

PSF: HENRY S. HOOKER

Subject File

PSF → Hooker
Box [REDACTED] 152
[REDACTED]

"File
Personal"

PSF
Hooker (n)

50 BROADWAY
NEW YORK

September 9, 1935.

Honorable Franklin D. Roosevelt
President of the United States
Hyde Park on Hudson, N.Y.

Dear Franklin:

I lunched today with Myron Taylor.

I suggested that he let me send you a letter which he showed me and which he had just received from Frank Salisbury--the man who painted your portrait. Myron had suggested to Salisbury to point out to his English friends that the failure of England to settle the American debt was harming England in our eyes. The letter I am enclosing is Salisbury's report on his talks.

Hope all goes well with you.

God Bless you, and take care of yourself.

As ever,

H. S. A

PERSONAL

*H.A.
Confidential -
This was in receipt of to
a song in return
S.*

Sarum Chase,
West Heath Road,
Hampstead, N.W.3.
TEL: HAMPSTEAD 2408.

August 6th 1935

Myron C. Taylor Esq., LL.D.,
United States Steel Corporation,
70 Broadway,
New York, U.S.A.

Dear Myron,

Thank you very much for so kindly sending me the press cutting relating to the presentation of the King's portrait to the President. Yes, I am very pleased and gratified that it has gone so well. Sir Ronald Lindsay, our Ambassador, staged it very well, and it seems to have been received very well by the press on both sides of the Atlantic.

In my last letter I said I would give you a detailed account of my conversation on the question of the American debt with some of my sitters associated with the Cabinet.

The opportunity for me to speak on this subject came very easily because of their enquiry about my yearly visits to America. The Chancellor of the Exchequer takes the matter quite seriously, and I expressed my view freely that the question of Britain's payment of the debt should not be allowed to drift, as it was very important that there should be no cause for misunderstanding between our nations.

Sarum Chase,
West Heath Road,
Hampstead, N.W.3.

TEL: HAMPSTEAD 2405.

-2-

The question of our balancing our own budget and returning to prosperity came up, and I said there was one snag in that; that we could not enjoy our return to prosperity without facing the problem of payment of the War Debt and that even if there were no means of paying in gold or in goods it should be met somehow. Although the money had gone straight to the Allies and they had not paid us any interest, yet we were morally obligated, because the Victory Bonds had been raised among the populace of America, and the American nation was still paying them interest on the Victory Bonds. I said that if I owed a debt and had no gold in the bank to meet it I should offer a picture in settlement. The reply was that no British Government would survive any such proposal of giving any possessions to meet that obligation. They would be sent into the wilderness for at least ten years. I think they calculated this on the public reception of the offer of land to Italy for the settlement of the Abyssinia problem.

I gather the general opinion is that the ball is in the hands of America and it is for them to make the next move. I am not losing any opportunity of doing any ambassadorial work to promote a true understanding between our two great nations. You know my love for America, and I know your love for England, and I think it is only a question of the right man tackling it to solve it. Someone did suggest that a large loan should be raised here and the money placed in the banks for the credit of

Sarum Chase,
West Heath Road,
Hampstead, N.W.3.

TEL: HAMPSTEAD 2408.

-3-

America to be spend in this country, but I believe that has been suggested before and was not favoured.

I am having a most interesting time with these sitters. Mr. Ramsay Macdonald came last Friday, and I have a good study of him. The Chancellor of the Exchequer when he came could only give me $\frac{1}{4}$ hour as there was a special Cabinet Meeting proceeding, but he told them to go ahead until he returned. In spite of the fact that we discussed quite freely this difficult and complicated problem, I was able to get one of my best portrait studies of him in that time. //

I often think of our delightful two days together; my only regret is that your stay here was so ~~late~~ *short*. I shall look forward to your next visit.

I shall not be in America this winter I am sorry to say, as my Jubilee Thanksgiving Service picture will keep me very busy. I have had 45 of my 70 sitters, so I am making good progress, and have made up my mind to finish the picture in Jubilee year. I think this would be a thing worth trying for.

