AMBASSADOR
HOTEL
WASHINGTON, D.C.

will try to get me to consider³
helping out with the ship
part. Will - it may be
wise, eventually.

Yesterday had a letter from the
Smithsonian that they have voted
to remove the "false" Leviathan
from their halls, rather than fix it
into the "Imperator" or the "Berenice."

I quite agree with them its the
proper thing to do, as the model
is over 20 feet & now they have the
"Mauritania" - a model of ~~the~~
the "Imperator" or "Berenice", would
not have such interest value. What
they want me to do, is to try &
get the 9 foot model of the "Leviathan"
which Kermit has outside his
office door. This model is okay
as to superstructure but is entirely
wrong as to stem & rudder. The
Smithsonian said they can fix
it, as their man "did" the 9 foot
"Leviathan" originally, building
the superstructure on a hull
which was once that of the old
"Deutschland" taken over by the
Alien Property Custodian.

500 ROOMS... RADIO IN EVERY ROOM... SWIMMING POOL FOR OUR GUESTS

I am to see Kermit to-morrow

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I talk it over. Of course my
idea is for Kermit to give
it to you & you to give it to
the Smithsonian who is very
anxious to have a "Leviathan"
because she is a national
hero like the "Mauretania". If
I run up against a stone
wall with Kermit, I'll love
to insist on your asking him
for the model. For the Smithsonian
must have a "Leviathan" and
the U.S. Line model is the only
one in existence which can
be readily made correct. Personally
I dislike the ship yet she is a
national hero & that's that.

Well, dear, trust the fishing's
been good. Pictures of you, show
you are far fatter than I am, &
that's going some.

Cheers you big bear.

Doc.

P.S. Love to Missy. What's her horse
been doing to her?

Paula
Clear type

124 Beechwood Rd
Summit.
N.J.

BSP
copy

Oct 27th 1935

Dear Skipper:-

I enclose copy of letter to Philip Franklin regarding the "Leviathan" model for the Smithsonian. It speaks for itself. If he doesn't come forward with any thing - constructive, you'll have to get on the job. The Smithsonian must have a "Leviathan" & the only one possible stands outside Hermet's office door. And that one must be altered abt the stern which the Smithsonian say they can do.

And another that abt this model, is that pressure might be made thru the Alvin Custodian, as the hull is one of those the A.C. took in the war & then had the Smithsonian build the "Leviathan" super structure on.

Haven't been feeling any too well - ~~well~~ well. The strenuous two weeks of the Business Show with getting the ten o'clock train home, as usual proved a little too much for my strength at

my age. I can stand things but ²vice
the tension is removed, the resiliency
of the elastic band is not so good.
But then that's age.

So I am wondering abt Red Cross
service in war. I am very anxious
as a Quaker & have written Cary
Grayson so, to go with a Red Cross
unit to Ethiopia, especially as in
the movies, the Red Cross doctor works
for aides. But can I stand the
racket again & not become a
liability? Anyway, I wished you'd
take up with Cary Grayson the
possibility of my getting a chance to go.

I find I have a holiday on Monday
the 11th. My intention now is to motor
down to Washington Sat. afternoon
& see you. How abt it? Will you
write me to breakfast Sunday or
Monday morning, or will you put
me off? It ought to mean some
thing to you that I am willing
to put myself out to come to see
you - that I love you personally
enough to cause me eventually
to forget my dislike of political

atmosphere & venture into your proximity rather than wait patiently for your return to civil life once more when you are going to need me as you never needed anybody before.

You see Franklin, there is something in the affection between us that surpasses all understanding. Here I refuse to vote, for as a citizen I can't honestly vote for your Administration, staunch Democrat that I am. And I refuse to vote because personally I couldn't bear to vote against you, I've religiously staid away from you, but getting on in years & still maintaining my honest love for you personally in spite of my honest belief as a citizen that you are not the proper man for the job - well, I'm ready to forget my dislike of politics & honestly want to see you simply because I'm fond of you.

So forget your position for an hour or so & let's get together as if old times were I am free to do so. You know I don't want anything from you & won't accept

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anything until I get to starving.
The last thing I want to see you
for is cause you're President - that
you know.

