

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON



This is a great privilege.  
I have been here before  
as a United States Senator,  
- a Junior United States Senator

It was my good luck on  
those occasions, to hear President  
Roosevelt express himself at  
his best. He told you gentlemen  
of the press exactly what  
he thought of you - and made  
you like it.

I haven't his ability of ex-  
pression, but I shall be

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON



glad to tell you what I think of you, of the entertainment, of the food, the company, the guests and so forth.

I have enjoyed the evening, the food, the entertainment that goes without saying. I always enjoy myself when in your company, whether I sit with the Hard Rockers, who are said to be close to Truman or with the Soft Muckers who are said not to be so close to him.

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON



I enjoyed Governor Dewey's  
speech very much. You know  
I did not have the pleasure  
of meeting the Governor  
until Oct. 27, 1945. I met  
him then on the main deck  
of the Battleship Missouri,  
and he took my breath away  
by announcing, publicly, that  
I had made a good speech  
on foreign affairs in Central  
Park and that he wholeheartedly  
approved it. Time and Mr.  
Luce disagreed with him.

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON



I am returning Mr. Dewey's highly appreciated compliment.

I wonder if I could cry on your shoulder a bit about public service in recession and what happens to a Vice-President when he suddenly falls heir to a great president and two wais ends all in one fell swoop.

You know in war time men and women are patriotic. They'll stand hardship + sacrifice, abuse and bullets, fox holes +

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON



columnists and editorials and  
whatnot for their country's  
welfare. But - let the wars  
suddenly cease. These same  
patients become free men  
and women, working in a  
free enterprise struggle -  
and they begin to dip for the  
gray. Their skins again become  
thin and gossip and abuse  
makes them timid.

I served as a chairman  
of an investigating com-  
mittee that even in war  
time some of our greatest

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON



industrial and labor leaders could dish out criticism on a grand scale - but when they landed on the taking end - they just couldn't take it. But a man in public life has to take and like it! Now I find that none of the big boys want to take positions where the gossip columnists and know-it-all editors can pick flaws in their public actions. I spend a third of my time begging good men to stay

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON



in public life sense, or to  
come into it.

When the great President  
passed on, everyone felt  
sorry for me - big business,  
little business, the press,  
the radio, labor - the Congress.  
Nearly every body in the United  
States either came to see me,  
wrote me, or phoned me  
that he'd do anything in the  
world to help me - and I'm  
most sure all of you  
meant it.

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON



Then Germany folded up  
and Atomic Energy came  
along and folded up Japan  
and scared the rest of the  
world to death. Then the  
Exodus started and the  
Red Sea parted.

I believe I've made a  
record or something—  
Walter Lippmann had said  
<sup>you</sup> I great—and a damn fool,  
Dorothy Thompson prayerfully  
wishes Roosevelt was back.



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON



and so do I. Frank Keat  
yells Senior one day and  
Wolf the next. I've reached  
top notch popularity according  
to Doctor Gallup. Now - when  
is mad at management  
and they are both mad at  
me. I've made later mad  
trying to give them a little  
public responsibility. Manage-  
ment says I'm worse than  
Roosevelt - a compliment  
maybe. Then Congress goes  
off the reservation so far

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON



a my 21 points are con-  
cerned. The Navy is mad  
at the Army and they are  
both mad at me. Phil  
Murray is awful mad at  
Senell Arroy - and they'd  
both like to carry me out.  
Pat Hurley says he's for my  
foreign policy - and that  
I have it got one. Mobley  
is mad at Berlin and they  
are both mad at me -  
and so are the Arabs and  
the Jews - and the D.A.R.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON



If the Gridiron Club would like to give me something for Christmas, I'd suggest they send me Deh Carnegie's Book, or I may have to start another war.

But actually, it is a great responsibility and I'm not shirking it. It has fallen to my lot to assume the greatest burden any man ever had, and I'm giving it all I have - it may not be enough, but I can't help that.

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON



You know the most terrible  
decision a man ever  
had to make was made  
by me at Potsdam. It had  
nothing to do with Russia  
or Britain or Germany.  
It was a decision to loose  
the most terrible of all  
destructive forces for the  
wholesale slaughter of human  
beings. The Secretary of War,  
Mr. Stimson, and I weighed  
that decision most prayer-  
fully. But the President

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON



had to decide. It occurred  
to me that a quarter of a  
million of the flower of  
our young manhood were  
with a couple of Japanese  
cities, and I still think  
they were and are. But  
I couldn't help but think  
of the necessity of getting  
out women and children  
and non-combatants. We  
gave them fair warning  
and asked them to quit.  
We picked a couple of cities

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON



where war work was the principle industry, and dropped the bombs. Russia hurried in and the war ended.

Now we are faced with equally grave decisions. On those decisions rest either peace and the greatest age in history or another dreary race and total destruction of civilization as we know it.

Now my friends it is

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON



time for prayer and  
most solemn thought.

Sherman was wrong  
I'm telling you I find  
peace is hell and  
repeat.



National Security Archive,  
Suite 701, Gelman Library, The George Washington University,  
2130 H Street, NW, Washington, D.C., 20037,  
Phone: 202/994-7000, Fax: 202/994-7005, [nsarchiv@gwu.edu](mailto:nsarchiv@gwu.edu)