

ICKES, Harold
1945-52

OFFICE OF
THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR

5-1-45.

My dear Miss Thompson:

I am attaching hereto copy of the letter that the Secretary sent to Mrs. Roosevelt yesterday addressed to Hyde Park.

Sincerely yours,

May B. Conley
Private Secretary.

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

4 copies Ickes
1 to Jane
1 to Henry Kuckler
1 to Ed. P. Johnson

Noted by [unclear]

April 30, 1945.

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

This is a somewhat tardy reply to your letter of April 23, but I was in Chicago for a couple of days last week.

As to fuel oil for Hyde Park, the only thing that I know that can be done about that is to apply to the local rationing board which has sole jurisdiction except that there is an appeal to the State Board. Rationing is handled by OPA and as Petroleum Administrator I have nothing to do with it. I have discovered that OPA here has adopted rules and regulations which deprive it of any right to hear a case even on appeal. I should think that your manager would have no difficulty in obtaining a larger supply of fuel oil but if he has and you will let me know I will try a different approach although it will have to be to the local rationing board.

As I told Anna over the telephone a day or two ago, we are drafting and are about ready to send a joint resolution to the Congress asking for authority and money to pay bills in connection with the Hyde Park property during the intervals when neither you nor any of your children are in occupancy. Strictly speaking, the life tenant is responsible for maintenance charges but that would not be fair in this case and I believe that Congress will respond to my request. Our supply bill for the next fiscal year has just passed the House but it will be before the Senate Appropriations Committee for consideration on May 7 and I will then present the matter personally. This ought to make it possible to pay not only for the electricity but for wages and general expenses.

Jane and I appreciate deeply your very kind invitation for the eleventh and we plan to take advantage of it. There is a question of transportation that I have not yet solved but I ought to be able to let you know definitely within a day or two.

With personal regards in which Jane joins, I am,

Sincerely yours,

(Sgd.) Harold L. Ickes
Secretary of the Interior.

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt,
Hyde Park,
New York.

va to thet oth for Hyde Park,
I was in Chicago for a couple of days
this is a somewhat early letter

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

SECRET
THE SECRETARY

Washington, D.C.
May 2, 1945

Dear Mr. Hackett:

I have sent a copy of this letter to
Mr. O'Connor and to Colonel James Roosevelt.

I have told them that I am asking you
to apply to the OPA for the necessary fuel oil
for Hyde Park for the next few months. Mr. Plog
told me that he had only enough for three weeks
and by this time there must be only enough for
one week and while they do not need much heat,
they need a little and they need fuel oil to
heat the water.

Very sincerely yours,

ing of this time there must be only enough
for me that he had only enough for five
to place back to the next tea company. Mr.
to sbbyA to the Oby for the necessary they

Mr. O. Council sent to Colonel James H. Hackett
I have sent a copy of this letter
Dear Mr. Hackett:

May 3, 1945
Washington

May 2, 1945

Dear "Doc":

This is a copy of Secretary Iokes' letter in answer to the one James asked me to send him, asking whether he would obtain the fuel oil to heat the house and water, and whether the electric light bills would continue to go to the Government.

I hope Congress agrees that he can pay the bills.

I am sending Mr. Hackett a copy of this letter and asking him to apply at once to the OPA for enough fuel oil for the next few months at Hyde Park. In the meantime I hope we will have turned the house over permanently so we do not have to worry about the winter supply.

Very sincerely yours,

Washington, D.C.

Jokes

April 23, 1945

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I hope very much that it will be convenient for you and Jane to come to Hyde Park on May 11th, as I now find that I will not be here on the 5th. I think too, that things will be more settled by then.

Two immediate questions have come up. Mr. Plog, the manager, tells me that there is only fuel oil enough for about three weeks for the big house, and there is the question of who pays for the electricity. I am paying the wages, food and general expenses of the people now on the place, out of my own personal funds.

I shall look forward to seeing you and Jane on the 11th.

Very cordially yours,

Schuyler, D.

May 15, 1945

Dear Mr. Secretary:

The Roosevelt Home Club of the Village of Hyde Park, has asked me to arrange with you for three hundred passes so they can hold a half hour memorial service at the grave on May 30th.

There will be largely towns people with a few people from Poughkeepsie in the audience so I think it would be quite safe to all this if the War Department is willing.

I hope that it will meet with your approval.