I may be going to India in February, as a Maharajah has invited me to go out there to paint ten portraits. I asked him why he could not bring his robes here, and he said his state robe had 6 million pounds worth of jewels on it, and he could not afford to bring it.

Sarum Chase,
West Heath Road,
Hampstead, N.W.3.

TEL: HAMPSTEAD 2405.

-4-

Trusting you and Mrs. Taylor are well.

Kind remembrances,
Yours sincerely,

Hauk

file personal

File Gen. Dramer 2-36

PSF

Hooker

50 BROADWAY
NEW YORK

February 3, 1936.

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

Dear Franklin:

This is just a line to let you know what a genuine ovation your Mother received on Thursday night when she appeared at your Birthday Ball at the Waldorf. I have taken her for the last three years, and think that the demonstration last Thursday showed more real affection and consideration than ever before. I thought you would like to know this.

I believe New York State in the coming election can be carried if enough thought is given to its' problem.

I may see you soon as I am going South through Washington for about ten days' vacation around February 12th, to join our friend Myron in Florida.

- 2 -

Don't take the trouble to answer
this letter.

Best as ever,

H. S. A.

50 BROADWAY
NEW YORK

PSF: Hoover
file
see - drawn 2-36

May 1, 1936.

Miss Marguerite LeHand
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Missy:

Just had lunch with Myron Taylor. He told me about a rather strong speech which he had made to Secretary Roper's Business Men's Committee--of which he is a member--criticising certain inaction on their part during the last six years. He seemed to feel that what he said might be twisted and misconstrued--as often happens in Washington. He was just writing Secretary Roper a letter to cover this point, and I suggested that he had better let me have a copy of the letter so I could send it to you for the President's information. I am enclosing it herewith.

Best as ever,

Harry Hoover

PSF: Hood

Hon. Daniel C. Roper,
Secretary of Commerce,
Washington, D.C.

May 1, 1936

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I regret that I had to leave yesterday before the discussion respecting an unemployment census resolution was completed.

I am not sure that from hearing only the latter part of my observations, as you did, you would get exactly the right impression of my suggestion. What I was trying to indicate was that an enumeration of unemployed did not go far enough; that concurrently with it a study should be made by industrial and efficiency and perhaps Army engineers in collaboration with our Committee, with a view to determining the existing and prospective field for employment in commerce and industry, including agriculture, and what has really taken place in these fields during the past decade; and another feature looking to the administration of relief--not alone under the unemployment insurance plan now in effect, but, as in England, beyond that field, when unemployment becomes, as now, so great that no fund, certainly not the one now being introduced, would be of proportions adequate to the need in a continuing emergency; and in this latter field to devise a plan--

1. To provide the amount of relief necessary to accomplish subsistence during such emergency, and to provide for the permanent need of those incapable of self support.
2. To determine who should administer it--whether through employment or welfare bureaus set up by Government, as in part indicated by Mr. Leeds' remarks, or by the municipalities, or villages, or towns, counties, or States.

If we are to achieve the fullest benefits from studies made of the effects of this long continued emergency, we should by all means cover all features of the matter, and concurrently so, that no time be lost. I was, before you came into the room, urging need of concurrent analysis rather than the making of a census first, and then have another year to wait while remedial or palliative suggestions could be evolved by another group. In conclusion, I wanted to emphasize the lapse of time (now six years), and while, as I said, the Government has rendered aid most generously, our Committee, as in the case of other groups, failed to urge (so far as I know) a comprehensive analysis, with a plan of procedure. I urged that representatives of such firms as Stone & Webster, J. G. White Engineering Company, Ford, Bacon & Davis, &c., &c., with others, be drafted as an advisory committee to survey the entire situation.

My remarks were confined to the action of our Committee, and not directed to the activities of anyone else. I regret that I was not able to come back to attend the remainder of the session.

