

PSF: THOMAS E. DEWEY

*A N.Y. State  
Governor.*

*Subject File*

*2 sets of papers*

PSF: Dewey  
Box **143**

April 24th, 1940.

The following are excerpts from material which appeared in The New York Times on the dates indicated:

7/2/35 - Page 1, Column 1 and continued on Page 2, Column 3:

\*\*\*"Friends of Mr. Dewey said yesterday it would take him about a month to prepare for the actual opening of the investigation. In the meantime he will have to meet obligations to clients, prepare for the handling of his practice in the two years he expects to devote to the inquiry, and select his staff of assistants."

7/3/35 - Page 36, Column 6:

\*\*\*"Mr. Dewey, attempting to arrange his private practice to permit his absence from his law office for a long period, denied himself to all callers, including applicants for jobs on his staff."

7/5/35 - Page 28, Column 2:

\*\*\*"Meanwhile, it was learned, a great deal of predigested evidence awaits Mr. Dewey's perusal as soon as he winds up his personal affairs and tackles his job as special prosecutor."

7/6/35 - Page 28, Column 4:

\*\*\*"Questioned about the vice angle of the investigation, he replied: 'I didn't quit a good law practice to go after prostitutes.'"

7/18/35 - Page 2, Column 4: Excerpt from letter of Mr. Dewey to William C. Dodge, enclosing proposed budget, in which budget he provided for his own salary in the amount of \$16,695., which amount was the same as the salary received by William C. Dodge, District Attorney of New York County:

\*\*\*"My own compensation has been fixed, after conference with the Governor, the Mayor and the Budget Director, at a sum equal to that of the District Attorney of New York County. This figure has been fixed without reference to my private practice and the financial loss involved in stepping out of cases in which I am now retained, or the responsibility and reasonable value of the work involved."

7/19/35 - Page 1, Column 5:

\*\*\*\*"After a prolonged executive session in which Thomas E. Dewey, special prosecutor, was reported to have threatened to quit if the budget he sought for his inquiry into rackets in New York County were reduced, the Board of Estimate in a brief open meeting appropriated \$122,000. to finance the investigation from July 29 to the close of the year."

\*\*\*\*"Refusing to comment on what had occurred, Mr. Dewey left the Mayor's office at 12:30. It was later learned, however, that the youthful special prosecutor had declared that his budget was the minimum with which an effective investigation could be carried on and that he had said he would withdraw if it were reduced."

7/26/35 - Page 2, Column 5:

\*\*\*\*"The Board of Aldermen voted unanimously to approve the Board of Estimate appropriation of \$122,000., which Mr. Dewey will use to finance his inquiry for the rest of 1935."

The following is the first part of the last paragraph of an article which appeared in the New York Sun on July 16th, 1935 on Page 9-at Column 1:

\*\*\*\*"While Mr. Dewey was continuing his arrangements for closing his private practice and opening the inquiry, District Attorney William C. Dodge sent the tentative budget for the investigation to the Board of Estimate."\*\*\*\*

April 24th, 1940.

RE: T. E. D.

Mr. Dewey was appointed Special Prosecutor on June 30, 1935 by William C. Dodge, the then District Attorney of New York County, and accepted said appointment on July 1, 1935.

During the month of July, 1935, Mr. Dewey's appointment as Special Prosecutor and his plans for conducting his investigation of rackets in New York County received considerable publicity in the New York papers.

According to anything that I have found in the newspapers, Mr. Dewey was not quoted as having said that he was giving up his entire private practice and would be entirely dependent upon his salary as Special Prosecutor for his livelihood.

From statements in articles which appeared in the early part of July, however, there is a strong inference that Mr. Dewey planned, during the early part of July, 1935, to give up his entire private practice and devote his full time and energies to his duties as Special Prosecutor.

