

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 11, 1939.

Dear Aunt Dora:

Uncle Fred sent me the very delightful little gold locket for which I am very grateful, not only because of the thought that lies behind it but also because it is, in itself, a little gem.

Do please thank Marie LeFort for me and tell her how much I appreciate her thought.

I am just back from Warm Springs where I had a real rest and plenty of sleep. I do hope to see you on the river the end of this month.

Always affectionately,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Franklin D. Roosevelt". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Mrs. Dora Forbes,
"ALGONAC",
Newburgh, New York.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

January 10, 1939.

Dearest Aunt Dora:-

Mama has shown me Miss Tyler's letter and I wish there was something practical that I could do to help the Phare. I do not have to have my interest in it reawakened because I have seen its wonderful work.

It is, of course, awfully hard to get donations for the Phare in this country -- but, on the other hand, I am sure that there are many, many Americans who go to Paris who could and would give.

If it would help for me to send a little letter of endorsement to Miss Tyler, I would have no objection to this being used in Paris, though I never do this in the case of charities of any kind in this country. If you want me to make the exception, I shall be very glad to.

I am so glad you liked my Annual Message to the Congress -- and apparently it has had some good effect in other parts of the world.

We missed you much at Christmas and wish that you could have been with us all. Much love and do take good care of yourself.

Affectionately,

Mrs. Dora D. Forbes,
"Algonac"
Newburgh,
New York.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Franklin D. Roosevelt", written in a cursive style.

CLASS OF SERVICE

This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable symbol above or preceding the address.

WESTERN UNION

1201

SYMBOLS

DL = Day Letter

NL = Night Letter

LC = Deferred Cable

NLT = Cable Night Letter

Ship Radiogram

R. B. WHITE
PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

J. C. WILLEVER
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

The filing time shown in the date line on telegrams and day letters is STANDARD TIME at point of origin. Time of receipt is STANDARD TIME at point of destination

Received at 35 Colden Street, Newburgh, N. Y.

AQ60 17 GOVT TEMPORARY WHITE HOUSE HYDEPARK NY 6 445P

506PM

HON FREDERIC A DELANO

ALGONAC WD

AWFUL MISTAKE STOP USED THE OLD FAMILY DICTIONARY STOP

WILL BRING MYSELF UP TO DATE IN FUTURE

FRANKLIN D ROOSEVELT

THE COMPANY WILL APPRECIATE SUGGESTIONS FROM ITS PATRONS CONCERNING ITS SERVICE

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

June 3, 1941

Dear Uncle Fred:

Thanks ever so much for your good letter expressing such hearty approval of the radio address. I always appreciate and value your comments -- they are stimulating and helpful.

Affectionately,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'E. Roosevelt', written in a cursive style.

Honorable Frederic A. Delano,
Hay-Adams House,
Washington, D. C.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

November 21, 1941

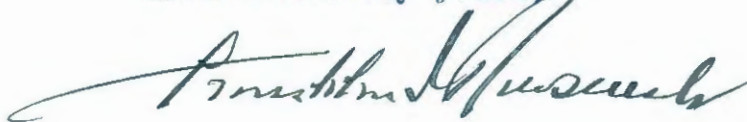
Dear Uncle Fred:

Naturally I am disappointed that the time for the close of Fairhaven seems to have come -- but I suppose that it is the only thing we can do as none of us of the younger generation are in a position to do what you and Uncle Warren and the sisters have done through all these years. Nevertheless I shall always look back, not only to my visits at the homestead, but also to the thought that I could go there at any time.

All of my generation and for that matter, the grandchildren, are so scattered to the four winds that there seems to be no one of them that could take over the responsibilities and the management. Therefore, I think that your suggestion is the only thing possible. I hope that the plan for small homes on the property can be put through though, of course, this is a time of high building costs. On the other hand, prospective purchasers of small homes ought greatly to prefer the site with its beautiful trees to some new development out in the country.

Do let me know if there are any developments in the situation and also if there is anything I can do.

Affectionately yours,



Honorable Frederic A. Delano,
2400 Sixteenth Street,
Washington, D. C.

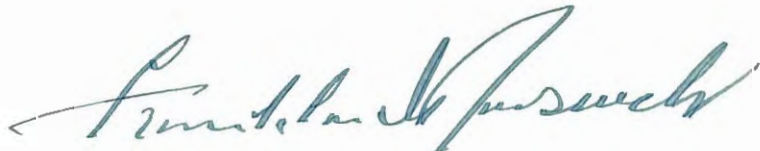
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

March 11, 1941

Dear Uncle Fred:

Many, many thanks for your thought-
fulness in sending that word of congratulations.
I need not tell you how sincerely I appreciate
it.

Affectionately,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Franklin D. Roosevelt". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large, prominent 'F' and 'R'.

Honorable Frederic A. Delano,
The Hay-Adams House,
Washington, D. C.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

August 27, 1940

Dear Uncle Fred:

Last week I signed and mailed the waiver and consent in regard to Aunt Dora's will.

I am, of course, deeply grateful to my dear Aunt for remembering me with this very wonderful legacy. It seems to me that the will shows a most careful division of the estate.

If the State Department can help in any way in locating the witnesses of the codicils, let me know.

Affectionately yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'F. Delano', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the left.

Honorable Frederic A. Delano,
Algonac,
Newburgh,
New York.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

February 5, 1941

Dear Uncle Fred:

I want to tell you of my very
real appreciation of your part in the
presentation to me of those perfectly
beautiful volumes of "The Book of Knowledge".
This set is a decided addition to my col-
lection and I am delighted to have it.
Thank you ever so much.

As ever,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Franklin D. Roosevelt". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending from the end.

Honorable Frederic A. Delano,
2400 Sixteenth Street,
Washington, D. C.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 28, 1940

Dear Uncle Fred:

It was very thoughtful and kind of
you to send me that word of congratulation.
Of course, you know how grateful I am for it.

Affectionately,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'F. D. Roosevelt', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the left and a large, stylized 'R' at the end.

Honorable Frederic A. Delano,
2400 Sixteenth Street,
Washington, D. C.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 24, 1939.

Dear Uncle Fred:-

Beardsley Ruml's speech is tremendously interesting and I hear that he greatly impressed the Retail gathering.

Let me know how you came out with your meeting with H. M. Jr.

Affectionately yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'F. A. Delano', written in a cursive style.

Honorable Frederic A. Delano,
Chairman, Advisory Committee,
National Resources Committee,
North Interior Building,
Washington, D. C.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

February 1, 1940.

Dear Uncle Fred:

I am perfectly thrilled by the Commission for my great-great grandfather's ship. I want to have it framed to put in my own personal room in the new library and I am having your letter copied (for your signature) to frame with the Commission. Incidentally, I have only seen one other ship commission signed by John Adams.

Ever so many thanks.

Affectionately always,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Franklin D. Roosevelt". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name.

Honorable Frederic A. Delano,
2400 Sixteenth Street, N. W.,
Washington, D. C.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Hyde Park, N. Y.,
June 28, 1938.

Dear Uncle Fred:

I am ever so grateful to you for your thoughtfulness in sending me that message of congratulations on my radio address. Sincerest thanks, and the best of good wishes to you.

As ever yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, likely of Franklin D. Roosevelt, written in dark ink. The signature is fluid and stylized, with a long horizontal stroke at the beginning and a large, looping 'R' at the end.

Honorable Frederic A. Delano,
New Interior Building,
Washington, D. C.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

July 5, 1938

Mr. Frederic A. Delano, Chairman
Central Housing Committee
North Interior Building
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Delano:

I have your letter dated June 23, 1938, containing a resume of the work performed by the Central Housing Committee, of which you have served as Chairman for nearly three years.

It is regretted that you find it necessary to discontinue your work in the field of housing where you have pointed a new way toward coordination of effort. Your leadership has reached into every phase of the housing movement, and has been an inspiration to many technical groups. From the heads of various member agencies I have heard only the highest tribute to your services as moderator, and expressions of great regret that you cannot continue with the Committee. Your resignation is accepted, with my thanks for what you have accomplished, only because of the many other similar tasks you have so willingly undertaken.

Rear Admiral C. J. Peoples, Director of Procurement, has been designated as your relief in this Chairmanship, and has been given supporting authorization in accordance with your recommendations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Franklin D. Roosevelt". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a prominent initial "F".

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

July 5, 1938.

Dear Uncle Fred:-

Thank you for yours of June twenty-ninth. Sultan is an excellent man and the War Department, I think, recognizes this and is going to give him duty commensurate with his ability.

That is an interesting suggestion about Garry Norton. I am taking up the whole Aviation Commission appointment problem in a day or two.

