

PSF

ROBERT E. HANNEGAN

Subject File

PSF. Hannegan

Box

152

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PSF; Hannegan folder
3-VV

file
personal

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

February 1, 1944.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT:

Via the grapevine, I hear that Mr. Hannegan has said that the thing that has broken the heart of every national chairman to date has been that normally he has not even been given the courtesy of saying O.K. on the important Presidential appointments that are made.

He is watching these appointments and said there were a number here in the White House such as an Asst. Attorney Generalship and several judges and -- I suppose he has in mind the two that were just made -- Budget and Agriculture.

GGT

PSF Hannegan folder 3-44

file Personal
ROBERT E. HANNEGAN
CHAIRMAN

DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL COMMITTEE
MAYFLOWER HOTEL

WASHINGTON
ZONE 6

524 Biltmore Hotel
New York City, New York
September 1, 1944

PERSONAL and
CONFIDENTIAL

Dear Miss Tully:

For your convenience I am listing below
the telephone numbers of my private lines in
New York City:

Room 518 Biltmore Hotel- Office

Private line number is Murrayhill 5-2368

Sherry-Netherlands Hotel - Residence

Private line number is Plaza 5-3311.

Very sincerely yours,

Rob Hannegan

Miss Grace G. Tully
Personal Secretary to The President
The White House.

A.T.C. PSF ^{Hannegan folder} 3-44

This was dictated this
morning by Mr. Hannegan
& original was given to the
President — DJB

file
September 6, 1944.

When the President speaks to Governor Stevenson of Texas, the Governor is likely to propose that we place on the November 7th ballot two sets of electors under the Democratic column. One pro-Roosevelt and the other anti-Roosevelt. The pro-Roosevelt leaders have already publicly rejected this plan because this would divide the Democrats and would permit the Republicans to vote for the anti-Roosevelt electors and that might make it possible for us to lose the state, because enough anti-Roosevelt Democrats might join with the Republicans.

From the last count of the delegates to the convention to be held on September 12th, our best information is that the pro-Roosevelt group has 710 votes out of a total of 1350, which is the total number of delegates to the convention. The anti-Roosevelt people have 320 votes. There are 160 contested votes; 110 uninstructed votes and approximately 100 votes upon which we have no information.

The pro-Roosevelt group and our friends, including Speaker Rayburn, Lyndon Johnson and Col. Myron Blalock, national committeeman, believe that the best plan would be to have Speaker Sam Rayburn selected as Temporary Chairman at the time the Convention is organized. If he is seated as Temporary Chairman, it will then be moved to substitute 15 new pro-Roosevelt Democrats as electors and oust the 15 anti-Roosevelt electors who have already pledged to vote for Byrd. If Stevenson would go along with this program, we could then be certain of the 8 electors

who have already pledged themselves to Roosevelt, together with the 15 new ones.

Governor Stevenson might contend this would necessitate a court action but the Secretary of State, who is Governor Stevenson's man, controls the make-up of the ballot and if the Secretary of State would go along with Governor Stevenson and our plan it would shift the burden completely to the anti-Roosevelt group.

PSF Hannegan folder 3-44

ROBERT E. HANNEGAN

file
Memorandum

October 12, 1944

SPECIAL DELIVERY

PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIAL

TO: MISS GRACE G. TULLY

Dear Miss Tully:-

I am returning the memorandum sent to me and suggest that the Boss do nothing about this.

I have been in touch with the whole situation, even talked to A. P. Guianni on my last trip to the Coast and talked with his representative here only yesterday.

Sincerely yours,

Bob

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

October 9, 1944.

PRIVATE AND ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

MEMORANDUM FOR

BOB HANNEGAN:

Please read this and let me have
your slant on what we should do. You
might talk with Morgenthau but otherwise
keep it confidential.

F.D.R.

AIR MAIL

J. F. T. O'CONNOR

LOS ANGELES

Oct. 2nd, 1944

Personal & Confidential

Dear Grace:-

I am not sure whether the Chief should see the enclosed memorandum or not. I have checked very carefully on the facts. You can rely on everything that is there.

