

1 Archive: Tully Papers

Writings: FDR, My Boss: Correspondence, 1947-1953

Franklin D. Roosevelt Library & Museum

Collection: Grace Tully Archive

Series: Grace Tully Papers

Box 5; Folder = Writings: FDR, My Boss: Correspondence, 1947-1953

3000 Connecticut Avenue
Washington, D. C.

July 4, 1947.

Dear George:-

Many thanks for your letter of the second. I too am sorry not to have heard from you during your recent Washington visit.

I am grateful for your good wishes for July the Fourth, and want you to know that I am celebrating Independence Day by putting the final touches to two chapters of my story, which I have prepared for your consideration. These chapters were written by me using very little even of the framework which I originally gave to Bill Slocum.

This fact naturally brings to mind the contractual relationship which involves the publisher, Bill and myself. I do not feel that Bill had any part at all in preparing my version, and consequently that he is entitled neither to credit nor cash therefor. In my further opinion a definite agreement concerning Bill's efforts up to now, haphazard as they have been, should be reached BEFORE I could consent to the submission of copy to any publisher for publication, or before I would feel free to proceed further on my own.

I expect to submit for your review the two chapters, but not to offer for publication until such time as all of my materials entrusted to Bill Slocum's custody have been returned, and an arrangement made which will include a final release to me of any obligation.

You have my permission to show this letter to Simon & Schuster, and to submit the manuscript merely as an exhibit of my work, after which I would deeply appreciate an expression of the publishers' opinion and also your own as to what shall be done next!

With kindest regards,

Always sincerely,

George T. Bye, Esq.,
Dantown, Trinity Pass,
New Canaan, Connecticut.

July 17, 1947

Dear George:

Enclosed is my version of the two chapters about which I write you on July 4th. I am now working on "The Official Family".

You will observe that I have put my thoughts on paper in very much the same language as they occurred to me. While the style admittedly is not nearly as flashy as Bill's, it's not intended to be. I am inclined to believe that people are more likely to prefer straightforward and rather intimate glimpses of events in high places seen close at hand.

At any rate, if I am to write a book, I can now see that my own peculiar and perhaps inadequate style must be the vehicle which will have to carry it.

I would be happy to have your reaction as mentioned in my last letter.

You have my permission to submit the copy to Simon and Schuster for "reading only" if you consider it advisable to do so.

With kindest regards,

Always sincerely,

George T. Bye, Esq.
535 Fifth Avenue
New York, New York

CHARLES SCRIBNER'S SONS



PUBLISHERS

597 FIFTH AVENUE

NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

September 23, 1947

Dear George:

I have read the two chapters of Grace Tully's book with the greatest interest. They seem to me extremely good for a first draft, and, for me at least, they are convincing evidence that Miss Tully can write her own book. In fact, the book should be all the better because it is told in her way. As she gets further into it, or perhaps when she has finished her first draft, I should imagine that editorial suggestions might be helpful to her. The intention would not be to change the character of her book, but rather to bring it out as effectively as possible. But in that respect everything depends on how Miss Tully prefers to work. She has a book to write and the ability to write it.

We are tremendously interested in this book, and I'll be grateful if you will let me have any news there is about its progress.

Sincerely yours,

Burroughs Mitchell

BM:BM

Removed from book F.D.R., My Boss by Grace Tully

EDITORIAL COPY

The published price of the book is

\$ 3.50

Date of Publication

SEP 26 1949

**Please send us a copy of the notice
or review you give this book.**

CHARLES SCRIBNER'S SONS

597 Fifth Avenue New York 17, N. Y.



December 14, 1946

Dear Mr. Mitchell:-

Ever so many thanks for your thoughtful and interesting letter. I am delighted to have your reaction to the four chapters and so relieved that you like the general tone and style. I greatly appreciate your excellent suggestions, which I most certainly will follow. These additions will improve the story tremendously and I hope I can count on you to continue to send along any and all ideas which, of course, will be most helpful.

Within a week or so I think I shall be able to forward to you another 10,000 words.

I appreciate your message of sympathy sent through George. I am now feeling somewhat better but still a bit "washed-out". However, your encouraging letter has given me a lift I needed so I expect to be feeling fit very soon.

Again, my grateful thanks for your splendid cooperation, and with kindest regards and every good wish of the Christmas Season,

Always sincerely,

Grace G. Tully

Mr. Burroughs Mitchell
Charles Scribner's Sons
597 Fifth Avenue
New York 17, New York

Em 3961

CHARLES SCRIBNER'S SONS



PUBLISHERS

597 FIFTH AVENUE NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

December 6, 1948

Dear Miss Tully:

I have read the finished chapters--and with the greatest interest and pleasure. They seem to me immeasurably better than those samples we saw way back when the contract was made. The writing is livelier now; the story has more warmth and human interest.

