

Director of the Mint, D.C., patmked., D.C., April 22, 1953. 5 p.m.
To: Mrs. George Tayloe, 25 E. Pkwy. N., Memphis, Tenn.

April 21, 1953

Dearest Nellie:

Surely when I get out of the government I will be able to make definite plans, well in advance, & stick to them. Right now I am still unable to say just when I can get off for the South. It will be ten days yet before I leave the office. I haven't been in a shop this Spring & have practically nothing left over from last year. There are a lot of things I'll have to do before I can get away, including some shopping.

I think you are sweet to say you'd like to have me come on to Memphis. No person & no place holds out more ~~attractive~~ lure for me than you do or than Memphis does. I know though that you'll be going up to the lake before long & I am wondering if it will really be a convenient for you to have me at a time I can get there.

The way I got this idea of going to Tenn. & Ky. was this: Dorothy Speight & Clarence have been calling me & writing urging that I come to see them. They called me again last night. They are trying with might & main to get some projects finished before I get there. I think Clarence has practically made over his house for Dorothy. We had a long three-round conversation about the house the garden & everything. The upshot of it was they would be all set in late May and expecting me. He had said they would drive me to Memphis, to Princeton or anywhere I want to go. (Isn't it nice that Dorothy has married a man who is so very nice personally & also able to do many nice things?) Aback to the main subject. If I couldn't get to Memphis until the early part of June, would that be too late for you? Or just how late would it suit you? Of course I wouldn't make a lengthy visit. I'm so used to the idea that I can't be away from duty long that my thinking goes that way.

I had a letter from Brother Sam in response to my plea that he come up here. He talks as if it is doubtful whether he will get to Memphis, & evidently feels unequal to getting here. I fear he is not very strong.

Margaret must be with you now; if so give her my warm love & the children too. I am so interested in the new business enterprise. Edward is certainly smart.

Nellie last night my dear office staff gave me a beautiful dinner at the Shoreham. Old employees who had come & gone years back also came

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with their wives & husbands. I can't begin to describe to you how sweet they all were to me; the things they said & the things they did. Telegrams poured in from all the Mint field institutions. Such evidence as they give of affection for me means more to me than if they had bestowed upon me the crown jewels. There were about 95 at the dinner last night; mostly young people. And they looked so lovely. They are a high-class lot. I feel like a mother about to leave her children. And yet how glad I will be to have freedom, nobody knows! I'm going to Phila. tomorrow. The Mint there has planned something I don't know just what.

When or if I see you I'll tell you all there is to know about my children & grandchildren, the farm, my apartment problems & tentative plans; which are not very well crystalized - the plans I mean.

Enough for now. Again thank you so much for asking me to come down. Be perfectly frank about when or whether my uncertain plans confuse your own.

About knees; an ever present subject of interest to those of us who have trouble with them! I tell my children I am sure that when I break down it will be in the legs, unless I break down in the head first. Well for a few weeks it pained me considerably to go down stairs, but lately I seem to have gotten over it, for the time being at least, which is fine. The good Lord has blest me with wonderful health and I am so grateful. If only I can keep well and if I meet no financial disaster, I should be quite happy & content. What I have dreaded most I believe about retirement was loneliness. Alice Castellane is a very sweet person, unselfish & cheerful. She hasn't much income. Her husband's property was all tied up in Europe during the war. He dies over here. She has little knowledge of the practical side of housekeeping. I let her have the rooms Dr. Dolan had, but am ~~undertaking~~ taking no responsibility for looking after them. She is at perfect liberty to use the kitchen as she pleases; for breakfast or at other times. She takes most of her dinners out.

For the first time in years I have no maid except by the day & don't want to take one on since I plan to go away soon. About every weekend I am at the farm.

Enough, enough, about me!

Devotedly,

Nellie