

PSF: James H. Rowe, Jr.
1938 - June 1941

CONTINUED

TELEGRAM

file

The White House

Washington

The White House
September 9, 1940.

*PSF. Rowel
admitted
Rowe*

Miss Tully:

Re. New Mexico Senate primary Saturday September 14th.

Ickes and Dempsey both again strongly protest that Chavez is broadcasting records made by Barkley all over the state and stating this indicates Administration approval of Chavez.

Ickes and Dempsey claim Dempsey is in race only at President's suggestion. Several suggestions have been made:

1. Press conference statement tomorrow which would probably be unwise.
2. Statement by Ickes to neutralize Barkley.
3. Jimmy Roosevelt should have lunch with Dempsey in Albuquerque ostensibly on way East.

Will you let me know if President has any instructions.

Jim Rowe.

445pmd

*Grace see Jim (no instructions)
Steve says Boss
says can't do this
way nor in press
conf. or H.P.
R*

TELEGRAM

The White House

Washington

September 10, 1940.

The President:

I very much hope that either you or some one who will be known to speak for the Administration will say a word publicly for Dempsey in New Mexico who as you know, would not have gone into the fight for Senator if it had not been for assurances I made to him of your willingness that he should do so. Time is of the essence since primaries will be held in a couple of days.

Harold L. Ickes.

PSF
File
Personal
Adm. auto
1
Rowe

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

September 9, 1940

Memorandum For The President.

(1) Marvin Jones. Congressman Jones asked me to give you his report if he is unable to see you before he leaves to join Henry Wallace:

"Iowa and Illinois look tough, as does the entire Middle West in the farming districts, but it is beginning to look better. Wallace is improving every day in his campaigning and is getting to be a politician".

Jones will continue on Wallace's tour.

(2) Paul McNutt. Several reports indicate McNutt is talking freely again that he is not being appreciated and it has been suggested that you see him as soon as you can.

JHR
James Rowe, Jr.

Rowe *file person*
PSF *adm.*

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

September 20, 1940

Memorandum For The President.

Nominations

Harry Hopkins gave me a list of vacancies in Justice and Treasury which he said you had personally checked at Hyde Park. He indicated you wanted these started toward the White House so that you could make these nominations between now and election.

McGuire of Justice and Gaston of Treasury tell me today that the work is completed. The one thing remaining is for you to confer with the Attorney General and Secretary Morgenthau.

None of these vacancies can be filled by recess appointments because all of them have been vacant during a session of Congress.

Latest reports are that the Congress will adjourn next Saturday or soon thereafter. That means that whatever nominations you plan to make before election must be made next week, and therefore conferences with Jackson and Morgenthau should be as early as possible.

Incidentally, confirmation of these nominations is not necessary. By a recent statute any person nominated by you within thirty days prior to adjournment can hold office and be paid even if Congress does not confirm them.

JHR
James Rowe, Jr.

PSF ^{Rowe}
Adm Asst

Oct 14 - 1940

Memo from J. Rowe on Transamerica 10/14/40 attaching
Jerome Frank's memo 10/12/40 with letter from Ed C. Eicher, SEC, 10/11/40
re Jesse Jones suggestion being chuck full of dynamite.

See: Jerome Frank-Gen corres-Drawer 2-1940

PSF
AdmAssts

J. Rowe

Conf Memo to FDR from J. Rowe--October 14, 1940

SUBJECT: The Lottery--attaches another memo on Selective
Service-Registration-The Lottery-Classification.

See: Draft folder-Drawer 1-1940

PSF
Adm Assts

Rowe

Letter to James Rowe 10/19/40 from Louis H. Bean
U.S. Dept of Agriculture re Gallup Poll.

See: Agriculture folder-Drawer 1-1940

file personal

*PSF
Adm Assts
J. Rowe*

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

- Rowe

October 21, 1940

Memorandum For The President.

Marshall Field

Wayne Johnson telephoned to ask that you send a telegram (I have prepared one) to Marshall Field tonight asking him to become National Chairman of the Businessmen's League for Roosevelt. Johnson indicates it is urgent. He will see Field the first thing in the morning and hopes he will have received your wire by that time.

I checked with Harry Hopkins who felt you should telephone Mr. Field personally and who will discuss it with you as soon as possible. However, because of the urgency, I have prepared the telegram which can be sent whether or not you telephone.

JHR

James Rowe, Jr.

*GBT
Sandgwick
JK
JHR*

Rowe

BF

Adm
note -1

Memo to FDR from Jim Rowe---Oct 23, 1940

Re:-Suggestions for Negroes in connection with the Selective Service

See:Draft folder-Drawer 1-1940

[1940?]

BSF
Adm Assts

Rowe

Reports on number of third term letters from

Jim Rowe

See: Watson file kept by Pryor

JH
to speak to
me about

House folder
1-41
F

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

January 4, 1941

Memorandum For The President:

Leslie Dayton Bissell, Jr.

You asked me to check on Bissell who wrote to you offering his services and who indicated he is a distant cousin.

Bissell is about twenty-nine years old, and is now a master at Loomis School in Connecticut, teaching German and other elementary preparatory school subjects.

His father was also a teacher of German at Loomis and at the same time operated an American preparatory school in Munich, where Bissell spent his formative years, not living in the United States until he was of prep school age. He graduated from Yale and returned to Munich to run his father's school. He was in Germany during the first four years of Hitler's rule, and while there married a German girl.

He is described as unusually familiar with and fond of Germany and its customs. My informant is unable to state his attitude toward the Nazi system but emphasizes his fondness for Germany itself. I will be unable to determine his sympathy or lack of sympathy with the Nazis unless I use the F.B.I. or communicate directly with the head master at Loomis, either of which may cause considerable stir.

Do you wish me to go ahead on this basis?

Incidentally, my informant is Elting Morison, one of the Harvard historian's family, who was a classmate of Bissell at Loomis. He has asked me several times the following question:

"By the way, some quiet afternoon around the White House I wish you would ask the President for his version of the appointment of Sims as Commander-in-Chief of our forces operating in European waters during the World War. This is no time to be troubling either you or him with my problems, but if a convenient pause occurs in a conversation, I should like to have his version."

I should explain that Morison is writing a biography of Admiral Sims and, since he is married to the Admiral's daughter and has access to his private papers the biography is "authorized". So even if you are interested in the question you may not wish to answer it.

JHR
James Rowe, Jr.

296 Broad Street
Windsor, Conn.

December 28, 1940

Hon. F. D. Roosevelt, President
Washington
District of Columbia

My dear Mr. President:

In these days of dire national emergency, I feel it is my duty to render what service I can to the nation. I appeal to you, Mr. President, as the one person qualified to know where my service may best be rendered, and also as a distant cousin (although I do not wish this fact to be of influence in any way); it merely happened that our great-grand-mothers were sisters.

May I be brief in citing a few details relative to my peculiar case: I received my higher education at Yale and the University of Munich, where I discontinued my studies in 1935. Since then I have been instructor in mathematics, elementary sciences, German, and French in private secondary schools both here in the United States and abroad. For two years I directed my own American college preparatory school in Munich, when in the summer of 1938 the international tension forced me to discontinue my successful project.

My complete familiarity with German life, language, and culture before the advent of Herr Hitler, and my necessary business associations with official and unofficial "Nazi-dom" since then have provided me

with unique insight and understanding of German thought and action. Of course, many Americans of pure stock can claim equal or better knowledge of our potential adversary, yet I doubt whether many could equal my record of having spent almost twenty-two out of a possible thirty years in "friend" and "enemy" country.

On grounds of the above I am petitioning you as an adviser, Mr. President, to judge where my now idle capacities may be directed to the benefit of our great country. My present status is that of master at the Loomis School in Windsor, Conn., a position that does not satisfy my wish of being of service to the country-at-large, nor draws upon the resources I had gained from travel and education.

In order not to take up your very valuable time I have been too brief, perhaps, in explaining my situation; nor have I stated exactly any possible position that I might fill. I shall be very happy, however, to amplify my statements and give you more specific details, should you desire such.

In closing, permit me at this time to express my sincerest wishes for your continued success in 1941 and the years to come. I remain,

Your obedient servant,

Leslie D. Bissell, Jr.

(Leslie Dayton Bissell, Jr.)

*file
journal*

PS F: Rowe *Memorandum 1*

Subject

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

January 7, 1941

Memorandum For The President.

Minister to England

Wayne Johnson telephoned to say that you told him you planned to appoint a Minister to England, as well as an Ambassador, and that you asked him for some names.

He discussed these names with Ed Flynn who may have already telephoned them in to you. He has added a third. They are:

Floyd Odlum. Odlum has a Connecticut residence. Johnson says you may not know that Odlum's people are Canadians. He has a brother who is a British subject. His first cousin, General Victor Odlum, is leading the Second Canadian Division now in England.

W. L. Clayton, cotton merchant of Texas, whom you know all about.

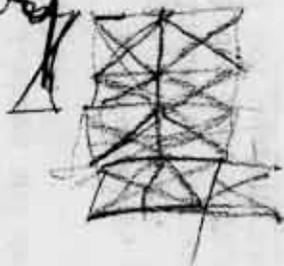
William Humphrey of San Francisco. You probably know him since he is a Director of the Warm Springs Foundation. He is President of the Tidewater Oil Company, is 58, a bachelor and well-read. Johnson has known him for twenty years and says he can stand a thorough check.

JHR

James Rowe, Jr.

Boston
Walden

Robert Kirby



PSF: *Bow* folder
1-41

Subject

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON January 9, 1941

Memorandum For The President.

Henry Wallace

The Vice President elect talked to me today about two things:

(1) Liaison. Wallace had told me before his vacation that you had suggested that I be the liaison man between you and him. He came in today to make arrangements on that score with me.

I told him that while, of course, I would like to do it, in view of Sherman Minton's appointment my guess would be that you had changed your mind and would probably want Minton to do it. He agreed this was a logical assumption, but asked me to find out definitely from you what your ideas were.

(2) Gene Casey. You told Casey when you saw him that you wanted to talk to him in two weeks about a specific job. That period has passed and Casey is becoming restive. Wallace mentioned him to you at lunch today and you told him you might make Casey the remaining administrative assistant.

As you know, Flynn wants Casey to handle national defense problems, on the theory that Casey will protect you from some of the Republicans. Perhaps he could be made liaison man between you and the Office of Production Management.

You should be cautioned on this point, however. Casey is what newspaper men call "a 100% New Dealer". My personal judgment is that he would be a disruptive force in the peculiarly delicate mechanism of O.P.M. and its personalities. Wallace and Flynn both say he is a bit too frank. I personally do not believe he is sufficiently diplomatic to be useful at the present stage of national defense.

The question remains what should be done with Casey to whom the Administration undoubtedly owes a great deal and who is unusually capable in many fields.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

You could appoint him as an administrative assistant and use him as liaison man with Wallace instead of Minton or myself.

If for any reason, you wish to keep the remaining job as administrative assistant open, you could make Casey an assistant to Minton, or general White House handyman. The White House budget carries a position classified as "executive officer" at \$6500 a year. That position is not filled.

Another possibility is to have Sidney Hillman use him as an assistant. Hillman, in my opinion, gets blocked off unnecessarily on many things, because he does not know his way around the government which Casey does and also is not surrounded, to be frank, with very competent people.

JHR

James Rowe, Jr.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

PSF: Rowe
Subject
Folder
Y P Conf

January 10, 1941

Memorandum For The President.

Executive Secretary of OPM

Lubin of the Labor Department, who is acting as Hillman's assistant, asked that the following suggestion be brought to your attention:

He suggests that the position of Executive Secretary to the Office of Production Management be appointed by you rather than by the four men. He believes that man should represent your interests. He is quite sure Knox, Stimson and Knudsen will agree on the appointment of some person and Hillman does not wish to fight it.

This message may have come from Hillman himself, I don't know.

JHR

James Rowe, Jr.

~

file

*PSF: Row Folder
Subject*

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Confidential

January 15, 1941

Memorandum For the President.

John Cudahy

You probably know this already, and I would not mention it to you except for the coincidence that Wayne Johnson telephoned to ask that Cudahy's name be placed on the list of candidates as Minister to England because of his contributions.

Cudahy, who is a casual friend of mine, came into my office today on a brief visit. I found his attitude on war much more amazing than his famous interview after the fall of the Low Countries. Cudahy argued it made no difference to the United States whether Britain or Germany won, that the President has already taken us into war without taking the country into his confidence and that the so-called Lend-Lease Bill meant the end of democracy in this country. Cudahy has never been very long on brains and although he is a perfect appeaser he doesn't know it.

You also may not know that Cudahy plans to return in February to Europe, either to Berlin or London, to see what is going on and to write. If any policy question about keeping him here is involved, I should point out that he has about one hundred invitations to speak all over the country and the Lord alone knows what he would say, so that perhaps we are better off if he is abroad.

James Rowe, Jr.

PS

PSF; Rowe Folder
Subject

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Confidential

January 15, 1941

Memorandum For the President:

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J+R

James Rowe, Jr.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

January 17, 1941

Memorandum For Grace Tully.

Dear Grace:

Census Bureau

Sherman Minton is also excited about the undesirability of extending Austin's status as head of the Census Bureau for another year. Even if you draw a blank from Harry Hopkins on the subject, I would like to give the President a memorandum.

The logical successor, Reed, is a reactionary Republican with whom I, as well as everyone else in the government, have had a lot of trouble.

Capt is the man all the Democrats want.

JHR

James Rowe, Jr.

BF Rowe
Y Sub
Pang

File
Rowe
Folger
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

January 23, 1941

Memorandum For The President:

Former Congressman Mouton

You suggested that Bob Mouton, defeated Congressman from Louisiana, be called back to duty with the Marine Corps, so that he would have a job.

I discussed this with Forrestal and General Holcomb. Holcomb says he is completely unqualified, that he would hate to have him in the Marines and that while Mouton was a member of Congress he made Holcomb's life miserable in his attempt to be made a Major. A Marine Board is now reviewing the status of reserve officers and Mouton's name will come up in the course of events. I need hardly add he won't have much chance.

If you wish Mouton appointed, nevertheless, Holcomb wants you to know it will be done immediately.

JHR
James Rowe, Jr.

F. Roosevelt
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Confidential

file.

January 24, 1941.

MEMORANDUM FOR JIM ROWE:

I think you might ask Forrestal
to give this company some very small
job which they doubtless could finance.

F.D.R.

Rowe

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

January 23, 1941

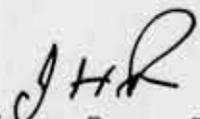
Memorandum For The President:

Congressman Sabath

Some time ago you told me to speak to Jim Forrestal about the Holpuch Construction Company, for which Sabath has been so active, and to help the Company if on the merits it is capable.

The attached memorandum from Jim Forrestal is polite and could be sent to Sabath if necessary. The real story, which was given me orally, is that an investigation has shown the Company is not capable, that it does not pay its bills, etc.

Sabath represented to you that he had been extremely loyal and that you had never given him anything. Just for the purpose of the record, you did give him last year an appointment of Regional Administrator of the Wage and Hour Act in Illinois. This went to former Congressman Tom O'Malley of Wisconsin, whom Sabath was backing, against the combined protest of both Illinois Senators and the Illinois Congressional delegation, and it caused quite a lot of trouble with them. Nevertheless, you let Sabath have his man.


James Rowe, Jr.

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF THE NAVY

January 22, 1941

FROM: JAMES FORRESTAL
TO: Mr. James Rowe, Assistant to the
President
The White House

This is the memorandum concerning Holpuch
which I mentioned on the telephone today.

J.V.F.

Rowe Folder

IN REPLY ADDRESS
THE BUREAU OF YARDS AND DOCKS
AND REFER TO No.

NAVY DEPARTMENT

BUREAU OF YARDS AND DOCKS

WASHINGTON, D. C.

21 January 1941

Memorandum for the Under Secretary.

Subject: Holpuch Construction Company.

1. The Holpuch Construction Company of Chicago has been a candidate for work under this Bureau for several months. This Company has been supported very strongly by Congressman Sabath of Illinois, who has been in to see me and has written and telephoned a number of times on behalf of this Company.

2. I have interviewed Mr. Holpuch, the President of the Company, and have obtained considerable data on the Company.

3. In connection with our Training Station expansion at Great Lakes I instructed the Commandant to call the Holpuch Company in for negotiations, but through a misunderstanding it was necessary to conduct the negotiations here in Washington. Mr. Holpuch was called to Washington and appeared before our Board on awards. The Board did not recommend his Company for an award. There were eight companies considered in all.

4. The Department's policy, which has been approved by the President, is to favor local companies insofar as may be practicable and in the interests of the Navy. Since our program at Great Lakes Naval Training Station is very limited in scope and amount, and since there are so many contractors in Chicago and vicinity, the competition is very keen. It is obviously impossible to give work to all contractors in the Chicago area. The Holpuch Construction Company must compete with some of the best contractors in the country, and it is for this reason that no work has been given to this Company.

5. The Station has been called upon to recommend desirable contractors for consideration on several instances, and has not recommended this Company.

6. As you are aware, the award of a public works contract is by competitive process, as the law requires that not less than three candidates be considered for every job.

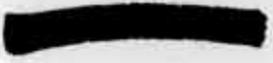
7. It is my recommendation that the Holpuch Company be informed that they will be given consideration on any future work in the Chicago area. If you desire, I will see to it that they are called in on all future negotiations for construction work in this area.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "B. Moreell".

B. Moreell

Rowe
FP Copy

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON



January 29, 1941

Memorandum For The President.

S. Clay Williams

Because of the recent stories in the press that S. Clay Williams may be appointed as Minister to London, Justice officials privately informed me that Williams personally is under indictment by Thurman Arnold.

They say they confidently expect to convict him, and that he is the ringleader and headman in the conspiracy. They pointed out there is no parallel in Jimmy Roosevelt's indictment which was purely a technical formality; Williams is the real offender and they expect to get him.

They thought you should have this information.

J. H. P.

James Rowe, Jr.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

January 31, 1941

PSF: Rowe
Folder
filed
personal
Subject

Memorandum For Mrs. Roosevelt.

Sharon Camp

You may not have seen this column in the Star.
Please note the marked portion.

I have suspected that McEntee "leaked" this story. At any rate, his share in this experiment has been one of complete mulish obstinacy. He has been told several times that Agriculture had control of the Camp. His entire attitude is the one most important thing wrong with CCC.

I have hesitated to suggest to you that Congressman Engel, who is a Republican, might be educated if you talked to him.

He is a rather strange person who goes "sleuthing" around various departments looking for examples of money wasting. He is quite sincere. He is important, since he is the ranking Republican on the Subcommittee.

I had one indirect experience with him when he was attacking Pare Lorentz' "Fight for Life". At that time Governor McNutt gave him a special preview of the picture and after seeing it he was quite enthusiastic about it.

Perhaps if you talk to him about the William James Camp, he might once again become a proponent. Yet I hesitate to recommend this as it might make matters worse.

The important point is McEntee's behavior, about which the President will have to do something soon. I believe McEntee can be handled through a reorganization plan if and when the time limit is extended.

