

● PSF "K" General Correspondence Subject File Box 155

1933 - 1942

PSF Gen. Curtis
"K"
3-42

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF GOVERNMENT REPORTS
WASHINGTON, D. C.
March 21, 1942

*file
personal*

WHITE HOUSE
MAR 23 10 35 AM '42
RECEIVED

MEMORANDUM TO THE PRESIDENT:

Herewith the life story of

H. V. Kaltenborn.

The bare bones on the single page
may not be fair to him unless read with his
own story of his life, attached, taken from
WHO'S WHO.

Lowell Mellett

Lowell Mellett

Hans von Kaltenborn (b. 1878, Milwaukee, Wisc.)

- Father: Baron Rudolph von Kaltenborn, a Hessian Guards officer who came to American in protest against the absorption of Hesse by Prussia (Current Biography, 1940)
- Mother: Betty Wessels, an American schoolteacher (Current Biography, 1940)
- Uncle: Lieutenant General Hans von Kaltenborn-Stachen, German War Minister, 1895-96 (Time, 10/10/38)
- Wife: Baroness Olga von Nordenflycht, m. 1910 (Readers Digest, Feb. 1939)

The "Savage Voice of Doom"

H. V. - (V is for "von", which he dropped during the World War); is "technically a baron", since the Kaltenborns have been nobility since 1352. Addressed as "Baron" in Germany (Cur. Biog., 1940)

From 1907 to 1908 - Secy. to the Harvard-Berlin Professional Exchange in Berlin (Cur. Biog. 1940)

KALTENBORN, HANS V.

Editor, radio commentator; born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, July 9, 1878; son of Rudolph von and Betty (Wessels) Kaltenborn; A. B. cum laude, Harvard, 1909; Doctor of Laws, University of Wisconsin, 1939; Doctor More Humane Letters, Hamilton College, 1939; married Baroness Olga von Nordenflycht, September 14, 1910; children -- Anais, Rolf. Associated with father in building materials, Merrill, Wisconsin, 1893-98; city editor Merrill Advocate, 1899; traveling salesman in France, 1900-02; reporter Brooklyn Eagle, 1902-05; secretary Harvard-Berlin Exchange Professor in Berlin, 1907-08; traveling tutor for Vincent Astor in Europe and West Indies, 1909-10; with Brooklyn (New York) Eagle, 1910-30, as dramatic editor, editorial writer, assistant managing editor and associate editor; radio news analyst since 1922; news analyst Columbia Broadcasting System since 1930. First sergeant Company F, 4th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, Spanish-American War, 1898-99. Lecturer on current history for New York League for Political Education, Columbia University, Brooklyn Institute Arts and Sciences, Modern Club, Philadelphia; radio reporter Republican and Democratic conventions 1932-36-40, London Economic Conference 1933, League of Nations sessions, Geneva, 1935,37; Pan-American Peace Conference, Buenos Aires, 1936; Spanish War front, 1936,37, European War, 1939--. Received gold plaque for best foreign radio reporting, awarded for covering Spanish front, 1936, when he took microphone on field making possible first radio transmission of artillery and machine-gun fire during actual combat; honorable citations "for outstanding service to radio and journalism", Medill School of Journalism, Northwestern University, 1938, for "credible achievement in news broadcasting", League of Nations Society of Canada, 1938; for "impartial presentation of

news", Women's National Radio Committee, 1939; won first place as "most popular radio commentator" in Motion Picture Daily, Radio Daily and Scripps-Howard newspaper polls of 1939; special citation awarded by 10th Institute for Education by Radio of Ohio State University for "meritorious reporting", 1939. Organized and managed Brooklyn Daily Eagle educational tours to various parts of the world, 1915-25. Member Phi Beta Kappa. Clubs: Heights Casino, Harvard of Long Island (president); Harvard, Dutch Treat (New York); West Side Tennis (Forest Hills, Long Island); Old Field (Stony Brook, Long Island). Visited as correspondent Russia and Far East, 1926-27; member Russian-American Chamber of Commerce delegation in Russia, 1929-34. Author: We Look at the World, 1930; Kaltenborn Edits the News, 1937; I Broadcast the Crisis, 1938. Contributor to national magazines on politics and current events. Home: 9 Garden Place, Brooklyn, New York; (country) Stony Brook, New York.

I talked with the P. M. G. about
this and he is going to see
Monsignor Keegan. Should this be
acknowledged or filed?

G. G. T.

ARCHBISHOPRIC
OF NEW YORK

CATHOLIC CHARITIES OFFICE
NEW YORK

file personal
477 MADISON AVENUE

*PSF
San Carlos "K"*

January 12, 1937

The President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. President:

His Eminence Cardinal Hayes has asked me to write you directly on behalf of the Honorable Antonio C. Gonzales, United States Minister to Ecuador.

The high altitude of Quito, the Capital City of Ecuador has had a bad effect upon Mrs. Gonzales' health. His Eminence is informed that Mr. Gonzales intends to apply for a transfer to Lima, Peru where there is now or is to be shortly a vacancy.

It is presumption on my part to tell you that you have no more devoted and humble servants than Evelyn and Antonio Gonzales. They have always been numbered among your most fervent and ardent supporters.

If such a transfer is within the bounds of possibility and is in accordance with your policy, his Eminence will deem it a personal favor.

With warmest personal regards and best wishes,
I am

Faithfully your friend

Robert F. Keegan

Monsignor Keegan
Secretary to his Eminence
for Charities

*file
personal*

PS F

Gen Curtis
3-41
"K"

LAW OFFICES
JOSEPH B. KEENAN
WOODWARD BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D. C.

REPUBLIC 2740

October 13, 1941.

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

Dear Grace:

I am enclosing herewith a letter for the President, which I wish you would read. It seems to me that it is just and proper to send this letter. However, as you know, since I have been a long time in private practice, I am considerably out of touch with situations and conditions.

If you think for any reason that this letter should not be delivered, I wish you would call me on the phone and let me know.

I have a keen sense of loyalty to Tom and I want to bring this information to the attention of the President if it will be useful. If it would not be, I do not want to interject myself in a situation which isn't practical and of no benefit to either myself or Tom.

I am imposing on you in asking you to do this but I think you will understand my motive in writing to you.

Sincerely,

Joe Keenan

Joseph B. Keenan.

JBK:EA

LAW OFFICES
JOSEPH B. KEENAN
WOODWARD BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D. C.

REPUBLIC 2740

October 13, 1941.

Honorable Franklin D. Roosevelt,
President of the United States,
The White House,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

As one of Tom Corcoran's old friends, of course I have noted the attempts on the part of newspaper owners and writers, from Roy Howard and his columnists, and Frank Kent to Ray Tucker, to do all they can by unwarranted innuendo and otherwise to put an end to Tom's career and destroy everyone's confidence in him.

I have no purpose to urge you to appoint Tom to any position. It does, however, cause one's blood to boil to note the effort upon the part of these individuals who have consistently attempted to block the progress of our country, domestically and otherwise, to shoot at a man who has been loyal and unselfish in his efforts to promote the best interests of his own fellowmen.

It recalls to my mind a conference I was privileged to have with you one Christmas Eve where you expressed your appreciation of Tom and your thought for his future.

It is for this reason that I would like to refer specifically to the utterly false statement attributed to Senator Van Nuys, published over the ticker of the United Press and on the headlines of all of its papers that the Judiciary Committee of the United States Senate would virtually unanimously reject any nomination for Tom as Solicitor General.

