

PSF

FIORILLO

LAGUARDIA

PSF

Subject File

PSF

BOX

11

PSF: La Guardia

~~(7)~~  
Box 156

**PRIVATE**

February 4, 1938.

Dear Fiorello:-

Thank you for telling me about the "fealers". They check with mine. A good deal of water will go over the dam between now and June or July, but we must watch it.

Don't stay awake nights thinking of drums and bombs. The Navy program is having an excellent effect in Berlin, Rome and Tokyo.

Enough said!

As ever yours,

Honorable Fiorello H. LaGuardia,  
Mayor of the City of New York,  
City Hall,  
New York, N. Y.

CITY OF NEW YORK  
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

February 1, 1938.

Miss Marguerite LeHand,  
Secretary to the President,  
White House,  
Washington, D.C.

My dear Miss LeHand:

Will you be good enough to hand the  
enclosed to the President?

Sincerely yours,



~~Mayor.~~

B  
Enclosure.



CITY OF NEW YORK  
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

February 1, 1938.

My dear Skipper:

Recalling our talk a few days ago, I sent out feelers and spoke to several people concerning the gubernatorial situation in our State. I am sending along the reaction, which is accurate, and my conclusions which, of course, are of no value knowing less about politics than anyone else in this City.

Strange as it may seem, Jackson is not at all known. From the ordinary man of the street to people who are generally well informed, he is not identified with any particular achievement or standing. He varies from "the man who did something about the President's Court Plan" to "the man that they gave a dinner for a few weeks ago". He would require a great deal of building-up, hand-shaking and getting around in the meantime. As to getting by a Convention, I find that the ordinary variety of politicians, the kind that would be delegates, do not take to him at all. Naturally, Tammany and affiliates know of your interest in Jackson. I am talking of conditions today, and if the Convention were tomorrow, you would find a combination of blocks against his nomination. The mere discussion of Jackson among politicians before and after cocktails, brings out possibilities of Herbert. The Governor is doing a great deal of speech-making and acts like a candidate, even if he is not one.

Bennett has quite a following. Al Smith would use Bennett as first shock-troop. There is talk of a combination between Tammany, the O'Connells of Albany, the Machine in Rochester and Erie County. In that event, after the first skirmish, a compromise they may have in mind today is Mayor Thatcher of Albany. Tremaine is liked by some of the people who are rather friendly to you, but they frankly admit he

- 2 -

would not be a very attractive candidate. Graves is politician-  
ing around and has hopes of being a compromise candidate.

As to the American Labor Party, strange as it may  
seem for a real progressive group, there is a strong sentimental  
feeling for Lehman. As I see it, it is entirely racial, but a  
factor nevertheless that cannot be ignored.

Personally I believe that Lehman is very much in the  
race. And so much for that.

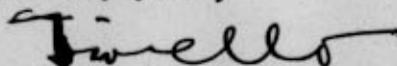
I am working on a memorandum for the Alien Bill and  
will send it to you in a few days.

Your daring foreign policy which you frankly discussed,  
has given me many sleepless nights and nightmares. I hear  
bugles calling and drums beating and cannon shots all night.  
Please do be careful and be sure of our friend Johnny Bull.  
I think Admiral Leahy's statement today is a feeler. It will  
be interesting to see what the reaction will be.

Had an interesting visit in Springfield. The farmers  
out there are more prosperous than the cotton or wheat growers.  
They are still very much for you and the New Deal.

Will send you more political dope as it develops.

Sincerely yours,



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

PSF: La Guardia

Number 3

January 29, 1941.

CONFIDENTIAL

Dear Fiorella:

I have been really concerned about the policing of the National Capitol for many years. This is especially true in regard to traffic accidents and general traffic conditions. Various studies have been made and I am inclined to think that the principal, though not the only cause of the present situation, is a lack of policeman. I think that on a population basis, especially considering the very large percentage of visitors and tourists, Washington has far fewer policemen than any other city.