Drew Pearson, last night, predicted if the election were held today, New York would vote for Dewey. If New York and California go against the President it would be very serious. Nothing should be overlooked.

The enclosure is highly confidential and no one has suggested to me that it be sent, and no one knows that it is being sent. Thus far, the individual named has made no public announcement, and so far as I can learn has said nothing except that he would vote for Dewey because of the great injustice done him and his institution. I have not talked with him personally for more than two years, and then by accident in a cafe for a few minutes at dinner.

With best wishes and kindest regards,

I am

Cordially yours,

JFT

Miss Grace Tully
The White House,
Washington, D. C.

RECEIVED
OCTOBER 2 1944
WASHINGTON
THE WHITE HOUSE

7.E.L.O.C.C.

MEMORANDUM

Highly confidential

One man can place California in either the Roosevelt or the Dewey column.

It is generally conceded that one man in California, if he desired, could swing the state to either Roosevelt or to Dewey. He is A. P. Giannini, Chairman of the Board of Bank of America. He seldom engaged in partisan politics. Some 15 years ago or so, was his last entrance into state politics. He believed the then Republican Governor was trying to jeopardize his interests in California and, in self defense, took a strong position against him and defeated him in the primary.

During the first two Roosevelt elections, he was very strong for Roosevelt. As an individual he contributed and made several addresses. In 1936 he was the only large banker in the United States who would go on a national hookup in defense of the administration.

About 14 years ago a Wall Street group of investment bankers and brokers attempted to get control of the Bank of America in California, since it was the only large institution not controlled by Wall Street. A. P. Giannini came out of retirement, and made the fight to save his institution from the Wall Street group.

He won his fight. After a campaign of many speeches in every part of California, he secured sufficient proxies, when he explained the situation to his stockholders.

For some unknown reason, in 1937, Leo T. Crowley, Chairman of F.D.I.C. commenced an attack against the Bank of America. He had neither the responsibility for the examination of the bank, nor was he acquainted with all of the facts. He made his criticism to Mr. Eccles, Chairman of the Federal Reserve Board; to Jesse H. Jones, to Marvin McIntyre, and to Secretary Morgenthau. He not only never called the attention of the Comptroller to any criticism he had, but he denied to the Comptroller that he had any criticism of the Bank of America. Mr. Crowley was not able to get the ear of the Secretary of the Treasury - and, without the approval of one of the members of the F.D.I.C., he employed Dr. Viner of Chicago, an economist but not a banker, to reach the ear of the Secretary. In the fall of 1938, the Secretary of the Treasury moved against the Bank of America at the suggestion of Mr. Crowley. Some weeks later, Mr. A.P. Giannini was in Washington at the Mayflower Hotel and in the lobby met Mr. Crowley, who told him that the action of the Secretary of the Treasury was entirely unjustified and that he regretted very much the attitude of the Secretary of the Treasury. As a result of Mr. Crowley's criticisms, the Dep't. of Justice made an investigation, and full report that there were no violations of the statute which would justify a prosecution. The Comptroller's office, after a lengthy investigation, found there were no irregularities which should cause alarm; that the bank was perfectly solvent and was earning large dividends. The S. E. C. then commenced an attack against

the Bank of America, which is still in the courts. The Federal Reserve Bank then started an attack against the Bank of America, which is also in the courts. Wendell Wilkie's firm represents the Bank of America, and is familiar with all of this history. The Dewey forces are moving Heaven and Earth to get A. P. to take an active part to carry California for Dewey. Several representatives have come to San Francisco from New York on this special mission, and when Dewey was in San Francisco arrangements were tentatively made for a meeting between Dewey and A. P. Giannini. It is not known whether this meeting occurred or not.

Should A. P. be aroused to the point of taking an active interest and advise all of his employees of his position, it would not be necessary for him to urge them or his shareholders in his over 500 branches in the state to vote for Dewey, but they would follow any outspoken decision made by Mr. Giannini, as they did when he supported Mr. Roosevelt in 1932 and in 1936.