In an article which appeared in the New York Times on July 18, 1935, Mr. Dewey stated, with regard to his compensation as Special Prosecutor, that it had been fixed after conferences with the Governor, the Mayor and Budget Director, at a sum equal to that of the District Attorney of New York County. "This figure has been fixed without reference to my private practice and the financial loss involved in stepping out of cases in which I am now retained, or the responsibility and reasonable value of the work involved."

I examined the Journal Entries of the Board of Estimate and Apportionment, particularly the Journal of the meeting on July 18, 1935, on which day the Board appropriated \$122,000.00 to finance the investigation by Mr. Dewey from July 29, 1935 to the close of the year. The apportionment was made by resolution at a brief open meeting of the Board after a prolonged executive session, in which Mr. Dewey was reported to have threatened to

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quit if the budgets he sought for his investigation into rackets in New York County were reduced. This information was reported in the New York Times on July 19, 1935.

PSF: Dewey

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

*file  
confidential  
Thomas Dewey  
you*

6-12-40

MEMO. FOR MISS LEHAND:

I cannot find any file on this  
downstairs, in Paula's files, or the General's  
private files. Did you send it with a hand-  
written note, and if so do you want this reply?

Roberta

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER  
DIRECTOR

**Federal Bureau of Investigation**  
**United States Department of Justice**  
**Washington, D. C.**  
June 5, 1940

*Personal and*  
[REDACTED]

Honorable Marvin H. McIntyre  
Secretary to the President  
The White House  
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. McIntyre:

There was recently referred to me a letter addressed to Miss LeHand under date of May 6, 1940, by E. L. Scherwin, Secretary to Walter T. Stern, in which it was indicated that Mr. Stern was in possession of information which might be of interest to the Federal Government. Accordingly, a Special Agent called upon Mr. Stern, who expressed the opinion that he did not believe Mr. Thomas E. Dewey is qualified for the position of President of the United States. Mr. Stern made the following statements with reference to Mr. Dewey:

Thomas E. Dewey was appointed Special Prosecutor for New York City on June 30, 1935, by Mr. Dodge, New York District Attorney, at the request of the Governor of the State, to investigate rackets. After taking this office, Dewey went to the director of the budget and asked for an additional budget in the same amount as given to the District Attorney for the operation of his office. At the same time Dewey asked for a personal salary amounting to \$16,695 for the remainder of the year, equivalent to the salary of the District Attorney, stating that he deserved this salary since in accepting the position of Special Prosecutor he had been required to give up his entire private practice.

He made these statements before a meeting of the Board of Estimate in executive session, the minutes of which are not public. It is believed, however, that minutes covering these claims are in existence and can be substantiated.

The question then arises as to whether in the capacity of Special Prosecutor it was permissible for Mr. Dewey to accept private fees and if so, whether in fact he did accept private fees. Prior to appointment in this capacity he was employed as counsel for the Norman D. Sturgess Battery Company, and as a matter of fact represented this concern after his appointment, held conferences with the parties involved and their attorneys in his official offices as Special Prosecutor which were located in the Woolworth Building, and in fact was admonished by Mr. Stern regarding this practice whereupon Dewey ordered that such procedure would be followed by him. He subsequently submitted a bill for fees in the sum of \$2,500 and in satisfaction thereof received shares of preferred stock in the Sturgess Battery Company, believed to be twenty, the par value of which totaled \$1,000. The fee received was for services rendered by him as a private practitioner following his appointment to the position of Special Prosecutor.

Mr. Stern advised that due to the confidential relationship existing between attorney and client he was prevented from revealing this information for some time, but that he purchased the entire Sturgess Battery Company in bankruptcy proceedings and now owns the company himself and has all files and records pertaining thereto in his possession.

Charles A. Marshall, 61 Broadway, New York City, a member of the law firm of Hines, Rearich, Door and Hammond, also represented the Sturgess Battery Company as an attorney and with reference to the activities of Mr. Dewey is reported to have acknowledged that Dewey's activities have been sufficient to warrant disbarment proceedings against Dewey.

