Franklin D. Roosevelt Library & Museum

Collection: Grace Tully Archive
Series: Grace Tully Papers
Box 4; Folder = Correspondence: Winchell, Walter, 1943-1964 and undated
Miss Grace Tully
Washington, D.C.

Dear Miss Tully,

It concerns the air.

It would amount to a discussion I wish to hold.

And the way you keep it going anyway.

Best,

Walter Winchell

(WHERE)

WALTER WINCHELL

(VIA)

2000 1st Street

(WHERE)

(WHERE)
NEW YORK MIRROR

WOODSTOCK, NY
SUNDAY, APRIL 19, 1964

WALTER WINCHELL
OF NEW YORK

Dear Miss Tunby:

This is the very, very last time I am going to try to set the record straight. (As I firmly believe that justice is an article of faith, I must try to deal with the facts as I see them.)

I have just returned from seeing the play, "The Madman," at the Belasco Theatre. I have also been keeping up with the drama as such, and I am convinced that the real story of this play is not what is printed in the newspapers.

I am writing this letter because I feel that the public has a right to know the truth. The truth is that the play is not as bad as the newspapers have made it out to be. In fact, I think it is one of the best plays that has been written in a long time.

I hope that you will publish this letter and that you will also give the public a chance to hear my side of the story. I am not asking for anything more than that.

Sincerely yours,

Walter Winchell

(MORE)
June 9, 1943

Miss Grace Tully,
The White House,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Miss Tully:

I told this to this column. I thought it would amuse you. It came up when some of us were discussing rumors that the President was away again. I said: "I wish they'd stop that. We can't afford to lose him." And then I mentioned the conversation I had with you. Anyway, it looks good in print. Before you know it, Grace Tully, you are going to be famous!

The additional note is for the President. It concerns something he did about the censorship problem on the air.

all best,

Walter Winchell

Walter Winchell
The Lyons Den

By Leonard Lyons

VALUE: At the stockholders meeting of General Electric, Gerard Swope was asked about some of the items on the balance sheet. A shareholder questioned the high value of $1.16 for a piece of property listed as "Land in front of Swope's head," and said: "Here's a profit. I'd like to buy 'em."

SPEECH: Lt. Commander Robert Montgomery has been on active duty in both oceans. After an Atlantic cruise, Montgomery had shore-leave in London, and visited the House of Lords. The old hall was familiar to him, for when Montgomery appeared in MGM's "Earl of Chicago," the studio constructed a replica of the House of Lords, and every Hollywood actor with a British accent was hired to sit there... Between takes, Montgomery walked to the center of the set, and made a speech to the assembled. "Maybe this will puzzle the Empire a bit," he whispered—and then roared: "I hereby declare that henceforth India is free."

COMPLAINT: Last week Leon Henderson and his secretary appeared before the Washington committee investigating the OPA. His testimony revealed that his secretary had signed his name to many of the orders issued by Leon. "But this was with my knowledge and consent," said Henderson. "And if anybody should want to question it, I'll just say that the signatures were mine." Then, as he left, Henderson added: "These fellows are just trying to prove that the marriage was illegal because the bride's father didn't have a license for the shot-gun."

VISIT: Yesterday afternoon a N.Y. visitor joined the line of tourists at the Empire State Building, waiting to see the view from the tower. His wife remained in the lobby, because she has a phobia about looking down from high places... Her husband paid the entrance fee, followed the tourists to the tower, saw the view, posed for a souvenir photo, and then waited in line to sign the registry, "The Duke of Windsor."

FAME: In a recent movie magazine article about Suppressed Desires, Betty Grable confessed that the one man she wanted to have a date with is Vincent Sheean—so that she could take him around Hollywood and show him some interesting places and interesting people... Sheean already has seen a few interesting places and met a few interesting people—enough to fill three best-selling volumes of his adventures in every part of the world. Lt. Col. Sheean, who was in Vienna when Hitler took Austria, in Prague when Hitler moved into Czechoslovakia, in France a few days before Hitler arrived, and was one plane ahead of the Jan attack on Wake Island, read that movie article in Africa, where he arrived with the invaders.

CHATTER: Mackenzie King will make a Fourth of July speech next week between Frank Buck and John Ringling North... Buck: "Well, I found one, but the price is $2,500"... North: "Wow, I never heard of one costing more than $1,500. That's the best price... But I guess it'll have to be all right. Okay then"... Buck: "Okay"... So North bought the hippopotamus.