It's no surrender on my part. Just the
realization that after all, life hasn't
many more years for either of us
& we might as well for get spiritual
differences & get what pleasure there
is possible out of our affection for
one another.

So that's that. What are you
doing abt Jan the 10th & then the 11th when
I'm free & can afford to come to
Washington?

Cheers

Doc.

P.S. When is Mummy going to tell me
all when she's ceased falling off
a horse.

October 23, 1935

Philip H.S. Franklin, Pres.,
International Mercantile Marine,
1 Broadway, New York City.

Dear Mr. Franklin:-

At the suggestion of Kermit Roosevelt I am writing you direct regarding a model of the "Leviathan" which the Smithsonian Institution is very anxious to obtain.

At first I intended having Franklin Roosevelt advise you of the situation but knowing Kermit, I decided it would be best to state the case frankly and out corners.

Last April I got the Cunard to give Franklin the 18 foot model of the late "Mauretania", which he in turn presented to the Smithsonian, as they very much wanted a model of that historical liner. Visiting the Smithsonian last month, I was surprised to see they were exhibiting as the "Leviathan" a model which twenty-one years ago, you, I and every steamship man saw on view as the "Imperator". Minor changes had been made like removing the eagle and ball from the bow - painting United States liner colors on the funnels and scrawling a huge "Leviathan" over the bows. The result was an insult to such a queenly ship as the "Leviathan" and certainly was a false model of her which the Alien Custodian had unwittingly fostered on the Smithsonian.

From my collection of pictures and plans of the "Imperator" (now the "Berengaria") I was able to help the Smithsonian, which certainly would not show a false model to the public.

To quote from letters of Mr. Wetmore, Assistant Secretary of the Institution as of October 17th and 18th, 1935:

"In the meanwhile we have the "Imperator" model covered so that it is not seen by our visitors. It is so large that I have been unable to remove it from the Exhibition Hall".

"To turn the model back into the "Imperator" or adjust it as the present "Berengaria" is not a good solution and an expensive one as well. Further it would be of less interest value to the public now that the Smithsonian has the "Mauretania."

To quote further from Mr. Wetmore's letters:

"With regard to another large ship model at the present time, frankly I should like very much to have a true "Leviathan" and would give this preference over any other".

"The Leviathan seems to me is worthy of our preservation in view of the fact that she is an American ship well known to thousands of people".

Apparently the only model of the "Leviathan" in the world which is anywhere near correct stands outside the door of Kermit Roosevelt's office. As to superstructure and queenly appearance that model is excellent all except the stern and rudder. If I recollect correctly the hull was once the "Deutschland" later the "Victoria Luise" which the Alien Custodian took over.

So again to quote from Mr. Wetmore's letters:

"Our aim in such collections, in view of our existing space, must be to restrict specimens to those of maximum interest. I hope indeed that it may be possible to secure a good model of the "Leviathan" as we should like to have that fine ship represented permanently in our series. If the 9 foot model (outside Kermit's door) that you mention could come to us, I am certain that we could handle the question of remodeling the rudder to make it agree with what is found on the ship. As a matter of fact, I believe that this model is one that was rebuilt by one of our men here in the National Museum. He was given the hull with the rudder and instructed to make the upper part correspond to the "Leviathan" which I am pleased to note was done entirely to your satisfaction".

And that Mr. Franklin, is the story.

In view of the "Leviathan" passing into history, is it possible for you to donate your "Leviathan" model directly to the Smithsonian yourselves, that is of course, if you are at liberty to donate it, or would you prefer to give it to Franklin Roosevelt as the Commodore did the "Mauretania" and have him give it to the Smithsonian? The advantages, of course, in Franklin giving it is, that forever, the Institution will care for and keep in repair a gift of a President of the United States.

I am sure Franklin himself does not care in what manner the Smithsonian receives the model as long as they get a "Leviathan" which is somewhere near correct and does justice to a regal ship. Their present false model cannot be adjusted. There is too vast a deck difference between the "Berengaria" and the "Leviathan".

