

● PSf. Vincent Astor

Subject File

Box 116

PSF

VINCENT ASTOR
NO 23 WEST 20TH STREET

New York,

August 3rd, 1933.

Dear Franklin:

With one exception, I have communicated with all the members of our seagoing Club, and every one of them - even including our little Alabama Doctor - have, of course, reacted properly and promptly to their orders, and will be in the right spot when the time comes. The only exception is Hermit, who is still miles away on a cruise with Harry Roosevelt, and in, as far as I am concerned, very badly a.s.o.l. My picture of Hermit's job just now is that he should be right here in these parts, chiseling money out of your Government for our two proposed super-speed liners! Now he can be doing that out in the middle of the Caribbean is beyond me.

If it suits you, it would seem that about lunch-time would be the best time for leaving from Poughkeepsie, for on Thursday, August 31st, slack water occurs in Hall Gate at 2:40 P.M., and there is not much fun in going through that passage with the current running strongly. However, all of that, of course, you can decide much later on.

At the risk of being a very tiresome bore, I am enclosing you a memorandum of a conference that was held yesterday in Washington, and I would like to write a little in explanation of it, too. Ever since the details of the National Recovery Act, etc., became known, the Executive Committee of the Western Union has been making a real effort to do whatever it could to have us fit into the picture, and it really is a fact that the Company wants to

To The President of the United States.

August 3rd, 1933.

do the right thing. A complete acceptance of the blanket code would present a very serious difficulty in the fact that it would add, if messenger boys are included, approximately sixteen million dollars to our ~~annual~~ ^{annual} payroll, in comparison with a gross annual income of about eighty-five million, or some nineteen per cent. This would seem to indicate that we would be justified in raising our rates to the extent of that percentage, but our various people who ought to know, assure us that a large section of the public probably would not stand for any such increase, and simply would give up using the telegraph as a means of communication. Anyway, we yesterday sent our new President, Mr. White, down to Washington, for a conference with Mr. Cates (in charge of that industrial division), in regard to the ironing out of some of the major difficulties. White is a fairly young man, quite imaginative, thoroughly resourceful, and very far removed from the old-fashioned type of hard-boiled company executive. The enclosed memorandum is White's summary of the conference. It was evidently hurriedly dictated and sent over a telegraph wire, as you can judge from the rather bad grammar, etc. Allowing for all of that, it still suggests to me that the whole psychology back of that conference must have been somehow wrong. Surely the expression "complete overthrow of orderly procedure, as we have learned to know it, in taking over property and business by the masses", is a deplorable combination of words. It has seemed to me that your most miraculous achievement has been the rebirth of courage and confidence throughout industry,

To The President of the United States.

August 3rd, 1933.

and I am just wondering whether such "discussions" may not undermine much of that. I don't pretend to know much about anything, but it would seem to me that maybe the wrong sort of whip is being cracked; a whip of fear, and rather panicly fear at that. Probably a lot of coercion is going to be needed to deal with dilatory industries, but couldn't it be done better by other methods - like moral persuasion and publicity - rather than by just scaring them to death?

I do hope that this letter does not sound presumptuous or critical of the truly magnificent efforts that are being made. Honestly, it is not meant that way. Furthermore, I had to screw up my courage quite a bit before writing you at all on this subject, which incidentally I am doing without the approval or even the knowledge of the other Western Unionites.

Yesterday, I spent most of the afternoon with Ray M. and all that I can tell you is that you - when it comes to pulling people out of the valley of rather irritable despair - are indeed unique. He simply is not the same man at all the one that I spent Saturday

morning with up in Rhinebeck.
Half a million circulation
is the smallest figure that he
now will talk about at all!
and though keeping my fingers
crossed, I am absolutely
delighted. Averell and I
both feel that he is going to
do a swell job, and
goodness knows, not only
Pray, but whatever our little
paper may ever have to offer,
will be yours.

Very Respectfully
Yours.

P.S.

P.S. Please forgive my
terrible long hand writing,
since for obvious reasons
I did not want to dictate
anything regarding Ray, or
The Weekly either.

"Common Sense" is
— Ray's invention — is the
name that we have picked,
and I think it's pretty
good.

V.A.

MEMORANDUM.

- (1) Spent 2 hours and 30 minutes with Mr. C.
- (2) Was given free and ample opportunity to outline the many problems and difficulties with which telegraph companies are confronted, which took full advantage of, including our earnest desire to be helpful and cooperative.
- (3) Mr. C. then described with unusual clearness the situations with which business is confronted, which are, briefly,--
 - (a) Dogmatic attitude of those in charge and in power to put forward and force into effect a plan which is considered for the good of the greatest number.
 - (b) A plan which is primarily for the purpose of redistributing wealth, increase buying power, and improve the condition of the masses, without regard as to the seriousness of the effect in case of individual industry or groups of industry.
 - (c) And upon the theory that such action is absolutely essential and now, if something decidedly more drastic and worse which is described as a complete overthrow of orderly procedure as we have learned to know it in taking over property and business by the masses, using forceful tactics if necessary, and that such will be the outcome during the coming Winter if the plan as outlined is not followed and followed promptly.
 - (d) That the above is the decided view of the doctrinaires who is in the majority and directing activities at present. Great stress was also laid upon the prominent part labor through the American Federation of Labor is playing, particularly in connection with its uncompromising views so far as so-called Company Unions were concerned.
 - (e) That Utilities generally, which include independent telephone companies as well as the AT&T, have been here and outlined their many problems, which are not greatly unlike those of the telegraph.
 - (f) That the attitude of the Administration is that everyone must sign the blanket code and that any variation from this procedure will break down the plan, and that this must not occur. That procedure must be to sign the blanket code, submit the individual code of the industry promptly, and undertake by that process to get such exceptions and relief as may be considered proper. That the submission of codes at a variance and not so liberally worded as the blanket code will be regarded as whittling at the plan, destructive and antagonistic.
 - (g) It is clear this does not represent Mr. C's views, but equally clear he is in no position to give any latitude as to the drafting and submitting of codes.
 - (h) At the conclusion of the conference, I asked if I was to understand that, plainly and bluntly put, that an industry which could not sign the blanket code because it could not afford to do so but was anxious to

be helpful and cooperative, had no other recourse but to refuse to sign it, pointing out that such a procedure doubtless would turn friends of the cause away who otherwise would be helpful, and as a result of our conference was I justified in so informing our Executive Committee.

- (1) Replied that he preferred to have opportunity to discuss our situation with General Johnson, which he would do and would wire me further promptly concerning.

Dear Franklin:-

Here is the
copy of a letter that
I wrote to the Gov.
of the Bahamas. I
hope you will
approve of the contents.
I purposely made it
vague regarding dates
etc.

I have just
wired Jimmy telling
him that we needed
him for pulling in
the whales. I certainly
hope that he reports a

for duty.

Regarding the shipping thing, I do wish that Mr. Heiman could see you. My memo is too brief to make much sense, & Heiman has a remarkably good grasp of the whole situation. Of course, I think that he is prejudiced in favor of a merger in order to avoid a bankruptcy which would fall on

his dept. which
is only natural.