I have had a talk with Senator Van Nuys today and asked him what the truth was. He made the following statement to me:

"One United States Senator came to me, namely Claude Pepper and said he was acting entirely upon his own and not from the White House and wanted to know what I thought would happen if Tom was nominated by the President for the office of Solicitor General. I told the Senator that I did not know what would happen but I felt it would be tough sledding on the Senate Floor. I did not in any way refer to the Committee. I further expressed my own personal view that I felt that the choice of a Solicitor General might well go to someone with more Courtroom experience and an older and more seasoned lawyer. I felt that there were

JOSEPH B. KEENAN

-2-

Honorable Franklin D. Roosevelt, continued.

plenty of these available for this position. Some time later, Ray Tucker came to me and said that he understood a Senator had come to me to know what would happen in the event Tom's name was so sent over to the Senate. I told Tucker exactly the foregoing. That was the entire story. It has been twisted and distorted so that an entirely different version was given out. I have received many letters from individuals on this subject. I can say with the utmost sincerity that if Tom Corcoran's name comes over, nominated by the President for this office, in my opinion he will receive entirely fair treatment and the nomination will be acted upon in strict accordance with its merits. I will further appoint a Sub-Committee that will be fair to him and to his critics. I have been asked by some of these individuals why the Judiciary Committee has not investigated the Tom Stokes' story. I replied that there was no warrant whatsoever for any such investigation on the part of the Senate Judiciary Committee. I am utterly disinterested in any fees that Tom Corcoran may have received as a lawyer in private practice."

The distortion was a typical Ray Tucker fake story, to get back at Tom for his part in helping to return to private life Tucker's friend and confidant, John O'Connor.

I reiterate that I have distinctly no purpose in urging any nomination upon you. I thought, however, you might like to be in possession of this information. I have been very careful to quote Senator Vawter and make this memorandum immediately after talking with him.

I appreciate the many, many vexatious matters of vital importance that consume so much of your precious time. It would seem that Tom Corcoran would be a small item in consideration of the burdens that have been placed upon your shoulders affecting now hundreds of millions of people, but I have been impelled to write this note to you, recalling your real affection for him and knowing your unwillingness to see him cruelly hurt by those who are motivated by vengeance because Tom advocated and worked for matters in public life that they did not approve. This is my effort to show my regard for him.

With every wish that you may be sustained in the performance of the tremendous task before you by a nation that you have so unselfishly served, I am

Sincerely yours,

Joseph B. Keenan

Joseph B. Keenan.

"R" PSF
Sen. Jones.
file
Personal
Jesse Jones

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

4/25

Re Keith Paper Co.:

Jesse Jones out of town.

Bill Costello says:

"I just talked with John Haggerty on the phone. The loan has not come to us. They are having negotiations with these people back and forth and it is quite an application (\$250,000) and quite a good deal of work to be done on it. He said he would have it ready to go before their Advisory Committee a week from Wednesday. I asked him if he could have it up by this Wednesday and he said it would not be possible to do it.

"He said there is a liquidating value of the collateral of about \$200,000 and they are trying to get these people to put more money into it. The report is not completed and they can't get it completed before next Wednesday."

[Keith Paper Co.]

T. JEFFERSON NEWBOLD
10 STATE STREET
BOSTON, MASS.

April 22, 1938.

*file
Newbold*

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

Dear Eleanor:

After weeks of struggling and doing everything that I know how on the Keith Paper Company, we do not seem to be able to get our loan out of the Government.

I, therefore, would like awfully to talk it over with you and Franklin, and possibly Mr. Jones, and see if something cannot be done, and I shall take the night train down next Monday night, and would like to drop in for breakfast, if it is convenient for you.

I hate to bother you and Franklin, but, if something is not done very soon on the Keith Paper Company, it will have to close up; and, though I do not at all like the thought of going over the head of the Boston Office, I do feel, as long as I told Franklin that I would put this over, that I will make another trip to Washington in hopes I can do some good.

If it will not be convenient for you to have me drop in next Tuesday morning, will you please send me a wire.

With love to you both,

Affectionately yours,

Jeff

TJN/N

[Handwritten scribble]

*were
delivered
to
to
id*

PHONE
CL 1422

[Keith Paper Co.]

*file
personal*

#2 Ent

T. JEFFERSON NEWBOLD
10 STATE STREET
BOSTON, MASS.

June 7, 1938.

To the President,
White House,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Franklin:

You asked me to keep you posted on the Keith Paper Company loan, so that, yesterday when I telephoned to Washington and found that the loan had been turned down because the liquidating value was not considered sufficient, I at once telephoned back again to the executive offices, and asked someone to give you the information.

Today, I have just talked with "Mac" and he told me that you had asked him to go into it personally and that he would let me know in a few days.

The whole trouble is that the R.F.C. asks the banks, in cases like this, to subordinate their loans to the R.F.C. loan. If they do that, the State Bank Examiners come along and then raise a great deal of difficulty with the banks, because they do not have decent collateral for their loans, so that the banks are put in a position where they cannot accede to the R.F.C. wishes, in cases like the Keith Paper.

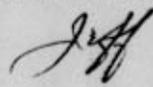
I enclose a copy of a letter from The Merchants National Bank which is self-explanatory. A copy of this letter was put in the files of the Keith Paper Company, but the last paragraph was carefully left out. !!

As you know, the liquidating value of practically any company today is somewhat like the value of a piece of real estate. It is what you can get for it. That is the reason why we have spent so much time in getting the best management we could, because we knew that the banks, and we thought the R.F.C., would consider that of far more value than anything else.

I want to thank you again, not only for taking me down and letting me stay at the White House, which I enjoyed intensely, but also for giving ~~me~~ the time to chat with Mr. Stoddard. We are both trying to get this loan through, because we realize that the company can do nothing else but liquidate as soon as possible, with, of course, the result of over a thousand people going on relief.

With thanks again. I will see you on the 18th.

Affectionately,



TJN/N
Encl.

WORLDWIDE
TO RIVINGTON STREET
1 TELEPHONE, MANHATTAN

(Copy)

THE MERCHANTS NATIONAL BANK

Boston, Mass.

May 17, 1938

Mr. John J. Hagerty, Manager,
Boston Loan Agency,
Reconstruction Finance Corp.,
40 Broad Street,
Boston, Mass.

Dear Mr. Hagerty:

In connection with the suggested loan by the R.F.C. to the Keith Paper Company of Turners Falls, we are pleased to advise you that if a loan of \$350,000 is made on satisfactory terms, this bank is willing to participate with the R.F.C. to the extent of \$50,000 if our present loan of \$50,000 is paid.

We are not willing to continue our present loan with a so-called "stand by" agreement, thereby permitting ourselves to be placed in a subordinate position to the R.F.C.

With one company where we continued a loan under a "stand by" agreement, with the R.F.C. taking a mortgage, the R.F.C. was paid in full and the original lenders received only a small fraction of the indebtedness due them.

*This was
left out of
report sent
to Washington.*

Very truly yours,

(signed) J. N. Eaton

GH

Vice President.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

File Personal Kelly

*PSE
"K"*

*Min (copy)
3-41*

December 17, 1941

TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES IN 1956:

I am writing this letter as an act of faith in the destiny of our country. I desire to make a request which I make in full confidence that we shall achieve a glorious victory in the war we now are waging to preserve our democratic way of life.

My request is that you consider the merits of a young American youth of goodly heritage -- Colin P. Kelly, III -- for appointment as a Cadet in the United States Military Academy at West Point. I make this appeal in behalf of this youth as a token of the Nation's appreciation of the heroic services of his father who met death in line of duty at the very outset of the struggle which was thrust upon us by the perfidy of a professed friend.

In the conviction that the service and example of Captain Colin P. Kelly, Jr. will be long remembered, I ask for this consideration in behalf of Colin P. Kelly, III.

Franklin D. Roosevelt

PSF

Gen. C. C. K. 3-42

Copy of note in President's longhand

Jan. 22

Dear Ed

I told you when you were here I would tell you any news I had heard.

