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Series: Franklin D. Roosevelt Papers

Box 11; Folder = Correspondence: McSwain, J. J., 1932

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J. J. MCSWAIN
4TH DIST. SOUTH CAROLINA

DIXON D. DAVIS
SECRETARY

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

COMMITTEE ON MILITARY AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON, D. C.

Greenville, S.C.
November 9, 1932.

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

My dear Governor Roosevelt:

I wired you last night my congratulations.

I now hand you clipping from the Greenville News, of November 9th, containing a brief interview, issued by myself last night, after your election was shown to be a settled fact.

I also take the liberty of sending you a kodak snapshot of Mrs. Roosevelt and myself, made at the Greenville Airport, and standing at the door to the cabin of one of the Eastern Air Transport's huge Condor planes, on Sunday, October 30, 1932, about 10:00 o'clock, A.M., as Mrs. Roosevelt was traveling as a passenger upon that plane from Atlanta to New York. I became a passenger at Greenville, and escorted her to Spartanburg, S.C., where she was most graciously received by hundreds of enthusiastic people. In like manner she received a most happy reception at Greenville, which was largely attended by at least one thousand of our citizens, and prominent among them, a large troop of Girl Scouts.

I am taking the liberty of making a suggestion. I sincerely hope that you will pardon the seeming presumption, but I am so intensely interested in our Party's making good its pledges to relieve the economic strangulation inflicted by Republican folly and greed, that I am bold to offer what seems to me a worthwhile suggestion.

In the first place, to amplify a newspaper interview, since there is no time to waste, I suggest that you meet in conference, for several days, either in Washington, or New York, or Atlanta, Georgia, not later

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Franklin D. Roosevelt - #2.

Nov. 9, 1932.

than Christmas, the responsible leaders of the Democratic Party, in both the Senate and the House, and have a heart-to-heart round table conference with all of them, and agree upon a line of action, and upon certain policies to be embodied in legislation, and designate some person, naturally the Chairman of the appropriate Committee, to prepare at once bills upon the several subjects, and have these bills printed, and distributed by mail, among the persons constituting this Committee of Conference, for comment, criticism, and suggestions, so as to whip these bills into proper legislative form, before March 4, 1933.

Then, on March 4, 1933, after taking the oath of office as President, if you will immediately, before leaving the rostrum, issue an order calling a special session of Congress, to convene on March 15th, or March 20th, or thereabout, it will startle the Nation, and give hope, courage, and confidence. Then, when the new Congress is convened, impress the Congress with the fact that it is not to be a mere debating society, but that after reasonable opportunity for debate, action must be taken.

All Committees having important administrative bills, should begin hearings on said bills the second day of the special session of Congress, and should conclude the hearings within a week or ten days, and then report the bills promptly to the appropriate House. Then the House Management, whether Senate or House of Representative, should bring the bills up for consideration, and with all proper speed, rush them through both Houses. Give the administration measures right of way, absolutely, and then, just as soon as the administration program is enacted into law, see that the Congress adjourns.

Congress should be able to enact this administration program into law in not exceeding sixty days. Much of the work should be done before March 4th, and the work after that date should constitute merely the official approving of the legislation. If Congress adjourns immediately, after enacting the administration program, it will help the feelings of the country, and will not give opportunity for the bringing in before Congress of irrelevant and unnecessary legislative proposals. If Congress continues in

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Franklin D. Roosevelt - #3.

Nov. 9, 1932.

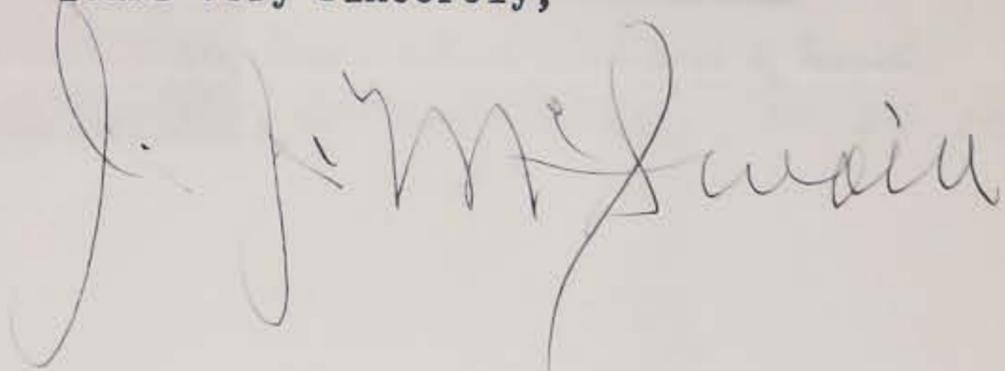
a long session, under the rules of the House, 145 signatures can force up for consideration any legislative proposal, however incompatible the same may be with the administration program.

I venture also to suggest that if you will decide upon your Cabinet very soon, and then announce to the public that the Cabinet has been selected, though the announcement of the names will not be made, yet that will cut off the importunities and applications of thousands of enthusiastic friends of favorite sons.

I make bold to offer these suggestions, because it is not likely that the Committee of which I am Chairman will handle any very important administration measures, with the exception of Muscle Shoals legislation, and perhaps certain amendments to the National Defense Act. Furthermore, I am glad to say that I am not an aspirant for any Cabinet position. But I am a most enthusiastic and loyal supporter of the Democratic Party, which I believe has, at this time, a God-given mission to lead our country out of a desperate situation.

With great respect, and all good wishes for the continuation of your health, I am

Yours very sincerely,



JJMcS/fm

McSwain Sees Happy Days Again Under Democratic Administration

Congressman J. J. McSwain, commenting on the election returns, said:

"The democratic victory is no surprise to anybody, not even to the republican leaders themselves. The election is but the formal recording of the will of the American people formed weeks, even months ago.

"The overwhelming democratic majority is more than a vote of protest against the Hoover regime, with its inept leadership and vacillating course of inaction. In fact, the great victory is a tribute to the inspiring leadership of Franklin D. Roosevelt. His courage, his ideals, and his love for humanity are the mirror of the hopes and aspirations of the masses.

"Now for the new deal. I hope that Governor Roosevelt will soon call into conference all the democratic leaders in both houses of congress. Let them agree upon a program of action. Then let bills be drawn, ready for committee study and report.

"I hope that on the same day that Roosevelt is inaugurated he will call an extra session of congress to meet March 15 or 20. Then I hope he will lead in a great frontal attack upon all the forces and agencies that brought about this cruel panic, called a depression.

"I hope and believe all our people, even republicans, will rally

about Roosevelt, even as they did about Woodrow Wilson during the World war. These times are worse than war. They call for unselfish, patriotic service.

"We can drive away this cloud of gloom and stagnation. We can and will bring back prosperity and see 'happy days here again!'"

'Oven' Man Walks To Polls In Memphis

MEMPHIS, Tenn., Nov. 8.—(AP)—Jack Doty, known as the Memphis "Oven Man" because he lay in an electrical heating apparatus nearly a year for treatment of burns suffered in an automobile accident, kept his promise today and walked to the polls to vote the democratic ticket.

Soon after the accident in November, 1931, doctors placed him in the "oven" but were skeptical of his recovery. They told him he probably wouldn't live but he laughed at them and replied:

"I'll vote for a democrat in the 1932 election."

Since then he has remained in the "oven" heated to 103 degrees to bake the impurities out of his seared body. Meanwhile doctors grafted new skin on the wounds.



Rep. J.J. McSwain of South
Greenville S.C., 10-30-1932

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ERL and Rep. J.J. McSwain of South
CAROLINA, Greenville S.C., 10-30-1932

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