Looking forward to seeing you again in the near future, believe me,

Sincerely yours,

M Taylor

file

PSF

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

*Will
Hooker (2)*

July 10, 1936.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

Harry Hooker telephoned to say that he had talked with Myron Taylor in Czecho-Slovakia and Taylor said that in deference to you he would not let his company raise the price of steel rails until he comes home in September.

Taylor has had many telegrams from his friend on the collusive bidding. Any collusive bidding was done by subsidiary companies without the consent of the parent company.

RACQUET & TENNIS CLUB

370 PARK AVENUE

March 6th
1937-

Handwritten initials/signature

Dear Missy - In this Clipping
Mr Clapper makes The Point

I made to the President in
Washington on Thursday -

Walter Kippmann in today's
Tribune calls it "The

Miracle Enacted" -

All of this is nothing but The

PSF Hoobell

first fruits of The President's
life work. I think, in his
coming fire side talk, he
might profitably & legitimately
refer to this thing as a
concrete example of New Deal
accomplishment at its best - an
objective finally reached & as
an encouragement to press
toward the completion of
his task - Best as I can
PSF - Hooker H. S. H.

PSF
Hooker



Wm
Pittman

(4)

July 8th 1837

Approaching Gibraltar
(where the mail is transferred
to a returning Italian boat)

Dear Frank - This is just
a line to tell you a little of
the trip - The sea was like
a mill pond all the way
over - Your mother is a
wonderful traveller & the
sea air has done her lots
of good. She looks splendidly
& has endeared herself to
all on board. I am deeply
impressed with the efficiency of
officers & men - an efficiency
combined with pride in work
well done -

27
I have talked much with the
higher officers - They seem far
keener & more intelligent
on world events than many
of our friends at home.
They do not want or expect
a world war. They are
remarkably familiar with
all you have done & are
doing & talk freely of
their own social &
economic theories which
they apply in the running
of the ship - On the surface
you observe a very happy
relation between officers &
men combined with an iron discipline

3/ It seems to me to waste for happiness & contentment. I was explained to me that it is based the fact that every employee feels secure in his job & in his future through the social security laws that Italy has adopted. In other words they have done what you are now trying to do at home - on the other hand they demand & exact in return honest work & a strict respect for authority & law. Agitators & Extremists are not tolerated.

I find the detachment of an ocean trip clarifies my own thoughts on our problems at home but there had better be spoken than written in this letter.

How you would have loved this trip - no day passes that we have not talked about you & wished you were with us -

As love

H. S. Hooper

My best to Missy -

Copy

PSF

H. Hooker
Mar 21

March 21, 1940.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT:

Harry Hooker telephoned to say that he had a cablegram from Myron Taylor today from Rome as follows:

"Please phone our mutual friend to forget for the present time expense matter and that I understand the situation."

Original of this memo-filed-Itlay-Drawer 4-1940

*file
personal*

*PSF
Hooker*

50 BROADWAY
NEW YORK

April 19, 1940

Dear Franklin:

This is a letter of no importance of an experience I had last night that may amuse you.

In last Sunday's paper, which seemed to be unusually full of lunatic advertisements, I saw the enclosed notice of a "Protestant Mass Meeting" demanding "The Recall of Myron C. Taylor". As we all know, no-one pays the slightest attention to these gatherings, and I would not have been interested if it hadn't been for the fact that Myron is my friend. The more I thought about it the more determined I became to find out what it was all about. Last night I got in a taxi and started out for the Manor Reform Church.

I went to a part of town where I had never been before. It was over by the docks, where the streets are dirty and half lit. I arrived and sat myself down in one of the front pews.

