

PSF Harvard File

1937

Subject

Box 150

PSF

Subject

John Harvard
1-1937

January 5, 1937.

My dear President Conant:-

I am writing you frankly to ask you for help.

Jim Landis has told me that he has accepted from you an offer to be Dean of the Harvard Law School if the Board of Overseers approves your offer.

As Chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission, Jim Landis has done a splendid job for me. For sometime I have been looking all over the country for the right man -- young, energetic and educated in financial affairs from the government point of view -- to be Under Secretary of the Treasury. I had come to the conclusion that Landis was the man I needed, and, as you probably know, I was about to offer him the Under Secretaryship when your offer came.

I particularly wanted Landis at the Treasury to work out a single big problem which could be worked through by the summer of 1938, but which could not possibly be handled by September, 1937.

I have asked Landis to see if it would be possible to arrange with you to accept the Deanship but to be permitted leave of absence to act as Under Secretary of the Treasury until such time in the summer of 1938 as you might need him to prepare for the 1938 term of the school.

Harvard University
Cambridge, Massachusetts

He has replied that having accepted your offer he now considers himself your man and that it is not appropriate for him to initiate this kind of proposal to you. I am, therefore, putting the proposal to you myself.

From the point of view of the Law School and the University, I think it offers real advantages. Jim will bring to the School enhanced experience and kudos from this new honor and responsibility, and the addition of the title and experience of Under Secretary of the Treasury to that of Chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission may even widen the enthusiasm with which his accession to the Deanship will undoubtedly be approved by all classes of the Alumni of the Law School and of the University.

Very sincerely yours,

James B. Conant, Esq., President,
Harvard University,
Cambridge,
Massachusetts.

HARVARD UNIVERSITY
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

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card made for Grant

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

January 7, 1937

My dear President Roosevelt:

Your letter has indeed placed me in a difficult position and I can assure you I have given the matter my most careful consideration. Naturally I should want to do whatever I could to be of assistance to the Federal Government and to accede to a request of the President of the United States. I can understand why Landis with his great ability would be a man who could do a particular piece of work for the Treasury Department, and why you need his services for another year and a half. Under ordinary circumstances I should without hesitation reply that I should be very glad to recommend to the Corporation that his leave of absence be extended.

Unfortunately, circumstances in this case are very peculiar and unusual. We have been struggling with the problem of a new dean of the Law School for more than a year and should have settled the appointment last June. We are now all convinced that Landis is the man and the only man to step into a difficult situation. It is imperative for him to take over the duties of dean not later than next fall. In view of this situation I feel I cannot recommend to the Corporation that Mr. Landis, who has just been appointed dean, be given the leave of absence you request.

Needless to say, I am extremely sorry to write this letter and hope you will not think me too uncooperative. If I were not confronted with a peculiar internal problem my decision would not be as it is.

Very sincerely yours,

James B. Conant

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

J. G. BRADLEY, PRESIDENT

712 SEARS BUILDING

BOSTON, MASS.

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THE FLY CLUB
Office of the President

712 Sears Building
Boston, Massachusetts
October 1, 1937

Hon. Franklin D. Roosevelt
White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Franklin:

I enclose two blank forms which I would ask you to fill out and return to me.

One of them is to be used for listing any members of the present Sophomore Class who you think might be desirable members of the Fly. Please give their college addresses if you happen to know them and make any comments that would be helpful. You, of course, understand that the election of members of this Class will not take place until December.

The second is for listing the names, and addresses if possible, of members of this year's Freshman Class with the thought that this will enable the Boston Members of the Council to perhaps be helpful to them in connection with some of their college problems.

Yours sincerely,

J. H. Bradley
President.

jgb/k
Enc.

MEMBERS OF THE PRESENT SOPHOMORE CLASS
IN
HARVARD COLLEGE
(Class of 1940)

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

MEMBERS OF THE PRESENT FRESHMAN CLASS
IN
HARVARD COLLEGE
(Class of 1941)

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____



Hon. Franklin D. Roosevelt
White House
Washington, D. C.



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