

November 19, 1971

Dear Marlow:

I can appreciate your annoyance over the premature announcement by a member of the press office to the family of Charles M. Allen regarding his nomination for the Western District of Kentucky federal judgeship.

Fortunately, this is an isolated incident -- one which I'm sure won't occur again -- and I regret the embarrassment caused you. You will be receiving a letter of apology from Diane Sawyer in the press office.

Sincerely,

William E. Timmons
Assistant to the President

Honorable Marlow Cook
United States Senate
Washington, D. C.

bcc: Ron Ziegler w/inc.

File

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON
November 22, 1971

Gene:

Attached is my mea culpa to Marlow Cook.

Please know that it comes with most
profound apologies to you and your
hard-working staff.

Diana

cc MacGregor
✓ Timmons
Ziegler
My mother

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

November 21, 1971

The Honorable Marlow Cook
United States Senator from Kentucky
Senate Office Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear Senator Cook:

The possibility of forgiveness despite the inexcusability of the circumstances has long been a keystone of human hope. Thus, regenerated relationships like the North and the South, Washington and Peking, the Delta Queen and the Belle, give me the courage to write and ask your forgiveness for a suspension of judgement last week that resulted in an unforgivable discourtesy to you, and great concern and embarrassment to the White House. And the same relationships give me hope that my apology will be accepted.

When the release papers for Judge Allen came to my desk this past week, I was delighted. I had been anxious about many of the possibilities which had been rumored at home, as you must have been as you worked to insure the distinguished appointment. Mrs. Allen and I had been in communication through my mother just the day before, and seeing the Judge's name precipitated a joyous congratulatory call that was both unthinking, and a thoughtless preemption of an honor that was yours and yours alone.

As you must be aware, Mr. MacGregor, Mr. Timmons, and Ron are deeply and rightly distressed by what happened. But I must assure you that the error was not functional or procedural, but uncontrollably human; and though this does not redeem it, you may be assured that it has never happened before, nor will again.

The rudeness of that event can only be compounded in your mind by what must seem the extreme rudeness of my failing to write you after your thoughtful recommendation to Ron on my behalf when I first came to Washington. I can't number the letters I have started to you. But they all seemed so inadequate. And then the maelstrom of Press Office activity caught me up, spinning weeks and months by without definition, and I find that in struggling to give full expression to the significant role you played in changing my life, I failed to give even a cursory thank you.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

The third, and I hope final, sin against you has got to be the length of this letter. But I am anxious to apologize to you on both counts.

I cannot blame you for the disappointment and just indignation you felt last week, but I hope you will know that I have been very proud to consider myself your friend here in Washington, very fortunate to be here in measure because you were kind and concerned enough to speak on my behalf, and deeply, sincerely sorry for what happened last week.

Please give my fond, best wishes to Mrs. Cook and your family.

Sincerely,

Franklin D. Roosevelt

enclosure

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

November 21, 1971

The Honorable and Mrs. Charles Allen
10 Rio Vista Drive
Louisville, Kentucky

Dear Judge and Mrs. Allen:

I wanted to write and tell you again how delighted I am with the nomination. It is wonderful to be proud of the way your State is represented in Washington, and having your name submitted for the District Court, Judge Allen, makes me very proud indeed.

I also wanted to write because something has worried me since the day of my impetuous call to you, Mrs. Allen. Inadvertently, my call preempted the honor that belonged to Senator Cook, that of informing you of the nomination. I have made my apologies to the Senator, but wanted to mention it to you as well with concern lest the fact that my call was your first notification diminish in any way the recognition due the Senator, whose conscientious effort and belief in your ability, Judge Allen, deserve all the gratitude.

My only role thus far has been the pleasure of writing the release. But I look forward to joining the other Kentuckians who will be fortunate in having you serve on our Court, and grateful to the Senator for making it all possible.

This comes with best wishes, and hopes that I will see you sometime when I return to Louisville.

Sincerely,

Franklin D. Roosevelt