

Washington Transmits Acts of the First Congress, Including the Judiciary Act of 1789 and First Federal Budget

GEORGE WASHINGTON. Letter Signed as President, to Samuel Huntington. New York, October 3, 1789. 2 pp., 12¾ x 8 in.

The first session of the First Congress under the Constitution enacted many pieces of legislation that shaped the nation. These included the federal Judiciary Act, which set up the court system, appropriations for the first federal budget (\$639,000), and authorization for the President to federalize state militias during a crisis. The recipient, Connecticut Governor Samuel Huntington, had been President of “The United States in Congress Assembled” under the Articles of Confederation during the Revolutionary War.

Complete Transcript

Sir,

I have the honor to transmit to your Excellency the duplicates of the following Acts—Viz—an Act to establish the Judicial Courts of the United States—

An Act to regulate the process in the Courts of the United States—

An Act to explain and amend an Act, entitled “an Act for registering and clearing Vessels, regulating the coasting trade, and for other purposes[”]—

An Act to recognize and adapt to the Constitution of the United States the establishment of Troops raised under the Resolves of the United States in Congress Assembled, and for other purposes therein mentioned—

An Act providing for the payment of the Invalid Pensioners of the United States—

An Act making appropriations for the present year—

An Act to allow the Baron de Glaubeck the pay of a Captain in the Army of the United States—

An Act to alter the time for the next meeting of Congress—and

A Resolution for continuing John White, John Wright & Joshua Dawson in office until the 4th of February 1789.—

*I have the honor to be,
With due consideration
Your Excellency’s
Most Obedient Servant
G:°Washington*

His Excellency

Samuel Huntington—

Historical Background

In this circular letter to the states, President Washington transmitted key legislation enacted by Congress during its first session in New York, March 4 to September 29, 1789. Laws passed by the First Congress established the precedents for the day-to-day operations and organization of American government. These first actions ranged from mundane, such as changing the next Congressional meeting time, to exceptional, such as establishing the legal system for the new nation.

The Judiciary Act fulfilled Article II of the Constitution, which required that the judiciary consist of a

Supreme Court and whatever inferior courts Congress chose to establish. It created the three-tiered federal court system recognizable today, made up of District Courts, Courts of Appeals, and the U.S. Supreme Court. The relative power and authority between the state and federal was central to the debate, and one of the Judiciary Act's more controversial provisions empowered the Supreme Court to hear appeals of state court verdicts regarding questions of Constitutionality.

Other laws relayed concerned troops, who had to swear oaths supporting the Constitution, pledging allegiance to the United States, and obeying Presidential orders; and the first federal budget. The total appropriation of not more than \$639,000 would be divided among the nascent government's bureaucratic functions (\$216,000), the War Department budget (\$137,000), debt payments on "warrants [bonds] issued by the late Board of Treasury" (\$190,000), and \$96,000 for pensions for wounded veterans.

Baron de Glaubeck, a German national and freemason, fought admirably in several Southern engagements and was given command of North Carolina's cavalry. Armed with only iron-tipped hickory bludgeons, he led his 300 mounted troops to confront a contingent of Cornwallis's army on their retreat toward Wilmington. In the ensuing fight, the Baron routed three regiments, apparently earning him Captain's pay.

George Washington (1732-1799), born to a Westmoreland County, Virginia farmer, was a planter, surveyor and professional soldier long before becoming a statesman. By all reports tall (6'2"), muscular, and an excellent horseman, Washington fought as an officer in the French and Indian War, and was enrolled as General Braddock's aide-de-camp at the general's stunning defeat and death. Washington was a natural soldier. He commented that he had heard the bullets whistle, and had found the sound "charming." "My inclinations," he once wrote, "are strongly bent to arms." Upon leaving the service, Washington married Martha Dandridge, widow, mother (two of her four children still lived), and owner of one of Virginia's greatest fortunes. Washington was a smart and innovative farmer, an avid socialite, and the owner of hundreds of slaves, for whom he provided freedom only after the death of his widow. Not wanting to be around so many people waiting for her demise, Martha freed them early. The highlights of Washington's military service during the Revolution, and his administration as the first U.S. President, are familiar to most Americans. After refusing to accept a third term, he returned to farm and family, for the two and a half years of life remaining to him.

Samuel Huntington (1731-1796) Born to a large Connecticut farming family, Huntington left home at 22, taught himself enough law to pass the bar, and at 34, was appointed King's attorney for the colony of Connecticut. He resigned to join the Revolutionary Cause, and in 1775, represented Connecticut as a delegate to the Continental Congress. Huntington signed of the Declaration of Independence, and in 1779, was elected 6th president of the Continental Congress. Two years into his term, the Congress acknowledged the Articles of Confederation as America's first constitution, and Huntington remained president of the Congress. He served as Governor of Connecticut when he received this communiqué from George Washington.

Provenance Malcolm Forbes Collection (sale II, Christie's, October 9, 2002, lot 14).

Condition Very minor tears at fold intersections, otherwise in excellent condition.

References <http://usinfostate.gov/usa/infousa/facts/democrac/8.htm>

John Adams Lauds Senate's Support of Troops to Quash the Anti-Tax Fries's Rebellion

President John Adams compliments the United States Senate for its resolution praising the troops who put down Fries's Rebellion in Pennsylvania in 1799.

"The praise of the Senate so judiciously conferred on the promptitude and zeal of the troops called to suppress the insurrection, as it falls from so high authority, must make a deep impression, both as a terror to the disobedient and an encouragement of such as do well."

JOHN ADAMS. Manuscript Letter Signed as President, to U.S. Senate. Washington, D.C., December 10, 1799. Integral leaf with docketing. 1 p.

With: [JOHN ADAMS]. Newspaper. *The Gazette*, Portland, Maine, March 25, 1799. 4 pp.
Page 2 contains the full text of Adams's Proclamation of March 12, 1799, in response to Fries's Rebellion.

Complete Transcript

Gentlemen of the Senate

I thank you for this address. I wish you all possible success and satisfaction in your deliberations on the means, which have a tendency to promote and extend our national interests and happiness - and I assure you that in all your measures, directed to those great objects, you may at all times rely with the highest confidence on my cordial cooperation.

The praise of the Senate so judiciously conferred on the promptitude and zeal of the troops called to suppress the insurrection, as it falls from so high authority, must make a deep impression, both as a terror to the disobedient and an encouragement of such as do well.

John Adams

United States

December 10th 1799.

[Docket: Word *Senate* in John Adams's Hand]: *Reply of the President to the Address of the Senate in Answer to his Speech/December 10th, 1799/6th Cong: 1st Sess:/Senate*

Historical Background

John Jay's Treaty between the United States and Great Britain alienated America's Revolutionary War ally, France. The French interpreted the act as a violation of the existing Franco-American commercial treaty of 1778, and tensions between the former allies boiled over in the Quasi-War of 1798-1800, which consisted mostly of an undeclared naval war and raids on American shipping. When, during the so-called X,Y, Z Affair, French Foreign Minister Talleyrand insisted on a \$250,000 bribe to open negotiations, the ruling Federalist Party (already inclined to favor the British and to fear radical French Revolutionaries) reacted by preparing for open war. During this time of suspicion, the Federalist-controlled Congress passed two relevant pieces of legislation. The first, the Alien and Sedition Acts, were intended to combat subversion in speech and print. The second law provided for the first federal direct tax on U.S. citizens. The Federalists saw this tax on land, houses, and slaves as necessary to pay for coastal defenses.

Federal assessors then appraised houses by counting the doors and windows in each dwelling. Resistance to this “Window Tax” was especially pronounced among Eastern Pennsylvania residents of German origin because it reminded them of the dreaded “Hearth Tax,” a major cause of their emigration. In March 1799, bands of armed men chased and briefly detained tax assessors in Pennsylvania’s Bucks and Northampton counties. They also freed fellow tax resisters who had been imprisoned by federal marshals. John Fries, the leader of this eponymous tax revolt, had served four years earlier as militia captain in the campaign to suppress the Whiskey Rebellion against another federal tax.

The federal government, then located in Philadelphia, responded with President John Adams’ proclamation of March 12 declaring the actions treason under the Sedition Act. Troops raised on Adams’ orders quickly routed the rioters and captured their leaders. Forty-one were arrested, including Fries and four others to be tried on capital charges of treason. Others were charged with various misdemeanors. Supreme Court Justice Samuel Chase, an arch-Federalist, was so determined to see Fries convicted that he threw out the lawyers and forced the defendant to represent himself. Fries was convicted, and along with the three others, sentenced to hang.

Immediately afterwards, it seemed that a major threat to the federal government had been avoided. But President Adams’s increasing suspicions of his fellow Federalists’ (most specifically, Alexander Hamilton’s) motives and methods led him to question both the prospective war with France and suppression of the political opposition at home. In reviewing the petitions for clemency of Fries and the others, Adams realized that the insurrection had not been a serious challenge to Federal authority. Instead, it was simple resistance to heavy taxes by a few country farmers. For Adams, then, the “rebellion,” while a “riot, highhanded, aggravated, daring and dangerous indeed,” was certainly not “treason.”

Adams wrestled with his final decision before he pardoned the rioters in the spring of 1800. This action cost the President critical support from the conservative wing of his own Federalist Party at a time he was beleaguered by attacks from the opposition Jeffersonian Republicans and by possible war with both England and France.

John Adams (1735-1826) Lawyer, statesman, diplomat, Founding Father, and second President of the United States. The Massachusetts-born and Harvard-educated Adams gained esteem during his 1765 opposition to the Stamp Act. Five years later, he risked his reputation by defending the British soldiers on trial for their involvement in the Boston Massacre. Adams was his state’s delegate to the first and second Continental Congresses, and during the Revolution, he served in a number of crucial posts. He was named Minister Plenipotentiary, in which role he was largely responsible for negotiating the treaty with Great Britain in 1782. After the war, he procured much-needed loans from Holland, and was named America’s first minister to the Court of St. James. Adams served as George Washington’s vice-president, and was narrowly elected president over Thomas Jefferson in 1797. During his one-term administration, he is best remembered for nominating John Marshall to the Supreme Court, strengthening the U.S. navy, ending the “Quasi-War” with France, and signing the controversial Alien and Sedition Acts into law. Both he and his old friend and rival, Thomas Jefferson, died on July 4, 1726, the fiftieth anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

JEFFERSON, Thomas. Letter signed ("Th: Jefferson"), as President, to an unnamed Governor, Washington, 13 December 1803. 1 page, 4to, tipped to another sheet.

JEFFERSON CIRCULATES THE TWELFTH AMENDMENT FOR RATIFICATION, TO AVOID ANOTHER CRISIS LIKE THAT OF THE 1801 ELECTION

Jefferson transmits, by an elegantly penned circular letter, the twelfth amendment of the Constitution, what might be called the anti-Burr Amendment: "At the request of the Senate and H. of Rep. of the U. S. I transmit to you a copy of an...amendment proposed by Congress to be added to the Constitution of the U. S., respecting the election of President and Vice President, to be laid before the legislature of the State...and I tender you assurances of my high respect and consideration."

Under the original provisions of Article 2, Section 1, members of the Electoral College were to name *two* candidates for President on their ballots, and when Congress counted the votes the winner became President while the runner-up became Vice-president. It was a system just begging to be exploited by ambitious schemers. There seems evidence that Burr tried to subvert the 1796 election as well, urging Electors to turn away from the two front-runners, Jefferson and John Adams, and sprinkling votes among the 11 other candidates in hopes of throwing the election into the House. Burr failed in 1796 but succeeded spectacularly four years later, when Jefferson and Burr each received 73 votes, even though it had been clear during the campaign the Jefferson was to be President and Burr the Vice-President. The decision was thrown into the House of Representatives. Die-hard Federalists, who considered Burr the less dangerous of the two attempted to push Burr's election as President. Adding to the impasse, Burr refused to concede. "There was grave uncertainty and at least a threat of chaos. There was even talk of Civil War" (Dumas Malone, *Jefferson the President, First Term*, p.6). No fewer than 33 ballots were taken between 11 and 17 February 1801, all deadlocked. Finally Alexander Hamilton solicited the necessary support for Jefferson to break the tie.

The new amendment spelled out in the most precise terms the electoral procedure for choosing the President and Vice-President, stipulating that, "The Electors shall meet in their respective states, and vote by ballot for President and Vice-President...; they shall name in their ballots the person voted for as President, and in distinct ballots the person voted for as Vice-President, and they shall make distinct lists of all persons voted for as President, and of all persons voted for as Vice-President..." (MacDonald, ed., *Select Documents Illustrative of the History of the United States*, 1968, pp. 43-44). Opposition was non-existent: the states ratified it on 27 July 1804.

JAMES MADISON. Partially Printed U.S. Patent for “*Being A Method of Drawing and Curing Cancer*” Signed as President. Washington, D.C., September 12, 1815.

2 pp. Also signed by JAMES MONROE as Secretary of State and RICHARD RUSH as Attorney General. With U.S. seal affixed.

U.S. Patent by Jacob Ware

Jacob Ware received a patent for a poultice that allegedly drew out cancerous tumors “*Body and Root*” within two weeks time. In addition to the letter of patent signed by three U.S. officials, the recipe for this miraculous cure is included.

Complete Transcript

The Schedule referred to in these Letters patent and making part of the same containing a description in the words of the said Jacob Ware himself of his Method for drawing and curing cancers—

Ingredients of which the Plaister is composed—

A Liquid of Caustic, is extracted by boiling from the Ashes of the Bark of Red Oak, Spanish Oak and Hickory the ashes must be strained out & the boiling must continue, on a bright [fire?], until the liquid is reduced to the consistancy of cream, this cream is then hardened by [---] blue Vitriol in fine powder till it acquires the texture of the plaister—

Application and mode of cure—

The said Plaister is applied to the cancer on the human body and repeated until the cancer Humour or Tumour is destroyed. In the space of two weeks at most, after the application of the said plaister the Cancer drops out, Body and Root, after which the wound heals up and the patient is restored to soundness from the cancer—

Jacob Ware

Witnesses

Andrew[----]

Jo[---] Parks [?]

Historical Background

Curing cancer has been an aspiration of physicians since antiquity. During the colonial period, applying a poultice of red oak bark ashes to a cancerous lesion or tumor was a traditional remedy. In this 1815 patent, certified by two of the Declaration of Independence signers who would become President, Jacob Ware described his own two-week cure—a method for manufacturing a “Plaister” from the bark of three trees, as well as its application to the patient. He bases his recipe on the old folk remedy containing red oak bark ashes, but combines it with the ashes of Spanish oak and hickory. Once applied to the “*Humour or Tumour,*” the cancer will “*drop out...In the space of two weeks at most....*”

A variant on the traditional formula, Ware’s successful registration of his poultice took advantage of Thomas Jefferson’s 1793 change to a patent’s definition. In addition to new inventions, Jefferson broadened the original 1790 Patent Act’s wording to include any “new and useful improvement” to an existing product, a definition that remains to this day.

James Madison (1751-1836) was the fourth President of the United States (1809-1817). Born in Port Conway, Virginia, Madison studied at Princeton University, entered politics in 1776, and played a major role in the Constitutional Convention of 1787. Madison was the principal architect of the U.S. Constitution and, along with Alexander Hamilton and John Jay, authored *The Federalist*, which helped to promote its ratification. He was later referred to as the “Father of the Constitution.” Madison helped found Thomas Jefferson’s Democratic-Republican Party in opposition to the financial proposals of Hamilton. He also served as Jefferson’s Secretary of State (1801-1809). Madison’s presidency (as well as his tenure as Secretary of State) witnessed the culmination of Anglo-American tensions that resulted in the War of 1812.

James Monroe (1758-1831) was the fifth president of the United States (1817-25). Born in Westmoreland County, Virginia, he served in the Revolution, entered politics after the war, becoming a Senator (1790-94) and then Governor of Virginia (1799-1802). In 1803, he helped negotiate the Louisiana Purchase for President Jefferson. Monroe served as Secretary of State (1811-17) and Secretary of War (1814-15) under Madison. He was elected President in 1816 and again (almost unanimously) in 1820, receiving 231 out of 232 electoral votes. His popularity was so widespread that he and his party’s ascendancy was heralded as the “Era of Good Feelings.” His two terms are remembered for the recognition of the new Latin American republics and, of course, the Monroe Doctrine. In his Annual Message of 1823, Monroe responded to European threats of encroachment on Latin American land by declaring that the American continents, “by the free and independent condition which they have assumed and maintain, are henceforth not to be considered as subjects for future colonization by any European Power.” Monroe could do little to back up these statements and it was not until the presidency of Theodore Roosevelt that this policy was given military muscle.

Richard Rush (1780-1859), the son of Declaration of Independence signer Benjamin Rush, was an early American lawyer and statesman. He served as Attorney General under Presidents Madison and Monroe, and Secretary of the Treasury under John Quincy Adams. He was Ambassador to both Britain and France, and was a candidate for Vice President in 1828.