Very cordially yours,



File

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

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With personal regards in which Jane joins, I am,

Sincerely yours,

Harold L. Fisher

Secretary of the Interior.

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt,
Hyde Park,
New York.

ORIGINAL RETIRED FOR PRESERVATION



THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

MAY 15 1945

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I am sorry that I cannot give a categorical answer to Miss Malvina C. Thompson's letter of May 9, asking whether President Roosevelt's grave will be open to the public on Decoration Day and, also, when it will be open to the public generally.

I have proposed to the Congress legislation which would enable the National Park Service of this Department to take over the administration, protection, and maintenance of the Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site. If this legislation be enacted promptly and if funds for this purpose be included in the Interior Department Appropriation Act, which is now pending in the Senate, the National Park Service would be in a position to take over these responsibilities on July 1. I am hopeful that the legislation will be enacted and that the necessary funds will be granted so that the National Park Service can soon take over supervision of the area. In that event, I believe that the public generally could be admitted to the grave.

If it be your wish, I could make the necessary arrangements with the Army detachment so that no passes would be needed for those who wished to visit the President's grave on Decoration Day. Perhaps it might be better to wait until the National Park Service is in a position to take over the supervision of the area before the public generally is admitted. However, I shall await your wishes.

Sincerely yours,

Harold L. Ickes

Secretary of the Interior.

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt,
Apartment 15-A,
29 Washington Square West,
New York City 11, New York.

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Secretary of the Interior.

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt,
Apartment 15-A,
29 Washington Square West,
New York City 11, New York.



THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

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Harold L. Ickes

Secretary of the Interior.

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt,
Apartment 15-A,
29 Washington Square West,
New York City 11, New York.



THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

May 21, 1945.

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Jane tells me that she had an opportunity to discuss briefly with you, when we had the pleasure of being your guests at Hyde Park, the possibility of your running for public office.

I hope that you will bear with me if I suggest that I do not agree with your thought that you would be able to do more in behalf of your views if you did not hold public office. I believe that you would have much more influence if you should speak and write from the background of public office than otherwise.

I do not profess to have any expert views with respect to the political situation of New York State but my conviction is that you could be elected to any office in that State next year. I should doubt whether you would be even remotely interested in the mayoralty. That job is too exacting and too saturated with petty and personal details. I think that it is terribly important that Governor Dewey should be defeated if he is a candidate for reelection and in my opinion you could defeat him. However, it seems to me that the United States Senate would offer you your best opportunity, both as a forum and as a field for the work that you are particularly qualified to do. While there is no doubt of the influence that you can exert as a private citizen, it has been my experience that the man who holds a public office of dignity and distinction has a sounding board that no private citizen can have.

I hope that you will be a candidate for Senator next year. In any event, I hope that you will take no position for some time at least that would preclude such a possibility. After all, you can always say "no" and it cannot be predicted that you might not want to be in a position to become a candidate in certain contingencies that cannot now be foreseen.

It may have been the last time that I had a talk with the late President Roosevelt that I brought up the question of New York in 1946. I expressed the fervent hope that nothing would be left undone to defeat Governor Dewey. If he should run and fail of election next year, he would be effectively disposed of as a possible candidate for President in 1948 and I regard him as an unsafe and dangerous man even although he is trying in many ways to prove how liberal he now is. The President agreed with me. He told me that he had in mind as a possible Democratic ticket General O'Dwyer for Mayor, Senator Mead for Governor and Fiorello LaGuardia for United States Senator.

I like LaGuardia. I think that he has made a great Mayor although I recognize that he has lost a great deal of his popularity and strength during the last few years. However, with President Roosevelt gone it would seem to me that there would be little chance either of nominating or electing LaGuardia

as Senator. So if I could wave a magic wand, I would choose the ticket suggested by President Roosevelt, except that I would substitute you for LaGuardia as United States Senator. It is my judgment that you would be unbeatable and you would help greatly to defeat Governor Dewey. In my view, this would be better than running for Governor, although I believe that you could be elected to that office. If I had my way, I would not choose for you an office that would mean hampering administrative details that would not leave you as much time as you would need for leadership on the social and political issues that will confront this country during the next few years.

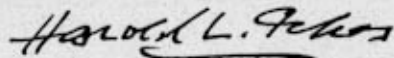
And so I venture the hope that you will not now or in the near future foreclose any possibility of becoming a candidate for United States Senator.

