

PSF

HELEN GAHAGAN

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PSF

151

Box



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Subject File "G"

PSF: *Bahagan* ~~for~~ *comes "G"* 3-43

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

*file
personal.*

Box 151

October 16, 1943.

For the President,

E.R.

Copy of letter from Helen Gahagan, October 11, 1943

....There has been a lot of shopping out here on the Roosevelt preserves by the Willkie forces. However, that gentleman's last visit rather dampened the ardor of some of those who were planning to move over to his side and follow his banner. Sidney Hillman was out here and did a very good job of organizing labor's forces. The feeling is that Wallace is suddenly developing "political it". I wish that I could see you and tell you all that is on my mind. Elliott Janeway of Fortune Magazine was here (an ardent New Dealer) and tells a frightening story of the goings on of Jesse Jones around the country. I wish you could see him sometime in New York and let him relate to you some of the reactions he has gathered while traveling around the country.

Ans.

PSF: Gahagan ~~Los Angeles~~ 3-46

PERSONAL

March 2, 1944.

Dear Helen:-

Tom Ford has just told me that you are going to run for Congress in his place. I do not need to tell you how much I have always thought of Tom Ford but if he has to leave the Congress I can ask nothing better than to have you in his place.

My best wishes to you and Melvyn,

As ever yours,

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

Miss Helen Gahagan,
7141 Senalda Drive,
Los Angeles,
California.

San Carlos "B" 3-44
Co. 5/12

PSF: HELEN GAHAGAN

May 13, 1944

My dear Mr. President:

Thank you for your beautiful letter
and for your confidence in me.

Your message to Congress was perfectly
wonderful. I practically memorized it and, of
course it goes without saying, it is the basis
of my campaign. It looks as though we will have
a good vote out in the primaries. No matter
what anybody says, this is a liberal State, and
I honestly believe the vote for the Roosevelt
delegation will be heavy.

My deep appreciation and affection for
your great leadership.

Sincerely yours,

Helen
Helen Gahagan Douglas

President Franklin D. Roosevelt
The White House
Washington, D. C.

PSF: *Gahagan* *Emilio* *5-44*

November 27, 1944.

Dear Helen:-

That is a very nice note of yours and I am sure you know that I appreciate it.

We were all much worried on Election night because about two o'clock in the morning we got word that you were about five hundred behind in the district -- and I was afraid that this included the counting of the soldiers' vote. However, the next morning everything cleared up nicely and now you are to be a real Congressman and not just a beautiful cloak model to outdo the Luce woman. We are, of course, awfully happy.

Things here settled down immediately into the usual routine, though I am still mad at the little black man and will continue to be so. I think it is good for me. It was the rottenest, dirtiest campaign I have ever taken part in in thirty-four years -- but my strategy worked. At the Teamsters' dinner on September twenty-fifth, I deliberately wrote out a speech with the objective in mind of making Governor Dewey angry. It worked. He got angrier and angrier and in this part of the country lost thousands of votes by doing so.

Do come East and see us soon.

You will be welcome anyway in January.

Affectionately,

"F.D.R."

Mrs. Melvyn Douglas,
7141 Senalda Road,
Los Angeles, California.

HELEN GALLAGAN

November 14, 1944

Dear Mr. President:

The campaign is over, the bitter, cruel campaign! The angry young man has returned to Albany. We may now get on with the business. There is no feeling for celebration, just relief, tremendous relief. We were so near the precipice. All the goodness gained in the long struggle for liberty and in the present agonizing fight to preserve it was almost lost. People, just people, largely the inarticulate ones, the honest and believing, the silent ones, carried the victory. So it is, and we may now with you continue the never ending effort for the fullness of liberty and goodness in the world.

You know, don't you, Mr. President that you and Mrs. Roosevelt have completely changed both Melvyn's and my lives. You both have changed them so much that I suddenly discover myself a member of Congress. There have been some difficult moments but always I would remember you and Mrs. Roosevelt and the unbelievable weight of responsibility that rests on your shoulders, and it would always make anything that anyone of us would do seem so light and so easy that I would find myself figuratively going through stone walls and not feeling it.

As I have told Mrs. Roosevelt many times, I love her. I love you, and I cherish your friendship.

Enclosed is a letter, picked at random from hundreds of letters. Illiterate but so telling, so American, so expressive of what Mr. Man and Mrs. Woman were feeling in this campaign.

My love to Fala.

Affectionately,

President Franklin D. Roosevelt
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Helen

Oct. 25th - 44 -

Helen G. Douglas
Nominee for Congress

I Pray to my Heavenly Father
that you, and many of us - are
Loyal to our Country

I surely will vote for Him and
you. You can depend upon that
and thank you dear for your Care
Our Government needs us all & above
all our President He & He With God's
Help will save us -

God Bless our Country
and Our President Roosevelt.

Trincerely Yours -

Kellie J. Swanson
1411 Oak St.

City

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Mrs Melvyn Douglas
7141 Genalda Rd
Los Angeles, Calif.