I trust you will understand, Mr. Franklin, that this letter is meant in no sense to embarrass you. Unfortunately you have the only "Leviathan". The matter is entirely what you are free to do. I can guarantee there will be no feeling in the matter on the part of anybody, even Franklin Roosevelt himself, who is getting a copy of this letter. You are a business company and are responsible to your stock holders. Models are valuable. Yet the "Leviathan" as a United States liner in the Smithsonian is a mighty good piece of advertizing and might be justified on that account.

Yours very truly,

Ralph E. Cropley

P.S. You may remember me as being the last man associated with the late Bernard Baker, as you were the first.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Bx 142 PST
Copley

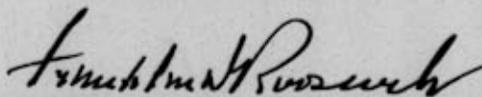
November 6, 1935.

Dear Doc:-

I will find out from the Red Cross if there is any possibility of work overseas but I do not think they are conducting any such work at the present time -- Ethiopia or elsewhere.

I will be in New York for only a few hours on Thursday. It would be best if you could run down to Washington after I get back from Warm Springs. Between now and the time I leave for there the program calls for five or ten minute appointments throughout the day.

Always sincerely,



Ralph C. Copley, Esq.,
124 Beechwood Road,
Summit, New Jersey.

124 Beechwood Rd

Summit, N. J.

Nov 7th 1935

PSF
Crosby

P.F.
Dear Skipper:-

I enclose copy of letter to the Smithsonian giving them my cigarette box made out of original oak from the "Beringaria." As usual this is to be considered a gift from you.

Also please note correspondence with P.A.S. Franklin abt the "Leviathan" model which stands outside Kermit's office door.

P.A.S. is very abrupt & to my way of thinking, rather unpatronic regarding he's after a lot of money from the U.S. Govt. In shops. Also I think both he & Kermit are a bit frightened that the Alien Custodian may be forced to look into the authenticity of this particular model. P.A.S. asserts its the "Beringaria" with "Leviathan" painted on. He just doesn't know what he's talking abt, as the superstructure can easily be proved to be that of the "Leviathan" & not "Beringaria" &

that the superstructure is new and
the hull old. Apparently its as the
Smithsonian believes - that its the
model they mean built the "Leviathan"
superstructure on. And apparently the
hull is the property of the Sheer Custodian
as I am quite sure its the hull
of the "Victoria Luise" ex "Deutschland",
which was strifted & the Smithsonian
made into the "Leviathan" forgetting
to change the stern & rudder.

Anyway, its the only possible
"Leviathan" in existence. The
Smithsonian want it & are willing
to rebuild the rudder so its can
under water one & not hung on the
stem post.

So now its up to Jim Dear boy, to
get busy on P.A.S. Franklin, either
direct or thru the Sheer Custodian, if
the Smithsonian is ever going to have
a "Leviathan", now they've been
compelled to remove their false model
of her, from their halls.

Let me know what you do abt it as
the Smithsonian should have it.

Cheers Doc.

November 7, 1906.

Philip A. S. Franklin, Esq.,
International Mercantile Marine Co.,
1 Broadway,
New York City.

Dear Mr. Franklin:

Your favor of the 6th received, and noted that you believe the model standing outside Kermit Roosevelt's office dear to be that of the "Berengaria" with the name "Leviathan" painted over it.

I fully believe, if you will investigate, you will find that you are in error; that except for the stern and rudder the model couldn't be the "Berengaria" but actually is the model referred to by Dr. Wetmore of the Smithsonian Institution in a recent letter, namely:

"As a matter of fact, I believe that this model is one that was rebuilt by our man here in the National Museum. He was given the hull with the rudder and instructed to make the upper part correspond to the "Leviathan".

If my memory is correct, this particular hull is that of the "Victoria Luise Ex Deutschland" which the Alien Custodian took over.

The point is, the superstructure over this model is correct for the "Leviathan" and far from being the "Berengaria". Therefore, as the Smithsonian Institution believes, they could readily alter the stern and rudder and have a fairly correct "Leviathan".

I take it you are not at liberty to consider this particular model making its way towards the Smithsonian. I am advising Franklin Roosevelt of the situation and am sure that as I do, he has nothing but a friendly feeling in the matter and respect for you.