PROOPSY: This is the 1943 version of the fortune-tellers and card readers: "You're going to meet a dark man who would have been going on a long journey—were it not for priorities on planes.

CRITICISM: George Jean Nathan, the drama critic, was invited to the premieres of the new shows at the Diamond Horseshoe and the Folies Bergeres, but, refused to accept. "But these are musical shoes," the night club press agents reminded him... "If you can imagine George Bernard Shaw, James Agate and Max Beerbohm sitting in a London basement at a table where food, wine, and their criticisms, replied..."
FROM K. N. •.
SUNDAY

VISIT: Yesterday afternoon a N.Y. visitor joined the line of tourists at the Empire State Building, waiting to see the view from the tower. His wife remained in the lobby, because she has a phobia about looking down from high places. Her husband paid the entrance fee, followed the tourists to the tower, saw the view, posed for a souvenir photo, and then waited in line to sign the registry, "The Duke of Windsor."

FAME: In a recent movie magazine article about Suppressed Desires, Betty Grable confessed that the one man she wanted to have a date with is Vincent Sheean — that she could take him around Hollywood and show him some interesting places and interesting people. Sheean already has seen a few interesting places and met a few interesting people — enough to fill three best-selling volumes of his adventures in every part of the world. Lt. Col. Sheean, who was in Vienna when Hitler took Austria, in Prague when Hitler moved into Czechoslovakia, in France a few days before Hitler arrived, and was one plane ahead of the Jap attack on Wake Island, read that movie article in Africa, where he arrived with the invaders.

CHATTER: Mackenzie King will make a Fourth of July speech here, and this nation will send an exchange-speaker to Canada on that day. A group of U.S. Senators will go to Tonkans on June 19 to observe the Hudson River launchings of the "Steamobile," the new inexpensive cargo-carrier. A conference which may affect the '44 convention was held this week between Paul Lockwood, Gov. Dewey's aide, and Gov. Baldwin of Conn. Celeste Holm of "Oklahoma" is being signed for movie work. The agency official who sold Jack Carson to two radio sponsors for the same broadcast time is going to a sanitarium to rest his shattered nerves.

BUSINESS: Dialogue across three tables at the Stork Club this week between Frank Buck and John Ringling North: Buck: "Well, I found one, but the price is $2,500." North: "Wow. I never heard of one costing more than $1,500. That's all I ever paid." Buck: "The market's tough these days. That's the best price." North: "$2,500. Hmmm. That's an awful lot of dough for one. But I guess it'll have to be all right. Okay then..." Buck: "Okay."

PROPHESY: This is the 1943 version of the fortune-tellers and card-readers: "You're going to meet a dark man who would have been going on a long journey — were it not for priorities on planes."

CRITICISM: George Jean Nathan, the drama critic, was invited to the premieres of the new shows at the Diamond Horseshoe and the Folies Bergeries, but refused to accept. "But these are musical shows," the night club press agents reminded him. "If you can imagine George Bernard Shaw, James Agate and Max Beerbohm sitting in a London basement at a table where food and drinks are being served, to write their criticisms," replied Nathan, then I'll go.

POWER: A friend of President Roosevelt told the President's secretary, Grace Tulley, that he didn't think the President should make those extensive trips. "It's too dangerous," he told Miss Tulley, "and you're the only one who can stop it." "I'm the only one?" replied Miss Tulley. "How?" "It's easy," was the suggestion. "Just don't wake him."

WEDDING: Some of Dorothy Thompson's friends rejoiced in her happiness, and discussed her wedding, which will be held in a village church in Vermont. "They make such an ideal couple, and I'm sure they'll both be very happy," said one of them. "I'm afraid of only one thing — that when, in response to the minister's question, Dorothy says 'I do,' she may add: "And now I'm going to tell you why."

MEMORIAL: While Col. Darryl Zanuck was in Tunisia, standing under a tree and watching the bombs bursting around him, another officer urged him to find a better shelter. "You may get hit, Colonel," the officer warned him. But Zanuck remained there calmly. The officer studied his profile, and said, "I see you have a broken nose, Colonel. When did that happen?" "Dec. 7, 1941," said Zanuck. "Oh, I didn't know you were at Pearl Harbor," said the officer, apologetically. "I wasn't," replied Zanuck. "I got it playing polo."