Vincent.

PSP
Asker Mar. 1934
File

MEMORANDUM

in chronological order, concerning Munson-I.M.M.
Steamship Line situation.

1. In the last days of December 1933, representatives of the debenture holders of the Munson Steamship Line came to various officers of the I.M.M., and reported that the former was practically insolvent and could not continue operation much longer. The crews of three of the ships were threatening to libel their vessels, and the various suppliers of stores, etc., were refusing further credit. The situation seemed most critical. In consequence of considerable negotiations, which are too lengthy to describe, the I.M.M. advanced \$100,000. When this amount became available, the crews were satisfied, and small amounts were paid to creditors, on account.

2. Subsequent to the above, it seems that Mr. Frank Munson called on Senator Copeland, who in consequence had an interview with Secretary of Commerce Roper, the upshot of which was that the consensus of opinion appeared to be that there would be no objection to the I.M.M. combining with the Munson Line, as a solution to the latter's financial crisis.

3. About a month ago, I went to Washington and spent the night. During a conversation there that evening, I became convinced that any combination between the I.M.M. and the Munson Line would be most inopportune at this time. As a result of this, I have exerted myself to the end that no further steps be taken by the I.M.M. towards merging with Munson, and I ~~am~~ ^{am} confident that until my attitude changes in this regard, my opinion will be respected.

4. Last Monday, February 12th, Mr. Henry Heimann, Director of the Shipping Board Bureau of the Department of Commerce, came to see me at my house, accompanied

by John Franklin and Kermit Roosevelt. Our conversation lasted three hours, and while it covered many aspects, Mr. Heimann's main purpose appeared to be to induce me to withdraw my objections to the I.M.M.-Munson merger. He told me that the latter's financial situation was exceedingly critical, and that its insolvency was most imminent. He also made the interesting statement that, in line with his policy, he is demanding of the Munson Steamship Company \$28,000. per month out of their mail money. Under the present critical circumstances of the Munson Steamship Company, this sum it appears will even more quickly precipitate the crisis, which Heimann feels may have destructive results, both on our shipping and on our South American trade.

5. In view of the impressions that I gathered in Washington that any further activities as regards the merger might militate against the success of the larger picture, I am maintaining the position that this matter should not at the moment be actively pursued.

6. If I am in error in regard to this, and if it is indeed a fact that it would be in the public interest, and is desired by the Administration, to obviate the Munson receivership, I will, of course, desist from my present obstructive tactics.

What shall I do?

V. E.

, March 15th, 34.

My dear Clifford:

President Roosevelt expects to go for a short cruise in the MOUNTAIN, sailing from some Florida port during the last week in March. We hope to fish off the Bahama Banks, and eventually probably to go into the Tongue of the Ocean in search of bone-fish. On our way to the latter waters, we shall, of course, stop in at Nassau for a few hours. Of necessity, this date is somewhat variable, but I shall radio you as much in advance as possible of our expected time of arrival, and as soon as the MOUNTAIN is anchored at Nassau, will come ashore to pay my respects.

I very much hope that your Chief Pilot will find it possible to assign us the same anchorage as he did last year, for it proved most convenient, as well as secure for our draft of eighteen feet. While the President is aboard, the MOUNTAIN will be accompanied by a United States destroyer. These ships - though three hundred feet in length, and requiring considerable swinging room - have a draft of but eleven feet, and so I should imagine that finding a suitable anchorage for her would offer no difficulties whatever.

Last year you very kindly procured for us an excellent

-2-

March 15th, 1934.

fishing pilot, but this time I am glad to tell you that I shall not be putting you to all that trouble, for I am taking a man from Florida.

Looking forward to seeing you again, I am

Yours very sincerely,

VA:SW -

His Excellency, Sir Bede Clifford,
Governor, The Bahamas,
Nassau, Bahamas.

P.S.
Astor

Hyde Park, N. Y.
September 21, 1934.

Dear Vince:-

Yours of August fourth from Flores arrived today. When we purchase Flores from the Portugese Republic and set it up as an independent sovereignty, we must do something about the mail service. Also we must devise some titles. Emperors and Kings have been rather commonplace and are going out of date anyway. I think you as principal owner should assume the title of Khan or possibly Satrap. Lyty and Will can be Senior and Junior Sheiks respectively. I have titles for Kerm and Freddy but cannot dictate them!

Affectionately,

Vincent Astor, Esq.,
Rhinebeck,
New York.

Dear Franklin:-

This is
being written in
your favourite island
of Flores, and I
certainly agree with
your opinion of the
little place. It's
lovely, + the intensity
of cultivation on some
of the hillside
patches extraordinary.

The only fly in the
proverbial ointment
is that Flores does
(over)

not yet boast of
any automobiles.

It's darned hot,
so Robin + I are
facing a good
sweat stretching
our legs.

They say the
mail boat goes
"generally" once a
month. It will
be interesting to
see when and
if this fine letter
arrives, here are 2
postcards, too as reminders.
Vincent Aug. 4th 1934



*Ilha do Corvo
Açores*



Fajã Grande - Flores

<sup>"full
personal"</sup>
Dear Messy -

Will you
give this to
the President?
Don't get a
shock over the
bill on Page #3.

The President
is exempt.

K. R.

VINCENT ASTOR
NO 23 WEST 26TH STREET

BF
Astor

New York, September 26th, 1934.

Dear Mr. President:

Yesterday I had a one hour's talk with Henry Heimann. I started out by telling him that I felt that there was a need at this time for a man of the highest calibre to tackle this country's shipping problem, and that I knew of no one better fitted than he. I expressed the hope that he could find a way to return to the job that he had so capably started, even though it might be at a considerable personal sacrifice, etc. In saying this, I made it amply clear that I was representing my own personal hopes and wishes; not those of any one else. The reaction was admirable, and left me with no doubt whatsoever as to his willingness to serve, provided the conditions were such as to convince him of a reasonable opportunity to carry out effectively a job in the public service and for the American Merchant Marine. For the latter, he seems to have an almost romantic attachment, which of course endears him to me.

In discussing various possible means of Governmental support for American shipping, Heimann - to my great surprise - suggested the "Naval Reserve" as an alternative and possible method. His idea about this almost exactly paralleled yours, which is a curious coincidence, unless he originally obtained it from you, and that was a question that I did not like to ask.

When discussing the source of the greatest Congressional hostility to shipping, he several times repeated the wish that he could sit in on a first conference between you and Senators Black and McKellar. He seems to feel

To:
The President.

September 26th, 1934.

that he possesses enough facts to refute some of the statements that they might make to you, and also he thinks that he might soften their prejudices and antagonisms. In this latter regard, I should imagine that he might be an optimist, but I was impressed by the political intelligence of wanting to attempt this line. As the Director of Shipping, or whatever the job might be called, I can't help but feel that Heimann would surely "ring the bell".