Very truly yours,

R. E. Cropley,

Special Agent.

JAO

Copy to: Franklin D. Roosevelt, Esq.

COPY

*It is not
The "Berengaria"
It is the Leviathan
superstructure built
made hull of the
German "Deutschland"*

INTERNATIONAL MERCANTILE MARINE COMPANY

OFFICE OF
THE PRESIDENT

1 BROADWAY
NEW YORK

November 6, 1935

Ralph E. Cropley, Esq.,
The Port of New York Authority,
111 Eighth Ave., New York City

Dear Mr. Cropley:

Your favor of the 23rd of October received.

We have no model of the "Leviathan". The model of the "Leviathan" which you refer to, standing outside the door to Mr. Kermit Roosevelt's office at the above address, is not the "Leviathan" at all, but the "Berengaria" with the name "Leviathan" painted over it.

As far as I know there is no model of the "Leviathan" in existence and I am very sorry indeed that I cannot assist you, much as I would like to do so.

Yours very truly,

(Sgd.) P.A.S. Franklin

November 6, 1935.

Dr. A. Wetmore,
Smithsonian Institution,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Dr. Wetmore:

By Special Delivery mail I have just sent you the cigarette box made out of oak which was in the late Atlantic Liner "Mauretania" for over 25 years.

As you will note on the bottom of the box, it was presented to me by the Cunard Steamship Co. Therefore, please consider this letter as a deed of gift of this oaken box, on my part, to the Smithsonian Institution.

Considering how necessarily "choosy" you must be in what you accept, I am especially happy that you are willing to accept and exhibit this small portion of what was once the actual "Mauretania". And I quite agree with you that, displayed in connection with the model, an actual bit of the ship itself will more and more add interest as the years roll by to the model itself.

As usual, in everything I have sent you, kindly consider this as a "Gift of President Franklin D. Roosevelt".

Very truly yours,

R. E. Grepley

JAC

Copy to: Franklin D. Roosevelt, Esq.



OLYMPIC HOTEL

FRANK W. HULL
Manager

SEATTLE, Washington

Cropley (S)
12x Beechwood Rd
Summit N.V.
Nov 9th 1935

FWH
Dear Skipper:-

Have just finished a "Franciscan" for
Sir Edgar Butler - capt. of the "Berengaria"
& completed a "Mauretania" for the daughter
of Edward Loomis, head of the Lehigh Valley.
I also received a rather terse letter from
P.A.S. Franklin, towing the model outside
Permit's door wouldn't be the "Leviathan" or
"Berengaria". I'm highly amused at
his telling me, who has made over 400
models, that I'm wrong. He's either peered
or afraid the Alien Custodian will take
the model from him as it doesn't
belong to the U.S. Lines but ~~the~~ the
property of the Shipping Board or Alien
Custodian & he has no right to it.

I shall reply to him when I get back to
the office on Tuesday & send thee a copy.
The more he says, the more he lets out the
fact the model is the "Leviathan" superstructure
built on the hull of the "Victoria Luise" (ex-Deutschland)
by the Smithsonian, at the suggestion of the
Smithsonian. Anyway, it's the only possible
"Leviathan" in existence. The Smithsonian

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want it, so they can alter it and make it a "Leviathan." So go to it Franklin dear boy & see if you can get it. Don't let Hermit of PAB, Franklin try to tell you it is other than I've represented. I'll go to the mat & prove to them easily, its the "Leviathan" superstructure. Keep me advised of your efforts. It will be a pity if the Smithsonian doesn't get a "Leviathan."

I sent the Smithsonians, as they desired, my 8x4x3 niche cigarette box made out of oak from the "Humboldt" which they wished to put inside the glass case. As per letter I sent them, I said it was a gift from you as I've asked them to consider the 79 pictures & other "Humboldt" records I've given them. They've come back and said they'd like to record the oak - as a gift from me. I've told them to handle it as they please. Personally I prefer it as a gift from you. But then its up to them.