Awfully sorry not to see you before I go. Take care of yourself and don't do any work until I get back August twelfth!

Affectionately,

Honorable Frederic A. Delano,
"Algonac"
Newburgh,
New York.



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

January 10, 1935.

Dear Uncle Fred:-

Many thanks for your check
for \$299.67 for retirement of three shares
of New Boston Land Company stock.

I have signed the certificate,
as you ask, and am sending it back to you.

Affectionately,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be "F. Delano", written in a cursive style. The signature is positioned to the right of the typed name.

Hon. Frederic A. Delano,
2244 S Street,
Washington, D. C.

(Enclosure)

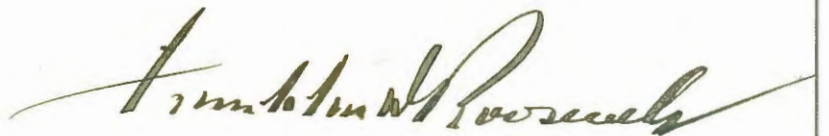
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

December 22, 1934.

Dear Uncle Fred:-

Here is the photograph of the Macao house. I have been unable to find out the date the photograph was taken. I am sending a copy to Aunt Dora, Aunt Kassie and Mama.

Affectionately,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Franklin D. Roosevelt". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Hon. Frederic A. Delano,
"Algonac"
Newburgh,
New York.

(Enclosure)

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

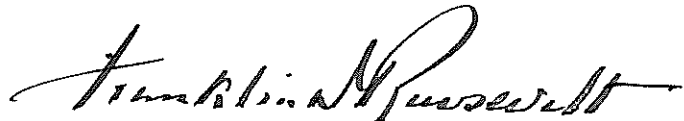
February 4, 1937

My dear Mr. Delano:

I am glad to know of the enthusiastic interest and support of your Association for planning in public affairs. We need official staff agencies for planning in cities, counties, districts, States, interstate regions, and the Federal Government. It is encouraging to find in the Report on "State Planning - Programs and Accomplishments" issued by the National Resources Committee, that State and Regional Planning agencies are doing effective work in collaboration with the Federal Government, with each other, and with local planning boards.

I have recommended to Congress that a continuing National Resources Board should be established to serve as a central planning agency under the President, and hope that by that means cooperative planning, forethought and policy can be developed among all the governments in the United States.

Very sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Franklin D. Roosevelt". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "F" and "R".

Honorable Frederic A. Delano,
President,
American Planning and Civic Association,
901 Union Trust Building,
Washington, D. C.

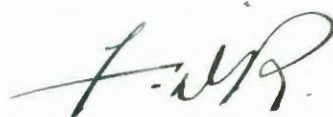
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Warm Springs, Ga.,
November 22, 1934.

Dear Uncle Fred:-

I enclose an extremely interesting picture of the old house in Macao. If you have not got a copy of this send it back to me and I will have some photographs made for the family. It looks like a most attractive place.

Affectionately,



Hon. Frederic A. Delano,
2244 S Street,
Washington, D. C.

Ans. Dec 21/34

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

February 2, 1934.

Dear Uncle Fred:

We have been a good deal criticized all over the world for the issuing of too many Memorial stamps and I have had to say "no" to so many requests that the Eliot stamp is impossible. The only one listed for 1934 is the Tercentenary stamp celebrating the foundation of Maryland.

As ever yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'F. D. R.', written in a cursive style.

Hon. Frederic A. Delano,
1621 Navy Building,
Washington, D. C.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

December 19, 1933.

Dear Uncle Fred:

I wish you could give me a slant on the proposed War Department and Navy Department buildings. Mr. Moore's plan is very, very expensive.

Affectionately yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'W. Wilson', written in a cursive style.

Honorable Frederic A. Delano,
Navy Building,
Washington, D. C.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 15, 1933.

Dear Citizens:-

It was very good of you to send me that awfully nice letter about my broadcast.

I do want to see you both soon. I talked with Mama on the telephone last night and she sent her love to you and told me she was sending me a record of her radio broadcast.

Affectionately,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Franklin D. Roosevelt". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Hon. and Mrs. Frederic A. Delano,
2244 S Street,
Washington, D. C.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

January 29, 1934.

Mr. Frederic A. Delano, Chairman,
National Capital Park and Planning Commission,
Navy Building,
Washington, D.C.

My dear Mr. Delano:

I have your letter of November 28, 1933, calling attention to the desirability of purchasing certain park and playground lands in the District of Columbia, and suggesting the release for that purpose of the balance of \$557,413.84 of your 1932 appropriation that was withheld from expenditure last spring under authority of Section 4 of the Act of March 31, 1933.

Conceding the desirability of securing these park and playground areas, I still am inclined to agree with the view of the Director of the Budget that the only funds that should be released are those necessary for completing the purchase of lands that were actually contracted for prior to the action taken in withholding the expenditure of such funds for land purchase purposes.

Sincerely yours,



*copy given to
Mr. Nelson & Mr. Marshall.*



STATE OF NEW YORK
EXECUTIVE CHAMBER
ALBANY

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT
GOVERNOR

December 31, 1932

Dear Uncle Fred:

I am very glad to see what Hopkins said.
He is a fine person indeed - one of the two or
three great college presidents alive today.

As ever yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'F. D. R.', written in a cursive style.

Hon. Frederic A. Delano,
1621 Navy Bldg.,
Washington, D.C.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

March 31, 1933.

Dear Uncle Fred:-

Many thanks for those suggestions about the District of Columbia. I am taking up that whole subject with Lewis Douglas but not for a couple of weeks. I know Ollie Newman very well and also remember General Kutz.

Affectionately,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be "W. Wilson", written in a cursive style.

Hon. Frederic A. Delano,
2244 S Street,
Washington, D. C.

CLASS OF SERVICE

This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable symbol above or preceding the address.

WESTERN UNION

R. B. WHITE
PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

J. C. WILLEVER
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

SYMBOLS

DL = Day Letter
NM = Night Message
NL = Night Letter
LC = Deferred Cable
NLT = Cable Night Letter
Ship Radiogram

The filing time shown in the date line on telegrams and day letters is STANDARD TIME at point of origin. Time of receipt is STANDARD TIME at point of destination.

Received at 35 Colden Street, Newburgh, N. Y.

NZ96 15 GOVT=THE WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON DC 25 600P 1937 DEC 25 PM 6 25

FREDERICK A DELANO=

=WD=

MUCH LOVE TO YOU AND AUNT DOE FROM ALL OF US AT THE
WHITE HOUSE=

FRANKLIN D ROOSEVELT.

NO ADDITIONAL CHARGE IS MADE FOR REQUESTING A REPLY BY WESTERN UNION

Frederic L. Delano
Newburgh - N.Y.

Much love to you and
Aunt Dor from all of us
at the White House

Franklin Roosevelt

Christmas Day
1937.

Dear Fred

You may like to have
Franklin's Telegram, as
he wrote it, to be
Telephoned —

M. (his Mother)



STATE OF NEW YORK
EXECUTIVE CHAMBER
ALBANY

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT
GOVERNOR

At Warm Springs, Georgia.

May 14, 1929.

Hon. Frederic A. Delano, Chairman,
Regional Plan of New York and its Environs,
130 East 22nd Street,
New York City.

My dear Mr. Delano:

I am especially sorry not to be able to be present at the meeting on the 27th of this month, for as you know I have followed the excellent work of the Regional Plan Committee ever since it was organized seven years ago.

The members of the committee are to be greatly congratulated on the accomplishment of the first step which recognized that the greatest population center in the world consisted not of the closely built up city but of a whole region of surrounding territory as well.

I sincerely hope that the technical studies and comprehensive plans which have been completed will bear much fruit in the years to come. The next vital step for the carrying out of your work is the wider dissemination of information to the public.

I am confident that public opinion believes in regional planning and is willing to look ahead.

Very sincerely yours,

Franklin D. Roosevelt

EXECUTIVE MANSION
ALBANY

November 16, 1932.

Dear Uncle Fred:

Just a note to tell you that I will do the foreword for the Regional Planning book while I am at Warm Springs.

I am still weak as a kitten, but shall get up tomorrow.

The enclosed came addressed to the three of us as trustees. What shall I do about it?

Affectionately yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Frederic A. Delano". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Frederic A. Delano, Esq.,
Newburgh,
New York.



STATE OF NEW YORK
EXECUTIVE CHAMBER
ALBANY

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT
GOVERNOR

December 29, 1931

Honorable Frederic A. Delano,
2244 S Street,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Uncle Fred:

I have signed the checks
and mailed them to Mr. Miller.

Do please, if you have any
spare copies, send me two or three more of
the little Algonac story. It is wholly de-
lightful and I want to put one into the book
which I am keeping for the children.