At the end of our talk, I asked him to put into concise memorandum form some of the things that he had said to me, and this I shall forward on to you. If it impresses you favorably, I do wish tremendously that you could see your way to send for Heimann, and allow him to talk to you. I know that you would find him intelligent, and his ideas both interesting and constructive.

So much for serious subjects.

I think that you would have been proud of me, or at least of my remarks, had you heard them on the night in Newport when I first learned of the Race Committee's decision in regard to not considering Sopwith's protest. I told a large group of prominent N.Y.Y.C. yachtmen, assembled on the landing, that I proposed the following morning to proceed out of Newport Harbor flying the Royal Bermuda Yacht Club burgee, and with that of the New York Yacht Club hoisted in the main rigging upside down and at half staff; this to indicate both death and disaster. By the next morning I had cooled off a bit, and found that I had no Bermuda Club burgee anyway, which probably was just as well. However, I am not anticipating any invitations to serve again as Commodore of the Club.

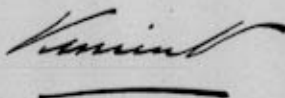
To:
The President.

September 26th, 1934.

The enclosed statement I sent to all of our recent shipmates. Oddly enough, however, I have had only one reply as yet - from George St. George - and the tone of that was hostile and contentious. Furthermore, he informed me in no uncertain but highly provocative terms, that he is placing the matter in the hands of his attorney - one alleged Judge Kernochan. I don't suppose that either the Constitution or precedent permits the President of the United States to undertake such activities; nevertheless, in the event of this deplorable matter reaching the stage of litigation, I shall hopefully ask you to represent my interests. I am sure that you could make the Judge and George look pretty sick; not to mention Kermit, and Jimmy, and Will, and Lytle.

I was, of course, delighted by your note, saying that you really had had a good time on our recent cruise. As to that, I always enjoy myself so much on your voyages that I am rather inclined to think that I am at least one up on all of you in that regard. I shall certainly not forget - nor will the NOURMAHAL - your suggestion about next spring. By that time, the old tub will have a nice new set of piston-heads, so that she will not have to be nursed along, as was necessary last week. Also, I am in hopes of an extra half-knot of speed.

Respectfully and affectionately,



A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Kermit", with a horizontal line underneath it.

VA:SW
Enc.

The President,
Washington, D. C.

PLEASE REMIT
WITHOUT FURTHER DELAY

No. 23 WEST 26th ST.

New York September 20th, 1934.

To VINCENT ASTOR, Dr.

TO: Five Days' Transportation aboard the Yacht NOURMAHAL, at \$25. per diem	\$ 125 00
Cost of Raw Food for Five Days	NO CHARGE
Heating and Boiling charges on above Supplies, at \$. per diem	30 00
Expenses incurred for Alcoholic Stimulants and repeated Correc- tives (NOTE: The Chief Steward reports that consumption of the above Stores was so Vast as to overwhelm his Accounting System.) A Reasonable and Blanket Charge is therefore being made of \$37.50 per diem, or	187 50
Twelve Cigars - (Aromas Pontificales) @ \$1.50 each	18 00
Seventeen Cigars - (Profundo Magnifico), @ \$.90 each	15 30
Matches	NO CHARGE
Wasteful use of Matches: Negligent and inattentive handling thereof	1 00
CARRIED FORWARD - - - - -	\$ 376 80

PAGE TWO.

No. 23 WEST 26th ST.

New York, Sept. 20th, 1934.

PLEASE REMIT
WITHOUT FURTHER DELAY

To VINCENT ASTOR, Dr.

	BROUGHT FORWARD - - - -	\$ 376 80
TO:	Use of Backgammon Table, and other Speculative Paraphernalia	NO CHARGE
	General Abuse and Battering of above- mentioned Table, etc., through exhibitions of Nasty Temper, etc.	21 00
	Use of Radio	NO CHARGE
	Inept and Stupid Handling of Dials and Knobs on Instrument, thereby causing Havoc	19 50
	Expensive and Wasteful Use of Launches, with attendant Fuel Expenditures, for purposes of Frumping, and Allied Activities ashore	15 00
	Chipping Mother-of-Pearl Surfaces of Bell Contacts, through Impatient Punching of the above, to hasten the arrival of Correctives	1 90
	CARRIED FORWARD	<u>\$ 434 20</u>

PAGE THREE.

No. 23 WEST 26th ST.

New York, Sept. 20th, 1934.

To VINCENT ASTOR, Dr.

	BROUGHT FORWARD - - - -	\$ 434 20
TO:	Continuous and Unrestrained Stamp- ing on Robin's Tail, thereby causing Anguish and Grief	<u>100 00</u>
	<u>T O T A L</u> - - - -	\$ 534 20
	10% Ship's Discount	<u>53 42</u>
	<u>G R A N D T O T A L</u>	<u>\$ 587 62</u>

THE ABOVE ACCOUNT WAS PAYABLE IN ADVANCE.

IT IS NOW OVER DUE

KINDLY REMIT IMMEDIATELY

**PLEASE REMIT
WITHOUT FURTHER DELAY**

Interest charge per diem 3-1/8 per centum.

PSF: V. 22. 1934?
October 24th

FERNCLIFF
RHINEBECK, N.Y.

Dear Franklin.

Very very many thanks for the photograph. I was just about to communicate with Miss Le Hand to ask her to remind you that you had promised me one, when it appeared. I am so happy to have it, and shall cherish it.

I am so hoping that I shall see you when you come up for

Election Day. Will you be up for
the weekend? - Would be so
delighted if you will come for
a meal - or, better still, spend
the weekend with us!

I had hoped to get out to Chicago
but V. is very tied down in the
houses of giving birth to Astoria
- or Molokai - as the case may be
and I haven't the energy to organize
myself a party.

Laura has been really ill

with dreadful sinus, says she was in
a coma the night we dined there,
but now decidedly better.

Again thanks dearest Franklin,
and I look forward to seeing
you within a fortnight.

My affection, and devotion
as always.

Helen [astor]

VINCENT ASTOR
NO 23 WEST 20TH STREET

*file
personal*

PSF: V. Astor

New York, October 30th, 1934.

Dear Franklin:

I have been laid up for the last week with a most terrible case of the flu, and the only thoughts that I have had have revolved around pills and nose sprays, and castor oil, and appalling things like that. This morning ^{your} present came - "Backgammon to Win" - and I don't know whether it, with its inscription, is going to make me feel better or very much worse. Of course, I have always felt that you and I could give anybody lessons in that particular sport, and without any further knowledge or skill either, but if it will make you ^{more confident} ~~happy~~, I will now put my poor old rather diseased and moronic mind on the book and study it with such energy as I may still possess. All of which sounds rather sad.

Here is something which will make you sad, and I am sure that your distress is going to be much greater than mine. The Chris-Craft has had a complete collapse! Whenever the NOURMAL is laid up, all the launches are given a good going over and general inspection, and your favorite boat is reported to be in the following condition.

