

● PSF / James A. Moxlett

Subject File

Box 158

158

PSF: Moffett

*file
jackson*

**THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON**

February 15, 1944.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT:

Jimmy Moffett called me the other evening and had a long conversation. He is very upset about what he calls this awful oil scandal. He feels it is a conspiracy and he has these people in writing - Ickes, Davies and Marshall and he is going to sue all of them.

He said "this Arabian thing is as screwball as Hell". He says it is crooked from start to finish.

He has had "flu" and he may be very tired and sick, but I thought I should pass it along anyhow. I spoke to Steve and he tells me that Jimmy has a complete phobia on this oil situation.

The White House
Washington
D.C.

Mr. Casper "M"
PSF: Moffell *3-44*

WB31 129

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MISS GRACE TULLY

THE WHITE HOUSE

I HAVE DISCUSSED THE ARABIAN SITUATION AND HAVE FORWARDED A MEMORANDUM TO MR. M. L. BENEDUM SO THAT I COULD HAVE HIS OPINION AS TO WHETHER I WAS RIGHT OR WRONG IN MY GENERAL COMMENT. I FIND THAT HE WILL BE AT THE WILLARD HOTEL IN WASHINGTON THE SEVENTEENTH AND EIGHTEENTH. THEREFORE I ASKED HIM IF HE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO SEE THE PRESIDENT WOULD HE NOT DISCUSS THIS SITUATION WITH HIM. IF NOT WOULD IT BE POSSIBLE FOR HIM TO DELIVER THE MEMORANDUM TO YOU FOR

DELIVERY TO THE PRESIDENT. IF I HAD NOT BEEN ILL FOR A COUPLE
OF WEEKS I WOULD BE IN WASHINGTON BUT FRANKLY I HAVE NOT HAD
THE STRENGTH TO MAKE THE TRIP. AS ALWAYS MY KINDEST REGARDS
AND BEST WISHES TO YOU

JAMES A MOFFETT

PSF: Moffett ~~Unclassified~~

3-44

February 29, 1944.

Dear Jim-
Personal and Confidential

I should be glad to see Mike Benedict if he gives me a few days notice before coming to Washington.

I think you would make a great mistake were you to bring suits and make allegations against anyone. Loose talk and much noise get no one anywhere. The main object of every American should be, of course, to assure to the United States more oil in many parts of the world than we have in our own country -- thinking even fifty or one hundred years ahead. I think some oil companies and their executives are rather adolescent when they talk about Government ownership or operation of oil. I think the average citizen knows better and is getting bored with fantastic stories.

Always sincerely,

James A. Moffett, Esq.,
4 East 72nd Street,
New York, N. Y.

4 EAST 72ND STREET
NEW YORK 21, N. Y.

February 26, 1944

My dear Grace:

Apropos of our conversation, several days ago, wherein I asked Mike Benedum to deliver to you my comment on the Arabian pipeline, I am enclosing herewith a letter for the President, which I think somebody should call to his attention. Naturally, I know of his worries, troubles, the war, and everything else, and I regret to disturb him at this time. However, I would feel remiss if I did not call his attention to what is in my mind before I open up.

I appreciate your courtesy to me the other night and in accordance with your suggestion, I am forwarding this to you.

Maybe sometime things will settle down so that you can bring your gang to New York and Mrs. Moffett and I can take you out on the town. Perhaps even Walter Winchell could meet you again. It would give us great pleasure.

Sincerely,

Jim. M. [Signature]

Miss Grace Tully
c/o The President of the United States
Hyde Park, New York.

P. S. my pen is
bad but please give
me the pleasure of
giving my love to
[unclear] [unclear] [unclear]

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*file
personal*

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

March 3, 1944.

My dear Mr. President:

Thank you for giving me permission to have these documents photostated for my files. Jimmy certainly gives me a great buildup. If I am the guy who can intimidate the oil executives of the "United States and the world", I am a handy man to have about, and I respectfully submit that I ought to have a promotion instead of having my official head rolled into Jimmy's basket. Some of his stuff is just gibberish and I hope that he knew what he was talking about because I hadn't the faintest notion. And why did he hold out on us when he and everyone else knew that we were going to fight Japan? I am particularly delighted to learn from the letter that Jimmy "hates wrong". If we can only hang together on this we will go far.

Sincerely yours,

Harold L. Ickes

Secretary of the Interior.

The President,
The White House.

THE WHITE HOUSE,

Washington

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

February 29, 1944.

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Always sincerely,

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4 East 72nd Street,
New York, N. Y.

4 EAST 72ND STREET
NEW YORK 21, N. Y.

February 26, 1944

My dear Mr. President:

It is my opinion, right or wrong, that you should demand the resignation of The Honorable Harold L. Ickes. I feel that he has hurt the American public and your friends.

He has intimidated the oil executives of the United States and the world. He has conspired against me, in writing, to the extent that I was not permitted in Washington and had to resign from my position, after thirty-eight years' experience in the oil game, so that I could be entitled to freedom of speech without involving executives associated with me, stockholders, and friends.

In a few days, I am going to launch what is, in my opinion, a vicious attack against his operation as Petroleum Coordinator and President of the Petroleum Reserves Corporation. I personally think that he should be removed from both offices along with his staff. They are, in my opinion, a lot of school boys who may have sold him down the river, and who do not know what it is all about.

I regret that, with all your problems and worries—Government and war—that I have to call your attention to what is, in my opinion, a disgraceful and, possibly, the biggest scandal in the oil game in my thirty-eight years of experience.

He is mad at me due to the fact that he made malicious statements against the oil industry one week after war was declared and I was asked by all the independent oil companies and the American Petroleum Institute to answer him at Atlantic City in September, 1939. Later on, he attacked the railroads, he diverted tankers to the British, because of their own inefficient operation of tankers, and endangered our Fleet, which was then in the Pacific, when everybody knew we were going to fight Japan. He had also issued a rationing order for 10% on the Atlantic seaboard.

I openly made him admit he was wrong three ways. After these two episodes, naturally he is fighting mad at me.

4 EAST 72ND STREET
NEW YORK 21, N. Y.

The President (2)

2/26/44

What his objective is, I do not know—possibly Government ownership—but he is wrong as far as the American public is concerned in every manner, shape and form. To my way of thinking, his whole idea of the oil industry is disgraceful and I would feel remiss if I did not advise you in advance that I am going to attack him openly with facts and figures. I may be wrong but I think that I am right.

I trust that you are recovering from the Flu. I have had it myself for several weeks and it is difficult to rid one's self of it. I send you my kindest regards and you have, as you have always had, my very highest esteem.

I regret to throw another annoyance into your lap at this time.

Very sincerely,

James A. Moffatt

P. S. If I am wrong I take my
spanking. I like right & I hate wrong
But I love a friend

James

The Honorable Franklin D. Roosevelt
The President of the United States
Hyde Park, New York.

*file
not sent
to Ickes*

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

February 29, 1944.

MEMORANDUM FOR

HON. HAROLD L. ICKES:

I am enclosing herewith copy
of letter from Jimmy Moffett, together
with copy of my reply.

F.D.R.

COPY

2/26/44

4 East 72nd Street
New York 21, N. Y.

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- 2 -

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s/ James A. Moffett

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J.A.M.

The Honorable Franklin D. Roosevelt
President of the United States
Hyde Park, New York.

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