Franklin S. Wood, an attorney at 120 Broadway, New York City, was Dewey's associate in the law practice prior to his appointment as Special Prosecutor, and it is believed that his records would show whether Dewey received any fees on new business instituted by the firm after his appointment as Special Prosecutor or received any portion of fees paid to the firm on new business referred to the firm by him as a result of his official capacity.

It is also believed that the confidential minutes of the Board of Estimate in executive session previously referred to will reflect Dewey's statements to the effect that he had entirely given up his law practice at that time.

The Sturgess Battery Company went through reorganization proceedings instituted in 1939. Dewey originally represented the Sturgess Battery Company beginning about 1933 or 1934 but had no connection with the bankruptcy matters.

Photostatic copies of two memoranda prepared in Mr. Stern's office and to be considered confidential so far as their source is concerned, are transmitted herewith.

Honorable Marvin H. McIntyre

- 4 -

In view of the fact that this matter does not appear to pertain to any violation of a Federal Statute within the investigative jurisdiction of this Bureau, no further action is being taken upon it.

With assurances of my highest regards,

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

Enclosure

September 7, 1943

*file*

*New Cross "19"*  
PSF: Dewey

Dewey's over-all political plan:

Both New York and Mackinac reports coincide on Dewey's political position to date.

Great spirit of confidence exists that "Dewey can take Roosevelt." They believe nomination already in the bag but want it sweet and without friction.

Some of the best political psychologists that Wall Street can pay for, are rapidly educating Dewey politically in manner and substance. There is a political Chief of Staff--apparently headed by a new man, a successor to Young-Lamont, who formerly ran bi-partisan Wall Street politics. Dewey at Mackinac showed what real work can do on a backward child.

The Dewey over-all politics seems to be:

- (a) To ~~topple~~ topple the Old Guard and assure enough votes from the South, Midwest, and Eastern seaboard, to win nomination.
- (b) To make no enemies among the other candidates so that the Republicans will have a united front behind Dewey against Roosevelt.
- (c) To win the military MacArthur press of McCormick-Patterson and Hearst by kind words for MacArthur either as Secretary of War or Vice President in charge of war.
- (d) To prepare salve against Wilkie's defeat by announcing that Dewey himself believes in a three point peace landing with Russia, England, and the United States equals; by not fighting Roosevelt-Churchill plans; And by trading out Wilkie personally following defeat by a Secretary of State or a peace table job.

September 7, 1943

The Mackinac conference (Nightly phone calls summarized):

Dewey and MacArthur were names most favorably mentioned.

When a joke-smith correspondent paid a bell-boy one dollar to page Wendell Wilkie at the Grand Hotel, the old guard of seventy-five Republican big and little hacks rushed into huddles of fear.

Vandenberg organized the show, made a boomlet for the Governor of Michigan, and really hay for MacArthur with Dewey. He guided the foreign policy business.

Dewey was stream-lined with all the answers and made a good impression at press conferences. One newspapers reporter said:

"It must have cost the Republican Committee thirty thousand dollars to get this dumbell educated so that his answers would be fool-proof."

"Bricker of Ohio tried a press conference and as usual got both feet in his mouth saying 'yes' and 'no' to the same questions."

Principal complaint of correspondents was that the Republican Committee failed to provide any liquor, although they had paid the expenses of twenty correspondents from Washington. Since liquor was rationed by Michigan law, newspaper boys were sullenly sober. Consensus of press was that there was little intelligence at Mackinac.

Dewey's political handlers put him in the position of the "uncrowned king", gracious to everybody, and particularly careful of Vandenberg, the MacArthur handler.

Monday noon's broadcast of Churchill blow up Mackinac. It was interpreted as a Churchill endorsement of Roosevelt fourth term.

—  
PSF: Dewson  
P.F. (12)  
THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

May 13, 1935.

MEMO FOR THE P. S.

Ask whether Harry Hopkins  
wants to get this man down here and  
quizz him. It is not the thing for  
me to do but does Harry Hopkins  
want to do it?