1. Engine worn out (cylinder block cracked).
2. Hull generally suffering from dry rot.
3. About a third of the ribs badly rotted.
4. Boat condemned for further use.

This, of course, is all pretty terrible, and rather expensive too. Since

To: The President.

-2-

October 30th, 1934.

Helen tells me that you are going to be in Hyde Park for Election weekend, I am going to appear at your house on one of those days with a catalogue of all the nice, new Chris-Crafts. You are certainly the one who ought to do the choosing. I only wish that I could get a boat which would have an automatic sea anchor, which would unfold astern and enormously reduce your speed every time the weather looks particularly threatening off Squeazy Cay.

Affectionately and respectfully,

Vernon

VA:SW

The President,
Washington, D. C.

P.S. - I have just had a letter from the beautiful Jane. (This honestly is true). She asks me to come around to see her, and to bring Robin, too, so that she can do a portrait of him. Do you suppose that the horrible Creek that she married turned out to be a flop, and that I have some sort of a chance after all? I am rather hoping so.

V

Seriously, Thanks ever so much for the book. I really will study it & then always give Kermit a lesson. Please forgive the pencil, for I know that I will spell out in the bed if I tried & then. (over)

P.S. Pp. A curious thing about
that book is that it has
pictures of bottles & glasses
at the bottom of every page.
Maybe, that will give me
some Brand New Ideas!

PSF: U. Actn 1934?

Saturday.

FERNCLIFF

RHINEBECK, N.Y.

Dearest Franklin -

Some lovely pleasures
with my love!

How are you - Wouldn't
you come and have a
meal with us tomorrow or

Monday? It would make
me so happy - of course
want your Mother, and
Miss LeHand too - or any
one you care to bring -

In fairness to you, I feel
I must tell you that Teda
is no longer here -

(She has moved to the Bronx
Zoo) but in spite of her
absence I hope so very
much that you will come -
Lunch or dinner or tea or -
if you must - breakfast!

Affectionately

Helen

[initials]

Tel. No. 7

1
PSF: V. Astor

[1934?]

Y

23 WEST TWENTY-SIXTH STREET

Dear Franklin:-

This is one
of those few occasions
when I would give
a lot to be a literary
genius, for then I
might, in this letter,
be able adequately
to express how
thoroughly I appreciate
the sleeve links.

The fact is that

23 WEST TWENTY-SIXTH STREET.

your present has given
me more pleasure than
anything else this
Christmas, for the links,
with their engraved
initials, are for me the
finest in this world.

Some day, and some
how, I am hoping that
my chance may come
to show how much I
appreciate your
thoughtfulness of me.
Affectionately
Yours.

PSF: V. Astor

VINCENT ASTOR
NO 23 WEST 20TH STREET

Yes
New York, February 1st, 1935.

Dear Mr. President:

I have spent two interesting and, I think, effective hours with Arthur Brisbane. At their conclusion, he admitted and finally expressed the belief that if Hearst, and all others possessed of either or both a financial stake and a sincere desire for the well-being and stability of this country, don't get BEHIND you and do it quickly, they just might some years from now find themselves UNDER the Hueys, or the cracked doctrines of the Dr. Townsends. That was quite an admission from the conservative and generally optimistic Brisbane.

In general, A.B. I think no longer carries much weight with Hearst as to his newspaper policies. At certain times though - times that seem sufficiently critical - I know that he can influence him immensely.

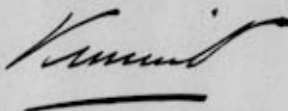
Brisbane leaves tonight for Miami, where he expects to remain only two or three days. I took it upon myself to suggest that on his return next week, he should stop off at Washington to see you; first wiring Missy. He says that he, of course, will do that, provided you care to see him. I know that this sounds presumptuous, but I tremendously hope that you will. A very few words by you and some sympathetic listening perhaps, would, I believe, lead Brisbane to recommend to W. R. a radical and dramatic change in the attitude of his publications. For the moment, I have him at that point. You, however, could crystallize that attitude in a more permanent way than lies within my capacity. Brisbane is

-2-

February 1st, 1935.

tremendously friendly to you personally. As Exhibit A, he gave me the enclosed from the "Mirror", which he now edits.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Vincent", with a horizontal line drawn underneath it.

VA:SW
Enc.

The President,
Washington, D. C.

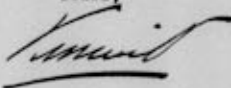
VINCENT ASTOR
NO 23 WEST 20TH STREET

New York, February 1st, 19 35.

Dear Missy:

If you think well
enough of this letter, will you
please give it to the President?

Yours,



VA:SW
Enc.

Miss Marguerite A. LeHand,
The White House,
Washington, D. C.

PSF: V. Astor

file

VINCENT ASTOR
NO 23 WEST 26TH STREET

New York, May 6th, 1935.

Dear Franklin:

The enclosed represent the efforts of our Radio Operator with his fine camera on our last day aboard "Nourmahal", which strike me as being pretty good.

Our passage to Bermuda was for the most part smooth and entirely uneventful, except for a deluge of rain that continued almost unceasingly. The fish suffered no fatalities whatever, which for me is quite a transportation record, and since then - according to Helen, who has just returned from Bermuda - only one has died, - unfortunately the large black trigger with the ~~irradiant~~ *irridium* stripe. Apparently the hook that he swallowed continued further into his insides, causing a violent case of colitis. If that be true, surely Jimmy and I ought to sympathize.

Also enclosed with this letter is a bill which has been duly sent to our various seagoing friends, and which, believe it or not, has been given a very poor and unproductive reception, in consequence of which your counsel and advice (contingent fee basis only) would not only be helpful, but in fact is badly needed.

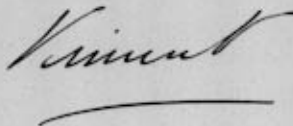
Turning to more serious topics, I am looking forward to Wednesday evening with you, plus Coblentz and Ray. I don't for one moment believe, or even hope, that the results will become immediately perceptible, for Coblentz is a stubborn little man, though actually, to my way of thinking, just as fair-minded as they come. Nevertheless, if you will draw him out - which you

-2-

May 6th, 1933.

can do better than any one else in all this world - and let him spill out a good part of his boss's worries, for your consideration, I know that the evening will eventually prove to have not been wasted.

Affectionately and respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Vincent", with a horizontal line underneath.

VA:SW
Encs.

The President,
Washington, D. C.

The Timid Soul

BY WEBSTER

SUPPOSE HE IS THE PRESIDENT
OF THE UNITED STATES — THAT
DON'T MAKE HIM THE GREATEST
FISHERMAN IN THE WORLD
DOES IT?



MR. MILQUETOAST, WILL NOT
STAND FOR TREASON

No. 23 WEST 26th ST.

New York, April 30th, 1935.

Specimen!

To VINCENT ASTOR, Dr.

