(1901)

GENOVA 44
MEXICO CITY
MEXICO. D. F.

May 1, 1951.

Dear Owen:

I am spending the day at home as this is one of the biggest holidays in Mexico and everything is tied up. I am trying to take care of a little personal correspondence but there is so much of it before me that I will be able to get at only a very small part of it. I do want to write you a word in reply to your letter of February 24 in which you mentioned the possibility of my giving to the Memorial Library of the University of Delaware some of my papers which might be of interest for purposes of research. It is very thoughtful of you to think of this and of course I need not say that if I turn over my papers to anyone I would prefer and desire to turn them over to the Memorial Library of the University.

During the some 34 years that I spent in the Foreign Service I had about as busy and as interesting and as varied a career as I think anyone has had in our Foreign Service. The very fact, however, that it was so busy and that I was always more interested in doing things than keeping a record of them for myself, means that I did not keep any diaries or anything of that kind. Practically everything I did, therefore, is bound in the despatches and reports which I wrote and which of course are in the official files of the State Department.

Really the only record which I have outside of these despatches and reports and memoranda which are in the files of the State Department are copies of personal letters which I wrote to President Roosevelt, to Secretary Hull and to Assistant Secretary Phillips and other officials of our Government, more particularly during my service in Europe. These letters are very voluminous and they are of course my property. Copies of some of these letters are in the personal files of President Roosevelt in the library which is safeguarding his correspondence. To what degree Secretary Hull and others put copies of my personal correspondence in the files of the State Department I am not able to say, but in any event as these letters were personal letters written at my own initiative or at their request on developments in major situations in Europe, they are personal letters and the copies I have are my property. The letters which are the most interesting are those which cover the period from 1930 to 1937. They cover very intimately the developments in Europe which led to the Second World War. As historical material they are very interesting and revealing, but just because of the very nature of these letters I have so far made no use of them.

President

W. Owen Sypherd, Esquire,
University of Delaware,
Newark, Delaware.

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President Roosevelt during the latter years of his life, as a matter of fact some months before he died, wished me to publish some of these letters in the form of a book and had gone so far as to arrange with a New York publisher to get out the book. I told him at the time that he knew even better than I that these letters could not be published, as it would mean too many asterisks appearing in the letters, and he agreed, but reluctantly. Much as I have felt that the pressure of events under which we are living made it desirable that some of these letters be published, I have refrained from doing so because I have maintained certain principles so far and I do not intend to change them so late in life. I have never written or spoken about anything when I did not feel I could tell really what the facts were, and some of my letters are of a character that it would be most unwise and it would be disturbing even in this day and so long after the events to publish them. I have regretfully arrived at the conclusion that I cannot publish these letters, so they will be material which will be available after I am out of the picture and I will be very glad to let the University have them, but I am not sure sure as to whether they could be open for research even when I die, as there are some factors that would have to be considered.

Aside from these personal letters which cover some four volumes for the period 1930-1937, I have of course a lot of other material which I had hoped to organize after retirement and make some use of, but I have not been able to do anything about it as the work which I undertook has been so time-absorbing that I have not been able to do anything. When I retired Mrs. Hall, who had been in the Foreign Service, came to me as a personal secretary and lives with Marion and me at the house, and I had great ambitions as to what I would do in the way of what I thought would be useful writing, but instead of that I have been doing nothing but trying to see that some of these Latin countries of America get enough electricity to keep their economies going because I consider keeping their economies going as absolutely fundamental in the political picture.

The long and the short of it is, Owen, that whatever papers I have you can be sure I will leave to the Memorial Library of the University. I will make a disposition to this effect. I am planning to make a new will and I will put this in it. Frankly, as I have already told you, some of these letters are of such interest that they have today a high commercial value which I have never even thought of exploiting, because there are things which are more important than money. When some of these papers, particularly the personal letters addressed to high officials of our Government, could be made available for research I do not know and I have to think about that.

I am

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I am hoping to go north around the middle of June and will be in New York, Washington and Toronto. I will make every effort to see you if you are in Newark at that time and we can talk this matter of the papers over. Marion will not be going north with me as she is about through with traveling for the timebeing. We are both well. You are making a great mistake in not coming down to visit us because the plane trip is so easy and so short and this is a wonderful country and full of interest and you would enjoy it to the limit. We have two comfortable houses, one in Mexico City and the other in Cuernavaca, just an hour away, and I know you would enjoy it tremendously.

There are many things I would like to write about but I have some things I must get out of the way today. I was terribly distressed to hear of Norris Wright's passing. Our world, which was a very happy and pleasant one, is slipping away from us.

Marion joins in love and good wishes to you and our friends in Newark.

Cordially and faithfully yours,

Hewes

If you have not seen the Volume "Peace and War" which the State Dept put out some years ago you will find it very interesting. At Salem's Headquarters you can get the letters I wrote & refer to above. You can get this Book from the Dept of State.