F. D. R.

H N - knows  
all about this  
+ says it is  
true - what to  
do next?

m. L

DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL COMMITTEE

WOMEN'S DIVISION

NATIONAL PRESS BUILDING, WASHINGTON, D. C.

DISTRICT 1717

171 West 12<sup>th</sup> St. New York City

March 26. 1935

DIRECTOR  
MRS. JAMES H. WOLFE  
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR  
MRS. JUNE FICKEL  
DIRECTOR STUDY GROUPS  
MISS HARRIET ELLIOTT

AA  
21200  
92  
CHAIRMAN,  
GENERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MISS MARY W. DEWSON  
HOTEL BILTHORP  
NEW YORK CITY

Dear Franklin,—

" " " " Harry Hopkins  
want to use it I can tell you how to get  
evidence that Davey has:

1. Taken money from his tree surgery corporation for himself by methods an Ohio lawyer says are felonious;
2. Falsified his income tax to that extent.

This is hot stuff and I have  
(and H. H.)  
promised you would either forget it or  
see my reliable informant on a definite  
appointment so there would be no hanging  
around Washington with the chance that  
Ohio reporters might get wise.

Have a grand trip but don't  
take Harry Hopkins where it is rough.  
He does not look like a sailor man  
to me.

Faithfully yours

Molly Dewson

[Davey died 1946]

DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL COMMITTEE

WOMEN'S DIVISION  
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Washington, D. C.

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MRS. JAMES H. WOLFE

Assistant Director  
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806 North Street  
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Toppenish, Washington

Montana  
Washington

Oregon  
California

GENERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MISS MARY W. DEWSON, Chairman, Hotel Biltmore, New York City

This is to be read by  
The President Only  
Molly Pearson

[Martin & Daisy died 1940]

TELEGRAM

The White House  
Washington

18WU. RA. 42-

Berkeley, California, Feb. 27, 1936

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Please tell Franklin immediately seriously believe if McAdoo does not withdraw Cotton and Rogan in favor of Olson and Wilson possibility of carrying California imperiled, although EPICS as group have disowned Olson latter can crumble away sufficient votes for Franklin to win.

Mollie Dewson

PSF: Dewson  
Miss L. Howard  
file  
Send names 2-36.

Enclosure to  
Miss Leland for  
the President's  
file

Sent by

PSF:

Miss Leland

See also ~~Proton~~ 2-16

PSF: Dewson

REPORT ON WYOMING - March 4, 1936 - by Mary W. Dewson

Everyone I met was complacent about winning Wyoming. Governor Miller said that some Democrats he knew voted "NO" on the Literary Digest poll because they were not for all New Deal measures, but they would surely vote for FDR. Nothing else could explain the vote. Miller was enthusiastic about increasing taxes to balance the budget, and National Committeeman Schwartz spoke on how we had lived up to the 1932 platform.

The women leaders came from over the state representing eleven out of twenty-three counties and the North-eastern block of inaccessible counties has a district leader, Mrs. John Rusk of Weston County who will soon be back at work.

Mrs. Cobb of Cody (Park County) is taking the district of Park, Hot Springs, Big Horn and Washakie counties. The Hot Springs leader is Johnson. She is smart and active. She will cooperate with Billings, Montana. Big Horn is Mormon and well organized. They are active at Grey Bull. Mrs. DeWald, the one who speaks so remarkably on TVA, is in Washakie. Mrs. McNally, the donkey bank woman, is not so effective. Mrs. R. S. Reed whom Mrs. Taliaferro has appointed assistant to Mrs. Quealy, has moved to Casper. She is first rate. Really the smartest of them all. Mrs. Hopkins of Rawlins is Chairman of the Central Committee of Carbon County, and naturally quite a person. The wife of Dr. Reploye is sort of an undisciplined creature from Fremont County which was 5-1 Republican but last election went Democratic. The Young Democrats are, she says, great ones for arousing enthusiasm. She is well informed on the New Deal.