We loved your Christmas
telegram. Much love from us all.

Affectionately yours,

Franklin D. Roosevelt

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

July 17, 1940

Dear Larry:

I have your letter of July fifth and it is with genuine regret that I accept your resignation, as of July thirty-first, as Commissioner of Immigration and Naturalization. I am aware, of course, on account of our recent conversations, of the personal reasons that compel you to take this step and I want you to know my sense of loss at your departure. You have done a fine job and I hope that soon we will be able to call on you again to render loyal service to your Government.

With all my best wishes,

Very sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Franklin D. Roosevelt". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large, prominent "F" and "R".

Honorable James L. Houghteling,
Commissioner of Immigration and
Naturalization,
Department of Justice,
Washington, D. C.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 26, 1939

My dear Mr. Commissioner:

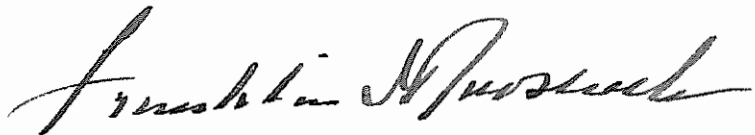
It gives me great pleasure to join in the observance of New Citizens Day, the day set apart to represent all of the days in court during the last year on which new citizens have taken the oath of allegiance to the United States.

This New Citizens Day ceremony, of such happy significance, is being held to honor the induction of applicants for naturalization into citizenship of the United States. There could be no happier occasion. It is, in itself, a reflection of the ideals and purposes to which this great democracy has been dedicated.

I cordially extend to all of these citizens my very hearty congratulations and warm welcome in the name of the United States of America. When they took up new homes in this country, they immediately came under the protection of its just and generous Constitution, which guaranteed them the right of the benefits of our free institutions. Now they have attained the additional rights and responsibilities of citizenship.

In return the price which they must pay, and which, I am sure, they will pay gladly, is the performance of the high duty of supporting our Government at all times, and of living here as good neighbors.

Very sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Franklin D. Roosevelt". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name.

Honorable James L. Houghteling,
Commissioner,
Immigration and Naturalization Service,
Department of Labor,
Washington, D. C.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

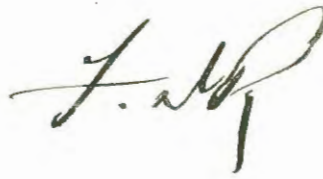
February 20, 1937.

Dear Lawrence:-

I am glad that your check-up
of sentiment is as it is! Thank you also
for those names. They may come in handy
sometime.

I hope to see you soon.

As ever yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'J. L. Houghteling', written in a cursive style.

James L. Houghteling, Esq.,
141 W. Jackson Boulevard,
Chicago,
Illinois.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

September 12, 1936.

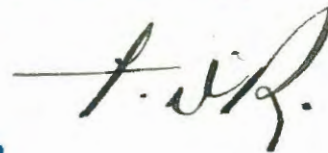
Dear Lawrence:-

Your letter is a perfect epitome and being one of those old-fashioned, hard-boiled politicians, I can only tell you that your summary is even more favorable than I myself had analyzed it. With seven weeks to go there are still all kinds of possibilities of bad breaks or fielding errors.

I do hope to get to Chicago in October but cannot make any plans for another ten days. I shall let you know as soon as I decide.

With love to all of you,

Affectionately,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'J. L. Houghteling', written in a cursive style.

James L. Houghteling, Esq.,
141 W. Jackson Boulevard,
Chicago,
Illinois.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

February 11, 1936.

Dear Lawrence:-

Ever so many thanks for that fine check on Wayne Taylor. I think you will soon see an announcement in regard to the Treasury.

Also I am glad you agree in regard to the over-playing of their hands by certain newspapers. It is beginning to react in our favor. Please offer up a silent little prayer that either Bertie McCormick or Frank Knox will be the Republican nominee.

Affectionately,



James L. Houghteling, Esq.,
10 South La Salle Street,
Chicago,
Illinois.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

January 21, 1936.

Dear Lawrence:--

Just a note to thank you for
your letter of January thirteenth. I am glad
you reminded me of Myers.

My best to you all.

As ever yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Franklin D. Roosevelt", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

James L. Houghteling, Esq.,
10 South La Salle Street,
Chicago,
Illinois.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 14, 1935.

Dear Lawrence:-

Many thanks for that mighty interesting letter. Your diagnosis of the situation confirms my guesses. I suppose Kelly will be down here soon and without doubt will ask to see me. I shall arrange it.

I do hope to see Laura while she is here and also that you will be down yourself very soon.

As ever yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'F. H. R.' with a stylized, flowing script.

Lawrence Houghteling, Esq.,
10 South La Salle Street,
Chicago,
Illinois.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

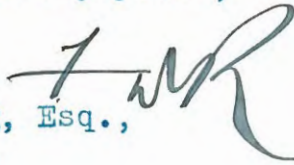
December 11, 1933.

Dear Lawrence:

That is a mighty nice note of yours. The "old gang" is bringing all of their artillery into play, but I am inclined to think that their ammunition is so limited that our best policy is to let them do all the firing and then clean them up in a counter-attack.

Love to you both.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'LHR' or similar, written in a cursive style.

Lawrence Houghteling, Esq.,
731 Prospect Avenue,
Winnetka, Illinois.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

December 6, 1933.

My dear ~~Mr. Houghteling~~ *Lawrence*

I am extremely sorry that the flood of correspondence and pressure of state affairs prevented an earlier reply to your kind letter. I need not tell you how delighted I am to have the help and advice of my friends who appreciate the magnitude of the job ahead.

You will be glad to know that there is complete understanding between Mr. Ickes and Mr. Hopkins with regard to the relationship between Public Works projects and Civil Works projects. A routine has already been established whereby Public Works projects which they cannot go ahead with are referred to the Civil Works Administrator in Washington.

In order to keep the liaison clear in the field, arrangements have been made in many states to have the state Public Works engineer act as Civil Works engineer.

As a matter of fact Civil Works is actually relieving Public Works of a burden of detail in connection with smaller projects in such a way as to expedite the larger projects. We were faced with the immediate problem of extending relief for unemployed men and women. In order to get a social and an economic return for federal expenditures, and at the same time not interfere with the larger public works program, we created Civil Works.

Our problem is to put men and women to work without interfering with long range planning for public works and without encouraging states and municipalities to shirk their legitimate financial obligation.

Very sincerely yours,

Lawrence Houghteling, Esq.,
400 West Madison St.,
Chicago, Ill.

Franklin D. Roosevelt

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

September 5, 1933.

My dear ~~Mr. Houghteling~~ *Mr. Lawrence*

Thank you very much for your letter of August twenty-ninth. I appreciate your writing to me about Mr. Walter Myers of Indianapolis.

I am very glad indeed that you found it possible to accept the appointment to the Illinois Advisory Board of the Public Works Administration.

Very sincerely yours,

Franklin D. Roosevelt

Honorable James L. Houghteling,
400 West Madison Street,
Chicago,
Illinois.

CLASS OF SERVICE

This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable sign above or preceding the address.

WESTERN UNION

NEWCOMB CARLTON, PRESIDENT

J. C. WILLEVER, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

SIGNS

DL = Day Letter
NM = Night Message
NL = Night Letter
LCO = Deferred Cable
NLT = Cable Night Letter
WLT = Week-End Letter

The filing time as shown in the date line on full-rate telegrams and day letters, and the time of receipt at destination as shown on all messages, is STANDARD TIME.

Received at 432 W. Madison St., Chicago, Ill. Wabash 4321, Local 369 1933 JUL 26 AM 11 21

CAQ101 22 GOVT=F WASHINGTON DC 26 1132A

FRA 1143

JAMES L HOUGHTELING=

400 WEST MADISON=

TIME IN TRANSIT

I HAVE APPOINTED YOU MEMBER ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF THREE FOR
YOUR STATE UNDER PUBLIC WORKS ORGANIZATION STOP I HOPE YOU
CAN ACCEPT=

FRANKLIN D ROOSEVELT.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 26, 1933.

Mr. James L. Houghteling,
400 West Madison Street,
Chicago, Illinois.

My dear Mr. Houghteling:

I have just sent you the following telegram:

"I have appointed you member advisory committee of three for your State under public works organization. I hope you can accept."

The other two members are Carter H. Harrison, of Chicago, Illinois, and James H. Andrews, of Kewanee, Illinois. Your State is associated with Ohio, Indiana, Michigan and Wisconsin, in the Third District. Mr. Daniel J. Tobin, of Indianapolis, Indiana, will serve as the Regional Advisor.

