

TULLY ARCHIVE SELECTED DOCUMENTS—CAPTIONS

1. FDR “Chit” regarding Promotion of George C. Marshall to Brigadier General, ca. 1936. This document is an example of what the White House staff referred to as a “chit”—a short hand-written note that was the basis for a typewritten memorandum or letter. In this chit from early 1936, FDR is requesting that the Secretary of War proceed with the next military officer promotion list so as to promote Col. George C. Marshall to Brigadier General. Marshall’s promotion was encouraged by the hero of World War I, the highly respected Gen. John J. Pershing. Three years later, the President named Marshall to be the Chief of Staff of the Army, and he was one of FDR’s most trusted and indispensable military advisers during World War II.
2. Letter from Joseph P. Kennedy to Marguerite “Missy” LeHand, October 3, 1939. A month after the outbreak of World War II in Europe, US Ambassador to the United Kingdom Joseph P. Kennedy wrote this personal letter to Missy LeHand, FDR’s primary personal secretary and close associate and friend of Grace Tully. From this letter, it is obvious that there is a personal connection between Kennedy, LeHand and Tully, perhaps because they all three were devout Catholics and had all been with FDR during the 1932 presidential campaign. In the letter, after taking care of some personal business, Amb. Kennedy describes his views on the war, the social scene in London following the outbreak, and the loneliness of serving abroad without his family.
3. Letter from Benito Mussolini to FDR, ca. June 1933. Shortly after his inauguration in March 1933, President Roosevelt appointed Breckinridge Long to be the United States Ambassador to Italy. Upon presenting his credentials to Mussolini, Amb. Long also gave Il Duce a letter from FDR and the gift of an inscribed copy of President Roosevelt’s First Inaugural Address. In this unique handwritten letter, Mussolini expresses his deep gratitude and admiration to the President. Il Duce also expresses his hope that he and FDR might meet one day to “discuss the outstanding world problems in which the United States and Italy are mutually interested.” The letter was delivered through the State Department to the White House. It is unclear how it ended up in Grace Tully’s private possession.
4. Letter from Lucy Mercer Rutherfurd to Grace Tully, April 5, 1945. In this handwritten letter written to Grace Tully one week before FDR’s death in Warm Springs, Georgia, Lucy Mercer Rutherfurd makes arrangements for herself, famed portrait painter Madame Elizabeth Shoumatoff, and Shoumatoff’s photographer Nicholas Robbins to come to Warm Springs. As is well known, Lucy Mercer and FDR had a brief affair which, when discovered by Eleanor Roosevelt in 1918, forever changed the nature of their marriage. FDR continued to maintain some limited contact with Rutherfurd throughout his life, increasing to more frequent social visits and car rides together during the last year and a half of FDR’s life as he grew weary and isolated with his wartime duties. As this letter suggests, Grace Tully played a major role in facilitating these private meetings that were kept secret from Eleanor Roosevelt until after FDR’s death. Rutherfurd, Shoumatoff and Robbins were at Warm Springs with when he was stricken with the massive cerebral hemorrhage from which he would die a few hours later. The portrait being painted by Shoumatoff would forever remain “The Unfinished Portrait.”
5. FDR Chit Listing “Must” Legislation for 1935, May 31, 1935. This handwritten list by FDR indicates his legislative priorities for the year 1935, including Social Security and the Wagner Labor Bill. Both of these bills were signed into law in 1935—75 years ago this year—and are among the most lasting achievements of the New Deal.

6. FDR Chit to Harry Hopkins about Works Programs, July 6, 1935. This chit in FDR's hand is addressed to Harry Hopkins, administrator of the Works Progress Administration. It shows the interconnectedness in FDR's mind of all aspects of the economy. FDR instructs Hopkins to put 280,000 unemployed people to work making overalls and other clothing because this not only would give them gainful employment, but also consume 750,000 bales of cotton that would increase cotton prices.
7. Letter from FDR to Grace Tully, November 26, 1943. This letter in FDR's handwriting was sent to Grace Tully from Cairo, Egypt where the President was meeting with Winston Churchill and Chiang Kai-Shek before proceeding on to the Teheran Conference with Churchill and Stalin. The letter would have accompanied the pouch of the President's paperwork, such as letter, bills signed into law, appointments, and nominations, sent back to the White House from Cairo via military transport. Its kind and joking nature reveals the affectionate place Tully held in Roosevelt's official family.
8. Letter from Eleanor Roosevelt to Grace Tully, ca. 1930. This letter from Eleanor Roosevelt was written to Grace Tully during the years that Franklin Roosevelt served as Governor of the State of New York (1929-1932). Although Tully primarily served on Roosevelt's secretarial staff, she actually got her start with the Roosevelts working with Mrs. Roosevelt during the 1928 campaign. It reveals not only the variety of tasks, both personal and official, that Tully performed for the Roosevelts, but also the busy schedule of activities kept by Mrs. Roosevelt.
9. Letter from Eleanor Roosevelt to Missy LeHand, July 30, 1935. Like Grace Tully, Missy LeHand was also an integral part of the Roosevelts' official family. This letter written by Mrs. Roosevelt from Campobello, New Brunswick shows not only Mrs. Roosevelt keeping up with her official activities, but also remembering more personal issues, such as suggesting a cake for Tully's upcoming birthday.

