



DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY

London, October 3, 1938

*Ellen Murray*

You will probably have heard from me before you receive this regarding the check for Robert Durand. I am very glad to be of any assistance at all, so just put me down for whatever you want, and it will be perfectly satisfactory to me. I have told my office in New York to find out from you what you need and to send you a check accordingly. I am terribly sorry the poor girl is having a hard time.

Regarding the situation: it has been frightfully hectic since war was declared, but, with the Americans pretty well out of here now, and with the line-up made with most of the Departments, I should think that the actual work would sort of ease up. Naturally, the strain will always be there as long as there is a war on.

Of course, I am not carried away by this war for idealism. I can't see any use in everybody in Europe going bust and having communism run riot. My own belief is that the economic of Germany would have taken care of Hitler long before this if he didn't have a chance to wave that flag every once in a while. But, of course, one isn't supposed to say this out loud. The British are going about this war hating it, but with determination to fight it out. I still don't know what they are fighting for that is possible of accomplishment.

I know you will be interested to know that the British had decided to let the Duchesse of Windsor run a hospital in England - quite a bit removed from London - because they thought it would look better than having

Miss Marguerite A. Le Hand,  
The White House.

her in France, but I am of the opinion that the Duke and several members of the Cabinet thought the whole business should be pitched up socially with the Queen, but that young lady has ideas of her own and decided they could pitch up anything they wanted to, but leave her out. So the Duchess received no social approbation and took herself by the hand and went back to France with the Duke. That's about the only social high-light since the war.

It is lonesome as the devil here without the family and at the same time the delivery of mail is very bad and chances are from now on it is going to be worse, particularly with no American ships stopping in England, and it is my belief that there will be very few neutrals. The worst of it is you can't keep in touch with your friends in the States and you haven't the slightest idea what's going on over there. The only American news being carried in the English newspapers is about the fight on the Neutrality Act. Last night, however, the papers carried a picture of Dewey and said he was far ahead of all other candidates for the Republican nomination. I knew the world is crazy and that everything is topsy-turvy, but to have Dewey as candidate of a big Party to run the United States with the problems that are facing it is just the surest indication that either I have gone completely crazy or else I have lived ten years too long.

Give Be's my love and tell her she was very sweet to drop me that note. Tell her also she still has that soft spot in my heart.

Regardless of all the troubles we have over here, you must be having plenty of your own, so take good care of yourself and possibly we may all have a chance to meet up sooner than we expect.

*My heart to you always*  
*Love*  
*Joe*