All State and local projects for public works are to be submitted initially to the State Advisory Committee, which will be charged with the duty of carefully scrutinizing all proposals, rejecting those that in its judgment should be weeded out, and forwarding to the Federal Administrator of Public Works at Washington those that it is willing to recommend.

It will be the duty of the Regional Advisor to keep in close touch with the State Advisory Committees within his region. He will encourage these committees to consider as soon as possible, and either reject or forward speedily to Washington, the projects submitted to them. He will be ready to advise with and help the State Advisory Committees at any time and he will keep the Federal Administrator advised of progress made. The Regional Advisor will have no veto power over the State Advisory Committees. His sole province will be to help them wherever he can and to see that the work in every State is kept moving.

I appreciate your willingness to help the Administration in this public works program, which we regard as so important for the economic welfare of the country. We want all public works to be considered and carried on strictly on their merits. We want to prevent waste and graft and see to it that an honest job is done in every instance at a reasonable profit to the contractor.

The purpose back of the Public Works Act is to give employment to labor, and the greater the number of public works that can be built economically, the farther the money will go toward the employment of labor. You have been selected to help in this Federal undertaking because of the confidence the Administration has in you, and because I believe that you will guard the public interest as carefully as you would protect your own private interests.

We are asking you to serve at a small compensation of \$10.00 per day while actually engaged in the work of the Advisory Committee, so that in effect we are calling upon you for volunteer patriotic services. In addition to the \$10.00 per diem compensation, you will be allowed your transportation expenses and \$5.00 per day in lieu of subsistence as allowed by statute. It is believed that this arrangement will take care of your actual expenses.

If there is anything you do not understand about your duties, or if there are any questions that you want to ask, you may communicate with the Federal Administrator of Public Works, Harold L. Ickes, in the Interior Building, Washington, D. C.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Franklin D. Roosevelt". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

EXECUTIVE MANSION
ALBANY, NEW YORK

October 18, 1932.

Mr. Lawrence Houghteling,
400 West Madison Street,
Chicago, Illinois.

My dear Lawrence:

Thank you very much for sending me the result of the Daily News' straw ballot. As you say, it puts a fine aspect on the situation for us.

I was especially interested in learning the opinion of the Republican publisher of your paper. Of course we are all feeling much confidence now as to the final outcome.

It was good of you to enclose the editorial distributed by the Republican National Committee. I am passing it on to our publicity department at 331 Madison Avenue, New York City.

I am sure I need not tell you how much I enjoyed my visit to Chicago. I intend to come again very soon too.

Keep me informed of the situation in your part of the country!

Yours very sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'F. W. R.', written in a cursive style.

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT
EXECUTIVE MANSION
ALBANY, N.Y.

September 14, 1932.

Dear Lawrence:-

It was good to get your letter before I left on the Western trip. I will remember what you say about Mel.

We expect to spend Saturday, October first, in Chicago trying to get a rest. Will you and Laura be there? Perhaps you would wire me to Salt Lake City in care of Governor Dern this Saturday or Sunday.

As ever yours,



Lawrence Houghteling, Esq.,
c/o The Chicago Daily News,
400 West Madison Street,
Chicago, Illinois.

RT

Letter just received ^{Hope} ~~can~~ ^{other} you can stay with
us at ~~the~~ ^{my} ~~metka~~

~~Was~~ Laura ^{has} ~~was~~ just written you



STATE OF NEW YORK
EXECUTIVE CHAMBER
ALBANY

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT
GOVERNOR

June 13, 1932.

Mr. James L. Houghteling,
400 West Madison Street,
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Lawrence:

Just a line to thank you for your recent encouraging letter. I have heard from Jim Farley about the pleasant and helpful talk he had with you.

I know that what you say about the "censoring" of any of my opinions which hostile editors do not wish to have known is true. All I can do is to hope that my friends will spread a knowledge of the facts of the case among those with whom they come in contact and that thus the people as a whole will be better informed than such editors wish them to be.

You will be glad to know that Farley and others in New York are most enthusiastic as to the general outlook.

With cordial personal regards,

Yours very sincerely,

F. D. R.



STATE OF NEW YORK
EXECUTIVE CHAMBER
ALBANY

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT
GOVERNOR

June 1, 1932

Lawrence Houghteling, Esq.,
731 Prospect Avenue,
Winnetka, Ill.

Dear Lawrence:

Thanks for your interesting note. I hope the Chicago people will continue to feel that I would help Horner more than anybody else.

What is biting them about Prohibition I do not know because I have consistently and publicly expressed myself on numerous occasions during the past two years! Let me know if you hear anything new.

Affectionately yours,

F. D. R.



STATE OF NEW YORK
EXECUTIVE CHAMBER
ALBANY

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT
GOVERNOR

At Warm Springs, Georgia,
May 1, 1932.

Dear Lawrence:

It is good to get your letter though you disclose a chapter of accidents. I am awfully sorry that the Panama Canal trip was cut short. Things go by threes and as you have had all three, you are now immune and I am very glad that you are all right again.

I had a good visit to Chicago and Saint Paul and I think that your Mayor and the other Democratic leaders are disposed not to join in with the "block Roosevelt" movement. Keep in touch with the general situation and let me know anything you hear. The principal opposition falls under three heads: first, the Republican press and leaders who play up and foster every chance to encourage Democratic disharmony; second, some of our utility friends and the more narrow-minded of the so-called big business group; and third, friends of favorite sons who think they will be in a better situation if someone other than myself is nominated.

Nevertheless, as opposed to this there is a genuine feeling that the Democratic Convention must not get into a long-drawn out or angry fight.

I am very glad to know about Horner. He sounds like a splendid and high-grade man.

^{Ed}Elmer joins me in love to you both. We are on our way to Warm Springs.

Affectionately yours,

J. Lawrence Houghteling, Esq.,
731 Prospect Avenue,
Winnetka, Illinois.

Franklin D. Roosevelt



STATE OF NEW YORK
EXECUTIVE CHAMBER
ALBANY

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT
GOVERNOR

March 10, 1932.

James L. Houghteling, Esq.,
400 West Madison Street,
Chicago, Illinois.

Dear Lawrence:

I have not had a chance before this to tell you how happy I was to get your letter, and I suppose that by now you are headed on that trip through the Canal. I wish much that I could go with you, and I know it will do you a lot of good.

By the time you get back a lot more water will have gone over the dam. Let me know how you find things on your return.

Love to Laura.

As ever yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "F. D. R.", written in a cursive style.



STATE OF NEW YORK
EXECUTIVE CHAMBER
ALBANY

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT
GOVERNOR

January 15, 1931.

Dear Lawrence:-

Elliott is taking a trip to Chicago.
He has just entered business with the Albert
Frank Company and I want him to meet some people
in Chicago.

I am giving him this note to you,
as relatives are probably the best people to
start with.

I hope I am going to see you soon.

Always sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Franklin D. Roosevelt".

J. Lawrence Hotaling, Esq.,
Chicago Daily News,
Chicago, Illinois.

RT

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

November 25, 1940

Dear Lawrence and Laura:

I do want you to know that I sincerely appreciate that warm message you sent me. My heartfelt thanks, and affectionate greetings to you both.

As ever,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Franklin D. Roosevelt". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized "F" and "R".

Mr. and Mrs. James Lawrence Houghteling,
2424 Wyoming Avenue,
Washington, D. C.

EXECUTIVE MANSION
ALBANY, NEW YORK

December 10, 1932

Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Houghtling
Winnetka, Illinois

Dear Laura and Lawrence:

Thank you for that enthusiastic
telegram of congratulation. It was a
great victory, wasn't it?

How many?

When are you coming
~~yours very sincerely,~~

Affectionately
F. H. R.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

January 6, 1943

Dear Laura:

We have all enjoyed that most delicious cake, which you sent to me for Christmas. Many thanks for thinking of me.

It was grand to see you Christmas night and this takes to you and the family all good wishes for the New Year.

Affectionately,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Franklin D. Roosevelt". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping "F" and "R".

Mrs. James L. Houghteling,
2424 Wyoming Avenue,
Washington, D. C.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

January 10, 1939

Dear Laura:

Thank you both ever so much for
the delicious Scotch cake. I enjoyed every
bit of it.

My affectionate greetings to
you both for the New Year.

As ever,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be "F. D. Roosevelt", written in a cursive style.

Mrs. James L. Houghteling
2424 Wyoming Avenue
Washington, D. C.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

July 19, 1943.

Dear Laura:

A friend of mine sent me a funny old photograph, of which I have had copies made for you and Kate, which was taken at Harvard, I suppose about 1884. The brunette with the veil happens to be your distinguished father. I think it is a joy.