As I have a holiday Monday, I'm disappointed you haven't answered my letters or made an effort for me to come to Washington & have a yarn with you. Its tough enough on me with the people I associate with that I still maintain I am fond of you tho I can't agree with you. I've been snubbed badly by many on account of it. And I've afraid I'd hardly dare tell anybody



Hotel Benson

KELLER AND BOYD
OWNERS AND OPERATORS

Portland, Oregon

I'd seen you, in my life wouldn't be
 worth living in the atmosphere I live
 in on the train, ferry or in social life.
 Still, I'm fond enough of you personally
 to be willing to go to the expense of
 going to Washington to see you. So I
 certainly feel you should give some
 consideration to my feelings. It's taken
 a long time for me to be willing to
 risk the political atmosphere you live
 in. Yet I do love you dearly, Franklin,
 & there's no getting away from it,
 his approval of you as I may as a citizen.

Cheer's

Doc.

P.S. What's been done about
 Franklin's off a horse? Has she the
 press buffaloes so they won't print
 her falls or are her falls so frequent
 they are not worth recording?

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

PSF
Cropley

December 12, 1935

Dear Mr. Cropley:

The President asked me to thank you for your letter and to tell you that much as he would like to see you, this is about the worst time of the year for him. As you know, the budget is in the final stage of preparation, and Congress is about to convene, which means that the President must see the Congressmen and Senators almost constantly.

Very sincerely yours,

M. A. LeHand

M. A. LeHand
PRIVATE SECRETARY

Ralph C. Cropley, Esq.,
124 Beechwood Road,
Summit,
New Jersey.

COPY

Doc. Cropleys' letter
Dated-Dec. 28, 1935.

file

*PST
Cropley*

Dear Skipper:

Put sister on the Chicago train here in Summit to-nite and she's on her way to spend a month with Malcolm and his wife in Seattle. Tomorrow this house is closed, probably till the first of April and I'll take myself up the road to the Turkey Hill Inn--half way to the station where I feel I'll be far more comfortable than joining Sid in a hotel in N. Y.

One thing I'm really glad about it all, is that its going to help me making models and I'll be getting to bed decently as to hour. Having made 13 of the damn things since I got off the "Georgic" in Sept., I'm so fed up with them I've gone stale. I really look forward to learning how to read again to say nothing of getting back the knack for writing. Am going to try and pad with movie stories to keep myself off the track of writing articles on the ~~situation~~ of the Nation and world which I might publish because of you. All such, I've so far managed to confine to my notebook which will be mighty interesting after you and I are dead.

Had a lovely letter from Aunt Edith. She tells me it takes four nurses to turn her and that she'll probably have the cast on her hip for another two months. Kermit told me it would probably be six months in all. She seems most appreciative of my daily letter saying that sometimes they are all she has strength enough to read. I certainly can't let up on them. As they were with thee, they are hard to write at times. But Aunt Edith is looking for them--she's interested in what I see out my office window, so its up to me to see it thru. And she's worthy of it. I sent her a tiny model for Christmas. She opened it ahead of time and Kermit says it stands there in her hospital room giving the dear lady the greatest pleasure imaginable. I'm awfully pleased I'm able to be doing something to help her in her fight.

I had a letter from Cary Grayson at Red Cross service--a kindly letter. But it was no thanks to you, you big stiff, but my own efforts. When art thou going to appoint me to some Red Cross staff, as I've written them about the last few weeks? War, we are going to have. You know damn well that hospital service to devastated areas is right up my alley.

And again you have neglected me entirely with Christmas remembrances. At least I'm entitled to bawl you out over that:

I know you are busy as hell right at this time of year-but----well----never mind. You or Missy will never understand that those of us of the original American stock, will all our lives turn up our noses at any political President who didn't come over in the "Mayflower" or with John Smith as I did.

When am I, to come to Washington to see your ugly mug and bawl you out? As I've told you, I have thrust aside my prejudices against you and your office and am willing to spend my spare cash to come to see you, because I can't help myself as I'm fond of you and always will be no matter how much I desire to wring your damn neck for allowing Tugwell and other nit-wits to do the God damnest things imaginable.

When are you going to shut up Roper? He does you terrific damage. No one with a brain in his head has any respect for a South Carolina politician such as he is. He may hold an honorable office, but that is not justification for respecting the man.