Condition

Very good; previously folded.

#07187

James Monroe and John Quincy Adams Partially Printed Patent.

Partly-printed vellum DS signed by Monroe as president, "James Monroe," "John Quincy Adams" as secretary of state, and Attorney General William Wirt, one page, 11.5 x 14.75, April 2, 1824.

Patent issued to "John Gallaway a Citizen of the United States hath alleged that he has invented a new and useful improvement being an iron Case with wedges, for pressing chewing Tobacco, Bale, &c which improvement he states has not been known or used before his application hath made oath that he does verily believe that he is the true inventor and discoverer of the said improvement; hath paid into the treasury of the United States the sum of thirty dollars delivered a receipt for the same, and presented a petition to the Secretary of State, signifying a desire of obtaining an exclusive property in the said improvement, and praying that a patent may be granted for that purpose. These are therefore to grant according to law, to the said John Gallaway, his heirs, administrators or assigns, for the term of fourteen years, from the second day of April one thousand eight hundred and twenty four to full and exclusive right and liberty of making, constructing, using and vending to others to be used, the said improvement; a description whereof is given in the words of that said John Gallaway himself, in the schedule hereto annexed, and is made a part of these presents."

In very good condition, with intersecting folds, one of which lightly affects one letter in Monroe's signature, toning, moderate scattered foxing and soiling, a few light areas of mirroring and trimmed edges. The off-white seal is toned and worn, but mostly intact and retains remnants of its original ribbon. Containing clear and very legible text, this patent presents a crisp piece of history documenting the early advances in what would become a lucrative industry.

John Quincy Adams ALS to Oliver Heartwell re: Freemasons and the murder of William Morgan.

JOHN QUINCY ADAMS. Autograph Letter Signed as President, to Oliver Heartwell. Canandaigua, New York, April 19, 1828. 1p, 8 x 10 in., signed "J. Q. Adams."

Complete Transcript

Sir.

In answer to your enquiry in your Letter of the 31st ulto. I state that I am not, never was, and never shall be a Free Mason. I give you this answer in the Spirit of friendly return to the kindness with which you have made this enquiry. But unwilling to contribute in any manner to that excitement produced by the mysterious abduction and too probable murder of William Morgan, I request you not to give publicity to this Letter. The deep and solemn feeling which pervades the community on this occasion is founded on the purest principles of human virtue and of human rights. In the just and lawful pursuit of a signal vindication of the Laws of Nature and of the Land, violated in his person, which has been undertaken, and is yet in process with the authority and cooperation of your Legislature, I hope and trust that the fellow citizens of the sufferer will temper with the Spirit of Justice the reparation of her wrongs, and in the infliction of every penalty, carefully abstain from visiting upon the innocent the misdeeds of the guilty.

I am with Respect, your fellow citizen

J.Q. Adams

Historical Background

A fine statement of principles by then President John Quincy Adams to Canandaigua, N.Y. citizen Oliver Heartwell concerning the murder of anti-Masonic leader William Morgan - replying to Heartwell's enquiry about Adams's own associations with the Freemasons, but also stating his views on American justice. In his letter, Adams denies any association with the Masons, but asks Heartwell not to publish his letter, lest it contribute to the uproar surrounding Morgan's disappearance and probable death.

William Morgan (1774- disappeared ca. 1826) was a New York native and writer. He served with distinction as a captain in the War of 1812 and had been esteemed as a respectable citizen of Batavia. Sometime in 1825, Morgan claimed to have been made a Master Mason and had announced his intention to publish a book exposing the well-kept secrets of the Freemasons. Initial attempts to silence him included the burning of his newspaper office and printing shop. Morgan was then arrested for alleged nonpayment of debts and petty theft on Sept. 11 and taken to the Canandaigua jail to answer the charge. "Six men entered the Canandaigua jail and abducted Morgan... According to the most plausible account of what then happened, Morgan's abductors took him to Fort Niagara, a state post near Lewiston, New York, and had him incarcerated in the blockhouse or powder magazine there. From that point on he was never reliably seen again" - ANB. His death created a firestorm of anti-Masonic feeling, which, in turn, led to the formation of the Anti-Masonic Party. On an interesting side note, Morgan's wife later became one of the wives of Mormon leader Joseph Smith.

JACKSON, ANDREW. (1767-1845). Seventh president of the United States. ALS.

("Andrew Jackson"). 1p. 4to. Hermitage, August 9, 1836. To his Secretary of War LEWIS CASS (1782-1866).

Major Gates has come on to see me, & handed me the enclosed petition. I have every desire to grant Major Gates a trial by a court martial if within the range of my legal & constitutional powers. Therefore it is my desire, if the office remains still vacant, that no promotion be made to fill it before I reach the city of Washington which will be (if health life lasts) by the first of October next. I have again received the proceedings of the Court of Enquiry, and my opinion remains the same, but am desirous of placing it before a court martial, and for this purpose wish the office to remain vacant....

An 1806 graduate of West Point, William Gates (1788-1868) rose to the rank of captain during the War of 1812 in which he participated in the capture of Fort George and modern Toronto. After several years of duty on the frontier, he fought in the Second Seminole War, also known as the Florida Wars a series of conflicts between Native Americans and the United States. Following Andrew Jackson's 1818 invasion of Florida and capture of Pensacola in what became known as the First Seminole War, the U.S. eventually took over Spanish possessions under the terms of the 1819 Adams-Onis Treaty, ratified in 1821. The American government attempted to relocate the Seminoles, a group of Native Americans including Alabamas, Choctaws, Yamasees, Creeks, and other tribes. However, a group of Seminoles, with the help of escaped slaves from local plantations, resisted the expulsion and raided settlements and forts. When hostilities broke out in 1835, the U.S. military forces in Florida were outnumbered by Seminole fighters under the direction of their mixed race leader, Osceola. In 1836, Seminole warriors attacked military outposts including Camp Cooper, Fort Alabama, and Fort Barnwell near Volusia on the St. John's River, where Gates was stationed. After the engagement at Fort Barnwell, Gates was brought up on charges of disgraceful conduct and behavior unworthy of a commanding officer of a military post for failing to counterattack or making an effort to rescue the wounded soldiers lying outside the battlements who, subsequently, not only died but were scalped as well.

"A court of inquiry [referred to in our letter] was instituted in the spring of 1836, to investigate certain imputations against Major William Gates, of the 1st regiment of artillery; and upon the proceedings of the court, he was dismissed from the service, June 7, 1836, by order of President Jackson," (Observations On Military Law: and the Constitution and Practice of Courts Martial, DeHart). However, Gates' peers thought his dismissal unjust and on August 22, 1836, officers and enlisted men present during the campaign met in Charleston to draft a series of resolutions supporting Gates' reinstatement.

They read in part:

"Whereas, we have heard with deep regret of the dismissal of Major William Gates from the service of this country; a service in which he had long sustained an honorable and meritorious character, and as we cannot for a moment believe that Andrew Jackson, (himself a gallant soldier,) would intentionally do an act of injustice, or be guilty of oppression; we are impelled by a love of equality, and the hope of re-instating Major Gates... to make this public expression of our opinions... Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be signed by the Chairman and Secretary of this meeting, and forwarded to the President of the United States, and that he be respectfully solicited (if it not be incompatible with his sense of duty to the service) to restore Major Gates to his rank, or

at all events to grant him the privilege of a court-martial, and an opportunity of vindicating his character," (Army and Navy Chronicle, Homans).

The petitions had the desired result. "Upon further consideration of the case, Major Gates was re-appointed a major in the 2 regiment of artillery, to date with his former commission which re-appointment was confirmed by the senate; and a general court-martial having been appointed, February 7, 1837, for his trial, he was, after a patient investigation of these charges preferred against him, found not guilty, and honorably acquitted!" (Observations On Military Law: and the Constitution and Practice of Courts Martial, Del Hart). To further remove any taint of guilt from his reputation, Gates' friends privately printed Proceedings of a General Court Martial, for the Trial of Major William Gates, of the Second Regiment of Artillery in 1837, which included a detailed testimony and engraved map entitled "Topographical Sketch of Fort Barnwell, Volusia, Florida." (A first edition of this work sold at Sotheby's in 1999 for \$9,000.)

Returning to military service on October 21, 1837, Gates was involved in the trick that led to the capture of his old foe, the Seminole leader Osceola. Gates fought in the war against Mexico, was garrisoned at Fort Trumbull during the Civil War and, in 1865, after a lifetime of service, was brevetted brigadier-general. Jackson's election to office in 1828 was due, in part, to his popularity dating back to the First Seminole War. Cass served as Jackson's secretary of war from August 1831 until he retired for health reasons in October 1836; he later became a Senator, secretary of state and a presidential candidate against Zachary Taylor (himself a veteran of the Second Seminole War). Darkly penned in Jackson's bold hand on yellow paper. Folded with some matte burn; elegantly framed with an engraving of Jackson and in very good condition. Jackson letters with military content are desirable and uncommon.

Martin Van Buren ALS requesting courtesies for American diplomat to France.

MARTIN VAN BUREN. Autograph Letter Signed as President, to L. Coss Esq. Washington, D.C., May 11, 1838. 1p of a bifolium, 8 x 10 in., signed "M. Van Buren."

Complete Transcript

My dear Sir

My friend Gov: Throop our Minister to Naples will take Paris in his way, & I take pleasure in bespeaking your kind attention for him whilst in your vicinity. With kind regards for the ladies believe me to be

Very respectfully & truly yours

M. Van Buren

Historical Background

Enos Thompson Throop (1784-1874) had become friendly with Martin Van Buren while studying law in Albany, New York. In 1828, he joined Van Buren's ticket for the gubernatorial election as the Democratic-Republican candidate for lieutenant governor, and served as the tenth Governor of New York from 1829 to 1832. During Van Buren's presidency, Throop was appointed Chargé d'affaires of the United States to the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies, a post he held from 1838 until 1842.

William Henry Harrison Signs a Passport for the Brig *Agate*

Ship passports provided the full protection of the United States government to American-flagged vessels. The scalloped edge at the top indicates where a duplicate was removed and retained while the other half went to sea.

WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON. Partially Printed Document Signed as President. Ship's Passport, countersigned by Daniel Webster as Secretary of State. [Washington, D.C., March 4 – April 4, 1841], issued at New Bedford April 30, 1841. 1 p., 11½ x 15 in. On parchment with original papered great seal of the United States at lower left.

Historical Background

Decorated with two engraved marine scenes, this ship's passport requests the right of free passage and protects the brig *Agate*, captained by Peleg Cornell, which sailed from New Bedford in 1841. This document, issued nearly four weeks after Harrison's untimely death, reflects the practice of signing ships' papers ahead of time and accomplishing them as needed. Harrison signed a small number during his brief presidency, and local marine officials apparently used some of these remaining blank passports after Harrison's death. For reasons of expediency or frugality, the New Bedford office issued the present document rather than wait for new blank documents bearing successor John Tyler's signature.

At 68 years of age, William Henry Harrison was the oldest president to date (and until Ronald Reagan's presidency) to take the oath of office. His inauguration day was cold and blustery, and he proceeded to deliver the longest inaugural address of any President at an hour and 40 minutes. Harrison wore neither coat, nor hat, nor gloves, and was later soaked by rain. His common cold worsened to pneumonia until he succumbed on April 4, a few hours shy of a month in office. Harrison's death led to the first application of Article II, section 1 of the Constitution, whose provision for the succession of the Vice-President was subject as yet untested.

Documents signed by Harrison as president are extremely rare as a result of his short term.

Peleg Cornell (1805 – 1876) was a Westport, Massachusetts captain who sailed as captain on several successful whaling voyages by the brig *Agate*. In July 1843, under Captain Vincent, the vessel and crew were lost in severe storms off the Cape Verde islands. Cornell later sailed as master of the brigs *Leonidas* and *Thomas Winslow*, the barks *Orray Taft*, *Osceola*, and *Ocean*, and the ship (later re-rigged as a bark) *Addison*.

#22825

President Tyler Introduces an American Student in Paris

JOHN TYLER. Autograph Letter Signed as President, to Lewis Cass. Washington, D.C., September 28, 1841. 1 p., 8 x 10 in., with integral leaf docketed by Cass.

Complete Transcript

Washington September 28, 1821

Dear Sir,

This will be handed you by Mr. Charles Clayton a son of the Hon. J.M. Clayton of Delaware whose merits as a citizen and distinction as a politician are I doubt not most thoroughly, known to you, as they are to all his countrymen. Young W^m Clayton visits Paris with a view to finish his education which has been of the most liberal character. May I recommend him to your kindest attention—In a land of strangers he will naturally desire your countenance and advice—and I bespeak the extension of the one and the exercise of the other as matters of personal favors to myself.

I tender you assurances of my respect and confidence—

John Tyler

Historical Background

Lewis Cass was serving as U.S. Envoy Extraordinary in Paris when he received this letter of introduction, written by President Tyler, for William Clayton and delivered by relative Charles Clayton. Charles was the son of Delaware politician and statesman John Middleton Clayton, who served as Zachary Taylor's Secretary of State, U.S. Senator from Delaware, and Delaware Supreme Court Justice. The "Young W^m" who was to finish his liberal arts education in Paris was another relative, perhaps a nephew.

Written only 5 months after the death of incumbent President William Henry Harrison, Cass continues to refer to Tyler as "Governor Tyler" in the docketing. Cass, a long-serving American statesman, held positions as Michigan territorial governor and later senator from that state, and was the losing candidate in the 1848 presidential election.

#22875

President Polk Finds Federal Employment for a Deaf-Mute

The manifest destiny President helps deliver a patronage appointment.

JAMES K. POLK. Autograph Letter Signed as President, to Robert J. Walker. Washington, D.C., October 20, 1845. 1 p., 9¼ x 10³/₈ in.

Complete Transcript

*Hon. R. J. Walker
Sec. of the Treasury*

D^r Sir

This note will be handed to you by the Deaf & Dumb young man, of whom I spoke to you, some weeks ago, and again a few days ago. – He is well educated, writes a good hand, is an intelligent and interesting youth. – He desires very much to get employment as a copying Clerk. I have informed him, – that there are no vacancies in Clerkships at present, – but that after Congress meets you may have extra copying to do, & may employ him. – Will you see him, for a few minutes – and have his wishes made known to you in writing. – I am sure you will feel an interest in him.

*Yours Respectfully,
James K. Polk
Washington 20th Octr 1845*

[In pencil, below]

Hon. ~~W~~R.J. Walker, I wish to see you for a few minutes if you please, Sir-Your obt. svt. William Noble Jr

James K. Polk (1795 – 1849) was, at the time, the youngest man elected to the Presidency when he took office in March 1845. During his first summer in office, John O’Sullivan coined the phrase “manifest destiny” in an article from the July/August issue of the *United States Magazine and Democratic Review*. O’Sullivan argued that American territorial expansion from ocean to ocean was the obvious destiny of the United States. Polk certainly agreed, and would eventually be known as the “Manifest Destiny President.” During his single term in office (he promised to only run for one term), he oversaw major gains in the United States’ land holdings. Polk’s term of office was contentious and often controversial. By contrast, this letter shows a side of Polk rarely seen among his official policy decisions, and William Noble’s pencil note at the bottom of this letter of introduction reveals his principal method of communication.

Unafraid of conflict, Polk compelled Britain to end the dispute over the Oregon boundary by threatening war. Initially, Britain wanted to retain holdings along the Columbia River, the present day boundary between Oregon and Washington. Americans wanted access to the natural harbor around Puget Sound, further north, near what would become Seattle. Rather than maintaining the previous American position of setting the border at 49° north latitude (which would have included part of the Sound), Polk ceased negotiations and demanded a boundary much further north. With the slogan of “54-40 or fight,” which demanded a border set at 54° 40’ north latitude, Polk forced the British to cede lands north of the Columbia River. The demand compelled British negotiators to agree to the original American position of 49° north, effectively granting American access to Puget Sound and the territory that would become Washington.

Next, Polk supported the annexation of Texas, a process started by his predecessor, John Tyler. Abolitionists criticized Polk's support for annexation, considering it a thinly-veiled attempt to support and expand slavery. Annexing Texas also meant that the United States inherited a longstanding border disagreement with Mexico. After skirmishes broke out and Mexican forces killed 11 American soldiers in disputed territory, Polk manufactured a case for war, claiming that the Mexicans had invaded and killed Americans on U.S. soil. Many Northern Whigs, and a young Republican Congressman from Illinois named Abraham Lincoln, disputed Polk's version of the events. After the United States defeated Mexico in a one-sided contest, Mexico ceded the territory of the future states of California, Nevada, Utah, Arizona, and parts of New Mexico, Colorado, and Wyoming.

The war had serious consequences for the nation and for Polk. It permanently soured American relations with Mexico, it provided Whig opposition the unifying electoral theme of protesting an unjust war for the 1848 Presidential election, it rekindled debates over the expansion of slavery into the new territories, and it took a toll on Polk's personal health towards the end of his term in office.

