

Tully Archive: FDR Papers

Correspondence: Lehman, Herbert H., ca 1936

Franklin D. Roosevelt Library & Museum

Collection: Grace Tully Archive

Series: Franklin D. Roosevelt Papers

Box 11; Folder = Correspondence: Lehman, Herbert H., ca. 1936

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Monday, Hyde Park

Dear Herbert:

The enclosed draft is I feel clumsily expressed because it comes more deeply from my heart than I can adequately express on paper. For instance, it isn't nearly strong enough about what grand things you have done these four years - but I thought perhaps it was better not to make it too long and to single out certain types of things which so clearly are of national importance. And the more I look at it from every angle the more I am convinced of the very great importance of your running -- importance to the social security of the whole nation in all that that implies. And I have not talked of the political importance. To do so would help - of us, ^{and} yet of course that is important too.

If there are any suggestions or amendments you want to suggest, I hope you will tell me so frankly. You can telephone me - at the White House. I go back tonight. And I agree with you that the present is better than later.

I am rested again after that strenuous week, but yesterday afternoon I was like a limp rag, and I guess you were too.

Affectionately yours,

I am taking the liberty of sending this to the mansion by one of your troopers.

Dear Herbert:

For some weeks and practically since the close of the New York State Legislative session I have been giving especial careful thought to some matters of grave importance to the country and especially to the state of New York. May I repeat to you what I have already told you that I was deeply disappointed when you stated that you would not again be a candidate for Governor, though at the same time, as you know, I fully appreciate the personal reasons which impelled you to make

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON

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Honorable Rudolph Forster,
The White House.

Telegrams No. 547, Paris;
No. 549, Paris;
No. 234, Rome.

If the next state administration, therefore, is in the hands of any corrupt individual whose heart is not in the right place in respect to these great ideals, or is even in great control by those who are unsympathetic of objectives which you and I have, we fail. More than that I fear that many of the excellent laws put on the statute books during your four years as governor

Faint, mirrored text from the reverse side of the page, appearing as bleed-through. The text is largely illegible due to its low contrast and orientation.

Handwritten notes on a separate piece of paper, possibly a page from a notebook or a separate sheet. The handwriting is cursive and somewhat difficult to decipher. The notes appear to be organized into several lines or paragraphs, with some lines starting with a dash or a small symbol. The paper is aged and shows some wear and tear.

Dear Herbert:

For some weeks and practically since the close of the New York State Legislative session I have been giving especially careful thought to some matters of grave importance to the country and especially to the state of New York. May I repeat to you what I have already told you that I was deeply disappointed when you stated that you would not again be a candidate for Governor, though at the same time, as you know, I fully appreciate the personal reasons which impelled you to make the statement, have sympathized with you in those reasons.

Nevertheless, I am writing frankly and with deepest sincerity to tell you what I conceive to be another side of the picture.

For many years you and I have worked for many kinds of social legislation. Much legislation of this type has been enacted, but at the same time much remains unfulfilled.

Our State was and still is among the pioneers; and today the federal government is making it possible for a state to join in this great work.

The next two years I think will be very critical ones; what takes place in New York will have an outstanding effect all over the nation.

If the next state administration, therefore, is in the hands of any corrupt individual whose heart is not in the right place in respect to these great ideals, or is even in great control by those who are unsympathetic of objectives which you and I have, we fail. More than that I fear that many of the excellent laws put on the statute books during your four years as governor

would be repealed, weakened or enforced by people who had their tongues in their cheeks.

The State of New York would be helped thereby; even more important to the nation, the nation would be helped thereby. For that kind of an example is imitated and spreads.

I have referred to social legislation such as fair wage laws, unemployment insurance, old age pensions, care of the destitute, but I should include the equally wide range of legislation affecting public utilities and conservation and in general the lives of the average citizen.

I am convinced that your return to Albany for another two years would have a splendid effect on the rest of the country.

That magnificent and richly deserved tribute which was given to you in Florida last week shows what other states think of your kind of successful leadership. I hope, therefore, that not only for the state, but for the national good, you will be willing to reconsider your statement that you would not run again. Such reconsideration would make me very happy, and I am sure that it would make millions of people all over the United States very happy.

With my affectionate regards,

Very sincerely yours,

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON, D.C.

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

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[Handwritten signature or initials]