I had expected that I would walk into a lot of aggressive religious fanatics, but they

didn't seem to be of that type as far as I could judge from their faces and general appearance. They were more of the type of conscientious males and females of a very low level of intelligence. There were about 200 present, some of them decorated with ribbons around their arms or across their chests indicating their official standing in their organization. After waiting about half an hour for something to happen I became restless and approached the ushers who were near the door and asked if there would be an opportunity for me to be heard. I was taken to the Reverend Thomas E. Little who seemed to be the boss and him I addressed as follows: "I have seen your advertisement in the paper referring to Myron C. Taylor. Mr. Taylor is my friend and I have come here tonight to speak of him and his mission. Will I be permitted to do so?" The Reverend Little was very cordial, but explained that the program had all been arranged in advance and I would not be permitted to speak, but he urged me very strongly to join the Clergy and other Divines who were gathering on the platform near the altar and were about to be photographed. I told him I didn't want to join the Divines or be photographed, but wanted to talk, and if I couldn't talk I would leave. So I left with a good speech suppressed in my innards to spend the evening in more pleasant surroundings.

Here endeth the lesson.

Harry -

Other Services

**PROTESTANT
MASS MEETING**

**"THE RECALL OF
MYRON C. TAYLOR?"**

To safeguard our American liberty,
Mr. Taylor must be brought home and
the Embassy at the Vatican closed

Speaker: Rev. John W. Bradbury, D.D.
Editor of The Watchman-Examiner

Chairman: Dr. Charles Fama
Choir of Van Ness Presbyterian Church

Auspices: The American Protestant
Defense League

THURS., APRIL 18 at 7:30 P.M.

MANOR REFORMED CHURCH

350 West 26th Street (near 8th Avenue)
(F.R.T. & 26th Ave. Subways to 23rd St.)

Brooklyn

file
personal

PSE Hooker

RACQUET & TENNIS CLUB

370 PARK AVENUE

Friday September 27
1940.

Dear Frank - I find on my return
to New York that Gummy Clark has
had a more serious break down
than we thought & will not
return to New York till the last
week of October. We are
postponing any further
consideration of commendation
for his work till we know

definitely when he will return.
It was grand to see
you looking so fit. I liked
our dinner last night.
I am not worried about this
election as I am confident we
are going to win but I am
giving a good deal of
thought to the next four
years. It is going to be
some job to make this country
united, prosperous & powerful.
I believe it can be done
as ever
H. S. Harker.

*file
plus mail*

*BF
Hooper*

H-4-3

50 BROADWAY
NEW YORK

November 19, 1940

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

Dear Franklin:

I want to express the profound admiration that I and everyone up here feels at the almost miraculous progress that you have made toward National Defense since the night you and I had dinner alone in Washington just before the Wilkie nomination. I remember saying that it would take the greatest genius of all time to awaken the dormant military Power of this Nation, and I remember your saying that you would like to try it if you were twenty years younger. Well, I think you are doing it today far better than you could have done it twenty years ago. Today you have the experience and, as far as I can see, there is no lack of energy. We know, of course, that we have only just started, but in human affairs the quality of the Start is very vital.

Sunday I lunched with our old friend

- 2 -

Myron and Bill Bullitt and they feel exactly as
I do.

I thought it might hearten and
cheer you to hear this.

Best as ever,

H. S. T.

*file
personal*

*San Carlos "H"
3-44*

*PSF
Hooker*

January 15, 1944.

Dear Harry:-

copy filed - Personal Financial

I have the copy of the famous agreement between Eleanor and the Misses Cook and Dickerman, dated November 9, 1938. In it reference is made to the lease, dated January 29, 1926, made by me as landlord to the three ladies. Somewhere in my files I suppose I have the original of that lease, but I cannot find it. Have you a copy of it? It would help me much if you could dig it up and let me have a copy.

I hope to see you soon.

As ever yours,

Major Henry S. Hooker,
50 Broadway,
New York, N. Y.

File Hooker
Harry Hooker
11 Bureau 213 x PSF: Hooker

I speak tonight of Franklin Roosevelt the man. I speak of him because I have known him since boyhood. We went to the same school. We practiced law as partners down to the outbreak of the Great War. I saw him on the western front in the spring of 1918 when he was Assistant Secretary of the Navy. There were many big naval guns over there then. From that time through the years I have seen him often in good times and bad. We have discussed many problems. For all of these reasons I can talk of my own knowledge and not from hearsay.