Attempting to expand the nation further, Polk tried but failed to secure the purchase of Cuba from the Spanish. He did succeed in establishing the Department of the Interior, the first new cabinet department since Washington's administration.

Robert J. Walker (1801 – 1869) graduated at the top of his class at the University of Pennsylvania in 1819. He read law, passed the bar in 1821, and practiced in Pittsburgh from 1822 to 1826 before moving to Mississippi. He speculated in land, cotton, and slaves. He served in the Senate as a Unionist Democrat, and was a strong supporter of slavery and expansionist policies. He favored annexing Texas, supported James Polk's nomination, and became his Treasury Secretary for Polk's entire term. In that role, he financed the Mexican War (1846 – 1848) that resulted in the United States taking nearly one-third of Mexico's territory.

#22620

Zachary Taylor DS appointment for Anthony E. Roberts to Marshall of Eastern District of PA.

ZACHARY TAYLOR. Appointment Signed as President. Washington, D.C., May 16, 1850. 1p, 15.5 x 10.5 in., signed "Z. Taylor." With collateral document.

Complete Transcript

Zachary Taylor, President of the United States of America.

To All Who Shall See These Presents Greeting:

Know ye that reposing special trust & confidence in the Integrity, Ability & Diligence, of Anthony E. Roberts, I have Nominated, and, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate DO APPOINT HIM Marshal of the United States in & for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, and do authorize & empower him to execute & fulfil the duties of that Office according to Law; And to have and to hold the said Office, with all the powers, privileges, & emoluments to the same of right appertaining unto him the said Anthony E. Roberts, for the term of four years from the day of the date hereof, unless the PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES for the time being, should be pleased sooner to revoke and determine this commission.

In Testimony Whereof I have caused those Letters to be made Patent and the Seal of the United States to be hereunto affixed.

GIVEN under the Hand, at the CITY OF WASHINGTON, the sixteenth day of May, in the year of our Lord one thousand and eight hundred & fifty; & of the INDEPENDENCE of the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA the seventy fourth.

*By the President Z. Taylor
J. M. Clayton, Secretary of State*

Historical Background

Anthony Ellmaker Roberts (1803-1885) was an American politician, member of the United States House of Representatives, abolitionist, and close associate of Thaddeus Stevens. Roberts held his appointment as the United States Marshal for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania until May 29, 1853. Just a few months after Roberts was appointed, Congress passed the Fugitive Slave Law as part of the Compromise of 1850. The law put Roberts in a difficult position as an abolitionist because he was expected to enforce laws promoting the return of runaway slaves to the South or risk a fine of one thousand dollars per incident.

One such incident that Roberts was involved in occurred on September 11, 1851. Edward Gorsuch, a Maryland slave owner, came to Christiana in Lancaster County to reclaim a runaway slave named Nelson Ford. In opposition, a group of runaway slaves in Christiana, headed by William Parker, had formed a vigilante group to protect one another from any attempts by Southern slave owners to recapture them. Edward Gorsuch learned that his former slave was staying with William Parker and went to the house with a small posse. In a fight that involved the fugitive slaves as well as some local white abolitionists, Gorsuch was killed. Roberts was sent to the scene with a detachment of Philadelphia police, and those who participated in the resistance were arrested and put on trial. However, Roberts did his best to make sure that the jailed men were well looked after and even did

his best to sway the outcome of the trials, for which he was later censured for lack of “impartiality” and witness tampering. In the end, the men involved in the resistance were either acquitted or the prosecution decided not to prosecute the remaining cases.

Fillmore Requests All the Details of Fraud from a New Yorker

A lame-duck President thanks a civil servant, but can provide no additional patronage.

MILLARD FILLMORE. Autograph Letter Signed as President, to James W. Hale. Washington, D.C., December 2, 1852. 1 p., 5 x 8 in., with integral leaf and presentation to "A. E. Lawrence."

Complete Transcript

Washington, Dec. 2. '52

James W. Hale Esq. / N. York City

My Dear Sir,

Yours of the 26th ult. came duly to hand, and after the most mature reflection, I have concluded that you had better give me the whole particulars as to the fraud to which you refer, as well to prevent suspicions of the innocent as to put me on my guard as to the guilty.

Whatever I may do your name will be kept a secret.

Truly yours / Millard Fillmore

[on verso, in Hale's hand]: *For A.E. Lawrence/with regards of /Jas. W. Hale/April 8th 1879*

Historical Background

Millard Fillmore became the 13th President upon Zachary Taylor's death in July 1850. Fillmore's political leanings diverged from those of his predecessor, and the two men were never close, either personally or politically. Prompted by other Whig leaders, Taylor had largely shut Fillmore out of his administration, up to the point of denying him patronage appointments in his home state of New York. Even Henry Clay, one of Fillmore's major supporters, did not receive a position in the Taylor Administration. Slavery continued to take center stage in American politics, and during Taylor's term, debates over the Compromise of 1850 raged in the Senate. Clay, who had cobbled together the Compromise, urged Taylor to support it, but Taylor declined to enter the fray. Taylor died suddenly, likely of cholera, after refreshing himself on iced drinks and a bowl of cherries at a White House Fourth of July celebration.

Judging from his earlier relationship with Taylor, Fillmore never held much power to distribute political patronage. At the time of this letter to James W. Hale, Fillmore had lost the nomination to Scott, who had in turn lost the general election to Pierce. Not only was Fillmore a lame duck, his party was also about to be turned out of office. In a November 24, 1852, letter responding to Hale, Fillmore wrote that he regretted "to hear that you have made so many applications to the various departments which have proved unsuccessful. My personal acquaintance with you, as you are aware, is very slight, but from all sources I have heard you spoken of very highly as a man of energy and business capacity... My term of office has now so nearly expired that I can hardly hope to tender you anything worthy of your acceptance." While he could not help Hale find employment, Fillmore was interested in another aspect of Hale's earlier letter: "I was not aware, however, that you had been engaged in 'ferreting out frauds by highly confidential agents, the records of which frauds exist in the Department while the offender retains his official position.' Will you do me the favor to inform me to whom this applies?"

Hale's letter of November 26, to which Fillmore refers in this letter, must have relayed only partial information about the various "frauds by highly confidential agents." Instead of only having part of the story, Fillmore insisted that Hale "*had better give me the whole particulars as to the fraud to which you refer...*" and promised to keep Hale's name out of it. Hale was a New York City notary and

worked in the Foreign Letter Office on Wall Street. His work as a notary appears throughout New York Court Records in the 1860s, 1870s, and 1880s, including cases involving botched currency transfers, railroads, and Standard Oil.

After assuming office, Fillmore replaced Taylor's cabinet with supporters of the Compromise of 1850 and backed its passage. Nevertheless, Clay saw his comprehensive bill fail, up-and-coming Illinois Senator Stephen A. Douglas split the bill into separate parts and shepherded each through Congress individually. The major sections of the bill passed on votes along strict free/slave state lines. Anti-slavery advocates voted in favor of allowing California to enter the Union as a free state; while pro-slavery forces united behind a new, robust Fugitive Slave Act. By splitting the Compromise into sections and voting on each part, all the bill proved was that the nation was as divided as ever on the issue, and that there could be no real compromise on slavery. The fight served to renew sectional animosities, and a weary Fillmore decided he did not want to run on his own in 1852. Unpopular in the North because of the Fugitive Slave Law, Fillmore attempted to remove himself from the nominating convention, but his supporters convinced him otherwise.

The Whig nominating convention in July 1852 effectively ended the party as a force in national politics. Daniel Webster, General Winfield Scott, and Fillmore were all contenders, and Fillmore led early in the convention. When Webster refused to support Fillmore, Webster's delegates slowly shifted to Scott, who was eventually nominated on the 53rd ballot. Scott was nearly unelectable in the South because he had backed up Andrew Jackson's threat to use force against South Carolina in the 1832 Nullification Crisis. Southern-sympathizing New Hampshire Governor Franklin Pierce easily captured the Presidency in 1852.

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#22621

Franklin Pierce Assesses the “Know Nothings” Sweep of New Hampshire

After the nascent American Party swept state elections, Pierce analyzes the political landscape in to former New Hampshire Governor John Steele.

FRANKLIN PIERCE. Autograph Letter Signed as President, to John Steele. Washington, D.C., March 3, 1856. 1 p., 8¼ x 10¾ in.

Complete Transcript

Private

Washington/March 3^d 1856

My dear Sir

I think the battle in N.H. has been well and bravely fought. Our friends have earned a victory and ought to have one – but our strength is to a great degree in the remote rural districts and the condition of the roads will probably make great exertions necessary to secure the presence of all the Democratic voters at the polls. What are your prospects in Peterboro and the adjoining towns- Write me.

Yr Friend / Fr. Pierce

Hon J. H. Steele / Peterboro' N.H.

[docketing on verso] *Gen^l Frankⁿ Pierce / March 3^d, 1856*

Historical Background

Franklin Pierce (1804 – 1869) is considered by most historians to be one of the least effective Presidents, unable to recognize the challenges he faced both personally and politically, and failing to see the nation’s impending crisis. He was also unpopular, and did not win his party’s re-nomination in June 1856—just three months after he wrote to John Steele. At the time of this letter, though, Pierce was likely commenting on the election of fellow attorney and American Party candidate Ralph Metcalf as New Hampshire Governor. The American Party was also known as the “Know-Nothings” because for a time, they denied the party’s very existence; when asked they responded instead with “I know nothing.” The Know Nothings had also recently swept the New Hampshire state elections, but despite solid gains nationally, they were forced to ally with Democrats in the House and Senate. A central plank in the American Party platform was to ignore the issue of slavery in favor of robust anti-immigrant laws, a view Pierce most definitely shared.

Pierce, the only President from New Hampshire, was first elected to the state legislature in 1828 and to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1832. At age 27, he was the youngest Representative. He served in the Senate from 1837 to 1842, but he and wife Jane Appleton Pierce wearied of Washington, so he resigned and returned to his law practice in Concord. Pierce refused several political opportunities, including nomination for Governor and appointment as Attorney General. During the Mexican War (1846-1848), Pierce volunteered at the rank of Colonel, and was promoted to Brigadier General in 1847. When the 1852 Democratic convention deadlocked, Pierce—a solid supporter of party positions and a war hero whose position on slavery was conveniently vague—won the unanimous vote of Convention delegates, albeit on the 49th ballot. He ran against Whig nominee General Winfield Scott, whose position on most issues was quite similar to those of the Democrats. As a result, the election hinged on personalities, which hindered Scott, as did his antislavery stance in the South.

Pierce took office two months after the death of his 11-year-old son Benjamin, who had been killed in a train accident witnessed by Pierce and his wife. As a result, she retreated from most public functions at the White House. The tragedy, coupled with high office, further pressured Pierce, who struggled with alcoholism most of his life.

Once in office, Pierce proved to be an active expansionist, advocating opening Japan to trade, taking Cuba, and western expansion. He began rigorously enforcing the most controversial part of the Compromise of 1850—the Fugitive Slave Act. Pierce also named a number of prominent southerners to his Cabinet, including his friend Jefferson Davis, as Secretary of War. As a southern sympathizer, he made a number extremely unpopular decisions as President, including support for the Kansas-Nebraska Act that renewed the debate over slavery's expansion, the proslavery Kansas government elected by fraud, and the Ostend Manifesto that advocated taking Cuba by force. Pierce's reputation was further damaged when Union soldiers captured Jefferson Davis's plantation and discovered correspondence between Pierce and his old friend, then the Confederate President. The letters revealed Pierce's opposition to the war goals, northern abolition, and Lincoln.

John Hardy Steele (1789 – 1865) was born in Salisbury, North Carolina, orphaned, and then apprenticed to a chair and coach maker. He moved to Peterborough, New Hampshire and started the first power loom in the state in 1817. He became a prominent textile manufacturer, owned a cotton mill, and was superintendant of the Union Manufacturing Company from 1824-1845. In 1829, he was elected to the New Hampshire legislature, and was elected Governor in 1844 and 1845. As a Democrat, he supported the annexation of Texas and the Oregon Territory fight with Great Britain. As Governor, he formed a state railroad commission that had the power to compel landowners to sell rights-of-way to railroad lines.

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#22619

James Buchanan Wins One for Washington's Water Supply

Buchanan informs the Senate of a Circuit Court judge's decision approving the Washington Aqueduct's land claims, in what would become a landmark eminent domain case.

JAMES BUCHANAN. Letter Signed as President. Washington, D.C., March 1, 1859. 1 p., 9 x 11 ¼ in.

Complete Transcript

To the Senate of the United States

I transmit herewith a report from the Secretary of War with accompanying paper in obedience to the Resolution of the Senate adopted 23^d February requesting the President of the United States "to communicate to the Senate a copy of the opinion of Judge Brewer in the Great Falls land condemnation case, involving a claim for damages to be paid by the United States."

James Buchanan

Washington City 1 March 1859.

Historical Background

The system of wells and springs that had supplied water to Washington, D.C., in its early years was grossly overburdened by the 1850s. The city's population had increased substantially in the five decades since the city's founding, swelling from a mere 3,000 people to over 58,000 residents. On December 24, 1851, a massive fire at the Library of Congress destroyed 35,000 books (about two-thirds of its holdings), which further highlighted the District's need for a new water system. Congress voted to fund the project in 1852, and the Army Corps of Engineers began work the following year under the direction of West Point engineering graduate Lieutenant Montgomery Meigs. Portions of the system opened on January 3, 1859, and to demonstrate the much-improved water pressure of the largely gravity-fed system, Meigs constructed a Capitol Hill fountain that shot water 100 feet into the air. Although the water only became potable in 1905, residential service began around 1864. The system has been in continuous use ever since.

Meigs's plan was to dam the Potomac River twelve miles upstream at Great Falls, Virginia, and divert water into a system of conduits, tunnels, bridges, pumping stations, pipelines, and reservoirs. The Union Arch Bridge, spanning Cabin John Creek, was one of the project's engineering marvels. Upon its completion in 1864, its 220-foot central arch was the longest single-span masonry arch in the world for the next fifty years.

Unsurprisingly, the large project faced many hurdles, ranging from spotty Congressional funding, to the Civil War, to complaints about suspended sediments in the water. One of the greatest obstacles, however, resulted from the federal government's use of eminent domain to take the land the project needed. The Great Falls Manufacturing Company owned Conn's Island, the site of the aqueduct's dam, and was awarded only \$15,692 in compensation when the government condemned the land. The company sued, asking for hundreds of thousands of dollars based the property's future value to the government. An arbiter agreed.

The Senate appealed, and Circuit Court Judge Nicholas Brewer heard the case. He called the amount demanded by Great Falls Manufacturing excessive, and denied the claim. The decision was

a victory for the government, especially considering that portions of the aqueduct had opened two months earlier and the project was already using the land in question.

The Senate had instructed Buchanan to inform them when the Circuit Court ruled on the case. Brewer's decision went first to the Army Corp of Engineers, through the Secretary of War, to Buchanan, who immediately sent it to the Senate. Days later, Congress passed a law governing the aqueduct and Washington's water distribution. The Great Falls Manufacturing Company continued to petition for compensation, and their case went to the Supreme Court in 1884. The company must have been disappointed when the Court affirmed the validity of the lower court's earlier, smaller payment.

James Buchanan (1791 – 1868) has the distinction of being the only bachelor President, as well as the executive who presided over the breakup of the Union. Lincoln's election was the catalyst for South Carolina's (and six other states) secession between December 1860 and February 1861, but Buchanan was President until Lincoln's inauguration on March 4, 1861. Like many presidents before him, he failed to see the degree to which slavery had poisoned the nation, preferring instead to compromise and maintain sectional balance. He considered slavery to be a state issue, but the contentious issue of allowing Kansas and other territories to enter the Union as slave states remained unsettled. Between Buchanan's election and inauguration, two Supreme Court justices privately hinted to him that an upcoming decision regarding slavery in the territories would finally decide the issue. "This is, happily, a matter of but little practical importance," Buchanan announced in his inaugural address. "Besides, it is a judicial question, which legitimately belongs to the Supreme Court...and will, it is understood, be speedily and finally settled." Two days later, Chief Justice Roger Taney handed down the Dred Scott v. Sanford decision, effectively declaring, among other things, that Congress could not regulate slavery in the territories. The decision was hailed in the South, but created a firestorm in the North—hardly the result Buchanan expected.

Slavery remained the compelling national issue during Buchanan's presidency. Trying to remain moderate on slavery, his willingness to accept fraud regarding Kansas's entry into the Union seriously damaged his credibility, and John Brown's raid on the federal arsenal at Harpers Ferry only compounded matters. After declining to run for a second term, Buchanan retired from public life—and sight—after the Civil War.

Sources

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Lincoln, Three Weeks after Gettysburg, Calls for More Pennsylvania Troops

Order calling for 2,406 more men from the 18th District of Pennsylvania. This was one of the first draft calls ever signed, executed three weeks after the Battle of Gettysburg, and a week after the New York Draft Riots.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN. Partly Printed Document signed as President, July 24, 1863, Executive Mansion, Washington, D.C., 1 p., 7¾ x 9¾ in.