1. My best information is that Courtney's enthusiasm for the Administration is doubted in many circles.

2. That McKeogh is not known Down State & would not run well there.

3. What would you think of either:

- (a) Campbell or
- (b) Adlai Stevenson

?

As ever yours

F.D.R.

Mayor Ed Kelly
Chicago, Ill.

*file
Confidential*

PSF

*Ken Coates
"K"
3-42*

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

March 21, 1942.

MEMORANDUM FOR

MAYOR KELLY

I am glad to have a little piece of information to the effect that you have got wind of a certain effort to employ thugs to muscle in on the C.I.O. in Chicago. It is part and parcel of similar information from one or two other places -- including up-State New York.

Try to get me some information on which I can take some practical action. You had better destroy this.

You are doing a grand job. Come and see me soon.

F. D. R.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

March 19, 1942

MEMORANDUM TO THE PRESIDENT:

Yesterday I had the pleasure of talking with Mayor Edward Kelly of Chicago in his office for two hours. Mayor Kelly took his hair down, so to speak, at my request, and engaged me in one of the most enlightening conversations that I have ever held. I think no man outside of Washington, and certainly only a very few within, have a broader, saner, and more intelligent insight into the thinking, psychology, and actions of the American people than he possesses today.

Suffice to say that he has given to Chicago the finest Civilian Defense organization or which this Nation is possessed. He has not organized it on a strictly political basis. He has, however, organized it on a "Back Roosevelt" premise, and with the non-partisan support that he is receiving, is meeting with unparalleled success. Peoples and groups of 60-odd nationalities, various political faiths and every conceivable creed and color are participating. The main factor in making this heterogenous mass of Americans click is the dynamic, forceful, persuasive personal leadership of Mayor Kelly, which is inspired at all times by his unbending and unmitigated faith, confidence and belief in yourself.

It occurs to me that a man of Mayor Kelly's organizing ability, dynamic personality, and far-seeing vision could be used to excellent advantage in several roles if he were moved to accept.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Memorandum to the President

Page 2

March 19, 1942

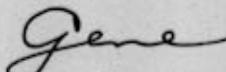
He asked that I convey to you one piece of information that he considers of vital importance. He states that fifty of the most dangerous thugs, highwaymen, pug-uglies, and labor racketeers obtainable in the country have been lately sent into Chicago to muscle in on and break down the C.I.O. and the Kelly organization. The purpose is at least a dual one--first, to terrorize the C.I.O., and other Unions, and to destroy and disintegrate the labor support that the Kelly organization will receive from organized labor in the forthcoming primaries, and later in general elections.

It is the purpose of the Lewis rascals to support Douglas against McKeough in the primaries and convention, and failing in that action, as they are sure to do, to support Brooks in the November election.

The Mayor is not greatly concerned about this subject, as plans are already laid to quietly, but effectively, incarcerate the hoodlums upon their first act of disorder. The Mayor does not intend to countenance their rowdyism and unamericanism.

The slogan of the Mayor's drive for the election of Illinois Congressmen and Senator who will unequivocally support your war effort will be "Roosevelt or Hitler."

Respectfully Submitted,


Eugene Casey



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF CHICAGO

EDWARD J. KELLY
MAYOR

December 17, 1942

Dear Mac:

In your office yesterday, I spoke of a man to be put on the claimant agencies especially, one who is interested in cities or at least acquainted with city affairs. That government division is not represented on this claimant agency.

Will you explain as I was rather hazy because this means no new position except to be directed to act with this priority committee of several.

Trust you can read between the lines.

Sincerely yours,

Edward J. Kelly
Mayor

Hon. Marvin McIntyre
Secretary to The President
The White House
Washington, D.C.

PSF

Mr. Kelly
Mr. McIntyre
Gen. Counsel J.
3-42

KEEP 'EM FLYING
BUY WAR BONDS

12/17/42

ones. re Cong. Mr. Keough filed - Byrnes folder 2-42

Joi. -

Here they are back
again. Thanks.

I believe it was
McGeogh!

IJ

2094

pick-up. —

Miss Tully thinks a
memo re this went
to Marny Manerick or
M^c Cormack recently

had
Cannot identify
files

W. P. B

*PSF
Gen. Caruso*

PRIVATE

January 16, 1941.

MEMORANDUM FOR

HON. FRANK KELLY

It has come to my attention that this man Verne Marshall, a publisher from Iowa, who is conducting a campaign which has the whole-hearted blessing of the Nazi Government and is intended indirectly to encourage complete German victory, has approached a number of Democratic leaders in New York City. It is said that one leader signed the names of his district captains to Marshall's pronouncement, apparently without their knowledge. It is said that in one of the Brooklyn districts the Marshall crowd and Father Coughlin's crowd have come together.

I thought you would like to have this information.

F. D. R.

FVS

LUCE, Henry R.
New York, N. Y.
10-25-45

PSF *Gen. Carver.*
"K"

Wrote to the President re the ban which prohibits him from visiting any active theatre of war except England. Asked for an opportunity to tell the President why he thinks the ban should be lifted. --- The President replied to Mr. Luce, 10-26-45 re seeing him at the White House on Nov. 4 or 5. - Mr. Luce replied 10-28-45, and Gen. Watson wired him 10-29-45 re appointment, and again 11-5-45 making appointment for 11:15 P.M., Nov. 8; Mr. Luce confirmed by wire, 11-5-45. --- Attached in file is copy of telegram sent to the Sec. of State by Hon. George F. Kennan of the consular staff at Lisbon, Portugal, 10-23-45 quoting personal telegram he sent to Ambassador Winant, 10-23-45. The telegram to Ambassador Winant was in protest against plan of TIME and LIFE to bring effects of Portugal's recent arrangements with England into the limelight at this moment, and Mr. Kennan discussed probable German reaction. Referred to unfavorable feeling toward some of our press reaction, and to importance of our mission.

SEE C.F. STATE, WORLD WAR II

OF 2442

[document not in file 1-15-76]
202

PSF
Gen. Carrer.
"K"

Tell Carrer he call a demand
& want him
410 EAST 57TH STREET

~~Personal~~
~~1/25~~
(2)

17 May 1935

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt,

I enclose a duplicate copy of a letter that I have asked John Finley to put in the Times if he thinks it not obscene. I believe it is logically incontrovertible.

If you think the President would care to glance at it, perhaps you would be so good as to ask him to do so.

Faithfully yours,

Foster Kennedy

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

DR. FOSTER KENNEDY

410 East 57th Street

16 May 1935

To the Editor
The New York Times
229 West 43rd St., City

Dear Sir;

It is the opinion of all right-minded men that it is the duty of men to defend the State, and of women to stock it. Men perform their State duty every second or third generation, women theirs', necessarily, each generation. The maternal mortality of the United States is, pro rata, about equal to the mortality of the American Expeditionary Force at the hands of the enemy. If, then, it be fitting for the State to give a bonus to the men for the performance of their State duty, why not a bonus to each woman for each pregnancy? However, in order to obtain a parallel in female terms for the drafted man who only potentially heard a gun,- it must also be fitting to give a bonus to each woman who at any moment of her life placed herself in the position of risking a pregnancy!

The collection of statistics regarding these situations might add to the numbers of a prying Bureaucracy and so aid unemployment, but would surely lead to the development either of exasperation or a sense of humor on the part of the public and the politicians.

Very truly yours,

FOSTER KENNEDY

(formerly, Major, Medical Corps in France)

TABLE No.	COVERS	WAITER No.
8950	3	2343

34-
17280-3945

COVER ADVISE 100

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN

Ben. Carey *PSF*
[Signature] *"K"*
~~_____~~
~~_____~~
(2)

September 29, 1934

Dear Mr. President:

Apropos of our conversation the other day regarding the money spent in Newport and Palm Beach, I am enclosing a slip I got from the head waiter of the Colony Club Restaurant in New York last night; this, as you know, is the highest priced and most exclusive restaurant in New York.

