

TRIP TO BOSTON

MONDAY, AUGUST 16, 1943

B.A. McLaughlin, O.P.

PURPOSE

1. To find out who Joseph A. McHenry, the Negotiator, of the the Contract with the War Department was.
2. To find out the key man in this whole situation.

MANNER OF PROCEDURE AND KNOWLEDGE OBTAINED:

1. I visit the Mayor of Boston, Maurice Tobin.
2. He received me graciously.
I told him I wanted to find out who was Joseph A. McHenry as he was the Negotiator of our Contract.
He asked me ---- "For whom does he work"
I told him:
War Department
Corps of Engineers
Office of Division Engineer
New England Division.

Mayor Tobin:

"Oh! then, he works for my very good friend, Colonel Gillette."

He called Col Gillette on the phone and said:

"Father McLaughlin, my very good friend, is here and he has serious matter on his mind.

I want you to receive him and do as much for him as you would for me."

Col. Gillette:

"I will be very glad to do so
When can he be over to see me.

Mayor Tobin:

"In about one hour"

3. I then went to the First Service Command to visit my very good friend Col. Robert L. Collins to seek his advise on the matter.

I explained to him how I had come to find out about Joseph A. McHenry and the Contract.

Col. Collins ~~mentioned~~ said you should see Col. Gillette.

He then called Col Gillette on the phone.

Col Collins:

" I want to introduced to you my very dear Friend
Father McLaughlin who is here with me.
He has some serious matter on his mind in regard to the
Army Contract.
I want you to do everything you can for him.

Col. Gillette:

" YOU CAN be assured I will.

I THEN WENT TO FEDERAL STREET AND MET COL.GILLETTE.

He received me graciously.

He immediately called in my presence Joseph A.McHenry who was
in the midst of negotiating a contract at Tufts College.

After some conversation with McHenry,Col.Gillette said,
"Well, you be at my office at 4:30 this afternoon".
Referring to McHenry.
I then left to return at 4:30.

INCIDENTS AT 4:30

I arrive at ColGillette's Office at 4.25.

At 4:35 Col Retter walked in with Mr.French and Joseph A.
McHenry.

After introductions Col.Gillette said:
" Let us sit around that table
Now Father tell them what is on your mind."

Father McLaguhlin:

"There is very little on my mind.
The whole point is this.
When Mr.French was at the College Aug.9th.and in his conversa-
tion to Father Dillon on Aug.18th.he gave the definite
impression that he has practically total jurisdiction
over the Contract and all Joe here had to do was to
sign it.
He wants another meeting and we do not want to offend Mr.
French,but we want to know wahn he want this meeting.

Mr. French:

"I am sorry if I made that impression.
I am only to help the institution in the proper drawing up
of the contract.
Referring to McHenry.

Mr. McHenry:

"That is right, Father, all he does is save time, so that the preliminaries will be out of the way before we come to the actual negotiating of the contract.

Fr. McLaughlin:

"Well, then, it is like my old straw hat. Much to do about nothing.

This summer I sat in a restaurant, I on one seat and my hat on the other across the table.

Suddenly a man appeared, sat on hat; the waiter thought it was ruined. But it was much to do about nothing. I am still wearing the hat.

Mr. McHenry:

"When do you want us to come down for the negotiating. Will next Wednesday be alright.

Fr. McLaughlin:

"That will be fine."

McHenry said they would be at the College at 9:00

Col. Gillette: Rising and coming over to me putting his arms on my shoulder said:

"Well, Father, if these two men do not give you what you want next Wednesday, come back to me."

Col. Gillette turned his back on McHenry and French, took me by the arm, walked with me all the down the corridor, punched the elevator key, gave me a cordial "good-bye".