TO:

Cruising in the Bahamas	NO CHARGE
Seventeen elementary lessons in Geography and the Science of Pilotage relating to the above Voyage, at \$3. per lesson	\$ 51 00
Wear and tear on Geography Book, through misguided and stubborn thumbing over wrong pages	2 00
Excavation of and damage to bottom of Bahamian Channels, in consequence of intensive search for inland passages and (alleged) deep lagoon	25 00
Nerve Balm for Captain Brown, Commander Buckmaster and Captain Klang, incident to above adventure	10
Mental Solace to Axel in compensation for continuous vindictive criticism of general management and control of port launch	01
Storage, care, and transportation of dainty, flowered, feminine frock, brought aboard through unexplained amorous adventure	1 50
Fumigation of above frock	5 00
CARRIED FORWARD	\$ 84 81

PAGE TWO.

No. 23 WEST 26th ST.

New York, April 30th, 1935.

To VINCENT ASTOR, Dr.

BROUGHT FORWARD	\$ 84	61
Inept waste of fishbait through faulty methods	1	25
Unrestricted and exorbitant use of Bahamian Mustard - 3 jars at 90¢ each	2	70
Excessive consumption of beer and ale, consequent on thirst occasioned by above - 87 bottles at 25¢ each	21	75
Consumption of Coca-Cola and Moxie for same reason - NONE		
Ship's discount on Profit and/or Loss accruing from Roosevelt Family Benefit Poker Game	14	17
Penalties and fines covering disappearance of illus- trated literature now missing from Ship's Library	3	25
Photographic Memento and Curioso of Yachting Group en masse, enclosed herewith		05
Art work, retouching and cosmetic labors necessary to render previous item presentable and attractive	11	00
TOTAL	\$ 138	78
THIS BILL IS PAID AS PRESENTED.		
INTEREST AT 3-1/8% PER DIEM, COMPOUNDED.		

PSF: V. Astor

VINCENT ASTOR
NO 23 WEST 20TH STREET

New York, November 20th, 1935.

Dear Franklin:

On behalf of your new grandchild (my crystal Queen Trigger), myself and all of the after-guard of the MOURNFUL, I want you to know what a swell time we had last Monday night. It really was a fine party, and I hated leaving without spending the night, though now I am glad that I did, for poor old Kermit (going to the Station and on the train) was pretty well sunk in consequence of the telephone messages that he had received concerning his mother. This morning's news sounds definitely better, and I only hope that it will continue so.

Don't you think that it would be nice to have another one of these parties, although the next one ought to be on me, even though it were to be before we are all again afloat and at sea together? Maybe the next time that you are in Hyde Park, I could have all the others up to stay with me, and then you might come up to "Ferncliff" for dinner, although I might just as well confess now that I am not the possessor of any 1830 brandy! As a matter of fact, I don't believe that you are either any more, after the inroads of Monday night.

Yesterday afternoon, down at the Western Union meeting, Averell Harriman came up to me with a gleam in his eye, and the Oxford something or other dictionary in his hand, for the purpose of demonstrating that Counsellor is spelled with two LLs. His authority sounded fairly high-toned and British, so I have just looked up the debatable point in Mr. Funk and Wagnall's masterpiece, and there again I find two LLs specified. Maybe Fred and Averell are pretty good spellers after all!

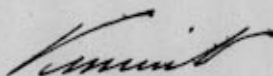
-2-

November 20th, 1935.

I do hope that you will have the nicest sort of a time down in Warm Springs, but will not enjoy that swimming so much as to forget a certain prospective November voyage in saltier and fishier waters than Warm Springs can ever have.

The Queen Trigger sends her love.

Affectionately and respectfully,



VA:SV

The President
Warm Springs, Georgia.

STANDARD FORM No. 14A
APPROVED BY THE PRESIDENT
MARCH 16, 1928

TELEGRAM

OFFICIAL BUSINESS—GOVERNMENT RATES

DAY LETTER

VINCENT ASTOR, ESQ.,
23 WEST 26TH STREET
NEW YORK CITY, N. Y.

THE PRESIDENT SAYS ARTICLE IS GRAND STOP HE IS THRILLED TO
KNOW THAT COULTER IS BEING MARRIED AND ASKS THAT YOU GIVE
HIM HIS BEST WISHES

FROM

PSF: V. Astor
The White House
Washington

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 72553

June 28, 1937.

Answer 37

MISSY

OFFICIAL BUSINESS—GOVERNMENT SERVICE

TELETYPE

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

June 25, 1937.

MEMO FOR THE P. S.

The President said to tell him he thinks it is grand. Also that he is particularly thrilled to know that Coulter is being married and to congratulate him for the President.

G. G. T.

VINCENT ASTOR
NO 23 WEST 26TH STREET

New York, June 23rd, 19 37.

Dear Missy:

The New Yorker Magazine is doing one of their so-called "Profiles" of me, and in the writing of this Ethel Russell (daughter of Mrs. Bordie Harriman) is collaborating. Ethel, having known me all her life - better perhaps than any other friend of mine - put into the story, from her own knowledge, a few references of my friendship with the President. On discovering this, I asked The New Yorker to send me a copy of all that they expected to use in this particular regard, which I now enclose to you. The material strikes me as thoroughly innocuous and unobjectionable, but I would obviously appreciate it if you or the President, or both of you, would go over it and change or throw out any portions that he does not like.

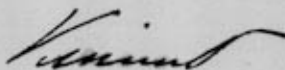
Mary Cushing tells me that Jimmy told her over the weekend that the President probably could not go to the Yacht Races with us, as he has arranged to be in Hyde Park the end of the month. This rather leads me to wonder whether Mary or Jimmy are not all mixed up in their dates, for I know that the President expects to be in the country ten days from now, and the Races, of course, do not come until the end of July; Saturday, the 31st, to be exact. If I pick him up in New York, he would not have to leave Washington before Friday afternoon, and could be back in the White House early Tuesday P.M., meanwhile seeing Saturday's and Monday's Races, and on Sunday maybe (a big question mark here) catch a few fish off Block Island. It is these sort of arrangements that I wanted to talk over with him, if he is coming. Monday and Wednesday

-2-

June 23rd, 1937.

evenings would seem to be the only possible times for me to come to Washington. Friday I expect to be at sea, bound for Bermuda. Thursday he is marrying off Franklin, Jr., and on Tuesday I myself have simply got to go to a wedding here. You might tell the President that Mr. Coulter, who has been the Real Estate Attorney in this office for over thirty years, and whom he must have known well in his old C.L.M. days, is finally getting married after about sixty years of bachelorhood. Brave man, don't you think?

Yours,



VA:SW
Enc.

Miss Marguerite A. Le Hand,
The White House,
Washington, D. C.

James Roosevelt, one of the executors of his father's will, remained with V.A. in an advisory capacity, and he put Nicholas Biddle, also a friend of his father's, in charge of the office. V.A. says, referring to business, "these two men taught me what little I know."

V.A. had known James Roosevelt, whom he called "Uncle Rosey," since early childhood, dead now-he was a half brother of Franklin. It was through James Roosevelt's friendship with his father, and because they were neighbors on the Hudson, that Vincent first knew Franklin. At that time Franklin seemed a lot older, it was not until much later that V.A. "grew to be the same age."