Sec. War

Lytle

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Gen. Suckley asks very strongly
Col. Geo. C. Marshall (Infantry)
be Promoted to Brigadier —

Can we

Put in list of next promotions?

54 years old



DEPARTMENT OF STATE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

London, October 3, 1938

Dear Mary

You will probably have heard from me before you receive this regarding the check for Robert Durand. I am very glad to be of any assistance at all, so just put me down for whatever you want, and it will be perfectly satisfactory to me. I have told my office in New York to find out from you what you need and to send you a check accordingly. I am terribly sorry the poor girl is having a hard time.

Regarding the situation: it has been frightfully hectic since war was declared, but, with the Americans pretty well out of here now, and with the line-up made with most of the Departments, I should think that the actual work would sort of ease up. Naturally, the strain will always be there as long as there is a war on.

Of course, I am not carried away by this war for idealism. I can't see any use in everybody in Europe going bust and having communism run riot. My own belief is that the economies of Germany would have taken care of Hitler long before this if he didn't have a chance to wave that flag every once in a while. But, of course, one isn't supposed to say this out loud. The British are going about this war hating it, but with determination to fight it out. I still don't know what they are fighting for that is possible of accomplishment.

I know you will be interested to know that the British had decided to let the Dukes of Windsor run a hospital in England - quite a bit removed from London - because they thought it would look better than having

Miss Marguerite A. Le Hand,
The White House.

her in France, but I am of the opinion that the Duke and several members of the Cabinet thought the whole business should be pitched up socially with the Queen, but that young lady has ideas of her own and decided they could patch up anything they wanted to, but leave her out. So the Duchess received no social approbation and took herself by the hand and went back to France with the Duke. That's about the only social high-flight since the war.

It is lonesome as the devil here without the family and at the same time the delivery of mail is very bad and chances are from now on it is going to be worse, particularly with no American ships stopping in England, and it is my belief that there will be very few airmails. The worst of it is you can't keep in touch with your friends in the States and you haven't the slightest idea what's going on over there. The only American news being carried in the English newspapers is about the fight on the Neutrality Act. Last night, however, the papers carried a picture of Dewey and said he was far ahead of all other candidates for the Republican nomination. I know the world is crazy and that everything is topsy-turvy, but to have Dewey as candidate of a big Party to run the United States with the problems that are facing it is just the surest indication that either I have gone completely crazy or else I have lived ten years too long.

Give Bebe my love and tell her she was very sweet to drop me that note. Tell her also she still has that soft spot in my heart.

Regardless of all the troubles we have over here, you must be having plenty of your own, so take good care of yourself and possibly we may all have a chance to meet up sooner than we expect.

My heart to you always
Love
Joe

My dear Mr. President,

Ambassador Long has handed to me, with
his cordially, your very kind letter of May 14th.
and the copy of the inaugural address received
on your induction into the presidency of United States
that you have inscribed to me.

I wish to
express to you my most sincere thanks and
appreciation for your kindness. I will keep your
address in my library among my most valuable
remembrances as a token of your friendship.

I am very glad that you
have chosen as Ambassador of the U.S. of A.
to Italy an old friend of yours and I can
assure you that Mr. Long has been from
the very first moment my personal esteem.
The relations of the United States

and Italy were more cordial and friendly and I firmly believe our confidently hope that they will continue, gaining big million, to grow closer and stronger with each succeeding year.

I hope of meeting you some day in the near future in order to have the opportunity to discuss with you the outstanding world problems in which United States and Italy are mutually interested.

With this hope, I avail myself of the occasion to render to you the assurance of my highest and most affectionate consideration.

I am, my dear Mr. President

Very sincerely yours

Benjamin D. Howard
President of the United States

Washington.

March 1911

Mr. Joe Tully

Warm Springs Foundation

Warm Springs
Georgia

Personal
Private

Aiken -

Sharon.

Dear Mr. Tally - Thank You
for your nice note. I love
it - I am so happy to feel
that you had missed the many
interruptions. —

Her just talked with
Mrs. Shounatoff - who will
motor down - visiting Aiken -
hopefully Sunday night -
bringing her photographer. When
she has known for 20 years or
more - I for whom she will
ouch catering - His name is
Nicholas Robbins - 321 W 189 St
N.Y. City - We will telephone
you on Sunday morning - or
Monday morning - We would probably

arrive on Monday at
either 3 or 50 - or
lunch her early & get
there just before dinner.
Depending probably on
whether she could paint
Monday afternoon - if the
Subject would mind
after his rest? I know
her time is of importance
there though I know she
is thrilled at the prospect
of doing this.