YORK, N.Y. 10017

235 EAST 45TH STREET
NEW YORK 17, N. Y.
MURRAY HILL 2-1000

Collection: Grace Tully Archive; Series: Grace Tully Papers
Box. 4; Folder = Correspondence: Winchell, Walter, 1943-1964 and undated
September 7, 1956

Dear Grace:

Thanks for your sweet letter. I now find I will not be in Washington on Monday, but will phone you or write to you when I next go there.

regards,

W. W.

Walter Winchell
September 25, 1956

Dear Walter:

I am sorry to have to cancel our engagement for October 8, as I have just received word from Senator Johnson that he would like me to join our staff in Austin, Texas, early next week.

I had written you on September 21 that I would be happy to be present at the Award ceremonies but orders is orders!

Again my congratulations and I look forward to seeing you the next time you are in Washington after my return sometime in November.

Always sincerely,

Grace G. Tully

Mr. Walter Winchell
New York Mirror
235 East 45th Street
New York 17, New York
September 21, 1956

Dear Walter:

Thank you for your note. I shall be most happy to be present for the Freedom of the Press Award ceremonies on October 8 if you will be good enough to let me know the hour and place.

Warm regards and looking forward to seeing you.

Sincerely,

Grace G. Tully

Mr. Walter Winchell
New York Mirror
235 East 49th Street
New York 17, New York

GCT:bj3
September 12, 1956

Dear Grace:

Thank you for your letter. I will be in Washington October 5th for the Freedom of the Press Award. I'd love you to be there.

Good wishes,

Walter Winchell

it is necessary to understand the personalities of those who make it.
FDR died nineteen years ago this week...A letter-to-an-editor offers a stunning fact: "There seem to be no huge memorials to him -- not even in his own beloved native state or New York City unless you call naming the East River Drive for him a memorial." Men of lesser achievement have attracted more memorials. But the truth is that FDR, in death as in life, is carving his name indelibly into the national psyche. He knew that the great leaders are the ones who set the standard and liberate the future. And the truth is that a troubled and oppressive world needs leaders to stand at the forefront of the battle against tyrants.

O'Brien will not disqualify himself as a judge of opening shows. I told him people will say he's back-scratching if he likes it, and playing Hard-To-Get if he knocks it. Vinnie said: "Well, who does Walter suggest Journal get to review it?" I countered: "ROBERTA SHEPHERD."
MEMORIAL TO A PRESIDENT

FDR died nineteen years ago this week...A letter-to-an-editor offers a stunning fact: "There seem to be no huge memorials to him -- not even in his own beloved native state or New York City unless you call naming the East River Drive for him a memorial." Men of lesser achievement have attracted more memorials...But the truth is that no man has a more enduring remembrance than FDR. His memorial is carved out of flesh and blood and is shaped in the image of free people. For he had a great dream in his heart. He could visualize nations where humans hugged the world and walked in dignity. He knew that the rightful heritage of mankind was peace and security and liberty. He believed in the essential interdependence of mankind, and his name swept the globe as a message of hope to the poor and oppressed.

* * *

It is well to remember that FDR was not a dreamer who gazed at the stars and waited for angels to produce miracles. He was a realist and a fighter. He declared war against the forces of darkness long before any shots were fired...When our economy was shattered or tyrants left civilization in tatters -- he fought a grim and relentless battle with remarkable patience, FDR blazed a trail through the wilderness of poverty with all the fortitude of frontiersmen...Remember the breadlines extending around America's throat like a noose? Apple-hawkers on streets?...Brother, can you spare a dime? Yankee Doodle waiting for a handout.

Franklin Delano Roosevelt declared war on poverty a long time ago...He knew that freedom of speech was not extended to us so that a child could plead for a bowl of soup...The only thing we have to fear is fear itself, he said...The people listened and believed and trusted. And it marked the rebirth of a nation.

* * *

He put wings on our democracy and aimed it toward the heavens. And he battled the devils of bigotry...FDR continually reminded Americans that our greatest strength was the single unity among many religions, nationalities and races. America was the glorious offspring of that unity...He knew that whoever seeks to set one race against another seeks to enslave all races. Whoever seeks to set one religion against another seeks to destroy all religion...Of course, freedom of worship is of no use to men who have lost their God.

* * *

Historians frequently evaluate leaders solely on the basis of their public records. The resulting portraits have the impressively cold qualities of marble statues...History is not a mere compilation of dates, speeches, treaties and charters. It is composed of people equipped with human frailties and attributes. To understand history it is necessary to understand the personalities of those who make it.