The great question here is what group Mr. Crowley was representing when he commenced his attack against the Bank of America, or his reason for doing it, and then trying to throw the responsibility on the Secretary of the Treasury.

Up to the present time, the Bank of America has won every decision in the courts, against the various agencies of the Government.

PSF: Hannegan folder 3-44

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 26, 1944

MR. EARLY:

Richard Macy, sent by the
Democratic National Committee, is here.

file
Hannegan
Confidential

James E Friel

Seagraves

DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL COMMITTEE

HOTEL BILTMORE
NEW YORK CITY

October 25, 1944

ROBERT E. HANNEGAN
CHAIRMAN

PERSONAL and

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Dear Steve:

This will introduce to you Mr. Richard Macy, the man
about whom I talked with you this morning.

Sincerely yours,

Robert Hannegan

Honorable Stephen Early
Secretary to The President
The White House.

Oct 26-44

Delivered
Jean Drippe
Joe Kehlein
James E Friel
a check for 100⁰⁰

PSF: Hannegan folder 3-44

ROBERT E. HANNEGAN

Memorandum

November 3, 1944

PERSONAL

files
Dear Grace:

In line with my telephone conversation,
I enclose copy of letter I received from my friend.
Will appreciate it very much if you will show this
to The President sometime.

Sincerely yours,

Bob

COPY

CHARLES P. SKOURAS
1609 W. WASHINGTON BLVD.
LOS ANGELES

November 2, 1944

Dear Bob :

Enclosed herewith are three checks from myself and others. I expect next Saturday to send you six more checks which total \$25,000. These are sent with the great admiration I personally have for the President and for the great service he has rendered to the Nation during some of the darkest hours of the world's history.

The service he has rendered to humanity and to my brother Spyros personally, in helping him to lift the blockade on Greece, thus enabling us to send foodstuffs so and to save from starvation half the people of Greece, is something which it is impossible for me ever to forget. For this, I shall always be grateful.

Respectfully,

(Signed) Charles P. Skouras

Mr. Robert E. Hannegan, Chairman
Democratic National Committee
Hotel Biltmore
New York, N. Y.

PSF: Hannegan folder 3-44

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

November 8, 1944.

Honorable Robert E. Hannegan,
Democratic National Headquarters,
Hotel Biltmore,
New York, N. Y.

My affectionate regards and
thanks for your splendid work. It
will live in history.

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

PSF

Hannegan folder 3-44

DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL COMMITTEE
MAYFLOWER HOTEL
WASHINGTON
ZONE 6

ROBERT E. HANNEGAN
CHAIRMAN

November 15, 1944

TO: Miss Grace G. Tully

Dear Miss Tully:-

I am leaving for Saint
Louis today. Miss Larkin at the National
Committee Headquarters can get me any
time and I can arrange to be back in
Washington on a few hours notice, if
necessary.

Sincerely yours,

Rob Hannegan

PSF: Hannegan folder 3-44

ROBERT E. HANNEGAN

Memorandum

November 15, 1944

TO: Miss Grace G. Tully

Dear Miss Tully:-

In line with my telephone conversation, I wish that you would have the President insist upon the Presidential appointments getting clearance from the Committee before the names are sent up and I would like to have you do that direct with me.

I am sure that if this policy is adhered to, that it would be very, very beneficial. Many thanks.

Sincerely yours,

Bob Hannegan

file
Personal

file

PSF Hannegan - 3-45

Give this to the President when he sees Bob Hannegan

DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL COMMITTEE
MAYFLOWER HOTEL
WASHINGTON 6, D. C.

ROBERT E. HANNEGAN
CHAIRMAN

Grace

February 9, 1945

PERSONAL

Miss Grace Tully
Personal Secretary to The President
The White House.