JHR

James Rowe, Jr.

THE opinions of the writers on this page are their own, not necessarily The Star's. Such opinions are presented in The Star's effort to give all sides of questions of interest to its readers, although such opinions may be contradictory among themselves and directly opposed to The Star's.

Sharon C. C. C. Stirs Tempest

Enrollment of College Men in Supposedly Relief Organization Is Strongly Protested

By JAY G. HAYDEN.

Enrollment in a Civilian Conservation camp at Sharon, Vt., of 12 Harvard and Dartmouth graduates, picked for their unique social ideas rather than physical brawn or economic need, has started a congressional storm and is threatening to disrupt the New Deal's own bureaucracy.



Jay G. Hayden.

Newspaper reports of the strange things going on at Sharon have been appearing for several weeks past, but it remained for a letter addressed by Secretary of Agriculture Wickard to Representative Engel of Michigan, to stir up things officially.

Particularly startling to persons familiar with the laws governing the C. C. C. was Mr. Wickard's statements:

1—That he had been vested with complete control of the Sharon camp and had transferred this authority in turn to a committee of supervision, about equally divided between officials and non-officials. Named in the latter category were Prof. Eugene Rosenstock-Huessy of Dartmouth College and Columnist Dorothy Thompson.

2—That in this camp and others to be set aside for experimental purposes enrollment has or will be divided on a ratio of "14 or 15 unemployed young men from non-relief families, college graduates and others, along with 35 or so C. C. C. boys chosen in the regular way."

To Break Down "Classes."
"It is our thought," explained Mr. Wickard, "that if the C. C. C. is valuable in building good citizens for a democracy out of boys from relief families, it is equally valuable for other young men. It seems particularly worthwhile for the camps to include a fair sprinkling of young men from all different backgrounds. By giving them a common experience of hard and useful work, we feel we can help them to understand one another and thereby help to break down the walls between 'classes.'"

When he was shown the Wickard letter, Director James J. McEntee, who administers the C. C. C. under general direction of Security Administrator Paul V. McNutt, confessed that this was the first intimation he had had either that complete control of the Sharon camp had been transferred to Secretary Wickard, or of the creation of the extra official Committee of Supervision.

Further, Mr. McEntee pointed out that the rule restricting enrollment in C. C. C. camps to war veterans and young men "unemployed and in need of employment" remains in

full force and effect. The rule specifically defines "need" to mean "inability to provide such opportunities out of his own family's resources." It is certain that this definition never before had been held to include graduates of expensive Eastern universities; nor has the corps proceeded on the assumption that the camps needed to be toned up with enrollees of the latter classification.

Congress in the past has insisted that the C. C. C. be kept strictly a work program for persons otherwise without adequate support.

It appears further that neither Secretary of the Interior Ickes, Secretary of War Stimson nor Director Hines of the Veterans' Bureau, whose advisory powers in connection with the C. C. C. are exactly the same as those of Secretary Wickard, have been consulted respecting the Sharon venture.

Conceived by Immigrant.

The Sharon idea seems to have been born in the mind of Dr. Rosenstock-Huessy, who immigrated from Germany, coincident with the rise of Adolf Hitler in 1933, to become first a professor of social philosophy at Harvard and later at Dartmouth.

In 1934 Dr. Rosenstock-Huessy warned President Roosevelt that the C. C. C. camp structure was intensifying class lines in America, not breaking them down, and urged that boys from economically more privileged classes be admitted. He has been carrying on this same crusade ever since and latterly has enlisted such well-known fellow crusaders as Miss Thompson, former S. E. C. Chairman Landis, and Mrs. Roosevelt, who defended the Sharon project in her press conference on Wednesday.

The Sharon camp is named after William James, former Harvard professor, who first enunciated the theories now carried forward by the Rosenstock-Huessy group. James' idea was that the way to prevent war was to provide young men with "the moral equivalent of war" by conscripting them for industrial work instead of armies.

He declared: "To coal and iron mines, to freight trains, to fishing fleets in December, to dish washing, clothes washing * * * would our gilded youth be drafted off, according to their choice, to get the childishness knocked out of them, and to come back into society with healthier sympathies and soberer ideas."

Super-imposed on this James conception, in the minds of both Dr. Rosenstock-Huessy and Miss Thompson, as it appears, is a com-

(See HAYDEN, Page A-12.)

Hayden

(Continued From Page A-11.)

mon admiration of the efficiency of Hitler's youth-training methods.

Miss Thompson, speaking in Washington recently, declared that she was particularly horrified on a recent visit to a C. C. C. camp, to discover that there was no effort made "to develop a community spirit at meals." "They eat in silence," she said, "whereas stimulating conversation is what is needed. Somebody should lead discussions."

Miss Thompson said further that "there is no circulation of blood between the camps and communities." An important innovation at the Sharon camp is that its enrollees devote themselves to repairing buildings, painting fences and otherwise working for the farmers of the community. When the Sharon camp was first established it was not popular with the natives because, they said, its inmates lived much better than the surrounding home folks.

Later the Sharon camp was abandoned because there was no worthwhile public employment in that community. Now that the C. C. C. boys have turned in to help the neighbors, it is said, the community attitude is much more favorable to them—a great accomplishment in social understanding and democracy as Dr. Rosenstock-Huessy and Miss Thompson see it.

(Released through North American Newspaper Alliance.)

File

Confidential

BF Rowe Folder

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Sub.

February 4, 1941

Memorandum For Miss LeHand.

Mary Ward

You have asked about the question of Mary Ward getting some annual leave to which she is entitled. The question of leave as of now is unimportant because we are trying to find her another job in the Immigration Service.

The background is this:

Reorganization Plan 2 abolished the Regional Commissioners of Immigration and Naturalization. Mary Ward was head of the New England Region. After some fuss and fury, Justice put her on what is called the Contract Labor Pay Roll. Theoretically the function of these employees is to make sure foreign labor is not allowed into this country to take jobs which could be filled by American labor. As a practical matter, there is very little of this sort of work left and Justice has used the pay roll for political patronage. The Appropriations Committee is now aware of this practice and plans to have a public denunciation of the practice. Justice got wind of this and in an attempt to ward it off fired Miss Ward and several others.

As is inevitable in such matters, the political "heat" began and Mary Ward has had the Massachusetts delegation besieging the President and Justice to do something for her. Before this happened I gave the President a memorandum explaining the background.

He has told me that since Justice fired her, it is up to Justice to find her another job and Matt McGuire has been told this by me and by Ed Flynn. Several of the Massachusetts delegation have called me about it and I have given them the same information so that McGuire will inevitably have to do something about it.

That being the case, the question of leave is unimportant if Mary Ward is to go back on the pay roll. If she doesn't, she is certainly entitled to leave.

JHR
James Rowe, Jr.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

*File
Personal
Confidential*

February 4, 1941.

MEMORANDUM FOR

WAYNE JOHNSON

There is more to this Pauley matter than you think. Our friend Elliott has always represented a type of democracy in California which could not carry the State. As you know, I have, all my life, opposed the kind of democratic leadership which could not deliver the votes. Enuf said!

As to Pauley, I understand that he is a fine, active and successful young man. What the relationship, if any, is between him and Elliott, I know nothing about. The fact remains that the independent oil operators' group, of which he was supposed to be one, fought me bitterly in the primary campaign and put up most of the money against me. Also, it is worth checking to find out how much money Pauley's company borrowed from the Standard Oil group.

F. D. R.

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

February 3, 1941

Memorandum For The President.

Ed Pauley

Wayne Johnson asked me to give you this letter about Pauley.

Also Ed Flynn telephoned me from New York that there was a political plot against Pauley. Nonetheless Voorhis and Secretary Ickes were quite explicit in their statements.

And Elliott, as you of course know well, never has been your friend.

JHR

James Rowe, Jr.

PSF Rose Folder

Sub.

DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL COMMITTEE
HOTEL BILTMORE
NEW YORK CITY

WAYNE JOHNSON
CHAIRMAN, FINANCE COMMITTEE

1 East 57th Street,
New York, N.Y.

January 31, 1941.

Honorable Franklin D. Roosevelt,
The White House,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President:

Ed Flynn has told me that someone did an artistic job in attempting to torpedo Ed Pauley, and he is going to make a personal investigation on the ground in California.

I understand the charges made were that John Elliot influenced him and that Elliot had raised large sums of money for Willkie. Pauley is not the kind of man anyone can use, and Elliot has never used him, nor could he. While California is terribly broken up in factions, I personally know that Elliot did support you and did not do anything for Willkie. I have the reports of the Secretary of State of California to that effect, our Finance Director for Southern California, and a statement from Elliot.

I have never met Elliot personally, although I talked to him during the campaign and I know he was working for you.

It would simply be too bad if we lose a man of Pauley's character and ability, and I know it would have a very bad effect in California.

Ever sincerely,

Wayne

DEMOCRACY

~~Ed Flynn~~ Rowe Folder

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

January 27, 1941

Memorandum For The President.

Ed Pauley

You had me make an extensive check on Ed Pauley of California, whom Ed Flynn and Wayne Johnson wanted as Assistant Secretary of War.

At the time, my check indicated Pauley was better than average. Two of the persons I checked with were Secretary Ickes and Congressman Jerry Voorhis.

Today both of them asked me to tell you they wished to withdraw their favorable comment on him. Voorhis believes he is tied in too closely with Standard Oil. Both say he is a close companion and henchman of Jack Elliott, Senator Downey's backer who has never been very enthusiastic about this Administration, and who at one time was tied up with Senator Wheeler.

JHR

James Rowe, Jr.

Called Ed Flynn at MAF's direction & gave report on Pauley but did not disclose Rowe as the sender of information

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
BUREAU OF THE BUDGET
WASHINGTON, D. C.

PSF: *Rowe*
Folder
Subject (OPM)

OFFICE OF
THE DIRECTOR

file
personal

February 8, 1941.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT:

I have Herbert Emmerich's acceptance of the position of Executive Secretary of OPM. He has not seen Knudsen for the reason that Knudsen has said that he wanted to talk to you first. I understand Knudsen is to see you today. In the meantime Emmerich is staying in Washington this afternoon expecting to hear from Knudsen.

Since we have gone so far as to draft Emmerich, who has agreed now to accept the job at much lower salary and at considerable inconvenience, I hope that the negotiations will be completed by Knudsen.

HVS
Director.

Att.

Personal History Statement

MR. HERBERT EMMERICH

Born April 27, 1897 in New York. Married. 3 children.

EDUCATION:

B. S. in Economics. University of Pennsylvania, Wharton School of Finance and Commerce, 1918. Major in Business Administration.

EMPLOYMENT:

Since September 1, 1937, Associate Director of Public Administration Clearing House, Chicago.

October, 1933 to August, 1937. Farm Credit Administration. Assistant to the Governor, Administrative Assistant (expert), Executive Officer (expert), and Deputy Governor. Salary \$8,000-\$10,000.

January, 1924 to September, 1933. City Housing Corporation, New York. Various positions up to Executive Vice-President. Salary \$3,000-\$11,000.

March, 1919 to December, 1923. Various positions in industry and office management survey work.

April, 1918 to March, 1919. Army field clerk -- translation and investigation, Intelligence Office, with headquarters at Governors Island, New York.

PSF; Rowe
Subject

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

February 11, 1941.

MEMORANDUM FOR

JIM ROWE

FOR YOUR INFORMATION
AND FILE.

F. D. R.

Memo from S.T.E. to the
President, Feb. 10, 1941, giving message
from Senator McNary saying that Jimmie
Byrnes will be very satisfactory for
the appointment to all Republicans in
the Senate and to him personally.

Original document on
display - Main Gallery -
Head of Government
Case

PSF: Rowe
Subject

*file
personal*

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

February 12, 1941

Memorandum For The President.

Patronage

There are now six or seven nominations on your desk. With the exception of a few reappointments this will be all you have in the next few weeks.

Because of the Lease-lend Bill, I am wondering if it would not be desirable to hold these for trading purposes if necessary?

JHR
James Rowe, Jr.

ASF: Rowe
Box 154

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Feb. 11, 1941

Nominations:

Mathias Correa
U. S. Attorney So. District of New York, vice Cahill

Lyle Keith *
U. S. Attorney for E. District of Washington

Herb. W. Algeo
Marshal Western District of Washington

Stanford C. Styles
Marshal E. Dist. of Texas.

Dave E. Hilles
Marshal W. Dist. of Oklahoma

Oscar S. Doyle
U. S. Attorney - W. Dist. of S. C.

George F. Troy
U. S. Attorney, Dist. of R. I.

*file
personal*

PSF; Rowe folder

Subject

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

February 12, 1941

Memorandum For The President.

Eugene Casey

The last time I spoke to you about Gene Casey, you agreed he would be appointed as Special Executive Assistant in the White House (funds are available) to work with me. You said you wanted to see Casey the next day.

This appointment was delayed to allow a Secret Service investigation, which investigation was eminently satisfactory.

General Watson tells me Casey is coming in to see you Saturday and this will remind you you were to tell Casey he is to work with me temporarily and that he should regard it as a stop-gap until you have something else for him.

I have told Ed Flynn I think a satisfactory solution to the Casey problem is worked out.

JHR

James Rowe, Jr.

BF Rowe Folder
Subject

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON February 12, 1941

Memorandum For The President.

REA

Claude Wickard, as you know, has been having trouble with REA. It is his first experience with the public power group and he now feels as though he had been hit by a buzzsaw. The sharpest teeth, as usual, are Senator Norris and John Rankin.

Nevertheless there is something radically wrong with REA. Harry Slattery is not what he used to be and he never was an administrator anyway. There is also a fight for personal power within the agency.

But, unless handled tactfully, no improvement can be made against the attitude of Senator Norris.

Wickard came to see me yesterday quite disturbed about the whole situation. I think I have hit upon a fairly happy solution, but it will require your help.

The public power people will regard anything Agriculture does with complete suspicion irrespective of the merits. I have suggested that the Administrative Management Section of the Budget Bureau make a study of REA and really find out what is happening. They are completely independent of Agriculture and cannot be accused of bias. Smith, Wickard and Slattery are agreed to this. However, Norris and Rankin would be just as suspicious of the Budget as they are of Agriculture.

If they regard this idea as coming from you because of your interest in REA, I think the idea might work. The important thing now is to gain a month of quiet so emotions will cool off.

If you would send the attached informal memos to Norris and Rankin, I think they will do the trick. Or in the alternative if you could have someone they trust talk to them, this would help.

J + CR

James Rowe, Jr.

D. J. B.

To complete your file, ask
Kitty for copies of the memoranda
referred to, which I mailed out.

G. G. T.

February 12, 1941
February 12, 1941

MEMORANDUM FOR

HON. JOHN RANKIN

You and I are both disturbed about this controversy that is going on concerning REA. So far as I can discover there is much heat and little, if any, development of the actual facts. I have an idea which I want you and George Norris to know about before the actual work begins. It is simply this:

Since the argument seems to be between Agriculture and REA I believe an independent agency should make the study. So I have asked Harold Smith, Director of the Budget Bureau, to put one or two of his government administration experts to work. From their work we can get some idea of the real merits.

This is agreeable to Wickard and Slattery. At the same time I have told Jack Blandford, the Assistant Budget Director, to keep his eye on this work. You know Blandford; he went through the TVA battles and so far as public power is concerned his heart is in the right place. In the field of public power that is the prime prerequisite.

F. D. R.

February 12, 1941

MEMORANDUM FOR

HON. GEORGE NORRIS

I have been disturbed for some time, as I know you have, by certain rumors about the functioning of REA. I have no opinion on the merits of the controversy but I do think you and I should make an effort to find out what this is all about. Since the argument seems to be between Agriculture and REA I believe an independent agency should look the whole situation over. I have asked Harold Smith to delegate some of his government administration experts to get at the root of this problem. This is perfectly agreeable to Claude Wickard and Harry Slattery.

We both know that many of the enemies of public power are well within our own gates. For that reason I have asked Jack Blandford, Assistant Director of the Budget, to supervise this particular study. Blandford got his knowledge of the public power fight the hard way since he was one of our shock troops all through the TVA fight. I know we can trust him.

I wanted you to know of my plan before any actual work was begun on it.

F. D. R.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

PSF: Rowe
Subject

February 15, 1941

MEMORANDUM FOR

HON. JAMES ROWE

Will you check this with
Tommy Corcoran?

F. D. R.

Enclosure

Memo for the President from Jim Rowe
2/14/41 re SEC chairmanship. Says Ben
Cohen would be the unanimous choice of
the Commissioners and entire staff.
Head and shoulders above everyone else.
If this is not possible, Frank suggests
Ed Eicher be made chairman and Ganson
Purcell be named to fill vacancy, etc.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

RF Rowe Folder
Subject

February 18, 1941

Memorandum For Grace Tully.

REA

Here is a draft of a letter for the President's signature to Congressman John Rankin about REA.

I learned by accident that Rankin is coming in tomorrow to see the President -- undoubtedly on REA.

If Rankin can get this letter tomorrow morning before he sees the President, it may save the President a fruitless argument, because the President will already have said "no".

J+R

James Rowe, Jr.

February 18, 1941

Dear John:

Thank you for your letter of February fourteenth replying to my memorandum of February twelfth concerning the Rural Electrification Administration.

I am afraid I must strenuously disagree with your suggestion that REA once again be made an independent agency. The growing complexities of our government make, if I may speak objectively, the task of a conscientious President almost impossible unless the administrative pattern of that government be improved. My predecessors in office, as well as the leading authorities on political science, have recognized that fact and from it came the necessity for the Reorganization Act. Under that Act I transferred REA to Agriculture just as countless other independent agencies were shifted to other departments as part of a coherent scheme of reorganization.

I am constantly aware of the complaints of the heads of existing agencies that they are unable to bring certain problems which must have the attention of the President to him, that they cannot get an adequate hearing and that their problems have no place at the cabinet table. I have recognized the justice of this complaint but I can find no solution except the consolidation of these agencies so that I can give fewer men more time. Time unfortunately is not elastic; there are only twenty-four hours.

If your suggestion were followed, immediately pressure would be brought by every other bureau to achieve the same independent status. If that were to happen, I would have to ask for a constitutional amendment to provide for three Presidents acting simultaneously; and then I would need a coordinator for the three Presidents!

I am still of the opinion the best approach to the REA problem is the unbiased study by the Budget Bureau. I think you know how deep are my convictions on the power issue and I think you also know I will not permit the destruction of REA.

Very sincerely yours,

F. D. R.

Honorable John E. Rankin
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

JHR:G

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

February 15, 1941

MEMORANDUM FOR

HON. JAMES ROWE

Will you prepare a reply to Congressman Rankin and call his attention to the fact that this independent agency business is physically impossible for any President and that if we have any more independent agencies we would have to have three simultaneous Presidents.