Mrs. Taliaferro and Mrs. Quealy are a wonderful pair. There is no better team work in the country unless CWW and MWD. They both make gay, taking speeches and say something. Wyoming was a relief after the ambitious ladies in almost every other state.

The idea of organization is just penetrating and Mrs. Taliaferro is appointing her district leaders - is going to have five, but there is no question there are active and intelligent women here who are interested in the New Deal itself and will do a lot of work.

Everyone is enthusiastic about Senator O'Mahoney and M. C. Greever. Not a knock. National Committeeman Schwartz is out for the Senatorial nomination and there are two others.

PSF: Dewson



FRANK HOART, MANAGER

# The Brown Palace Hotel

HOME OF AMERICAN HOTEL ARISTOCRATS

Denver

March 7, 1906

Dear Mr. President -

You undoubtedly know that there are two crowds in Colorado. One is the Costigan crowd. After my general meetings yesterday I met some twenty-five Costigan women leaders from all over the state. If you think anything of my judgement believe that Costigan has the high minded energetic clean cut people. Your kind! They are confident that by a hard fight they can win Colorado for you - but it will be infinitely harder if Gov. Johnson files before April first for the Senatorial primaries to be held in September. That would mean a

prolonged local fight almost till  
election.

You have never seen Oscar Chapman  
until you have seen him in action  
on the political front.

He says if you will continue  
to hold up the W. D. A. money Gov.  
Johnson wants to use for a  
state project while it is being  
decided whether it can be used  
for the original project as planned  
he believes Johnson will not file.

That is clear as mud but the  
point is to do nothing until Oscar

Sees you March 23rd anyway -  
and then you wait until April first  
and danger will be passed.

I hesitate to write you. you are  
so busy, but if I had about Calif.  
I might have saved you that state  
which is touch and go now.

I am so happy about your taxatin  
stand. You are a wonderful President  
Molly Dawson

in. Letland

file

DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL COMMITTEE  
WOMEN'S DIVISION  
NATIONAL PRESS BUILDING, WASHINGTON, D. C.

PSF: Dewson  
Mar 2 36

March 18, 1936

Report on Minnesota

Summary I hope that F.D.R. & J.A.F. have chosen to back Noonan as it would appear. Certainly Wolf & Bremmer have had what jobs there were and Bremmer has been able to do a lot for himself through H.O.L.C. etc.,

Nothing is worse than this indecision for it prevents the party from getting together. There are undoubtedly many who would join the acknowledged faction deserting Wolf-Bremmer. They are, after all, Democrats.

So far as I can see it this is no ordinary clash of personalities, but a large group protesting against corruption and who won't be downed until it's cleaned up.

This done F.D.R. has a good chance of winning in Minnesota this November.

Details Governor Oleson may live till after November and he will campaign from his sick bed and win if he is alive. Very likely in this case Benson will be made Governor and will appoint the new Senator.

When Oleson dies there will be a two way split in all three parties, and we do not stand to win in the State in any case, but the weakening of the Farmer Labor party will increase our strength for the rank and file are with Roosevelt.

M. W. Dewson

Casper + give YDR

DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL COMMITTEE  
WOMEN'S DIVISION  
NATIONAL PRESS BUILDING, WASHINGTON, D. C.  
DISTRICT 1717

CHAIRMAN,  
GENERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MISS MARY W. DEWSON  
HOTEL BILTMORE  
NEW YORK CITY

DIRECTOR  
MRS. JAMES H. WOLFE  
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR  
MRS. JUNE FICKEL

March 18, 1936

Report on Minnesota.

Summary. I hope that YDR + JAF have chosen to back Noonan as it would appear. Certainly Wolf + Bremmer have had what jobs there were and Bremmer has been able to do a lot for him self thro HOLC. etc.

Nothing is worse than this indecision for it prevents the party from getting together. There are undoubtedly many who would join the acknowledged faction deserting Wolf - Bremmer. They are, after all, Democrats.