After F.D.R.'s illness "Uncle Rosey" asked V.A. if Franklin might have the use of his indoor swimming pool, at Rhinebeck, swimming being a vital part of Franklin's treatment. V.A. gladly agreed. In this way they ran into each other more often.

During the war Franklin Roosevelt, as Assistant Secretary of the Navy, was called upon by his half brother, James, to locate V.A. (who was by this time serving as ensign on his yacht "Noma" somewhere in the war zone) and give proof that he was alive. The object being that in the signing of legal papers, although "Uncle Rosey" had power of attorney, it was often necessary to prove that V.A. was alive at an exact specific time. He might be alive for instance when he sent a certain cable, but not at the moment of "Uncle Rosey's" receipt of it.

It was not until a good deal later, however, when Franklin Roosevelt became Governor of New York, that V.A. renewed and refreshed their friendship.

He liked Franklin tremendously and his admiration grew steadily, until in F.D.R.'s first presidential campaign V.A. gave him his full support. Since then Vincent has taken no active part in Politics.

Through this first campaign their friendship was cemented--they had a background of years and much in common.

F.D.R. took his first trip on the Nourmahal as President elect. There have been three or four subsequent trips.

V.A. says he never forgets that F.D.R. is President, calls him Franklin in private life, but in more formal moments addresses him as Mr. President, answers Yes and No Sir. Always stands up when he comes into the room. V.A. enjoys these trips with the President, although always conscious of the responsibility. When asked by reporters if he has had a fine trip and a good rest, always feels like answering, "a fine trip, but not such a good rest."

V.A. feels that he has little or no influence on the President. Never asks for favors for himself or others. Is deterred from this by the feeling of their private and personal friendship.

As the world knows the President is an ardent and indefatigable fisherman. Whenever he is on board, the Nourmahal tracks are made for the appointed fishing ground where the chief executive loses no time in getting to work. While under way, he spends most of his time relaxing--conversing, reading books and magazines.

VINCENT ASTOR
NO 23 WEST 28TH STREET

*2 telegram
sent to VA
in Bermuda
JR has copy*

PSF: V. Astor
file

New York, January 13th, 1938.

Dear Franklin:

I am so glad that the penguin was a success. However, I am afraid that his insides are merely made of tin, or something of the sort, and I only hope that they will not turn to rust.

I had a more or less tentative plan with Jimmy to come to Washington this week, but two days ago heard from him that he would have to stay on at his fine new Massachusetts farm, on account of Sarah being laid up with some sort of a fever, which I do hope is not serious.

Saturday I expect to go to Bermuda for ten days in order to put my house there to bed for the next few months. As soon as I return, I would very much like to come to Washington, primarily to see you, and incidentally to have a talk with O.N.I. This spring I have planned a voyage right across the Pacific, and proceeding home either through or in the vicinity of the Marshall Islands. If that is practicable, it should prove interesting.

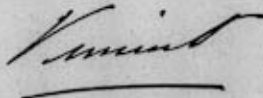
Though it may seem otherwise, I have not been forgetful of not talking to you recently about our poor old friend whom we discussed in Hyde Park. Shortly after you and I saw each other, things went from bad to a whole lot worse, and, for a while, thoroughly out of any effective or intelligent control. Recently, thank goodness, the situation has greatly improved, and I would immensely like to have your advice for the future. When I return

-2-

January 13th, 1939.

at the end of this month, I shall call up Jimmy, to see if you and I may perhaps have one of our old evenings together, just in case you have that much time to give away.

Respectfully and affectionately,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Vincent", with a horizontal line underneath.

VA:SW

The President,
Washington, D. C.

PSF
Astor

May 18, 1938.

Dear Vince:-

It was grand to get your letter via Kermit who arrived here yesterday. He looks infinitely better than before he left and I do hope that the result will be permanent.

All you write about the trip is extraordinarily interesting and I think your judgment was wholly correct. I will not say more until I see you.

I understand you get to Bermuda about the twenty-fifth and will be back about a week later. I expect to spend Sunday, the twenty-ninth, at Hyde Park, and will be back there again the day after Johnny's wedding, June nineteenth.

Affectionately,

Vincent Astor, Esq.,
Surrey Reach,
St. Georges.

all confidential
PSEctor Sunday
130 EAST EIGHTIETH STREET

Jan-2
1939

Dear Mr. President.

Things up
our alley are going
really well.

Neptune and
Justicia, in this district,
are having a regular
honeymoon. They even
want a private Tele-
type wire between their
offices. Anyone
predicting that a month
ago would have been
told to have his (over)

Lead examined!

Thanks to the
push that Henry M.
has happily given
his boys, they and
Justice are now at
least on speaking
terms. Until three
days ago, when I
had them all here at
this house, they had
not even met.

Yesterday, under the
same circumstances,
they actually

(2)

130 EAST EIGHTIETH STREET

Compared notes and
traded memoranda.

I'm not expecting
any romance here,
but am hoping for
a platonic relation-
ship that will serve
the purpose.

Gee Too is
unfortunately not in
the game. He may
be all right abroad,
but he can't play.
(over)

our domestic golf
for he hasn't any
clubs. Some day
I should like to talk
to you about getting
him a set, at
negligible cost.

Tomorrow, I am
starting to work on
the banks, using the
Chase as the Gannet
Pig. Espionage
and Sabotage need
money, and that has
to pass through the

(3)

130 EAST EIGHTIETH STREET

banks at one stage
or another. What we
need is to have them
volunteer information,
and not merely to
allow themselves to be
tapped, — when asked.

At present, we must
be missing things in
their early stages.

The Club is
receiving a considerable
amount of Satir (over)

and some Caviar.
How profitable it is,
I don't know, though
Walter A. might be
able to tell you.

All our food comes
^{sealed}
in cans, so it's
doubtless indigestible,
and the service slow.
(Sounds like a
poor restaurant!)

This week we
expect to open our
Long Island Clubhouse
and hope to have a
good supply of

(Cont)

130 EAST EIGHTIETH STREET

Pilsner beer, arranged
by radio. I had
also expected by now
to have available some
genuine hot Tomales,
but that dish has
been a total failure.

I don't know why,
but hope to, soon.

Maybe the cook
Telephones too much, and
that is tough.

Things, nevertheless,
are looking up.

Respectfully
Vincent.

PSF
Astor

Sum a
Det 20
39

After your conversation over the wire on Monday afternoon (September 25th) we made arrangements to cover the radio spectrum in accordance with your wishes. The observations have been continuous up to Wednesday midnight (September 27th). There have been two men on duty at all times patrolling all frequencies that would be likely to carry communication of the type under discussion.

They have used from one to two receivers each in order to cover as much ground as possible.

During all of this time there has been very little observed that could be definitely said to be other than legitimate transmission; except in a few cases where it was not possible to identify the station because of the character of the signaling. In making this search an operator running across a transmission that cannot be immediately identified will stop and stay with it for a sufficient time to determine the character of the transmission and to see if the station is on or near its nominal frequency.