Dear Miss Tully:

I have suggested to the President the name of Morris Osburn for appointment to a vacancy on the SEC. Ganson Purcell has talked with Mr. Osburn and appears to be pleased with him but indicates that he promised the appointment to Mr. McCaffrey of New York because of Mr. McCaffrey's previous experience.

I am extremely anxious to have an opportunity to talk with the President personally before he makes this appointment, for on these Federal appointments consideration of mid-western states must be given, and particularly those states that have cast their votes for the President four successive times.

Every time a vacancy occurs some Cabinet member or department head insists on recommending a man of his own organization or staff for appointment, and makes a special plea to the President, claiming they need a man of experience, and I think this should be particularly called to the President's attention. If that situation is allowed to prevail, then noone outside the Government service at the present time will receive an appointment and those who worked so valiantly for the President's reelection in the past campaign can never look forward to receiving an appointment. I also wish to call to our President's attention the fact that the State of New York has more appointments in important Government positions than ten or twelve states that have cast their Electoral votes for the President four successive times.

Morris Osburn has been interviewed by Ganson Purcell, Chairman of the SEC, and Mr. Purcell has said he believes Mr. Osburn will make a valuable man with the exception of his lack of experience; that objection certainly can be overcome by a man of Mr. Osburn's ability within a very short time.

DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL COMMITTEE

MAYFLOWER HOTEL
WASHINGTON 6, D. C.

ROBERT E. HANNEGAN
CHAIRMAN

-2- Miss Tully

Mr. Osburn has been a leader throughout the State of Missouri, both politically and as a lawyer. His appointment would not only be invaluable to the President and the National Administration, but also to the State of Missouri.

Sincerely yours,

Bob

*Hannegan folder
3-45-*

DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL COMMITTEE
MAYFLOWER HOTEL
WASHINGTON
ZONE 6

*file
Personal*

ROBERT E. HANNEGAN
CHAIRMAN

PERSONAL AND
CONFIDENTIAL

March 14, 1945

Dear Grace:

The Boss agreed to speak with Attorney General Biddle on the appointment of Oscar Ewing as Solicitor General and to speak with Secretary Forrestal with respect to the appointment of Edwin Pauley.

Won't you please remind him of this at Cabinet time - thanks two million!

Sincerely yours,

Bob

Miss Grace Tully
Personal Secretary to
the President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

file

April 2, 1945.

MEMORANDUM FOR

THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

Do you know anything about
Mr. Sharon Mauhs?

F. D. R.

my dear Mr. President:—

Never heard of him.
Sounds like a good
man. If you can't
use him, I might
find a place for him.
Hm?

PSF
Hannegan
3-45

PAUL E. FITZPATRICK

March 29, 1945

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I enclose herewith copy of my letter of today to the National Chairman.

I know you have always been interested in the development of the Party in the up-State rural areas; and I would greatly appreciate your sympathetic consideration of my request.

Our up-State County Chairmen sometimes get discouraged, and I have recently had three or four letters from them which indicate a recurrence of their appreciation of the difficulties under which they are forced to operate. As a point of interest to you, I might say that the farm agents up-State are largely Republican, and when they pass out the subsidy checks, which are the result of our Party's program, they make disparaging remarks, such as "Well, they are giving you a check but they will take back double in a few months".

The appointment of Sharon Mams as Administrator of the Rural Electrification Administration would be a source of building up morale up-State.

I beg to remain

Respectfully yours,

Paul E. Fitzpatrick

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

Send Kellie...
See by 5 p.m. for...
Go to...

March 29, 1945

Honorable Robert H. Hannegan
Democratic National Committee
Mayflower Hotel
Washington 6, D. C.

Dear Bob:

In view of the Senate turn-down of Aubrey J. Williams for Administrator of the Rural Electrification Administration I would suppose that it will be of the highest importance that the next nominee would go through the Senate in such a way as to solidify the ranks of the Party.

I have a candidate who I believe fits this requirement. He is Sharon J. Nash, the Chairman of Schenectady County. He is a "real dirt farmer" in the sense that he actually works at running a farm and he is also one of the leading lawyers up-State. As you will note from the enclosed biographical sketch he has an excellent record of achievement both in law and with farm organizations.