In the left hand column of the slip is the income for the month of September for the years of 1933 and 1934; in the right hand column, the number of persons served. I think it very interesting.

Sincerely,

Joe Kennedy

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

Enclosure.

1,24 45

RF "K"
Sen. Ames

Hyde Park, N. Y.,
July 22, 1939.

Dear Joe:-

I suppose you know of the latest "Krock" in the Times about you, and I think you begin to agree with me that that particular gentleman, with his distorted ideas of how to be helpful, has done you more harm in the past few years than all of your enemies put together.

I tried to correct the impression by telling several people the other day that I have complete confidence in you, that you have never mentioned leaving London, that you are doing a good job there, and that in these critical days I count on your carrying on.

It is true that some people are getting things printed like the enclosed, which you have doubtless seen, but things like this have small distribution, and are so frankly hostile and silly that they do no harm. Krock, on the other hand, has never in his whole life said a really decent thing about any human being without qualifying it by some nasty dig at the end of the praise.

He is, after all, only a social parasite whose surface support can be won by entertainment and flattery, but who in his heart is a cynic who has never felt warm affection for anybody -- man or woman.

It is a pity that the Republicans as a whole and some weak kneed Democrats have made it impossible to pass the Neutrality Bill at this session. In any event, the responsibility is definitely pinned on them, and I feel, with you and the British Government, that the delay has given comfort to the aggressor nations. The other night I got them to agree at least to take the matter up in January. In the meantime, all we can do is to pray that another actual crisis will not arrive.

Drop me a line to tell me your inside thoughts about the present situation. Joe Davies is pretty pessimistic.

My best to Rose and the children,

As ever yours,

Honorable Joseph P. Kennedy,
American Embassy,
London,
England.

(Enclosure)

PSF
Gen Carus
~~Ken~~ y "K"

January 4, 1941

Dear Joe:

Those London ties and sweaters
are very lovely and came at just the right
time -- my supply of both was very low.
Thank you ever so much.

This carries with it to you and
the family my best wishes for the New Year.

Always sincerely,

Honorable Joseph P. Kennedy,
294 Pondfield Road,
Bronxville,
New York.

tmb

PSF
Gen. C. C. ...
"K"

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

File ...
Keyes

January 24, 1934.

MEMORANDUM FOR MRS. HELM

The President requests that Senator Keyes be not invited again to the White House without first consulting with the President.

Pres. approved and sent over.
P. J.

Mr. President - ^{file} ^{Gen} ^(K)
memo is by
Jim Keenan. I think
it has some good
stuff.

S. D. Rosenman

PROGRAM

*PSF
Gen. Carrus
"K"*

The nation today is in the throes of stress and strain akin to the dark days before March 4, 1933 when Franklin D. Roosevelt stood on the Capitol steps and awoke the United States to a new urge for battle.

Today the problem of meeting the present difficulties has become much more complicated because of the development of the broad undemocratic forces in the world. Italian invasion of Ethiopia, Japanese activity in China, the fight in Spain, the capture of Austria and the fight of the anti-Democratic forces in South America, coupled with the crystallization of forces of reaction in the United States necessitate a bold stroke in order to combat rapidly rising tides of incipient fascism.

Therefore, I propose the following program for immediate action:

1. The expenditure not of \$1,500,000,000 through state, municipal and other sub divisions of government, but of a sum approximating \$2,500,000,000 to three billion dollars. Many useful public works have been held up for various reasons and once it is made clear that money will be available under the two per cent amortization rate many municipalities and sub divisions would be prepared on very short notice to go ahead with useful projects which would require utilization of steel, building materials, automobiles, trucks, and numerous other products of heavy industry, which would constitute real pump priming.

It would seem essential that the entire housing problem of the USA should be examined in the light of the need for an expanded program. The Wagner Housing Act imposes definite limitations which the Congress for various reasons established. I therefore propose that in any new expenditure program, special measures be taken to pave the way for large scale outlay under such a program for housing, which will insure

a rapid start -- not in a year or so, but at once -- on real low-cost housing.

A broadened housing program, over and apart from that provided for under the Wagner Act, carries with it the immediate stimulation of heavy industry through the fabrication of building materials, transportation of these materials to the scene, and all the consequent economic repercussions. Certain special provisions might be necessary to include expenditure by municipalities and sub-divisions of these new funds for housing, but I feel certain that wide popular support would be gained for this program.

2. There is already proposed a plan of loans of \$1,500,000 to small business through the RFC. In the light of the current drive of the monopoly forces in the USA to bring small or semi-small business under the domination of monopoly business in opposition to the president, this becomes especially important.

In recognition of the fact that neither the banks nor the security markets are providing the funds needed by small business to carry on its activities, such loans should properly be made by a governmental agency. Safeguards carefully prepared in realistic manner must be erected around such a program for advancing intermediate credit to prevent substitution of these funds for those ordinarily available from the banks or security markets. There is no reason under the existing circumstances for limiting such a sum to \$1,500,000,000, the sum contemplated for such a program. In the light of all the political and social forces at work in the USA today, the amount should be at least \$2,000,000,000 or \$2,500,000,000.

3. I realize that any permanent solution of the railroad problem entails government ownership of the vast network serving the people of the USA, based upon a reasonable valuation of the properties today. As an immediate emergency measure, since the usefulness of present RFC lending program is very limited, I recommend making loans available to the railroads for the purpose of purchasing needed new equipment and carrying on necessary maintenance work now, and so barring the railroads from pleading poverty in order to reduce wage scales and employment. Care must be taken in the directing of any measures to carry out such a program to prevent the railroads from draining these funds off from their legitimate objectives into the pockets of the high-salaried management officials or the managers of bond-holding pools.

As a correlary to this immediate program, there should be set up a special body to give consideration to the long-range question of valuation in order to provide sound data for the time, when and if, the government is prepared to take over the railroads in order to operate them. Coupled with this long range study body, there should be another special body which should exercise supervision over the granting of immediate loans. This special body would very possibly have the opportunity of paving the way for a new formula for valuation since it would hold the purse strings and thus it could serve the end of making a genuine step toward the ultimate goal and, at the same time, give immediate stimulation.

4. A more determined fight should now be made to pass the wages and hour bill. Such a fight, if properly presented, would have the strongest backing from the widest group of the population, and would serve to crystalize the issue in the coming congressional and state elections. I feel that the wages and hours issue can be made the vital issue in such elections if a new battle based upon our experience of the past year and a half is dramatized for the people of the nation now.

5. A broad extension of the farm credit system is needed to make available up to at least two billion dollars with assurance against division of such funds to bankers and other groups who have been draining them off under the current federal program. In other words, expenditures on a sound basis are needed which would ensure that the farmers, who traditionally always pay their debts if they have the money, would get the full benefit of the government advances.

We must have a much larger scale soil erosion and flood prevention program, with the latter applicable to both cities and agricultural areas. This is an important human issue of which both city dweller and farmers are acutely aware.

6. Broad expansion of expenditures for relief is essential. At least 2,000,000,000 dollars should be made available at the earliest possible moment in order to meet the demands of the situation. In line with this, at least \$500,000,000 additional should be made available to set up special work projects and additional facilities for unemployed youth. Included in any such program, there should be special accent placed on utilization of funds for so-called art projects. The Federal Theatre should receive genuine stimulation. The cities are going broke and the unemployed rolls are getting larger. Only the national government can take decisive steps immediately.

The issue today is not "lack of confidence" as expressed ~~xxx~~ by many newspaper editorials. It is the fear and lack of confidence of the small business people and professionals, and the workers and farmers, that the administration will not carry out its pledge to finish the fight. This fear makes large sections of these groups increasingly subject to the propagandistic and distorted appeals of the economic

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
V. BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

royalists.