John and Anna and little Johnny are spending the week end with us and we are all enjoying it. Little Johnny seemed to be perfectly at home right from the beginning and he and our two little children are hitting it off perfectly.

I would like to take advantage of this opportunity to tell you that Jane and I thoroughly enjoyed our visit to Hyde Park last week end. We thank you for your gracious hospitality. I am very glad indeed that I had a chance to see the house and get some comprehension of the problems that will confront the National Park Service. I hope that the bill that I have sent to Congress will be passed in due course and that we will be granted an appropriation that will make it possible for us to do what we ought to do and want to do along the line of our general discussion.

With personal regards,

Sincerely yours,



Secretary of the Interior.

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt,
29 Washington Square, West,
New York, New York.

J.P.

May 26, 1945

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I very much appreciate your letter of the 21st.

I feel very strongly that running for office is not the way in which I can be most useful. My children have labored for many years under the very baffling necessity of considering their business of living as it affected their Father's position and I want them to feel in the future that any running for public office will be done by them.

That does not mean, however, that I do not feel my responsibility as a citizen, but the minute I accept a position from the party and am a new hand, I would have to be willing to follow the party line pretty consistently. I hope to continue to work with the Democrats and for them but I think the knowledge that I will be free of any obligation may at times be very healthy.

I agree with you that it is important what happens in 1946 and 1948 and I feel strongly that the Democrats should remain in power if we can free ourselves to the extent of at least controlling our reactionary Southerners, but I do not think my running for any office would be useful.

I am not going to do anything

for the summer months but in the autumn I shall begin to do speaking and perhaps start on some job again by the first of the year when I think what is needed of me for settling the estate will be pretty well accomplished. I may go on a trip for the Red Cross or for the syndicate.

I should be able to help the liberals in the country and if I can write interesting columns and do an article now and then my voice would not be silent.

I am deeply grateful to you and Jane for your interest. I am not going to make any decisions as to what I will do or what I won't do and no doors are permanently closed, but I feel I ought to tell you that I have no intention of running for public office.

Very cordially yours,

May 27, 1945

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Anna gave me your memorandum and I think your arrangements sound very satisfactory.

The names of the two house servants I hope will be

Mr. Robert McGaughey
Mr. Simon Coates

I am sure they would keep the house in order and do their work well.

On the outside, the people we are interested in having employed are:

Mr. William Plog (superintendent)
Mr. Louis Depew
Mr. Frank Draiss

We are not sure that Mr. Charles van Curan could do the work but your man could decide that and the same is true of Mr. John deGroff.

I am sure you can get the other people easily around here, even though they are not now employed on the place.

I think Mr. Hough will find the Hyde Park schools very good.

Am I correct in believing that the people who are now employed on the place and in the house will be allowed

to continue to occupy the houses in which they now live and that coal will be furnished, as it has been in the past, from the supply ordered for the place or will they have to provide it themselves?

The people at the Franklin D. Roosevelt library are wondering if some cooperation could be worked out between the Archives and the Interior by which they could continue to have charge of the books in the library and in the mansion. They have asked to talk to me this week. I think it would be well for you to take this up with Mr. Hough or his representative.

I hope the appropriation will pass and I think I will be ready to turn the house over on the 15th of June or at the latest on the first of July.

Very sincerely yours,

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

May 21, 1945.

*Write to Jan this
Wed - he has
no
Secretary + all of
age class to
transit*

MEMORANDUM for the Secretary.

If pending legislation, which you have recommended to the Congress, is promptly enacted permitting the National Park Service to take over the administration, protection and maintenance of the Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site and a supplemental appropriation for that purpose is made by the Congress, it is our plan to administer the area in connection with the Vanderbilt Mansion National Historic Site.

Mrs. Gertrude S. Cooper, the present superintendent of Vanderbilt Mansion, is resigning from the National Park Service at an early date. It is planned to replace her with an experienced Park Service Superintendent, probably Superintendent Philip R. Hough of the George Washington Birthplace National Monument.

Mr. Hough has been the first and only Superintendent of that area. He has operated the monument in an excellent manner. The site includes a fine colonial garden, the graves of George Washington's ancestors, the reproduction of the birth house, and a separate colonial kitchen. The operation also has included a small amount of farming where colonial crops, such as tobacco and peanuts, have been grown. Superintendent Hough is married and has two children who have need for better school facilities than are available at Wakefield.

