“Of all the dumb bunnies – he is the worst.” Truman & His Personal Opinions with Personal Friends
Robert Taft

United States Senator from Ohio, 1939-1953

Oldest son of President William Howard Taft

Unsuccessfully sought the Republican Party presidential nomination in 1940, 1948, and 1952
Letter to Bess, June 26, 1946

“Taft has maneuvered this price thing around so as to come as near as possible to ruin hoping I won’t have sense enough to know what to do.”
“The Atomic Energy Commission fight finally came to a test vote. Mr. Taft has succeeded in making a real fool of himself as have several other so called leading Republicans. I am of the opinion that the country has had about enough of their pin head antics.”
“I am afraid the Taft-Hartley Law will not work. But I’ll be charged with the responsibility whether it does or does not work. I’ve come to the conclusion that Taft is no good and Hartley is worse.”
“It looks very much like my candidate for the Republican nomination has beaten himself. Of all the dumb bunnies - he is the worst. Son of a President & Chief Justice...three times a candidate for President and look what he’s done to himself.”
Conscientious Objectors
The White House is being picketed this morning by a bunch of conscientious objectors. I don’t like ‘em. Most of ‘em are just cowards and slackers. They want me to let some 3000 of ‘em out of jail for Christmas. If I could bring back the 300,000 who were killed and the 400,000 who were wounded could be made well at the same time I might do it.

Hope you are both well. It is mighty nice to hear from you both.

Lots of love to you both.

Harry.
“I told Margie…in the note I just finished to her that ‘conscientious’ objectors were marching up & down in front of the White House with prison stripes on & carrying signs on which…they ask for the release of their comrades from jail. Well damn few of them are honest.”
“The only one of ‘em I ever came in contact with, whom I thought to be on the level, was the little skinny pharmacist’s mate to whom I gave the Congressional Medal of Honor.... He said he thought he could serve the Lord acceptably under fire if he himself didn’t try to kill anybody.”
Draft Letter to Eleanor Roosevelt

“I’ll admit that it is rather difficult for me to look on a conscientious objector with patience while your four sons and my three nephews were risking their lives to save our Government, and...these people were virtually shooting them in the back.”
General Douglas MacArthur

General of the Army

Supreme Commander of the Allied Powers in the Far East, 1945-1951

Commander of the United Nations Command, July 1950-April 1951
Japanese War and the relations with China, Russia, and Britain with regard to it. Supreme Commander and what to do with her. Bison, Dean, Brass Hart, Five Star McArthur. He’s worse than the Cabinet and he’s worse than the Lodge. They got to talk with one another before they told God what to do. They tell God right off. It is a very great pity the race to hate started with that in key positions. Yes, there were a Hell Reserve didn’t order MacArthur home and
“You’ll never know how much comfort your note of April 12 brought to your old uncle. It has been my lot for six years to fire people in high places because they could not appreciate that the President of the United States is not an ordinary individual, in his official capacity.”
Labor Unions
“The steel strike is the worst. We can handle most of the others…Some want a life guarantee of rest at government expense and some I’m sorry to say just want to raise hell & hamper the return to peacetime production hoping to obtain some political advantage.”
“The steel people and General Motors I am sure would like to break the unions and the unions would like to break them so they will probably fight a while and then settle so both will lose and in the long run only the man in the street will pay the bill. Big money has too much power & so have big unions...."
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Call in Phil Murray
William Green
Carpenters
Veterans
R. J. Thomas.
Longshoremen
Sidney Hillman
S.O.B. of Musicians.
and some others. Tell
them that patience is ex-
hausted. Declare an
emergency. Call out
troops. Start Industry

and put anyone from
who wants to go to war.
Any leader refuses
court martial him.
Keno ought to be been
shot in 1942, but
Franklin didn't have the
guts to do it.
FDR: Roll Barton. Hold
Bill. Adjoin Congress
and win the country.
Get plenty of Atomic
Bombs on their disposal
on Stalin, Puss the United
Dear Harry:

Please pardon me, Mr. Myers, and aproaching you as I am to this let's me know you in my bundle way.