Transcript

Executive Mansion,

Washington, D.C., July 24, 1863

I, Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States of America, and Commander-in-chief of the Army and Navy thereof, having taken into consideration the number of volunteers and militia furnished by and from the several States, including the State of Pennsylvania, and the period of service of said volunteers and militia since the commencements of the present rebellion, in order to equalize the numbers among the Districts of the said States, and having considered and allowed for the number already furnished as aforesaid, and the time of their service aforesaid, do hereby assign Two Thousand Four Hundred and Six (2,406) as the first proportional part of the quota of troops to be furnished by the 18th District of the State of Pennsylvania under this, the first call made by me on the State of Pennsylvania, under the act approved March 3, 1863, entitled "An Act for Enrolling and Calling out the National Forces, and for other purposes," and, in pursuance of the act aforesaid, I order that a draft be made in the said 18th District of the State of Pennsylvania for the number of men herein assigned to said District, and Fifty Percent in addition.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed.

Done at the City of Washington, this twenty-fourth day of July, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, and of the independence of the United States, the eighty-eighth.

Abraham Lincoln

Historical Background

The first effective draft by the federal government, signed into law by President Lincoln on March 3, 1863, called for all men between the ages of 18 and 45 to be enrolled into local militia units and be available to be called into national service. The actual draft was managed by the states, which most often used a lottery system. The number of draftees required was the difference between a district's quota and its number of volunteers. However, the system was ripe for abuse, and controversial because it allowed a draftee to hire a substitute for \$300. The inequities of the system resulted in four days of draft riots in New York City just a week before this order. Federal troops, including soldiers from Vermont, were called upon to restore order.

Condition Very Fine. Signed boldly in dark brown ink.

#22532

Andrew Johnson Pardons Judah Benjamin's Right Hand Man

President Johnson pardons the Chief Clerk and Senior Aide of the Confederate Secretary of State.

ANDREW JOHNSON. Partially Printed Document Signed as President. Washington, D.C., July 5, 1865. Co-signed by Secretary of State William Seward.

Excerpt

"Whereas L.Q. Washington of Richmond, Virginia by taking part in the late rebellion against the government of the United States, has made himself liable to heavy pains and penalties, and whereas the circumstances of his case render him a proper object of Executive clemency,...I, Andrew Johnson...hereby grant to the said L.Q. Washington a full pardon and amnesty for all offenses by him committed arising from participation...in the said rebellion."

Additional conditions were added in pen, predicating the pardon on Washington taking the oath of allegiance, and making it void if he ever acquires *"any property whatever in slaves or make use of slave labor..."*

Historical Background

Andrew Johnson used his Executive power to pardon great numbers of former Confederates and their sympathizers immediately following the Civil War. Southern soldiers, officers, civilians, and government officials, as well as a number of Northern Copperheads all had full citizenship rights restored to them by Johnson. In anticipation of the war's end, President Lincoln had issued a Proclamation of Amnesty and Reconstruction in December 1863. Upon Lincoln's death, the immense responsibility for healing and helping the South back into the Union fell into the hands of his successor, Andrew Johnson.

Johnson chose to honor Lincoln's approach to clemency, and issued an amnesty proclamation of his own on May 29, 1865. By its terms, any former Confederate, upon taking an oath to defend the Constitution and the Union, and to obey all Federal laws and proclamations in reference to slavery, would receive amnesty. There were, however, a number of disqualifiers that required a personal application for a presidential pardon. Conditions for exclusion included those who had served as Confederate civil or diplomatic agents or officials.

One such individual was **Littleton Quinton Washington (1825-1902)**. Born in Washington, DC, he was a distant relative of George Washington. Littleton had led a life of travel and adventure before the war. When Virginia seceded, he moved to Richmond, and briefly fought at Bull Run as a first lieutenant in the Confederate infantry. He became editor of the *Richmond Examiner* in 1861, apparently at some point assuming the nom de plume, "Lucius Quintus," after the famed Roman statesman-soldier, Lucius Quinctus Cincinnatus. Washington left the *Examiner* to take a position as chief clerk to the Confederate secretary of state, R.M.T. Hunter. The following year, Judah P. Benjamin replaced Hunter, and for the remainder of the conflict, he came to rely heavily upon Washington as his senior aide. Before the war ended, Washington served in uniform once again - in the "Department Clerks Battalion" - defending Richmond against the ill-fated Dahlgren Raid.

Littleton Washington resigned his post after receiving word of Lee's surrender. His office excluded him from the general amnesty, and he applied for a pardon immediately after Johnson's May 29

proclamation. In his application, Washington made no apologies for his past affiliation. He wrote, "My principles and sympathies led me to unite in the Southern movement and when Virginia passed an ordinance of secession I promptly quitted my residence in Washington for the purpose of...aiding her in the struggle..." Until his resignation on April 11, "I lost no opportunity of serving the Confederate cause by all lawful and honorable means." Now, however, he avowed "publicly my intention to obey the laws and authority of the U.S. government in good faith."

President Johnson, on the recommendations of various public officials, granted Washington a pardon, conditional upon his taking the oath of allegiance (to which Washington had sworn on May 5), and making the pardon void if he ever acquires "any property whatever in slaves or make use of slave labor." Before the passage of the 13th Amendment, which officially abolished slavery, this passage was handwritten as an added condition of the pardon. Within a short time of its issuance, presidential pardons were printed with the slavery qualification included.

After the war, Littleton moved back to Washington, and returned to journalism. In the fall of 1865, he covered the trial of Andersonville Prison commandant Henry Wirz.

Andrew Johnson (1808-1875) The seventeenth U.S. President, Andrew Johnson assumed the presidency after Abraham Lincoln's assassination. Although born into poverty, Johnson was elected to both the House of Representatives and the Senate. The Tennessee-born Johnson had been a strong states-rights advocate, but when his state seceded, he remained loyal to the Union. Before Congress convened in December, 1865, Johnson worked to establish a generous Reconstruction policy. However, when the Republican Congress met, they saw former Confederates returned to office and restrictive "black codes" spring up in southern states. As a result, they sought a more rigorous plan that included civil liberties for the Freedmen. Johnson dug in his heels and actively campaigned against the 14th Amendment. When he violated the Tenure of Office Act by firing Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton, the House brought articles of impeachment against him; the Senate acquitted him by just one vote. His reputation in tatters, Johnson left office after one term, and returned to Tennessee. He died in 1875, just a few months after having been elected to the Senate.

Condition

Very good; previously folded.

#22169

Grant Thanks a Friend for His High-Spirited Hospitality

After Grant and his wife return from what must have been an indulgent visit to Philadelphia, he writes to an old friend – the “Ex” Secretary of the Navy

ULYSSES S. GRANT. Autograph Letter Signed as President, to Adolph E. Borie. Washington, D.C., October 30, 1869. 2 pp., 5 x 8 in. On blind-stamped “USG” stationery.

Complete Transcript

Washington, D.C.
Oct 30th /69

My Dear Ex,

We arrived here on time last evening my having recovered from the effects of your hospitality before reaching Baltimore. We shall of course expect a visit from you and Mrs. Borie during the Winter and promise you in advance not to put you through anything like Phila hardships.

Mrs. Grant joins me in kind regards to you and yours.

Truly Yours
U.S. Grant

Adolph Borie and his wife Elizabeth had been friendly with Ulysses and Julia Grant since the Civil War. Borie was a founder of the Union League in 1862 and helped finance Union units, as well as being a strong supporter of Republican Party. Upon his election, Grant appointed many of his close friend to Cabinet positions, and Borie became Secretary of the Navy in 1869. After fourteen weeks, he resigned, citing health reasons. In reality, Borie had no interest in the Navy and admitted that Admiral David Porter was the *de facto* department head. He returned to his shipping and importing businesses, but remained close to the Grants after his resignation. The Bories frequently visited the White House, and likewise, entertained the Grants at their country home in the Torresdale section of Philadelphia.

Grant’s admission that he need to recover from the “*effects of your hospitality*” no doubt refers to the character of the previous evening’s entertainment. Grant’s drinking dogged both his military and political careers (Lincoln reputedly said “find out what whiskey he drinks and send all of my generals a case, if it will get the same results), but the ease of relating his hangover to Borie speaks to the closeness of his friendship, as well as Adolph and Elizabeth Borie joining the Grants for part of their world tour, 1877 – 1879, after Grant left office.

Sources

The Papers of Ulysses S. Grant: July 1, 1868 - October 31, 1869, pp. 267-8.

“Collection 1602, Borie Family Papers,” Historical Society of Pennsylvania.
http://hsp.org/sites/default/files/legacy_files/migrated/findingaid1602borie.pdf

“Grant’s World Tour.”
<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/features/general-article/grant-tour/>

Hayes Thanks a Chicago Socialite

After her return from a tour of the British Isles, diarist Adele Locke must have sent the President some “*interesting specimen*,” for which he thanks her in this charming letter.

RUTHERFORD B. HAYES. Autograph Letter Signed as President, to Adele G.D. Locke. Washington, D.C., October 7, 1878. 1 p., 5½ x 6¾ in. On Executive Mansion stationery.

Complete Transcript

7 October 1878

My Dear Mrs Locke:

If I postpone to a more convenient season your monograph I fear I might lost the good opinion you now have of my punctuality. I therefore hasten to confess my satisfaction with your kind words, and to thank you for the interesting specimen of an economical mind contained in your letter.

With kindest regards

Sincerely, R.B. Hayes

Mrs Adele G.D. Locke

Historical Background

Rutherford B. Hayes (1822 – 1893) was the 19th President. He was a Harvard lawyer, had risen to the rank of brevet Brigadier General during the Civil War, and was elected as Ohio Republican Congressman in 1865. He took office after the disputed Presidential election of 1876, which was decided by a special Electoral Commission created by the House of Representatives. The special commission, comprised of seven Democrats and eight Republicans, decided each state contest on strict party lines, awarding Hayes a 185 – 184 victory over Tilden in the Electoral College. After a lengthy process, Florida’s electoral votes ultimately decided the election.

Popular legend holds that southern Democrats negotiated the end of Reconstruction and the removal of the remaining Union troops from the South in exchange for supporting Hayes. In actuality, Reconstruction was already over in most of the South by the time Hayes took office; only Louisiana and South Carolina retained Republican administrations.

Despite being branded as “His Fraudulency” or “Rutherfraud,” Hayes returned some modicum of respect to a White House rocked by scandals during Grant’s two terms. He ended political patronage in civil service jobs (instead insisting on merit-based appointments), strengthened business and industry through sound fiscal policy, and signed a bill that allowed women to argue cases before the Supreme Court. He also rejected exclusionary immigration policies against Chinese migrants, and instituted temperance at the White House.

After the Presidency, Hayes remained involved in public service and supported many of the Progressive reforms for which he had worked while in office. He was particularly interested in universal tax-funded education, helped dispense funds that gave educational grants to southern blacks, and fought to provide educational opportunities for all children. He also supported prison reform initiatives and argued that unregulated industrial capitalism resulted not in the Socially Darwinistic “survival of the fittest” but instead in corporate greed and predatory business practices. In spite of the controversial start to his Presidency, Hayes in fact accomplished a considerable

amount, ranging from patronage reforms to fiscal policies to rebuilding the power of the executive branch.

Adele Gleim Douthitt Locke (1840 – 1919) was an influential Chicagoan and founder of the Beresford Cat Club, with Lady Marcus Beresford, in 1899. She was a Siamese cat enthusiast, and her “Lockehaven Siam” was the first Siamese in the United States to win a Best Cat award. Locke was also the first president of the American Cat Association, founded in 1904. Her cats were among the first breeding pairs in the country. Her association with Hayes is unknown, but earlier in 1878, she traveled throughout England and Ireland, perhaps sending Hayes a souvenir from the trip to which he is responding. Also, David Sickels, Hayes’s ambassador to Siam (Thailand) sent First Lady Lucy Hayes the first Siamese cat to be imported to the United States one month after this letter was written. Considering Mrs. Locke’s future predilection for the breed, it is likely that Hayes had some influence on her.

Sources

“Rutherford B. Hayes.” <http://millercenter.org/president/hayes>

“Rutherford B. Hayes Presidential Center.” www.rbhayes.org

“Siamese Royalty.” <http://siameseroyalty.com/History.html>

“The Way We Were: Excerpts from the 1959 CFA Yearbook, Part 2.” <http://www.pandecats.com/x/way-we-were-1959-part2.shtml>

#22615

Garfield Appoints a Female Notary for the District of Columbia

JAMED GARFIELD. Partially Printed Document Signed as President, to Emma M. Gillett. Washington, D.C., June 9, 1881, 1 p., 15 by 19 ¼ in. Countersigned by James Blaine as Secretary of State, with seal of the United States and Department of Justice stamp in upper left corner.

Complete transcript

*Know Ye, That reposing special trust and confidence in the Integrity and Ability of Emma M. Gillett--,
I do appoint ~~him~~ her to be Notary Public for the District of Columbia; and do authorize and empower
her ~~him~~ to execute and fulfill the duties of that Office according to Law, and to have and to hold the
said Office, with all the powers, privileges and emoluments thereunto of right appertaining unto her
~~him~~; the said Emma M. Gillett, for the term of five years from the date hereof.*

*In testimony whereof, I have caused these Letters to be made Patent and the seal of the United
States to be hereunto affixed.*

*Given under my hand, at the City of Washington, the 9th day of June in the year of our Lord one
thousand eight hundred and eighty-one--, and of the Independence of the United States of America
the 105th.*

By the President: James A. Garfield

*James Blaine
Secretary of State*

Historical Background

Unique among the states, the District of Columbia is governed by Congress because it is not, technically, a state. Residents of the District have no Senators, and their Congressional Representatives are at-large, non-voting members. District residents were only able to vote in Presidential elections after the passage of the 23rd Amendment in 1961. Before 1871, three separate municipalities governed the District's territory. In 1871, the District of Columbia Organic Act combined the City of Washington, Georgetown, and the unincorporated lands of Washington County. The District was governed by a territorial governor for three years, until abolished in 1874 and replaced with a three member Board of Commissioners appointed by the President. The 1973 Home Rule Act finally allowed for an elected municipal government, and the District's first mayor, Walter Washington, took office January 2, 1975. As a result, many functions of government generally considered the purview of the states or cities rose to the federal level; explaining James A. Garfield's signature on an appointment for a post as humble as a notary public. Garfield was assassinated three months after making this appointment.

James Garfield (1831-1881) was the twentieth President of the United States. After graduating from Williams College in Massachusetts, he entered politics and was elected Ohio State Senator in 1859. He opposed Confederate Succession and served as a Major General in the Union Army. He was elected to the U.S. Senate in 1880, and became the Republican Party's compromise candidate in the 1880 election after Ulysses S. Grant, John Sherman, and James Blaine all failed to secure a majority at the Republican convention. Four months into his Presidency, he was shot by a deranged office seeker and lingered for nearly three months, although he was unable to govern. During his

brief Presidency, he initiated civil service reforms, reformed the Post Office, made four federal court appointments, and appointed Stanley Matthews to the Supreme Court.

James Blaine (1830-1893) was a U.S. Congressman, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Senator, Secretary of State, and Presidential candidate from Maine. He was a dominant force in the post-Civil War Republican Party, and took an independent course on Reconstruction by supporting black voting rights but rejecting some of the more ambitious plans of the Radical Republicans. He was unsuccessful at gaining the Presidential nomination in 1876 and 1880, but secured the nomination in 1884, although he lost to Grover Cleveland.

Condition: Very good. Light toning, small repairs along fold lines.

#22582

Chester Arthur ALS directing aide to inform Secretary of Interior of nomination for Railroad Commissioner.

CHESTER ARTHUR. Autograph Letter Signed as President to Frederick J. Phillips, Private Secretary. New York, October 31, n.y. 2pp, 4.5 x 7 in., on Executive Mansion letterhead, signed "Chester A. Arthur."

Complete Transcript

Dear Mr. Phillips

Please inform the Acting Sec'y of the Interior that I will appoint Springer Harbaugh of St. Paul, Minn. Com'r Northern Pacific in place of Thomas H. Caufield, declined. I think I will return to Washington on Thursday to remain until Monday next.

*Very truly Yours
Chester A. Arthur*

Historical Background

In 1881, Chester A. Arthur was unexpectedly thrust into the presidency when James Garfield died on September 19, 1881 from an assassin's bullet. Here the President directs an appointment be made, following a rejection from an earlier candidate. Arthur's administration was the first to challenge abuses in the patronage system of appointments by creating a Civil Service Commission, a Civil Service exam, and a system of merit-based promotions.

Prelude to Dollar Diplomacy: President Benjamin Harrison Piqued at “these little Central American States”

“...It is very irritating to have these little Central American States nagging away at our ships when we are making so much effort to develop a larger commerce with them...we will take such steps as may seem necessary, with promptness....”