As the Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt is in the nature of a museum containing historically valuable and irreplaceable furniture and decorations associated with the late President, it is proposed to employ a historical technician at \$2,600 per annum and a historical aide at \$1,440 per annum. These employees are needed for classifying, labeling, and explaining the historical objects for the benefit of the crowds which undoubtedly will go there annually. Two house servants at \$1,320 each per annum will be needed to keep the house clean and in order. We would expect to employ those persons who have long been employed at the Home.

For the care of buildings, grounds, roads, greenhouses and the grave site, it is estimated that we will need a head gardener and six full time laborers at \$1,320 per annum each. We also will need two fireman-laborers for maintenance and repair work on the buildings and to keep the heating system in operation during the winter months. We propose to keep the grave and approaches clear of snow during the winter months. In these positions, we propose to employ the personnel now employed at the Home and supplement this force with persons living nearby. We also expect to ask for the transfer of Mr. Simon Coates now employed at the White House. The necessary fiscal and clerical work would be performed by employees now at the Vanderbilt Mansion with one additional clerk.

For guarding the Home and grave site on a 24-hour basis, we propose to employ a total of 12 guards at \$1,500 per annum each to be under the supervision of a chief guard at \$2,040 per annum. If the Congress should decide that the Army should continue to provide guards for another year, this appropriation item might not be allowed for the fiscal year 1946.

In addition to the above, funds would be requested for payment of electrical power required for lighting, operation of water supply pumps, and other electrical equipment and protective devices, essential maintenance of sanitary facilities, operation and maintenance of central water system and for the purchase of supplies and maintenance including fuel oils, greenhouse supplies, etc.

It also will be necessary to buy some equipment such as a light truck, a farm type tractor with mower for open meadow lands, a one-reel type mowing machine for lawns, one vacuum cleaner, and other small tools. The total amount estimated that will be needed for a full fiscal year's operation (including the proposed guard force) is approximately \$54,000.

(SGD.) A. E. DEMARAY

Associate Director.

cc: Director's Office
Reg. Dir., Regon One



THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

Lakes

June 1, 1945.

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

As the enclosed memorandum will explain to you, there has been a change in our plans with respect to the Franklin Delano Roosevelt National Historic Site due to the fact that Superintendent Philip Hough has decided that he would rather continue at Wakefield. I will be obliged if you will return this memorandum to me with any comments that you may care to make.

Sincerely yours,

Harold L. Ickes

Secretary of the Interior.

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt,
Hyde Park, New York.

Enc.

20

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

ADDRESS ONLY
THE DIRECTOR, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

May 30, 1945.

MEMORANDUM for the Secretary.

As mentioned to you, Superintendent Philip Hough of George Washington Birthplace National Monument, Virginia, has advised that, because of his attachment to the area, he prefers to remain in his present assignment rather than to transfer to Vanderbilt Mansion National Historic Site. Superintendent Hough would, of course, accept a transfer if this appeared in the best interests of the Service. On further consideration, it is believed that the position of Superintendent of Vanderbilt Mansion may be filled to even better advantage by the transfer of Mr. George A. Palmer, now Superintendent of the Statue of Liberty National Monument, New York.

Superintendent Palmer is 37 years of age, married, and has one young child. Mr. Palmer would welcome the opportunity that would be afforded as Superintendent of Vanderbilt Mansion National Historic Site when the Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site is placed under the supervision of the Superintendent of Vanderbilt Mansion.

Mr. Palmer was graduated from DePaw University in 1929 with an A. B. degree and he received an A. M. degree in history from the University of Minnesota in 1932. He taught history in Junior High School at Hammond, Indiana, for one year. He entered the National Park Service as an Historical Technician in June, 1933. He has served as Superintendent of Fort McHenry and the Statue of Liberty National Monuments. He has held the latter position since December, 1937, to the present time.

Mr. Palmer has been assigned to take charge temporarily at Vanderbilt Mansion June 1. Mrs. Cooper's last day of service is May 31. It is suggested that Mrs. Roosevelt ask Mr. Palmer to come to see her about any matters regarding the Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site with which she would like him to become acquainted. She would have an opportunity to judge him and could then give you her opinion as to his suitability for managing these areas.