There are some places where I think perhaps you could do even more than you have done. I'll note them down--not to urge you to go back to them now but simply to offer whatever help I can with the chapters to come.

In the discussions of FDR's associates I felt the need for more concrete anecdotes, informal episodes that will help to reveal the person and give vividness to the narrative. You must have any number of them stored away in your memory. The story of Howe and the money is a good example; an even better one is your description of your first meeting with Churchill. That is splendid, just what the book should have. Wherever it is possible you ought to use an incident in which you were personally involved. That will give the book individuality--make it the book that only you could write. I'm glad, by the way, that you are allowing yourself to "sound off" here and there. You should; if something angered you, say so.

I came on sentences that seemed to demand amplification. When you say that you have seen Steve Early squirm through some Roosevelt lectures to the press, one wishes you could give an example. When you speak of Pa Watson moving into operation, one is anxious to know just what it was like. When you tell about the hectic day that Germany invaded Poland, there could be even more detail.

The great thing now is to push ahead with the book, putting in everything of interest that you find in your notes or your memory. You must not be concerned about writing at too great length. It is easy to condense and eliminate after the writing is done; it is much more difficult to add and expand. Certainly you have already caught the right tone--lively without being flip, serious but not wooden. I'm certain this is going to be a fine book, and I look forward eagerly to more manuscript.

Sincerely yours,

Bruce Mitchell

BM:BM

To Miss Grace G. Tully

Telephone: MUrray Hill 2-8775

Cable Address: Byanbye, N. Y.

GEORGE T. BYE

AND COMPANY

535 FIFTH AVENUE

NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

This Letter from
Editorial Headquarters
NEW CANAAN, CONN.

December 17, 1948

Dear Grace:

The table of contents is ultra-excellent (I believe) excepting for the first chapter which should be written from the standpoint of a charming, dignified girl secretary and not as if by a ruminant statesman.

I wouldn't give ~~any~~ ^{in Chapter 1} his (FDR's) method of dictating speeches. The chapter should be more or less an intimate technicolor motion picture of the man AS A BOSS.

I wouldn't have him set himself a goal in this first chapter and attain it, as this would break a rule of writing that there be suspense, that revelations are going to transpire. (Even though everybody in this world knows he just about reached his objective.)

His good nature. Did he always say "Good morning" and "Good night." Was he a meticulous dresser. Did he sometimes go in for the comfort of slippers in the office? Did he sometimes seem to act as if his affliction justified concessions to his comfort? His employees and guests had to fetch for him of course. And did he frequently beg off changing to dinner coat, etc.?

This material will be put in the new book to form a guide to I hope so I have a guide of it

Telephone: MUrray Hill 2-8775

Cable Address: Byanbye, N. Y.

GEORGE T. BYE

AND COMPANY
535 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

This Letter from
Editorial Headquarters
NEW CANAAN, CONN.

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Was he conventional in the matter of proprieties? Did he try to keep up with social obligations toward a vast multitude of acquaintances by letters of congratulations or condolence? Did he make notes of deaths, marriages, births, etc., when reading newspapers, or did he tear out the items?

Did he differentiate between himself and the office of the Presidency? He did, of course, and that's one thing that distinguished him~~self~~. He was never a rigid stuffed shirt like Hoover, nor a Good Time Charlie like Harding. I will forever remember one time after an Army and Navy reception when he had an aide look me up and take me to the oval study. "I thought you might be interested in seeing the color guard bring up the two flags from the East Room," he said. It was a wonderful ceremony and I am sure that for those few minutes he detached himself from the Presidency and was a fellow sightseer with me.

You can see, young lady, that I am determined your book shall be one of the finest about the Boss ~~and~~ even if I have to edit it!

Yours,

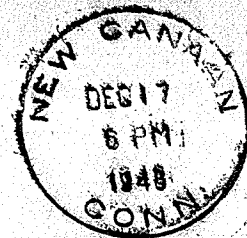
George

GEORGE T. BYE & CO.
DANTOWN, TRINITY PASS
NEW CANAAN, CONN.



*Airmail
Special Delivery*

Miss Grace G. Tully,
3000 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.,
Washington, D.C.



VIA AIR MAIL
Special Delivery

129

*Special file
By Scribner*

CHARLES SCRIBNER'S SONS
PUBLISHERS
597 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK 17, N.Y.

Jan. 4, 1949

Dear Miss Tully:

It was particularly pleasant to read these next two chapters because I think the further you get into the book the better it becomes. Chapter five strikes me as the most lively piece of writing you have done so far. It is full of anecdote, the personalities emerge clearly, and it does not drag anywhere. All I could suggest would be the possibility of a summarizing paragraph. The chapter seems to end rather abruptly now.

Chapter three is very good too. I know that you must give a certain amount of background history, particularly for a chapter such as this one, but I do think

I look forward to more chapters.
If you were worried about how the book
is going, I do not think you should be.