Affectionately,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "F. D. Roosevelt", written in a cursive style.

Mrs. J. Lawrence Houghteling,
2424 Wyoming Avenue,
Washington, D. C.

Enclosure.

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

June 4, 1932

Hon. Franklin D. Roosevelt,
Albany, N. Y.

Dear Franklin:

Many thanks for your letter. I was in New York last week and had a session with Mr. Farley. I ran into my old friend Dick Crane outside of the Madison Avenue office and we went in together.

I took occasion to arrange for a contact between Mr. Farley and Col. H. B. Moore of Texas City, Texas, although the two had not yet gotten together when I left New York on Thursday night. Col. Moore is a convert of my own to the Roosevelt cause; his wife is a member of the State Legislature and he has considerable political influence in the Galveston-Houston district. He worked hard at the recent Democratic State Convention to get you a commitment as second choice after Jack Garner has had his complimentary votes.

Unfortunately my friend got well sat upon by the state leaders and lost his chance to be a delegate to the Chicago Convention, but he has a pretty accurate knowledge of the powerful minority in the Texas delegation which will be working for you in Chicago.

I note what you say about your prohibition stand. I don't know whether you realize the insidious work which is being done throughout the country to make you appear indecisive on the prohibition issue. The statement which you made in Wisconsin, for instance, did not appear in any Chicago paper. One of the principal weapons of the "Stop Roosevelt" movement is the propaganda that you are straddling this issue. With the newspaper opposition which you have it is necessary to keep reiterating as strongly and picturesquely as possible a position which in any activity except politics could be defined in a single statement.

My diagnosis of the general situation is that things are going very well for your candidacy.

Sincerely yours,

JLE/H

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Chicago, August 29, 1933.

To
The President,
Hyde Park, N. Y.

Dear Franklin:-

I want to recommend to you as a possible selection for the place shortly to be vacated by Raymond Moley my college classmate, Walter Myers of Indianapolis.

Walter is a man of very unusual ability, of strong and fearless character and of attractive personality. He made his way through college with a Phi Beta Kappa stand, went to Indianapolis after graduating, and has won himself a leading place at the Indiana bar and a leading place in Indiana politics by sheer ability and personality. When he served in the Indiana legislature he was elected speaker without a caucus but with scarcely a dissenting vote of his party.

He has been a devoted Roosevelt man since 1920 - when, you may remember, he made one of the speeches at San Francisco nominating you for the vice-presidency. A year ago last spring his persistent efforts to commit the Democratic delegates from Indiana to vote for you in the convention brought him into opposition to the present governor of Indiana, who thought he had possibilities as a dark horse - and this apparently had much to do with costing Walter the Democratic nomination for senator at the state convention. I recently had a talk with a Republican editor from northern Indiana, Frederick Landis (a brother of the famous judge), who certainly has no bias as regards the Indiana Democracy; and he told me that Walter Myers has, in his opinion, a stronger personal hold on the loyalty of the rank and file of Indiana Democrats than either Governor McNutt or Chairman Peters. From the standpoint of state politics I should say that Walter might prove a key man of considerable value to you.

He has a keen interest in international problems and international law and should measure up well to the job in the State Department. His only contacts with Secretary Hull have been when the latter was Chairman of the Democratic National Committee.

To the President -

Chicago, August 29, 1933

Because Walter is a friend of mine of long standing and because I realize that men of real mental brilliance are sometimes handicapped thereby in politics I have made a point of checking carefully on Walter's political standing and popularity in his own state, and am basing this recommendation on the very gratifying results of my check.

I am very grateful to you for appointing me to the Illinois Advisory Board of the Public Works Administration. The work is intensely interesting, our Board is very congenial and whole-hearted, and we are rapidly lining up a great volume of valuable public works which ought to put large numbers of men to work before winter and to contribute permanently to the welfare of many Illinois communities.

Always yours sincerely,

CHICAGO,

CHICAGO BRANCH OFFICE
Room 702, 400 West Madison Street
CHICAGO, ILL.
(Please use room number in replying)

VULCAN SECURITIES COMPANY
[OF RENO, NEVADA]

Chicago, Sept. 8, 1932.

Hon. Franklin D. Roosevelt,
Albany, New York.

Dear Franklin:-

I hope that, when you come out this way on your western trip, you will have a chance for another talk with Mel Traylor. I have two reasons for this suggestion:

First, Mel is by all odds the most progressive and the soundest big banker in this country - an unusual combination. When he went abroad a few years ago in connection with working out the plans for the Bank of International Settlement, he left in the hands of the executive vice-president of the First National Bank of Chicago his resignation as president of the bank, to be presented to the Board at any time that the latter should either authorize the formation of an investment banking affiliate or vote to split up the capital stock of the bank into smaller units and thus make it more subject to speculation. I know this because the aforesaid executive vice-president told me so. Mel has been consistently against all the unsound, excessively profitable "rackets" which so many of the big bankers and financial leaders went in for so strongly during the Coolidge-Hoover boom. His ideas on short-selling, call money, taxation, and other complicated economic problems have been clear, honest and far-sighted in the general muddle. His experience too ought to be valuable to you in working out your own program for economic reconstruction.

Secondly, Mel is the least bit disappointed. Incredible as it may seem, he really thought he had a chance for the nomination. I saw him just after you were nominated and from what he said to me I could see that he wasn't satisfied. I saw him again the other day after he had seen you at Albany and he obviously was disappointed that you and he did not get down to economic issues so that he could put his experience at your disposal. He is an important factor here in Chicago and too good and valuable a man to be allowed to feel disgruntled. We need his 100% co-operation and he carries such a heavy load of responsibility as the head of our biggest bank that we won't get it unless he is enthusiastic.

Aside from that everything is fine. You are 'way out ahead, although Hoover is gaining a little on this

Hon. Franklin D. Roosevelt.

"bulge" of premature stock-market prosperity, and the slight increase in commodity prices. I think your line of attack is very good. The Forgotten Man is legion and is very likely to carry this election. Furthermore you are treading worthily in the footsteps of the great Theodore in taking the part of the individual - the independent small manufacturer and merchant, the self-respecting worker of every sort - against the large capitalistic units which are so dear to the heart of Hoover. The independent American who is captain of his own soul and his own means of livelihood is the backbone of this country. Ever since Hoover became Secretary of Commerce the weight of the federal government has been thrown into the scale of standardization, consolidation, pyramiding of ownership and the gravitation of power into fewer hands. And in the end it isn't either efficient or American. An oligarchy always becomes narrow-visioned; and always builds up sooner or later a rabble opposition.

You've made mighty few mistakes so far. Good luck to you!

Always yours sincerely,

Chicago, October 7, 1932.

Hon. Franklin D. Roosevelt,
Albany, N.Y.

Dear Franklin:-

Dick Finnegan, editor of the Chicago Times - whom you met in Chicago with his publisher, Emery Thomason - has just telephoned me the result of his first straw ballot since Hoover's Des Moines speech. As this is a quicker reaction than you can get from the Literary Digest or Hearst straw votes, he thought you might be interested in it. Yesterday the poll ran:

Roosevelt 50% Hoover 40% Others 10%

Previous to Tuesday it had been running:

Roosevelt 55% Hoover 35% Others 10%

This is all right as far as it goes, and a perfectly natural first reaction to a terrific emotional and intellectual effort by a man in a commanding position. There is plenty of evidence that the most effective part of the president's speech was his appeal to fear - all this mystery stuff about the averted danger to the Gold Standard, (which plenty of competent experts will tell you was never seriously threatened), the implication that the Democrats will let down the tariff bars and let in Mexican cattle, and a hundred other unfair insinuations intended to frighten the simple. This is obviously the only argument the Republicans are seriously going to use from now on, and it is a dangerous one, although unAmerican and cowardly. My own newspaper, the Chicago Daily News - whose publisher is deeply beholden to Hoover - admits that this is the latter's one hope to win, and a mighty slim one, at that. It is fortunate that so many Americans realize that the thing to be feared most is a continuation of Hoover irresolution and lack of leadership.

Your visit here was a great success. Come again!

Yours sincerely,

Chicago, February 1, 1933.

Hon. Franklin D. Roosevelt,
Warm Springs, Georgia.

Dear Franklin:-

My friend and classmate, Walter Myers of Indianapolis, tells me that in a recent talk with you about the personnel of your administration he mentioned my name and that you commented on same very cordially.