F. D. R.

Enclosure

DEMOCRATS
JOHN E. RANKIN, MISS.
HAROLD K. CLAYPOOL, OHIO
JERRY VOORHIS, CALIF.
JOE B. BATES, KY.
GEORGE M. GRANT, ALA.
E. C. BATHING, ARK.
JOSEPH A. MCARDLE, PA.
JOSEPH R. BRYSON, S. C.
WILBURN CARTWRIGHT, OKLA.
J. HARDEN PETERSON, FLA.
ALBERT S. CAMP, GA.
JOHN E. SHERIDAN, PA.
WALTER A. LYNCH, N. Y.

SEVENTY-SIXTH CONGRESS

JOHN E. RANKIN
CHAIRMAN

House of Representatives U. S.
COMMITTEE ON
WORLD WAR VETERANS' LEGISLATION
Washington, D. C.

REPUBLICANS
EDITH HOUSE ROBERTS, MASS.
ALBERT J. ENGEL, MICH.
JAMES C. OLIVER, MAINE
JAMES E. VAN ZANDT, PA.
CHARLES L. GERLACH, PA.
JOHN G. ALEXANDER, MINN.
HARRY H. ROUTZON, OHIO
LEONARD W. HALL, N. Y.

February 14, 1941

Personal and
Confidential

Honorable Franklin D. Roosevelt,
President of the United States,
The White House,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

I received your memorandum concerning the REA, and had a conference with Senator Norris and Vice-President Wallace.

Senator Norris and I are both strongly of the opinion, and I believe Vice-President Wallace agrees with us, that the REA ought to be changed back to the position of an independent agency. Frankly, I believe that is the only real solution of the present trouble. Slattery and Craig have performed wonderful services, and we have been unable to find anything wrong; but these incoherent rumors and whispering attacks will probably continue until the REA is made an independent agency, -- or until it is destroyed.

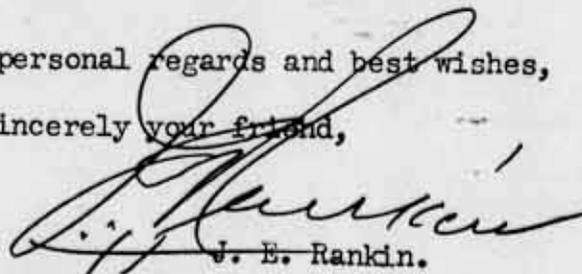
The REA has done the greatest job of any agency of this government, outside of the TVA. It is the most popular with the farmers of the country, -- and justly so.

Secretary Wickard is doing his best. But he has his hands full with other matters, and, in my opinion, he ought not to be burdened with this further responsibility.

If you would like to discuss this matter with us, Senator Norris and I will be glad to come down and see you. But we believe that the whole matter can be straightened out by changing the REA back to the status of an independent agency.

With very kind personal regards and best wishes,

Sincerely your friend,


J. E. Rankin.

JER:R

Rowe

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

February 15, 1941

MEMORANDUM FOR

HON. JAMES ROWE

Will you prepare a reply to Congressman Rankin and call his attention to the fact that this independent agency business is physically impossible for any President and that if we have any more independent agencies we would have to have three simultaneous Presidents.

F. D. R.

Enclosure

Let to the President from Congr. J. E. Rankin re conference with Sen. Norris and the Vice President re REA. Says they all believe REA should be returned

to its independent status. The Secretary
has the honor to acknowledge the receipt of
the letter of the Secretary of the Council of
the Republic

E. D. E.

Secretary
has the honor to acknowledge the receipt of
the letter of the Secretary of the Council of
the Republic and to inform you that the
Secretary of the Council of the Republic
has the honor to acknowledge the receipt of
the letter of the Secretary of the Council of
the Republic and to inform you that the
Secretary of the Council of the Republic

NON-TERMINAL COPY

NON-TERMINAL COPY

SECRET

WASHINGTON
THE WHITE HOUSE

file

PSF Rome Folder

Sub.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

February 24, 1941.

MEMORANDUM FOR

THE PRESIDENT

I do not think any of these men are competent to run the Census Bureau. I talked to Lubin this morning, who does not want the job, and he agrees to recommend two or three men tomorrow, all of whom will be Democrats and friendly to the New Deal and competent professionally.

As soon as you approve one or two names, I will undertake to get them cleared through appropriate political channels, including Flynn.

H. H.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

February 20, 1941

Memorandum For The President.

Census Bureau

The specifications for the new Director of the Census Bureau are already drawn. Unfortunately they are mutually contradictory. The politicians, including Ed Flynn and the Senators and Congressmen, want a politician. The scientists want a man with imagination and vigor who will bring the Census Bureau out of the complete disrepute it has been in all during this Administration.

The functions of the Director of the Census are three: (a) technical competence; (b) administrative ability; (c) capacity of contact, particularly with the Congress.

J. C. Capt - He is the man Harry Hopkins is to speak to you about. Harry brought him over when he was Secretary of Commerce to handle the political patronage. Capt did a splendid job and for that reason the Senators and Congressmen are all for him. He will probably be Ed Flynn's candidate. He is intelligent and capable. Unfortunately he has no professional background or standing in the profession. He has absolutely no statistical background. He has worked in various New Deal agencies.

Virgil Reed - He is the present Assistant Director; actually he has run the Census for years because Austin was a sick man. Reed is a reactionary Republican and is the worst type of bureaucratic politician, with an immense capacity for intrigue. Not only does he play Republican politics, but he is regarded as very mediocre by the profession. He is around drumming up support for his candidacy and may be Jesse Jones' candidate. His appointment would be a colossal mistake on both political and professional grounds.

Professor Frederick Stephan - He is regarded as professionally the best qualified man. He is now teaching at Cornell and was Secretary of the American Statistical Association.

Halbert Dunn - I have given you a memorandum on him. The other men already in the Census do not seem to be as good as Dunn. Unfortunately he has a Republican background.

There are other men such as Mordecai Ezekiel, Isadore Lubin, Professor Notestine of Princeton, etc., all of whom might receive consideration but all of whom have various defects - e.g. Ezekiel's inability to get along with Congress, and Notestine's reputation as a birth control advocate.

JHR
James Rowe, Jr.

PSF: Rowe folder

1-41

Subject

THE WHITE HOUSE

Confidential

WASHINGTON

February 26, 1941

file → Memorandum For The President:

Wayne Coy

For your confidential information, there are distinct possibilities of a blow-up between Governor McNutt and Wayne Coy. Coy is very anxious to get out of the Federal Security Agency and into some other Government field.

I think there is some resentment on the Governor's part that Coy seems to be closer to Administration people than he is; also, I understand McNutt still believes he would be Vice-President today if Coy had not persuaded him to "go along" with you on Wallace. Whatever the merits, Coy wants to get out, and if he cannot get another position with the Administration he will leave the Government. As you know, he is one of the three or four top administrators in the whole Administration.

JHR

James Rowe, Jr.

file
personal

PSF: Rowe
1-41
Subject

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

February 28, 1941

Memorandum For The President.

Paul Wakefield

You told me to check Wakefield, whom you have decided to appoint to the Communications Commission, with Ed Flynn and that if it is O.K. you would send his name to the Senate this week.

I talked to Ed in the West this morning and he says it would be a fine appointment. Since it is a Republican vacancy and since Flynn has a Democratic problem going on right now, he asks that the nomination be held until Tuesday.

General Watson tells me McNary has no objections, but that Steve may have.

I have also made a separate check and it comes back in every case as excellent. Wakefield seems to be a very capable public servant.

He has of course no experience in radio which, considering the present conditions of the Communications Commission, would seem to be a virtue. Just as Hopson would be a poor SEC regulator of utilities, it would be just as absurd to have a man from the radio networks regulate radio. Besides the radio people have one representative, Commissioner Craven, already. He is entirely too close to the radio chains and in fact some outside lawyers have told me their lawyers write his opinions. I do not know the accuracy of this, but I do know that for an engineer he certainly writes legal opinions that are excellent in form.

In the meanwhile, Larry Fly says he needs help and needs it "bad".

JHR

James Rowe, Jr.

PSF: Rowe folder
1-41
Subject

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

March 1, 1941

MEMORANDUM FOR
HON. JESSE JONES

I have just got the following memorandum from a very good friend of yours and mine:

"Former Congressman Luce

"I quote from the present issue of Newsweek: 'Ex-Representative Robert Luce, veteran Massachusetts Republican defeated last fall, has been given a minor RFC job. Though bitterly anti-New Deal, he used to speak favorably of the R. F. C.'

"I do not know whether this is accurate, but I do know you have never had a worse enemy than was Luce in Congress. He had a perfect record of opposition. In the meanwhile, your New Deal supporters are unable to get jobs.

"I have also been told reliably that during the campaign the RFC hired at least one attorney who was at that time wearing a Willkie button while applying for the job."

What about it?

F. D. R.

February 27, 1941
WASHINGTON
THE WHITE HOUSE

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

February 27, 1941

Memorandum For The President:

Former Congressman Luce

I quote from the present issue of Newsweek: "Ex-Representative Robert Luce, veteran Massachusetts Republican defeated last fall, has been given a minor RFC job. Though bitterly anti-New Deal, he used to speak favorably of the RFC".

I do not know whether this is accurate, but I do know you have never had a worse enemy than was Luce in Congress. He had a perfect record of opposition. In the meanwhile, your New Deal supporters are unable to get jobs.

I have also been told reliably that during the campaign the RFC hired at least one attorney who was at that time wearing a Willkie button while applying for the job.

JHR
James Rowe, Jr.

Subject PSF: Rowe folder - fill personal
Memo For The President.

Your house guest, Alexander Woodlcott, is writing a book on Holmes. Could you not suggest he contribute toward his up-keep by preparing a draft for you, to be checked for accuracy and form by FF?

J. H. R.

PSF: Rowe

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

March 1, 1941

Memorandum For The President.

Mr. Justice Holmes

Next Saturday, March eighth, will be the centenary of the birth of Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes, undoubtedly this country's greatest judge since Marshall and probably including him.

I believe the Supreme Court will make a statement on that day.

Mr. Justice Frankfurter asked me to ask you if it would be possible for you personally to put a wreath on the Justice's grave in Arlington.

If you are planning to be away, perhaps you could issue a statement.

As you of course know, Justice Holmes was your kind of judge. He was much greater as an American citizen than he was even as a judge. His entire life was devoted to the service of his country and, particularly in these times, his record as a soldier for four years in the Civil War (at a time when the "best families" of the North hired substitutes for their sons) is peculiarly appropriate.

JHR
James Rowe, Jr.

Supreme Court of the United States
Washington, D. C.

CHAMBERS OF
JUSTICE FELIX FRANKFURTER

February 14, 1941

Dear Jim:

Yes, of course, but have you anything in mind?

I wish you would suggest to the President that he might wish to go out to Arlington and lay a wreath at Holmes's grave, and on that day give out a few appropriate words. Have you anything else to suggest?

Ever yours,



James Rowe, Jr.

*re Holmes'
Centenary!*

PSF: Home folder
1-41
Subject

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

March 1, 1941

MEMORANDUM FOR

THE SECRETARY OF WAR
THE UNDER SECRETARY OF WAR
DR. DYKSTRA

I thought you would like to read the enclosed memorandum from a man whose opinion I asked on the Military Training Camps Association report of January twenty-fifth, 1941. I think this should be given real consideration as representing the opinion of a young liberal who is whole-heartedly behind our defense efforts.

F. D. R.

Enclosure

file personal

*PSF: Rowe folder
Subject*

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

March 3, 1941

Memorandum For The President:

SEC

Here is the draft of reply to Cyrus Eaton about making Ben Cohen a member of the SEC.

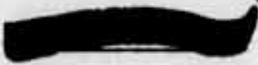
I carried your message that you wanted Ed Eicher to be Chairman of the SEC until Ben's return from London. Ben, unfortunately, is very much against the idea of going on the SEC but it is almost imperative that he go on unless you want to have another moribund Federal Trade Commission on your hands.

Incidentally I gave your message to the four persons concerned; I don't know which one gave it to every column in town but it has been in all of them.

There are rumors Leon Henderson will ask you to make him Chairman of the SEC upon his return. In my opinion, Leon would be a poor Chairman. Besides the splits already existing in the Commission, there is profound dissatisfaction with his lack of interest in the SEC and a strong feeling on the part of the other Commissioners he should either resign or give up his defense work.

JHR
James Rowe, Jr.

*File Rowe folder
personal 1-41*

 THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

March 6, 1941

Memorandum For Miss LeHand.

Marshall Field

On March third I gave the President a memorandum suggesting that he telephone Marshall Field to ask him to accept the chairmanship of the new Board of Investigation and Research, since Field is weakening and would probably say no.

The President has so far not done so.

Last night I heard some gossip about Field which may or may not be accurate, but I have asked Wayne Johnson to check into it which should be done before the President telephones, if he will anyway. Briefly the gossip is: Field is under the care of a psychoanalyst and has been for some time. Field's father and grandfather both committed suicide (this is true) and that has a bad effect on Field's mind.

The other part of the story is that the psychoanalyst is a Communist or fellow-traveler and is bringing Field around to that point of view. I have reason to believe this part is nonsense and merely part of the general hysteria which is beginning to sweep the country on such subjects. Nonetheless it should be checked.

Will you attach this note to my previous memorandum?

JHR
James Rowe, Jr.

PSF: Rowe
Subject

1939 file Rowe -

Memo from James Rowe
to President
March 9 - 1939 -

In re - talk with Sec of Labor
about Chairman J. Warren Madden
Labor, Relations Board about
his message to Pres about
a judgeship -

See J. Warren Madden - Gen covs -
Dramer 2-1939

PSF: Rowe folder

1-41

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Subject

March 11, 1941.

MEMORANDUM FOR

JIM ROWE

Will you speak to me
about this at your convenience?

F. D. R.

Memorandum to the President,
dated March 5, 1941, from Jim Rowe,
in re "Investigation of Defense".

*PSF: Rowe folder
Subject*

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

March 12, 1941.

MEMORANDUM FOR

JIM ROWE

Will you speak to me
about this before I go away?

F. D. R.

Letter from Hon. C. A. Dykstra, The University of Wisconsin, Madison, 3/7/41 to the President, in reply to the President's joint memorandum of March 1, addressed to the Secretary of War, the Under Secretary of War and Dr. Dykstra, discussing the program prepared by the Military Training Camps Association and submitted to the Secretary of War. Offers to discuss matter with anyone whom the President may wish to designate.

Report sent Rowe 3/12/41

Rowe folder

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

March 5, 1941.

MEMORANDUM FOR

JIM ROWE

TO READ AND RETURN FOR
MY FILES.

F. D. R.

WAR DEPARTMENT
WASHINGTON

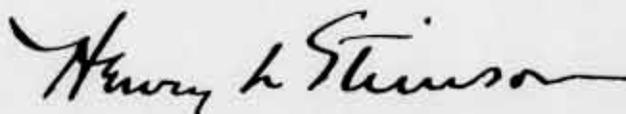
March 4, 1941.

Dear Mr. President:

Your reference to me of the memorandum of the young Liberal on the Military Training Camps Association stirs up one of the hottest spots I am sitting on at the present moment. As I have been myself a member of the Training Camps Association and have been a friend and witness of Grenny Clark's activities for twenty-five years, you know without my saying so that I am not prejudiced against his present movement for the institution of such camps.

But if you have any doubt as to there being something also to be said on the other side, I could refer you to another red hot letter that I received at the very same moment as yours from Dykstra. I won't bother you with any details except to say I am going to try to solve the problem with justice to both sides, and there are two very hot sides with which my own personal familiarity dates back a quarter of a century.

Faithfully yours,



Secretary of War.

The President,
The White House.

*Rowe folder
1-211*

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

March 5, 1941.

MEMORANDUM FOR

JIM ROWE

TO READ AND RETURN FOR
MY FILES.

F. D. R.

Letter from the Secretary of War, 3/4/41
to the President, in reference to the
President's memorandum transmitting an
excerpt of memorandum of the young Liberal
on the Military Training Camps Association.
States he is trying to solve the problem
with justice to both sides.

OFFICER PERSONNEL

You asked me to give you my opinions on this memorandum for the Secretary of War prepared by the Military Training Camps Association.

In brief the memorandum recommends that the War Department shall institute this Spring officers' training schools for 40,000 voluntary candidates carefully selected from civil life.

The memorandum is obviously sensible; so sensible in fact that the Army will oppose it bitterly, as usual.

I have only one criticism: there is entirely too much emphasis on educational requirements. I cannot believe a college degree has the slightest relevance to officer leadership; except in a few branches of the Army where an unusual technical background is necessary, I cannot see where the usual college education has any value whatsoever.

My objection to the educational requirement is more than doubt as to its value: the public would certainly gain the impression we are planning to create a "class" Army; the sickening publicity from the Plattsburg Camp last year did not help the passage of the Selective Service Act. Unfortunately there is already too much suspicion that the Army belongs to New York socialites. I need hardly mention that Hitler has a "merit Army" whose officers are not confined to the Junker class.

With the exception of this criticism I think the report is splendid. The alternative plan of the Army precludes, almost by definition, the selection of good men. It places a premium on inferior men, this for a peculiar historical reason which follows: nominally my generation, (25 to 35 years of age) should furnish the bulk of the officers. I do not think it is unfair to say that few of the best men in my generation will become officers under the Army plan. It must not be forgotten, as Archibald MacLeish has said so well, that this particular generation was raised in the tradition of Charles Beard, munitions investigations and the failure of the Versailles Treaty. In our formative years we were pacifists, isolationists and distrustful of anything military. This certainly applies to the best men in that generation. Not only the intellectuals but the thinking college men were opposed to the ROTC. This was true, I believe, of the best men in every college. To use a colloquial expression, only the "drips" or men looking for a snap course bothered to get a reserve commission.

Under the impact of Hitler, we have slowly changed our minds; we have understood how and why we were wrong. However, I think few men of ability in this generation failed to go through this cycle. Yet today the same men are cut off from the chance of getting commissions because of the Army's policy and see that the incompetents of our generation have the commissions. It is enough to make us pacifists again. I have generalised from my own experience but I have heard enough conversation in various parts of the country to know it is true.

Also the experience of the good young men in your Administration with Army officers, including reserves, does not give us much hope. To put it frankly, the officer personnel, at least in the fields where we have seen it, is ungodly incompetent.

The best examples are the officers in the CGC. The CGC today is in terrible shape because the younger officers have been called to active duty by the Army. Yet the general reputation of these men, almost from the inception of CGC, has been that they are a group of incompetents who could not be successful at anything else and were content to dry rot in a CGC Camp.

Perhaps that was not so important; but to those of us who may some day have to fight under such incompetent officers, it is frightfully important today.

The Army, as I have said, will undoubtedly oppose this sensible idea but I strongly recommend they be overruled. Hitler shook up his Army; France didn't bother.

I would also suggest asking for recommendations from the Osborn Committee and the Army Morale Committee.

* * * *

Missy:

The President asked me to give him a report on this before he saw Grenville Clark. I understand Clark is in Washington and may see him tomorrow.

JHR
J. H. R.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

February 27, 1941

Memorandum For The President.

Officer Personnel

You asked me to give you my opinions on this memorandum for the Secretary of War prepared by the Military Training Camps Association.