What then is the truth--for the truth is being sought by those citizens who are still undecided as to how they shall vote on November 3rd.

Perhaps the chief charge raised by his opponents is the charge that he has been inconsistent. It seems to me that this charge grows out of confusing the object the President has been aiming at during his administration, and during his entire public life, with the methods used to attain that object.

From the early days when he was State Senator in Albany, through his career as Assistant Secretary of the Navy during the War, through all his acts as Governor of the State of New York and through his struggle as President of the United States with the complexities of the panic and depression that followed, the object that he has had in mind has never varied nor changed. All his close friends know this. It is the same today as it was in the past. It can be stated briefly as social justice in American life in accordance with the fundamentals and hopes of the founders of the country. It could possibly be stated in a thousand different ways, but the idea is

the same. His striving after this idea has never varied in the slightest degree from the time he was a young man. To attain that object has required changes of approach in exactly the same way that a general in war would change his strategy and tactics to arrive at a fixed objective, or that a wise physician will vary his treatment in pulling his patient through different phases of illness and convalescence. A general is not inconsistent if in the heat of battle he moves his artillery to a new position to meet some unexpected threat, nor is a doctor inconsistent if one day he forbids exercise and another day recommends it for the same patient. They are both using their best intelligence to attain their unchanging objective. The general would be inconsistent if he walked over to the other side and so would the physician if he lost sight of his patient's best interest. These are inconsistencies, and they are not found in the life of Franklin Roosevelt.

Of course, it is not enough to desire an objective unless desire is coupled with intelligence and courage. What then of intelligence? Back in Albany many years ago in his first political fight when he was quite young and battling the choice of a United States Senator he exhibited an intelligence and courage that brought him victory against almost hopeless odds. As Assistant Secretary of the Navy during the Great War he performed extraordinary services for this country in co-ordinating our sea power with that of Great Britain--services known to British and American officers, but never made public as far as I know. His intelligence in functioning for the happiness of the people of the State of New York when he was Governor is fairly well known to all. As President, the first hundred days of his administration were universally acclaimed as acts of supreme intelligence and courage, and later a conspicuous example is found in his blocking

led by the opposition of Whiloway in 1933... the value of our dollar to our detriment--conspicuously an act on his part of intelligence and courage, because he performed it alone and unaided and in the face of bitter criticism at the time. Today this act is universally acclaimed.

the efforts of certain Europeans at the London conference to prematurely fix the value of our dollar to our detriment--conspicuously an act on his part of intelligence and courage, because he performed it alone and unaided and in the face of bitter criticism at the time. Today this act is universally acclaimed.

His opponents have stated that he seeks popularity at the expense of his traditions and his ideals. Don't they realize that if this were true he could, after the first hundred days of his administration, done nothing further and held the popularity which he then had, and which exceeded that of any other President within our memory. If popularity was the goal, he had it then within his hand. This charge of his opponents simply does not make sense.

Perhaps those of you who do not know him personally may ask what is his approach to problems--what is the type of his mind? Is it of the rigid or open type? How can he be influenced? Any close friend of his will tell you that there is only one way in which he can be influenced and that is by an appeal to his reason. Any close friend will tell you that during his tenure of office he has welcomed every sensible, constructive idea that has been brought to him in good faith. Probably never before in the history of the White House has it been so accessible to any and all Americans of good intention. Many a night problems have been discussed sometimes until two o'clock in the morning. In these discussions the obvious desire on his part was to find the real answer and to get the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth. If he disagrees with you, you know it. If he finds he has been misinformed, he accepts the correction. He has never had any pride of opinion that would prevent him from changing his mind when the circum-

the best of intelligence and courage...
the nature of our policy to our...
the efforts of certain... of the London conference to...

stances of a case warranted such a change. It is the mind of a highly trained scientist--probably the only type of mind fitted to cope with the political and economic complexities of today--the only type of mind suitable to guide this country at home and in its' relations with Europe.