What would you think of lending me Valentine and his principal traffic officer for three or four days to give me personally and unofficially their slant on the trouble. This could be done "off the record" and merely by personal observation, or it could be done with the knowledge of the District Commissioners and the District Police Department -- whichever you think would be best. Meanwhile, I am speaking to you one of this.

Very sincerely yours,

Honorable Fiorella LaGuardia,  
Mayor of New York City,  
New York City, N. Y.

PSF: La Guardia's file personal 3-4,

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

April 21, 1941

Memorandum For The President.

John Morin

I agree Morin should be reappointed.

(1) Everyone wants him, La Guardia, Ed Flynn, Frank Walker, Senator Guffey and leaders in the House. You should know, however, that Morin does very little work because he is really La Guardia's man in Washington on a number of things.

(2) The nice thing is you can do this with a free conscience so far as capable government is concerned. You refused to reappoint Morin because of his age. However, I discussed the Compensation Commission with people like McReynolds, who know of its work. They say it makes no difference whom you appoint, since the work is so routine that the staff can handle it with ease. The Commission is rather useless, but the only solution is to handle the problem by reorganization, if the powers are extended. So Morin is as good, and possibly better, than anyone else.

La Guardia really wants this. La Guardia has been making a lot of unhappy noise since the election. A lot of people will tell Morin they got the President to make the reappointment. For many obvious reasons I suggest you let La Guardia know he is responsible and I attach a memorandum from you to him to that effect.

JHR

James Howe, Jr.

NOTE: La Guardia's Italian quotation, in his memorandum to you, reads: "Accursed old age is despised by all".

Your reply in Italian reads: "The old are happy when protected by the good".

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

April 22, 1941

MEMORANDUM FOR:

MAYOR FIORELLO LA GUARDIA

John Merin

I vecchi sono felici cuando  
sono difesi dai buoni.

All right, Fiorello, you win!

F. D. R.

WASHINGTON  
THE WHITE HOUSE

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

April 21, 1941.

MEMORANDUM FOR

JIM ROWE

I think in view of the  
cries of pain, we should re-  
appoint John Morin. If you  
agree, will you have the nomi-  
nation made out?

F. D. R.

Memorandum for the President from Hon. F. H. LaGuardia, 4/11/41. Memorandum starts with the following: "La vecchiaia maledetta e da tutti disprezzate." The Mayor asks that President not turn John Morin down.

Original letter on display  
Main Gallery - "Head of Party"



CITY OF NEW YORK  
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

April 11, 1941.

To: The President

From: Mayor F. H. La Guardia

La vecchiaia maledetta  
e da tutti disprezzata.

Please do not turn John Morin down.  
He has been on the job for twelve years. He  
has been a real and loyal friend.

*F. H. La Guardia*

PSF: La Guardia

DAVE H. MORRIS  
19 EAST 70<sup>TH</sup> STREET  
NEW YORK 3

*file  
personal*

~~Mr. [unclear]~~  
3-41

October 22, 1941.

Dear Franklin,

Many thanks for having Grace Tully telephone to Mrs. Timm, my secretary, last Monday. I sent my letter substantially as she worded it adding a paragraph, which I am sure you will approve, as per copy enclosed.

The campaign is not going to be an easy one and I think our friend will require all the help he can get.

My best to you all.

As ever yours,

*D.H.M.*

Encl.

The Honorable

Franklin Delano Roosevelt,

The White House

Washington, D. C.

PSF: La Guardia

C  
O  
P  
Y.

October 20, 1941.

Dear Mr. Moskovit,

I am a Democrat and always expect to be one. I retain my party loyalty, but I firmly believe that this does not mean in a local election that it is forbidden to vote for the man who will render the best service to his community.

I have lived in New York City for very many years. I have seen mayors come and go - some good, some bad, and some indifferent.