Frustrated that El Salvador had detained a Pacific Mail Steam-Ship Company vessel in Port Libertad, President Benjamin Harrison threatened a firefright if the Central American nation did release political refugees. The crisis was defused when the ship’s captain left port without clearance papers, which ensured the safety of passengers. However, details of indemnification and rights of detention were left to the diplomats. Harrison’s threat, however, would become more substantive under Republican successors Theodore Roosevelt and William Howard Taft, whose “Dollar Diplomacy” policies were undergirded with the implicit threat of military force.

BENJAMIN HARRISON. Manuscript Letter Signed as President, to Stephen B. Elkins. Cape May Point, N.J., August 13, 1891. 2 pp. On “Executive Mansion, Washington” stationery.

Complete Transcript

Cape May Point, / Aug. 13, 1891

*Hon. S.B. Elkins,
New York City.*

My dear Mr. Elkins:-

I have yours of the 11th. It is very irritating to have these little Central American States nagging away at our ships when we are making so much effort to develop a larger commerce with them. I do not intend they shall [2] play any pranks with us. When the facts are fully reported, we will take such steps as may seem necessary, with promptness.

I shall be glad to have some further light upon the subject we talked about when you were here.

Very truly yours, / Benj Harrison

Historical Background

The Harrison Administration pursued an aggressive approach to foreign affairs while promoting American business interests. Secretary of State James Blaine sought to promote diplomacy and cooperation between the United States and Latin American nations, and helped to organize the first Pan-American Congress (1889-1890). The Congress concluded by declaring new hemispheric goals, including reciprocal trade, a customs union, continental railway, and international conflict arbitration. In 1891, Blaine’s ill health and family tragedies placed foreign affairs in the President’s hands. When Harrison offered to eliminate tariffs on imported coffee, molasses, sugar, and tea if Brazil agreed to lower duties on American manufactured goods, Brazil became America’s first partner in an individual reciprocity treaty that went into effect four months before this letter. Spain followed, and signed on behalf of Cuba on July 31, followed by the Dominican Republic on August 1.

War between Guatemala and El Salvador complicated American trade negotiations, more so when the Salvadorian government attempted to seize a high-ranking Guatemalan General on board the *City of Panama*, a American vessel of the Pacific Mail Steam-Ship Company. The company had become an international behemoth, and had secured standing government contracts to handle

official mail along the Pacific Rim. It also symbolized the growing American presence in Latin America and Asia, and increasing ties between the federal government and large corporations.

The incident in question took place on August 10. Romualdo Pacheco, U.S. Minister to Central America, wrote, "On the morning of the 10th inst., at Libertad, (Salvador,) after Capt. White was served with notice of confiscation, he weighed anchor and arrived here [San Jose, Guatemala] safely the same evening. All the passengers have landed and the cargo is being discharged at San Jose." The *New York Times* evidently believed that Pacheco's letter itself signaled an end to the crisis, though its reporter felt that the U.S. Navy should have acted immediately, an attitude that consistent with President Harrison's bellicose first response to the crisis, offered here.

However, Harrison's temper cooled a day later, when he wrote to Blaine: "I think we would promote our own influence...and promote their best good by giving them to understand that the commerce we are attempting to promote...must not be interrupted by these vexatious assaults." Hedging his bets, he put the Navy on standby to protect American interests if the situation deteriorated. After this letter, El Salvador, Guatemala, the British West Indies, Nicaragua, and Honduras all signed similar commercial treaties with the U.S.

Benjamin Harrison (1833-1901), a grandson of President William H. Harrison, was born in Ohio. He moved to Indianapolis to practice law, and served with distinction in the Civil War, winning brevet promotion to brigadier general, and commanding a brigade in Sherman's Atlanta Campaign. Entering politics, he served in the U.S. Senate from Indiana (1881-1887), using this as a stepping stone to the Presidency. In the election of 1888, Harrison won fewer popular votes than Grover Cleveland, but defeated the incumbent in the Electoral College. The Harrison Administration was noteworthy for passage of the Sherman Anti-Trust Act, the first federal law in the effort to regulate trusts and monopolies, and regulate commerce.

Stephen B. Elkins (1841-1911) was soon to be named Secretary of War by Harrison, and served from December 17, 1891 to March 1893. Born in Ohio and raised in Missouri, Elkins served in the Unionist Missouri state militia even though his father and brother both joined the Confederates. He moved to New Mexico to practice law, served in the territorial legislature from 1864-1865, and was later attorney general of the territory and territorial delegate to Congress. In 1890, Elkins moved to West Virginia to pursue interests in mining, industry, and finance. The Davis Coal and Coke Company, which he developed with his father-in-law, Senator Henry Davis, was one of the largest coal companies in the world – Elkins, West Virginia began as a company town. After serving as War Secretary, Elkins won election to the U.S. Senate from West Virginia, serving from 1895 until his death in 1911.

Condition Very good; slightly tanned.

Sources

- *The New York Times*, August 15, 1891.
- *Papers Relating to the Foreign Relations of the United States, Transmitted to Congress ... December 9, 1891* (Washington, GPO, 1892) pp. 68-85.
- Homer E. Socolofsky and Allan B. Spetter, *The Presidency of Benjamin Harrison* (Lawrence, KS: University of Kansas, 1987).
- Albert T. Volwiler, ed., *The Correspondence Between Benjamin Harrison and James G. Blaine, 1882-1892* (Philadelphia: American Philosophical Society, 1940).

Grover Cleveland Thanks a New York Designer for a Gift Commemorating the Discovery of America

GROVER CLEVELAND. Autograph Letter Signed as President, to Philip Philipsen. Washington, D.C., June 13, 1893. 1 p., 4% x 7% in. on "Executive Mansion, Washington" stationery.

Included: Executive Mansion envelope addressed to "Ph Philipsen Esq/353 & 355 Canal St/ New York City," with "Landing of Columbus" 2e stamp.

Transcript

June 13, 1893
Ph. Philipsen Esq

My dear Sir:

I have received the bronze medal you kindly sent to me commemorating the discovery of America I am very much pleased with its design and beautiful workmanship and desire to return to you my sincere thanks for this valuable gift.

Yours very truly Grover Cleveland

Historical Background

On May 1, 1893, the World's Columbian Exposition at Chicago opened its gates to the public. The fair was larger than any international exposition that had come before it, and even though it was intended to commemorate Columbus's landing in the New World, planning the enormous event pushed its opening date back a year, to 1893. The Expo had been widely publicized around the United States and the world, and many states prepared exhibits of art, history and industry for their individual state buildings. In the White City, the neoclassical central buildings of the fair, the United States government sponsored exhibits of fisheries, agriculture, machinery, transportation, and electricity. Objets d'art and American history were on display as well.

In 1893, there were approximately 63 million people living in the United States. Overall attendance at the fair topped 27 million tickets sold. Even when accounting for foreign admissions and duplicates, enormous numbers of Americans attended what would be an enormous common cultural event for the nation. Upon viewing the buildings of the White City, Katherine Lee Bates wrote the line "Thine alabaster cities gleam/Undimmed by human tears" into her song America the Beautiful.

Bates was only one of millions of Americans inspired by the Exposition and its theme- Columbus's voyage to America. Danish immigrant Philip Philipsen designed, cast, and patented a medallion celebrating the discovery of America. It showed a colonial man in knickers and leggings walking with Columbia personified as a woman in classical dress. On the reverse, an eagle and olive branches surrounded a blank space for engraving. Philipsen sent a cast of the medal to Cleveland, and this was his gracious reply to the gift.

Stephen Grover Cleveland (1837-1908) was the only President to be elected to two non-consecutive terms of office. As a result, he is counted twice, as the 22nd and 24th President of the United States (1884-1889 and 1893-1897). He was elected Mayor of Buffalo, N.Y. in 1882, where he

fought widespread graft and corruption of Buffalo's political machines. He was nominated for, and won, the governorship of New York in 1882, where he continued his career as a fiscal reformer. In 1884, he won the Democratic nomination for President, and his spotless public career helped win him the election. As President, Cleveland pushed civil service reform, opposed the pension grab, and attacked high tariff rates. Re-nominated in 1888, Cleveland lost to Benjamin Harrison, but in 1892 he voters returned him to the White House by electing him over Harrison. When the financial Panic of 1893 erupted, Cleveland's attempts to solve it by sound- money measures alienated the free-silver wing of the party, while his tariff policy alienated the protectionists.

Philip Philipsen was born in Denmark, came to the United States in 1869, and became a naturalized citizen in 1874. In 1892, he was working as a merchant at 353 Canal St. in New York City. Filed on March 27th, 1893, he received a patent for his design of the medal he sent to Cleveland on June 27th; just two weeks after Cleveland wrote this letter.

Condition

Fine. Treated by a professional paper conservator, splits at center fold professionally repaired.

Sources

"Index to Petitions for Naturalization filed in New York City, 1792-1989" about Philip Philipsen, www.ancestry.com

1891-1892 New York City Directory, "U.S. City Directories," www.ancestry.com

Annual Report of the Commissioner of Patents for the Year 1893, pp. 426 www.books.google.com

Robert W. Rydell All the World's a Fair: Visions of Empire at American International Expositions, 1876-1916 (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1984) pp. 7, 241.

William McKinley LS to Rt. Rev. John M. Walden acknowledging sympathy following the death of his mother.

WILLIAM MCKINLEY. Letter Signed as President to Rt. Rev. John M. Walden. Washington, D.C., December 21, 1897. 1p, 5.25 x 6.75 in., on Executive Mansion letterhead, signed "William McKinley."

Complete Transcript

Dear Bishop Walden:

I deeply appreciate your kind message and shall gratefully remember your words of tender sympathy.

*Sincerely yours,
William McKinley*

Historical Background

Mrs. Nancy Allison McKinley, mother of President McKinley, died at 2:30 December 12, 1897. She was stricken with paralysis on December 1st and never fully recovered. President McKinley had been present her bedside during her final days except during the brief interval when he returned to Washington for the opening session of Congress. Mrs. McKinley, who was Nancy Campbell Allison prior to marrying William McKinley, Sr. in 1829, was 87 years old when her son became president. She passed just nine months after his inauguration.

Theodore Roosevelt Lauds the Efforts of Union Army Veterans

“to them we owe the fact that we have a Nation at all.”

THEODORE ROOSEVELT. Typed Letter Signed as President, to George C. Ross. Washington, D.C., February 13, 1908. 1 p., 7 x 9 in. On White House stationery.

Transcript

I thank you for the kind invitation extended to me to attend the banquet in honor of the Commander-in-Chief of the Grand Army of the Republic, and regret that it will not be possible for me to accept.

I wish all success to the Grand Army gathering. There is no other set of men to whom we owe as much as to those represented in this gathering; because it is to them we owe the fact that we have a Nation at all.

*Again extending to you my good wishes, believe me,
Sincerely yours, / Theodore Roosevelt*

Historical Background

The Grand Army of the Republic was formed in 1866 in Decatur, Illinois, by Benjamin F. Stephenson. Made up of Union Civil War veterans, the “GAR” was one of the first advocacy groups, supporting such causes as veteran’s pensions, black voting rights, and Republican political candidates. As the Republican commitment to Reconstruction ebbed in the 1870s, the organization weakened, but revived in the 1880s by renewing the call for adequate pensions. Although the organization was not the only post-Civil War veterans group, they quickly became the most visible and powerful. The political power of the GAR was substantial; it was nearly impossible to secure the Republican nomination without their support. The high water mark of the organization was in 1890, when they could boast 490,000 members. The GAR formally dissolved in 1956 upon the death of its last member, Albert Woolson. The Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, a parallel organization formed in 1881, became the GAR’s legal successor.

Colonel George C. Ross was a member of the Department of the Potomac, Burnside Post #8 chapter of the GAR. He was also the Chairman of the Grand Army of the Banquet Arrangements Committee, when he sent this letter to Roosevelt. The President’s gracious response signifies both commitment to the memory of the veterans and the political reach of the GAR. Three months after this letter, Ross would recite the Gettysburg Address during Memorial Day ceremonies at the Congressional Cemetery in Washington, D.C.

Theodore Roosevelt (1858-1919) was the 26th President, and a fervent nationalist, environmentalist, and reformer. He began his political career as a Republican state assemblyman, then president of the New York Police Board in 1895-1897, where he fought administrative corruption. Roosevelt organized and led a regiment, the Rough Riders, in Cuba during the Spanish-American War. He used his newfound celebrity to win election as governor of New York (1898-1900), and was nominated as Vice President under William McKinley for the Election of 1900. In 1901, he became President upon McKinley’s assassination, and was re-elected in his own right in 1904. He insisted on a strong navy, civil service reform, national conservation efforts, and federal regulation of trusts, monopolies, and meatpackers. Roosevelt declined to run again in 1908, instead throwing his support behind William Howard Taft. However, disappointed with his hand-picked successor, in 1912, Roosevelt decided to run against Taft as a third-party candidate against Taft. The split in the

Republican Party, and a strong showing by Socialist candidate Eugene V. Debs, propelled Democrat Woodrow Wilson into the White House. Though he was mentioned as a candidate in 1916, Roosevelt retired from politics, but was a strong advocate of entering World War I on the side of Britain and France.

Sources

“Memorial Day Celebrations (1900 – 1909).” <http://www.congressionalcemetery.org/memorial-day-celebrations-1900-1909>

#22709

Upon returning a sample of Lincoln's handwriting, President Taft cordially completes a Jesse Weik's presidential autograph collection

WILLIAM H. TAFT. Autograph Letter Signed as President, to Jesse W. Weik Esq. Washington, D.C., January 9, 1913. 1 p of a bifolium, 5 x 8 in., on White House stationery, signed "Wm. H. Taft."

A letter to a gentleman in Indiana.

Complete Transcript:

I am in receipt of your favor of January 7th last enclosing some handwriting of Abraham Lincoln. I return these interesting memoranda. I am glad by this letter to complete your collection.

Condition:

In fine condition, with uniform toning from previous display, and a small rusty paperclip mark to top edge. Even almost 100 years ago, a complete presidential collection was certainly one of the pinnacles of autograph collecting, with Taft apparently finishing out the recipient's collection at the time.

Historical Background

Jesse Weik had been instrumental in bringing about the completion of William Herndon's book about Abraham Lincoln's life. After Lincoln's assassination in 1865, Herndon, Lincoln's former law partner, began work on a brief, "subjective" biography of his friend, but his research turned up such unexpected and often startling information that it became a lifelong obsession. By the mid-1880s, he had grown discouraged over his ability to ever complete the book, due to the deification of Lincoln and Herndon's sense that the public would be unwilling to believe the earthier portrait he planned to offer. Jesse Weik started corresponding with Herndon and the two started meeting at Weik's home in Greencastle, Indiana. The younger man's intense interest in Lincoln reenergized Herndon and Weik transcribed their conversations which were later turned into the text of "Herndon's Lincoln".

Woodrow Wilson Signed Flag Day Proclamation.

WOODROW WILSON. Document Signed as President. Washington, D.C., May 30, 1916. 1p, legal folio, signed "Woodrow Wilson."

Complete Transcript:

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

My Fellow Countrymen:

Many circumstances have recently conspired to turn our thoughts to a critical examination of the conditions of our national life, of the influences which have seemed to threaten to divide us in interest and sympathy, of forces within and forces without that seemed likely to draw us away from the happy traditions of united purpose and action of which we have been so proud, It has therefore seemed to me fitting that I should call your attention to the approach of the anniversary of the day upon which the flag of the United States was adopted by the Congress as the emblem of the Union, and to suggest to you that it should this year and in the years to come be given special significance as a day of renewal and reminder, a day upon which we should direct our minds with a special desire of renewal to thoughts of the ideals and principles of which we have sought to make our great Government the embodiment.

I therefore suggest and request that throughout the nation and if possible in every community the fourteenth day of June be observed as FLAG DAY with special patriotic exercises, at which means shall be taken to give significant expression to our thoughtful love of America, our comprehension of the great mission of liberty and justice to which we have devoted ourselves as a people, our pride in the history and our enthusiasm for the political programme of the nation, our determination to make it greater and purer with each generation, and our resolution to demonstrate to all the world its vital union in sentiment and purpose, accepting only those as true compatriots who feel as we do the compulsion of this supreme allegiance. Let us on that day rededicate ourselves to the nation, "one and inseparable" from which every thought that is not worthy of our fathers' first vows in independence, liberty, and right shall be excluded and in which we shall stand with united hearts, for an America which no man can corrupt, no influence draw away from its ideals, no force divide against itself,-a nation signally distinguished among all the nations of mankind for its clear, individual conception alike of its duties and its privileges, its obligations and its rights.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed.

Done at the City of Washington this thirtieth day of May, in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and sixteen, and of the independence of the United States of America the one hundred and fortieth.

*By the President:
ROBERT Lansing
Secretary of State*

WOODROW WILSON

Warren Harding Writes to the American Ambassador to France

As Germany defaults on reparations payments, Europe begins its descent into another crisis.