Well, dear boy, I'd better cease ere my honest and cynical tongue raises further ***

Cheerio you bum

Doc

P.S. I still await advice about Missy and her mule. If she doesn't look out I'll be calling it a jackass. As a democrat, I shall hate to term my National Emblem as such.

Paula -
plastic typed

Turkey Hill Inn
Summit, N.J.
Dec 28th 1935

Dear Shepper:

Put sister on the Chicago train
here in Summit to -nite + she's on her
way to spend a month with Malcolm
+ his wife in Seattle. So -morrow her house
is closed, probably till the first of April +
I'll take myself up the road to the Turkey
Hill Inn - half way to the station
where I feel I'll be far more comfortable
than going to a hotel in N.J.

One thing I'm really glad abt it all,
is that its going to stop me making models
+ I'll be getting to bed decently, or a hour.
Having made 13 of the damn things
since I got off the "Georgie" in Sept, I'm so
fed up with them I've gone stale. I really
look forward to learning how to read again
to say nothing of getting back the knack
in writing. Am going to try + fool with
movie stories to keep myself off the
track of writing articles on the situation
of the nation + world. ^{which I might publish because of you.} All such, I've
so far managed to confuse to my
work which will be mighty.

interesting after you + Jane dead.

I had a lovely letter from Aunt Edith. She tells me; it takes four nurses to turn her + that she'll probably live the rest on her hip for another two months. Kenneth told me it would probably be six months in all. She seems most appreciative of my daily letters saying that sometimes they are all she has strength enough to read. I certainly can't let up on them. As they were with thee, they are hard to write at times. But Aunt Edith is looking for them - she's interested in what I see out my office window, so its up to me, to see it thru. And she's worthy of it. I sent her a tiny model for Christmas. She opened it ahead of time + Kenneth says its hands there in her hospital room giving the dear lady the greatest pleasure imaginable. I'm awfully pleased I'm really able to be doing some thing to help her in her fight.

I had a letter from Cary Grayson at Red Cross service - a beautiful letter. But it was no thanks to you, you being stiff, but my own efforts. When are you going to appoint

me to some Red Cross stuff, as I've³
written them about me last few
weeks? Was we are going to have.
You know damn well, that hospital
service to devastated areas is right
up my alley.

And again you have neglected
me entirely with Christmas remembrances.
At least I'm entitled to bowl you
out over that. I know you are busy
as hell right at this time of year
but — well — never mind. You or
Murray will never understand that
those of us of the original American
stock, will all our lives turn up
our noses at any political President
who didn't come over in the
"Mayflower" or with John Smith as I
did.

When am I, to come to Washington
to see your ugly mug & bowl you
out? As I've told you, I have thrust
aside my prejudices against you & your
office & am willing to spend my spare
cash to come to see you, because I can't
help myself as I'm fond of you & always
will be no matter how much I desire

to wiring your damn neck for
allowing Tugwell + other nut-wits
to do the God damned things
unimaginable.

What are you going to shut up
Roper? He does you terrific
damage. No one with a brain in
his head has any respect for
a South Carolina politician such
as he is. He may hold an honorable
office, but that is not justification
for respecting the man.

Well, dear boy, I'd better cease
ere my honest + cynical tongue
raises further rump-rocks.

Adieu your true

Doc,

P.S. I still await advice about mussy
& her mule. If she doesn't look
out I'll be calling out a jockass.
As a democrat, I shall hate to
term my national emblem as such.

PST
Cropley

Gen. comm - C -
124 Beechwood Road
Summit N.J.

Feb 28 - 1941.

Dear Missy:-

These days, I wish you'd tell Franklin I think of him constantly and hope to heavens he is giving a bit of consideration to his own personal health. He must not be allowed to over do. Tell him to put that point in his pipe & smoke it well.

As he is so busy, I shan't write you for him as often as I did. But tell him Doc is ~~with~~ ^{right} with him & Aunt Edith is too in this emergency & hopes he'll take care of himself so as not to collapse and let the Roosevelt name down. Everything both of us can do to help him, will be done. He is our president & that says the whole thing.

