

PSF: GERTRUDE ELY

Subject File

PSF: Ely, Gertrude

Box ● 146

~~146~~

1-2-9
PERSONAL

March 25, 1939.

Dear Gertrude:-

Many thanks for the note. Never in my life have I seen things moving in the world with more cross currents or with greater velocity. Up to the last summer I was willing to make mental bets that such and such a thing would happen and such and such a thing would not happen. Today, however, I have stopped being a mental bookmaker because so many horses are scratched and so many other horses become added starters each twenty-four hours that we are not even certain that the trainers, jockeys and spectators may not end up in a "free-for-all" fight in which the grandstand will be burned down and most of the spectators, horses, trainers and jockeys go to the hospital or the cemetery!

What a day we have to live in!

Always sincerely,

Miss Gertrude Ely,
Wyndham Barn,
Bryn Mawr,
Pennsylvania.

PSF
Gertrude Ely

WYNNDHAM BARN
BRYN MAWR
PENNSYLVANIA

March 24, 1939

Dear Franklin:

I cannot tell you how deeply thankful I am for your courageous and successful decisions on foreign policy during these last weeks, and how fortunate we are to have you as leader at this critical time. I realize full well, since I am trying to keep in touch myself with the public as far as I can, what your difficulties are in this country, but at the same time, I realize that people are more than ever aware that we would certainly be involved in any war.

Therefore better prepared to listen to

I do wish you could help still further to weaken the Fascist bravado by imposing a high tariff on imports from Japan right now, and I believe that not only Japanese aggression in China would be seriously weakened, but also that this would make a deep impression in Italy and Germany as an evidence of our desire to cooperate in halting aggressive methods.

I wish that we could also immediately increase credits to China, which would, of course, mean

important help for the future of China,
as well as protect our interests there.

Have you read Ronald Storrs' book on
Palestine? Chapter 15 gives a resume of
the development of the relation of Jews
and Arabs during many years, and I think
would interest you.

I wish that you could find a way of
solution for these conditions in Pales-
tine without taking sides. That is a
large order, but would it not be fine
if we could find a satisfactory colonial
policy for the British Empire?

I am working to help in the effort to
make it possible to take 10,000 German
children and young people in this coun-
try over and above the quota. I do hope
that this goes through.

Again with congratulations and appre-
ciation for what you are doing,

Sincerely yours,

Frederic S.

3 file personal
9-2

RSF
Gertrude Ely
WYNDHAM BARN
BRYN MAWR
PENNSYLVANIA

April 4, 1939

Dear Franklin:

That was a very clever letter that you wrote me in answer to my anxious inquiries about what we could do to stop Japan and help China, etc., etc.

Now I want to ask you if there is any possibility of your proposing or sending out a kind of feeler to the country that a union of Democracies as suggested by Clarence Streit in "Union Now" be tried right now. The heading in one of the papers this morning reads: "Britain urges world union to stop Hitler." This is the kind of phrase which by its suggestion might make it actually possible to start the American people thinking along these lines. As you well know, the American public is able to make up its mind almost over night if the situation is ripe and preliminary phraseology has caught them!

This union should not be against any country but rather an organization for the promotion and protection of the Democratic idea. If we could talk to Canada and England, France, Holland, and some of the Scandinavian countries, the backing of a proposal by you might be made to each one of the countries in turn. All this may sound very naive to you and Mr. Hull, but I have had talks

with people from those countries and with Clarence Streit, and one becomes hopeful in spite of world appearances.

I hope that you are able, as I believe you are, to take time off from all these tremendous questions.

Very sincerely,

Gertrude Ely

Dictated,
but not read.

2326 CALIFORNIA STREET, N. W.
WASHINGTON, D. C.

PSF
Gutierrez Ely

May 4

My dear Franklin

Do you feel like
seeing a group of Phila-
delphia Democrats
who want to tell you
how they feel about
the importance of Jack
Kelly's continuing the
leadership in the County -
I also want your advice
about what to do?
Could you see us next

Thursday or Friday?