The whole program is necessary. It is realistic and, above all, it is the kind of program which, if put forward aggressively, can rally the country as the country was rallied in the NRA days. It can turn the tide and be ^{of} definite aid, not only to the US, but of all the forces working for democracy throughout the world.

PSF Gen. Carver. "K"

Benjamin King • The Westchester Apartments • Washington, D. C.

file
personal

Gen - 2

11 April, 1938.

Dear Mr. President.,

It is so fortunate for me that our mutual (beautiful) friend Daisy offers to act as messenger, for it permits me to use the only language I can think of in connection with your desire that I know your exact position in the airport matter. That is, I think it is dear, sweet, and so fine of you to want me to know the facts, and to have gone to a good deal of trouble to make them clear to me.

It is a secondary thrill, but a great one indeed, to know that we stand together 100% on the airport policy; with this knowledge, - from which I have taken on new inspiration, - nothing that may happen or may be said in the future can shake my faith in the likelihood of our eventual victory. If we fail it will not be due to anything left undone, I am sure of that.

We were so distressed to miss the opportunity you gave us to be with you this week. We landed yesterday just ahead of your docking, we now understand. When we received the very delightful news of your kind invitation we were so sure that we could be back here with time to spare. And then the weather had to come stomping in with most freakish and unseasonable activity! It was a bitter disappointment. However, we were beautifully comforted last night by a visit with the "gang" and our sister Esther, who assured us that there was quite a good chance of our seeing you soon, to make up for it, in the Valley of Virginia.

Cordially and sincerely yours,

Benjamin King

1
BF
Sen. Couss. (4)
"K"

June 18, 1936.

Dear Mrs. Kleeman:-

Just a note in addition to my letter of yesterday. The President says he would like very much to see the remaining chapters of the book if you will be good enough to send them to him.

Very sincerely yours,

M. A. Le Hand
PRIVATE SECRETARY

Mrs. R. S. Kleeman,
1133 Park Avenue,
New York, N. Y.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

June 18, 1935.

MEMO FOR THE P. S.

Will you write Mrs. Kleeman
and say that I most certainly would
like to see the entire manuscript
before it goes to print?

F. D. R.

THIS IS TUSA
RECEIVED FROM
THE JAMES HODGES

JOAN BOETTIGER
112 Central Park South

June 12th.

Dear Missy:

Rita Halle Kleeman is on my neck because she says she wrote you a letter last week and has never received an answer. She is very upset because she didn't see Pa while he was at Hyde Park this time.

Personally, I'm a bit worried about the manuscript. For instance, the last time I saw her she told that Granny had told her such a cute story about how she (Granny) had showed King George how Pa snapped his braces into place and stood up holding lightly to some object. I made her send me paragraph verbatim, and after reading it phoned her that I knew Pa would object, and that she must leave it out of the book. She finally told me today that if I would call at the Author's League I could have an uncorrected mms. to read. I have a very good hunch that she has used a lot of very personal anecdotes about the whole lot of us which we would all just as soon not have in a book. Anyway, I do think Pa ought to read it, if only from the angle of accuracy. I told Mrs. Kleeman that Pa had lost the mms. she sent him. The book is going to the publishers on June 24th, so there's not much time to lose if we want to check up.

Much love,

Anna

PSF
Gen. Curley "K"

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

file
what?
(K)

December 16, 1935.

Miss L. Hand

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. EARLY:

I think the President would be interested in this editorial, despite its great length, from The Catholic Week, official publication of the Diocese of Mobile, Alabama, whose Bishop, was formerly one of Archbishop Curley's Priests. Written as it was, before Cardinal Mundelein's speech at Notre Dame, it shows clearly that there is a bloc within the Hierarchy which decidedly disapproves of the Knights of Columbus's meddling and muddling.

Note within the Catholic World editorial the highly significant quotation from pastoral of the Archbishop of Cincinnati.

Finally, it does seem that this points clearly to a general disapproval of the Knights of Columbus action among the Bishops; and in these tilts the Boys with the Crosiers inevitably win.

Incidentally, the Baltimore Catholic Review has pulled in its horns since the Notre Dame convocation.

William P. Hassett

File
Knights of Columbus -

KofC

The Catholic Week

Official Publication of the Diocese of
Mobile (Alabama and West Florida)

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SOME NEWS BEHIND THE NEWS ABOUT MEXICO

We do not claim to be "another Walter Winchell, another "Gentleman At The Keyhole," but as we interpret the news behind the news regarding the recent K. of C.-Roosevelt Mexican furore, the supreme officers of the Knights of Columbus have been very diplomatically but firmly called down by the Catholic Bishops of the United States for their bungling and officiousness in handling the Mexican question, and the White House door has been slammed in their faces by President Roosevelt.

The tip-off to the action of the Bishops of the country was the letter by the Most Rev. John T. McNicholas, Archbishop of Cincinnati, read at all masses in his archdiocese on November 3, in which he said: "... we wish our priests and people to understand unmistakably that the Knights of Columbus in no sense speak for the priesthood or for the Catholic laity of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, on the persecution of religion in Mexico, or on any other subject having religious implications, unless they have a commission from us."

Shortly thereafter when the Bishops of the Catholic Church met in Washington in their annual meeting, they passed what appeared as a routine resolution to practically all laymen, and apparently not a few of the Catholic papers and the clergy of the United States. As released by the N. C. W. C. News Service, the resolution stated:

"The Bishops of the National Catholic Welfare Conference in the General Meeting at Washington November 14, 1935, call attention of all Catholic groups in the United States to the distinction between Catholic activity and Catholic Action. The Bishops remind all groups according to the instruction of our Holy Father, Pope Pius XI, that there is no such thing as Catholic Action until there is an Episcopal commission. For a Diocese there must be a commission from the Bishop of a Diocese, for a province from the Bishops of a Province, and for the country from the Bishops of the United States. The Holy Father only can give a commission for the universal Church on Catholic Action. When His Holiness does so he communicates with the Bishops."

This to our mind is simply another way of saying that the Knights of Columbus was not commissioned by the Bishops of the United States to make any representations to the Government for the Catholic Church on the Mexican question.

Apparently it was also intended by the Bishops as notice to the Knights of Columbus and all other Catholic organizations and individuals that in future they shall not presume to speak or act for or in the name of the Church unless expressly commissioned to do so by proper ecclesiastical authority. This is entirely proper, for there have been too many instances of both big time and small fry politicians and publicity-seekers posing before the public as speaking for the Church on various public questions.

This is not to say that the Church does not want to see lay activity. On the contrary, the Hierarchy is bending every effort to encourage activity on the part of the laity. But it is to say that before a layman or a lay organization speaks or acts for or in the name of the Catholic Church, he or it must first receive a commission from the proper Church authorities to do so.

Now to make understandable to our readers the action of the Hierarchy in this case, we will recall that early in February, 1935, just at the beginning of the K. of C. Mobilization for Catholic Action (a drive for new members), certain Supreme Officers of the K. of C. hid themselves to Washington to settle the Mexican question. As it turns out, they were acting entirely on their own and without any commission from the Bishops of the United States. Having spent more years in Washington than many of the Senators and Congressmen there, we noted the burlesque tactics of the K. of C. from the very inception, as indicated by our editorial on February 3, 1935, reproduced in an adjoining column.

Almost immediately the K. of C. Supreme officials made fatal political errors unworthy of even a prudent politician. They violated the first rule of politics—make it politically safe for a politician to act. Even if they had presented proper evidence, by giving the widest pos-

sible publicity to their activities in Washington, they made it politically impossible for the Government to make quiet diplomatic representations to Mexico that might have settled the question. By conveying to Catholic men the impression they were acting for the Church, they used the occasion to recruit new members in their campaign, and they seemed to be more concerned with publicizing their actions to attract new members than in actually settling the question.