It is my settled conviction that Mayor LaGuardia has given to our City of New York a cleaner and a more efficient government than any of his predecessors during my memory. That is why I do not hesitate to say that I expect to vote for him on Election Day. I think that the people of this City need a tried and proved executive for another term, and his splendid cooperation with our Defence Program makes him doubly valuable to both the City and the Nation.

Yours sincerely,

(signed) Dave H. Morris

Mr. Harold R. Moskovit  
President, Affiliated Young Democrats  
Hotel Piccadilly  
227 West 45th Street

PSF: La Guardia Jan 1942

3-42

PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL

December 30, 1942.

Dear Fiorello-

Thank you for yours of December twenty-seventh. In regard to a statement about Italy's future, I think little should be said just now, especially in view of the prominence of the French problem.

However, in regard to making Rome an Open City, I hope for good news soon. Most of the Italian Departments have left Rome but the Germans are still there. If we can get the Germans out too and the Vatican will see that they stay out, I see no reason why Rome should not be declared an Open City, but it cannot be used for any military purposes — directly or indirectly.

As ever yours,

Honorable Fiorello H. La Guardia,  
Mayor of New York City,  
City Hall,  
New York, N. Y.

December 30, 1942

RECEIVED CHAIRMAN

PSF



CITY OF NEW YORK  
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

*Personal*

December 27, 1942.

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

Dear Skipper:

I sent word to you a few days ago that I felt a definite statement should be made by you very soon concerning Italy's future. The subject is being kicked around in political circles, and inasmuch as you have definite views on the subject, the statement should not be delayed, and in addition will do a great deal of good where it is needed in Italy.

Another matter that I think should be decided real soon is a joint statement that Rome should be an Open City and not bombed. I have additional reasons to the basic one. The Fascists heads are all well furnished with money and if Rome is declared an Open City, there will be the darndest rush to that City now overcrowded, and all the war profiteers and big shots and politicians will be vying with each other for apartments and food. This will make a profound impression on the rest of the country, and we can rub it in in our radio talks.

Please give this thoughtful consideration.

*Happy New Year*  
Sincerely yours,

*Finello*

~~MAYOR~~

PSF: *La Guardia* ~~San Carlos~~ 3.44

*file*  
THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY

WASHINGTON

26 August 1944

THE WHITE HOUSE  
AUG 29 8 17 AM '44  
RECEIVED

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT:

Regarding Fiorello, I talked with Mat Correa and he shares my view that he should not go to Italy. Mat points out also that the Italian picture has developed so far now as to hold no substantial interest for anyone of such energy and diverse qualities as the Mayor.

This thought occurs to me: As we take islands in the Pacific there will be need for administration, particularly in the Philippines, where I should think Fiorello's talents would be useful, and I should think it would be an interesting challenge to him. There will be other areas further west, of course, which might be even more of a job. I should think he would be happier and have a much wider scope in any of these jobs to the East than he would on the Continent, which would be, it seems to me, a melange of all kinds of conflicting currents.

Respectfully,

*James Forrestal*

James Forrestal

(3448)

*hms*

PSF: *La Guardia* *How comes "L"* 3-44

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

September 4, 1944.

MEMORANDUM FOR  
THE SECRETARY OF WAR

What do you think of this?

I do not think that you and I  
can still say that he must remain  
as Mayor of New York.

What would you think of  
making him a Brigadier General  
and sending him to the already  
occupied Islands in the Pacific  
as an Inspector of or advisor  
to civilian administration for  
these Islands?

F. D. R.

Memorandum for the President from the  
Secretary of the Navy, 8/26/44, in re  
Mayor LaGuardia, a carbon of which has  
been retained for our files.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 10/15/01 BY 60322 UCBAW/STP

RECEIVED  
THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON  
AUG 26 1944

25 August 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT:

Regarding Fierelle, I talked with Nat Correa and he shares my view that he should not go to Italy. Nat points out also that the Italian picture has developed so far now as to hold no substantial interest for anyone of such energy and diverse qualities as the Mayer.

