

• PSF Subject Files: Roosevelt, Kermit

Box 183

Box 183

Jan 9, 1941

PSF; Mrs. Kermit Roosevelt

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

C 7

Mrs. Kermit Roosevelt is bringing her fifteen year old son to see the White House at 2 P.M. today. She says he is your most enthusiastic admirer and would be tremendously happy if he could have a glimpse of you. Naturally I said I could do nothing about it except to pass the word along that they were coming to the W.H.

Malvina

TELEGRAM

file personal
Hermit Roosevelt

Hermit Roosevelt Folder

43WUC 3 9:33pm

**The White House
Washington**

ZB WESTBURY, N.Y., July 7, 1941.

MISS GRACE TULLY.

Lost batallion located.

Vincent.

*Found
1023 P-
me*

[REDACTED]

WAR DEPARTMENT
WAR DEPARTMENT GENERAL STAFF
MILITARY INTELLIGENCE DIVISION G-2
WASHINGTON

↑ file
Kermit Roosevelt
4-41

July 29, 1941

MEMORANDUM FOR GENERAL WATSON:

Subject: Colonel Kermit Roosevelt

1. In accordance with your written directions, copy attached, I communicated with Colonel Roosevelt and told him to be down here on Friday morning, July 25. Between Thursday, the 24th and Monday, the 28th, Commander Astor, Major Head, and his wife were all working on him to get him down here; without success. He repeatedly promised to go, and as many times refused. Several times during this period he could not be located. Once, at Commander Astor's request, I obtained through the F.B.I. certain addresses in New York where he might be found. I kept in constant touch with the situation through Commander Astor.

2. On Monday, the 28th, I sent Colonel Winslow of this office to New York to see what could be done. He got in contact with Commander Astor, Major Head, and Mrs. Roosevelt, but could not locate Kermit, although he went to various places where he had been hiding out. Kermit did, however, come to Washington on the midnight train, accompanied by his woman and followed by Colonel Winslow. I had him met at 7:15 this morning by two officers from my office. After a little difficulty, they persuaded him to go with them to Walter Reed where he was turned over to General Marietta. General Marietta soon afterwards telephoned me that he could not hold him very long, as Kermit insisted that he came to Washington only to see me and intended to return immediately to New York. After communicating with you, I had him brought to my office.

3. I put it to him as straight as I knew how: that this was his last chance; that over a period of four days we had attempted, without success, to get him to come to Washington; that we knew he was neglecting his medical treatment in New York, and that he must now decide whether he would take the steps we felt necessary to enable him to start on the mission which the President has given him.

4. He shilly-shallied about it; told me many things I knew to be untrue; and insisted that he must return immediately

[REDACTED]

DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-8-72

APR 11 1974

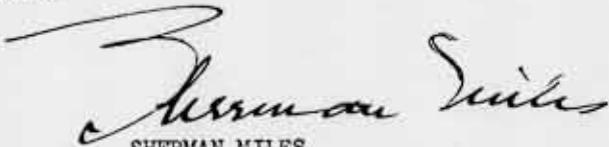
[REDACTED]

to New York to see his doctor and his dentist. I made him give me the name of the doctor and dentist, and then said that I would call them up in his presence to get their final opinion. He then admitted that regardless of what they said, he was going back to New York immediately. I impressed upon him that his decision meant his final refusal of the President's mission.

5. I have since checked by long distance the opinions of his doctor (Lincoln) and his dentist (Hudson) in New York. The doctor tells me that, organically, he is capable of making the proposed trip, but that it is impossible to get him in shape against his will. The dentist said that he had completed the major part of the work on Kermit's teeth, and that, so far as he was concerned, Kermit could sail Saturday. Kermit has been skipping appointments with his dentist by the dentist's tacit consent, because Kermit's physical condition made the remaining routine dental work extremely difficult and disagreeable.

6. Commander Astor concurs with me in believing that there is nothing more to be done in this case short of the use of actual force, and that there is no hope of getting him fit to travel as long as his woman retains her hold on him. Astor thinks there's a chance she may drop him if she finds that well-known people are no longer interested in him.

7. I am very sorry that this matter has turned out as it has. In the interview this morning in my office, Kermit's better nature was obviously struggling against a force beyond his control. I am convinced the deciding factor was the woman waiting for him in Union Station, and with whom he had promised to return to New York.