This letter is to say that I am entirely at your service if I can be of any use to you in either a temporary or a continuous capacity. These are difficult times to break ~~thru~~ through business entanglements, as I know you have found in the case of various business leaders who might be very useful in national positions of leadership. I don't class myself with them but I have some ability and a good deal of experience in finance and business affairs (as contacted by a newspaper executive). If I can be of any service to your administration, I think I can arrange my affairs so as to be available. I make this offer in the spirit of my distinguished father-in-law, whose ambition always to be useful I greatly admire. It doesn't require any answer if it doesn't fit in with your plans.

Eleanor's four-hour visit to Chicago the week before last was a most satisfactory event, if it wasn't too great a strain on her. She seemed completely unruffled by her enforced change of plans and the consequent speeding-up of the tempo of her visit. Her talk to the League of Women Voters developed in its course the keenest sort of enthusiasm among a large and variegated audience. I have since seen a number of men who were present, who classify as rather stiffly unrepentent Republicans but who appear to have had a most sincere and salutary change of heart as a result of Eleanor's speech. Which is quite a tribute to your wife's spell-binding ability.

Always sincerely yours,

LAWRENCE HOUGHTLING

MAY 10, 1935

To the President,
The White House,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Franklin:

During the month which has passed since the Chicago mayoralty election there have appeared a good many interesting side-lights on that great Democratic victory; which are worth the consideration of the Head of the Party.

In the election Mayor Kelly polled slightly over 75% of all the votes cast, receiving close to 800,000 votes, against somewhat over 160,000 for the Republican candidate and less than 90,000 for the independent Newton Jenkins. This was a surprisingly large vote for a local election, as the Democratic vote for Anton Gernak in 1931 was only 670,000 in what was then considered a tremendous triumph of organization.

It was a very unusual election, in that the Republican party (under the masterful leadership of my good friend Frank Knox) has become completely demoralized and did not take much trouble about watching the polls. The registration of voters in Cook County is also in bad shape and the lists had not been properly corrected to eliminate people who had changed their residence. This made it possible for a well-organized machine to make a surprising demonstration. In a great many precincts fifty or more ballots were in the boxes at the time the polls opened. At least two members of the local city administration, who went to the polls late in the afternoon, were gayly told by the Democratic watchers that they had voted already; which was regarded as a great joke by both of them.

There is no doubt that on the basis of votes honestly cast and honestly counted Kelly was elected by a better than two-to-one majority. The question therefore arises why the organization went to such trouble and risk to poll many thousands of illegal votes. I have gone to some trouble to check up with a great variety of political experts on this question in search of an answer to this question.

In the first place it is the first time that Ed Kelly has ever been a candidate at an election and he was unquestionably very jittery about his prospects and decided to take no chances of losing. But behind it all was unquestionably the determination to make a strong impression on the National Administration at Washington.

Obviously one of the underlying motives had to do with the federal work relief program. Kelly has made big promises as to what he is going to get for Chicago. He seems to have a spectacular leaning towards projects which are politically impressive but economically unsound. However, the community has a good many real needs (as Harold Ickes knows) which can legitimately be financed under this new law. There are complicated problems involving the constitutional

May 10, 1935

debt limit which the Mayor seems to ignore but which others are facing constructively. Evidently he has allotted to himself the function of "high-pressuring" the money out of the Administration.

As I told you when I saw you in February Mayor Kelly is, along most lines, a very able citizen who is believed by a fair proportion of neutral observers to be genuinely anxious to make a good record and who has ability to do so. His personal performance is very competent but his appointments to office are almost always made with more consideration for the exigencies of ward organization than for the real ability of the appointee to render public service.

One of his most particular pals is Bertie McCormick, who gave Kelly his start as an engineer with the Chicago Sanitary District. There is a very close link of personal friendship there (one of the few that Bertie can claim). Kelly's closest friend in national politics is Frank Hague of Jersey City. I was interested to note that during the Mayor's present vacation trip to Honolulu he reached San Francisco on the same day that Frank Hague and John Raskob arrived there. Hague and he landed in San Francisco yesterday from the same boat. To a number of wise ones these incidents represent Kelly's real alignment within the Democratic party. On the other hand, I believe he fully realizes that a great majority of the 500,000 to 600,000 honest votes he received in the last election were "Roosevelt votes."

I imagine you may have heard this diagnosis of Chicago politics from other sources, but at any rate I pass it on to you for whatever it is worth.

My friend Frank Knox seems to be neglecting the interests of his stockholders by giving the majority of his time to quiet organization work for the Republican nomination for President. He is very serious about it and is holding meetings and organizing wealthy industrialists and La Salle Street brokers at a great rate. The publishers of both the local Hearst papers are backing him. The situation is putting Bertie McCormick very decidedly "on the spot." Frank will be a very easy man for you to beat if he gets the nomination. In his opposition to all your policies, he has gone on record as vigorously opposed to almost everything which the great majority of the American people want. He is so sure of himself and takes so little advice that he will go blithely ahead making this mistake indefinitely.

To return to Mayor Kelly, the election has put him in a position where he is less and less dependent on Pat Nash and therefore more firmly the real leader in his own right. I think this is frankly a net gain for the City of Chicago. I am also assured that he would greatly welcome a better understanding with the National Administration.

Laura is just leaving for Washington and is hoping that she will have a chance to see you while she is there.

Yours sincerely,

JANUARY 13, 1936

To the President,
The White House,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Franklin:

Your Message to Congress and your Jackson Day speech were both very effective in this part of the world. After many months of steady battering by the opposition press, our heads are bloody but unbowed. I think you have got all the best arguments on your side, and you certainly know how to use them.

I want to recommend that you consider using the great legal talents of my close friend and classmate, Walter Myers of Indianapolis, in connection with some of the legal problems facing you. Walter is a deep student of the Constitution and as able a lawyer as I know. He makes a fine impression in court. As Speaker of the Indiana House he had valuable political experience. And above all, he is intensely loyal to you. I think you are overlooking a bet in not making use of his great talents.

Yours sincerely,

JLH-at

(James L. Houghteling)

FEBRUARY 8, 1936

To the President,
The White House,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Franklin:

I recently received a confidential letter from Harold Ickes saying that Henry Morgenthau was considering Wayne Chatfield Taylor for Under Secretary of the Treasury and asking my opinion as to Taylor's qualification for the job.

Wayne Taylor was Chicago Chairman for Jesse Straus' Roosevelt Business and Professional League in 1932. I was his most active vice president and spent a great deal of time with him. I have known him since boyhood and always liked him and admired him, but this gave me lots of chance to discuss public policy and national problems with him. I was deeply impressed with his clear understanding of national fiscal problems, particularly currency and budgetary matters. I remember that we concocted a reply to President Hoover's speech about the threat to the gold standard, which we used during the campaign. Wayne had a much more varied knowledge of such problems than I did.

He had been a partner in Field, Gloré & Co. for a number of years but when that firm not only went along but was a leader in the unsound financial philosophy of 1928 and 1929, Wayne first protested and then took the very courageous step of resigning. Everybody with any sense of proportion greatly admired his courage and good judgment.

I believe that he is admirably fitted for the job of Under Secretary of the Treasury. I doubt if you could get a better man anywhere. This is not only my opinion but that of various close friends high in Chicago business circles whom I have been able to consult confidentially.

I have been interested in noticing indications of a strong definite swing in your favor out here. The Chicago newspapers have so over-played their opposition that many conservative people are disgusted and are beginning to take your side. You have always been way out in front with the rank and file of Chicago people.

Certain wise ones think that Bertie McCormick will be the Republican nominee. How would you like that?

Yours sincerely,

JLH-at

(James L. Houghteling)

September 9, 1936

To The President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Franklin:

When I saw you at Hyde Park in August you asked me to write you fully when I got back to Chicago about the local political situation. I have delayed doing so until the end of your drought-inspection trip, and then waited through Labor Day to get reports on two Coughlin-Lemke meetings.

My report must be mainly favorable, as its background is the primary vote last April here in Illinois in which you received a complimentary vote 450,000 higher than the combined Knox and Borah vote at the end of a hot contest. I don't believe the intervening months have changed the situation materially, despite 1) the "Landon swing" in the corn-belt, 2) the Coughlin-Lemke effort, and 3) the Horner-Kelly fight.

Landon looked awfully good to the discouraged Republicans downstate after Frank Knox's intensely selfish stupid campaign before the convention (more or less riddled by insidious Tribune anti-Knox propaganda and by the much franker and more refreshing Borah onslaught). There has always been plenty of able Republican leadership in the great strip of country between Cook County and our southern coal-mining counties (which are overwhelmingly pro-Roosevelt), and that leadership began to work with enthusiasm as soon as Landon's nomination gave it somebody acceptable to work for. You had the edge in the corn-belt before the conventions. My best information is that there was immediately a decided swing toward Landon. The Tribune carries more weight down there than in Chicago. My Republican friends downstate were greatly encouraged early in July. But their optimism appears to be oozing away as time goes on.