I am staying with
Francis Perkins until
Sunday night -

What a remarkably
fine, encouraging work
you are doing toward
stopping this world -
nightmare - & toward a
better world -

Sincerely

Gertrude S.

file personal
PSF
Sect. E17
THE WHITE HOUSE

WYNDHAM BARN

BRYN MAWR '39
PENNSYLVANIA

21st July, 1939.

Dear Franklin:

I enclose copy of a letter I received this morning. The young woman writing it graduated from Bryn Mawr a few years ago and has been a very effective correspondent in Geneva for a Chicago paper. For the last year she has been editing an international weekly news sheet subscribed by editors, publicists, speakers etc. She is a keen observer and I thought you might be interested to hear what she has to say. She works close with Englishmen, but is by no means an Anglophile.

I still hope there is something you can do to help the people of this country understand the international situation and that, if you think it possible or wise, you will persuade the people we should abrogate the treaty of 1911, with Japan, after six months notice.

The causes of free living and thinking and humanitarianism are in need of strengthening and encouragement and it seems that you can do it more effectively than any other national leader at this time.

WYNDHAM BARN
BRYN MAWR
PENNSYLVANIA

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The confidence in the strength of these standards of living is slipping in the face of determined and effective and cruel behaviour on the part of autocracies.

What a terrific load is on your shoulders and yet I am one of those who, while I appreciate what a load it is, am full of admiration for what you are doing and, unless somebody can be found who you are convinced will carry on in your way, I hope you will run for a third term.

Very sincerely,
Arthur S.

You have undoubtedly had repercussions from over here already on the Neutrality issue, and I have no idea where you stand on the matter, but I would guess that it is very nearly where I do - i.e. the necessity for keeping the U.S. out of this war which may come, and at the same time, doing everything possible to make the war impossible.

I've just had a long luncheon with a former German diplomat who is here from Berlin for a few days. He confirms reports that the Senate decision to shelve neutrality revision was received in high Nazi circles with unbounded glee. He thinks that it may act as one of the principal deciding factors in the minds of the leaders when they consider action against Poland. Moreover he says the Nazis are convinced that if U.S. legislation is not changed before the outbreak of war, it will never be.

My reports indicate that German war supplies are definitely limited, but that they feel confidence in their ability to win the "blitzkrieg" against Britain, France etc. so long as the latter have no possibility of replenishing from the U.S.

I am very much frightened at the prospect for the U.S. for there seems to be little doubt in peoples' minds at home (and here you can judge far better than I) that public opinion will react very strongly in favour of assistance to Britain et al once bombs begin falling on London and Paris. Should it do so, we will have lost the dual advantage of legislation enacted now which would guarantee us against participation and yet open our markets to all purchasers irrespective of nationality. If Britain and France are able to prevent shipments from reaching Germany and Italy, there can be no reflection on our neutrality, but we will have a potential enemy eliminated for us.

You have no doubt watched the amazing changes taking place here. Your friends have been not ineffective in helping to create it. From the position of a Government which had virtually no check placed upon it, it has become one which follows reluctant-

Miss Helen P. Kirkpatrick
13 Queen Anne's Gate, London, S.W.1.

ly perhaps, but none the less follows the strong current of public opinion. There is little question but that the average Englishman has made up his mind to have a war, if Hitler insists, and no effort of Mr. Chamberlain will be able to persuade him that Danzig is not worth fighting for. There is though, I think, very little real appreciation of the type of war it is going to be. But preparations are going forward in a most business-like fashion. I was suddenly struck by the strength of democracy aroused, at the parade of national service volunteers in Hyde Park a few weeks ago. Thousands of women and men in uniform - most of them clerks and housewives who have given their leisure hours every week for months to training.