WARREN G. HARDING. Typed Letter Signed as President, to Myron Herrick. Washington, D.C., February 3, 1923. 1 p., 7⁵/₈ x 10¹/₄ in. On White House stationery.

Complete Transcript

(PERSONAL)

February 3, 1923

My dear Ambassador Herrick:

I had your very good letter addressed to me at holiday time, and now desire to make my grateful acknowledgement though it is very much belated. I fully appreciate the import of your feeling that the decisions recently made and which continue to be made in Western Europe are no less significant than those made at the front in 1918. We have been tremendously concerned over here. We have not only been anxious in maintaining a wholly proper attitude in our relation to the nations of Europe, but we have had a difficult time in satisfying an American public opinion which does not know precisely what it wants except that it feels that America can somehow wave a magic wand and prevent all conflict in the Old World. I am sure you know from the official communications which you receive that we are agreed to be helpful in every consistent way possible.

I thank you for your kindly references to the success of the administration. Please be assured that I have no apprehensions or worries about the political future. The main thing to be concerned about is the success of the four years to which I am committed and one-half of which has been written into the history of American administrations. Perhaps everything has not been done as it might have been. Undoubtedly there are many disappointments which have an unfavorable reflex in American public opinion, but looking back over the period now I do not know of any course I would materially change, and I have every confidence that the foreign policy of the government is going to be wholly vindicated.

With very best regards, I am,

Very truly yours,

Warren G. Harding

*Hon. Myron T. Herrick,
Embassy of the United States of America
Paris, France*

Historical Background

Americans were weary after the experience of fighting World War I, and Warren Harding promised a “return to normalcy” in his 1921 inaugural address. Mustering industrial technologies into military service brought warfare to levels unimaginable a few decades earlier, and the war’s casualties left a generation shattered. Soldiers returned with a cynicism from their tumultuous wartime experience, the Senate’s failure to ratify the Peace of Versailles, and Woodrow Wilson’s stroke and incapacitation all added to American’s desires to return to the status quo antebellum. This goal remained elusive, because the United States had taken a leadership position in international relations from which it was impossible to withdraw.

Riding the wave of public support for disarmament after the war, Harding had been focusing on an international arms limitation conference during the first two years of his administration. From November 1921 to February 1922, Japan, China, France, Britain, Italy, Belgium, the Netherlands, and Portugal joined American diplomats at the Washington Arms Conference. It was the first disarmament conference in history, and the first time the United States hosted an international summit. By the time the meeting ended, it had produced three major treaties, including the Washington Naval Treaty, three smaller agreements, and twelve resolutions. The conference had the desired effect of maintaining peace and heading off a naval arms race between competing nations.

The financial crisis sparked by Germany's inability to meet the reparations schedule imposed by the Treaty of Versailles would again draw the United States into European affairs. For most of 1922, Germany protested the high payments imposed by the treaty. In March, Germany asserted that payments—in the form of money, natural resources, and manufactured goods—would equal almost three-quarters of their exports, thus crippling their economy. In May, citing money owed, France asked U.S. bankers to defer French debt payments. Two months later, however, the French refused a similar request from Germany. In September, fighting between Greece and Turkey split the Anglo-French alliance when France backed Turkey and the United States and Britain supported Greece. Then in December, the Reparations Commission declared Germany in default after failing to make a scheduled timber delivery. Further complicating relations between the former Allies, former French Prime Minister Georges “the Tiger” Clemenceau declared in a December speech in St. Louis that Americans would eventually need to return to Europe, warning “You had better take care it will not be too late.”

The situation only deteriorated in January 1923, when French troops seized coal fields in Germany's industrial Ruhr Valley, attempting to force production and resume exports. The United States and Great Britain objected to taking reparations by force, and the U.S. Senate then blocked France's foreign aid. Moreover, strikes, demonstrations, and sabotage result from the French military action.

Harding was indeed correct in his assessment that the decisions being made in Europe in 1923 were as important as battlefield decisions made five years earlier. Ultimately, failing to reign in the financial crisis led to worldwide depression and the rise of fascism throughout the late 1920s and 1930s. Moreover, the American public's expectations of magical problem-solving never went away, with simultaneous calls for both isolation and intervention reverberating for decades, right up to the attack on Pearl Harbor. Harding did the one thing he could to try and maintain peace: staying the course on naval disarmament.

Sources

T. Bentley Mott, *Myron T. Herrick: Friend of France, An Autobiographical Biography* (Garden City: Doubleday, Doran, 1929) pp. 259 – 269.

<http://www.archive.org/stream/myrontherrickfri006536mbp#page/n291/mode/2up>

Calvin Coolidge Responds to *Ladies Home Journal* Editor Edward Bok About Joining the World Court

CALVIN COOLIDGE. Typed Letter Signed as President, to Edward W. Bok. Washington, D.C., January 17, 1927. Beneath typed date is written in clerical hand, "Received January 18." 1 pp., 8 x 10½ in. On White House stationery.

Transcript

My dear Mr. Bok,

The State Department is of the opinion that the draft of the treaty and your comments thereon reveal the profound thought which you have given to this subject. They report, however, that the practice heretofore followed by the Government in its treaties of arbitration has been to restrict such agreements to those questions which are legal in their character and are susceptible of the application of legal principles. This government has never been willing to submit to any form of arbitral or judicial determination questions involving national honor or which affect the vital interests of independence of the country. A treaty of the kind here under consideration covering as it would any conceivable matter of dispute would include such questions as immigration deportation or any other question whether arising under municipal law, Governmental policy, treaties or alleged principles of international law. In other words, the conduct of the Government in any of its varied activities might be called into question and subjected to review by an international tribunal at the behest of any other country party to the treaty, which might, whether justifiably or unjustifiably, raise an issue with respect thereto. They think it very doubtful whether such an undertaking would be wise and that probably it would be impossible to secure the ratification of an agreement of that nature.

Historical Background

The Permanent Court of International Justice, called the World Court, was established under the auspices of the League of Nations. Although a centuries-old idea, the Court was established at The Hague, Netherlands, in 1922. Initially successful, its influence waned in the years leading up to World War II and it was replaced by the International Court of Justice, established by the United Nations Charter, in 1945.

Publishing magnate Edward Bok established the American Peace Award in 1923. For his work encouraging U.S. participation in the Court, Dr. Charles H. Levermore was the prize's first recipient. Here, Coolidge's response to Bok expresses State Department concerns that a World Court might trump or U.S. law or call into question U.S. government functions at almost any level. Surprisingly, though he did not in favor America joining the League of Nations, Coolidge nonetheless advocated membership in the World Court—so long as the U.S. was not be bound by advisory decisions. After years of work by his successor, the United States finally recognized the court's jurisdiction in 1935, but the Senate failed to ratify the necessary treaty, and as a result the U.S. did not become a member of the court.

Edward William Bok (1863–1930) was a Dutch-born American editor, philanthropist, and Pulitzer Prize-winning author. He was editor of the *Ladies Home Journal* for thirty years, and author of over a dozen books. During his tenure, the magazine maintained a focus on Progressive social issues and was the first magazine to refuse patent medicine advertisements—as well as the first magazine to have over one million subscribers. Bok is credited with coining the term living room as the name for the room of a house that had commonly been called the parlor or drawing room.

Herbert Hoover Encourages the Head of the Shipping Board to Remain in His Position

HERBERT HOOVER. Typed Letter Signed as President, to T.V. O'Connor. Washington, D.C., February 21, 1930. 1 p., 7 x 9 in.

Transcript

My dear Chairman O'Connor:

I have your note of the 20th. I appreciate the strain it is to continue to act as Chairman of the Shipping Board, but I hope you can see your way to continue to remain as Chairman until such a time as I can make the necessary change.

*I am glad to know that you are going to Florida and hope you will find rest and improvement.
Yours faithfully, / Herbert Hoover*

Historical Background

The Shipping Act of 1916, pushed through by Woodrow Wilson to increase wartime production, created the United States Shipping Board. Among its functions were subsidizing ship construction, developing a naval auxiliary, and increasing the size of the merchant marine, as well as regulating insurance, carrying rates, and ships' registries. The Emergency Fleet Corporation was immediately created by the board to build vessels to bring American troops and supplies to Europe in World War I. The EFC was mired in controversy from the start, as Shipping Board chairman William Denman locked horns with EFC general manager General George Goethals over finances as well as the details of ship construction. Both resigned, and President Wilson named Edward Hurley chairman of the both the Shipping Board and the EFC. Under Hurley, the board contracted to produce over 3,000 vessels, most of which were delivered after the Armistice. The war's end saw contracts cancelled and the ships still under construction sold throughout the 1920s.

While the EFC's fleet was sold to private shipping interests, former president of the International Longshoreman's Union **T.V. (Thomas Ventry) O'Connor** (1870-1935) took the helm of the Shipping Board in 1924 and held his position longer than any other chairman. During his tenure, he continued to remove actual ownership from the board's purview and instead return American ships to prominence in international carrying trade through administration and subsidies. Hoover's letter had the desired effect; O'Connor remained at the head of the Shipping Board until Franklin Delano Roosevelt took office in 1933.

#22967

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT. President of the United States. TO GUTZON BORGLUM DISCUSSING HIS MONUMENTAL WORK - MOUNT RUSHMORE

Typewritten Letter Signed, two pages, quarto, on White House stationery, July 28, 1939. To Gutzon Borglum, the sculptor of Mount Rushmore, concerning the monument's creation and funding.

"I have received your telegram...regarding the administration of the Mount Rushmore National Memorial Project under the provisions of Reorganization Plan No. II, approved June 7, 1939.

"The Secretary of the Interior has given thorough consideration to the desire of the Commission to continue the present method of operation until the project is completed. However, the legal authorities held that the responsibility for the administration of the project was transferred to the National Park Service of that Department on July 1. The minimum participation by that Service, which is necessary to comply with the law, requires administrative responsibility for the approval of accounts, recommendations concerning personnel matters, approval of the budget for the Commissions's operation, and approval of contracts.

"Under the proposed procedure, the National Park Service will have a representative make reasonable inspections from time to time to ensure that expenditures are made in accordance with the apportionment of funds and for the purposes for which the monies were appropriated. A periodical examination of the accounts also will be necessary to see that applicable administrative laws are complied with.

"The approval of the accounts involves a certification that funds are expended and deposited in accordance with general requirements. It will be necessary, therefore, to keep in sufficiently close contact with the project to ensure that no new figures are begun contrary to the provisions of the Appropriation Act, and that all purchases, contracts, appointments, and other items proposed are provided in the budget.

"Purchase orders will be issued at the project as heretofore and certifications in connection with disbursements will be made by a present employee at the Memorial to avoid the clearance of such matters through the Washington Office.

"This procedure constitutes the least possible administration by the National Park Service required under the existing status of the Commission and allows the Commission the widest latitude in general policy matters. The National Park Service will assume only the minimum of jurisdiction necessary to provide proper inspection and to clear administrative papers in accordance with regulations of the Treasury Department and the General Accounting Office.

"I believe that the procedure proposed will not handicap your work and will prove to be beneficial."

Harry Truman Thanks the Current Leader of His Old Unit for Defeating the Nazis

One day after victory in Europe, Truman gives thanks for a copy of his old division's newspaper along with praising a General critical to the fight against Germany.

HARRY S. TRUMAN. Typed Letter Signed as President, to Major General Paul W. Baade. Washington, D.C., May 9, 1945, 1 p. With original envelope, both on White House stationery.

Transcript

"May 9, 1945

Dear General Baade:

It was certainly kind and thoughtful of you to send me the April fifteenth edition of the "Santa Fe Express". One of my sincere regrets has been that I was not a part of the 35th Division in this war as I was in the other war. Please express my thanks and appreciation to the Division for remembering me and for the wonderful part they have taken in the glorious victory over the Germans.

Sincerely yours, / Harry Truman"

Historical Background

President Harry Truman wrote to Major General Paul Baade one day after V-E (Victory in Europe) Day, and two days after Germany surrendered unconditionally. The previous six weeks had seen a flurry of action in the European theater. As the Soviets marched towards Berlin from the east, American and British forces marched in from the west. On April 1, 1945, the 35th Division was part of the American force that encircled the Germans in the Ruhr valley, one of the final steps on the road to Berlin. On April 12, 1945, Franklin D. Roosevelt died and Truman became President. During World War I, Truman served in the 35th Division and Baade, the unit's present commander, apparently sent along the "Santa Fe Express" (the division's newspaper), that announced his sudden elevation to the Presidency. Three weeks after assuming office, the war in Europe was over, and at this auspicious moment, Truman gave thanks to one of the Generals responsible for the Allied victory.

Paul William Baade (1889-1959) was a 1911 West Point graduate. During World War I, he served in the 322nd Infantry and saw action as a Major in Battle of Verdun and as a Lieutenant Colonel in the Argonne Forest campaign. Between the wars, he spent four years in the Chief of Infantry's office, four years at West Point, and two years at Fort Benning. He became a one-star General in July 1941, and served as assistant Commander of the 35th Division guarding the southern California coast. In July 1943, he was promoted to Major General and moved the 35th to training in Alabama and Tennessee before being deployed in the Normandy campaign a month after D-Day. For the next 11 months, Baade led the Division in battles through five countries on the march to Germany. Once there, the Division occupied Hanover and Recklenhausen, eventually handing control to the French in July 1945.

Harry S. Truman (1884-1972) was the 33rd President, taking office upon the death of Franklin Roosevelt in 1945. He was born in Lamar, Missouri, grew up in Independence, and worked as a farmer before joining the army and going to France during World War I. As President, he made critical decisions at the end of World War II ranging from negotiating with the Soviets, to using atomic weapons against Japan, to supporting the United Nations. Truman also presided over the Marshall Plan, the beginning of the Cold War, and the Korean War.

Condition: Fine.

Sources

“Major General Paul William Baade.” <http://www.35thinfdivassoc.com/GeneralBaade/>

“Paul W. Baade.” <http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=8489300>

“33. Harry Truman, 1945-1953.” <http://www.whitehouse.gov/about/presidents/harrystruman>

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DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER. President of the United States; Supreme Allied Commander in World War II. "HERE ARE THE REASONS I HOPE THE VOTERS OF AMERICA WILL ASSURE THAT THE 86TH CONGRESS IS SOLIDLY REPUBLICAN. THIS ADMINISTRATION REFLECTS A GROWING AMERICA- PROSPEROUS AND AT PEACE."

Typewritten Letter Signed, DE, three pages, quarto, Washington, D.C., October 18, 1958. On White House stationery, to Jay Gould in New York. With the original envelope and with a one- page Typewritten Manuscript headed "Accomplishments," also on White House stationery.

Eisenhower makes a campaign pitch for the Republican Party three weeks before the congressional election of 1958: "As I am on my way to the West Coast on a political trip, I have just realized that I have not had, as I had hoped, an opportunity to talk to you about what I consider to be the vital and basic issues for which Republicans are fighting in 1958. Because I am so convinced of the necessity that the Republican programs, in which we both deeply believe, are maintained and furthered, I send you this note to ask your help in the final weeks that are left to us.

"Here then-as briefly as possible-are the reasons I hope the voters of America-Republican, Independent and discerning Democrats-will assure that the 86th Congress is solidly Republican in character. In the first place I stand squarely on the record of this Administration. It is a good record. It reflects a growing America-prosperous and at peace. America must and can stay prosperous and at peace.

"Secondly, if we do not have a Congress that is guided by the basic principles in which we believe, the bright promise of this nation's future will be dimmed or will disappear. This I say because of the signs of fiscal irresponsibility I see in the ranks of the radical opposition; I know, as you know, that a mounting Federal budget, with increasing Federal deficits and the inevitable cheapened dollar means more trouble for the household budget, and is immediately translated into less food, less clothing, poorer housing and less security for the future of the individual family.

"Another seriously damaging result of reckless Federal spending is its accelerating effect upon the wage-price spiral. When demagogues seek votes, they like to spend. Useless procurement is, of course, inflationary. Another bad feature of governmental procurement is its volume, which is so vast as to defy careful supervision. The alleged need of an item, as well as its urgency, often tend to push up prices and, in the defense area especially. Procurement officers tend to negotiate contracts that in effect subsidize inefficiency and extravagance. I think that most of us see, as the two principal causes of inflation in this country, badly unbalanced Federal budgets and the ever mounting wage-price spiral.

"Thirdly, I believe strongly, as I have so often stated, that government should do for the people only what they cannot well do for themselves. The Federal government can and should always be ready to extend a helping and guiding hand, no matter what major problem may confront the American people, but it should not ever attempt to provide the complete solution for any problem that properly belongs to individual localities or states. I do not want my grandchildren to become wards of a welfare state; I want them to be sturdy and self-reliant, with as much-if not more-initiative and opportunity as we of our generation have had. I want them to stand squarely on their own feet not to depend upon a centralized government in Washington to take care of them.