SHERMAN MILES
Brigadier General, U. S. Army,
Acting Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2

DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-8-74

APR 11 1974

[REDACTED]

C
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P
Y

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

For S M from E.M.W.

Orders

- (a) Have K R come to Washington Friday with Major Head
- (b) Work him at G-2, reading maps and studying country
- (c) Have Walter Reed do dentistry meanwhile
- (d) Have a squad put him on boat

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

*file
confidential*

9-15-41

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT:

Vincent Astor came in and left the report attached hereto by Kermit Roosevelt's doctor and the pamphlet also attached that he wished you to see.

Vincent says things are going about as bad as possible with Kermit. He is living with that woman and no one had heard of him for two weeks. I immediately had Hoover look him up; he was found promptly and I reported his whereabouts. I told Vincent that I would be glad to call up J. Edgar Hoover again at any time they thought it necessary to check on Kermit's whereabouts.

The attached letter from Vincent also brings out another question,- Vincent's extreme desire to have something done to force the names of contributors to all the various propaganda groups now operating in this country.

E.M.W.
E.M.W.

VINCENT ASTOR
NO 23 WEST 26th STREET

Kermit Roosevelt
Folder
4-41

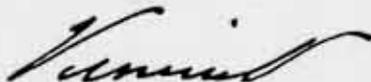
New York, September 3rd, 19 41.

My dear General:

I am wondering whether you placed before the President my suggestion to have a periodical check-up made on the whereabouts of a certain individual. There is nothing whatever constructive about this, except for the fact that it probably will have a reassuring effect on the nearest relative. Our friend was last heard from about nine days ago, and the relative very naturally showed considerable signs of worry in a telephone conversation which she had with me this morning. If this is to be done, I would, however, appreciate it if the head of a certain agency were to be told that it is in a good cause, so that he will realize that his people here in New York are not being asked to take a certain amount of trouble merely in consequence of one of my eccentricities, or as a matter of personal friendship.

In regard to my other suggestion - that of requiring publication of the names of contributors to all of the various propaganda groups now operating in this country, I think that the enclosed rotten little booklet is a good case in point, for it seems unlikely that many people would like to have it known that they were giving financial support to this sort of thing.

Ever yours,



VA:SW

Major General Edwin M. Watson, U.S.A.,
The White House,
Washington, D.C.

Enc.

CHARLES DILLER RYAN, M.D.
115 EAST 61st STREET
NEW YORK
RECORD 4-5080

August 27, 1941.

Mr. Vincent Astor,
The Brook Club,
111 East 54th Street,
New York City.

MEDICAL AND NEURO-PSYCHIATRIC EXAMINATION
OF MR. KERMIT ROOSEVELT.

The patient accompanied by a friend appeared at the Neuropsychiatrist's office without an appointment requesting treatment. His movements were incoordinated and he spoke in a confused manner saying that he had been drinking excessively because of a return of an old dysentery. The examining physician saw that he needed hospital care ^{Aug 21, 1941} and admitted him immediately, calling in consultation a well qualified medical man, Dr. Kirby Martin. Both physicians are on the staff of the New York Hospital-- Cornell Medical College.

Physical examination after admission revealed a high blood pressure, 190/110. Under rest and treatment the blood pressure dropped to 145/90. There was a marked systolic murmur in the heart, a rather rapid pulse with no irregularity of rhythm but no evidences, such as swelling of the legs or shortness of breath of any cardiac decompensation. Lungs were clear and there was no enlargement of the liver, but only slight tenderness on deep pressure over the gall bladder. There was no pain or tenderness in the abdomen.

Laboratory examinations were made which are as follows:

No malaria organisms found in the blood.
Haemoglobin 100%, Red Blood cells, 5,200,000, White Blood cells 8,675. No pathological cells found.
Stool examination: Culture and agglutination tests for typhoid, paratyphoid and dysentery were negative. Search for amoebae negative. No pathological bacilli or streptococci found. Urine examination revealed no disease of the kidneys.

CHARLES DILLER RYAN, M.D.
115 EAST 61ST STREET
NEW YORK
REGENT 4-5090

Mr. Vincent Astor

-2-

Re:Kermit Roosevelt.