Frequencies covered ranged from 32 megacycles to 15 kilocycles, depending upon the time of day, the higher frequencies being useful only during daylight hours.

Mexican stations on their regular channels were observed working with Germany and Japan which are normal circuits. They at times handled five letter or five figure code groups to these countries which could of course carry secret information.

During Monday night at intervals signals were heard on about 6800 kc. which tuned fairly sharp. They seemed to partake of the nature of a power line leak. They consisted of irregular spurts and at times what appeared to be a good continental Morse signal would come through. Our men decided finally that it was a power line leak of some sort.

Tuesday night at 8 P.M. a station was observed on 12201 kc. sending facsimile signals which we could not decipher because of lack of facsimile receiving equipment.

There is no doubt in my mind but that we could resolve such signals if it were desirable to do so. It would be necessary to take one of our facsimile receivers and then to find out what kind of a system the station under observation was using, that is, what the Rpm of his drum was etc. Then it would be possible to either use an oscillator that could be adjusted to bring our machine into synchronism with his or to use one of our standard facsimile driving forks and to change the gearing between the motor and drum to conform to the drum speed requirements of the station under observation.

It is at once obvious that facsimile would be a nice way of secretly transmitting information because of the difficulty of unlocking it by any ordinary methods.

According to the Berne listing of frequencies this station could have been JMI Japan, PTP Brazil, FVF5 Brazil, or COCB Cuba. The station did not identify itself while under observation.

At 10:45 P.M. Tuesday a station on 9090 kc. was observed handling five figure code. This station was on the frequency of CLF in Cuba.

At 10:11 A.M. Wednesday a station was observed on 16980 kc. sending automatic signals of some sort. They could have been teleprinter signals or multiplex type signals. A multiplex type of signal might be particularly hard to crack open because of the many variations in the methods of sending the channel sequences and the possibility of rotating sequences on a prearranged schedule. Nevertheless I believe that something could be done with such a signal if given

time enough to work up the special equipment that would be required.

The Berne list shows that this station could have been station RRRH in Russia or it could have been one of the Tropical Radio Company's stations at Boston or New Orleans. However, the Boston station could be heard working through this station with continental Morse signals.

This observation has been too short to be productive of the kind of information that we are looking for. It emphasizes the difficulties of a hunt of this kind and shows that a great deal of time and effort will have to be spent to obtain such information. It is estimated that there are between 75000 and 100,000 stations in the world each of which would be a potential transmitter for which we might be looking.

Organized observations would of course eliminate many of these and concentrate on certain parts of the frequency spectrum. For instance, at night it would be probable that a station would pick some frequency between 4 and 17 megacycles with a preference around 10 to 12 megacycles. In the daytime the range would be 10 to 30 mc. with a preference around 15 mc.

By a concentration of effort in these bands at the appropriate time of day it would be possible to sort out suspicious signals. Analysis of such signals would lead to the setting up of special equipment such as facsimile, teleprinter or multiplex if necessary to resolve the signals into decipherable characters.

Portable transmitting stations would be most likely to use high frequency equipment for it is here that the relatively small amount of power possible with a portable transmitter could be made to cover the distance necessary. ~~xxxxx~~ At the same time portable equipment would make complicated equipment such as multiplex or facsimile more difficult to use although not an entire impossibility.

The simplest method of carrying on transmission such as we have under consideration would be to send coded material by straight continental Morse and then for greater secrecy to either shift the frequency often by means of a prearranged schedule or to divide the material to be transmitted, sending alternate code groups; or alternate figure or letter groups from these code groups on two or more different frequencies. The recipient of such communications would be able to put the material received together in the right order. The observer trying to unlock the information could no doubt do so after much labor but the information might not be of much use because of the time lapse necessary for deciphering.

We will be glad to undertake such a program on an extensive scale if it seems desirable.

Frank R. Aclon

Starting at about 3:30 P.M.E. yesterday (Tuesday) a continuous watch on radio observation was established, using two men and four receivers each trick.

The method employed is to start with the receivers tuned to the highest frequencies which can be heard and gradually work lower in frequency until the entire spectrum has been covered. As each signal is heard, the log is checked and the station identified. In no case do we leave a signal until positive information is obtained as to the call letters, location, or character of business being handled.

As would be expected, we find an extremely large number of transmissions which appear perfectly legitimate. We also observe a large number of stations sending material in foreign languages and in cipher. We are unable to say whether any of these transmissions are suspicious or not, but where the station signs calls letters agreeing with the Berne list we assume that there is nothing which can be done about it. The normal circuits working out of Germany, Mexico, etc., have undergone no change as far as we can discover.

One point of interest is the change which has taken place in the handling of ship to shore traffic. Due to war conditions, most of the passenger vessels seal the radio upon leaving New York, and it is not again used during the trip. The only exception we have noted is the United States Lines ships which still use the radio. This makes it necessary to broadcast messages to the other ships. The delivery is not acknowledged until the ship reaches port. In one case a Swedish boat acknowledged 92 messages out of 2000 sent. We understand that Berne has now made a rule permitting acceptance of messages at reduced rates and at sender's risk. These messages are broadcast or delivered at pier on arrival.

At 10:50 P.M.E. we noted a conversation between two stations near 10.23 mc, which did not sign. We made note of this and will watch at this point until we are certain who they are. The signals were quite weak.

PSF
Aster

File
Personal
Ken-2

Dear Mary :

The attached
is some information that
the President asked me
to get for him.

Respectfully,
Vernon.

She was sent to the President
in early Nov. 1939

Lazard Freres are members of the Stock Exchange, are in the business of underwriting, and do a sizable investment banking business. Their business is international in scope and substantial offices and connections are maintained in Paris and London. Branch offices in the United States are maintained in the following centers:

Boston and Chicago - opened in 1935.

Philadelphia and Hartford - opened in 1936.

They state that as soon as the British and French purchasing commissions are set up and ready to function, they will be ready and anxious for any business that comes their way.

New York banking connections are The Chase Bank, Guaranty Trust, National City, Bankers Trust, First National.

Dear Mr. President:-

*The above is
all that I have been able to
get concerning Lazard.*

*Respectfully
Yours*

*file
personal*

*PSF
Astor*

Ham ~

23 WEST TWENTY-SIXTH STREET

New York, December twenty-sixth,
Nineteen Thirty-nine.

1939

Dear Franklin:

I do want you to know how immensely I appreciate that beautiful collection of "Naval Sketches of the War in California", with the introduction by you, and the descriptive matter by Captain Knox. You must have found me thoroughly unappreciative the other morning when you were describing it, which I most certainly was, for I had no adequate realization of what was to come. As a publishing and reproduction job, I should put this book far ahead of anything that has come from Rockwell Kent. To me it is especially interesting, since I ^{have} spent so much time cruising along those coasts.

