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Box 11; Folder = Correspondence: Frankfurter, Felix, 1935-1939

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THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

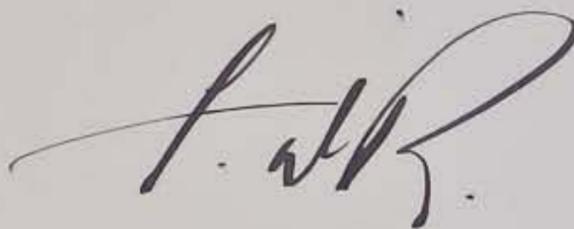
February 14, 1935.

Dear Felix:-

That will be grand to have you and  
Marion over the eighth of March. Come the day  
before if you can.

I doubt if I shall see you in Cambridge,  
as I get there at 7 P.M. and leave at midnight --  
then to Hyde Park for, I hope, three full days  
with no telephone and no Senators!

As ever yours,



Professor Felix Frankfurter,  
Law School of Harvard University,  
Cambridge,  
Massachusetts.

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

March 14, 1939.

My dear Major Frankfurter:-

Your effort to retire from the United States Army at this time of crisis has been rejected.

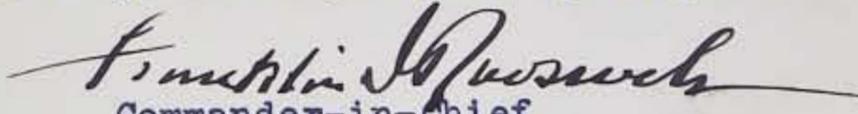
If instead of consulting the words of Cicero (a mere talker) to find the motto "inter leges arma silent", you had consulted the famous phrase of Major General Caesar (a doer), "leges impellent arma", i.e., laws make for war -- you would see that it is more essential than ever that you remain in the Army.

I am enclosing a memorandum from the Chief of Staff, which I take it results from a three day consideration of your case by the whole general staff.

I regret that it is impossible at this moment to consider you for promotion to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. I am informed that this will depend somewhat on your conduct during the next few years.

If shortly before January 20, 1941, you will re-submit your request for promotion, I shall be glad to act on it one way or the other before I retire as Commander-in-Chief of the Army and Navy in favor of Senator Nye.

With great respect, I am, Sir,

  
Commander-in-Chief

Honorable Felix Frankfurter,  
Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the U. S.

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Supreme Court,

Washington, D. C.

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I regret that it is impossible at this moment to consider you for promotion to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. I am informed that this will depend somewhat on your conduct during the next few years.

If shortly before January 30, 1941, you will re-submit your request for promotion, I shall be glad to act on it one way or the other before I retire as Commander-in-Chief of the Army and Navy in favor of Senator Nye.

With great respect, I am, Sir,

Commander-in-Chief

Honorable Felix Frankfurter,  
Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the U. S.