The patient stated he had had small amounts of bright blood in his stools recently. As no blood was found in the specimen of stool obtained, this was considered possibly due to internal hemorrhoids or a small fissure. A rectal examination will be made when the patient's nervous condition improves. An electro-cardiogram will also be made, but from other examinations and symptoms, no dangerous heart condition is felt to be present. From the neuropsychiatric standpoint, the patient was cloudy, showed poor memory and some confusion. He submitted to immediate withdrawal of alcohol and stated that paraldehyde was most effective and had been used frequently in the withdrawal of alcohol. It was soon found out in attempts to cut the dosage of paraldehyde and substitute other milder sedatives that the patient had a paraldehyde addiction. He admitted to having carried a small bottle in his pocket as long as four years ago which he took frequently during the day while at work. Three times during his stay he has dressed, ready to leave the hospital unless a larger dose of paraldehyde was given, saying his "nerves" were going to pieces" although quite calm and lucid under the influence of milder sedatives. Every effort is being made to cut down on the paraldehyde and finally terminate its use. In efforts to mobilize his "will power" and stimulate him to making plans for the future, he cannot hold to the topic and he evades efforts to bring out any reasonable plans for the future. He talks vaguely of possible jobs awaiting him through the efforts of his attorney in New York. There were no evidences on neurological examination of any disease of the brain, spinal cord or peripheral nerves other than due to the toxic effects of alcohol and paraldehyde. He has shown no evidences of approaching delirium tremens and no delusions or marked pathological mental status. It is our feeling that he should have continued care in the hospital for a minimum of four weeks for his alcohol and paraldehyde addiction.

It is our opinion that properly treated he will show a marked general improvement and be able to carry on any work for which he is fitted.

There is nothing in his physical status that would lead one to fear any dangerous complications. If, however, he continues to drink excessively, use paraldehyde and not take proper nourishment, it is highly probably that a serious mental illness such as a toxic delirium will develop.

CHARLES DILLER RYAN, M.D.
115 EAST 61ST STREET
NEW YORK
REGENT 4-5000

Mr. Vincent Astor

-3-

Re:Kermit Roosevelt.

This morning, the patient refused treatment, exhibiting an unreasoning childish attitude with the physicians and left the hospital against advice.

CDR:EA

Charles Diller Ryan

(Charles Diller Ryan, M.D.)

Kirby A. Martin

(Kirby A. Martin, M.D.)

*Sub
Phoned* PSF: Mrs. Kermit Roosevelt *Ken Coe*
4-41

Mrs. Kermit Roosevelt
29 East 69th Street
New York City

September 15, 1941

Dear Miss Tully:

Enclosed is a personal letter to the President - a little word of loving sympathy which I would like him to have sometime.

Will you also tell the President that Clark Eichelberger telephoned me just as he was leaving unexpectedly for England late Saturday night. He asked if I would give this message to the President. Mr. Eichelberger begs that if there is any way, whatsoever, in which he can serve the President while in England, he hopes that the President will command him. He will be at the Embassy for ten days.

Thank you for your never failing kindnesses -

Sincerely yours,

enc.

Mrs. Kermit Roosevelt
by *Katherine L. Morris*

Mrs. Roosevelt had to go to the country and was unable to sign this letter.

MOHANNES,
OYSTER BAY,
LONG ISLAND.

Dear Y. Z. -
I longed for you
of course but have waited
to write until the first
pressure of illness
perhaps would be over.
With the entire world
sending sympathy, illness
must be an extra - almost
unbearable burden - yet
I do want my message

of love to each ~~you~~
too.

My heart is heavy
with the sense of what
Cousin Sally's loss
means to you — as
well as with infinite
sorrow at the death
of so truly a person
& so gallant a spirit.

Devotedly

Sunday

T. Deane.

—
Respectfully forwarded to the President

Emery
E. M. W.
Kermit Roosevelt
File 4-41



Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

October 18, 1941

PERSONAL AND
[REDACTED]

Major General Edwin M. Watson
Secretary to the President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear General Watson:

Mr. Vincent Astor, the Area Controller in New York, who at the present time is confined to a hospital, has asked that we advise you that Mr. Kermit Roosevelt is now at the Hartford Retreat, 200 Retreat Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut. This institution is a sanitarium. I understand that Roosevelt is under the care of Dr. C. C. Burlingame. Mr. Kermit Roosevelt was signed into the institution by his brother, Archie Roosevelt, for a period of one year. Mr. Astor stated that he understood that Mr. Kermit Roosevelt could not get out of this institution on his own volition.

The reason Mr. Astor asked that I transmit this information to you is that Mr. Astor's doctors do not permit him at the present time to use the telephone.

With expressions of my very best regards,
I am

Sincerely,

J. Edgar Hoover