In brief the memorandum recommends that the War Department shall institute this Spring officers' training schools for 40,000 voluntary candidates carefully selected from civil life.

The memorandum is obviously sensible; so sensible in fact that the Army will oppose it bitterly, as usual.

I have only one criticism: there is entirely too much emphasis on educational requirements. I cannot believe a college degree has the slightest relevance to officer leadership; except in a few branches of the Army where an unusual technical background is necessary, I cannot see where the usual college education has any value whatsoever.

My objection to the educational requirement is more than doubt as to its value: the public would certainly gain the impression we are planning to create a "class" Army; the sickening publicity from the Plattsburg Camp last year did not help the passage of the Selective Service Act. Unfortunately there is already too much suspicion that the Army belongs to New York socialites. I need hardly mention that Hitler has a "merit Army" whose officers are not confined to the Junker class.

With the exception of this criticism I think the report is splendid. The alternative plan of the Army precludes, almost by definition, the selection of good men. It places a premium on inferior men, this for a peculiar historical reason which follows: nominally my generation, (25 to 35 years of age) should furnish the bulk of the officers. I do not think it is unfair to say that few of the best men in my generation will become officers under the Army plan. It must not be forgotten, as Archibald MacLeish has said so well, that this particular generation was raised in the tradition of Charles Beard, munitions investigations and the failure of the Versailles Treaty. In our formative years we were pacifists, isolationists and distrustful of anything military. This certainly applies to the best men in that generation. Not only the intellectuals but the thinking college men were opposed to the ROTC. [When I was an editor of the Harvard Crimson, it spent most of its time trying to get rid of ROTC.] This was true, I believe, of the best men in every college. To use a colloquial expression, only the "drips" or men looking for a snap course bothered to get a reserve commission.

Under the impact of Hitler, we have slowly changed our minds; we have understood how and why we were wrong. However, I think few men of ability in

this generation failed to go through this cycle. Yet today the same men are cut off from the chance of getting commissions because of the Army's policy and see that the incompetents of our generation have the commissions. It is enough to make us pacifists again. I have generalized from my own experience but I have heard enough conversation in various parts of the country to know it is true.

Also the experience of the good young men in your Administration with Army officers, including reserves, does not give us much hope. To put it frankly, the officer personnel, at least in the fields where we have seen it, is ungodly incompetent.

The best examples are the officers in the CCC. The CCC today is in terrible shape because the younger officers have been called to active duty by the Army. Yet the general reputation of these men, almost from the inception of CCC, has been that they are a group of incompetents who could not be successful at anything else and were content to dry rot in a CCC Camp.

Perhaps that was not so important; but to those of us who may some day have to fight under such incompetent officers, it is frightfully important today.

The Army, as I have said, will undoubtedly oppose this sensible idea but I strongly recommend they be overruled. Hitler shook up his Army; France didn't bother.

I would also suggest asking for recommendations from the Osborn Committee and the Army Morale Committee.

James Rowe, Jr.

PSF: Rowe folder
1-41

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Subject

Confidential

March 12, 1941

file →
Memorandum For The President:

Price Division

For your information:

An Executive Order is now being prepared by Budget setting up a Price Division. The conflicting philosophies of the Henderson group and the Biggers group will meet head-on and it will be a serious fight which must eventually be resolved by you.

I thought you should be warned about it because both sides will try to get commitments from you before you have heard the other side.

JWR
James Rowe, Jr.

PSF Rowe folder
1-41

Sub.

See: American Export Line Folder - Drawer 3-41
for memo from Rowe to FDR 3/1/41 re fact that the
House Committee rejected the subsidy included in the
Post Office appropriations bill for the American
Export Airlines

Sent by FDR to Sherman Minton "Will you handle this
quick" - no date. Returned 3/13/41 by Minton's secy.

PSF: Rowe folder
file
1-7-41
Subject

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

March 14, 1941

Memorandum For The President.

Ed Warner

Averell Harriman asked that Ed Warner of the CAB accompany him to London as an aeronautics adviser to which you and the CAB agreed. A legal problem has arisen which can be solved by your sending the attached letter to Harllee Branch if you wish to.

Under the Aeronautics Act no member of the Board is allowed to engage in any other business or employment. It is rather unusual to have this explicitly stated in a specific statute. The General Counsel of the Board says this means Warner cannot be lent to Harriman.

If, however, he goes to London at your request "on behalf of the Board", everything is all right.

Of course the experience he will get in London will be invaluable to the Board in terms of such questions as priorities for commercial airlines, the British way of handling its foreign airlines, up-to-date technical information, etc, all of which the Board is vitally interested in.

It is a little bit "phoney" but not too much so. If you do not sign it, Warner would have to resign from the Board and there would be pressure on you to fill the vacancy, etc.

The only question that would arise would be from the General Accounting Office. If they overruled you (which is possible!) Warner could then resign if he would do so, which I doubt.

JWR
James Rowe, Jr.

Rowe folder
1-41

3/17/41

MEMO FOR CONFIDENTIAL FILES

Memo from Jim Rowe to FDR 3/12/41 re William L. Batt, Jr. and FBI investigation of the SKF Company, of which Batt is President, which shows SKF is owned by a Swedish concern really controlled by the Germans returned to J. H. R. with notation "J. H. R. Yes, good idea. F. D. R." (pencilled) - reference Rowe's sug. that Anti-Trust look into the matter on anti-trust grounds, keeping the White House out of it.

Also returning papers attached from J. Edgar Hoover and Sidney Sherwood concerning above.

PSF: Rowe folder
1-41

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Subject

March 19, 1941.

MEMORANDUM FOR

JIM ROWE

I am told that Wright
of the Vocational Training is
no good. He has spent \$75,000
to train 24,000 people. Will
you check on him while I am
away and let me have a report
on my return?

F. D. R.

PSF; Rowe folder
1-41
Subject

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

March 28, 1941

Memorandum For The President:

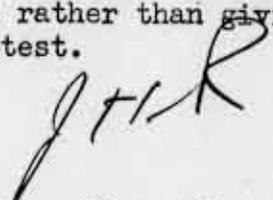
Washington Jackson Day Dinner

As you have probably heard, the Washington dinner was cancelled despite your radiogram, and a word of explanation is necessary.

Reynolds asked that I radio you, and then, like Pontius Pilate, he waited not for an answer. I read him your cable at six, when it was received, and he told me he had already cancelled the dinner. He claims he thought we had agreed that if he did not hear from you by five o'clock the cancellation would be all right, but I explained that since I talked to him at four o'clock it was impossible to receive an answer in that short time.

Reynolds asked me to tell you he felt very badly about it, but I think no harm has been done. The Committee had collected all the money it could and the only way it could get the extra \$40,000 was to have you appear personally.

Reynolds says it will probably be unnecessary ever to hold the dinner, and since the Committee was collecting contributions rather than giving a dinner there could be no protest.


James Rowe, Jr.

*file
personal*

Rowe Folder

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 12, 1941

Memorandum For The President.

Marshall Field

You sent me a letter to Mrs. Roosevelt from Clarence Pickett suggesting Marshall Field as Assistant Administrator of the Federal Security Agency replacing Wayne Coy, with a covering memorandum from you "Will you speak to me about this? What do you think? F.D.R." Coy's job has already been filled by McNutt with an American Legion man, and has been approved by you. I think Marshall Field would have been a good man for this job, but it is now too late.

Field is very anxious to get into the Defense picture and perhaps he can be used in civilian defense after you have picked your top man. For reasons I have indicated previously, I am not too confident of Field's stability.

JHR
James Rowe, Jr.

As one Harvard man to another
I regret to say that you must now pay
the piper.

J.H.R.

PSF
Rowe
Subject

FOR J. H. R.

In sixteen thirty-six, we know,
- Or just three hundred years ago -
Fair Harvard opened wide her doors
To Indians and Blackamoors.

The Blackamoors are welcome still
The Indians are on the Hill --
In Senate and in House
But not,
In our old Harvard Yard, thank Gott!

F. D. R.

In sixteen thirty-six, we know,
- Or just three hundred years ago -
Fair Harvard opened wide her doors
To Juniors, Fresh and Sophomores.
Her graduates have graced all walks
Of Life, from day when tomahawks
Of Indians caused the early whites
To suffer many sudden frights.
First college in our U. S. A.,
It antedates, so hist'ries say,
By almost fifty-seven years
The second one which then appears,
- Good William-Mary, Southland's pride,
And then the gap is not so wide,
Until we see a third one, Yale,
And so it seems we should not fail
To honor Harvard's early birth,
Attesting to her sterling worth
By joining, in a modest way,
In celebration of the day.
No precedent is set thereby
For younger ones to question why
They should not have an equal share
Of public funds - for we're aware
The next request can't properly
Be made till nineteen ninety-three.

To Harvard's most distinguished son,
This Harvard bill I send, and say,
That Budget Dan thinks it is one,
He would not dare deny O K.

PSF. Rowe Folder
1-41

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Subject

April 12, 1941

File
Personal

Memorandum For Mrs. Roosevelt.

Progress is slow and, now that Wayne Coy has left, I am not too hopeful.

We will make real progress when and if the President's reorganization powers are extended.

JHR

James Rowe, Jr.

To:
The President

MYERS
THE MILL

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

March 22, 1941

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. ROWE

Rather sad! Are we making
progress in the whole situation?

E.R.

*Order of the day
... ..*

THE WHITE HOUSE

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

March 21, 1941

Memorandum For Mrs. Roosevelt:

For your information.

JHR
James Rowe, Jr.

*Further info! Are we making
progress in the whole situation?*

MYZHI
THE MHI

PSF; Rowe folder
1-41

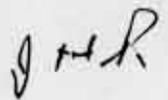
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Subject

April 8, 1941

Memorandum For Mr. Forster.

Here is the Ramspeck Order. I do not think it is necessary to bother the President by seeing him about it, but if he thinks so will you tell him I have a working agreement with McReynolds that both of us talk to him at the same time? We are mutually, albeit amiably, distrustful of one another on this subject.



James Rowe, Jr.



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
WASHINGTON

March 19, 1941

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. JAMES H. ROWE
Administrative Assistant to the President

Dear Mr. Rowe:

This is to bring up to date our part of the story of the Sharon CCC camp.

After Mr. McEntee removed the camp from our jurisdiction we were in touch with Professor Huessy and several of the enrollees at the camp. We urged that the boys stay in the camp and await development. Nat Sage and Dorothy Thompson visited the camp, and both urged the boys to remain at least until March 10 when the Advisory Committee was to meet.

When the Committee met we found that all but six of the boys had taken honorable discharges and were no longer in the camp. Some thirty of them moved into an abandoned farm house near Tunbridge, Vermont, and are living on private funds plus some assistance from the surrounding community.

In the meantime, Frank Davidson had been in Washington and we had begun arrangements to employ the original Tunbridge group of twelve boys on a part time basis at \$30 a month in the Farm Security Administration in order that they could stay in the area a few months more in case of a change in the CCC picture. The ideas of this group, and more especially their enthusiasm, shouldn't be wasted, and we would of course do whatever we could Departmentally to hold them together. Farm Security is not able to take care of more than twelve, however, and we learned from the Professor that they were planning to use the \$360 a month the twelve would receive as a common fund on which thirty or more boys would live in the abandoned farm house.

It is obvious to us that if this arrangement were carried out we would have an implied moral responsibility for the welfare of the whole group, and without medical care, adequate housing



- 2 -

facilities, and possibly without adequate food, they will be creating an impossible situation. If one of them became seriously ill or suffered a fatal accident we would never live it down. Therefore we advised Professor Huesy that employment of the twelve boys was contingent on the dispersal of the rest of the group; that we would not take on any responsibility we couldn't carry through. So far as I know there have been no further developments. The group has organized a non-profit corporation called Camp and Council, Inc., to carry on their work. We discussed the possibility of abandoning the Sharon CCC camp site and turning it over to the State of Vermont, and the State would permit the boys to use the facilities at the camp with such private financing as they could obtain. Professor Huesy advised us that the boys are not interested in going back to the Sharon camp site at all; that they prefer to live in "freedom and happiness" in their abandoned farm house.

Despite all this, I hope sometime we'll have a chance--in a reasonably cooperative situation--to put their zeal to work for society. If you think of anything we can do, we will be glad to know it.

Sincerely,

Ralph W. Olmstead
Assistant to the Secretary

file
personal

PSF; Rowe folder
1-46

Subject

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON April 14, 1941

Memorandum For The President.

Lyndon Johnson

I gave you a memorandum on Lyndon Johnson running for the Senate and you told me to speak to you about it on Friday, but you were too busy. The two leading newspaper chains in Texas have come out for Lyndon, but he has returned to Washington and has practically decided not to make the race. He feels no great enthusiasm has been shown by you and is quite comfortable in the House where he already has great power. There is also keen resentment that Jesse Jones has been consulted because the Texas Liberals know Jesse has always fought you and them under cover in Texas whenever he had a chance.

The latest candidate is the State Attorney General who was put in office by the public utilities.

This Texas Liberal group has the newspapers and some money. They also have political sense enough not to commit a fiasco such as the Georgia amateurs did. Johnson doesn't want the cry of dictatorship raised anymore than would you. But Johnson and Wirtz feel they have earned their spurs by the licking they gave the Garner-Jones crowd in the pre-convention fight.

Maybe they won't win (although they think they can) but they feel neither the Administration nor Johnson has anything to lose.

What Lyndon really needs is a show of interest by you. I think you ought to call him to the White House and talk to him, if you are interested.

JHR

James Rowe, Jr.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 11, 1941.

MEMORANDUM FOR

JIM ROWE

Will you speak to me
about this today?

F. D. R.

WASHINGTON
THE WHITE HOUSE

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 10, 1941

Memorandum For The President.

Texas

Lyndon Johnson will run for the Senate if the Administration helps him.

I assume the strategy will be left up to Johnson so that the mistakes of the 1938 "purge" will not be repeated.

The question arises whether Johnson can be elected. I think that should be left up to him. The alternatives -- Dies or O'Daniel, probably Dies -- are too frightful for contemplation. A "compromise candidate" selected by Jesse Jones or Connally would probably be as good a New Dealer as John Garner, or to be blunt, as Jesse Jones. I think you know how Jones has fought you under cover in Texas, at Chicago and elsewhere. To consult Jones and Connally is to get another typical Southern Senator who is against us four-fifths of the time. To consult Jones is an affront to Sam Rayburn, who has been with us considerably more than half the time. To allow Jones any choice is to make him more powerful on the Hill than he already is. I can remember no tough Administration fight that Jesse Jones has not dodged.

I think you are aware that the New Dealers have been impatient and unhappy for many months for a number of reasons. If only for the sake of morale, this is the time to give them a leg-up. I recognize that of necessity you cannot be, and are not, particularly interested in partisan politics at this time. In such case, all that is necessary would be to indicate privately Lyndon should be the Administration candidate.

You may naturally suspect he cannot make it, but I think his record in handling the Texas delegation to the Convention, when all the Texas leaders were frightened rabbits, is proof of what he can do. Newspapers all over Texas are already starting a campaign for him. It seems to be either Johnson on the one hand or Dies, O'Daniel, the candidate of Jesse Jones and Connally, on the other. I can see no difference in the last named persons, so far as a liberal party goes.

JHR
James Rowe, Jr.

*file
personal*

PSF; Home Folder

1-41

Subject

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 15, 1941

Memorandum For The President.

Box 184

SEC

You gave me two memoranda concerning the SEC, reading:

- (1) "Wirtz - SEC Chairman or administrative assistant in charge of power - but really as a hatchet man. What do you think? F.D.R."
- (2) "Governor Murphy of New Hampshire - SEC in Healy's place in May. Healy is from Vermont. What do you think?"

Since then, Jerome Frank has told me of his conversation with you.

As I have said before, the SEC is at the crossroads. Your next appointments will make it either a great Commission or another Federal Trade Commission. If the appointments are poor, it will deteriorate almost immediately because the staff, which is extremely self-critical and sensitive will start a mass exodus from Washington. I think there is little question in the minds of informed persons that the SEC is the most competent agency in the government.

(1) I understand you intend to nominate Ben Cohen. This is the one single thing which can do more for the SEC than anything else. He has the whole-hearted respect of the staff more than any other previous or present Commissioner. He knows the utilities problem. Jerome Frank, Ed Eicher and the others are deluding themselves and you when they say they have "broken the back" of the utilities problem. They haven't even really begun after six years and their staff knows it well.

(2) Henderson. I attach a memorandum to you from Chairman Eicher asking that Henderson resign from the SEC and be paid out of Defense funds for his new job. For the past year Henderson has naturally been able to do no SEC work. With Frank gone and Cohen in London, the SEC is paralyzed because if two members are absent it cannot act. Henderson is always absent. No other Commissioner can take a vacation, make public speeches necessary for public relations or leave town. When Ed Eicher handles the new amendments on the Hill, the Commission will be paralyzed completely.

This situation makes the Commissioners unhappy and the staff grumbles because it can get no work through the Commission. I think you should ask Leon to resign.

That leaves you with another vacancy. For the morale of the staff, it is about time to promote one of the division directors to Commissioner. In the first place, members of the staff are far more competent than anyone you can get elsewhere in the government or outside. In the second place, as I have said, staff morale needs it. These men have all gone as far as they can unless you promote them to Commissioner. I am sure all of them can make twice as much money outside the government as in; they have families and several of them have told me privately they see no future ahead and are forced to get out. This is the age-old problem of government, but a promotion or two now would put off the evil day for a number of years. There are several good candidates:

(1) Ganson Purcell. He is probably first choice of all persons informed about the SEC. Jerome Frank and Bill Douglas both want him. Corcoran and Cohen prefer him to anyone else in the SEC. He is the most popular man with the staff.

Before Sumner Pike was appointed, you decided to appoint Purcell as a career man but he had registered and voted as a Democrat and that was a Republican vacancy. For several years Purcell was a draftsman with the Senate Drafting Office on the Hill and is well acquainted there. He has been endorsed this time by Senator Mead and Pat Boland. He is now Director of the Trading and Exchange Division, which regulates Wall Street and would be invaluable handling the amendments to the SEC legislation which is the coming big fight except for utilities. He is a resident of New York. He is a New Dealer but has not antagonized Wall Street. In fact I think Wall Street would be glad to have him instead of an inexperienced man because he knows their problems.

I personally think Purcell would be the best appointment you could make to replace Henderson.

(2) Ed Burke - a former Cotton, Franklin lawyer, came to Washington in the Hoover days with Tom Corcoran and worked in the RFC, PWA and finally the SEC. He has done a great deal of drafting and is an unusually competent man. He does not have the personality or popularity that Purcell has, but he is extremely well liked. He is a resident of New York and is endorsed by Senator Wagner and Mary Norton (whose niece he married).

(3) Bob O'Brien. He is a resident of Montana and is an unusually able lawyer. He has practiced corporation law in Chicago and has been assistant director of three different divisions in the SEC. He is now assistant director of the Utilities Division and is a really great driving force behind the enforcement of the Holding Company Act, the first real enforcement of that Act we have ever had. He has no more connection with Bert Wheeler than do I, and both of us are thinking of changing our voting residence.