They first attempted to see the President and were referred to Secretary of State Hull. They presented to him no evidence of the violation of the civil or property rights of American citizens in Mexico such as would have forced diplomatic action. Instead, they contented themselves with attacking Ambassador Daniels, and as stupid as his conduct has been, even his removal would not have solved the question. It must be said to the credit of the K. of C. officials, however, that their agitation did result in Ambassador Daniels being silenced in praising Calles, Cardenas and their atheistic and socialistic program.

When Secretary Hull refused to recall Daniels, the K. of C. group made the impossible mistake of getting Senator Borah, who had only recently killed the World Court proposal largely with the aid of Fr. Coughlin, to introduce a resolution to force a Democratic Senate to investigate the religious persecution in Mexico. Borah probably jumped at the chance to again embarrass the administration, and as he is now a candidate for the Republican presidential nomination, it is not difficult for a grammar school child to understand why the resolution was pigeon-holed. Of course, the resolution should have been considered on its merits, but human nature being what it is and politics being what it is, only the untutored expected anything else.

Thereafter, at an audience granted the K. of C. leaders at Washington on July 8, the President issued a non-committal public statement of his belief in religious tolerance and promised to reiterate this belief in a public address. This he did at San Diego, Cal., on October 2 without direct reference to Mexico. But the rather innocuous San Diego speech didn't satisfy the K. of C. heads, so in accordance with the action of the K. of C. national convention (which we are glad to say was opposed by Alabama's State Deputy, Dr. A. I. Stabler), Supreme Knight Carmody wrote President Roosevelt on October 25 one of the most strongly worded letters ever addressed to a chief executive of a nation, upbraiding him for his failure to carry out his assurances in a manner satisfactory to them.

The language employed, however much justified, added to the publication of the letter before its release by the President—another error—was sufficient to defeat the request. The substance of the President's answer, to Supreme Knight Carmody, in November, 1935, is that the only evidence under which the U. S. Government will act under international law—the violation by Mexico of the civil or property rights of American citizens—has still not been brought to the Government's attention, for

the President said:

"The right of the United States citizens resident or traveling in foreign countries to worship freely, to conduct services within their houses, or within 'appropriate' buildings maintained for that purpose, is desired by this Government. THERE HAS NOT BEEN BROUGHT TO THIS GOVERNMENT DURING THE PAST YEAR A SINGLE COMPLAINT BY ANY UNITED STATES CITIZEN THAT SUCH OPPORTUNITIES IN MEXICO HAVE BEEN REFUSED HIM."

This is not to say that there has not been religious persecution of American citizens in Mexico and that evidence of such persecution cannot be had by anyone who will take the time and trouble to gather it, but it is to say that such evidence has not been presented (see Roosevelt's answer above); that such evidence is an absolute prerequisite to any request for official diplomatic representations on the part of the United States Government to Mexico; and that in not proceeding according to international law, the Supreme officers of the K. of C. have bungled the job so badly that they defeated their purpose, antagonized the administration, and destroyed their prestige and usefulness in any dealings with it on this or any other matter. The story of the K. of C. activities in this case might well be termed: "The K. of C. Bull in the Mexico china shop," and should indicate to the members of that organization, of which we are one, the sorry mess in which its affairs have gotten through the perpetuation in office of leaders who were more concerned with forcing through the last convention a retroactive pay increase than in accomplishing something for the Church.

The K. of C. Mexican blundering is of course one reason for the resolution of the Bishops. Another may have been the activities of Fr. Coughlin, who speaks with the authority of the Bishop of Detroit, but does not speak with the authority of any other Bishop in the United States so far as we know, and therefore does not speak for or in the name of the Catholic Church of the United States.

While the Roosevelt administration has made a showing before the public, by taking advantage of the political stupidity of the K. of C. leaders, the administration is guilty of contributing in large measure to the current persecution in Mexico, and should not be allowed to get away with it. In buying Mexico's gold and silver and, in selling them munitions and enforcing an embargo against all rebellious elements, the administration is financing Cardenas and his cut-throats and throttling all efforts of the Mexican people to throw off the yoke. It is of course proper to observe a "Good Neighbor" policy toward all nations, but no decent man "buddies" with his neighbor if his neighbor is a murderer, and that is what Daniels has done. As one Mexican said: "Does the English Ambassador travel about the country repeating the speeches of Calles? Does the French Ambassador do so? The Americans

Ambassador, Mr. Daniels, has done so."

Great Britain did not hesitate to inquire into the facilities for worship of British subjects in Mexico. France made vehement protests against the closing of the French Christian Brothers' school at San Borja. So it would seem to us in the light of these precedents, and the wording of President Roosevelt's letter, that a way is open for whatever group may be commissioned by the Bishops of the United States to show wherein the legal rights of American citizens in Mexico have been transgressed by that Government, and if that is done properly we have no doubt that the whole question will be brought to some early and definite conclusion.

THE BORAH RESOLUTION

(Editorial in The Catholic Week,
February 10, 1935)

We are glad that U. S. Senator Wm. E. Borah, of Idaho, has stated that he was prompted by evidence that American citizens were maltreated to introduce his recent resolution for the Senate to investigate the religious persecution in Mexico.

First, this may serve to reduce the blood pressure of some of our good friends, including The Birmingham Post and The Birmingham News, who recently worked themselves into an editorial lather against "meddling" in Mexico. Next, no matter how much we as Catholics may sympathize with our co-religionists in Mexico in their troubles, unless the rights, human or

properties of American citizens are confiscated by the Mexican Government, we have no right to ask from an investigation of the religious persecution there.

Iller says that all the Jews in Germany had, however much Catholics they sympathized with, the Jewish people in their persecution, as long as he knows only German citizens there is nothing that Catholics as Americans can do about it. But the moment Hitler shoots an American Jew, puts him in jail, or confiscates his property, or the moment Mexico deprives an American Catholic of life or liberty or takes his earthly belongings, that is all other-makers. Then, and then only, the American Government may step in under international law and demand the protection of the rights of its nationals.

This is the basis, and the only basis, on which American Catholics may ask the investigation of the current religious persecution in Mexico. And of course, if the murder of American Catholic priests and sisters by Mexican authorities is not sufficient grounds for this investigation; then there is the confiscation of the properties belonging to the American Baptists and other denominations, as well as those of American Catholic religious orders and denominations.

If these were not the facts, it would be very unwise for American Catholics to ask for the investigation; a request in which we may say they are supported by Jews and Protestants of every denomination who have suffered at the hands of the Mexican Government's persecution of all religious faiths.

But as any impartial investigation can very easily determine if these are facts, it becomes The Birmingham Post, that great defender of the rights of the people, to call it "meddling in Mexico" when it is proposed that our Government investigate the treatment of its nationals there. And just because the resolution was introduced by Senator Borah, the man who teamed with his old enemy, Senator Hiram Johnson, to defeat the World Court resolution, The Birmingham News has no right to raise its voice against the Borah Resolution and accuse Mr. Borah of being inconsistent. We think this is very much like calling Mr. Borah a Republican or calling the so-and-so a piccolo player. No man who has cut his eye teeth in national politics ever accused Bill Borah of being consistent or of being a Republican, for that matter. But that, we may say in conclusion, has nothing to do with the merits of the resolution be introduced and is no sound basis for opposition to it.

PSF Gen. Carrs. "K"

OFFICE OF
NAVAL RECORDS AND LIBRARY
NAVY DEPARTMENT

WASHINGTON, 7 Sept 1938

My dear Mr President-

I am very much
delighted with the photograph
of the Le Breton print of the
Stearns - Alabama action
sent you by Ambassador
Bullitt.

