

TRIP TO BOSTON

AUGUST 26, 1943
B.A. McLaughlin, O.P.

PURPOSE:

To thank the following men for their splendid cooperation in helping us to negotiate such a fine contract with the War Department:

Maurice Tobin, Mayor of Boston.
Col. Robert L. Collins, Director of First Service Command.
Col. G.W. Gillette, Chief of Engineers Division, War Dept.

Mayor Tobin:

On this day he was in Washington, D.C.
Hence his Secretary, Charles Colye, took my expressions of thanks.
Thought I did a fine thing to come all the way to Boston to convey these sentiments.

Col. Robert L. Collins:

"Well, Father, I guess you got all you wanted yesterday at the negotiations."
I am glad you got just what you wanted".

Fr. McLaughlin

Col. just what is Col. Gillette's status?"
Collins: "Father, he is tops.

He represents Washington here.
He is not even subject to Gen. Miles.
He is tops also in intellect.

I felt then, more than ever, that we had struck the right man for putting over the contract.

I left the Col to visit Col Gillette.

METTING WITH COL. GILLETTE:

Col. Gillette:

"Well, Father, how did they (McHenry & French) treat you yesterday at the negotiations."

Fr. McLaughlin:

"Col. you smoothed out every ripple.
We got a just and generous contract.
We are most grateful to you for the wonderful help
to rendered us in this most vital phase of
the Army Specialized Training Program.

Col. Gillette:

"I was not happy to do it.

Fr. McLaughlin:

"Well, I suppose, Col. this contract must now go to
Washington for the crucial test of approval."

Col. Gillette:

"Father I will let you in on a secret, I am the man who
approves the contract.
I can say although I have not yet seen the contract, that
your contract has 1 chance in 10,000 of being rejected.

When I was about to leave Col. Gillette said:

"Well, Father, when it comes time to re-negotiate the contract
and, if they do not give you what you want, come up
to me again, and I will get after them again.

On Friday Aug. 27, I brought the completed contract to 75 Federal St.
and placed it in the hands of Joseph A. McHenry.

On Wednesday, Sept. 1, 1943 :

Joseph A. McHenry developed the approved and
signed contract to the College.

The whole affair begun on Dec. 12, 1942 was happily completed on
Sept. 1, 1943