Frank tells me he talked over these three men with you and suggested that Purcell replace Henderson and O'Brien replace Eicher, if and when he gets his judgeship.

Such a Commission would give geographic balance -- one from Maine, one from Vermont, two from New York (unless Cohen can qualify from Indiana) and one from Montana. It would certainly be the strongest and best balanced Commission you have ever had. There is not a Johnnie Hanes in the lot.

Specifically as to your two memoranda:

(1) I personally am a great admirer of Wirtz. I am sure he would not accept a position on the SEC unless he were made Chairman. There could be no greater Chairman than Ben Cohen. Anyway, I understand Wirtz is going back to Texas mostly because he has nothing to do here and wants to resume leadership of the Liberal movement in Texas. I do not think he is quarreling with Ickes. Wirtz has nerve and is tough. He is not sufficiently technically competent for Chairman of the SEC and technical competence above all else is necessary now. I think he would be an excellent administrative assistant operating as a "hatchet man" particularly if you give the new judgeship to Sherman Minton. In my opinion nothing is so necessary today as a few good "hatchet men".

(2) Governor Murphy. I think I have expressed myself on Murphy several times. I think and everyone else who knows him thinks this would be a terrible appointment. He is not liberal, he is not honest and he would not be loyal. So far as I know no one wants him except Homer Cummings and, to be blunt, as someone else said: "Cummings has his judges on the bench; why let him put his men in the Commissions?"

That leaves the problem of Healy. It is a difficult problem; I know it from my own personal bitter experience. The Judge is narrow, stubborn and obstinate; the staff spends more time trying to get him to do something than the entire rest of the Commission. He is exasperating. But he is also liberal and honest; he is indeed a "sea-green incorruptible". He has had a long career of hard fighting public service. When he was General Counsel of the Federal Trade Commission he pushed through the utilities investigation when no one else dared to fight the utilities except a certain Governor of New York. Tom Corcoran and Ben Cohen want to see him go; I think the SEC staff would not be unhappy to see him go. I think you feel the same way. Jerome Frank would like to see him reappointed.

I think the question is very close, and should be decided primarily on the basis of whom you could get to replace him. Frankly I don't think you can get as good a liberal Republican as Healy is despite his faults. In any event, you have a couple of months to see what candidates develop.

JHR

James Rowe, Jr.

Memo For The President.

I had another long talk with the Attorney General who admits Hoover is wrong, says he deserves a public rebuke and would like to do it; that it might mean war with Hoover which I told him was a good thing and he is inclined to agree but neither of us think you will agree, so he is going to talk to you first.

J. H. R.

*PSF Rowe Folder
1-41*

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Sub

April 21, 1941.

MEMORANDUM FOR

Bx 184

JIM ROWE

You are dead right about the Miss Perkins, Bob Jackson, Edgar Hoover "free-for-all".

I will speak personally to Edgar at the first opportunity. I hope the rest of the noise will subside.

F. D. R.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 11, 1941

Memorandum For The President.

Miss Perkins, Jackson and Hoover

You told me to tell the Attorney General to back up Miss Perkins in her complaint about Hoover.

This may be a tempest in a teapot, but it is certainly a tempest! The facts are simple:

At an Appropriations Committee hearing, Hoover claimed the previous Bridges' trial was invalid, because Jim Landis did not have the power to administer oaths. This raises two points:

(1) Legal. The legal point is 100% on the side of Miss Perkins. There is absolutely no legal argument the other way and I do not think the Attorney General or any of his lawyers dare make one. In fact they don't try to. Jim Landis is furious at Jackson and Hoover.

(2) Hoover. The importance is that the question was irrelevant to the Committee hearing. It was a planted question, with a planted answer and Hoover did the planting. The Attorney General and the Assistant Attorney General in charge of the Criminal Division, Wendell Berge, frankly admit they think Hoover did so.

This is the crux. Can Hoover continually and publicly insult other departments without a rebuke from the Attorney General? In the present frame of mind of the Attorney General, he can. He has been doing it to Francis Biddle, in charge of the Immigration Service, for weeks. If you don't believe it, listen to or read Walter Winchell, who day after day insults the Immigration Service with information which could only come from his good friend Hoover.

Yet the Attorney General lets him run wild and on this meat the mighty Caesar is feeding very well.

The Attorney General says he should not send the letter prepared by Miss Perkins to the Committee because that will hurt rather than help her. I think that is for Miss Perkins to decide. The Attorney General will say the less said about the previous Bridges' trial the better. Even if true, the point is that Miss Perkins did not open up the matter but that Hoover and the Department of Justice made it a matter of public discussion and Jackson should rectify the injustice he has done.

But he won't. He told me he would have to talk to you about it.

JHR
James Rowe, Jr.

PSF: Rowe folder
file 1-41
personal
Subject

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 23, 1941

Memorandum For The President.

Senator Maloney

Maloney may be seeing you about the Connecticut judgeship. I understand he will recommend Congressman Joseph Smith and that Justice will probably go along.

I would like to point out to you that Congressman Smith fought the Holding Company Bill in 1935, that his brother now represents a number of large utility companies and that Smith has a number of utility tie-ups which should be checked thoroughly before you agree to appoint him.

JHR
James Rowe, Jr.

PSF: Rowe

Jim Rowe

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

file
Personal
Bx 184

Wertz - S.E.C. Chairman
of Admin. Dist. in charge
of Power - but really the
hatchet man.

What do you think?

JWR

PSF: Rowe, Jr.
Subject

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 23, 1941

Memorandum For The President.

Leon Henderson

On April fifteenth I gave you a memorandum discussing the general problems facing the Securities and Exchange Commission in terms of future appointments.

There is some urgency about this because of the status of Leon Henderson. I give you a memorandum from Ed Eicher asking that Henderson resign and be paid from Defense funds. As you know, Henderson has been working on Defense for the past year and has been able to give no time to the SEC. With Jerry Frank now gone, and Henderson inactive, the Commission is seriously crippled. This is so, particularly, because Eicher will spend practically all his time for the next few months on the Hill dealing with the SEC amendments. Legally, therefore, the Commission cannot function during the day.

I suggest:

- (1) You direct me to ask Leon to resign. I have no reason to believe he is not willing to do so.
- (2) As soon as this is accomplished, you appoint at least one person to the SEC. My previous memorandum (attached) discussed the leading candidates and the reasons for their appointment.

If none of these candidates are satisfactory, I could start hunting for others.

JHR

James Rowe, Jr.

u

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN

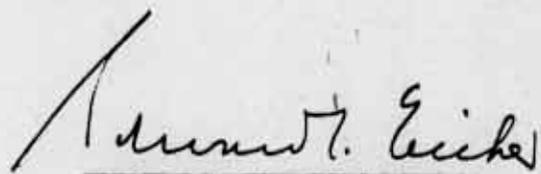
April 14, 1941

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT:

When Jerry Frank resigns there will be only three of us active on the Commission. Within a week or two, when Congressional consideration of amendments to our Acts begins I shall have to spend practically every morning on the Hill. We all love Leon Henderson and wish he could be working with us, but assume that his new assignment definitely forecloses his return to the Commission.

This poses the sheer problem of a working quorum to meet the minimum legal requirements for transacting the Commission's business. Although we believe it to be without merit, the suggestion has been seriously advanced that a decision joined in by less than a majority of the statutory membership might not be valid. Furthermore, in several of our pending integration proceedings, highly technical positions are being maintained by counsel and decisions by a bare quorum are very apt to be received critically by respondents and the public.

This memo, therefore, is to suggest that unless there should be compelling reasons to the contrary, of which I am unaware, the places of both Jerry and Leon be filled as expeditiously as possible.


Edward C. Eicher

PSF
Rowe
Bx 184

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 17, 1941

MEMORANDUM FOR

HON. JOHN CARMODY

I know nothing of the merits of the recent newspaper controversy concerning certain bids for asphalt let for the paving of a runway on some airport in Florida. I understand, however, that the two agencies concerned are WPA and the Procurement Division, both of which are under your direction.

I have even heard it stated that these agencies plan to make it difficult for the Georgia contractor who after much protest secured one contract, because he "kicked up a stir" in the newspapers. As I say, this may be just gossip. In these particular days, I have, as you know, too many problems to devote myself to the problem of an asphalt bid. However, there may be something to all this conversation. I wish you would look into the matter, to make sure there is no "whitewash" of any one concerned.

I will, of course, rely upon your discretion to take whatever measures are necessary. I need hardly point out the bad effect on public confidence in our defense program if this sort of thing is true. I need hardly add I have no idea whether it is true or not.



F. D. R.

*file
personal*

*PSF: Rowe Folder
Subject*

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 28, 1941

Memorandum For The President.

Tydings

I dislike bothering you about patronage matters these days but in this particular case I rise above principle.

I understand you and Bob Jackson talked about Tydings' insistence that he be given two Assistant District Attorneys in Maryland, and agreed that Justice would have to go along with Tydings.

I believe this particular case goes beyond minor patronage. More than a year ago you promised Congressman D'Alesandro two Assistant District Attorneys in Baltimore which he has been unable to get. Since this is ordinarily Senatorial patronage, I do not think he will ever get them but Tydings should not.

Tydings has boasted he can get all the patronage he wants and oppose the Administration whenever he wants. There is nothing to be gained from trying to appease Tydings, as the long history of past years proves.

Primarily responsible for this situation, and for other similar situations, is the attitude of Justice. Bob Jackson, as distinguished from his predecessors, relies exclusively on Matt McGuire's political judgment. McGuire believes in appeasing every opposition Senator, primarily because he has to see a great deal of them and because there is no one pushing him from the other side. I do not wish to criticize McGuire because he has the most hopeless job in the government; because of its nature it is utterly impossible for any one to take any other attitude and survive. Nonetheless we should not follow his judgment, anymore than Cummings did or Murphy did.

McGuire has appeased and appeased every opposition Senator on the Hill. Despite this program, he has been unable to deliver one opposition vote at any critical time.

For two years after the "purge" I successfully held up the reappointment of Tydings' District Attorney in Baltimore, until you overruled me. That District Attorney was active at the Chicago Convention against you and still refers to you in unprintable language.

The only federal official who supported you in 1938 was Magruder, the Internal Revenue Collector. Tydings is now boasting that Magruder is next on the list.

I still think we should make it a bit difficult for Tydings and do nothing. But unless you tell them not to, Jackson and McGuire will give him his two Assistant District Attorneys in the next few days.

JHR

James Rowe, Jr.

NOTE:

COPY OF ATTACHED TOGETHER WITH
MEMO TO JESSE JONES ~~XXXXXX~~ 5/15/41
"How can I answer this? I really
think you should do something."
FILED IN JESSE JONES FOLDER Drawer 1-4.

PSF Rowe

COPY

PSF: Rowe Folder

1-41

Subject

May 5, 1941

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT:

WHERE IS JESSE?

It was my understanding that along with your private undercover support of Lyndon Johnson for Senator, Jesse Jones was going to give him public support, including press and radio help.

Every other department and agency of the Government are cooperating 100% behind Johnson, but nothing has been heard from the Secretary of Commerce.

In fact, the reverse seems to be true. The following has been reported to me from Texas:

(1) Last week Jesse Jones telephoned Governor O'Daniel, according to information from a man who was in the Governor's office at the time, urging O'Daniel to run for the Senate and saying that he could win if he did.

(2) The R. F. C. lawyer for Texas (obviously a personal appointee of Jesse Jones) who is now a General commanding one of the Selective Service camps in Texas, called his officers together, told them O'Daniel should run and directed his officers to urge O'Daniel among the men. This caused quite a row. If this report is true, obviously disciplinary action should be taken by the War Department.

(3) The editor of one of the Secretary's papers publicly says he is for O'Daniel.

All of this adds up to show that not only is Jesse Jones not supporting Lyndon Johnson but that he is doing exactly the opposite.

The only Cabinet member from Texas is Jesse Jones. Johnson's opponents and some of the men from Texas who want a good excuse for not going down the line for Johnson are using Jones' silence as an excuse. They point out if a Cabinet member does not back Johnson publicly, that means the President is not for him and they can do what they please.

Incidentally, O'Daniel's campaign manager today announced his own candidacy for the Senate, which is good news for Lyndon Johnson as indicating O'Daniel will not run. Reports have it that if O'Daniel does not run, Lyndon will probably be his choice.

Everyone in the race except Johnson is strictly anti-New Deal, including O'Daniel, as Jones well knows. Every other Texan in the Administration is supporting Johnson. The question is, whether Jesse Jones is above the Administration, or takes orders like the rest of us. If he is not above the Administration, where is he today?

James Rowe, Jr.

PSF: Rowe

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 14, 1941

Memorandum For Mr. Forster.

Washington Judgeship

I would like to be notified before the President gets any nominations on the judgeship for the Western District of Washington.

J. Rowe

James Rowe, Jr.

Dear Missy:

*File personal
confidential*

I just had lunch with Lowell Mellet who disagreed with me about Ethridge before he went to St. Louis. He has now returned and after his experiences there has, I gather, switched over completely to Fly's point of view.

Original of attached J. H. R. returned to Jim Rowe - OK'd - 5/19/41

COPY

PSF: Rowe Folder

May 16, 1941

*JHR
OK
FDR*

MEMORANDUM FOR MISS LEHAND

Mark Ethridge

I unwittingly gave you some wrong information the other day when I told you that Ethridge was to study only the relation of newspapers to radio and that, therefore, the issuance of the monopoly regulations by Fly was none of Ethridge's concern.

Since then I have seen a copy of the President's letter to Ethridge and it does seem as though the President gave Ethridge a wide horizon in his study.

However, for your own private information, Fly did clear the release of these regulations with the President before he issued them. He did not get in to see the President but Tommy Corcoran did and the President told Fly, through Tommy, to go ahead.

My own personal opinion is, of course, that Fly is absolutely right. The appointment of Ethridge, who was after all nothing but a spokesman for the radio industry, was a mistake and it is just as well that he resigned. The technique used by the radio people is the same as the one we became so familiar with in the utility holding fight. A so-called "liberal" (Ethridge) is the "front man"; but the boys in the back room do the real work, in this case Judge Thatcher, former Republican Solicitor General, a very able and bitter enemy of the Administration.

There is only one successful technique, from the point of view of government, in handling matters such as these. The radio industry talks to the regulatory head -- in the letter's office. In other words they bargain right over the table, and the responsible government head should have at least an even chance to present his views to the President. This technique is what has made the SEC so successful a regulatory agency -- it is perhaps the only one I know. The stock exchange and the utility presidents long ago found out it was a waste of time to go behind the SEC's back and come to the White House.

For your information I am giving you a "philosophical" letter from Fly which emphasizes my point (please return).

All this is entirely aside from the legal position. Legally, Fly is completely independent of the President, just as Eastman of the ICC is. But I have never heard Fly rest any argument on that ground, because he is the most loyal supporter the President has.

JAMES ROWE, Jr.

file personal

PSF: Rowe Folder

Subject

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 17, 1941

Memorandum For The President.

Senator Pepper

Congressman Camp called upon me today to protest the award of bids for asphalt to the Pan American Company, a Florida company (as I understand it), whose bids to pave runways of the Florida airport were considerably higher than the bids of a Georgia company, but which bids were accepted by the government.

You may not have noticed that there has been some discussion in the press about alleged political favoritism in behalf of Senator Pepper by the government departments.

In the conversation, Congressman Camp, who said he was also speaking for Senator George, made out a rather clear case of favoritism. Naturally I know nothing of the other side and am unable to judge the merits.

I would, however, suggest that you ask John Carmody, who is in charge of the agencies concerned, to look into this matter and to make sure no favoritism did result, but that if it did so, to reopen the bids and to take whatever other action is necessary.

JHR

James Rowe, Jr.

PSF: Rowe

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Subject

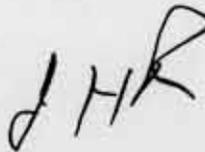
May 20, 1941

Memorandum For Mr. Forster.

Maryland Nominations

I would like to know of any nominations received from the Treasury for the positions of Collector of Customs or Collector of Internal Revenue in Maryland before the President receives them.

Could you give me a couple of hours' notice?



James Rowe, Jr.

7
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

*file
forward*

May 20, 1941.

MEMORANDUM FOR

JIM ROWE

Will you see Senator Barkley
and explain the situation and
have Barkley and Hill work it
out?

If they decide to abolish
the Board it is O.K. with me.

F. D. R.

PSF Rose Folder
Sub.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 17, 1941

Memorandum For The President.

Transportation Board

Some time ago you sent word to me that you had talked to Senator Barkley and had decided to appoint Robert Webb of Kentucky to this Board (in place of Wayne Coy whose nomination was withdrawn) if agreeable to me.

I have tried to talk to you to explain this rather complex situation but because of the passage of time I am giving you a memorandum.

As you know, Lister Hill and other Southern and Western Senators have refused to act on your nominations on the ground the South and West were not represented. They have a majority of the Committee. I asked Senator Hill confidentially whether Webb would be acceptable to his group.

It seems that at least in the minds of the Southern Governors, if not in the minds of transportation experts, Kentucky is a border State having more sympathy with the Eastern group of States than with the Southern States. Therefore, anyone from Kentucky is not acceptable.

Webb is one of the candidates I originally checked for this Board, since he had strong political endorsements and was also suggested by railroad labor. My check was uniformly mediocre. Webb is young, about 34, is primarily a politician and is Chairman of the Kentucky Railroad Commission, which Commission like those in most Southern States is elective. He is an ambitious politician but even less than mediocre as a transportation man; this of course can be said about most of the Southern Commissioners because they are all a pretty poor lot.

According to hearsay on the Hill, you made a commitment to Senator Barkley that you would appoint Webb, but it would seem this commitment is valid only if he can be confirmed. This Board is to study the problems of motor, rail and water carriers. Not only is there sectional jealousy but there is violent industrial jealousy about these appointments. My check indicated the motor carriers are strongly opposed to Webb because of a bias, real or otherwise, in favor of railroads.

The Southerners are now recommending Leon Jourolman of the Utility Commission of Tennessee. This group includes Hill, Stewart and McKellar who were most instrumental in killing the original nominations. Jourolman is also young, an ardent New Dealer, who was elected because he fought for TVA in the Tennessee area. Even the TVA are not too enthusiastic. Jourolman is a publicity hound, not at all gifted as a scholar or in his understanding of transportation matters. He is more acceptable to the three industrial groups than would be Webb.

These are the two leading candidates politically and politics seem to be important.

Hill also told me the original agreement between the Southern and Western Senators that each region be represented still stands. This means you would have to withdraw the nomination of Charles West. The Republicans are also adamant against West. Hill suggested in his place C. E. Childe of Omaha, Nebraska, a Norris Republican who Norris has previously recommended to you for the ICC. Strangely enough, Childe spent many years in the South and is regarded as sympathetic to the Southern rate problem (which problem is irrelevant in this study except in the minds of the Southern Governors).