I have a particular reason for wishing this appointment to come to up-State New York. I have been urged for sometime by up-State County Chairmen and by farm leaders to seek an appointment in Washington for an up-State New York Democrat who will give confidence to our farm population that they have a representative in Washington important enough to carry weight in advancing their particular problems. Indeed, I was on the point of asking that a new assistant secretary be created for the Department of Agriculture. As you know, Marvin Jones, the War Food Administrator, comes from Texas; Claude Wickard, Secretary of Agriculture, comes from Indiana; and both the Under Secretary and the Assistant Secretary come from the west or the south. This leaves the northeast without representation.

Few people realize how important a State New York is from an agricultural standpoint. Few people realize that New York is the most important milk producing State from the standpoint of milk consumption as such.

We did make some gains in up-State rural areas this year in several counties; in fact we carried Clinton County for the first time in quite a while. I am anxious to have this gain continue; in fact we must forge ahead if the Party in New York is to be representative

- 2 -

of all sections of the State.

I want to emphasize the fact that this appointment would mean more than merely patronage. It would indicate to our up-State rural areas that they are considered an important part of the New York State organization and that they have a coming position in the Capitol.

I would appreciate your putting forth the utmost effort on this recommendation.

I am sending copies of this recommendation to Senators Wagner and Wood.

With all good wishes,

Sincerely yours,

YWF/S
lm

CHAIRMAN

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF SHARON J. VAUER

Born at Sharon Springs, New York, October 27, 1901.

Father died in 1911

Left school in 1918 to support mother and sister. Worked one year as stevedecker's helper; 2 years as stevedecker.

Returned to High School in 1921, completed junior and senior years in one year and graduated with honors in 1922.

Entered Union College (Albany Law School) in 1924 and supported self while in law school by working as dishwasher in Union News Company Restaurant, Albany, New York.

Tried and passed New York State Bar Examinations before graduating in March 1926.

Admitted to the New York Bar July 8, 1926

Elected to two three year terms as Prosecuting Attorney of Schoharie County, New York (1927-1932).

In 1934, upon recommendation of the Governor, was appointed Special Assistant District Attorney of Rensselaer County and placed in charge of the prosecution in the Gaeriel Murder Case. Personally conducted the trial with great credit to himself and the State of New York.

Served four years (1935-1937) as trial counsel for the Attorney General of New York in the Department for the Investigation of Homopolies and Rafts.

In 1935 he was designated by the Attorney General to prosecute a group of extortioners who had been operating among bakery and confectionery stores in Brooklyn, New York where the owners of the stores had been compelled to pay varying amounts of weekly tribute for "protection" from personal violence and destruction of property. As a result of the prosecutions and convictions he obtained, hundreds of storekeepers were freed from the domination of a powerful extortion ring.

In 1937, again by designation of the Attorney General, he conducted the Racing Investigation in Saratoga County which resulted in the indictment of over eighty individuals and corporations who were manipulating a vast scheme of "stipping" horses, false advertising and allegedly fixing races. Indictments were handed up naming individuals as far south as Florida and when the investigation was completed, every individual defendant apprehended and every corporation indicted, were convicted.

Recognized as one of the leading trial lawyers in Northern New York.

Member of the Schoharie County Bar Assn; the New York State Bar Assn., of which association Mr. Vauer has served for several years as Chairman of the Committee on Membership.

Upper 1100 70 1
Down 1/2 1100 100 1

Recently appointed by the President of the Bar to membership on the Committee to Study Post War Problems and Accident Prevention.

Member of the Grange, Local No. 1499; Holstein-Friesian Association of America; New York State Farm Bureau; Cobleskill Lodge No. 394, F. & A.M.; John L. Lewis Chapter No. 229, R.A.M.; Wellington Lodge No. 471, L.O.O.F; Schenectady Lodge no. 488 B.P.O.E.; The Albany Club; Schoharie County Historical Society and the Cobleskill Methodist-Episcopal Church.

