

From: Director of the Mint, D.C., pstmkd., D.C. Dec. 9, 1948, 10:30 pm.
To: Mrs. George Taylee, 25 E. Pkwy N., Memphis, Tenn

December 9, 1948

Dear Belle:

Your letter was a treat. It had been a long time since I had heard from you.

O, yes, wasn't the election result amazing in view of all the forecasts. It was surely amusing to read the various articles published even the day before election, referring to "President" Dewey; what he was going to do, whom he was going to appoint to this & that & the other post, just as if he were already in the White House. I felt sort of sorry for the terrible embarrassment he must have suffered afterwards. But I think the country has suffered no misfortune in not getting him for President. There is certainly no evidence that he has any profound knowledge of or ability to handle the frightful problems that now beset the world, including this country.

I note that you feel that President Truman has been weak in the past, though you do not specify in what particulars. I do not feel that he is weak. He took over, out of a clear sky, the most horrible "mess" the country had ever known after the war; a condition to challenge a Solomon. He had had no inside information on what had transpired at those conferences before Roosevelt's death. On the whole I think he has done an awfully good job & the country thought so too until he came out with that civil rights doctrine (which the Roosevelts started & got away with, even with the Southern people (at least they voiced little protest, which I could never understand).

President Truman, having run for Vice-President on the ticket with Roosevelt, evidently felt honor bound, throughout the whole period, to stand strong for all the policies on which they ran. He has certainly done his duty in that line. Now having been elected on his own I think we shall see him show much independent strength. Nobody can say he hasn't courage. And generally speaking it can not be said that he has appointed weak men to important posts (One or two at the beginning probably merited criticism). Nobody probably had the confidence of the public more than Gen. Marshall, Sec'y of State. If you knew the President & talked with him, as I have done a number of times, I believe it would alter the opinion you have received that he is weak. In any case we are living in a crucial period of history.

(December 9, 1948, p. 2)

What will our children have to face I wonder. I just hope the good Lord himself will step in & guide our course. Human brains seem unequal to the problems of the day.

So soon you will be on your way to Hawaii. How nice! I wish I were going too. Six months ago Mrs. Quealy called me from Calif. & invited me to go with her, but I couldn't get away. One of these days I'm going to quit this job & have a little fling. Don't you think it is time! I know you will have a grand time over there. I was there once for 9 days you know. You will love the tropical flowers & trees. Those monkey-pod trees, so beautiful, look as if they were made by hand. They deserve a more dignified name. And the banyan trees - be sure to see the one back of the Moana Hotel. It is wonderful. The night-blooming cerus too was in bloom when I was there; something never to be forgotten. When I was there a number of Army people whom I knew were stationed at Schofield & made it very pleasant for ~~me~~ me. I met all the Generals & Admirals who were later involved in the Pearl Harbor episode, at several parties. I hope you will go through the Dole pineapple plant. It is truly worthwhile. No hospital could be more immaculate. You will see that human hands never touch the fruit after the processing starts.

Nelle Congressman Davis has been calling me several times conveying the desire of the Lions Club of Memphis that I go there to make a speech telling how I run the Mint.

I haven't been able to fix a time. It would be a pleasure of course to comply. I can't get away from here anytime soon. Christmas is soon coming on & the the Inauguration (and I am on the Inaugural Committee). I knew that you were going to be away from Jan. on for some time. I would surely hate to go when you were away. So I have given no definite answer.

You knew did you that your Margaret & Edward have accepted an invitation to visit me during the Inauguration period? It's going to be grand having them. Margaret is such a dear. And she is so intelligent & interested in worth-while things. I think she has her mother's unusual capacity for enjoyment, which is a Heaven-sent gift. I always felt that you & William had it more than anybody I'd ever known.

Last night I called Madeira School to ask about Ann. She could not come to the phone but I was told she had been in the infirmary with

(December 9, 1948, p. 3)

a cold; but was now out. I asked if she could come in to see me for the weekend - No, they said. But that she was coming in to shop Saturday & might have lunch with me. So I will try again to get her. We think she is such a lovely, fine girl.

It was a great pleasure seeing Virginia & Dick & little Dorothy. I felt as if I did so little for them.

You asked about George & Mary Steele. They are now back in their own domicile - 37 West 11th Street, New York City. They have a great many interesting friends & have a very full life I think.

Yes, Dorothy is well. She felt better before & after this last baby's birth than she has before. The baby, though coming prematurely, has thrived splendidly. They named him John. They would have named him George but decided that there were already so many George's in the family, it would be confusing. Her brother's name is George & her grandfather's, Bradford's brother also. Her father was named George, my brother, my uncle. On both sides the Georges were numerous.

I can see you with your family about you Christmas. It will be a joyous gathering I know. Maybe Margaret will get there. She seems to be able to get about a good deal.

I will be with my children here of course. How lucky I am to have them.

Thank you dear Nellie for asking me to come to Memphis to visit you, at a time when you are at home. Nothing could be nicer for me. It seems though that I have my nose at the grindstone most of the time. In Septemehr I went out to San F., Seattle, Denver & Cheyenne. That is to say I left in Sept. & returned in early November. I went to Cheyenne to vote. Needless to say I had a delightful little visit there. When I get back from these long trips I feel that I have to stay put for quite awhile. But as I say, some time before I am crippled with the maladies of old age, I hope I will take some leisure & go about as I please.

O, yes, wasn't it pretty fine to get a dividend this year from the Tayloe Paper Co. It meant a lot of cheer to the whole family no doubt. And each one, no doubt, finds plenty of places to put it.

O, the taxes! I groan to think of my taxes this year. I've sold several things which runs up the bracket. I have so few exemptions, a good part of what I make goes to Uncle Sam. And it will never be different in your lifetime or mine, I think.

Please give my warm love to Howard & Nancy, Elizabeth & her family, Virginia & hers and a heartfull of love to you my dear Nellie. Some little gifts for Christmas will soon be on the way.

Devotedly, Nellie