

Sherman Minton

Subject File

Box 158

48

PSF: Minton

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

January 3, 1941

Memorandum For The President.

Sherman Minton //

Sherman Minton went off the public pay roll today.

Several Senators have already called to point out the debt this Administration owes to Minton, and also his really good legal ability.

You told me a week ago to speak to Secretary Ickes about making Minton Governor of the Virgin Islands. I found you had already committed yourself on that place and also on Puerto Rico.

As I understand it, Minton really wants to be a judge but there is no present vacancy in his Circuit. You want to find something temporary for him until there is such a vacancy.

There is a vacancy in the position of Assistant Attorney General in charge of customs. That would mean Minton would have to be in New York.

Another vacancy is Commissioner of Immigration and Naturalization.

Another possibility is to put him on the Board of Investigation and Research to study the transportation problem.

If you do not consider any of these suitable, Bob Jackson might be able to put him on as Special Assistant to the Attorney General.

I think it would relieve Minton if he knew you had him in mind. If none of these positions are satisfactory to you, may I tell him you are working on it?

JHR

James Rowe, Jr.

PSF: Minton Falder
1-41

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

The attached was sent over to Mr. Minton with the following memorandum from the President:

January 18, 1941

"MEMORANDUM FOR

Hon. SHERMAN MINTON

Will you see what you can do with Senator McKellar and others about this?

F. D. R."

There now exists the best situation in years for decisive and successful action to abolish the poll tax in Tennessee. Time after time, the people of Tennessee have fought for repeal, but the Crump dominated political machine of Memphis, chief benefactor of the corrupt poll tax system, has frustrated the people's will.

The Tennessee legislature has just convened and several poll tax repeal bills have again been introduced. In addition to the Southern Conference for Human Welfare, poll tax repeal is supported by all political parties, all labor organizations, and state-wide church, civic and women's organizations. Support for the poll tax comes from one source -- the Crump machine delegation in the state legislature. This delegation can vote as a block only because the common people of Memphis do not have a free ballot.

The Crump machine systematically stamps out its opposition. For years, labor organizers have been beaten in Memphis. During the presidential elections, the Crump controlled police department began a campaign of intimidation against Negro citizens and prominent white leaders because they dared to vote for a candidate other than one dictated by Crump.

The Southern Conference protested against this behavior in a letter to President Roosevelt asking that the Department of Justice intervene in Memphis. As a result, Col. A. W. W. Woodcock was sent to Memphis. The Memphis Press Scimitar of January 8th, after stating that Col. Woodcock had come to Memphis at the request of the Southern Conference, states that he has now made his report to the Attorney General. We expect some favorable action from the Department of Justice, but the major evil of the Memphis situation is the poll tax system.

The next step for democracy in Tennessee, therefore, is abolition of the poll tax. The people of Memphis now have a greater measure of freedom. A Citizen's Committee for Repeal of the Poll Tax is being organized, and delegations are being formed to proceed to the state legislature, with other delegations to be organized by the Southern Conference, to attend open hearings and to lobby for poll tax repeal.

Machine governments such as Memphis will continue to throttle democracy if the poll tax is not repealed. Crafty politicians will again betray the people of Tennessee unless the Southern Conference can go in immediately and lead the Tennessee campaign.

Tomb
Tennessee
Tennessee
Tennessee

The issue as to whether 10,000,000 Southerners are to remain disfranchised in the land of their fathers is one of the gravest problems confronting American democracy. Repeal in Tennessee would give great impetus to repeal in other poll tax states as well as to federal legislation now pending in Congress.

We do not have the money to organize the campaign in Tennessee. We are, therefore, calling on you again for your help.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

*PSF: Minton folder
File
personal
&
confidential*

COPY

February 27, 1941

MEMORANDUM FOR

THE PRESIDENT

I just talked with Jim Byrnes. Unless you disagree he will report at once for passage the Truman resolution to investigate defense activities. This is a matter of strategy to keep investigation in friendly hands in the Senate and away from unfriendly House fellows like Cox.

Barkley agrees with Jim. I agree with them. The Truman Resolution is the best out. What shall I tell Jim?

(signed) SHERMAN MINTON

" S. M.

O. K.

F. D. R. "

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1-41

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 23, 1941.

MEMORANDUM FOR
HONORABLE SHERMAN MINTON:

In regard to these Danish ships,
talk first of all to Bob Jackson and,
secondly, to Jerry Land.

The main point is that they are
~~in~~ our waters -- or possessions -- and
ought to be used in the effort to save
democracy, including the return of
democracy to Denmark itself.

F. D. R.

file
personal

PSF: Minton

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 7th 1941

My dear Mr President,

I am unable to find words adequate to express my appreciation for the great honor you have conferred upon me.

I am deeply grateful, and my ambition shall be to prove worthy of your friendship & confidence.

With renewed devotion to you & your Cause, I am,

Very sincerely yours,
Alec Minton

The President
White House,

PSF: Minton ~~See Cover "M"~~ 3-4x

file → **PERSONAL**

March 1, 1944.

Dear Shay:-

That is a mighty nice letter of yours and I do not need to tel you that I greatly appreciate it. I think Alben is not really well and Mrs. Barkley's serious illness has been another unfortunate factor.

You are right about the equities of the case. The daily remarks in the House and the Senate about me have never been answered by me in any shape, manner or form except about ten years ago when Congressman Fish made a deliberate and untrue attack on my Mother, I issued the simple order that he was not to be received at the White House. The order has been strictly carried out without any publicity.

If Alben had to drop this bombshell, I think it is just as well he has done so in February rather than later on. Now he may feel better inside.

Do let me know if you ever come to Washington. I want to talk with you about many things.

My best to you,

As ever yours,

Honorable Sherman Minton,
New Albany,
Indiana.

Electronics
Dept. 500A
SECRET

Y

United States Circuit Court of Appeals
For the Seventh Circuit
1212 Lake Shore Drive
Chicago

Chambers of
Judge Sherman Minton

New Albany, Ind.,
Feb. 26, 1944.

My dear Mr. President:

Senator Barkley's explosive speech amazed me. That your veto message was fully warranted by the shameful refusal of Congress to meet its responsibilities is well recognized by the people. You asked for ten billion - Willkie said you should have asked for sixteen billion & Congress gives you one billion with a lot of escape clauses!

As to your questioning the Senate's "integrity", it ill becomes either branch of Congress to be touchy about pointed criticism from you even if you did question their integrity. It is a daily pastime in Congress to criticize you and to question your integrity & even to question your patriotism & that of your fine family.

If I were still in the Senate you would have had one more vote with you. You were right. Congress was wrong. Barkley was not justified in his harsh attack upon you. However, there must be no widening of the breach & you have acted wisely to try & heal it promptly. The people think you were wrongfully attacked in the house of your friend.

- 2 -

There are millions of us out in the hinterland
who love you & would lighten your burdens & not increase them.

God bless & sustain you. With great respect,

I am,

Sincerely your friend

(Signed) SHAY MINTON

The President

White House.

United States Circuit Court of Appeals

For the Seventh Circuit

1212 Lake Shore Drive

Chicago

New Albany Ind
Feb 26 - 1944

Chambers of
Judge Sherman Minton

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It is a daily pastime in Congress to criticize
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I know there must be no widening of the
breach & you have acted wisely to try & heal
it promptly. The people think you were
wrongfully attacked in the house of your
friends.

There are millions of us out in the
hinterland who love you & would lighten
your burdens & not increase them.

God bless & sustain you. With great
respect, I am,

Sincerely your friend
Thos Minton

The President
White House