So far as I can see it this is no ordinary clash of personalities, but a large group protesting against corruption and who won't be downed until its cleaned up. If this done <sup>fast</sup> we have a good chance of ~~winning~~ <sup>winning</sup> in Min. this Nov.

Details Mr. Olson may live till after Nov. and he will campaign from his sick bed, and win if he is alive. Very likely in this case Benson will be made Gov. and will appoint the new Senator.

When Olson dies there will be a two way split in all three parties, and we do not stand to win in the state in any case, but the weakening of the Farmer labor party will increase our strength for the rank and file are with Roosevelt.

M. W. Dewson

PSF: Dewson

DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE

HOTEL BILTMORE  
NEW YORK CITY

file

MURRAY HILL 2-7400

JAMES A. FARLEY  
CHAIRMAN

MARY W. DEWSON  
VICE-CHAIRMAN

September 16, 1936

Honorable Franklin D. Roosevelt  
The White House  
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. President:

Our Publicity Department was so tickled with the note you wrote me about not being worried if you asked for fool information from time to time that she has begged it off me for her souvenir of the campaign.

She really is a swell publicity girl, -the best ever-, and the Niagara Power Company let her go with considerable sourness, but now they are writing her that they want her back again. Perhaps she can reform the power situation from the inside!!

Very sincerely yours,

Mary Dewson

LWD:HAK

Miss Mary W. Dewson

Mo 4

PSF: Dewson

DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE  
HOTEL BILTMORE  
NEW YORK CITY

*Yes - Dr. ...*

JAMES A. FARLEY  
CHAIRMAN

MARY W. DEWSON  
VICE-CHAIRMAN

MURRAY HILL 2-7400

*file  
- Dewson*

September 21, 1936

The President  
The White House  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

We have had a great many talks with Miss Woolley and feel that we have utilized every ounce of strength she can spare from Mt. Holyoke.

Considering your remarks about her as a luncheon companion I will say she received more acclaim for her radio talk than Secretary Hull. The women were enthusiastic about it.

Very sincerely yours,

*Mary W. Dewson*

Miss Mary W. Dewson

MWD:B

NEW YORK CITY  
MILITARY DISTRICT  
DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL CONVENTION

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

AUG 25 1936

August 24, 1936.

MEMORANDUM FOR

MISS DEWSON

Will you be sure to  
follow this up?

F. D. R.

1

PSF Dewson  
Dewson  
Sep - 2 - 36

DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE

HOTEL BILTMORE  
NEW YORK CITY

JAMES A. FARLEY  
CHAIRMAN  
MARY W. DEWSON  
VICE-CHAIRMAN

MURRAY HILL 2-7400

*file*  
*Send the President*

September 23, 1936

Dear Eleanor:

The enclosed copies of letters from Secretary Hull and to Secretary Perkins speak for themselves.

Do you want to talk to the President about Mrs. Caspar Whitney? It would please Frances a great deal to have her appointed and I think she would be good.

Affectionately yours,

*M. W. Dewson*

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt  
The White House  
Washington, D. C.

C  
O  
P  
Y

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
WASHINGTON

September 22, 1936

My dear Miss Dewson:

I have your letter of September 17 in which you strongly recommend the appointment of Mrs. Caspar Whitney of New York as one of our delegates to the Inter-American Conference for the Maintenance of Peace, and in which you indicate as a second choice, Mrs. Burton W. Musser of Utah.

I have taken very careful note of the qualifications of Mrs. Whitney and of Mrs. Musser as you have outlined them, and the names of both of these ladies will be put before the President for his consideration whenever he is ready to determine upon the appointment of delegates to the Conference. As I think I have told you, no decisions have been reached in regard to the delegation and I doubt if the President will determine upon any appointments for some time yet.

I shall also be glad to bear in mind your recommendation of Mrs. Musser for a diplomatic post.