If for any reason
Thomson's bones fall by
the wayside I have
planned to take the traces

to Atlanta from Augusta on Monday -
getting there about 7.30 on so you
will - So if I could be sent to
to Atlanta - I could have dinner
before getting to W. S. so that it would
not matter if my train was late
which it probably would be! Will
you ask the "PB" if that meets with
his approval -

With many thanks again for being so
very understanding & thoughtful - If you
think you would & think it would be
better to do not to come - Call me up -
I really am terribly worried - as I
imagine you are an affectionate
day Richard.

So I read an many envelopes
as I lie in bed - I must
remember to ask you - if I don't
perhaps you to it all?
No answer needed to this!

A. A. A. Amendments
Transportation Bills
Social Security
T. V. A.
Luffey Coal Bill
Holding Companies
Wagner Labor Bill
Tax Bill

I D.R.'s Civil "must"
Legislation in May 21, 1937

July 6, 1965

H.H.

\$ 150,000 per Vets. Program - 10 M a month
for 15 mos.

Ray + make of Overalls - etc - & other
Clothing - + buy made about a third of
the total.

Give work to 250,000 workers. Most
of them now on relief.

Will consume 750,000 bales of
Cotton ! ! ! !

Nov. 26/43

Dear Grace - It was good to get your
note this morning & to know that all goes
well & that the work has slowed down! I'm in
Cairo - busy all time - W.S.C. here & his daughter
Sarah, also Samoussine & Anne! If you'll
have Chinese & Russian I'll bring you the next
time as interpreter! We had a day in
Tunis - Elliott & I go with us - the latter joins
him on his own wounded destroyer & Elliott
& John B. go with us on our next big tour.
Last night a fairly little fairly lambasting
party & the big turkey was delicious.

The conference goes fairly well - my side
is that of preservation. I'm sure the
Pyramids & roads show friends with the
Egyptians. Congress should know this.

Much love - Affec

P.H.

EXECUTIVE MANSION

ALBANY, NEW YORK

Dear Miss Tully:

Will you please file and answer the enclosed things?

I had a telegram from the Governor saying that they had all arrived safely and his mother had a wire also and is going down on Sunday night to be with him for a week. Some of us have had any letters as yet.

I would like you to forward my mail just the same next week as I shall be back on Sunday night from Washington and can do it on Sunday with Miss Thompson, whereas if I wait until I get to Albany Thursday night, ~~the~~ accumulation will be something terrible.

I understood from the Governor that Mr. Bell was not going to do any movies for us after the first of May but that Mr. Mahoney said he could get a special operator anytime we wished. Perhaps Mr. Bell is doing it on this basis. If so that is quite alright but be sure to speak to Mr. Mahoney about it as I do not want to ask any favors of Mr. Bell or in any way disturb the Governor's plans.

Mr. Howe will be up next week, probably on Wednesday though I will let you know definitely later. I think his daughter, Mrs. Baker and her baby may come to the Mansion on Thursday the second of May, and stay a week or two. I will let you know this definitely later also but if they come I want them to be put in the nursery. She will not have a nurse with her so I will write to Mary to ask her to help in any way she can.

EXECUTIVE MANSION

ALBANY, NEW YORK

Mrs. Leach and Miss Ely and eight girls will arrive Friday the 3rd and I will wire you on what train they are coming and William is going up on the second and I want him to meet them at the station. I have asked Mrs. Herbert Lehman to be hostess at tea on the afternoon of the 4th and I have asked Mrs. Leach to get in touch with Mrs. Lehman when she arrives. Please be there that afternoon and see if you can help Mrs. Leach or Miss Ely in any way in getting numbers for them or making any arrangements.

Could you send me the names of some capable business and professional women in the Women's City Club in Albany? I have an idea that there is no business and professional women's club there in Albany and the Altruism Club is anxious to find some one who would like to start a branch. If you can get these names I shall be very grateful.

Will you ask the executive office to send two or three of the Governor's photos to Mr. R. A. Wolff, 119 East 57th Street, New York, N.Y. He wishes to do a miniature and as he seems very anxious will you ask them to send the pictures as soon as possible?

Very sincerely yours,



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

July 30, 1933.
Campobello, N.B.

Missy dear:

Will you please get Franklin to sign a photograph for Mary McGusty and send it to her to North Street, Greenwich, Conn.? I am a little weary of having her write for it.

Also, did you get some one in the State Department to write up what had been done on tariff by special agreement, etc.? If so, would you please send me the article to reprint in the Democratic News this month? I would like it as quickly as possible because I have to do the News before leaving here and that means sending the material to the printer and having him send it back here.

Did you decide to get silver for the girls? If so, I want to get a piece from us to match. Please let me know.

Also, don't forget August 8th, is Grace Tully's birthday - perhaps you can have a cake for her. I ~~have~~ ^{did} send her a note.

It is perfectly glorious here and I am sorry for you all in Washington and wish you could be here too.

Love Love

W.P.