I have several suggestions:

(1) Ask Hill and Barkley to get together and find some candidate or candidates agreeable to the Committee. Ordinarily this is a bad practice for the Executive, and may be a bad precedent later on, but I understand the Administration is not particularly interested. Further, it seems a hopeless task to select competent men for this sort of study who are politically acceptable.

(2) Suggest to the Congress that this legislation be repealed. No one is for it, including the White House, railroad labor, the waterway carriers, the Southerners, etc. Nelson Lee Smith, your Republican nominee from New Hampshire told me yesterday this might be a good idea, although it was obviously against his own self interest to say so. He is becoming discouraged at the prospect of getting capable men to work with and points out he does not wish to risk his transportation reputation in a violent quarrel with incompetent people.

(3) Ask Joe Eastman to work this problem out by giving you recommendations of competent people who are acceptable to the Senate. He has made several suggestions to me in the past, including Smith, but the rest were politically unacceptable. I suggest this last course for two reasons:

(a) This is Eastman's "baby". He is the only one who wanted it, probably in the hope that something really intelligent would come out of it, which it would if competent persons could be confirmed.

(b) Eastman has great influence with the Interstate Commerce Committee. He could try out various names on the Committee to see if they would be acceptable before he made his recommendations to you. This will involve getting Charlie West to consent to the withdrawal of his name but that looks to me like a certainty.

All in all I think the Eastman suggestion is the best solution. I have examined at least 200 names who on the basis of either incompetence or politics were unacceptable. If Eastman were to handle it, it would remove from your shoulders a burden irritating out of all proportion to its importance.

JHR

James Rowe, Jr.

PSF: Rowe
Subject

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 23, 1941

MEMORANDUM FOR RUDOLPH FORSTER:

If the papers pass through your hands, will you let me know when the President acts on War Department recommendations for the establishment of an airplane propeller manufacturing plant in Toledo, Ohio. The plant is to be a subsidiary of the Aviation Corporation of America and will be known as the American Propeller Corporation.

S. T. E.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 23, 1941.

MEMORANDUM FOR RAY KISER'S STEEL PLANT

JIM ROWE

Word comes that Dick Fuller
is going to report to the President
that Kiser's application is not
advisable. I suggest that he hold it in
abeyance for the next few months,
because the President may want
to revive it.

It is right but a
suggestion should be made to Fuller
that the Kiser application simply
be not acted on rather than formally
rejected.

PSE
Rowe folder
Sub.
Fuller

SECRET
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS DOCUMENT IS CLASSIFIED AS CONFIDENTIAL
DATE 11/15/83 BY SP-5 JAC/STP

MAY 23 1941
WASHINGTON
THE WHITE HOUSE

RECORDED
INDEXED

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 23, 1941.

MEMORANDUM; RE RAY KISER'S STEEL PLANT

Word comes that Dick Fuller is going to report to the President that although Kiser was correct in his estimate that much more steel production is needed, Fuller is going to recommend rejection of the Kiser steel plant for a West Coast mill, on the ground that it is too big and too complicated -- and is going to recommend increases in existing mills instead.

This is all right but a suggestion should be made to Fuller that the Kiser application simply be not acted on rather than formally rejected.

RF Rowe Folder
Subject

Note in FDR's handwriting May 23, 1941

JIM ROWE

ICKES SUGGESTS

John C. Packard of Pasadena, Cal.
for the S.E.C.

Please check.

F.D.R.

*file
personal*

*PSF Rowe Folder
Sub.*

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 29, 1941

Memorandum For Miss LeHand.

Dear Missy:

Could you make sure the President sees this before he sees the Leaders, at a time when the matter will be fresh in his mind. He should not be bothered with it over the week-end.

Confidentially, one fairly good reason for killing the investigation is that one of the cases the radio industry plans to get the Senate Committee to investigate is the famous Noble-Flamm case, WMCA in New York. Larry Fly had nothing to do with this case because he was in Florida. Unfortunately, however, Tommy Corcoran did and so did the Administration. It is a matter of public record (in the hearings before the House Appropriations Committee) that both General Watson and Rudolph Forster telephoned from the White House to the Acting Chairman of the Communications Commission. Vic Sholis and others tell me the radio crowd want this case investigated.

As a matter of fact the President himself had it investigated by Gene Casey. As to the actual facts, it was harmless enough but it looks like the devil.

JHR
James Rowe, Jr.

*file
press and*

*PSF: Rowe Folder
Subject*

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 29, 1941

Memorandum For The President.

Communications Commission

On Monday preliminary hearings will begin before the Senate Interstate Commerce Commerce on the White Resolution to investigate "radio". While broadly worded, it is really aimed at the Communications Commission because it was drafted by Harry Butcher, Vice President and lobbyist for NBC. Larry Fly is to be the first witness and the hearings will continue for three days to determine whether a committee should be appointed to investigate the situation.

Fly asks that at your Monday morning conference with the legislative leaders you tell Barkley you do not want an investigation at this time of the Commission or of radio.

This is the opening gun of the radio fight. Reminiscent of the Utility Holding Company days, the local operators are swarming into Washington to "put the bee" on their Senators. Significantly enough, there is one change from the Holding Company battle - the radio lawyers at this time privately admit they will lose in the courts.

Senator Hill will lead the government fight. (He is already hinting that he wants Thompson reappointed). But if Barkley can pass the word along it will be instrumental in killing off a long Senate investigation.

If this is done, the radio interests have no choice but to compromise with Fly. If it is not done, you will be harassed day in and day out with the interminable details of what in these times is an unimportant struggle from the point of view of the President.

JHR
James Rowe, Jr.

Dear Mr. P-

Please read
this before your
10 o'clock
conference -

*Rowe Folder
File
personal*

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

June 2, 1941

Memorandum For The President.

You may be tired of reading comments on your speech; if not, you will be interested in this column which comes from the sports page. It gives the "American" feel better than anything else I have seen.

JHR

James Rowe, Jr.

Tom O'Reilly Says:

Dictators, kings, admirals, generals, financiers and rulers, the world over, hung on the President's word last night. I heard those words at the Polo Grounds with 17,000 ordinary Americans.



Tom O'Reilly

There's nothing more American than a baseball fan. Furthermore, there's nothing more critical, impatient, opinionated or vociferous. Last night 17,000 of them listened with the intensity of hunters.

As the President first mentioned freedom of the seas, it started to rain. A few women in the high-priced field boxes ran for cover. Two thousand fans in the unprotected bleachers never moved.

Today the dictators, kings, etc., probably are wondering how the average American took it all. Well, I can tell them. Behind home plate at the Polo Grounds, they said: "He hit a homer."

The crowd, of course, had turned out to see the Giants play Boston. . . . It was a rip-snorting ball game all the way through. . . . By the seventh inning the score was tied, 1-1. . . . Joe Orengo, the Giant third baseman, hit a homer in the fifth. . . . Eddie Miller of the Braves duplicated his performance in the seventh. . . . Then the loud-speakers announced that the game would be held up for 45 minutes to hear the President's speech. . . . Behind me I noticed an elderly man with a flower in his lapel, and an umbrella. . . . He had brought a little boy of 10, who really should have been in bed. . . . It was easy to see that the youngster was nuts about the old fellow. . . . When the President opened with "My fellow Americans of all the Americas," the old man looked startled and almost hurt. . . . Then when the President added "My friends," the old gaffer turned to the kid and said, "See, I told you." . . . The kid smiled as though the old guy were the greatest man in the world. . . . And the old guy smiled happily, too.

I looked around. . . . Everybody was leaning forward to hear the words and they all did so with an air of complete confidence and faith.

As the pregnant words of the President rolled out over the lighted field, I felt a little guilty about hearing them in this setting. . . . Only a moment before, these people had been begging Billy Jurges to knock the ball out of the park. . . . Now the President of the United States was warning them that Nazi aggressors were seeking to dominate the entire world, including their own United States. . . . But as the President spoke on I could see that the crowd didn't feel guilty. . . . The crowd was bigger than that. . . . And then as I listened, I began to realize that this crowd was showing something which is becoming a rare quality in the world these days. . . . It showed the dignity of free men, who felt that they had every right to be in a ball park at night after a hard day of work. . . . And furthermore it expressed itself

as the President said, "We do not accept and will not permit this Nazi 'shape of things to come.'" . . . It expressed itself in hot applause, cut short so as not to miss the next sentence.

Watching their expressions and listening to the pleasant voice that filled the grounds, I knew that these people loved not only baseball but all that the game stands for. . . . First and foremost, I knew they loved the right to express themselves at all times on all situations. . . . And when the crowd laughed, with short, grim humor, as the President told how you couldn't see the whites of their eyes in a tank, I felt very glad that this crowd was on my side. . . . There was something about that short, mass laugh which indicated that the crowd not only understood the idea perfectly but also felt that it knew what to do about it.

And then as the President spoke of how foolish it was to be blind to attack "until bombs-actually drop on New York or San Francisco," I began to think of all the other pleasant stadiums, spread out over this nation, where I had seen crowds exactly like this one. . . . At other baseball games, football games, races, fights and track meets. . . . And suddenly was conscious that in years of watching them I had never truly seen them despite their uninhibited antics. . . . They had booed umpires and bad decisions, laughed at Nick Altrock and Al Schacht, roared approval of Ruth, Harmon, Tilden and the rest, and bemoaned the luck of the Dodgers. . . . But never before had I seen them so quiet, so earnest, so determined or so confident. . . . They applauded long and loud at the finish. . . . "A national emergency, huh?" said one fellow. . . . "Well, they had it comin' to 'em. We'll knock their brains out, convoys an' all. Hey here comes Hubbell. The Ole Ticket's gonna finish the game." . . . And that was the confident manner with which 17,000 Americans heard the President declare a national emergency last night. . . . Play ball!

COPY

PSF: Rowe Folder

Subject

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

June 4, 1941

MEMORANDUM FOR JIM ROWE:

For your information.

F. D. R.

Letter from Hon. John M. Carmody, Federal Works Administrator, 5/31/41, to the President, advising that nothing would have happened to embarrass the Administration or WPA or Procurement in the Elgin Filed, Florida, asphalt purchase if Senator Pepper had not tried to upset a contract award made by Procurement. Attached is a photostatic copy of the President memorandum of 5/17/41 to Mr. Carmody regarding the matter.

FEDERAL WORKS AGENCY
WASHINGTON

PSF. Rome Folder
Subject

OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATOR

May 31, 1941

The President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. President:

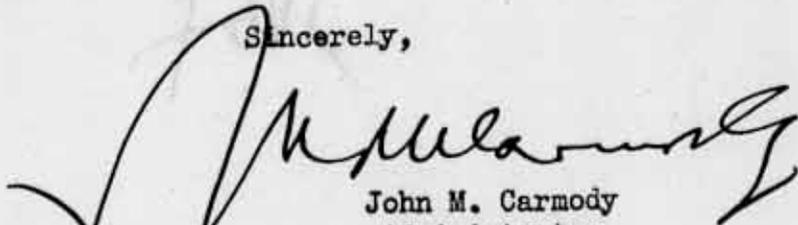
Nothing would have happened to embarrass the Administration or WPA or Procurement in the Eglin Field, Florida, asphalt purchase if Senator Pepper had not tried to upset a contract award made by Procurement.

WPA was doing an airport job for the Army. Bids were asked for asphalt. Pan America in Florida apparently thought it had the business sewed up. A Georgia company (both of them get their asphalt from Texas), slipped in with a bid that took account of land grant rates for shipment of federal materials by rail. This made them low. This surprised the Florida boys who use barges to transport asphalt from Texas to Florida. They got busy, They got their friends to work on WPA, on the Army, and I understand on Procurement. The bidding was regular and we knew of no reason for switching.

I don't know how Tom Stokes got hold of the story but I suspect the man who put in the low bid probably told him, when he was in Washington to checkmate the Senator and some Florida lawyers, who were trying to take his business away from him after he trimmed them. I understand they all know one another very well and trust one another about as much as one professional poker player trusts another.

The publicity was bad but the price of asphalt dropped sharply on the next contract. Procurement is a branch of Treasury under Secretary Morgenthau and not part of Federal Works Agency. Incidentally, three of our WPA boys who were subjected to heat are before the Senate for confirmation. I think the way they stood their ground quietly is a credit to your Administration.

Sincerely,



John M. Carmody
Administrator

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 17, 1941

MEMORANDUM FOR

HON. JOHN CARMODY

I know nothing of the merits of the recent newspaper controversy concerning certain bids for asphalt let for the paving of a runway on some airport in Florida. I understand, however, that the two agencies concerned are WPA and the Procurement Division, both of which are under your direction.

I have even heard it stated that these agencies plan to make it difficult for the Georgia contractor who after much protest secured one contract, because he "kicked up a stir" in the newspapers. As I say, this may be just gossip. In these particular days, I have, as you know, too many problems to devote myself to the problem of an asphalt bid. However, there may be something to all this conversation. I wish you would look into the matter, to make sure there is no "whitewash" of any one concerned.

I will, of course, rely upon your discretion to take whatever measures are necessary. I need hardly point out the bad effect on public confidence in our defense program if this sort of thing is true. I need hardly add I have no idea whether it is true or not.

F. D. R.



PSF: Rowe Folder

PSF: Rowe

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

June 7, 1941.

MEMORANDUM FOR

JIM ROWE

I talked with Jimmy Byrnes, who is Acting Leader, and I wish you would pass this information on to him and tell him my idea is that there should be a continuing examination by the Interstate Commerce Committee but not the White Resolution to conduct a regular investigation.

F. D. R.

PSF: Rowe Folder

Subject

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON June 3, 1941

Memorandum For The President.

Fly and White Resolution

As the hearings on the White Resolution to investigate the Communications Commission go on, the lineup of the Interstate Commerce Committee becomes more obvious.

All the radio lobbyists are in town working on the members of the Committee, and, incidentally, working on cabinet officers and any government official who will listen to them.

They claim they have fourteen votes which Fly doubts.

What I call the "Wheeler bloc" or the Isolationist bloc" are solidly supporting Fly; at the same time they are telling him you will not support him.

The questionmark Senators at this time are the Administration Senators, none of whom have yet shown their hand, although the lobbyists are working on them all the time. They have given Fly no help, but neither have they yet attacked him.

The Administration Senators plus the Wheeler bloc can easily defeat the White Resolution. If this is done, that will be the end of the radio fuss, since NBC and CBS will have no choice except to make peace with Fly.

Otherwise, it will be a continuing headache.

One word from the White House to Barkley would insure this. But this word must go soon because the Committee is expected to vote tomorrow afternoon.

Incidentally, Senator Norris is probably getting ready to go to the wars on this issue even if he has to do it all by himself.

JHR
James Rowe, Jr.

(over)

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Against the White Resolution -

Wheeler
Wagner
Truman
Hill
Clark
Tobey
Reed
Brooks

In favor of the White Resolution -

Smith
Bone
Johnson
White
Austin
Shipstead
Gurney

? (All Administration men.)

Barkley
Andrews
Schwartz
Stewart
Tunnell
McFarland

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

June 7, 1941.

MEMORANDUM FOR

JIM ROWE

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

F. D. R.



THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY
WASHINGTON

PSF: Rowe - 4/1/41

Subject

June 6, 1941

My dear Mr. President:

John Carmody has written me a letter enclosing a copy of a memorandum from you, dated May 17, in regard to the letting of a contract of 3,600,000 gallons of asphalt for Eglin Field, Florida.

Attached hereto you will find a photostatic copy of the report of the Director of Procurement on this matter.

You will be pleased to note that the Allied Materials, Inc., were given the contract as low bidder, at an approximate saving of \$25,000 as compared with the second bidder, the Pan American Petroleum Company.

I think you will agree with me that Mr. Mack proceeded in an entirely ethical and businesslike manner in regard to the letting of this contract.

Yours sincerely,

The President,
The White House.

Copy to:
Secretary of War
Mr. John Carmody



OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

TREASURY DEPARTMENT

PROCUREMENT DIVISION

WASHINGTON
June 4, 1941

Memorandum for the Secretary of the Treasury:

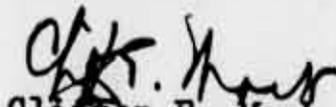
Bids were opened March 31, 1941, by the Procurement Officer, Jacksonville, Florida, for the furnishing of an estimated quantity of 3,600,000 gallons of cut back asphalt for Eglin Field, Florida.

The low bid was submitted by Allied Materials, Inc., Atlanta, Georgia, based upon shipment on Government bill of lading which results in lower transportation cost due to land grant rates. The next low bidder, Pan American Petroleum Company, Pensacola, Florida, protested any award being made on the bids received and requested that all bids be rejected because of their objection to the determination of the transportation costs and also requested that the needs be readvertised and a personal hearing be granted.

Under date of April 22, 1941, Mr. Millard Caldwell, representing the Pan American Petroleum Company, who was accompanied by Senator Pepper, was given a hearing by me. They presented their reasons why all bids should be rejected, stating, among other things, that Allied Materials, Inc., could not perform the contract if awarded and that the only fair thing to do was to readvertise.

Because of the statements made on behalf of Pan American Petroleum Company, indicating that the low bidder, Allied Materials, Inc., could not perform the contract, representatives of Allied Materials, Inc., were given a hearing under date of April 24, 1941, and they furnished satisfactory proof of their ability to comply with the requirements of the advertised specifications and satisfactorily perform the contract if award be made to them.

Accordingly, after careful consideration of all the facts of record, it was determined by me that no basis existed for rejecting the bids and award was made to the low bidder, Allied Materials, Inc., under date of April 25, 1941, at a total price of \$224,853.12 job site as against a price of \$250,560.00 job site submitted by the Pan American Petroleum Company.


Clifton E. Mack
Director of Procurement



FEDERAL WORKS AGENCY
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATOR

May 31, 1941

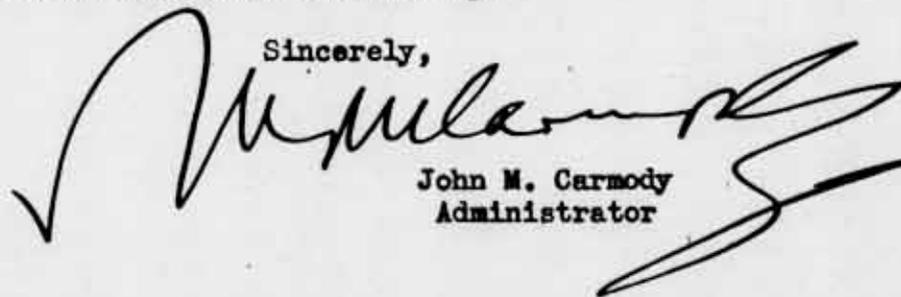
Honorable Henry Morgenthau, Jr.
Secretary of the Treasury
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Secretary:

Because of the President's misunderstanding of the relationship of the Procurement Division to the Treasury, I am taking the liberty of sending you a photostatic copy of a memorandum he sent me a few days ago.

I do not know what part the Procurement Division played in the matter the President refers to. I do know that WPA was an innocent bystander that had a good deal of pressure put upon it to change a contract award when one group of asphalt dealers under-bid another group that apparently thought it had the business sewed up.