"And finally, I must not fail to mention the matter of racketeering in certain important sections of the labor movement. I see little hope of straightening out this problem, highlighted by the McClellan Committee investigations, unless the political complexion of the Congress is changed. Probably you know of my efforts last session to get legal weapons enacted that would give a remedy and probably you also know of the weird parliamentary maneuvering that took place to defeat my recommendations and to substitute a pallid, ineffective bill in its place. Here indeed is a good cause, in itself warranting an allout effort for a Republican Congress.

"There are many other issues in this campaign; I cannot touch on them all in this letter, which is already much too long. But if you believe as I do, I hope you will urge your friends and associates, by every means by which you can reach them to vote Republican on November fourth. The opposition has been working hard and has made our job difficult. But with your help, and with the help of people of integrity and a deep love and desire to preserve our way of life, we will have the kind of Congress we need.

"I send you herewith a list of items that, even though it is abbreviated, will bring to your mind a few of the accomplishments of the past five and one-half years. I want to be even prouder of the record of this Administration on January 21, 1961. So, I think we need to ring bells, use the telephone, write letters-in short, give ourselves during the next three weeks the job of electing a Republican Congress and Governorships."

Eisenhower considers the following achievements, among his accomplishments during his presidency thus far, beginning with his first term (he was elected in November 1952): "The Korean war stopped / Largest tax cut of all time/ The Defense Department reorganized / Satellites launch / Standards of living raised to highest ever / Highest employment ever / Social Security coverage expanded / Unemployment insurance expanded / Statehood for Alaska / The St. Lawrence Seaway / A new agency for outer space / Inflation braked / Positive effort to return power to the States / Economic controls removed / New interstate superhighways / A new aviation agency / Federal employees reduced by over a quarter of a million / Atoms for peace."

Eisenhower did not believe in strong executive leadership of the federal government and delegated authority to his advisers and Cabinet members. During his presidency, his domestic program called for reduced taxes, balanced budgets, a decrease in government control over the economy, and the return of certain federal responsibilities to the states. Controls over rents, wages, and prices were allowed to expire, and in 1954 there was a slight tax revision. At Eisenhower's insistence, Congress transferred title to valuable tideland oil reserves to the states. But there was no sharp break with policies inherited from previous Democratic administrations. The needs of an expanding population and the country's overseas commitments caused budget deficits during five out of eight years. The minimum wage was increased to \$1 per hour, the Social Security system was broadened, and in the spring of 1953 the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare was created. Hundreds of federal employees were fired under his expanded loyalty-security program, relative to the anti-Communist hysteria. The Civil Rights Act of 1957 was passed under his administration. NASA was created in July 1958, after he was criticized for failing to develop a space program (the Soviets had launched Sputnik I in October 1957). Although the recession in the fall of 1957 lasted through the following summer, Eisenhower refused to lower taxes or increase federal spending to ease the slump for fear of fueling inflation.

In foreign affairs, he worked hard at achieving peace and constructing collective defense agreements designed to check the spread of Communism. Partly, perhaps, because of Joseph Stalin's death in March, he was able to negotiate a truce for the Korean War in July 1953. In December of that year, he proposed that the countries of the world pool atomic information and materials under the auspices of an international agency. This "Atoms for Peace" suggestion bore fruit in 1957, when sixty-two countries formed the International Atomic Energy Agency. His "open-skies" proposal of July 1955, by which the United States and the Soviet Union would permit continuous air inspection of each other's military installations, was welcomed by world opinion but was rejected by the U.S.S.R. In September 1954, he succeeded in creating the Southeast Asia Treaty Organization (SEATPO) to prevent further Communist expansion in that part of the world. NATO was strengthened in 1955 by the inclusion of West Germany.

John F. Kennedy Offers Thanks for Audio Recording of America's First Manned Space Flight

After Alan Shepard became the first American to fly into outer space, Columbia Records President Goddard Lieberson sent Kennedy the soundtrack from the mission. In a personal thank-you note, Kennedy says he was “*delighted to have this memento of a truly significant event in America's history.*”

JOHN F. KENNEDY. Typed letter signed as President, to Goddard Lieberson. Washington, D.C., May 16, 1961. 1 p. On White House stationery.

Complete Transcript

May 16, 1961

Personal

Dear Mr. Lieberson:

This is to thank you for your thoughtfulness in seeing that I received a set of recordings of the historic space flight of our first astronaut, Commander Alan B. Shepard, Jr. I am delighted to have this memento of a truly significant event in America's history.

With warm appreciation and every good wish,

Sincerely, / John Kennedy

Historical Background

Naval aviator Alan Shepard was the first American to be launched into space on May 5, 1961, just three weeks after Soviet cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin became the first human to orbit the Earth. Shepard was among the group of 110 military test pilots invited to train under the newly-created National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). After a rigorous screening process, NASA selected the “Mercury Seven” on April 9, 1959. America's first astronauts were introduced to the public the next day. In January 1961, Shepard was chosen to pilot the first American manned flight. His mission was delayed several times, allowing the Soviet Union to launch the first manned space flight, piloted by Gagarin, on April 12, 1961. While Gagarin's flight was completely automatic, Shepard had some control over his *Freedom 7* spacecraft when it was launched 116 miles above the Earth. He famously told himself, “Don't fuck up, Shepard,” while preparing to launch, a phrase now known as “Shepard's Prayer” among astronauts and aviators. Millions of people around the world watched his launch, and after splashdown and recovery in the Atlantic Ocean, Shepard was a national hero. President Kennedy presented him the NASA Distinguished Service Medal on May 8, 1961.

Mission Control at Cape Canaveral, Florida recorded Shepard's in-flight communications, and his 15-minute flight remains the shortest space flight in history. Both elements allowed Columbia to offer the President the complete recordings, and Kennedy's letter thanking Lieberson was written less than two weeks after the event.

After Shepard's successful flight, Kennedy accelerated the space program, opening another arena of competition with the Soviets. On May 25, 1961, just nine days later, Kennedy addressed Congress on America's “Urgent National Needs.” Among them, he asserted that “this nation should commit itself to achieving the goal, before this decade is out, of landing a man on the moon and returning him safely to the earth.” He then asked Congress to allocate billions of dollars for space

exploration. After the Mercury program, NASA's Gemini and Apollo programs were designed to achieve Kennedy's goal for the United States. In 1963, John Glenn became the first American to orbit the earth, and subsequent missions developed the technologies that culminated in Neil Armstrong and "Buzz" Aldrin's *Apollo 11* moon landing on July 20, 1969.

Goddard Lieberman (1911-1977) was the President of Columbia Records from 1956-1971 and again from 1973-1975. Before he was President, he introduced the LP, or long-playing vinyl record, to the music industry.

Alan Shepard (1923-1998) was a Naval Academy graduate, test pilot, and the first American in space. His career was interrupted by Ménière's disease, and inner ear disorder, but it was surgically corrected so he could command the *Apollo 14* moon landing. Shepard became the fifth person to walk on the moon, and hit two golf balls while on the moon's surface.

Condition: Fine.

Sources

Alan Shepard and Deke Slayton, *Moon Shot: The Inside Story of America's Race to the Moon* (New York: Turner, 1995) p. 111.

John F. Kennedy, "Special Message to Congress on Urgent National Needs, May 25, 1961."
<http://www.jfklibrary.org/Research/Ready-Reference/JFK-Speeches/Special-Message-to-the-Congress-on-Urgent-National-Needs-May-25-1961.aspx>

Mike Wall, "The Most Extreme Human Spaceflight Records."
<http://www.space.com/11337-human-spaceflight-records-50th-anniversary.html>

#22657

Lyndon Johnson Thanks Idaho Senator Frank Church for Challenging the Right Wing

The President praises Church's recent *Look* magazine article, "Conspiracy USA," which criticized the John Birch Society.

LYNDON B. JOHNSON. Typed Letter Signed as President, to Frank Church. Washington, D.C., February 23, 1965. 1 p., 7 x 10¼ in. On White House stationery.

Partial transcript

"I have read your article in Look magazine. It was a strong, courageous piece of prose that only a man secure in the knowledge that what he is doing is right for his country could have composed. This is the kind of courage that this country must never have in short supply, and which I am so glad to know you possess in abundance."

Historical Background

Senator Frank Church delivered a full-scale attack on the tactics used by the conservative John Birch Society in the 1964 election. His article, "Conspiracy USA," specifically named conservative groups such as the Birchites and Minutemen, led by Robert B. DePugh, citing examples of intimidation during the campaign. In one case, an Idaho newspaper editor had his tires slashed, gas tank contaminated, and a swastika painted on his car door. Church also delivered speeches from the Senate floor, basing his remarks on the *Look* magazine article. From the Senate floor, Church called the John Birch Society "the tap root of the conspiracy doctrine," and added the Christian Crusade, led by Reverend Billy James Hargis, and Reverend Carl McIntyre, a popular radio broadcaster, to his list of right-wing conspirators. Church further cautioned Americans against presuming "the forces of irrationality and vituperation have been vanquished" by the Democratic Party's landslide, and challenged moderate leaders to contextualize the complex issues faced by the nation and the world. "The job cannot be done without first exposing the delusions of the fanatical right," he insisted. "Its propaganda, its frequent resort to outright intimidations and coercion, represent nothing less than totalitarian methods. They must be repudiated by all responsible citizens" from both parties and political positions.

Frank Church (1924 – 1974) was a four-term Democratic Senator from Idaho. He chaired the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, led the Church Committee to investigate U.S. intelligence agency abuses, and was among the first politicians to oppose the Vietnam War. Church also warned against surveillance by government agencies and was a powerful advocate for western environmental issues.

Included: Church's original letter of February 19, 1965, informing Johnson of a recent article "dealing with Right-wing activities in the campaign, with particular reference to the Western States, and citing evidence of the disturbing growth of the extremist movement which has since occurred." Church adds: "I am grateful to you for our conversation of last evening on the Viet Nam problem. The last thing I would want to do is would be to inhibit your effectiveness in dealing with this precarious situation."

Condition: Excellent. Usual folds, top left margin is scarred from a paper clip.

Sources

“Sen Church Writes Item for Magazine,” Spokesman-Review, Spokane, Washington, January 10, 1965, p. 22.

<http://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=1314&dat=19650110&id=2zhWAAAAIABAJ&sjid=9OgDAAAABAJ&pg=5255,2908995>

Frank Church Press Release, January 12, 1965.

<http://jfk.hood.edu/Collection/White%20Materials/White%20Assassination%20Clippings%20Folders/Miscellaneous%20Folders/Miscellaneous%20I%20John%20Birch%20Society/Misc%20I%20Birch%2005.pdf>

#22639

Richard Nixon TLS to Robert McNamara addressing rumors about firing McNamara.

RICHARD NIXON. Typed Letter Signed as President to Robert S. McNamara. Washington, D.C., March 3, 1971. 1p, 7 x 10.5 in., on White House letterhead, signed "Richard Nixon" with a postscript autograph note.

Complete Transcript

Dear Mr. McNamara:

On February 25 of this year I sent a special message on American foreign policy to the Congress. Like the foreign assistance message of last September, this report reiterates that full multilateral and worldwide sharing of responsibility for development is fundamental to our new approach to foreign assistance, with particular focus on the role of the international financial institutions, and especially the World Bank family.

In parallel with the Bank's growing interest in the environment, my report also lays stress on the importance of developing international guidelines for protecting and restoring natural resources. I understand that the Bank plans to play an important role in this area, ensuring that environmental safeguards are included in the projects that the Bank itself finances and helping through its own example to establish criteria for use by other lending institutions, public and private.

Knowing that we have a deep mutual interest in building and strengthening a durable structure of international relationships, I wanted you to have a copy of the report.

*With warm personal regards,
Sincerely,
Richard Nixon*

I greatly appreciate the candor & construction of your talks with Henry H & others – RN. The speculation about replacing you are completely without foundation.

Historical Background

Robert Strange McNamara (1916-2009) served as U.S. Secretary of Defense from 1961 to 1968 under presidents John F. Kennedy and Lyndon B. Johnson at the height of the Cold War. He remains the longest-serving secretary of defense, having remained in office over seven years. He also played a major role in promoting the U.S.'s involvement in the Vietnam War. However, he grew increasingly skeptical of the efficacy of committing U.S. troops to South Vietnam and resigned in 1968 to become president of the World Bank.

A few months after this letter was sent, the Pentagon Papers were leaked to *The New York Times* by Daniel Ellsberg, which revealed that McNamara and others had been fully aware that the Vietnam offensive was futile. Subsequent efforts by the Nixon administration to prevent any further leaks would indirectly lead to the Watergate scandal.

GERALD FORD. President of the United States. "MY GRANTING OF A PARDON TO OUR FORMER PRESIDENT WAS ESSENTIAL TO THE WELL-BEING OF OUR BELOVED COUNTRY. I AM CONFIDENT THAT THIS ACTION WILL EVENTUALLY FALL UNDER PROPER PERSPECTIVE."

Typewritten Letter Signed, Gerry Ford, one page, quarto, Washington, D.C., September 19, 1974. As President, on White House stationery, to Albert H. Quie.

Ford explains why he pardoned of President Nixon, who had resigned a little over a month before. "I sincerely appreciated the forthrightness and candor of your September 12 letter. I would have been disappointed if I had received less from a valued friend. My granting of a pardon to our former President was a difficult decision which only I could make alone. I felt it was essential to the well-being of our beloved country. I am confident that this action will eventually fall under proper perspective. Also, I do want to assure you that my pardon of the former President, under the unique circumstances stated by me in granting it, does not relate to any other case. Any requests for Executive clemency are handled through established channels. These are studied and recommendations are submitted to me for the final decision."

As a result of the Watergate affair, an extensive investigation was launched by the Judiciary Committee of the House of Representatives, culminating in Nixon's resignation on August 9, 1974. He still faced indictment on a variety of charges. In his proclamation of pardon, Ford cautioned that a long trial would merely threaten the "tranquility to which this nation has been restored by the events of recent weeks. The prospects of such trial will cause prolonged and divisive debate over the propriety of exposing to further punishment and degradation a man who has already paid the unprecedented penalty of relinquishing the highest elective office." Prior to the pardon, Ford wrote of the Nixons: "Theirs is an American tragedy in which we have all played a part. It could go on and on and on, or someone must write the end to it. I have concluded that only I can do that, and if I can, I must" [Gerald H. Ford Library and Museum website]

Jimmy Carter Expresses “unequivocal support” for Israel

In the middle of negotiating the Camp David Peace Accords, Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan backs the three American officials working the hardest on the treaty.

JAMES EARL CARTER. Autograph Letter Signed as President, to Daniel Patrick Moynihan. Washington, D.C., May 10, 1978. 1 p., 8¹/₈ x 9³/₈ in. On embossed White House stationery.

Complete Transcript

Docketing [in unknown hand] 8305112003

5-10-78

To Pat Moynihan

Your statement supporting Dr Brzezinski, Cy Vance & me at the banquet was an act of courage and, in my opinion, also one of statesmanship. The foundation of our Mid East policy is unequivocal support of Israel.

Thank you! / Your friend / Jimmy Carter

Docketing [in unknown hand]

white house / personal/thanks to dpm

Historical Background

New York Senator and former United Nations Ambassador Daniel Patrick Moynihan was an unwavering supporter of Israel and a vocal advocate for the nation during the ebb and flow of peace negotiations. For 18 months in 1977 – 1978, President Carter, Egyptian President Anwar al-Sadat, and Israeli Prime Ministers, first Yitzhak Rabin, and later, Menachim Begin, worked to create a process that would lead to a treaty between the two nations. When Carter took office, he initiated meetings with regional heads of state. Throughout 1977, he invited Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, Egyptian President Anwar al-Sadat, Jordan’s King Hussein, and Hafez al-Assad of Syria to Washington. Three were the guests of honor at White House State Dinners, but Assad refused to come to Washington and met with Carter in Geneva instead. Carter’s Secretary of State, Cyrus Vance, outlined the administration’s major goals including a return to the Geneva Conference (the peace process outlined at the end of 1973’s Yom Kippur War), Arab recognition of Israel’s right to exist, Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories, and a secure Jerusalem. The leaders greeted the plan with varying degrees of enthusiasm.

In November 1977, Sadat stunned the Egyptian parliament by announcing a plan to visit Jerusalem, which he did three weeks later, to speak before the Knesset, Israel’s legislative body. There, he indicated that bilateral talks with Israel were preferable to a return to the Geneva Conference. While not the American preference, Sadat’s initiative moved forward.

During negotiations, on March 12, 1978, Palestinian militants infiltrated Israeli security and attacked Tel Aviv, killing 37 people, mostly civilians. Two days later, Israel invaded Lebanon in Operation Litani. The operation drew protests in and outside of diplomatic circles, and the U.N. Security Council passed Resolution 425, which called on Israeli forces to withdraw and be replaced by U.N troops.

