

● PSF

Mississippi Valley Commission

Subject File

Box 158

1 item

Rep Keller of
Ill. asked that
no appt. be made
on Miss River Comm.
until he has a chance to see Mac

WAR DEPARTMENT
WASHINGTON

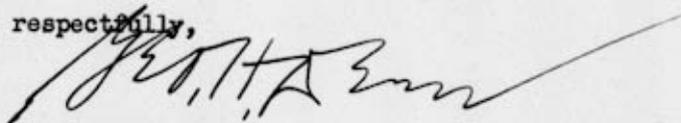
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PSF: *Mississippi Valley
Commission*

February 16, 1935.

Dear Mr. President:

Pursuant to your suggestion, I have conferred with Senators Robinson and Bilbo regarding the proposed appointments of William Gerig of Arkansas, and J. S. Allen of Mississippi, to the Mississippi River Commission. Senator Robinson says the appointment of Mr. Gerig will be satisfactory to him, and Senator Bilbo says he will raise no objection to the appointment of Mr. Allen.

Very respectfully,



Secretary of War.

The President,

The White House.



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

2/18

MEMO FOR THE PRESIDENT:

Sen. Dieterich asks that
Mr. Albert L. Culbertson
of Delavan, Ill., be
considered for appt to
Miss. River Commission.

MHM

64 {no-}

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

February 13, 1935.

MEMO FOR MAC

You were going to check
up on this for me. Will you hold
this letter until you are ready?

WAR DEPARTMENT
WASHINGTON

E.D. 1105 - 1025

February 5, 1935.

The President,

The White House.

Dear Mr. President:

Referring to memorandum of January 18, 1935, signed by Mr. McIntyre, saying that you desired my latest recommendations looking to filling two vacancies in the membership of the Mississippi River Commission, I submit the following, trusting that you will decide to fill the said vacancies at an early date.

As you know, there have been a great many suggestions and recommendations in this matter, all of which I have carefully reviewed. Conclusion as to preferable incumbencies is necessarily reached with due regard for the weight to be attached to respective technical education and ability, extent and character of experience, reputation, and the satisfaction of public opinion.

Thus, as meeting all practical aspects of the case, and as being high-grade, practical, flood control and river improvement engineers, I recommend for your favorable consideration -

Mr. William Gerig, of Arkadelphia, Arkansas, and
Mr. J. S. Allen, of Greenville, Mississippi.

It will be noted that both of these nominees are residents of the Valley, one on the west and the other on the east side of the river.

Mr. William Gerig is a graduate of the University of Missouri, with the degree of Civil Engineer. He is possessed of high technical ability, and broad and thorough experience on major engineering projects connected with structures and waterway improvements. He holds, at the present time, the highest civilian engineer grade in government service - Head Engineer in the War Department. His professional relations have been long and intimate, as consultant and otherwise, with noteworthy operations, such as the Gatun Dam, Panama, the Saluda Dam, North Carolina, and the Fort Peck and Tygart Dams now under construction. In his earlier

Letter to The President.

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career, he was employed for 18 years continuously on the improvement of the Mississippi River, and may well be described as expert in matters of its improvement and control.

I find Mr. Gerig to have been indorsed for appointment on the Mississippi River Commission by:

Hon. Hattie W. Caraway of Arkansas
Hon. Tilman B. Parks of Arkansas
Hon. D. D. Glover of Arkansas
Hon. Russell Ellzey of Mississippi
Each of the last three Chiefs of Engineers, U.S. Army
Mr. R. E. Wood, President, Sears Roebuck & Co.
Mr. C. R. Gray, President, Union Pacific System
Mr. L. C. Gilman, Vice-Pres., Great Northern Railroad
Mr. W. E. Coman, Vice-Pres., Northern Pacific Railroad
Mr. F. A. Means, Great Northern Railroad
Mr. George M. Wells, Union Sulphur Co., 33 Rector St.,
New York City.
Mr. E. C. Tobey, Chairman, Brazos River Harbor Navigation
District of Texas
Mr. Edward E. Wall, Director of Public Utilities, St. Louis, Mo.
Mr. John T. Garrett, Missouri Bridge & Iron Co., St. Louis, Mo.
Mr. W. C. Cochel, Pres., General Alumni Assoc., Univ. of Mo.
Prof. Walter Rautenstrauch, Columbia University, New York City.
Mr. Joseph H. Young, Chicago, Ill.
Mr. W. W. Henderson, Civil Engineer of Pacific Grove, Cal.
Mr. George F. Whittemore, Civil Engineer of Los Angeles, Cal.

Mr. J. S. Allen, of Greenville, Mississippi, while not graduate of a technical school, has spent his life on the engineering and flood control problems of the alluvial valley, rising to the grade of Chief Engineer of the Lower Yazoo Levee District, the functions of which he has fulfilled, I am informed, with the highest credit and satisfaction for the past 15 years. He is widely known for his relations and accomplishments throughout the Lower Yazoo Levee District during many past normal and flood emergency periods of the Mississippi River. I note that his immediate predecessor as Chief Engineer of the Lower Yazoo Levee District was Mr. Charles West, whose death during incumbency as a member of the Mississippi River Commission created the vacancy in concern.

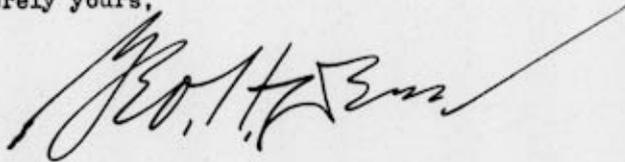
Letter to The President.

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I find that Mr. Allen has been indorsed for appointment
on the Mississippi River Commission by:

Hon. Pat Harrison of Mississippi
Hon. Will M. Whittington of Mississippi
Hon. Jeff Busby of Mississippi
Hon. J. E. Rankin of Mississippi
Hon. Wall Doxey of Mississippi
Hon. Wm. M. Colmer of Mississippi
Hon. Russell Ellzey of Mississippi
Hon. Ross A. Collins of Mississippi.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Robert H. Taft", with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Secretary of War.