Sincerely yours,

Bungles Mitchell

To Miss Grace G. Tully

that the material in the first four
pages of chapter three might be boiled
down somewhat. The chapter really begins
when you enter the scene at the bottom
of page four. Your book is always most
interesting when you are in it, when the
reader is seeing the people and the events
through your eyes. And that is the way
the book should be, I think. It is some-
thing to keep in mind when you go to work
on the opening chapter. It should be, it
seems to me, your profile of F.D.R., not
just a profile. The political and per-
sonal facts of Roosevelt's life have turned
up in a good many books already, and will
turn up in a good many more. I should
think that they should be kept to a minimum
in your book. The things you have to say
are not available to anyone else.

CHARLES SCRIBNER'S SONS



PUBLISHERS

597 FIFTH AVENUE NEW YORK 17, N.Y.

February 15, 1949

Dear Miss Tully:

You have already heard from George, I know, and I agree with him; Chapters 4, 5, and 10 are fine. The only point I can think of to raise has to do with Chapter 10 where the discussion of the Supreme Court Plan is carried on early and then toward the end of the chapter. Should it be brought together, I wonder? That is a relatively small point; the main point is that these chapters make lively and convincing reading.

I think the chapter about your earlier days is in quite good shape. Chapter 6, though, I agree with you about—it needs more work. The opening seems a bit heavy, and neither the dowager Mrs. R. nor the Roosevelt children are sufficiently individualized. I am sure you will be able to get more warmth, character, and anecdote into it without very much trouble. I've sent these two chapters down to George and I expect to see him tomorrow when I imagine he will have read them. He is coming in after a date with The Ladies Home Journal people, and we are going to have a talk about the scheduling of your book in relation to Mrs. R.'s. It's most important, I think, that we do not have a conflict there. I will write you as soon as we have figured things out.

It was a great pleasure to see you again. I hope you will be able to push ahead with the book now without any more than the inevitable interruptions.

Sincerely yours,

Beverly Mitchell

BM:BM

Miss Grace Tully
810 18th Street, N. W.
Washington 6, D. C.

NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

Dear Miss Tully:

I liked Chapter 12 very much. I have just two minor suggestions which perhaps aren't practical. The first page, it seems to me, could do with a little loosening up; it is rather like a straight piece of journalism now. Perhaps you could think of a quotation from F.D.R. that could be put in there—I don't mean a public utterance. And then on page 3, which describes so well the tension of Pearl Harbor Day, it would be fine if you could remember something that was said as all of you waited for the news to come in. Very possibly you can't remember; I should think it would be hard to recall the details at a time like that.

In any case, it is a very good piece of work, and George agrees with me about that. He and I have had a talk about the collaboration matter, and he is writing you his proposed solution which seems to me a very generous one.

Sincerely,

Bewang's best child

BM:BM

To Miss Grace G. Tully

Tuesday, May 3, 1949

Dear Grace:

All the original documents that are still in my possession are returned in this folder. As you know, I attached some of them to the revisions in order that portions of text might be copied.

Some of those and some of these might be desirable for illustrations, depending upon what plans Mitchell may have for illustrating the book. I think perhaps you had better ask Bye whether you should send some of this potential illustrative material up to him.

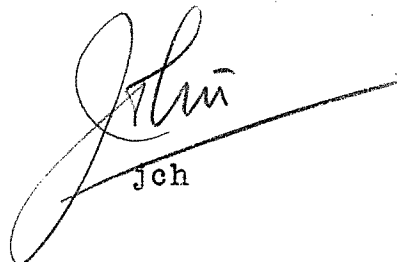
If my boy can carry everything at once I am also returning several of your books - Sherwood, Lindley, Michelson and McIntire. I may have another one or two at home; if so I will see that they are returned safely to you.

Incidentally, as a suggestion, you might ask Sidney to fix up your preface acknowledgements to all those you wish to mention. With regard to me I would like to be identified as Sunday Editor of The Washington Star and a former President of the White House Correspondents' Association.

Enclosed also in today's delivery is a clean-up on Chapter 1, the last one pending, and your copy of the earlier objectionable manuscript.

I hope that rainbow I see out of my window is resting in a pot of gold with both our names attached.

Yours,


Jch

Telephone: MUrray Hill 2-8775

Cable Address: Byanbye, N. Y.

GEORGE T. BYE

AND COMPANY
535 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

August 13, 1953

Miss Grace G. Tully
3000 Connecticut Ave., N.W.
Washington, D. C.

Dear Miss Tully:

Charles Scribner's Sons have paid royalties of \$18.03 on "F.D.R., My Boss" for the period ending March 31, 1953.

We have deducted our commission of \$1.80 and are enclosing a check for \$16.23.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

Marian Mc Namara

Secretary to Mr. Bye

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