Franklin D. Roosevelt Library & Museum

Collection: Grace Tully Archive
Series: Grace Tully Papers
Box 5; Folder = Writings:
Draft Article about FDR for The New Republic, 1946
Dear Miss Tully:

The purpose of this letter is to invite you to cooperate in an enterprise which I hope will appeal to you as much as it does to us.

In connection with the anniversary of President Roosevelt's death, April 12, 1946, The New Republic will publish a special supplement devoted to his memory and interpreting his underlying ideals in the light of the problems of today.

An important section of this supplement will deal with hitherto unpublished aspects of the President's life and of his administration. We know that many events will occur to you from your personal experience with President Roosevelt which will yield new light upon his character and ideas, and upon the development of the New Deal. We are extremely anxious that you should contribute to this supplement an as yet unwritten chapter or incident. We are certain that your contribution will be of great significance.

We had thought of about 800 words, but needless to say, we should welcome anything you wanted to write, at any length.

Won't you let me know by return mail that you will do this, and then get copy to us by Friday, March 22, without fail? I am not giving you a fictitious advance deadline but the actual last day on which copy must be set.

I enclose a list of those invited to contribute to this special supplement. We anticipate not only a very large sale in our regular edition but also that hundreds of thousands of copies will go into the classrooms of the public schools, in this and other countries, to be used for a long time to come.

Cordially and sincerely,

Grace Tully

c/o The White House

Feb. 15, 1946

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c/o The White House

BB: VS
Winston Churchill
Josef Stalin
President Truman
General Eisenhower
General Marshall
Admiral Leahy
Bernard M. Baruch
Mrs. Anna Boettiger
James F. Byrnes
Thomas F. Corcoran
Norman Corwin
Wayne Coy
John Daly
Eddie Dowling
Roscoe Drummond
Mr. Justice Frankfurter
Sidney Hillman
Mrs. Harry Hopkins
Cordell Hull
Archibald MacLeish
Dr. Ross McIntyre
Philip Murray
Basil O'Connor
Arthur Prettyman
Mrs. F. D. Roosevelt
James Roosevelt
Judge Samuel Rosenman
Arthur M. Schlesinger
Robert E. Sherwood
Harold Smith
Grace Tully
Henry A. Wallace
As I look back over the years through which it was my privilege to work in active association with the late President, I think of him, first of all, as a great humanitarian.

He loved people -- all sorts and conditions of people. Perhaps his predominant characteristic was compassion -- a boundless compassion for all who were called upon to suffer or to carry heavy burdens.

His service as Governor of the great State of New York was a fitting apprenticeship to the larger duties to which he was later called four times by the will of the American people. In the field of social legislation, he saw eye to eye with his great predecessor in the Governorship, the late Al Smith. The program which he carried through the Legislature for the welfare of the men, woman and children of the Empire State supplemented the enactments placed on the statute books through the energy and vision of Governor Smith.

But far back of the Governorship, we find the beginnings of the late President's interest in social measures. He was a conservationist in the years of his membership in the State Senate, and he always like to tell his friends that he had had an active interest in forestry through all the years since his youth.

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human needs influenced him profoundly in the development of the great
agencies of relief, necessitated by the stark realities which faced
the American people on March 4, 1933. As I write this dissertation
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March 18, 1946.

My dear Mr. Bliven—

I enclose herewith the result of my efforts to pay tribute to the memory of our late beloved President. I hope you will find it appropriate for your special supplement to be printed on the Anniversary of the President's death.

Thank you so much for the honor you did me in inviting me to contribute.

Very sincerely yours,

GRACE G. TULLY

Bruce Bliven, Esq.,
The New Republic,
40 East 49th Street,
New York 17, N. Y.
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There were scores of such friends who always looked to him in their times of emergency — when the unexpected blow fell. It might be the loss of a job; sickness in the family; the death of a loved one. Any one of these domestic tragedies is difficult to sustain. They become doubly poignant when accompanied by a lean larder and an empty pocketbook.

How often he intervened in cases of this kind in Dutchess County! He always believed in extending aid in such a manner that the recipient would not suffer the loss of dignity or a sense of personal humiliation. He always remembered a case of the death of a very worthy, elderly couple in Dutchess County from
cold and starvation and total neglect because pride would not permit an appeal for aid which, of course, would have been supplied by kindly neighbors.

I think this particular case profoundly affected the late President's social thinking. I am sure his sympathetic understanding of these individual human needs influenced him in the development of the great agencies of relief, necessitated by the stark realities which faced the American people on March 4, 1933. Dutchess County became, as it were, a laboratory or clinic for social studies. He found there in miniature, a cross section of the social problems that faced the Nation when he entered the White House.

In seeds thus early sown, we find the genesis of the New Deal. Through all the controversy and condemnation which his powerful principles drew from active enemies, he never lost faith in the dignity of the human being as an individual. His was an unshaken conviction.

This faith later found expression in his enunciation of the Four Freedoms, at a time when the very foundations of democracy were threatened by a world conflict of principle and policy unparalleled in horror in the history of the race. The Four Freedoms have been under assault not less in violence than the attacks on the PWA, WPA, unemployment insurance, old age security, and a score of other measures in the interest of the welfare of all.
In even a brief resume, such as this, one must mention the work in behalf of sufferers from Infantile Paralysis begun in a small way at the Georgia Warm Springs Foundation. He created the Warm Springs Foundation, body and soul, and worked with characteristic vision to establish the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis. The heart of the humanitarian was moved. He knew that hundreds of these sufferers were in the homes of the under-privileged. He was determined that not one such sufferer should be denied access to medical care through lack of funds.

Shortness of money had not been one of his own personal harrasees when great physical affliction overtook him. The important thing was that he could grasp the problem of the fellow who faced similar suffering with empty pockets.

This deep understanding sympathy was reflected always in his determination that the Warm Springs Foundation should be a home. He was ever vigilant not to allow the institutional spirit to creep into the establishment. The public was not aware of it, but, by his personal direction, he saw to it that no one should know who were the paying patients and who were those who were helped through the Foundation. He felt that the family spirit should be maintained without distinctions of any kind.

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Spring - 1926

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