This thought occurs to me: As we take islands in the Pacific there will be need for administration, particularly in the Philippines, where I should think Fierelle's talents would be useful, and I should think it would be an interesting challenge to him. There will be other areas further west, of course, which might be even more of a job. I should think he would be happier and have a much wider scope in any of these jobs to the East than he would on the Continent, which would be, it seems to me, a melange of all kinds of conflicting currents.

Respectfully,

*James Forrestal*  
James Forrestal

PSF: La Guardia ~~in command~~ 3-04

WAR DEPARTMENT  
WASHINGTON

*file  
per mail*  
September 7, 1944.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT:

I have given much thought to using Mayor LaGuardia in Civil Affairs in the Pacific area. With respect to Forrestal's recommendation that he be assigned to the Philippines, I believe I should point out that the War Department has recently prepared a formula for the Philippines which will be submitted to you shortly. This formula embodies the views of President Osmena, General MacArthur, and Secretary Ickes, the Acting High Commissioner of the Philippines. The plan envisages the lightest control over the civilian population consistent with the military operations, and contemplates the earliest possible transfer of civil administration to the Commonwealth Government under the general supervision of the High Commissioner. I rather doubt that the Mayor fits into this picture. The light reign and the early withdrawal of the Army from civil affairs, which this plan proposes, does not seem to me to be the sort of position that suits the temperament of the Mayor. I am afraid that the insertion of his vigorous personality into this picture might jeopardize the smooth execution of the plan.

If you desire to introduce Mayor LaGuardia into this work, I much prefer your suggestion that he be used as an advisor in the civil administration of the Pacific islands already occupied. These islands are being administered by the Navy, and you may wish to take this up more in detail with the Navy. In such an assignment, he could be either an Army or Navy officer, though I strongly recommend that he be commissioned initially as a captain in the Navy or a colonel in the Army! *If Jim Forrestal wants him to have a higher rank I should have no objection to his being made an Admiral!*

H. L. S.

Secretary of War.

*file  
personal*

PSF: LaGuardia ~~By Coville "L"~~ 3-44

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

October 11, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT:

Dave Niles says he thinks LaGuardia is feeling very unhappy and he suggests that you might have him come in and have a talk with you. He also suggests that you ask him to make a few speeches in the proper places in upstate New York and Conn. where there are large Italian populations.

You will remember the Vice President also suggested that he be used in some of these spots where the Italians are very sour.

G.O.T.

~~PSF: La Guardia~~ <sup>San Carlos "A"</sup> 3-44

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

October 17, 1944.

MEMORANDUM FOR

HON. HARRY L. HOPKINS:

I want to talk with you  
about this before I see LaGuardia next  
week.

F.D.R.

The orig. letter (copy attached) unsigned handed  
to Mr. Hopkins together with Mr. Hopkins' memo,  
9/30/44 in regard to Mayor La Guardia.

... THE TUGS  
... MUST BE SWIFT AND  
... HON. HENRI T. ...  
... WASHINGTON  
... THE WPALE HOUSE

September 29, 1944

Dear Harry:

I have determined that I need La Guardia in the army with the rank of Brigadier General.

I have some important assignments I want him to do during the next year and their accomplishment will require his being in uniform. He should be commissioned around the middle of November.

I do not plan to use him for the time being in Italy, although it may develop later that I will want him to go there for a time.

Very sincerely yours,

The Honorable  
The Secretary of War  
Washington, D.C.

(Not signed)  
10/7/44

3656  
*memo*

*PSF: La Guardia ~~has~~ ~~comes~~ ~~id~~*

*3/4*

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

November 2, 1944.

MEMORANDUM FOR

HON. HARRY HOPKINS:

TO READ AND SPEAK TO ME

ABOUT.

F.D.R.

Letter from Hon. Fiorello H. LaGuardia, 10/12/44, to the President, in re the President's plans about his commission. With respect to Italy, unless the Mayor would be in charge with full authority and the President's complete backing and support and equal say with the British, he does not want to be sent there.