G. B. Seaman
Associate Director.

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

Ickes

25, D. C.

JUN - 6 1945

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Mr. Joel Graham, Graphics Editor for the magazine, CORONET, has asked permission for one of its photographers to take some color photographs of the Hyde Park estate. Would you be so kind as to let me know whether or not such an undertaking would be objectionable to you and, if it is not, if there are any conditions or limitations as to time or subject that you would wish to impose?

Since everything associated with the late President possesses a tremendous interest to the millions of Americans who admired and loved him, I am certain that many of them would be glad to see and have a series of really good natural-color pictures of his home and its surroundings.

Sincerely yours,

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt,
Apartment 15-A,
29 Washington Square West,
New York City 11, N. Y.

(Sgd.) HAROLD L. ICKES
Secretary of the Interior.

L

June 12, 1945

Joker

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Many thanks for your kind note. I am quite sure that the public would like pictures of the place. I am only wondering since many newspapers have asked for the same privilege, whether it is wise to give it to one magazine without giving the opportunity to other papers and magazines at the same time.

I also think it might be wise to wait until you actually have taken over the house and grounds and the man in charge can decide just what he wants them to take and what he does not want them to take.

I think the house will be ready on the 15th of June to turn over to you, though I am quite willing to hold it until the first of July and pay the men's wages on that date if that is more convenient for you. In any case, you will remember that you gave me permission to hold the room in the cellar, locked, until the boys are home and we could divide the contents of the room. I will also have to ask you to allow the boys as they come home, to go into the house and choose any books and any pictures with, of course, the understanding that they will comply with the Will and see that the shelves have modern books to replace any they take and if they take any family portraits, they will have them copied so there is no change in the look of the house.

I think I have taken out all pieces of furniture that the children could use or may want so I think you can count now that the house is as it will be even after they have finally looked around. I am hoping that by the end of July they will all have been home and gone through the house, but Jimmy may not be back from the Pacific that soon and he might want one of the family portraits, and would in that case, have it copied.

Will you please let me know your final decision about employing the people on the place and the date on which you will want to take it over?

You and Jane were sweet to send me such lovely flowers in Washington and I only wish I could have seen you, but I really think you might both like to come up here and take a little time off and enjoy loafing around. We have the pool almost in commission.

Very cordially yours,



My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:
Mr. Joel Graham
one of its photo
to you and,
that you
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Mo.

Worship of the
has asked
Frank



Mrs. Graham has asked some questions about the Hyde Park estate. Will you please let me know whether or not such an undertaking would be objectionable to you and, if it is not, if there are any conditions or limitations as to time or subject that you would wish to impose?

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Secretary of the Interior.

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt,
Apartment 15-A,
29 Washington Square West,
New York City 11, N. Y.

JUN - 6 1945

Called about the Hyde Park estate. Will you please let me know whether or not such an undertaking would be objectionable to you and, if it is not, if there are any conditions or limitations as to time or subject that you would wish to impose?

June 25, 1945

My dear Mr. Secretary:

We have always bought coal for the big house by the carload from the company whose letter I enclose.

Will the Government order the coal for the house now or shall I?

Very sincerely yours,

Ickes

File

June 27, 1945

Dear Mr. Ickes:

Franklin, junior, is now back in this country. Jimmy and John, I understand, will be back by the first of August. I should say that at the very latest you would have in your hands from all of us, the agreement that we are not going to occupy the house again. This ought to make it easier for you with Congress and I hope it will.

In the meantime, I am afraid that something should be done about ordering coal for next winter. I sent you the notice I received from the coal company, but if you are not taking over the house, perhaps I should do the ordering and then put in a claim. Perhaps you will want to order coal for the people occupying those houses and let them buy it unless the government will provide heat. The oil I suppose is of no concern until the first of October.

If Mr. Palmer wants to get started on arranging the house or marking the things, I can go through it with him and type out the things that I know about. The whole house has been cleaned and while Anna McGowan who does the cleaning spring and fall, will be gone by July 1st, Robert can keep it dusted until you are ready to take it over and decide whether you will keep him and add Coates or what your plans are.

The people like Mr. Plog, the super-
intendent and Depew, & Van Curan who work on the
place are anxious to know definitely whether
or not you are going to take them over or whether
I am going to pension them after October first.
Do you think there is a chance that you can
tell them shortly?