Sincerely,



John M. Carmody
Administrator

Enclosures

May 31, 1941

The President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. President:

Nothing would have happened to embarrass the Administration or WPA or Procurement in the Eglin Field, Florida, asphalt purchase if Senator Pepper had not tried to upset a contract award made by Procurement.

WPA was doing an alrperit job for the Army. Bids were asked for asphalt. Pan America in Florida apparently thought it had the business sewed up. A Georgia company (both of them got their asphalt from Texas), slipped in with a bid that took account of land grant rates for shipment of federal materials by rail. This made them low. This surprised the Florida boys who use barges to transport asphalt from Texas to Florida. They got busy, they got their friends to work on WPA, on the Army, and I understand on Procurement. The bidding was regular and no knew of no reason for switching.

I don't know how Tom Stekas got hold of the story but I suspect the man who put in the low bid probably told him when he was in Washington to checkmate the Senator and some Florida lawyers, who were trying to take his business away from him after he trimmed them. I understand they all know one another very well and trust one another about as much as one professional poker player trusts another.

The publicity was bad but the price of asphalt dropped sharply on the next contract. Procurement is a branch of Treasury under Secretary Hargenshan and not part of Federal Works Agency. Incidentally, three of our WPA boys who were subjected to heat are before the Senate for confirmation. I think the way they stood their ground quietly is a credit to your Administration.

Sincerely,

John W. Carnody

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 17, 1941

MEMORANDUM FOR

HON. JOHN CARMODY

I know nothing of the merits of the recent newspaper controversy concerning certain bids for asphalt let for the paving of a runway on some airport in Florida. I understand, however, that the two agencies concerned are WPA and the Procurement Division, both of which are under your direction.

I have even heard it stated that these agencies plan to make it difficult for the Georgia contractor who after much protest secured one contract, because he "kicked up a stir" in the newspapers. As I say, this may be just gossip. In these particular days, I have, as you know, too many problems to devote myself to the problem of an asphalt bid. However, there may be something to all this conversation. I wish you would look into the matter, to make sure there is no "whitewash" of any one concerned.

I will, of course, rely upon your discretion to take whatever measures are necessary. I need hardly point out the bad effect on public confidence in our defense program if this sort of thing is true. I need hardly add I have no idea whether it is true or not.

F. D. R.



1
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

PSF: Rowe Folder
File
Personal
Subject

June 9, 1941

Memorandum For Grace Tully.

Jesse Jones

Since I have been taking shots at Jesse Jones because of his lukewarm attitude toward Lyndon Johnson's candidacy, I think the President might be interested in this very favorable editorial in one of Jones' papers which appeared Wednesday.

JHR

James Rowe, Jr.

THE HOUSTON CHRONICLE AND HERALD

PUBLISHED DAILY BY THE HOUSTON CHRONICLE PUBLISHING CO.
(REG. U. S. PATENT) 513-539 TRAVIS STREET, HOUSTON, TEXAS

JESSE H. JONES, President
G. W. COTTINGHAM, Editor
J. H. BUTLER, Business Manager
G. L. MIMS, Secretary and Treasurer

Entered July 25, 1902, at Houston, Texas, as Second-Class Matter Under Act of Congress March 3, 1879.

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WASHINGTON BUREAU.

E. N. TIMMONS, Correspondent, 1253-1255 National Press Bldg.

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Sunday only 10c a copy	Sunday only 10c a copy

The "Yes Man" Charge

Is Lyndon Johnson a "yes man"?

Here is what he himself says:

"I make no apology for my long and continuing support of the greatest humanitarian president America has ever had.

"I make no apologies because I say, 'Yes, Mr. President, we're going to follow your leadership to end the reign of Hitlerism in the world, and to keep it away from our shores, by giving England all the aid we can—and getting that to her.'

"I say, 'Yes, Mr. President, we're going to give our boys in our American camps the guns and ammunition and machines they need to defend themselves with, and to train to be the best soldiers in the world.'

"I say, 'Yes, Mr. President, we're going to stand up to capital and labor, and say: "Our boys are drafted and you are drafted, too. No lockouts in this national emergency. No strikes in the days and nights of our peril."

"I say, 'Yes, Mr. President, I'm going to work with you to save our American way of life.'

His opponents will have to go farther than the "yes man" charge to harm him with the people of Texas.

It is hard to find a better argument than the candidate's own words to support his position.

He does not belong with that group that is willing to take credit for being supporters of the president but is skeptical about what the president does; that group which is willing to collect on the fine loyalty which Texans have to the president, but is not willing to commit itself to the course in this crisis recommended by the president.

Mr. Johnson has cast his lot with President Roosevelt, and asserts it on all occasions, for which The Chronicle commends him.

Chief Justice to Retire

*Southeast Texas Daily
Biggest circulation in state
Owned by Jesse H. Jones.*

PSF: Rowe Folder
Subject JLE

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

June 10, 1941

Memorandum For The President.

Where is Jesse? - Chapter Three

I think he has arrived at last! Here is another editorial favoring Lyndon Johnson. Who knows, maybe we can even get Jesse to make a speech?

Independent information indicates that Lyndon is still in the ruck but coming fast. He may take it.

JHR

James Rowe, Jr.

PSF: Rowe

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Sunday only.....10c a copy	Sunday only..... 10c a copy

Lyndon Johnson for the Senate

Every political campaign must be considered in the light of what its results will mean to the country. That is why the present senatorial contest in Texas is of unusual importance.

At this moment in America, there is one important issue, and one only. It is all-out for defense, and for aid to those democracies which are fighting the aggressors.

Every act of everyone in a governmental position of any kind at this time must be weighed in the scales; with this purpose deciding the balance.

That is why the voters of Texas must clear their minds of all other considerations.

The voters have a simple problem before them at the June 28 election: To select the man best suited to carry on the policy which Senator Sheppard pursued of representing Texas in the senate in complete co-operation with our national leaders to the end that this country is made the strongest in the world, and that it stand foursquare for the principles which will prevent world domination by any aggressor.

We believe that under all the circumstances Lyndon Johnson is the man best suited for the job. He has a good public record. He knows Texas and he knows Washington. His four years in the house have brought him high in the councils of the nation. They have found him consistently on the side of those principles for which President Roosevelt stands, principles which the voters of Texas have indorsed over and over again by tremendous majorities. He has consistently supported the president and has his complete confidence. We commend his candidacy for the United States senate to the voters of Texas.

President Blasts Peace Rumors

President Roosevelt's withering denunciations should...

The In R

The Middle East posed by the British in Crete and the ne... laboration betw... Germany which... to possible easy... tion, became the... the war for the... German troop... pouring into Syr... Germans, disg... refugees, were r... filtered into the... colony.

French troops i... hortored by French... sist a German inv... A large segmen... man empire army... poised for a poss... vasion of Syria.

Freeing of British... the capitulation o... possible for the I... centrate on the... strongholds in Pal... Egypt.

It was believed... had made the f... moves in her ann... ward Suez by blas... principal British... Mediterranean, M... tar.

British planes... two points in Sy... Beirut.

Turkish sources... least 15,000 Ger... Syria.

What all of the... there were to do... Some had sympati... French forces.

United States A... G. Winant was unc... told Vice Preside... the British were... can hold the Medi...

The German ai... base on Sicily, pre... centrate on Crete... base for operatio... ish strongholds ir... tine, and other ar...

Turkish sources... man troops had o... cus, in Syria.

Turkish sources... German and Rumi... centration for a...

**FIRST AID KITS FOR BRITISH
CIVILIANS COMMITTEE**



SPONSORED BY

Anglo-American Lodge No. 78
American Order Sons of St. George
Founded 1870

IN CO-OPERATION WITH

British War Relief Society, Inc.

U. S. State Dep't License No. 208

**FIRST AID KITS FOR BRITISH
CIVILIANS COMMITTEE**

17 East 42nd Street

NEW YORK, N. Y.

Murray Hill 2-4630

WHO WE ARE

THE FIRST AID KITS FOR BRITISH CIVILIANS COMMITTEE was formed and sponsored by the Anglo-American Lodge No. 78 of the American Order Sons of St. George, a seventy-one year old institution composed of Americans of British descent. We are co-operating with the British War Relief Society in this much needed endeavor.

OUR PURPOSE

The purpose of the committee is to furnish civilians in the war torn areas with EMERGENCY FIRST AID KITS and the committee is confident that the quick accomplishment of its purpose will SAVE MANY LIVES by making available emergency first aid treatment pending the arrival of professional aid. Many a life may be saved by the quick application of emergency first aid if the civilians in the areas under fire have these kits available on the spot!!! THE MORE KITS DONATED, THE MORE LIVES SAVED!!!

THE KITS

Each kit contains the following:

- Adhesive compresses
- 2 inch compress
- 3 inch compress
- 4 inch compress
- Sterile Gauze
- 40 inch triangular bandage
- Iodine applicator
- Ammonia ampoules
- Tanic acid jelly
- Tourniquet
- Tweezers
- Scissors
- First aid manual

In addition to this there is the kit itself which is rubberized khaki and has a shoulder strap for easy carrying.

A KIT IN HAND — A LIFE PROLONGED

THIS FIRST-AID KIT HAS BEEN DONATED
TO A BRITISH CIVILIAN

through the Anglo-American Lodge No. 78,
American Order Sons of St. George
in conjunction with the
BRITISH WAR RELIEF SOCIETY

AMERICAN ORDER SONS OF ST. GEORGE
AMERICAN BROTHERHOOD SOCIETY

THIS FIRST-AID KIT HAS BEEN DONATED
TO A BRITISH CIVILIAN

by _____

_____, U. S. A.

through the First Aid Kits for British Civilians
Committee, 17 E. 42nd St., New York City,
sponsored by the Anglo-American Lodge No. 78
American Order Sons of St. George
in conjunction with the
BRITISH WAR RELIEF SOCIETY

A FEW FACTS

Allied civilian morale will help win the war and speed its end. . . .

Immediate attention to the wounds of civilians is as important as guns. . . .

Where can a dollar be spent more wisely and humanely than that dollar spent to help an innocent victim of terrific bomb raids?

What if it were YOUR child, husband, wife, relative or sweetheart?

NOW is YOUR opportunity of rendering merciful assistance to these heroic people, and to receive their personal written thanks for the kindness that prompted your donating to them the kit bearing your name.

•
HOW MANY OF THESE PEOPLE
ARE YOU GOING TO HELP?

•
FIRST AID KITS FOR BRITISH
CIVILIANS COMMITTEE

SPONSORED BY

Anglo-American Lodge No. 78

American Order Sons of St. George
Founded 1870

17 East 42nd Street
NEW YORK, N. Y.
MUrray Hill 2-4630

IN CO OPERATION WITH THE

British War Relief Society, Inc.

Registered with the U. S. State Dept. No. 208

Kindly make all checks payable to the **FIRST
AID KITS FOR BRITISH CIVILIANS COMMITTEE.**



HAVE A HEART — DO YOUR PART.

DONATIONS

Whether you donate ONE KIT or a THOUSAND KITS, on each kit that you donate your name and address will be inscribed on a label that will be attached TO THE KIT ITSELF so that the recipient may thank YOU by mailing to you the postal card that is enclosed in each kit.

DELIVERY OF KITS

The BRITISH WAR RELIEF SOCIETY with whom we are cooperating, has undertaken the shipment of these kits to the war torn areas and will make the distribution of same to the civilians who so greatly need them.

THE COST

Kits may be donated by individuals, groups, schools, lodges, employee groups, etc., in single kits or as many as a person or group desires to donate, EACH DOLLAR DONATES ONE KIT.

The name of the donor should be filled in on one of the labels and the check, money order, or cash should be attached to this label. It is not necessary to fill in more than one label for a donation of more than a dollar as we will attend to that for you!!

CAN YOU AFFORD NOT TO HELP THESE BRAVE
PEOPLE?

—
A KIT FOR A DOLLAR

AN APPRECIATIVE THANKS WILL FOLLOW!

Chairman

X HAROLD H. NEWBERY
*James Earl National Supreme President
American Order Sons of St. George*

Treasurer

X MATTHEW M. NEDGWICK
Treasurer, Anglo-American Lodge No. 78

Secretary

X WM. J. TINKHAM

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(in process of formation)

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MRS. RUTH GRIMES
GRIFFITH JONES
OWEN ROBERT JONES
HILDEGARDE
MIRIAM HOPKINS
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MRS. H. H. NEAL
THOMAS N. NEWHOUSE
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LAWRENCE W. ROGERS
DR. MARY G. WOOLLEY
HARRY VON ZILL

Kindly make all checks payable to the
**FIRST AID KITS FOR BRITISH CIVILIANS
COMMITTEE.**



From the brave civilians of Britain who
are constantly under fire comes
the call for

EMERGENCY FIRST AID KITS

Let us tell you our story in a very
few words

**FIRST AID KITS FOR BRITISH
CIVILIANS COMMITTEE**

SPONSORED BY

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*American Order Sons of St. George
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Should a donor so desire, his name and address can be enclosed in each Kit contributed by him if the enclosed label is filled out. Otherwise all Kits contributed will be sent anonymously.



Kindly Make all checks payable to FIRST AID
KITS FOR BRITISH CIVILIANS COMMITTEE

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THE KITS

Each kit contains the following:

Adhesive Compresses
2 inch compress
3 inch compress
4 inch compress
Sterile Gauze
40 inch triangular bandage
Iodine applicator
Ammonia ampoules
Tanic acid jelly
Tourniquet
Tweezers
Scissors
First aid manual

In addition to this there is the kit itself which is rubberized khaki and has a shoulder strap for easy carrying.

CONTRIBUTIONS MADE TO THIS COMMITTEE
MAY BE DEDUCTED FOR INCOME TAX PURPOSES.

PSF: Rowe Folder
Subject

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

June 10, 1941.

MEMORANDUM FOR
THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Will you speak to me about
this at your convenience?

F. D. R.

Memorandum from Jim Rowe
to the President, dated June 7,
1941, re Roy Howard.

Grace:
JK says don't
let the Pres. send this
out to anyone.
djb

PSF: Rowe Folder
Subject

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

June 14, 1941.

MEMORANDUM FOR

JIM ROWE

Try to find out for me whether
it is true that Wickard and Appleby
are now really reconciled to each
other -- working together -- and if
they are, I see no reason to take
Appleby out of the good work he is
doing now.

F. D. R.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON June 13, 1941

Memorandum For The President.

Federal Reserve Board - Paul Appleby

The last time we discussed the Federal Reserve Board vacancy which must be filled by someone with an agricultural background, I said that Paul Appleby had told me he would not be interested under any circumstances and would refuse it if offered.

I now understand I misrepresented his position. He would take it if you offered it to him, but will make no effort to get it. He is quite happy where he is as Under Secretary of Agriculture, but like so many he is tired and has some financial obligations and the salary and long tenure of the Reserve Board makes it attractive.

You could not, of course, make a better appointment. Appleby is one of the few really capable and really disinterested public servants in this Administration.

In my opinion, he has always been too self-effacing for his own good. To be frank, during the entire history of this Administration, including today, Appleby has been the real Secretary of Agriculture.

He is the administrative genius behind the Department. Every disinterested student of the Federal government has said for years that Agriculture is the best run agency in the government, head and shoulders above any other agency. In fact I have not heard this questioned for a long time.

I know that some persons have been making vicious attacks on Appleby to you. The most charitable explanation that I can offer for these attacks is ignorance. I can offer considerably less charitable explanation, but I will not do so.

Although Wallace and Wickard have spoken to you about Black for this vacancy, I understand they confidentially prefer Appleby.

You would be losing an extremely skillful public servant who is in an important place, but in terms of loyalty and efficiency he deserves the appointment if you are going to make one.

JHR
James Rowe, Jr.

PSF: Rowe Folder
Subject

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

June 16, 1941

MEMORANDUM FOR HON. JIM ROWE

On thinking this over, I have come to the conclusion that probably Abe Fortas is the ablest of the bunch but because Fortas comes from the middle of the country, not even on the Lakes, and is doing great work where he is, it would be best to choose Burke whose record is excellent.

Will you speak to Burke about going on the Maritime Commission?

F. D. R.

Enclosure

I did. Burke says "interested
only in SEC."
JHR

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

June 7, 1941

Memorandum For The President.

SEC and Maritime Commission

I have a message from you asking whether Ed Burke (Mary Norton's nephew) would be a good appointment to the vacancy on the Maritime Commission. I also have a memorandum to speak to you about Abe Fortas, General Counsel of the Bituminous Coal Commission for Leon Henderson's position on the SEC.

After the nomination of Ganson Purcell to the SEC had been prepared, I cleared it through the usual political channels. Mary Norton heard about it and kicked up a fearful row particularly through Ed Flynn, which I resented because she knew you had already made up your mind. At the time Flynn promised her he would make every effort to get the new vacancy on the SEC for Burke. I cautioned him at the time that this might be difficult because it would mean putting another New Yorker and another SEC staff member on the Commission. Flynn thought it was possible politically and I agree that Burke was far and away the best fitted for the job. So for this reason Flynn will push hard against Fortas and for Burke. Also he has some hopes that he can get you an acceptable candidate for the Maritime Commission from the Great Lakes. In this connection, however, it should be noted that although New York is the country's greatest seaport it has no representation on the Commission.

(1) Burke. I think Burke has his heart set on the SEC. There is no doubt of his competence but although his background is mostly SEC, I think his particular talent will be more useful on the Maritime Commission. He spent many years as a corporate lawyer on Wall Street, some time with the RFC and is head of the Reorganization Division of the SEC. He has, therefore, the particular financial background which has recently been sadly lacking in the Maritime Commission.

I think the thing to do is for me, without making any commitments whatever, to ask Burke whether he would be interested, pointing out that you have other candidates in mind for the SEC and asking him whether he wants to take his chances on the SEC or not.

The only other candidate prominently mentioned for the Maritime vacancy is Creighton Peet, at present Secretary of the Commission. I believe either he or Mrs. Peet is a cousin of yours. Peet has done very good, if quiet, work at the Commission for some years and knows its work thoroughly. He does not have the financial background of Burke.

(2) Abe Fortas. I assume Bill Douglas suggested him to you, since he is one of Bill's pets. The question of his ability can be guessed at by the row Secretary Ickes made when you suggested taking him away from Ickes. He is remarkably able. He is Jewish, young, (32 or 33) and is from Memphis, Tennessee, which would give the Commission better geographic balance and also might satisfy the Southerners (although the fact that he is a Jew would probably not please them particularly).

Fortas would bring one thing to the Commission which Burke does not have - a public utility background. When Bill Douglas was Chairman, he was Director of the Public Utilities Division but his efforts to make the Holding Company Act work were completely frustrated by Judge Healy. When Douglas went to the Court, Fortas resigned. He would be able to handle Healy on Public Utility matters, which no one else over there has been able to do. Fortas has been doing Ben Cohen's work on the Power Policy Committee and is in fact a younger Ben Cohen in practically every respect.

