

● P.S.I. Subject File

Tugwell, Rexford G. 1937-1940

Box 188

(2)

BF
Tugwell

June 7, 1937.

Dear Rexie:

I am doing what is necessary to stop Byrd in regard to his Shenandoah Mountain friends. The most effective method is to point out that he does not want these Mountain friends of his to have more education, better health or means of employment, for the very simple reason that he wants them to be available to work in his apple orchards every Fall for seventy-five cents a day.

Do come down as soon as the smoke clears away.

As ever yours,

Rexford G. Tugwell, Esq.,
120 Wall Street,
New York City,
New York.

120 WALL STREET
NEW YORK, N.Y.

My Dear Mac,

June 2/37.

Thanks for your note. If the President is willing will let it go a little longer, until there is no sugar bill up, for instance. Anyway I will call up occasionally. Will you be so good as to give the enclosed note to the President? Thanks!

Rex T.

120 WALL STREET
NEW YORK, N.Y.

June 2/37.

My Dear Mr. President,

Perhaps you have seen Byrd's various letters to Henry Wallace about the Shenandoah project. I think, if there is any way to do it you had better stop him. He intends to use his "reorganization committee" to have another field day, and I am to be the goat again. He evidently feels that our connection is still close enough in the public mind so that he can get at you that way. Personally I do not feel as though I could go through another of those things. Some of the stuff he could imply, once he got public hearings all rigged in his own way would leave less than a grass spot of me; and of course I could not shift the responsibility as you know I should have a right to do. Bailey has already joined in.

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Holt will be next, and the whole thing could be like a snowball on a soft day. It could be the center of a formidable attempt of these people to discredit the whole New Deal. If I were you I should stop it somehow at once.

I hope to see you sometime soon. Mac. has written to me about it. But perhaps it had better wait until my coming to the White House would cause less excitement.

As ever,
faithfully,
Rex Tugwell

file

Bx 188

PSF
Tugwell

August 12, 1937.

Dear Rex:-

It is a mighty good idea but I have to fit a picture puzzle together. Incidentally, two more old dudes on the court (not the Supreme Court) are, I think, about to die or retire.

All of which confirms me in the wish that we had a term instead of a life judiciary. One could then plan ahead for everything except the actual death of an incumbent!

This sounds very brutal but is merely intended to stir your thoughts about the possibility of a Constitutional Amendment for a Supreme Court of ten Associate Justices and a Chief Justice, each of the Associates to represent a judicial district; each to serve ten years; be subject to reappointment; compulsory retirement at seventy, and one vacancy to fall due each year.

Don't hint in any way that I have written you this but I wish you would use it as a trial balloon of your own.

I do hope to see you just as soon as the session ends.

As ever yours,

Rexford G. Tugwell, Esq.,
120 Wall Street,
New York, N. Y.

180 WALL STREET
NEW YORK, N.Y.

~ Aug. 10/37

My Dear Mr. President,

I spoke to Tommy Corcoran yesterday about the possibility of putting Jerome Frank on the District Court bench in place of Van Arsdale, but he says that he has already told you of the advantages he sees in it. I merely want to reinforce what he suggested. Jerry has always been wholly loyal. His ability has been demonstrated by his successful pushing of the power cases and the Van Sweringen matter. He has not lost anywhere. The District Court is

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so strategic these days that I think you should have a smart person there who can be counted on. He knows the politics as well as the law of the present situation. He would make a good colleague for Harold Stephens.

I have been with you in spirit if not in person these last weeks — the latter is probably better for both! But your ordeal has made me think so many times of a remark you made one time rather late at night before

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the fireplace in Albany. You said that "in eight years we might not have a Democratic party but we would have a progressive one". I have often wished that many of our less loyal colleagues had a memory of such a sort. They wouldn't waver quite so much, and they might give you a better chance to play out your hand.

As ever,

Rex T.

December 27, 1937.

Gen-^r PSF
Tugwell

Dear Rex:-

That is excellent news and I shall be glad to give you any hint desirable in regard to future procedure.

By the way, one thing that might be brought out; the control of business through the holding company method. I think it is probably true that the electric utilities have thirteen billions of securities outstanding but are controlled by the owners of six hundred million of securities. If that is true in the case of a utility, it is probably equally true in most other large industrial groups.

Also, if you want to throw a bit more of a scare you can point out that there is a growing sentiment on the Hill for the Government to own the Federal Reserve banks and have these banks make direct loans when the private banks appear to be shutting down on credit. We are, of course, against it but it is a growing sentiment in the small towns and more remote sections.

As ever yours,

Hon. Rexford G. Tugwell,
120 Wall Street,
New York City,
New York.

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NEW YORK, N.Y.

THE WHITE HOUSE
DEC 27 9 30 AM '37
RECEIVED

12/23/37

Dear Mr. President,

We had our first meeting yesterday with Lamont, Young, Lewis & the present and made surprising progress. I believe we shall find grounds for agreement which will surprise you by their conciliatory tone and their real content. I am hoping so, anyway, now. There will be another meeting today. The question of how to address you will be a somewhat delicate one on which we may ask your advice. My present thought is that Charles' suggestion be followed: a group of interested Americians got together, found surprising grounds of agreement and believed that their President might be interested. If you have the thought you might send

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it on. Beale sort of acts as
chairman, but there is very
free discussion. Already it is
unanimous that "we must
stave" and that the budget
is a secondary affair. I think
Young has a formula on the
utility question which will
interest you. I find Lamont not
much good with his head. It's
stuffed with tripe. But I think
he's scared. Young is a good
solid person, clever in managing
things and with honestly
generous ideas. I will write
more later.

Respectfully
Rex T.

120 WALL STREET
NEW YORK, N.Y.

Mar. 30/38.

My Dear Mr. President,

I have been wondering whether the time might come soon when you could find a place for me in the government again. I thought perhaps you might be willing to put me on the National Resources Board or on a commission. I don't know whether I should be a political liability. You assured me once that I was not; and I am anxious to participate in your work again.

This job has not worked out satisfactorily. It is a relatively small business; it has been hit hard by sugar control and by the recession and there is no doubt, although Charles does not say

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as, that I am a luxury. For reasons
you know - connected with the
unorthodoxy of the New Deal - I
can't go back to Columbia or any
other University. My only chance
would seem to be government.
Perhaps I could not be confirmed
or perhaps you do not want to
risk it. Anyway I thought I
might speak to you frankly about
my situation. I make due apology
for asking. It has been a matter
of pride with me in the past not
to have asked you for anything. But
this, for me, is a real emergency.

As ever, faithfully yours

Rex Tugwell

file
personal

120 WALL STREET
NEW YORK, N.Y.

PSF
Tugwell
Apr. 6/38.

My Dear Mr. President,

I wrote you a few days ago about the possibility of returning to the government. I don't know whether, in the press of things, you have had time even to consider the matter. But I wanted to tell you that yesterday I met La Guardia and suggested the Chairmanship of his Planning Commission. I don't know how that would fit in. It is, you know, the job Beule left to go to Washington. It might relieve you of a problem - if I am that. Anyway I shall talk to him again; but I should like to consult you in any case before any decision was reached. I told him so and he agreed.

Respectfully yours,
Rex Tugwell