Aunt Edith is down in Camden, S.C. keeping out of the cold. She wants to go to sea with me next month on the "Kingsholm". But the children feel with her broken hip & age, it is a bit too risky. For anybody who loves the sea as she does, to have to keep away from it & its ships, is a bitter pill. So when I go to sea, she lives the trip in imagination with me.

By the way, you might tell Franklin there is a tremendous feeling ~~about~~ among the boys of draft age, over being forced into the army when they are sailors. There's one

Example. but in summer, John Gray - spent three years in Amalfis & then had to get out on account of his eyes. Loving the sea, he went with the Maritime Commission - got his 2^d mate's ticket & spent 4 years on a - a Moore-MacCannock ship as a 2^d officer. Then he got a job ashore in a ship-yard & a 2^d Lieut Commission in the Army Reserve. Last Dec. he tried to get switched to the Navy as an Ensign. They told him if he'd resign his Army Commission he could take the Exam. He did - passed & was turned down because of his eyes, as he was at the Naval Academy. Now, the Draft Board has sent him to Camp Dix. as a Buck private. Are you Franklin will like to know of such foolishness, which hurts the Navy by depriving ~~the~~^{it} of trained men.

Also bring to his attention that if we get involved in war, we will need merchant ship officers of experience & not trust our ships entirely to officers made "over night". In the last war, we red-inked the tickets of Captains & officers on foreign ships & allowed them to serve in charge of American ships for the duration. Here are the officers of the "Kungsholm", as an example, all with Captain's ticket. Each one is capable of commanding one of our fighters & train officers under them. All would wish to return to the "Kungsholm" at the end of the war. And these are Norwegians & others with Captains tickets. The idea is worth considering a gain.

Hope you personally are standing the emergency well. My love to you both. Cheers

Ralph Doc
Copley

PSF: Cropley 'C' ^{Mar. courses.}
124 Birchwood Road 3-41

Summit N. J.

April 28 - 1941.

Dear Missy:-

The Smithsonian are trying to figure if they have room for a 9' foot model of the Swedish-American motor liner "Gripsholm". Recently they have, for lack of space, been limiting me to 5 foot models.

The "Gripsholm", is especially wanted in the Smithsonian, as she is the 1st Trans-Atlantic Motor Passenger Liner & therefore a historical ship.

If the Smithsonian find the model can be squeezed in, the usual procedure will be in order, as with all the big models. I will have the Swedish-American Line write Franklin a letter giving him the model, & then you'll write the usual letter giving it to the Smithsonian.

I certainly can have a lot of fun seeing that Franklin will be remembered in the museum's, as the "Sailor President."

Regret to say that life is not very interesting to me at the moment.

with my foster-son blown up at sea
& my praying to be out on the high
seas myself - well, I'm rather unhappy
these days, which, of course, is all my
own fault.

If things happen & we have hospital
ships, I shall be after Franklin to get
me a job as a Red Cross man on
one of them, notably the "Kungsholm" if
we take her over for such work. I still
am not too old for active work at sea
on a hospital ship.

Yours

Doc. Cropley

PSF: Cropley May 7: 1941

Dear Missy:-

Please ask Frankolin to act quickly about the big Swedish Liner "Kungsholm" or we'll lose her for war service. As I wrote you, her agents are dickering with the American Export Line to charter her for several voyages to Lisbon from New York.

From various sources, I gather the Germans are anxious to get her out of American waters and immobilize her some place where we will lose the use of her; that the Italians are cleverly pushing the idea of chartering her to go to Lisbon for refugees, so she'll be on the high seas where they can ^{force her to} direct her to a French port.

Her present Captain was interned in England the last war, and if the F. B. I. don't know his feelings, they should, for many about N. Y. do in the shipping

world. ^{Some of} After other deck officers, & have every reason to know hate the Germans and are not too keen about the forth coming charter for fear they will be immobilized in some axis port.

If she does leave American waters under charter, I would suggest that an American Export or U.S. Naval officer be in command.

We are going to use the "Kunghoku" for a hospital ship or a transport, sooner or latter & it is a pity to see her slip away from us under what no doubt is a clever ruse, with her agents here & the American Export line. Bring the goats.

Cheerio

Doc.