

Richard Nixon Presidential Library
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Folder List

<u>Box Number</u>	<u>Folder Number</u>	<u>Document Date</u>	<u>No Date</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Document Type</u>	<u>Document Description</u>
5	28	11/3/1969	<input type="checkbox"/>	Campaign	Letter	Letter from New York Assemblyman John H. Terry to RN RE: Request to have John Hable appointed Postmaster. 3 pgs.
5	28	11/8/1968	<input type="checkbox"/>	Campaign	Letter	Copy of memo from John H. Terry to T. Elmer Bogardus RE: John Hable and his possible appointment as Postmaster of Syracuse, NY. 3 pgs.



THE ASSEMBLY
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

JOHN H. TERRY
200 EMPIRE BLDG.
SYRACUSE, N. Y. 13202

November 3, 1969

H.D.
Honorable Richard M. Nixon
The President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear President Nixon:

On October 12, 1968, I was present at the Fairmount Fire Department Clambake when Thomas R. DeYulia, Jr. berated John Hable over his failure to support the Democrats, especially President Johnson and Congressman James Hanley. Hable stood his ground and several times said he was a Republican; was supporting Richard Nixon for President and the entire Republican ticket. This was said in the presence of Congressman Hanley. I was at the next table and heard the entire conversation. I felt that John Hable was intimidated by DeYulia. On October 18 I memored the occurrence to our Republican County Chairman T. Elmer Bogardus (copy of memorandum attached) and concluded by recommending career Postal employee Hable for Postmaster if Richard Nixon was elected.

To identify the above named: John Hable is a 34 year Post Office employee, then serving as Station Superintendent. Thomas DeYulia is the top Syracuse staffer for Congressman James M. Hanley.

Richard Nixon was elected. I attended a meeting of top Onondaga County Republicans and it was determined that we would recommend a veteran politico Robert Roney, who is a good businessman and outstanding citizen for the then vacant position of Syracuse Postmaster. (Former Postmaster Caffrey died in September.) Hable would be considered for advancement. Thereafter, the momentous decision was announced that henceforth politics would not play a role in the appointment of Postmasters; that legislation would be recommended by the Chief Executive for the formation of a corporation to carry out the function of the Post Office

Honorable Richard M. Nixon
Page 2
November 3, 1969

Department. As a politician I did not like it, but I saw in it a sincere desire to reform the antiquated methods of that department and have long recognized that the strong union grasp and political influence on the department precluded major reform without an entirely new direction. The formation of a corporation could well be the vehicle for this transition. A bill to authorize this was introduced in Congress and referred to the Post Office Committee of the House of Representatives. The Committee thereafter defeated the bill by a vote of 6 to 5. Any negative vote could be called the deciding vote. One of the negative votes was cast by Congressman James M. Hanley of Syracuse.

In the interim and undoubtedly with an eye toward ridding the department of dead wood, the Post Office retirement measure was enacted substantially enhancing benefits effective November 1, 1969. Its result in Syracuse was the retirement of several top officials including Assistant Postmaster in Charge Lawrence Ryan. Ryan is a fine man but it was common knowledge that he was elevated because of a substantial contribution to the Democrat Campaign Fund several years ago (and continued after his appointment). Since the Post Office reform bill was defeated, it would appear that you would be required to live with the present system for some time to come.

Who was appointed as Officer in Charge of the Post Office of Syracuse? Thomas R. DeVulia, Sr. Does that name sound familiar? If you refer back to the opening paragraph of this letter you will find the same name, but in that case it was his son that was chastising Hable for his support of Richard Nixon for President.

Our County Chairman, reflecting the sentiment of a rather conservative county, was lukewarm toward one of your pre-convention opponent's quest for the top spot and this was publicly noted. Onondaga County gave you a plurality of more than 10,000 votes in 1968. I could take the position that many of my colleagues have -- the appointment of the father of Congressman Hanley's home office secretary is an insult to our County Chairman. I could accept the rumor that a deal was made -- you approve the appointment of DeVulia and Hanley will switch his vote when the Post Office reform bill is reconsidered in Congress. It might even make sense to say that Postmaster Blount will

Honorable Richard M. Nixon
Page 3
November 3, 1969

not listen to White House recommendations. I respectfully
request the real reason and express to you in advance my
appreciation of your advices.

