

PSF N.Y. State Election

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

*file
journal*

August 3, 1942

MEMORANDUM FOR

THE PRESIDENT

This is merely for your
information. You will note it
requires no answer.

MHM

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK
APPELLATE DIVISION SECOND DEPARTMENT

MM
WILLIAM B. CARSWELL
ASSOCIATE JUSTICE

45 Monroe Place,
~~BOROUGH HALL~~, BROOKLYN, N.Y.

August 1, 1942.

CONFIDENTIAL and PERSONAL

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

Dear Mr. President:

I intrude myself to suggest a course which will avoid disastrous consequences in the New York Governorship.

I have for the last four years openly favored the nomination of Mead. He and I were in the Legislature together 28 years ago. My first term in the State Senate began January 1, 1913 and its beginning overlapped your last six weeks in the Senate. As a fellow-Brooklynite I would ordinarily favor Bennett but knowing that he could not get the Labor Party indorsement, I have not and do not favor him, because without it he cannot win. I have also known that Governor Lehman did not favor Bennett and without his aid Bennett cannot get the 100% Democratic Jewish support which is essential to success. As Mead can have, in addition to your support, the aid of both the Labor Party and the Jewish vote through you and Governor Lehman, he can win even with a defection of a rabid section of the Brooklyn Irish vote.

However, Farley has followed the incredibly stupid course of tying up delegates for Bennett, knowing that he cannot get the Labor Party endorsement essential to success and by doing so he has placed Frank V. Kelly in a posture that invites party defeat. Kelly has to be for Bennett because he is a fellow-Brooklynite receiving support outside of Kings County. If a majority of the delegates cannot be lined up for Mead without the Brooklyn delegation, or if the Brooklyn delegation holds the balance of power, Kelly has to continue to be for Bennett, even though he knows it will result in a politically unwise nomination. It is unreasonable to expect Kelly to take a different position because of the effect of Farley's course on a large local group.

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To Hon. Franklin D. Roosevelt, President.

Aug. 1, 1942.

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A way out for Kelly is essential to save the situation and that way must be initiated by some one other than Kelly to avoid reprisals by any local group. This can be done by selecting a man from Brooklyn of the same racial stock who can get the Labor Party endorsement because of his Labor Union affiliations and whose pre-Pearl Harbor attitude, in harmony with your foreign policy, was publicly proclaimed long before that incident. Fortunately, such a man is available. He is District Attorney O'Dwyer whose record as a prosecutor is more colorful than Dewey's and more recent. He was an appointee of Governor Lehman, would have his support, is in favor with the Labor Party and has a stronger hold than Bennett on the Irish local vote. Kelly could gracefully shift to him on the theory he can get the Labor Party endorsement which Bennett cannot get and at the same time have support from yourself and Governor Lehman which Bennett does not have. In making such a shift, Kelly would not be deserting a local candidate for an outside candidate. He would be merely shifting from one local candidate to another. This would leave any local group without just cause for complaint because to a certain extent O'Dwyer is a counterpart of Bennett without the latter's weaknesses.

Upon inquiry you will find that O'Dwyer will be just as valuable from your viewpoint as Mead who is still my first choice. My suggestion as to O'Dwyer is born of the view that Mead may be unable to pry loose enough delegates to be nominated because Kelly is not a free agent to follow his own political judgment as a consequence of the novice-like tactics of Farley which have deprived Kelly of freedom of action in the present local situation.

I am writing this letter without suggestion, direct or indirect, from anyone, and that includes Kelly and O'Dwyer. Neither have any knowledge of this letter. Bob Wagner or any informed Brooklynite such as Steingut et al, will inform you as to my judgment in the past on such matters. As between Mead, Bennett and O'Dwyer, I have no personal interest and my suggestions to that extent are wholly unbiassed. I am extremely anxious that your desires prevail rather than those of Farley against whom I have no grievance other than a resentment that he should be following such a crassly ignorant course which if it prevails

To Hon. Franklin D. Roosevelt, President

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means defeat and disaster to the Democratic Party in New York.

May I express a final personal word. I prayerfully hope that you will be blessed by Providence with health and strength and vision to carry on in the magnificent and profoundly wise manner in which you have heretofore served and now are serving our country and its people.

Yours sincerely,



WBC/CC

P.S. I recognize, of course, that no answer should be made by you to this letter. It is written merely so that you may have its contents in mind when dealing with this matter. If Farley had profited in even a minor degree from the training you gave him in matters involving ordinary political judgment, you would not be bothered with such an unnecessarily created problem.

**THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON**

Oct. 8, 1942.

FILE MEMO:

The President directed me to answer the attached letter by telephone suggesting the names of people who might be contacted in Dutchess County to take an interest in Judge Hoyt's campaign for Congress.

Also, the President directed me to get in touch with Dave Niles and suggest that Dave arrange to see Jim Kiernan.

G.G.T.

Honorary Chairman
BENSON R. FROST
Dutchess County

MRS. RAPHAEL A. EGAN
Orange County

PSF ~~William Church Osborn~~
WILLIAM CHURCH OSBORN
Putnam County

N.Y. State Election

HOYT FOR CONGRESS COMMITTEE

227 MAIN STREET

BEACON, N. Y.

PHONE 1511

Mrs. Aileen O. Webb, Chairman
Garrison, N. Y.

Robert R. Graham, Secretary
Middletown, N. Y.

Raymond G. Guernsey, Treasurer
Poughkeepsie, N. Y.

September 23, 1942.

Dear Grace,

Things are going along in the Hoyt campaign only comparatively well due to lack of coordinated liaison with Washington. Somehow or other it seems difficult to clear the small things that naturally crop up from time-to-time. Couldn't Niles get a real bee in his bonnet from the President so that Mrs. Vanderbilt Webb, who has been chosen by the three County chairmen to run the campaign, could get some effective cooperation?

The things I am thinking of are nothing of major importance except those concerning the gathering of financial support. For instance: Billy Rose has been approached and is more than willing to go among his theatrical friends and raise a substantial amount which will be more than welcome, since collections have been and are rather slow, and many important things must be done which must be paid for. Rose has raised some fear that public knowledge of this through gossip column references might give Fish an issue which would insure his election. I think this is nonsense as Fish is collecting from everybody and his brother from all over the United States and cannot stand making any such charge in detail. In addition he is going to charge outside interference and dictation anyway and any minor reference to such things as Billy Rose is talking about would have little, if any, effect, and would certainly not be worth barring the way toward his gathering of the substantial amounts which we think he can produce.

Mrs. Webb has some tangible and very realistic ways of spending the money and the Rose money has been counted upon to achieve some of these plans.

I wonder if you could get this information before the President in the next day or couple of days and could you let me know in general, so that without mentioning any names or anything I can assure Rose that the Hoyt Committee's views about how to run the campaign are satisfactory?

I expect to be in Washington some day early next week looking up the latest on the Fish record with Maloney, Herb Gaston, and Dillard Stokes. I would certainly like to drop over to see you and if the President wanted a first hand report of the informal kind he always gets from me I naturally would be more than happy to give it. Will you send your reply to me at 17 East 42 Street, Room 819A, N.Y. City

The best ever,

Jim