It was extremely kind
of you to remember my
special interest in naval
prints and to give me
the duplicate of this
rare and very interesting
picture. As coming from

you & shall treasure it
very highly indeed.

with great regard

Dudley W. Snow.

PSF
Gen. "K"
Gross

file
Kant-Gen-2

In reference to Dudley Knox
SEE also Random House folder-
Drawer 2--1938

BSF

"K"

October 4, 1939.

PERSONAL

Dear Frank:-

Thank you for letting me see that interesting letter from the other side. I will keep it confidential of course.

Also my warm thanks for what you did at the Legion Convention. Things seem to be getting better and, incidentally, Bishop Sheil's speech on Monday night last was grand.

Have you noticed that, as you suggested in your letter, I have been trying to kill all war talk? I have treated the report of the War Resources Committee as just an ordinary instance of normal preparedness work and they will go home in two weeks with my blessing.

I hope to see you soon.

Always sincerely,

Honorable Frank Knox,
The Chicago Daily News,
400 West Madison Street,
Chicago,
Illinois.

File personal + confidential

THE CHICAGO DAILY NEWS
DAILY NEWS PLAZA, CHICAGO

OFFICE OF THE PUBLISHER

400 WEST MADISON STREET

September 27, 1939.

*The President :- Col. Knox
submits confidentially his letter from
John Whitaker for your information*

J.K.

Mr. Stephen Early,
Secretary to The President,
The White House,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Early:

I am enclosing, herewith, a copy of a letter I have just received from John Whitaker, concerning which I talked to you over the telephone today.

11 I am sure that I need not emphasize the importance of treating this as strictly confidential. If it should become known that this information got out of Italy through Whitaker, his usefulness there would be destroyed, and possibly his life itself would be imperiled.

I hope the information which the letter contains may have some usefulness for the President.

Yours sincerely,

Frank Knox

~~Confidential~~

Hotel de la Villa, Rome
September 14, 1939

Dear Colonel:

We are all in a frightful rush but I have a way at last to get an uncensored letter to you.

First, I must thank you for the privilege of getting to the home office and of seeing you. You can't know what it means to me in the field to know what kind of a chief we work for and what kind of an organization we have behind us. You think of us not as employees but as colleagues and that makes us think of you not only as a boss but also as a friend. That's why I dedicated the South American book -- I haven't received a copy yet -- to you and the men of the foreign service. There was no bootlicking in that dedication -- only pride of organization.

Now, to the news. As you all knew when you sent me here the truth cannot be written out of Rome. A man only tries quoting them, tricks of irony and writing between the lines in the hope that the head-line gets the idea. They didn't want me to work at all on the ground that two men had just been expelled and that the paper was unfairly hostile to Italy. But I know Ciano well from Ethiopia and see him about every two weeks and I have a Croce di Guerra or Croix de Guerre which General Graziani conferred on me so I have just been filing and telling the press office when they complain that my stories are very friendly and that they can either expel me or shut up. So far they have shut up each time.

In this way I tried to hint for some weeks before the war began that Italy would not help Hitler in the Polish war. Here is the dope: Ribbentrop told Ciano that Germany would attack Poland and that Italy was expected to invade Yugoslavia so that the Italian people would be at war not over Danzig but over their own effort at conquest. Ciano flatly refused. Mussolini told him by telephone to force his way to Hitler and this Ciano did over Ribbentrop's efforts to bitch such an interview. Ciano told Hitler that Italy could not go with the Germans because she knew that England and France would fight for Poland. Hitler said this was absurd and when Ciano insisted that London and Paris would fight, Hitler abused him personally and Italy in general and went into hysterics. The whole of this I did not get from Ciano but I trust my other source implicitly on this recital of the events.

There was no doubt in my mind that Ciano was sincere in his repeated private assurances to me that there would be no war -- since the proof lay in the absence of military preparations, purchase of raw materials, low production of aircraft, etc., as well as the fact that my best friend on the Italian general staff made the same assertions. But though Italy could not fight she was looking forward to the fact that peace too has its victories. Mussolini always gambled on another Munich, certain that if there was a general settlement Italy could push her own demands and get them as the "loyal" ally of Hitler. Thus Ciano was sincere in his assertions that there would not be war -- sincere because he was indulging in

wishful thinking. But though sincere time and Hitler proved him wrong.

Italy accordingly has declared herself neutral in this phase. Two things are now going on, 1)- very far-reaching efforts by the British and French to bribe Italy, and 2) - a serious tightening of Mussolini's power internally. The British and French are content, I think, with Italian neutrality at the moment since Turkey is always impressed by the proximity of Russia, wants the Duodecanese back from Italy and might break with London if Italy came in on the allied side too soon or with secret pacts which might arouse Turkish suspicions. Accordingly the French tell me that they are encouraging the Italians to believe that France can buy much from Italy so that this country can profiteer, improve its adverse balance and generally bolster itself against the day when the conflagration spreads -- always of course provided Italy can give the French sufficient earnest that it will not pull a second double-cross.

But this is not all. Talks are going on meanwhile over Tunisia, Djibouti and Suez. I cannot get the low-down on this or confirm a report, for instance, that Laval has been here. But my best Italian source says that there are wide discrepancies between what is offered and what is asked. I can't give you the dope on this but Loraine and Ciano are both telling me that the conversations are so serious that they hope no correspondents will write anything more about their interviews -- absurd of course but interesting.

Such skullduggery has to be viewed against two possibilities. One is that when Poland is finished off Italy will join with Germany in pouring it to France. The other is that Germany may invade Italy. Consequently you have several factors which can utterly destroy the bargaining now going on, first, the temptation to Mussolini if the British and French offer him too little, second, the fear that by negotiating with Britain and France he may have his country invaded before he is set for such a blow. The key lies in this-- if he can do it Mussolini wants to keep his country out of war entirely and play profiteer.

The internal situation is doubly interesting. For a week I have known that there was trouble between the Black-shirt militia and the regular army, with reports that they actually fought in one place. The Blackshirts are the fire-eaters, they are pro-German and they say that Italy must honor its obligation to the Axis ally. The army on the other hand swears allegiance to the king, knows that Italy would be crushed in about six weeks by Britain and France, and genuinely dislikes its old German foe. Last week Badoglio saw Mussolini. I know Badoglio well but in this delicate moment he won't speak frankly to me. Nevertheless I had it on good authority that he put the point of view of the army clearly to Mussolini. As a result it was announced yesterday that the Blackshirt pay is cut from eight to one lire per day and regular army pay increased from forty centimes to one lire per day. This is the beginning of the liquidation of the Blackshirts and perhaps even of the Fascist party. In this connection, I learn also

that castor oil treatment is started again from one end of Italy to the other -- I have checked two cases myself -- and the prescription for getting oil is whispering or making propaganda for Italy to enter the war in support of Germany. This is important. Similarly, I learn that there are heavy concentrations of troops on the Brenner and in Gorizia-- heavier concentrations than on the French frontier.

Differences between Musso and the King are exaggerated always. They have a mutual esteem for each other and they have worked together for seventeen years now and each fears that if the other goes he goes. What Musso is doing in my opinion is this: He is cracking down on his own Fascist fire-eaters and drawing closer himself to the army and the throne. I think him exceedingly shrewd. They say here that he is gaga from too many young girls and I don't doubt that he has the young girls but I think he is gaga like a fox. I can't be sure, however, because while I have had four interviews with him in the past nothing has come this time of my repeated requests for an audience. I went to the opera to see him one night and wangled a seat quite close. He has aged a great deal but there is the same spark in the eye. Similarly Ciano is much more clever than people try to suggest. I think myself that this team is incredibly cynical and will play a smart game to get the most that can be got for Italy out of this war. I think that that means to play the allied game but I know too that Ciano is mighty interested in what we do about the arms embargo and the like. If we tip our hand for the British and French that will probably decide the Italians.