Believe me

Yours very sincerely,

Cordell Hull

Miss Mary W. Dewson,  
Vice Chairman, Democratic National  
Campaign Committee,  
Hotel Biltmore,  
New York, N. Y.

September 23, 1936

Dear Frances:

The enclosed letter from Secretary Hull speaks for itself. I think you ought to see Secretary Hull about Mrs. Whitney.

If he really wants pressure in behalf of Mrs. Whitney I expect you and I could arrange for some.

Faithfully yours,

Hon. Frances Perkins  
Secretary of Labor  
Washington, D. C.

PSF: Dewson

DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE

HOTEL BILTMORE  
NEW YORK CITY

MURRAY HILL 2-7400

JAMES A. FARLEY  
CHAIRMAN

MARY W. DEWSON  
VICE-CHAIRMAN

Dec. 11, 1936

file personal Gen. Counsel  
Dewson 2-37

Dear Eleanor:-

I have been having a very interesting talk with Grace Abbott who came in to see me. I told her I had told you that if there was an assistant secretaryship with an interesting piece of work attached the President wanted me to do I should be glad of the chance. (Don't think I am running around talking for outside of you and Polly and Grace I shall speak to no one. Of course a good many are speaking to me but I just put them off.)

Grace seemed to think that Gov. Wainwright is poor as an organizer and Altmeyer also but that in the reorganization the Social Security Board will go into the labor Dept. and perhaps Old Age Pensions into the Treasury, or perhaps into a new Public Welfare Department.

She thought it a mistake to begin Public Welfare with a politician at its head like Wainwright in addition to his being so slow to come to decisions

2

DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL COMMITTEE

WOMEN'S DIVISION

NATIONAL PRESS BUILDING, WASHINGTON, D. C.

DISTRICT 1717

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MRS. JAMES H. WOLFE

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR  
MRS. JUNE FICKEL

CHAIRMAN,  
GENERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MISS MARY W. DEWSON  
HOTEL BILTMORE  
NEW YORK CITY

and so hesitant in getting things started. She said this was a bad precedent for then the Republicans in their day would put in a Wilber who would cause ~~endless~~ havoc. She thought I would be o.k. for this because of my post <sup>social work</sup> history - was quite <sup>in</sup> enthusiastic. Said if W. P. A. went over to P. W. A. <sup>in</sup> the relief business would be gone. Well it all makes me quite dizzy. The gossip is that Harry Hopkins is going <sup>into</sup> picture.

Of course the employment Insurance should go into labor whatever happens. That and the Employment Service could be joined under one Secy and that impossible Persons let out. You know Frances has wanted him kicked up stairs for a long time. That would interest me enormously but with a woman as Secretary probably a woman assistant would be too much.

Old Age Pensions where ever it would be would be pretty routine and I'm not so interested.

Then she cooked up an idea all of ~~her~~ own that Agriculture had always centered on products and done nothing about labor conditions and a separate department might be made of them in the Agricultural Department dignified by an ass.

3

DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL COMMITTEE  
WOMEN'S DIVISION  
NATIONAL PRESS BUILDING, WASHINGTON, D. C.  
DISTRICT 1717

DIRECTOR  
MRS. JAMES H. WOLFE

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR  
MRS. JUNE FICKEL

CHAIRMAN,  
GENERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MISS MARY W. DEWSON  
HOTEL BILTMORE  
NEW YORK CITY

secretaryship  
to handle the miseries of tenant farmers;  
children in commercial agriculture; transient  
labor camps for harvesters - (you know how  
bum they are for strawberry pickers<sup>et</sup> in New  
Jersey, Del. Md. - etc - California had lots  
of trouble last year with its camps; and I  
suppose there are more <sup>some spots</sup> in fact the last two I  
have thought of as I write. Of course I like  
Wallace and M. L. Wilson immensely (and Chute  
Davis) and think agriculture has done a swell  
job.

It seems pretty funny to be writing  
you like this but I guess I can talk to you  
right off this chest without being mis understood.