Thank you, too, for that fine capacious ash

tray with your initials and mine. It will be just the thing for NOURMAHAL, and ought to encourage careless friends to adequately dispose of their cigars, etc., instead of leaving them about to burn holes in table tops. The only person I still wouldn't trust is our friend George, when his consumption of port reaches a certain stage. We must try to house-break him, if we take him on another cruise.

For my presents, thank you again so much. In comparison, the pope and I did a rotten job for you, and I'm feeling ashamed.

Affectionately and respectfully,

Vincent Astor

[1940?]

FERNCLIFF
RHINEBECK, N.Y.

PSF 1
Aster

Dear Missy :-

Here are
the only references to
yesterday's delayed
sailing that I find in
the N.Y. papers.

They certainly are
harmless.

file
as confidential

Yours
Vincent

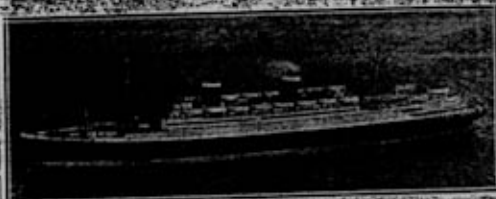
Liner Held 2 Hours For Envoy's Mail

The United States liner Washington, bound for Italy, delayed her sailing two hours yesterday waiting arrival of a pouch of diplomatic mail from Washington.

In view of President Roosevelt's activities toward keeping Italy out of the war, it was assumed the contents of the mail pouch were of more than ordinary importance.

The Washington, when she finally sailed, carried 220 passengers.

With Secret Orders?



The United States liner Washington.

Eye U. S. Ship Crew as Nazi Postal Aids

By David Charnay and George Dixon.

As a result of two raids aboard the U. S. liner Washington, in search of contraband mail destined for Germany, "certain members of the crew" are being kept under surveillance. Newbold T. Lawrence, vice-president and general manager of the line, revealed yesterday.

The first raid, it was disclosed, was staged last April 7 by customs agents, under John Roberts, chief of special investigators. They had received complaints that the liner was a hotbed of Nazi sympathizers and that Bund meetings were held nightly in the ship's carpenter shop. Roberts' officers were aided by three raiders. According to reports, they contained information which would be of value to the Nazis. They were to have been mailed into Germany from a neutral port, probably Genoa, Italy, to evade the British contraband control.

A second raid, it was further revealed, was made at sea by Capt. Harry Manning and ship's officers. Manning admitted he and his men invaded the ship's carpenter shop, but said that all they found in the way of forbidden matter were several cases of gin and whisky.

Manning refused to discuss charges by a member of the crew that subversive activities were rampant on the vessel. He also declined comment on further charges that many of the seamen under him are definitely pro-Nazi and have made little effort to conceal their leanings.

Another high official of the line said the investigation was continuing.

"We are conducting our own in-

vestigation," he said. "If we find the ship is being used for subversive activities we will turn the matter over to the proper authorities."

Washington Sails After Mail Delay

Delayed more than two hours from that its important mail from Washington could be taken aboard, the U. S. liner Washington sailed at 2:10 P. M. yesterday for Naples and Genoa, carrying 227 passengers, 16 of whom are American citizens.

While Capt. Harry A. Manning refused to comment on the Mediterranean crisis, it was believed he sailed with secret orders directing his procedure should Italy enter the war. Capt. Manning said his orders were, necessarily, confidential.

The delay to await the mail followed a telephone request from Washington. At about 2 P. M. the mail arrived in three small leather pouches, such as are used in the diplomatic service.

Among the passengers were eight American volunteer ambulance drivers, representing the first contingent of the Benjamin Franklin Unit of the American Volunteer Ambulance Corps. They will enter active service in June, a spokesman said.

DAILY ALMANAC

Important Mail Starts for Italy On Washington

U.S. Liner Sailing With 227 Waits 2 Hours for Tardy Dispatches From Capital

Held up more than two hours to await the arrival of important mail from Washington, the United States liner Washington sailed at 2:07 p.m. yesterday for Naples and Genoa. The mail, understood to have been delayed in train passage, was rushed aboard in three small leather pouches at 2 p.m. by V. G. Mitchell, vice-president in charge of passenger traffic of the United States Lines, said he had received a telephone message from Washington requesting that the ship be held until the mail could be picked up.

The sailing was a somber affair, for most of the liner's 227 passengers were apprehensive over a possible outbreak of hostilities in the Mediterranean. Capt. Harry A. Manning, asked if he had received any specific instructions as to his course in the event Italy entered the war, replied that his orders were necessarily of a secret nature and could not be disclosed.

"Naturally we have to face facts," he said, but declined to amplify his statement.

Among the seventy-four Americans on board was a group of eight volunteer ambulance drivers of the Red Cross, Franklin Smith, one of the American Volunteer Ambulance Corps. Upon their arrival in France they will have a period of training and will enter active service with the Allies in the early part of June. A spokesman for the group said the volunteers were: S. Safford, a young thirty-year-old of Bowling Green, Ky.

1923 S. Carson Avenue
Other A. Mu. Amer. dam. W. order. H. B. General sum 2.1. tary. C. Rome. vate se. Ican. Riddick. bassy. preside. Mrs. H. Rudolph. Comm. Says. Fo. Prof. U. The toward. govern. econom. law and soc. Cly. ment. York. a lunch. Forty. was. on. W. donal. tennia. "We such. state. operat. ing. t. gester. block. of. nat. The. utter. of. We shall. ways. nof.

Liner to Italy Is Held Up Here for Diplomatic Mail

The government delayed the sailing of the U. S. liner Washington for two and a quarter hours yesterday to carry diplomatic dispatches, presumably on the war situation, from President Roosevelt to American Ambassador Phillips in Rome.

The delay caused speculation among passengers over contents of the official mail pouches rushed from the capital.

Emergency communications of international importance, usually are transmitted by radio or cable in code. Official passengers observed that certain types of messages are considered too important to be risked except in sealed diplomatic mail sacks.

OFF FOR NAPLES

The liner left at 2:15 p.m. from W. 18th st. for Naples and Genoa, through the Mediterranean where the battle fleets of Italy, England, France and Germany are gathered.

ing. Captain Manning refused to comment on the delay.

Asked if he had been instructed on what action to take if war broke out in the Mediterranean, the Captain replied his orders were secret.

"But we'll have to face the facts,"

Five passengers were Federal officials—J. J. Murphy, Consul at Rotterdam; D. H. Buffum, Consul at Trieste; M. N. Coates, Secretary of Embassy at Rome; Katherine Crocker, secretary to the Minister at Dublin; and J. G. Riddick, clerk of the Embassy at London. Eight volunteers for the American Ambulance in France also sailed.

Was also. Another who was Mention. Janet Dix majority lovers, for among the little boys w. After so conductor a gleaming La Guardia compliment ornament of Marshall P. tion; Mishe er; and M widow of the orchestra, w be-ribboned. At the six the eighteen Ganz conduc gram consist Schubert's phony, a mot "Jupiter" Dance" by Danube. Wa