I think you should come up to the Cook County line on election day on even or very nearly even terms. And you should have no difficulty in carrying Chicago by an impressive majority. Of course, the Tribune, the News and the Hearst papers are plying their readers unceasingly with the unfairest sort of dirty fighting, but so far it hasn't seemed to get across with the great bulk of Chicagoans. The effect of that sort of day-by-day attack is, however, hard to measure. It is true that the newspapers haven't brought a single new argument against you this year, but their reiterated hammering about rising debts and increasing taxes may have some effect. The Times is the only Chicago newspaper whose circulation is growing, and the enthusiasm of its readers for its *New Deal*

To the President,
Sept. 9, 1936.

loyalty is most encouraging. It recently advertised Roosevelt buttons and gave away 2,000,000 of them so fast that the Democratic National Committee asked it to hold back on account of the expense.

My contacts inside the Chicago Daily News office are most interesting. Except for two or three writers who stick close to Frank Knox, the whole editorial staff thinks that the Landon-Knox ticket hasn't a show. This includes two or three special writers who have been making confidential canvasses. One man close to the Republican headquarters staff tells me that the finance officers over there are much worried over certain financial commitments on the part of big business men, on which they are having great difficulty in collecting. They are spending all the money they collect on their tremendously expensive campaign and, if these commitments run out on them, they are afraid they may have no money to man the polls on election day. Since I heard this I've been wondering whether such a situation may not explain the very favorable early returns in certain straw votes - also Landon's sudden decision to campaign in Maine. After all, it's necessary to persuade even the most ardent anti-New Dealers that they won't be throwing their money down a rat-hole.

Father Coughlin had an immense turn-out for a mass-meeting here on Sunday, and great enthusiasm - although Times spotters thought that a reasonable percentage of the crowd came through curiosity. The personal tribute to Coughlin was undoubtedly accentuated by the ill-judge action of Bob Dunham as president of the park board last year when he refused the use of the Grant Park stadium to Father Coughlin. However, the Labor Day turn-out for Lemke and Big Bill Thompson, held at the same location as the Coughlin meeting, was a distinct fizzle. Coughlin can always draw a crowd for himself, but I doubt if he can deliver them to Lemke, or Landon.

The Horner-Kelly fight is as bitter as ever under the surface. Personally I think that Horner is more than 50% to blame, although in general I admire him much more than the other crowd. As a politician he's ungracious, uncompromising and suspicious (and unfortunately shows his suspicions too plainly). I'm afraid he will have a hard time winning re-election; although two of my best non-partisan sources of information think he will squeak through. Horner is unquestionably loyal to you and is doing everything he can for the national ticket. Some of his followers would trade votes against you if they dared, but they know Horner must count on your popularity to pull him in. The same holds good with the Kelly crowd. Kelly took an awful smash in the eye in the primary and the whole success of his administration and the continued power of his machine depends on a big Democratic victory in November. I know of numerous instances in which Mayor Kelly has gone out of his way to do helpful things for the national ticket. Some of his crowd will knife Horner seriously, but the safest thing for all of them will be to support the whole ticket.

To The President,
Sept. 9, 1936.

I told you about the offer of Edgar Cook, the Borah pre-convention manager out here, to campaign for you among the Borah following in Illinois, if his expenses are paid. (Borah polled 420,000 votes in the primary, and intimates that his feelings won't be hurt if all of them vote for you in November). Jim Farley sent Sen. O'Mahony to talk to Cook recently and the senator seemed favorably impressed. I'm sitting in a bit on the situation myself. Dick Finnegan of the Times - the smartest political strategist in Chicago - thinks the money would be well spent. Cook is an egotist who has to do things his own way, but I believe he can be valuable. His activities might be a good offset against the Coughlin-Lenke inroads (if any). With the local newspaper opposition building up every possible factor unfavorable to you, I don't believe we should overlook any bets.

By the same token, while I think Illinois is safe, we mustn't be overconfident. A speech by you in Chicago would draw a huge crowd, encourage your supporters and dispel the clouds of poison gas the local newspapers are spreading. Come on out. We're really a most friendly town.

Always yours sincerely,

P. S. I've just been lunching with Gen. "Bill" Westervelt, vice-president of Sears Roebuck & Company. He tells me that his company's reports from its agents all over the country are most encouraging as to your election.

February 17, 1937

President of the United States,
The White House,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Franklin:

I have been doing my best to check popular sentiment in Chicago on your judicial re-organization program. The lawyers mostly don't like the idea of an indeterminate number of Supreme Court Judges; and all the Economic Royalists along La Salle Street and in Newspaper Row are yelling bloody murder. But the man in the street has come to regard the Supreme Court majority as an ally of capitalistic exploitation and I think that, beyond any question, the people of this section of the country are as strongly behind you on this issue as they were in the November election.

Yesterday at luncheon twenty members of the Brotherhood of St. Andrew sat around a table with one of our more reactionary Episcopal bishops and the latter had the bad taste to view your program with outspoken alarm. I was delighted to have a majority of the laymen present rise up and back the bishop right off the boards.

There are too many lawyers in Congress, but a lot of them ought to be hearing from home these days. I am writing both Illinois Senators.

When you get around to making Illinois judicial appointments I hope you give consideration to Philip J. Finnegan who is now a judge of the Cook County Circuit Court. Judge Finnegan is a brother of Dick Finnegan, editor of the Chicago Times, and

has made a fine record on the bench. Dick Finnegan is one of the clearest-headed progressive thinkers in this part of the country, very loyal to you and a man of great influence in the community. He does not know that I am writing this letter and has never mentioned his brother to me in this connection.

Yours sincerely,

(James L. Houghteling)

P. S. Charles P. Schwartz, who was my side-kick in the Chicago branch of the Good Neighbor League last fall, is an active candidate for a Federal judicial appointment. He was a Jewish immigrant from Poland in his boyhood, made a brilliant record at the University of Chicago, was Judge Julian Mack's secretary and was Jane Addams' advisor and personal attorney. From the standpoint of intellectual ability and progressive social outlook he is well-equipped; I don't know how much judicial temperament he is capable of developing.

June 29th, 1938.

Hon. Franklin D. Roosevelt,
President of the United States,
Washington, D.C.

My dear Mr. President:-

I enclose herewith a letter from Edwin S. Webster, Jr. whose father was one of the founders of Stone & Webster and who is also the head of the Webster National Bank in Boston.

The young man is a very able man and an ardent supporter of the New Deal.

This letter refers to suggestion that Mr. Garrison Norton would be a good man for the Aviation Commission.

His father was my most intimate friend and I have known the boy all his life. In the early days of your Administration he worked with Mr. John Fay and gave excellent service in the Home Owners Loan Corporation having secured a furlough from his firm, Arthur Young & Company, chartered accountants, and returned to that work when he had completed his job of setting up accounts, etc. for the H.O.L.C.

Garry Norton has got a good job and he is in no sense an object of pity but he is a very competent young man and a sincere supporter of the Administration and as he has had flying experience for twenty years is well posted in that line.

Respectfully,

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

November 13, 1933

The President of the United States,
The White House,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Franklin:

We of the Public Works Administration out here are very much bewildered by this new Civil Works Program. I hope you can make some statement which will clear the matter up.

Under Harold Ickes' able leadership we have been working out a constructive program of public works which is just beginning to be turned into actual work. It has been awfully slow going because of the vast proportions of the problem, but the Public Works Administration at Washington have been building an organization and we are just getting into our stride. We have been told to prepare an Immediate Program and a Comprehensive Program. The former, we were instructed, was to include projects which could be started immediately; and these were to be given preference as against others - many of them more constructive and more worth while - which would have to be worked out slowly.

Harold Ickes has very wisely insisted that these projects all be "economically sound and socially desirable" and financed by the issuance of municipal securities which would be sound investments. We were warned against considering projects which were purely "make-work". Now comes the announcement that \$400,000,000.00 of the money set aside for our program, which would have been available for the more carefully worked out Comprehensive Program, is to be assigned to a program of doing any old sort of "make-work" job this winter. At least that is how it seems from the newspaper accounts, and the corollary is that there won't be any money available after January 1st for the Comprehensive Program.

The natural reaction is that a great many of our Immediate Program projects, which were predicated on the pledging of municipal obligations, want to withdraw and get federal money free from Mr. Hopkins' new administration; and many of the public officials in charge of the more comprehensive projects which we have been carefully developing are saying, "That's the use; there won't be any money left for us." You can see what confusion and lack of understanding of the new program is bringing about in our field.