Owms and since 1927 has personally supervised the operations of Wyndhyl Farms, where he maintains one of the top New York State herds of registered Holstein-Friesian cattle. Several years ago the Wyndhyl herd led the state and nation in milk and butterfat production.

Member of the many farm organizations, he not only is known as one of the leading farmers in New York State but is proud of having been many times designated as a "real dirt farmer". He is thoroughly conversant and familiar with all rural needs.

In 1927 he married Gertrude Williams Myers of Barnerville, New York. They have 2 sons, John, 16, a cadet at New York Military Academy, and Peter, 13, a student at Cobleskill Central High. The family resides at Wyndhyl Farm, Cobleskill, New York.

PSF: Hannegan

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

file

April 11, 1945

Memorandum for Miss Tully

Dear Grace:

I am sorry to have held this so long, but seem to be a bit behindhand these days on mail.

Will you read it and decide if you think Father should see it? If not, can you advise me to whom I should send it?

A.R.E.

Robert & Grace

DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL COMMITTEE
MAYFLOWER HOTEL
WASHINGTON
ZONE 6

ROBERT E. HANNIGAN
CHAIRMAN

March 15, 1945

Personal

Mrs. Anna Boettiger
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Anna:

I enclose a copy of letter I received from David G. Kelly, Democratic National Committeeman of North Dakota, which is self-explanatory.

I thought it might be possible for the Boss to have General Hines consider this request.

With kind personal regards,

Sincerely yours,

Bob

REH/rb
Enclosure

PSF: Hannegan - 3-45

Washington, D. C.
March 15, 1945

Mr. Robert E. Hannegan, Chairman
Democratic National Committee
Mayflower Hotel
Washington, D. C.

My dear Bob:

I had hoped to be able to discuss this matter with you but, unfortunately, we have not been able to get together during my brief stay in the City.

I have tried to handle all of the details which were occasioned by the death of Senator Moses, and have had excellent cooperation from the Committee in the matter of placing his staff in the event that the new Senator does not need them. I have felt that they should offer their services to the new Senator to reduce to the minimum any break in service rendered to our State by this office. Bill Boyle has assured me that he will cooperate in placing any of these people.

The matter I wish to discuss with you is in the nature of a permanent memorial to the late Senator Moses. At the present time the Veterans' Administration is exploring the territory comprising eastern Montana, a part of Wyoming and western North Dakota with a view to locating a hospital in that area. On the basis of enlisted personnel, North Dakota merits the location of this hospital.

It seemed to me that the hospital could well be located in North Dakota and named "The John Moses Memorial Hospital". Its location could be decided on the merits of the various locations in western North Dakota which have been offered to the Veterans' Administration.

I do not believe this can be done without some help from the President. I am, therefore, asking that you take this matter up with the President in the hope of getting a friendly word from him to General Hines along the general lines suggested in this letter. It may take an act of Congress to get a hospital named for Senator Moses, but I believe that, too, would be a matter of routine. However, the first impetus to the plan should come from the White House.

Mr. Haunegau
Page Two
Mar. 15, 1945

After all is said and done, the death of Senator Moses is a tragic loss to the State and the nation. The mere fact that an internationalist, in the person of Senator Young who has received the interim appointment, eliminates the hazardous influence of the former Senator Gerald P. Rye.

It just so happens that last fall in the election, the only person who could defeat Gerald P. Rye for re-election was the late Senator Moses. Having accomplished that defeat we have eliminated, at least temporarily, the isolationist influence of Senator Rye. Coupled with this service to the nation is the fact that Senator Moses served three terms as Democratic Governor of the State, which has been traditionally Republican. He is the second Governor to have been privileged to serve three terms, and by strange coincidence, the other three-term Governor was also a Democrat.

Please consider this matter as a special request, and anything done to further this plan will be considered a personal favor by me.

Thanking you for your prompt cooperation, I remain,

Very truly yours,


David G. Kelly