In the midst of complex peace negotiations and a military operation, Moynihan’s public support of Secretary of State Cyrus Vance and National Security Advisor Zbigniew Brzezinski, two principal

players on the negotiating team, drew great praise from Carter. Peace efforts continued, and during two weeks of intense negotiations at the presidential retreat in September 1978, Begin and Sadat agreed on the Camp David Accords, a framework for peace that led directly to the Egypt – Israeli Peace Treaty in 1979.

Sources

“Menus for State Dinners during the Carter Administration.”

<http://www.jimmycarterlibrary.gov/documents/menus.pdf>

“Israel’s 1978 Invasion of Lebanon.” <http://middleeast.about.com/od/lebanon/a/me080316b.htm>

#22617

CARTER, JIMMY (JAMES EARL, JR TLS with holograph postscript. ("Jimmy" and "J").

1p. 8vo. Washington, March 21, 1979. Written on White House stationery bearing the blind-embossed seal of the United States to Senator DANIEL PATRICK "PAT" MOYNIHAN (1927-2003).

Complete Transcript

Thank you for your letter of February & concerning welfare reform. I will weigh your comments carefully in making my final decisions. My intention is to send to Congress a bill which will lead to a fairer and more efficient welfare system, encourage work in a more effective manner than present law, and provide additional help to the very most needy. This package will also provide substantial and reliable fiscal relief to hard-pressed governments. I look forward to working closely with you... In a holograph postscript, President Carter adds:

P.S. I'll certainly go over it with Stu, as you request.

P.P.S. Hope to see you Monday...

A successful farmer from Plains, Georgia, Jimmy Carter rose from local politics to serve as the state's governor. Blocked by term limits from serving a third term, Carter took advantage of America's post-Watergate cynicism to fashion himself as a political outsider with moderate positions and old-fashioned morals. He defeated Nixon's successor, Gerald Ford, in the 1976 presidential election. Carter served four years during which time he faced a recession, rampant inflation and an energy crisis. Beginning in 1977, Carter endeavored to reform the welfare program, proposing a plan that "would have created greater equality of benefits for residents of different states by setting national minimums... Congress was unreceptive to Carter's proposal, and it got nowhere. In 1979, Carter proposed a less ambitious, less costly plan in the form of two bills entitled Social Welfare Reform Amendments of 1979 and Work and Training Opportunities Act of 1979. They were not adopted by the time Carter left office. His successor, Ronald Reagan, [was] opposed to national minimum income, as [was] much of the Congress elected with him," (Social Welfare in Western Society, Handel).

Moynihan, a Democrat, was selected at the beginning of President Nixon's first term to be his counselor on urban affairs. A former assistant secretary of labor under Kennedy and Johnson and director of the Harvard-MIT Joint Center for Urban Studies, Moynihan was chosen, in part, because of his academic background in social policy. In 1973, he was appointed the U.S. ambassador to India, the world's largest democracy, to help repair the rift in the countries' strained relations. During his two years as ambassador, Moynihan created a cultural exchange program and helped to erase some of India's debt in what became known as the "Rupee Deal." Under President Ford, Moynihan went on to serve as ambassador to the United Nations. In 1977, he was elected to the Senate and enjoyed a long and impressive career. Moynihan's letter from February 8, 1979, referred to by Carter, is published in Daniel Patrick Moynihan: A Portrait in Letters of an American Visionary by Steven R. Weisman. The letter outlines where Moynihan's and Carter's ideas on welfare reform diverged and was written as Carter was preparing his second proposal for welfare reform. "As senator, Moynihan supported legislation providing for the federal government to pay more of the cost of welfare in New York and other states. The Carter administration opposed it, saying it would impede Carter's efforts to reform welfare, as Carter had long advocated," (Daniel Patrick Moynihan: A Portrait in Letters of an American Visionary, Weisman).

"Stu" is most likely Stuart Eizenstat (b.1943), Carter's chief domestic policy advisor. After leaving the Carter administration Eizenstat served as president Clinton's deputy secretary of the treasury; under secretary of state for economic, business and agricultural affairs and as the U.S. ambassador to the European Union.

A numerical docket is stamped in the left margin, with a handwritten numerical docket at the top right corner. Very faintly folded into normal letter thirds, otherwise in excellent condition.

Ronald Reagan Responds to Press Criticism of an Education Speech

Reagan writes to an old California friend and former education advisor regarding a recent speech in which he advocated increased classroom discipline, school prayer, and higher standards. Reagan's conservatism, views on civil liberties, and self-deprecating sense of humor all come through in this personal note.

RONALD REAGAN. Autograph Letter Signed as President, to Alex Sheriffs. Washington, D.C., January 4, 1984. On embossed White House stationery, 7 x 10½ in.

With: The ten speech transcripts on education policy that Reagan sent to Sheriffs, including the Indianapolis speech on December 8, and a Typed Letter Signed Secretarially from Reagan to Sheriffs, July 17, 1981, thanking him for a letter.

Complete Transcript

Jan. 4

Dear Alex,

Thanks very much for your good letter & generous words. It was good to hear from you. Enclosed is probably much more than you need. I assume the L.A. Times article was probably referring to the Dec. 8 speech in Indianapolis. But just to be on the safe side here is everything I've said all the way back to June. Don't feel you have to read them all – they'll be great on the bottom of a cage if you have a canary. I heard from a civil liberty type about my remarks on discipline. He took the attitude that I was advocating a police state. Well the most recent figures we've compiled show our schools to be about the most crime ridden sector of our society. And guess what—?? black students are the majority of victims. Nancy sends her best. Again thanks.

Sincerely, Ron.

Historical Background

On educational issues, Ronald Reagan usually focused on themes such as local control of school districts and curriculum, an end to busing students to create racial balance, and teacher accountability. He also advocated higher academic standards and stopping drugs and alcohol in schools. At times, Reagan identified the advent of federal aid to education as the beginning of public education's downfall. Here, Reagan brushes off recent criticism of a policy shift he announced during a speech on education a month earlier in Indianapolis.

Reagan's Indianapolis speech on education contained several key additions to his prior policies on education reform. While he still insisted that more money, especially more federal money, was the problem rather than the solution, his proposals went much further than his typical call for higher standards and teacher accountability. First, Reagan insisted on a return to "good old-fashioned discipline" where teachers regained lost authority not only in academic areas, but also regarding behavioral problems. He lamented that some teachers "don't even have the authority to quiet down their class" and others "suffer verbal and physical abuse" which "must stop." He reminded his audience that at one time, disciplinary codes were strictly enforced by teachers who were told "you have the law back of you. You have intelligent public sentiment back of you" and he insisted as a nation, we "must make both of those statements true once again." The President continued his speech, assailing drug and alcohol abuse in schools, and finally turning to academic performance issues. After his six-point plan, he then advocated a return to school prayer. "God who has blessed

this land should never have been expelled from America's classrooms....The members of Congress can start each day with a moment for prayer and meditation, so can our children in their schools."

Despite the reaction of the Los Angeles *Times* to his remarks, Reagan again made a case for greater discipline in America's public schools in his first radio address of 1984 on January 7—just three days after writing to Sherriffs. There, he repeated the call for increased school discipline to stop violence against both students and teachers.

Alex Sherriffs (1917 – 2002) was Education Secretary (1967 – 1974) under Reagan as Governor of California. In the late 1950s, Sherriffs, a psychology professor at Berkeley, became a special assistant to the Chancellor. In his role as chairman of the committee on student affairs, he was widely respected by the student body. However, once he was named official Vice Chancellor in 1958, he became an authority figure and was the object of numerous protests, especially during the Berkeley Free Speech Movement in 1964 – 1965. The movement, which included sit-ins and over 800 arrests, helped propel Reagan to the California governor's office. Once there, he promptly directed the University of California Regents to fire university system president Clark Kerr for being too soft on the protestors. Reagan had campaigned on the issue, pledging to "clean up the mess in Berkeley," a point of view he would sustain as President regardless of the costs. Refusing a Washington appointment during Reagan's presidency, Sherriffs instead became Vice Chancellor of the California State University System.

Sources

"Remarks of the President to the National Forum on Excellence in Education," December 8, 1983.
<http://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/ws/index.php?pid=40844#axzz1nKmUVcWK>

"Radio Address to the Nation on School Violence and Discipline."
<http://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/ws/index.php?pid=39572#axzz1nKmUVcWK>

"Oral History: The University of California and the Free Speech Movement: Perspectives from a Faculty Member and Administrator, Alex C. Sherriffs."
http://content.cdlib.org/view?docId=kt4v19n6w6&brand=calisphere&doc.view=entire_text

"University of California Crises: Loyalty Oaths and the Free Speech Movement."
<http://texts.cdlib.org/view?docId=kt7q2nb2kn;NAAN=13030&doc.view=frames&chunk.id=d0e835&toc.depth=1&toc.id=d0e719&brand=calisphere>

#22528

George Bush Thanks a Gulf War Supporter for Encouragement on the Home Front

A New Jersey dentist helps sustain morale in the months preceding the Gulf War.

GEORGE H. W. BUSH. Typed Letter Signed as President, to Dr. Anthony J. Cipriano. Washington, D.C., December 10, 1990. 1 p., 6¾ x 8¾ in. On embossed White House stationery.

Transcript

December 10, 1990

Dear Dr. Cipriano:

Thank you for your thoughtful message and for telling me about what your committee, the Downtown for the Holidays Committee of the Ridgewood Chamber of Commerce, is doing to demonstrate its support for the members of our Armed Forces serving in the Persian Gulf. I am heartened by the number of Americans like you who have initiated such projects. They serve as a source of strength as we work to enforce United Nations sanctions against Iraq's aggression.

This is a difficult assignment for our service men and women, but through programs like yours you are letting them know that they have the backing of the American people. Thank you for all you are doing in behalf of those who are defending the cause of freedom in the Persian Gulf and for their families.

Sincerely, / George Bush

Historical Background

After Iraq invaded Kuwait on August 2, 1990, western powers initiated economic sanctions that drove down Iraq's economy by over 40% and pushed inflation into triple digits. On August 7, 1990, President George Bush began Operation Desert Shield to prevent potential aggression aimed at Saudi Arabia. At the request of Saudi monarch King Fahd, American military forces arrived to defend the important U.S. ally and oil exporter from invasion by Saddam Hussein's troops. After putting American boots on the ground, Bush then set out to build an international coalition to liberate Kuwait—by force if necessary.

Eager to press the Iraqis further towards withdrawing from Kuwait, Bush sought United Nations approval for international action. Passed on November 29, 1990, Resolution 678 set a January 15, 1991 deadline for withdrawal and authorized the coalition to use force if Iraqi troops failed to leave Kuwait. On January 17, 1991, two days after the U.N. deadline, coalition forces led by the United States began bombing Baghdad and other targets inside Iraq, signaling the shift from Operation Desert Shield to Operation Desert Storm.

Two weeks after the initial U.N. resolution authorizing the deadline and use of force, Bush proclaimed December 10, 1990 (the anniversary of the 1948 United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights) as Human Rights Day. "The United States will continue to denounce contraventions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and will press for constructive change. And, at times, it is necessary to take a stand against aggression," he declared, mustering further support for Hussein's removal. "Iraq's brutal subjugation and despoiling of Kuwait constitute an assault on the basic human values and freedoms we commemorate this week; thus the United States and other members of the world community are coalesced in an effort to achieve the complete and unconditional withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait."

On the same day Bush made his comments for Human Rights Day, he wrote this letter to Dr. Cipriano thanking him for his efforts supporting troops and their families during holiday season. Ever mindful of the "Vietnam Syndrome" both on and off the battlefield, Bush and other American officials wanted to ensure that public approval of military operations remained high. Efforts similar to Cipriano's were repeated across the country for as long as troops were in the field. The publicity had its desired effect; at war's end, salutes to the troops swept the nation, including a National Victory Celebration parade in Washington, D.C. on June 8, 1991.

Provenance: Ex-Dr. Anthony J. Cipriano, author of *America's Journeys Into Space: The Astronauts of the United States*.

Condition: Fine. Never folded.

Sources

"Proclamation 6238 - Human Rights Day, Bill of Rights Day, and Human Rights Week, 1990."
<http://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/ws/?pid=1939#axzz1oGNVir00>

"Iraq Sanctions (IRAQSANC)." <http://www1.american.edu/ted/iraqsanc.htm>

#22518

CLINTON, BILL. (b.1946). Forty-second president of the United States. ALS. ("Bill"). 1p. 8vo. Washington, June 7, 2000. On White House stationery bearing the blind-embossed seal of the United States. To Senator DANIEL PATRICK "PAT" MOYNIHAN (1927-2003).

Our friend Lynn Forrester was kind enough to send me your Jefferson lecture on 200 years of Pennsylvania Avenue. It is a marvel, as is your long, heroic struggle to make it what it was meant to be...

Clinton, a former Arkansas governor, became the youngest president since Kennedy upon his election in 1993. His re-election made him the first Democrat since FDR to serve a full second term, and he left office with the highest approval rating of any president in the second half of the 20th century. Unfortunately, a series of sex scandals led to his impeachment and overshadowed his accomplishments. His 1998 impeachment was only the second time in American history that a president had been impeached (the first being Andrew Johnson in 1868).

As assistant secretary of labor under Kennedy (and later Johnson), Moynihan wrote a plan to redevelop Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington, an area surrounding the White House and other important buildings, which had fallen into decline. After JFK's assassination, his widow informed his successor, Lyndon Johnson, that she wanted the Pennsylvania Avenue redevelopment plan to move forward and Moynihan continued to serve until leaving the administration to become director of the Harvard-MIT Joint Center for Urban Studies. Under President Nixon, Moynihan, as the president's counselor on urban affairs, continued to work on the Pennsylvania Avenue plan. The Pennsylvania Avenue Development Corporation (PADC) was established in 1973, and one of Moynihan's major contributions was to encourage corporations to finance the historic district's rejuvenation. "Through four decades, one great constant has been Moynihan's attention to the avenue on which he... lives. The man from New York has been integral to the transformation of Washington into a great capital shaping, and shaped by, the Republic's culture. That style can be seen on today's vibrant and majestic Pennsylvania Avenue, where people live amidst buildings symbolizing the distinctive beauty of popular government," ("Not Quite Yet an Avenue of Presidents," San Francisco Gate, Will). In 2000, Moynihan delivered the Jefferson Lecture at the University of Virginia about the history of Pennsylvania Avenue, referred to in our letter.

In addition to referring to our third president, Thomas Jefferson (1743-1826), our letter also mentions Clinton's friend Lynn Forester de Rothschild (b.1954), an international lawyer who earned a fortune in the telecommunications industry. After marrying her third husband, Sir Evelyn Robert de Rothschild, the couple spent one night of their honeymoon as the Clintons' guests in the White House. Two docketed in the margins, otherwise fine and rare in ALS during his presidency.

George W. Bush Thanks a Teacher

Thanking “Roy,” Bush stresses education ten days after his inauguration.

GEORGE W. BUSH. Autograph Note Signed as President. Washington, D.C., January 30, 2001. 2 pp., 7 x 5 in. On official note cards engraved “The President,” with Presidential Seal.

Complete Transcript

July 30, 2001

Dear Roy—Thank you for your letter and for teaching. Your students must understand that education will help them realize dreams. It is so important to learn now because life is a series of learning experiences. Good education starts with reading. I hope your students read more than they watch T.V.—

I could never have been President without my education. So my advice; read a lot, study hard, explore, and listen to Roy.

Best wishes, / George Bush

#23040

Barack Obama Assures a Pennsylvania Mother That He Will Support the Troops

BARACK OBAMA. Autograph Note Signed as President, to Cynthia Arnold. Washington, D.C., March 2, 2010. 1 p., 6½ x 4¼ in. On White House stationary with envelope.

Complete Transcript

Cynthia—

Thank you for your letter. I will do everything in my power to make troops like Matthew my priority. Please tell him “thank you for your service” from his Commander-in-Chief!

Barack Obama

Historical Background

On Inauguration Day 2009, Obama supporter Cynthia Arnold interrupted her television viewing of the Washington, D.C., ceremonies to take a call from her son, Private Second Class Matthew Arnold, who was stationed at Fort Hood, Texas. Matthew was preparing to deploy to Iraq or Afghanistan and needed his mother’s help completing next-of-kin forms, as well as paperwork detailing where he wanted to convalesce in the event of injury. Cynthia’s optimism for the incoming administration waned at the peril her son might face, so she decided to write to the new president to encourage him to make bringing American troops home among his top priorities. She wanted to spare other mothers the anguish of taking similar calls, or worse, calls informing them of a child’s injury or death.

Ultimately, Matthew was never deployed to Iraq or Afghanistan. During his five years in the Army, he received training in chemical operations and small arms maintenance, job skills that his family feared would not translate well outside the military. In 2012, his mother decided to sell the letter to help her son readjust to civilian life. This letter made national news twice: first as part of a *New York Times* article about how Obama handled correspondence from voters in April 2009 when Arnold received it, and again in August 2012 when Arnold sold it.

#22982