

● PSF: WAR BALLOT COMMISSION - Subject File -

Box 190

4 items

PSF

Subject File
Box ~~183~~ 190

*War Ballot Comm. folder
2-44*

*file
pres mem*
THE WHITE HOUSE *PSF.*

WASHINGTON

May 25, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

Re: War Ballot Commission

1. I spoke to Secretary Forrestal and he is going to relieve Commander Dever. He says that he thinks he can find a ^{Democratic} captain from the South, but will submit the name to me for checking before he is definitely assigned.

2. I spoke again with Secretary Stimson. He is sending for Major Paul C. Aiken to add to the staff. He is the man that the National Committee has asked for.

He is also going to submit to the War Ballot Commission the proposition of inviting representatives of the Republican National Committee and the Democratic National Committee to sit as observers. He is pretty sure that they will agree. I mentioned the same thing to Forrestal and he will certainly vote for it. Ed Flynn agrees that it would be better for him not to be the representative, although he is willing to work behind the scenes with the representative.

The thing is really beginning to look bi-partisan now.

S. I. R.

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

PSF

June 1, 1944.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT:

Frank Walker says the name of Joe Keenan, former Assistant Attorney General, has been suggested by the National Democratic Committee, Hannegan and Porter, for the Ballot Commission. Is this name satisfactory to the President?

*OK
HWP*

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

Show to Judge Rosenman before
sending out.

*Show to Judge
Rosenman
5/23/44*

(2974)

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 22, 1944.

MEMORANDUM FOR
THE SECRETARY OF WAR

I know practically nothing about the two Army people you have appointed to the War Ballot Commission but I am getting protests from the Democrats all over the country. I think it essential to avoid charges of discrimination. Therefore, I suggest that you put on the Commission a Democrat who is satisfactory to the Democrats or put on it as observers a Democrat and a Republican representing the two National Committees.

I think that something must be done for the sake of your and my peace of mind later on.

It is really important to get a couple of men on the War Ballot Commission who know the practical end of politics -- in the right sense of the word.

F. D. R.

No papers accompanied the original of this memorandum to the Secretary of War.

**THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON**

May 19, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT.

Since dictating the attached, Ed Flynn called and says it is terribly important to have a man who knows practical politics on that staff. Otherwise, as he puts it, nothing will be done. He is very anxious to talk with you about this when he comes down next week.

S. I. R.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 19, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT.

I talked with Secretary Stimson yesterday, May 18th, about the attached memorandum which had come to you and which you gave me. The memo indicates that the Secretary had designated two Republican Army officers and no Democratic officer to represent the Army on the staff of the War Ballot Commission. He said he would look the matter up.

The two Republicans are Colonel Robert Cutler and Major E. S. Willis.

The Secretary called me this morning to tell me that while it is true they are both Republicans, they were not selected on any consideration of political association but on their ability to do the detailed job of printing and distributing the ballots.

He said that Colonel Cutler, while nominally a Republican, was the Corporation Counsel for Mayor Tobin of Boston (Democrat); that Major Willis, while nominally a Republican, used to be a Socialist; and that a third appointment had recently been made in the person of Lieutenant John R. Clagett, a Democrat from St. Louis, who apparently was one of the leaders in removing the Feudergast machine.

The officer that the people at the Democratic National Committee wanted is Colonel John Gottlieb of Chicago. I gave his name to Secretary Stimson who checked on it and said he got a very bad report on him from General Somervell. Jim Barnes tells me that Gottlieb is quite a go-getter whom General Somervell dislikes and has not treated very well. However, Secretary Stimson is fairly insistent that he would not name Colonel Gottlieb to this staff.

He says that in any future appointments he will try to see to it that it is not overbalanced in any direction.

I also suggested to him the possibility of getting one Republican and one Democrat to represent the Congressmen, but he thought that would be too political; and that if the Congress had wanted that done they should have included it in the statute.

I am going to talk to Admiral Land also, as per your suggestion.

SM
S. I. R.

DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL COMMITTEE

Inter-Office Memorandum

To Mr. Boyle

Date 4-25-44

From lkd

Subject: Ballot Commission

Navy Department Representatives: Captain Ed Hayes (R)
Commander Paul Dever (D)

Dr. John R. Clayton

War Department Representatives: Colonel Robert Cutler (R)
Major E. S. Willis (R)

War Shipping Administration Representatives:

W. H. Lalley
A. L. Jordan

Republican - Asst. to Admin. Council

Map of all checked on these two men and reports they are both Republicans, especially the first

*Call Mr. D
Mr. F
Mr. G
Mr. H
Mr. I
Mr. J
Mr. K
Mr. L
Mr. M
Mr. N
Mr. O
Mr. P
Mr. Q
Mr. R
Mr. S
Mr. T
Mr. U
Mr. V
Mr. W
Mr. X
Mr. Y
Mr. Z*

*Mr. J
Mr. K
Mr. L
Mr. M
Mr. N
Mr. O
Mr. P
Mr. Q
Mr. R
Mr. S
Mr. T
Mr. U
Mr. V
Mr. W
Mr. X
Mr. Y
Mr. Z*

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WAR DEPARTMENT
WASHINGTON

May 24, 1944

Personal and Confidential

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT:

I have your memorandum of May 22 about the War Ballot Commission. I gave very full information on this subject to Judge Rosenman who visited me at your request. He professed to be perfectly satisfied but apparently has not had an opportunity to report to you.

I have appointed no members of the War Ballot Commission. I could not do so. The Commission consists of three men appointed in a statute by the Congress -- the Secretary of War, the Secretary of the Navy, and the Chairman of the Maritime Commission. All other persons associated in their work are employees suggested by one or the other of the members and appointed by the Commission.

I have approved the selection of three Army officers to assist so far as I am concerned in the work of the Commission and the Army on these matters.

1. Colonel Cutler was the Corporation Counsel of a Democratic Mayor, Tobin of Boston. I am now advised that he is a registered Republican, but I am also advised that he has never been active in politics except in the post I have just mentioned. Colonel Cutler has been in my office and assigned to soldier voting since October, 1943.
2. Mayor Willis was Colonel Cutler's executive officer in Officer Procurement Service during 1943 and was selected by Colonel Cutler for his present job on account of his efficiency. I now learn that he has never been active in politics although he was registered in early life as a Socialist and later as a Republican.

3. A second assistant has also been selected by Colonel Cutler in the person of Lieutenant John Robertson Clagett. I now learn that this gentleman is a registered Democrat who has been active in Kansas City politics in turning out the corrupt rule of Boss Pendergast.

All these three men were selected to assist in aiding the administrative work imposed upon the War Ballot Commission and the Army. The first two of them were so selected because of the experience they had acquired during the period of the pendency of the soldier voting legislation in Congress and their consequent familiarity with the very intricate system which the final bill set up. The work of Colonel Cutler, who took a leading part for the Department during this period, met with expressions of high approval from Congressional leaders of both parties. Senator Green and Congressman Worley, who were particularly active in this matter, I am sure will confirm this statement.

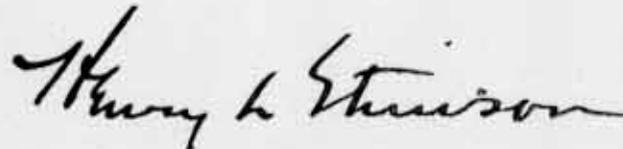
Under Public Law 277, the War Ballot Commission has no general, interpretative, or supervisory functions. The Commission's powers and duties, which are explicitly stated in the Act, are:

- (a) to prepare and print adequate quantities of the statutory forms of post card applications for State absentee ballots, Federal ballots, Federal inner envelopes, and Federal outer envelopes, and also instructions for voting procedure, and to furnish the same to the Army, Navy, and War Shipping Administration;
- (b) to receive from the States and transmit to the three agencies information as to election dates;
- (c) to receive from the Governors of the States statutory certifications as to the State laws with reference to the use of the Federal ballot;

- (d) to request from the States data as to name, address, party affiliation, and office for which nominated of nominees for Federal office from States authorizing the Federal ballot and to transmit such data to the three agencies;
- (e) to consult with State officials in regard to the foregoing;
- (f) to receive from the three agencies and the States reports on Federal ballots handled and transmit the reports to Congress.

I understand that the Commission's obligations in respect to (a), (b), and (c) above are either completed or in course of completion.

I do not think the Commission would have any objection to having each National Committee designate a qualified individual to keep in touch with the Commission and to receive currently all information on its activities. Such designees, however, would not be employees of the Commission. Their function would be merely that of observers and advisers, and the Commission would assume no responsibility for their action. If this action is to serve any useful purpose, it should be taken soon because within a few weeks the Commission will have concluded its administrative duties except with respect to reporting after the general election.



Secretary of War.