Why am I entitled to a definitive response?
To answer the question I respond I have been a candidate
for public office on eleven occasions and elected on each
occasion; that I am presently a Member of Assembly as the
stationery indicates, and have been for the past seven years.
Prior to that I served for two and one-half years as
Assistant Secretary to the Governor and before that as a
County Supervisor. I was the Republican Campaign Chairman.
My vocation is the practice of law, but my avocation has
always been politics. I have lived through a County
Chairman pleading guilty to a morals charge; having Goldwater
lose my district by nearly 20,000 votes while I survived;
running 2,250 votes ahead of the Governor in the last
gubernatorial election, but no event in my 22 years as
a government official has been more discouraging than
the appointment of a dyed-in-the-wool Democrat whose son
is a top aide to our Democrat Congressman who was first
elected in the Goldwater debacle.

Again, I express to you my appreciation for
your consideration and advices in this matter.

Sincerely,



John H. Terry

JHT:ljk
Enclosures

MEMORANDUM

November 8, 1968

TO: Honorable T. Elmer Bogardus
FROM: John H. Terry

As you are aware, on November 7 I had a breakfast for a number of the people who worked so diligently in the 121st Assembly District on behalf of the Republican candidates in the 1968 campaign. Two of those in attendance were Mr. and Mrs. John Hable because they have both done so much.

I told John of recommendation made several weeks ago to you, with the expectation Richard Nixon would be our next President, of his appointment as Postmaster for Syracuse. This was done after talking with Pete Napier, who joins one hundred percent in the recommendation.

John said he had been anxious to talk with me since 11:00 Wednesday when the election of Nixon was consummated, and hopeful I could bring to your attention the fact that Congressman Hanley's power base has been in the Syracuse post office.

I was of the opinion all the jobs were civil service and in the untouchable category which prevails in the Health and Mental Hygiene Departments in Albany. I admit being extremely naive. Even though all the jobs below the level of Postmaster are civil service including even Assistant Postmaster, politics plays a very prominent role, whether the opening be as a substitute mail carrier or chief administrative services, et cetera.

There are presently several prominent vacancies in the Syracuse post office and the Acting Postmaster,

who previously was Assistant Postmaster, is scheduled for retirement next April. Chief Administrative Service is presently vacant. There are several new jobs which came out under date of November 5, 1968, one of which is Area Safety Counsellor, which is a civil service grade 10.

I was not previously aware of this but John presently serves, and has served for the past three years, as President of Syracuse Postal Supervisors Union so he knows whereof he speaks. He said when the Democrats came into power eight years ago the day after election a freeze order was placed on all jobs. This was done by placing appropriate pressure on the Regional Director who has the right to order a halt on all jobs. This can be done even without putting out a formal order because all jobs in order to be filled on even an acting basis have to be approved by the Regional Director so, therefore, if he just does not approve any they are not filled. It is, therefore, suggested that Charlie Schoeneck contact A. C. Hahn (Acting), Regional Director Post Office, New York Region, at the main post office in New York City and the freeze could be put on for the entire state.

I found of great interest the way in which Mr. Hanley has played a prominent role in the appointment of carriers all the way up to Acting Postmaster even though they are allegedly civil service jobs. The test that is given is apparently legitimate and in order to get some of these jobs that are involved in taking the written test you have to get on the list. Other jobs do not require a test and they are called "specialty jobs" and there are a number of those. In both instances the person does go before a promotional board which consists of the Acting Postmaster, General Superintendent of Mails, either the Assistant General Superintendent of Mails (designated services) or the Assistant General Superintendent of Mails (postal services), and when the post involves new money the Finance Chief, known as the Chief Accountant, is called in. They then draw up a list and ostensibly the Postmaster has to take one of the first three. However, there are many ways of getting around this. An expert on this is a fellow by the name of Donald Stohrer, who is a Personnel Officer, and a Republican, and I am advised he would be glad to explain this rather complicated process to you.

I am advised that Hanley, on most jobs, will make recommendations to the Postmaster and he, in turn,

quietly lets the Chairman of the Promotional Board know of his requests and that name is one of the names submitted. In one instance involving a relative of Mike Callahan apparently even Caffrey decided this fellow could not do the job so he rejected the man only to find the Regional Director suggested to the Postmaster this was the man to hire, and guess what, he is in the job today.

You may desire to designate to have someone look into this more extensively and give you a report or you may want to look into it yourself, but in any event the stop order should be sought immediately.

JHT:ljk