Harry, in this letter, I would say many things to you and maybe correct you, as I think. I will not do that but allow me to pass this on to you.

Now I will slip over the "Equal Rights Hall" as you and I are "outliers" and so should suppress our thoughts and let the South be the South as you know I know. It is Mexico I wish to convey a message.

In Mexico, there is an American who is one of the few successful farmers in the whole country of Mexico. I know him well and you should know him and really know how we are getting along with our Mexican friendly.

Harry, please contact Mr. R. H. Sutton of Temple Square. He will give you more about Mexico than all the information you have in mind. He is one man that is not a politician but knows Mexico and can be helpful to you. Harry, let me make sure you have all the information. I have written this letter but I have not expressed myself too clearly.

I'm sorry to bother you, but I want you to know that there is a change in the present times. As at the Colburn Hotel, 305 Grant Street Denver, Colarado.

In memory, Harry, I would not give you wrong about Mr. Sutton. Contact Mr. Sutton today about our "Equal Rights Hall" appear the South and close to you, but I want to continue to be your silent partner.

Oh, Harry, you are a fine man are your parents to listen to me --

Ernie Roberts
Dear Sirs:

I appreciated very much your letter of last Saturday night from Hotel Temple Square in the Mormon Capital.

I am going to send you a copy of the report of my Commission on Civil Rights, and then if you still have that antiliberavity campaign, I'll be thoroughly disappointed in you.

The most difficult thing is that they are living thirty years behind the times and the sooner they come out of it the better it will be for the country and themselves. I was looking for social equality, because no such thing exists, but I am asking for equality of opportunity for all human beings, and so long as I stay here, I am going to continue that fight. When the mob goes back to take four people out and shoot them in the back, and everybody in the country is acquainted with who did the shooting and nothing is done about it, that country is in pretty bad fix from a law enforcement standpoint.

When a Negro and a City Marshal take a negro Sergeant off a bus in South Carolina, beat him up and put out one of his eyes, and nobody does anything about it by the State authorities, something is radically wrong with the system.

On the Louisiana and Arkansas Railway when coal burning locomotives were used the negro firemen were the thing because it was a backbreaking job and a dirty one. It seems as they turned to oil no one wanted to do the job. It seems as the coal fireman at the same works and a nephew were murdered because it was thought that this was some white-collar job. I have a colored friend who is a white man, I can't approve of such going on and I shall never approve of such continuing.

On that basis, I was looking for a new negro fireman and I got a white man, I can't approve of such going on and I shall never approve of such continuing.

I know you haven't thought this thing through and that you do not know the facts. I am happy, however, that you wrote me because it gives me a chance to tell you what the facts are,

Sincerely yours,

Harry S. Truman

Mr. E. W. Roberts
c/o Foulsham Press Company
Kansas City, Missouri

Note in hand:

This is a personal & confidential communication and I hope you'll regard it that way - at least until I've made a public statement on the subject - as I expect to do in the future.

HST

(Envelope marked - Personal and Confidential)

Report enclosed - "To Secure These Rights" -- "The Report Of The President's Committee On Civil Rights"
“The Congress, the Post-Dispatch, and the Star seem to having spasms over the K. C. vote situation....All I hope is that they get that fat no good can of lard named Roberts of the Star.”
“I don’t know how in the world people can think up such articles - he certainly could not have gotten his so-called facts from anybody at home. He doesn’t quote anybody but Roger Sermon and Salsbury, who never told the truth in his life if a lie would do as well.”
“I am starting on a campaign tour but without much enthusiasm. My own candidate has charged me with a ‘mess’ in Washington…. Ike has taken up with McCarthy and Jenner the proponents of the Big Lie and has himself completely distorted the truth on Korea…”
“I know something about that tremendous real estate deal, and I have been informed that it is for the construction of a plant to make a terrific explosion for a secret weapon that will be a wonder.”
“I am hastening to tell you that whoever wrote that stupid article about my Spanish made a horrible mistake. By the widest stretch of the imagination I could never have a Cum Laude in it! I think some news gal skipped going to that party and made up a fancy story.”
Thanks!

Questions/comments:

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