Very cordially yours,



THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

*I have made
no request other
than to get
the report
done*

June 23, 1945.

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I have not heretofore answered your letter of June 12 because I wanted to check again about the possibility of the Park Service taking over the property at Hyde Park and administering it.

I regret to say that until Congress passes the resolution that is pending and subsequently makes an appropriation we will have no available funds that lawfully could be expended for the upkeep of this property. We cannot even fix the date to take it over or to employ the people whom you are carrying. Recently a report came to me that at your request, or at least with your approval, there had been a delay in the consideration of this legislation by the Senate. I had personally communicated both with the Speaker of the House and the Majority Leader of the Senate, urging the speedy consideration of this bill. I am anxious to see progress made, especially in view of the fact that the Congress may take a recess for six weeks or two months during which nothing could be done.

So far as taking pictures of the Hyde Park place is concerned, we will of course permit all newspapers and magazines to have access on equal terms for this purpose. I agree with you that it would not be wise to give an exclusive privilege to one publication. So far as possible we would prefer to have all publications wait until we have actually taken over the house and the grounds.

As I have said, there is no hurry about your turning over the house to us, especially in view of the fact that we cannot legally enter into it until we get the legislation that we are seeking. As to the room in the cellar, I confirm your understanding that you may continue to keep that locked until you have no further use for it. Moreover, your sons as they come home may have access to the house for the purposes indicated in your letter,

As to employing the people on the place, my hope is, and it is also my belief, that we can employ all of them but there again we will have to wait for legislation. I regret this all the more because it is a heavy charge for you to carry and an unjustifiable one.

Jane and I would love to come again to Hyde Park as you so graciously suggest but our two young children are a problem. I am hoping now that they and their mother will be able to get away to Bar Harbor on the first of August. My own plans are not definite yet.

Mrs. Cooper has been quite persistent as a letter writer. She seems to have a lot of feeling about the employee concerning whom you spoke to me on the occasion when Jane and I had the pleasure of being your guests recently.

With warm personal regards,

Sincerely yours,

Harold G. Pehan

Secretary of the Interior

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt,
29 Washington Square, West,
New York, New York.

estate

Ickes

June 30, 1945

Dear Mr. Ickes:

Thank you very much for your letter of June 25th.

I have made no request to any one but you and I would very much like to know from whom the report came.

I am glad that Jane and the children are going to Bar Harbor. Washington is no place for comfort in the summer! If at any time you would like to come up here, I shall be delighted to see you and Jane.

Very cordially yours,

1
Sikes, H.

November 19, 1945

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Thank you very much for your letter of November 11th. I should think that the men at Hyde Park should be in the categories which Mr. Palmer designates as he knows their capacities.

Thank you very much for your willingness to consider Mrs. Hamlin.

John and Anna told me what a delightful time they had with you and Jane. I too think they both look very well.

You are very kind to offer to put a car at my disposal and I shall of course call on you at any time I need transportation.

With all my love to Jane and every good wish,

Very sincerely,



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THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

November 11, 1945.

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I understand that all of the children have joined in a quit-claim deed to the Government of the property that President Roosevelt had in mind for it and as soon as possible after this deed has been received we will go into possession and then I hope that we will be able to solve some of the difficulties with which we have been beset. I am prepared to suggest to President Truman, so soon as I can, the inclusion within the Civil Service of the men on the estate in whom you are interested. This will be necessary on account of their age but they must be designated for the positions that they are to hold. There might be a question as to whether they are not too old to be guards at the grave.

I do not know Mrs. Charles Hamlin but if there is any place that she can be fitted into I will do the very best that I can. I will write to Mr. Palmer to find out whether she has had an interview with him and what his ideas are.

John and Anna had dinner with us last Friday evening and we were very happy to see them. Jane and I thought that both of them looked very well indeed, particularly Anna, who seemed to us to be quite tired when she got away from Washington for Seattle last summer.

Jane enjoyed seeing you when you were last in Washington. When I called you the morning that you left on the misunderstanding that you would not be going until that evening or the next day, I wanted to tell you that I would be glad to place a car at your disposal while you were here and I wish that you would always have that in mind.

With my sincere regards,

Sincerely yours,

Harold L. Ickes

Secretary of the Interior.

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt,
29 Washington Square, West,
New York, New York.

*By Mrs. Long time always
Thank you*