The German charge d'affaires here told me the other day, "Italy has done exactly what we planned and what we asked her to do. There is no weakening in the axis." The German Ambassador put it brutally however in a stupid speech to the German colony, saying, "Italy takes its orders from the Fuehrer and when the Fuehrer wants Italy in the war he will give the order." This is not true and it is just the kind of stupid psychology which will make Musso and Co. sore.

That's the picture as I see it if one adds that the Italians hope we will extend them credits for cotton, etc. There is no way for me to write anything more than my daily hints of this picture without leaving Italy for keeps. I am assuming that should you want that you will wire me to come out.

With war popping everywhere but where I am I feel like a hell of a war correspondent. Ethiopia, Spain, Vienna and Prague seem a long while ago and mighty unimportant and I feel as if I had been sent to the showers without having had a chance to pitch ball. The war will last long enough, however, and I'll get good stories before it is over. I have no doubt of that. But I envy Rich on Warsaw and can imagine that he is filing his usual tightly written, colorful and informative copy. He writes the most succinct stories, incidentally, of us all, I think. If Italy comes in and they fight in the valley of the Piedmont that will be mobile and exciting warfare.

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I suppose that the war kills any interest whatever in South America, but I had hoped that the paper might send copies of "Americas to the South" to the publishers of our client papers and ask them also to put out local promotion on the book as containing correspondence offered readers of their paper.

I'm damned glad Carroll is back. Please give my best to him, to Paul and all the rest of my friends. I hope Carroll can write me what kind of service we have been getting out-- my papers don't get through to me at the moment nor do the carbons from the bureaus. And all the best to you.

Cordially yours,

/s/ John T. Whitaker

September 29, 1939.

Dear Colonel Knox:

Please let me acknowledge and thank you for your note of September twenty-seventh, with enclosure in the form of a letter to you written by Mr. John Whitaker, under date of September fourteenth from Rome.

The President is very grateful to you for letting him have this copy of Mr. Whitaker's letter and I assure you that it will be regarded as strictly confidential and protected in every way.

Very sincerely yours,

STEPHEN EARLY
Secretary to the President

Colonel Frank Knox,
Publisher, The Chicago Daily News,
Daily News Plaza,
Chicago, Illinois.

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*File
personal
+ confidential*

THE CHICAGO DAILY NEWS

DAILY NEWS PLAZA, CHICAGO

OFFICE OF THE PUBLISHER

400 WEST MADISON STREET

September 26, 1939.

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

My dear Mr. President:

I had a conference with Paul McNutt, as I promised you I would. We have both been canvassing the probabilities of Legion action and our information is identical. If correct, it indicates the adoption of a general resolution advocating strict neutrality, but it does not go into details. Evidently the leaders of the Legion are seeking to avoid a sharp clash on the floor on this question, and McNutt and I agreed that under all circumstances, it is probably unwise to try to interfere with their plans. Of course, the Legionaires are a volatile bunch and anything can happen, but my judgment is that the Convention will not do anything to injure the cause of the repeal of the arms embargo, if it does not help it.

From various sources available to me I am convinced the hysteria provoked by Borah's declaration that any change in the neutrality law is a prelude to war, is dying out, and the people are beginning to understand the matter better, and as a result the opinion-making element is swinging toward repeal.

I left Washington convinced that the repeal of the arms embargo was secure, and everything that has transpired since then lends greater weight to that opinion. As a matter of strategy, may I suggest that your supporters in the Senate, both of Democrat and Republican affiliations, stress the unwisdom and the unpatriotic characteristics of any war scare talk in the discussion of the proposed changes. My thought is that it can be made very injurious for some rabble-rouser in the isolationist group to revive that thoroughly unjustified and unwarranted claim that Borah made in his initial speech--namely, that any changes in the neutrality law meant war. The probability is that you have already thought of this, but I am adding my comment for what it may be worth.

Leland Stowe, who is one of my men in London, got an uncensored letter through to me yesterday, presumably through the diplomatic pouch. The picture he painted of British unpreparedness

THE CHICAGO DAILY NEWS

DAILY NEWS PLAZA, CHICAGO

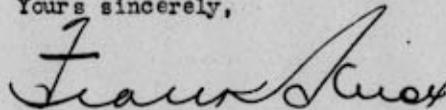
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400 WEST MADISON STREET

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is appalling. Of course, you know more about this than I do, but I am citing the incident to emphasize that the pressure to get us into war is going to steadily increase from now on. The darker the picture looks from the allied side, the greater this pressure will become--not alone because of British propaganda, but because of that very large percentage of our own people who are definitely and seriously concerned with what will happen if Great Britain and France were defeated--not alone with what will happen to those great countries, but what will happen to us afterwards. I foresee a long period of strain ahead, to meet which a substantially united country is imperatively needed. Consequently, anything that can be done to soft-pedal partisanship and emphasize unity, will be of the utmost value to you in the dark days which I am convinced lie ahead. The feeling on my part of the certainty of this impending stress, impells me to register anew my pledge of every possible assistance to you in promoting unity of our people to meet this unprecedentedly grave crisis.

Yours sincerely,



Rising

Please pick up copy
of letter actually sent
* file in our files -

PSF [Krum E/bw]
Gen. Carrus.
K

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K

Hyde Park, N. Y.,
August 25, 1938.

My dear Mr. Ingalls:-

The President asks me to
thank you for telling him of the old map
but, as it is of about the 1848 period, in
all probability he has it.

Very sincerely yours,

M. A. Le Hand
PRIVATE SECRETARY

Albert G. Ingalls, Esq.,
7 Holly Street,
Granford,
New Jersey.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

August 15, 1938.

*Beane -
Just say the
first
paragraph*

Dear Mr. Ingalls:-

The President asks me to thank you for telling him of the old map but as it is of about the 1848 period, in all probability he has it.

I think in view of your reference to the "Battle of Krum Elbow" you will be interested to learn that so far as the President and his family have been concerned, there never has been any "Battle of Krum Elbow" -- in other words, the whole thing has been played up by the newspapers for political purposes on the say-so of one man. Historically the point in the river just south of Hyde Park has been known as "The Krum Elbow (or the Crooked Elbow) for three hundred years or more. The term applies, of course, to the river itself and the old deeds on both sides of the river refer to the land as running down to the "Krum Elbow". People on both sides of the river undoubtedly have the right, if they so desire, to call their places "Krum Elbow". Incidentally, on the east bank, as your map shows, the creek running into the river has always been known as the "Krum Elbow Creek" and up to a few years ago a small settlement, several miles back from the river, was called Krum Elbow and had a post office under that name.

You will see from the above

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

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there never has been any "battle".

Very truly yours,

M. A. Le Hand
PRIVATE SECRETARY

Albert G. Ingalls, Esq.,
7 Holly Street,
Cranford,
New Jersey.

August 5, 1958

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

My dear Mr. President:

With regard to Krum Elbow, I have an old map, dated 1848 or shortly after, which shows a stream designated as "Crumelbow Creek" flowing in a southwesterly direction through the village of Hyde Park. No Krum Elbow or Crumelbow is designated on the Hudson River at this point, and certainly none on the western bank. Therefore I am able to agree with your side of the "Battle of Krum Elbow"—I think the first time I have been able to agree with you about anything in several years!

If you care to purchase this old map as a collector's item, I will part with it for twenty-five dollars. It is 17 inches wide, 125 inches long, and is designated "Map of the Hudson River Rail Road from New York to Albany, scale one mile to an inch, engraved by Robert Haering, lithographed New York."

Cordially yours,

Albert G. Ingalls
Albert G. Ingalls