My love

M. W.



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file personal:

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WASHINGTON, D. C.

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ARTHUR J. ALTMAYER, CHAIRMAN  
MARY W. DEWSON  
GEORGE E. BIGGE

Dec. 7. 1938

My very dear Mr. President -

I hate to put up my embarrassments and what not against your problems but oh! how I wish I could resign Saturday and see Ellen Woodward appointed at the same time.

It would send the old war mare to the pasture so happy and confident.

I've never meant to beg anything of you who have been so wonderful to me. But because I have loved much I hope to be forgiven this.

Molly

PSF: Dewson  
171 WEST 12TH STREET  
NEW YORK CITY

Dec. 14, 1938

Dear Mr. President -

That was a love  
of an acceptance and I was  
afraid you would be after  
wanting to kick this persistent  
old "she-male" in the seat  
of me skirt.

Heigh-ho

M. U. H.

[Dewson]

PSF: Dewason  
Fit  
Personal

171 WEST 12TH STREET  
NEW YORK CITY

April 16. 1940

Dear Boss -

This is my swan song  
on giving women real jobs - and  
Heaven is witness you have.

How about my going out with  
glory by your making Susan  
Brandeis judge of the District  
Court of the Southern District of N.Y.?

That old Isaiah, her father,  
says she has a remarkable legal  
mind and such an appointment  
would crown his years with glory  
and fill his cup to overflowing.

Molly Dewason



PSF: Dewson ~~on Cassia "A"~~ 3-64

file  
Bureau

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

May 18, 1944.

MEMORANDUM FOR

E. R.

I think this is the most  
enthusiastic letter of endorse-  
ment for your friend Lena which  
I have ever read. Lena will  
never get a better one!

*Robert*

→ F. D. R.

WASHINGTON  
THE WHITE HOUSE

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

May 18, 1944.

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E. R.

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never get a better one!

F. D. R.

Letter from Molly Dewson, RFD 1, Box 82,  
Penobscot, Maine, 5/14/44, to the  
President, calling attention to item  
in the Newspaper that Dr. Lena Phillips  
visited the President. Miss Dewson  
writes a critical letter concerning Dr.  
Phillips.

*M. Dewson*

WASHINGTON  
THE WHITE HOUSE

R. F. D. 1, Box 82  
PENOBSCOT, MAINE  
TELEPHONE & EXPRESS, CASTINE

May 14, 1944

Dear Mrs. President, -

Think Lena Phillips  
is a pushing, time serving, despicable  
woman. I do not believe she has  
 $\frac{1}{20}$ <sup>th</sup> the friends she has of those who  
are disgusted with her. No, not  
 $\frac{1}{20}$ <sup>th</sup>, say  $\frac{1}{50}$ <sup>th</sup>.

Devotedly

Molly Newton

I would not trust her in broad day-  
light under klieg lights.

[Lena Phillips died 1955]

PSF: Dawson. You wrote "18"  
3-45-

R. F. D. 1, BOX 82  
PENOBSCOT, MAINE  
TELEPHONE & EXPRESS, CASTINE

Jan. 31, 1945

Dear Grace Tully

I see you are not taking a good rest now the Boss is away but clearing up the deck against his return.

Mrs. Roosevelt wrote me that the President would like the New Zealand stamps but I am glad to have this official confirmation.

I nearly saw you all at the

Inauguration. My friends urged  
me so hard to come that at last  
I put my New England conscience  
in the lower bureau drawer AND  
THEN I could not get transportation.  
Saved me ~~eight~~ but I do love that  
crowd. Well not J. Jones. I could  
not stand him from the first day.  
I'd have made a good foxglove  
dog. I am 1000% for Henry Wallace.  
He would carry through what FDR  
has started and gotten going.

Plenty of time for writing down in  
this heavenly but unpeaked spot.

Good luck to you  
Molly Dewson

Audrey  
I read this -  
to you file?  
M