(MORE)
Newspapermen call it human interest...FDR was intensely personal. He had the ability to translate abstract principles in terms of human problems...His genuine affection for people was his most conspicuous characteristic. And the feeling was cordially reciprocated -- not only by his friends -- but by millions of strangers.

FDR once noted that his discussion with mill-workers gave him a deeper insight into the meaning of an economic depression than theories expounded by economists.

* * *

The many-faceted Roosevelt personality defied the analysis of his closest friends. However, there was an apparent trait they could all detect. His supreme self-assurance...FDR's infectious smile was not a vote-getting ornament. It reflected his inner warmth. He was an innate optimist. Even during the darkest days of the war he never succumbed to despondency. His jubilant spirit was continually unfurled -- and he carried it like a banner..."Some people see clouds and think of storms," he once remarked, "But I have seen clouds form beautiful sunsets."

* * *

Although tragedy is the handmaiden of agony, it also inspires lasting exultation in those who triumph over it...The most tragic incident in FDR's life had its blessed aspects both for himself and our nation. His lengthy bout with polio gave him time for contemplation and an opportunity to forge his philosophy...The physical affliction amplified his spiritual resources. He emerged from his illness with a deeper sense of humility, patience and courage. Sickness gave him a deeper understanding of the social and political ills burdening mankind. The strength he lost in his legs -- he gained in heart.

* * *

His remarkable political acumen was rooted in his knowledge of human nature. When he was New York's Governor he arrived at his office accompanied by a friend. A number of men were in the anteroom. He paused as he passed through and offered an ancient quip. His friend later remarked that it was a very old joke. "I know," Roosevelt chuckled, "but I wanted to find out which of those fellows wanted favors. They were the ones who laughed." He made politics a high art -- a struggle for the peoples welfare -- not a sordid battle for selfish power.

* * *

The following was FDR's reply to a reporter who asked him to explain his philosophy: "I am a Christian, Democrat and human being"...And the greatest of these was his warm humanity. He isn't merely remembered for his statesmanship and leadership. One of his memorials is his friendship.

* * *

(MORE)
He took so much of you and left even more -- of himself... As Daniel Boone staked out the wilderness trails for the American people, FDR staked out the broad highway to world decency. He was the voice of freedom, the friend of humanity, the conscience of America. Franklin Roosevelt was aware that a man is not measured by the praise of his friends -- nor the vilification of his foes. The unharried centuries pronounce the verdict and time knows no favorites. The great-grandchildren of the men who attacked Lincoln are now taught the lessons of his life in public schools. Future Americans will always pay their respect to FDR because the age in which they live is the age for which he fought. This free country is his everlasting monument.
May 22, 1964

Miss Grace Tully,
The White House,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Miss Tully:

Mr. Winchell tells me you are back in the White House! He asked me to send you the attached column with his kind regards.

sincerely,

Grace Tully

for Walter Winchell

Enc:
Memorial to a President
May 23, 1964

Miss Grace Tully
White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Grace:

Please run an errand for me and send the enclosed to Stewart Alsop.

It is about something that happened to FDR and me.

Best, MIT LEFF!

Walter Winchell
May 25, 1964

Dear Walter:

Thank you so very much for your thoughtfulness in forwarding to me a sample of the many letters of appreciation you received about your column "Memorial to a President".

Unfortunately, I did not see the article but it must have been a very moving tribute to FDR to bring such a response from so many of your readers.

President Johnson remembered the day with a very nice ceremony in the Cabinet Room to which he invited as many "New Deal Survivors" as were here in Washington. He has always paid tribute to President Roosevelt on birthday anniversaries and also on April 12th. Not many others seem to remember these special occasions.

I do hope all goes well with you and that you continue in good health.

Enclosed herewith are the letters which I enjoyed reading.

With grateful appreciation for remembering our great President and warm personal regards,

Always sincerely,

GRACE G. TULLY

Mr. Walter Winchell,
33 West 56th Street,
New York City, N. Y.

P.S. I am still with the Democratic Policy Committee of the Senate and continue to live at 3000 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C.
May 4, 1964

Dear Grace:

I'm enclosing a sample of the hundreds of letters I've gotten like them since my recent column "Memorial to a President" about President Roosevelt. I hope you saw the column.

MIT LUFF!

Best,

Walter Winchell

P.S. Please return to me for my files at 33 W. 56th St. NYC.
I will be back Monday for the Freedom of the Press Award—Please see me for old times 'cake. Grace.

Walter Winchell