Burke and Fortas are both New Dealers. I think the appointment of either or both would bring no criticism, if the reaction to Purcell's appointment is any criterion. Even Wall Street and the Herald-Tribune praised the Purcell appointment as putting a professional on the Commission. The Tribune pointed out that even if Purcell was a New Dealer, he knew his business and Wall Street knew where he stood.

Shall I speak to Burke about the Maritime Commission? If he is agreeable, I think that would be the best way to handle Ed Flynn.

JHR

James Rowe, Jr.

PSF Rome Folder
Sub.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

June 16, 1941

MEMORANDUM FOR HON. JAMES H. ROWE

OK on the radio suggestion
in regard to your seeing Byrnes
and other Administration Senators.

In regard to Clifford Durr,
will you have a little further check
made and if you are convinced he
is OK, you might speak to Lister
Hill and tell him flatly that I will
not re-appoint Thompson but would
re-appoint Durr. Also it might be
wise to intimate some such thing
to Larry Fly himself.

F. D. R.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

June 10, 1941

Memorandum For The President.

Communications Commission - Frederick Thompson

Senator Lister Hill has been calling several times about the reappointment of Frederick Thompson to the Communications Commission, and I promised him I would speak to you about it when I had an opportunity.

I have been told, from what I think are reliable sources, that you have no intention of reappointing Thompson. The truth is, he is incredibly incompetent and normally should not be reappointed. I have told Senator Hill that I have heard "outside gossip" that you do not intend to reappoint him but that of course I have no real knowledge one way or the other. But at this stage I do not think he would be greatly surprised if you did not, but he will still make a fight about it.

He now argues - and correctly -- that the radio broadcasters have been promising to "get" Thompson and that, therefore, Thompson has become a symbol of the fight between the Administration and the broadcasting chains, and should be reappointed or it will be taken as a convincing sign that you are siding with the chains against the Commission. He also argues that he must carry the fight for the Administration in the Interstate Commerce Committee, which is true.

There is a simple solution to this, if you do not want to reappoint Thompson and that is to select another man from Alabama who cannot be regarded as a suggestion of the broadcasters. There is such a man - Clifford Durr of Birmingham, Alabama.

You recently appointed Durr as a member of the Board of Legal Examiners. He is Assistant General Counsel of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation and is a thoroughgoing New Dealer. He is a brother-in-law of Justice Hugo Black, was educated in the South and was a Rhodes scholar at Oxford. He has done very able work at the RFC for many years. He is about 45.

I have not the slightest idea whether Durr would take the job if offered to him because he is now engrossed in defense work. My guess is that he would not want it. Of course he knows nothing about radio but that is the usual "phoney" argument of all industries regulated by government. It would be just as absurd to put a utility man in the SEC.

I also gave your message to Senator Byrnes that you do not want the White Resolution but did want the Interstate Commerce Committee to keep on informally investigating as it now is. Byrnes said he had suggested to you that an extension of time be granted by Fly past the 90-day period when the regulations go into effect. I told the Senator that this was a reasonable request of the broadcasting chains if it were reasonably made but the way they are now talking indicates that it is the old tactic of delay and that after that road had been played out they would immediately take the other road to the courts

where they should get a year's delay, but will eventually lose out. Byrnes agreed they should not be allowed to use such tactics.

He also agreed that the decision on whether an extension of time is reasonable or is merely the technique of delay should be left to Larry Fly (who, by the way, after his years at TVA is an expert on all the tricks his opponents use in a fight like this).

Byrnes also agreed that you should concern yourself as little as possible in this fight and let Fly do the work. As soon as the chains know they must talk to Fly, the battle is over -- and there are indications they know it already. Byrnes said you had more important work to do and also said the Senators felt they had too, and that they are getting somewhat annoyed at the lobbyists pouring into Washington.

JWR

James Rowe, Jr.

Jimmy Byrnes is a busy man. If you will allow me to give the message from you that I gave him to the other Administration Senators it would be helpful. For example, the pressure on Schwartz has been so much that he has already left Washington to hide but a little on the other side would bring him back.

PSF: Rowe Folder
Subject
F

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

June 17, 1941.

MEMORANDUM FOR

JIM ROWE

Will you speak to me about
this on your return?

F. D. R.

President to office
Bunker
JHR

CHAMBERS OF
JEROME N. FRANK
CIRCUIT JUDGE

UNITED STATES CIRCUIT COURT OF APPEALS
NEW YORK CITY

June 16, 1941.

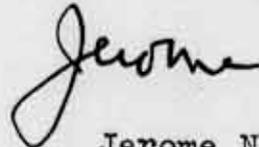
The President,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. President:

I understand that you are giving consideration to the appointment of Abe Fortas to the SEC, if Ben is not to be appointed. I want, respectfully, to recommend him most highly. My knowledge of his capacities is based on first hand intensive acquaintance with his work, as administrator and lawyer, in 1933-1934, in the AAA, and in 1938-1939 in the SEC.

His heart and brains are in the right place and of the best quality.

Respectfully,



Jerome N. Frank.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

*File
& forget*

June 23, 1941

Memorandum For The President:

You sent me a letter from William A. Deely with your memorandum "What do you think we should do about this? F. D. R."

This comes under the heading of "file and forget". Deely, a rather eccentric gentleman, thinks that Ed Flynn is treating Charles Sawyer badly. Flynn has been spending weeks trying to cure the vicious factional fight in the Democratic party in Ohio. A solution was worked out and Wayne Coy and I have talked to Flynn about it but, at Sawyer's insistence, Flynn refused to go along.

So if anything Flynn has been on the side of Sawyer - who has contributed as much as any other person, including Davey, to ruining the party in Ohio.

JHR

James Rowe, Jr.

Rowe Folder

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

June 17, 1941

MEMORANDUM FOR

HON. JAMES H. ROWE

What do you think we should
do about this?

F. D. R.

Enclosure

Let to Miss LeHand 6/10/41 from
Wm. A. Deely, Democratic Nat. Com.
401 Huntington National Bank Building,
Columbus, Ohio re Chas. Sawyer,
Nat. Committeeman from Ohio - "Why
slice Charles Sawyer's heart in Ohio,
did he deliver?" Says Mr. Sawyer does
not know he is writing this letter.

BF Rowe Folder
Sub.

DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL COMMITTEE

CHARLES SAWYER, COMMITTEEMAN FROM OHIO
401 HUNTINGTON NATIONAL BANK BLDG.
COLUMBUS, OHIO
ADAMS 3317

June 10, 1941.

Miss Marguerite A. LeHand,
White House,
Washington, D. C.

Re Why slice Charles Sawyers heart in Ohio, did
he deliver?

Dear Miss LeHand:-

May it be possible that yourself or someone else
bring to the attention of the President the reason for this letter.

While just one of the active Democrats in this State,
I believe that I have rendered service in the past that should command
respect of not only our President but several very close to him. My
contact with Louis McHenry Howe over a period of years prior to this
Administration was close enough to save Harry Hopkins, and I wonder if
he would be in the position he now holds with our Chief, if I had not
turned over to Mr. Howe the information that stopped the Ohio Relief
steal under the Davey administration. I surely missed the Howe contact
these past few years. Another angle, imperative to the administration
was when I sent to Hyde Park the idea to change margin requirements,
this was changed as suggested within three days by the SEC. Ask Frank
Walker who tipped him off to a frameup party by the Claypools of Ohio,
for the Columbia Gas Co, during the holding company Senate hearings
but they got Black in the spot where he turned it over to O'Connor
in the House and then a wash out. Yes then Claypool and Francis Poulsen
then Davey's State Chairman tried to save the floor leadership for
O'Connor. They did not just take shin plasters along from Ohio either.
I could add that I had charge of the matter when Davey was going to
throw his support to Landon in 1936, check with West of Welly K. Hopkins
now counsel for UWA in Washington. Remember how we supported Wallace in the
convention, the trip I made on the train with all of you from Columbus to
Dayton, Ohio did not lock safe that evening, but I was the one that had the
resolution drawn a few minutes after Lewis radio speech and after getting the
go sign from my chief Sawyer, contacted CIO locals throughout the night
and next day for them to demand meetings to seek the resignation of Lewis.
Sawyer was waiting for my reports to call the White House the next night
at Canton, Ohio. Yes that night they burned Lewis in Effigy. We carried
Ohio. After submitting the new steel tape aircraft shell to Louis Johnson
and then the War Department out loose the publicity under # 070, I get
kicked about by Gen. Adams. Who gave the story out on Jan. 13, 1940, and
the credit I get is mentioned as the unidentified American. What happened
to the idea of my Tankettes that were to slide off runners into planes?

Now all this brings me to why abuse Sawyer.

Everything I can do to assist the President or my Country is based on the loyal devotion of Mr. Charles Sawyer to these things.

Yet our new National Chairman Ed. Flynn, gives Sawyer the bums rush, so that the Davey crowd can keep things hot along with the well known liquor seller in the Davey administration and subject for disbarment during that period, one Congressman Steve Young, AT LARGE STILL, of Ohio. Who has just sold the Democratic Ohio Members of Congress the ^{EXACTLY} pass a resolution that in Republican Districts, Young will select the names of the newly appointed Postmasters and other jobs. Can you see the mess we have on our hands in those Counties that have a Republican Congressman, the Democratic County Chairmen receiving a notice from Young that he is the one to give out jobs. Well if you want another Davey setup in Ohio, it will surely come that way as Young has a contact office in the Neil House run by a former Davey contact woman by the name of Joe Saul and believe ^{ME} she knows how to take it in. Here is a bunch of Democratic elected Congressmen who were afraid to mention your Chief's name in the last election (check their speeches, they thought Ohio was going Willkie, but I worked on Lewis at Sawyer's request and won) I followed them around and can back that up, now they want to run things, we don't have a Statesman today in the whole bunch, but Sawyer proves he is. So I want Flynn to be notified to at least play decent Democratic Politics and notify Sawyer that he is the one to clear patronage through. I am sorry to be so crude about this but we are sick at heart having this nitwit in our hair. I think that it's almost an insult to anyone when Young stated Friday prior to the Inauguration that he would not cocktail or eat with Sawyer. Well the President has and so have you as I recall the dinner on the train. This is the type of a man that has ruined the Party in Ohio. Close investigation of the people landing jobs might show how the office is being operated in Columbus for him.

Flynn should know politics well enough from his days as sheriff of the Bronx, when I prepared cases for trial at that time, that the true leadership of the Party should rest in the hands of the man that delivers. Since we had such a tightwad as McSweeney running, we lost as he spent only \$2800, yet spent six thousand on his home last year, this was no fault of Sawyer's or the Party. But since we have no Senator and Sawyer as National Committeeman was to deliver for the Chief, I think that Flynn should be told to do something about this as quick as possible. This must be done in a hurry. Because only next year THE PRESIDENT WILL NEED CONGRESSMEN WHEN THEY WILL BE MOST IMPORTANT, HOW ARE WE GOING TO GET THEM IN THIS PIVOT STATE WITH A MESSED UP PARTY MACHINE LEAD BY A MAN THAT AS A CONGRESSMAN AT LARGE HAS HIS OWN BAR ASSOCIATION TRYING TO CONVICT HIM.

OR SHOULD CHARLES SAWYER PRODUCE AGAIN FOR THE PRESIDENT.

In short a few other things that cut our hearts out is Dr. Carl Watson of the WPA in Ohio, who has gone out of his way to block and insult the Party, we now have the information that he has placed his O.K. on vouchers that are out of line so some of his friends could keep other jobs and etc. This is about ready to hit the papers. James Dunton of this office has the records.

Grace Glascoff, head of Wages and hours in this State and mind you also head of the Office of Government Reports, is another bunny that is causing us plenty of trouble. There is quite a scandal ready to break out on her for hiding the Shelby Shoe Company file, the labor crowd will make something out of this as we received the information from them. She was just taking care of some of hereold Party Republicans that she belonged to prior to being kicked into this office by Benedict Crowell who had been her boss. Now she hires the Commy candidate from Missouri for Governor a few years ago, to run th. office of Wages and Hours in the stolid city of Cincinnati, without even contacting Mr. Sawyer in his home town. So the Tafts laugh and laugh at the Democratic Party in Ohio being kicked around by these former Republicans as the above crap shooting lady known as Lou is doing to us and my chief Mr. Sawyer.

To get my own beef in, I was slated for her job as in charge of Government Reports in this Region but she sent word that Lowell Mellett would make me work under her as assistant. Well Mellett has my ideas on that, I am still a Democrat and want to work as one but not under a throat cutting Republican. You still want Congressmen next year and they wont come that way. Only a few weeks ago Paul McNutt hires Republican Governor Brickers candidate for the Ohio Board of Education a man from Washington Court House as the head of the Army Recreation Division. Takin the beating I did in trying to explain that away and one would wonder why my Irish is up in the air. Paul will do well in Ohio when he starts looking for delegates.

Now I rush this because it has more feeling than it shows except for errors. Not minding that I still am fighting to have some one call Mr. Sawyer and our National Committeewoman Mrs Jaster to meet with the President and Flynn. Get this as quick as possible, please think what it means in the future.

The average man on the street today approves of the action against strikes. I have one suggestion that a Federal Coordinator should be placed in each County in this country with equal powers of the local government to see that all functions the Federal Government is part of should be properly operating. This would keep the opposition from stealing all the positions like they have in the State of Ohio and the Army at Camp Shelby and at least give our own Party an equal break. I have a complete plan on this that will give a quick check on how the regular Federal work is flowing clear through to Washington.

One more important matter is that I heard today from a fine Democratic Lawyer, that last week the man that subbed for Wheeler at Indianapolis, head a secret meeting after it was over, trying to setup a group to try and impeach the President. If you want more on this I will get it.

Sorry to have to ask to bear with me on this, but someone must see the President and get Ohio on the right road. Advise Mellett that he will find I pass on the truth, check with Captain Victor Harding or "elly Hopkins.

Be sure remember me to Miss Durandy.

I am under the impression you like my boss Mr. Sawyer, I am confident the President does also but I am at loss why Flynn refuses to come through.

WE WILL DELIVER FOR OHIO AGAIN NEXT YEAR BUT NEED PRESIDENTIAL HELP NOW.

Sincerely yours, *John A. Deely*

Public Relations Department.

This letter is unknown to Mr. Sawyer!

1
7
PSF Rowe Folder
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Sub. F

June 25, 1941.

MEMORANDUM FOR

JIM ROWE

Will you look into this
and reply to Mr. Charles D. Huston?

F. D. R.

I can't answer this because
the President is sending Birmingham
over to the Senate to replace
Huston. Request of both Senators
& Ed Tamm. JHR



OFFICE OF THE COLLECTOR
DISTRICT OF IOWA

IN REPLYING REFER TO

TREASURY DEPARTMENT

INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE

DES MOINES, IOWA

June 23, 1941

Personal

Hon. Franklin D. Roosevelt
President United States
White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

This note is actuated by rumors.

Should you find my services as Col-
lector for Iowa satisfactory, I would be
pleased to continue.

Very truly yours,

Chas. D. Huston

Chas. D. Huston

file
personal

PSF: Rowle Folder
Sub

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

June 25, 1941

Memorandum For The President.

Tom Corcoran - Solicitor General

I have prepared a draft of reply to Mr. Justice Reed who has written you recommending Tommy Corcoran as Solicitor General, of course on the assumption that Francis Biddle goes up.

Some time ago you sent me a note from Bill Douglas in which he said that he and Justice Black also recommend Tom for Solicitor General. Your memorandum said "To speak to me about. F.D.R." I have been unable to see you since that time.

If Tom Corcoran would be a real Solicitor General, he would be the best this Administration has ever had. He would make Stanley Reed look silly. He would be considerably better than was Bob Jackson, which is indeed high praise.

But the question is would he be a Solicitor General or would he continue to do all the other things he has always done? He can't do both. Next to the Supreme Court, the position of Solicitor General is the highest legal position in the country and should have corresponding dignity and aloofness from any other pursuit.

Some time ago Felix Frankfurter asked me to come down and talk to him, and asked me frankly whether I thought you would appoint Tom as Solicitor General. I told him I had no idea but I was, frankly, doubtful.

F.F. cited me a similar case in which Lincoln wanted to appoint someone to the Supreme Court but hesitated for months because the man in question had Presidential ambitions and was not the kind to give them up. He finally exacted a promise of "no politics" and made the appointment. Two weeks later the distinguished Justice was again running for President at top speed. (Since I have forgotten his name, he evidently didn't do so well).

So such promises are doubtful. But if you could get such an unmistakable and clear promise, there could be no greater Solicitor General. Most people have forgotten it, but Tom is a brilliant legal scholar and, what is more important in a Solicitor General, has a felicity and clarity of expression both in formal and informal talk surpassing any other lawyer I have ever heard in court.

In Tom's present frame of mind, I don't know whether such a promise, even if made, would stick.

There is also the more obvious disadvantage - confirmation. It is a well-known fact that Tom is campaigning for the job. It is rumored that certain Senators have said there would be a bitter fight over confirmation, including an exhaustive investigation into his private law practice during the past few

months. This also disturbs F.F., who does not think it would do the Court too much good to have such a public quarrel. It would certainly do you no good.

If this matter were held up a month or so, it may die of its own weight. In other words, it may be one of Tom's mercurial and brief ideas, as was the Assistant Secretaryship of the Navy, about which he seems to have lost all interest. Also, during the Summer months there is no need for a Solicitor General. Petitions for certiorari must of course be prepared, as also must the early cases for the October term, but the Solicitor General's office is excellent in its professional talent.

Parenthetically I should like to add that this is not true of the Attorney General, especially in time of national emergency. I do not know whether you plan to appoint Francis Biddle but if you do, it should be done soon because the Department of Justice is already beginning to drift a little bit. I have noticed it recently in several instances. Biddle is only human and is not going to "get his neck out" on controversial issues. Also, as time goes on, J. Edgar Hoover will be dropping more of his "poison" about Biddle on the Hill.

All of these things considered, the best Solicitor General since Thacher, and including him, would be Tommy Corcoran.

JHR
James Rowe, Jr.

PSF: Rowe Folder
Subject

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

June 26, 1941

STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM FOR

HON. JAMES H. ROWE

Please speak to me about
this.

F. D. R.

Enclosures

Let to FDR from Tom Corcoran, 3212
Garfield Street, N. W., Washington, D. C.
6/22/41 re the possibility of the
President nominating him as Asst. Sec Navy,
Chairman RFC or Solicitor General, Justice
Dept. Would prefer Solicitor Generalship
but will do whatever the President thinks
best.

PLEASE PLACE IN THE FRONT
HON. THOMAS H. CORCORAN
MEMORANDUM FOR
CONFIDENTIAL
JUNE 26, 1941
WASHINGTON
THE WHITE HOUSE

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

COPY

June 26, 1941

MEMORANDUM FOR HON. TOM CORCORAN

Dear Tom:

I had wanted much to see you before leaving but I have really had to cut my cloth to two or, at the most, three of the Army and Navy people as my sole visitors for the past two weeks. I still feel a bit weak but I count on seeing you very soon after I get back next week.

As ever yours,