Furthermore, ever since the beginning of the Public Works Administration, we have been fighting off congressmen who are naturally eager to push through projects for their constituents, regardless of the preferences laid down by the Administration or of the merits of the projects themselves. Harold Ickes will tell

you how much of his time has been wasted in this way. The best of these congressmen have been reasonable and helpful. Now they all want to get free help for their constituents under the Civil Works Administration. I think this is entirely likely to develop a situation where it will be impossible to get further appropriations from the next session of Congress for the Public Works Program - which certainly should be carried along if it is to fulfil the function for which it was originally offered to the people.

The experience which I have had with the Public Works Program leads me to urge that this Civil Works Program be proceeded with with considerable caution, so that the constructive effort which has already been put into the Public Works Program shall not be cut short.

*Aside from that everything is fine.

Yours sincerely,

JLHoughteling:H

January 21, 1932.

Hon. Franklin D. Roosevelt,
Albany, New York.

Dear Franklin:-

I met Al Soraguo of the street yesterday and we talked over possible things we could do to promote your nomination for the presidency. Al is working hard on our local tax trouble just now and suggested postponing a more definite discussion until after the special session of the Illinois legislature completes its work. But in the meantime I want to write you personally on the subject.

In the first place I believe the Democrats will carry the country this year. At the election following the passage of each new Republican tariff bundle they always do. In Illinois the Republicans have been completely disrupted by Bill Thompson and Ruth McCormick and are in no frame of mind to unite, even for the governorship; and in local matters things look better for the Democrats than for many years past. Tony Carmack is making a good mayor and so far has the confidence of the people. It won't be easy, however, to carry a rock-ribbed Republican state like Illinois for a Democratic presidential candidate; there is no use harboring illusions about that. In my opinion, Al Smith couldn't do it this year any more than he could in 1928, because the great then fatal independent vote has never been ~~continued~~ off his fitness to handle national issues. I believe that among a number of able Democratic possibilities, you will stand the best chance. The local Chicago organization is probably sympathetic toward Smith, but with the exception of a few particular friends of his they don't care enough to risk defeat with him if they think he can't win. That all big-city political leaders want is a man who can win; any Democrat in the White House is better than their best friend in the also-ran column.

You have lots of friends out here. I wired you from Washington two weeks ago in favor of Chicago as the convention city, because I felt sure that no organized opposition in Chicago would exert unfavorable influence on the delegates; also, if leaders supposed to be your opponents at the Washington meeting were believed to be blocking the acceptance of this city's invitation, I am an excellent bet it would

be much harder for your friends to get the Chic go crowd into line for you later on. As things turned out, the Chicagoans were entirely satisfied.

Prohibition is a very vital issue out here. I have always been a dry myself (though your lovely cousin who does me the honor to be my wife thinks I'm all wrong), because I have felt that the country must not lapse back into the Saloon Age (which has, to my way of thinking, always been the deep-seated object of most of the wets), and that the passage of time under a dry regime would gradually frictionize public sentiment on both sides into a somewhat symmetrical demand for a compromise. The Henry Anderson plan put forward half-heartedly by the Pickersham commission looks very good to me and to a great many heretofore rabid wets of the more intelligent type and moderate dries with whom I have talked. Then the ardent wets talk "No sale" and strict states' rights with strong safeguards of interests of this or that of an adjacent problem for the prohibition half-way. this year. Out here the Democratic politicians are dripping wet but they know they must compromise.

One of my newspaper-correspondent friends told me in Washington that, in his opinion, New England's electoral votes would go as the French Canadians went. We were talking of the recent Democratic congressional victory in the Manchester, N.H., district, and he told me of a study he made in New England four years ago. Until recently the French Canadian factory hands who are so numerous in New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Connecticut have been Republicans, but lately prohibition, and the tariff - and perhaps the religious issue - have been turning them into Democrats. They even outweigh the Boston Irish in Massachusetts, he said. This may be well-known to you, but it was news to me. I pass it on for what it is worth.

I thoroughly approve of your recent public utterances. The danger is that the Democrats will make too much of a field day out of the jam that Hoover has gotten himself into, and the gradual recovery of business.

a gradual recovery of business such as we are likely to have this coming fall will work undue credit to the president and a corresponding lack of credit to his Democratic critics, even if the Democrats in Congress have done the most constructive work. Today the people at large are giving Hoover all the blame he deserves - without outside help. In the past the Democrats have been handicapped by what Mr. Dooley used to call a "View-with-alarm" platform. Gov. Smith and that wild man Claude Bowers tried not to go too far at the Jackson Day dinner while eating

- 1 -

such justifiable fear of "Hoover prosperity". But they were pretty close to the point where the Gee-that's-not-fair" feeling begins to develop in the minds of the great radio-listening masses who make up their minds - and that of the country - once every four years, largely through an accumulation of impressions. Your own attitude has always been constructive and fair-minded and that is one great element of your strength. There is time enough to hammer the opposition after the campaign begins. The big question now is, who is the fittest Democrat? and while the Democrats seem to me to have by far the best choice of talent, I can answer that big question today to my own entire satisfaction.

Good luck to you. Let me know what we out here can do to help. I know you're busy; just put me into touch with the right man.

Yours always,

308 U.S. Courthouse Chicago
December 14, 1933.

The President of the United States,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Franklin:

Thanks for your letter of December 6 about the relationship between CWA and PWA, in answer to mine of November 13 about the possible conflict between the Civil Works program and the Public Works program. The launching of the Civil Works program, which prompted my former letter, was handled admirably and the temporary work of the CWA has tended to help our Public Works promotion, rather than otherwise. The cooperation between Harold Ickes and Mr. Hopkins seems to have been very complete.

There is one matter in connection with the Public Works program which is giving us some worry in Illinois.

When I saw you in September, I told you what the promotion of waterworks developments and sewage systems promises to mean to many small communities in this State. Southern Illinois is as flat as a pancake and is drained by slow-moving creeks and rivers which are far from numerous. The water-bearing geological strata lie very deep. There is plentiful rainfall, but the cost of building impounding reservoirs in flat country is very considerable. For these reasons the cost of developing waterworks projects in Central and Southern Illinois mounts up to a very considerable debt per capita. But the people are willing to assume such obligations and the records show that they regard their municipal obligations as debts of honor and that defaults are very rare.

In view of these facts, the Illinois Advisory Board has not been willing to sign the death warrant of many of these small communities by saying to them, "You can never have a water system, even under the most favorable circumstances. Because, even with a Federal Grant of thirty percent, the per capita debt you will have to assume is too heavy for you." This is our considered judgment. But, some of the financial experts in the Public Works Administration in Washington have definitely assumed that attitude. Only this week we have received notice that the PWA has rejected a dozen small waterworks projects for financial reasons. I don't think Harold Ickes knows this fact.

I don't think history takes much time for
 history and the way we select a good many mistakes made for
 to the President. December 14, 1935.
 I don't think we have the right kind of organization in America
 now. There seems to be a gap here between theory and practice.
 The CWA is financing at the entire cost of the Federal Government
 temporary projects which have not the economic value nor the
 employment possibilities of some of these well-considered waterworks
 projects. In the latter case, solvent and responsible communities
 are prepared seriously to undertake to repay the Government - and,
 we of the Advisory Board believe, will conscientiously do so. Even
 if some of them should fail, the result would not be more burdensome
 on the Federal Government than the more temporary work of the CWA.
 We are trying to combat the "easy money" tender of the political
 opposition by making every project as financially sound as
 possible. But I believe that a few of the Administrator's assistants
 are being unreasonably technical.
 I don't think the matter deserves Secretary Brown's too much
 interest and I mention this matter because I know from our last
 talk how close to your heart the improvement of living conditions in
 these smaller communities is.
 of waterworks development and some other projects so many to build

When I was here in September, I told you about the situation
 Yours sincerely,

William Brown is staying at home now in Illinois.

There is one matter in connection with the water works

been and compare.

The cooperation between history taken and the history seems to have
 been secured to with our water works situation. I don't think
 I should mention the matter again and the financial work of the CWA
 projects. The importance of the water works situation is being
 brought together between the water works situation and the water works
 with between CWA and WPA in summer to time of November to show the
 drinks for last year of December and show the situation.

Dear William:

Attention: D. C.
 The President of the United States

December 14, 1935
 308 N. 3rd Street, Chicago

Miscellaneous

February 2, 1931.

Hon. Franklin D. Roosevelt,
Albany, New York.

Dear Franklin:

I only caught a glimpse of Elliott while he was out here, but I got your letter and wished that I might have done more for him. He seemed to be very well occupied and could not come out to the house for dinner with Laura and myself.

We know the Albert Frank Company well, of course; they are fine people.

Best regards.

Yours sincerely,

JLHoughteling/mt