As far as Europe is concerned, that situation he knows first hand. In treating with a foreign power, usually he personally knows the man representing that power.

Following his education at school and at college have been thirty years of public life, constituting in a sense a continuous advanced course of learning. Men active in human affairs from all parts of the world are known to him and have visited him. He has had the opportunity of weighing their thoughts and checking up his own ideas with the universal wisdom of our time. It is safe to say therefore that to his intelligence and courage we can add a very profound knowledge indexed away in a mind that does not forget. Thus he understands that the health and safety of American democratic Government depends upon its ability to adapt itself to the realities of a changing modern world--a fact some of his opponents seem unable to grasp.

If my listeners desire the best description of the personality of Franklin Roosevelt, I suggest that they can find it by reading before they go to bed tonight Kipling's poem called "If."

Fair Enough

By

WESTBROOK PEGLER



*Nazi Baiting Lots of Fun.
It Brings Out New Ideas
On How to Treat Critics.*

Maybe Mayor La Guardia should have kept a still tongue in his head, because, after all, insults are futile, but there is always a temptation to poke up the Nazi officials and newspapers just to hear them rave. It is something like shoving a stick into a cageful of snakes in the zoo. They rear up, hissing and spitting at the glass and drooling poison, and the spectacle of insensate fury which they present to the world is not only good entertainment but a reminder of the kind of people these are who control the German nation nowadays.

Between their moments of spectacular rage they are likely to deceive other races with a false appearance of civilization and intelligence, and these incidents have the value of catching them off guard and revealing them as they really are. So the little inconvenience to the State Department occasioned by La Guardia's remark that Hitler belongs in a chamber of horrors probably was worth while, after all.

As a result of this crack we have had another demonstration of the fierce vituperation and wild recklessness, the filth and slander which the Nazis use in lieu of argument when they are sore. It must be remembered that anything which is printed in a Nazi newspaper represents Adolf Hitler's sentiments on the subject under discussion, because the papers are strictly dictated by Joe Goebbels, the sinister little man in command of the propaganda department. So when der Angrif says in a tone of mysterious menace, "We could take an interest in the United States and United States affairs which would not be pleasant," that is not merely some editor speaking but Hitler himself.

Just Expanding His Territory

Just what Hitler means by that der Angrif does not explain, but it isn't very important, because he has been pulling the same thing on other nations all over the map. The boy is just taking in a little more territory. However, the effrontery of the Nazis in meddling in American domestic affairs will now be demonstrated again in an outbreak of oratory, resolutions and writings in this country under the auspices of Nazi organizations deliberately planted in the American midst for that purpose.

In Germany no American would be allowed to organize a political demonstration or sound off from a platform to the detriment of a German mayor or provincial boss, and any American who tried it would be tossed into jail, where the tough guys would give him a thorough churning before the United States Consul could get to him. But in our country these Nazis enjoy all the liberties and privileges of free people and reveal their manners by ridiculing the system which permits this freedom and depicting us as a nation of gangsters and other criminals.

There is a difference between Germans and Nazis in this country, of course. The non-Nazi Germans detest Hitler as heartily as other sane people, and they are constantly at pains to distinguish themselves from the Brown Shirts. However, the very fact that they mind their own business puts them at a disadvantage, because the Nazis are constantly in action and thus attract attention.

British Smile at "Heil Hitler!"

PSF
Hooker

14A



Kulch Hook (incorrect site of Tombs Prison during

Vanderbilt Was —the Law Was son of Hon. Jacob

Fourth article of a series
City's High Constables.

By SUTHE

World-T

Captain Vanderbilt (modore came with more p Gibbons' steamboat in to North River, his weather knit man with a scimitar, sober black suit, white ke hat, and who would be ca of a High Constable.

Whenever he saw that mat to become a millionaire stood gers, prototypes of today's con over the delay, but had no re employer, since they were mak would have cost them had the



The pow Livingston 1 ily, in the 6 years of the century, held though their come from estates and/ mercial were