It is becoming more and more difficult to get any real inside information anywhere now. Sources from Germany and Italy are pretty well stopped up, and every caution is taken here and in Paris to prevent leakages on vital matters. It is, thus difficult to judge the future potentialities. But some of the experts here believe that the democracies have won a slight advantage. The one great danger is that confidence may increase to such a point that the "appeasers", who remain as convinced as ever of the feasibility of appeasing, will seize upon the opportunity to deal kindly with the "defeated foe" - who is of course as yet undefeated. Such a move would put us back just where we were in March.

I venture to predict that Winston Churchill will not be taken into the Cabinet before the outbreak of war when N.C. will retire. The latter is tired and hasn't the heart or spirit necessary to rally people to a cause in which he doesn't believe.

File personal

BF

Bertrand Ely

WYNDHAM BARN
BRYN MAWR
PENNSYLVANIA

Thursday
Tenth August
1919

RECEIVED
10 06 AM '19

Dear Franklin:

When the shouting and the tumult dies and it is all summed up and evaluated, you are still winning victories all along the line. I am thankful too, you have decided to try to halt Japan, by abrogating the 1911 treaty and I only hope Japan doesn't succeed in buying war materials furiously from us during the next six months. I noticed a Greek steamer loaded with scrap-iron sailed to Japan from Philadelphia last week.

Take care of yourself for, although masses of people are with you and plenty more are gradually learning, there are still a good many of the articulate ones who have not learned their lesson. Use me when you will.

Tell Eleanor please that I hope to see her this fall.

Very sincerely yours,

Bertrand Ely

BF Gen Com E
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

3/29/40

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

Do be sure that you want to say
this much in this letter. Remember
she is bound to use it in some way.

Missy

Handwritten note in Longhand original
(Very private - don't use!)
LAK

March 21, 1940.

Dear Gertrude:-

Thank you for that grand pamphlet proving for businessmen that we are in for another "three or four chickens in the pot era". It is true, I think, that so-called prosperity is good -- in other words, on old standards the business index is high. But we have not yet developed the method of keeping it there even though in the past few years we have made definite strides along that line. What I hate to think about is that a conservative Republican or Democratic Administration would inevitably go back to the old basis of 1929 and we would equally inevitably run into another depression financially and socially.

You poor people in Pennsylvania are surely in a quandary. Very privately and confidentially, I would in your place take the position that it does not make a great deal of difference which side wins in the primary and that bitterness should be kept to a minimum. My own hope is that next Summer wiser heads will bury the hatchet and put out a joint ticket of real strength which may have some chance to win.

Thank you for Rodin. It is a good thing for all of us to look at "The Thinker" but incidentally (though I have never heard this comment before) he has his hand over his mouth, is sayin' nothin' and just thinkin' along.

As ever yours,

Miss Gertrude Ely,
Bryn Mawr,
Pennsylvania.

GERTRUDE ELY
BRYN MAWR, PENNSYLVANIA

March 18

Dear Franklin

I think this very
rosy picture of the
country's condition today -
this fervent call to
business men to do their
duty - may bring a
smile & give you something
to quote!

Your talk on Saturday
was fine - just right -

I wish you could tell me
confidentially what advice
to give when active Demo-
crats in Pa. have to make
a choice before the Primary
whether to line up with the

quitter on the Anti-Suffer
factious - I tell them
not to take sides but
of course that is not
possible when there are
candidates of both
factious for every local
state office - & feeling
runs high especially among
her & useful Democrats.
After being with some
careless talkers the other
day I went to see the
"Thinker" of Rodin's - &
send you a photograph to
look at how & when
you are hard pressed &
wish your Cyren would
think & think straight!
Keep them guessing as to

GERTRUDE ELY
BRYN MAWR, PENNSYLVANIA

Third Term no matter,
what they think. I like
to see them for previous
& previous
Take very good care of
yourself —
Sincerely
Gertrude Ely



MUSEUM

T *The Thinker*

AUGUSTE RODIN

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