

January 27, 1933

My dear Mr. Roosevelt:

I have a conviction that a citizen who has been deeply gratified by the election to the Presidency of his favorite candidate can as a rule show that appreciation best by troubling the victor as little as possible with suggestions and requests.

But occasionally - very occasionally - I do break over this rule. I am doing it now. May I ask when the time comes to consider a new Commissioner of Immigration at Ellis Island that you consider the unusual fitness and experience for the place of Thomas L. Cotton. I have come into personal contact with Mr. Cotton's work in the Foreign Language Information Service where I have for some years been a member of the Board of Trustees.

Mr. Cotton is thoroughly familiar with both the past and present of all phases of Immigration. He has that sympathetic understanding of foreign-born people so essential at Ellis Island. His efforts to educate the foreign-born to an understanding of our Government and its institutions have been I think of the first order.

All of this may be familiar to you I know, dear Mr. Roosevelt, since you have so intimate a knowledge of the agencies that work through the country for the betterment of all classes of citizens, but the matter seems to me so important and Mr. Cotton so admirably fitted for the position that I am taking the liberty of adding my voice to the many others which I am sure will be raised in his support.

May I not take this
opportunity to say how deeply I am
impressed with the deliberation, the
liberality of spirit and the general
common sense, with which you seem to me
to be attacking the grave problems of
the Presidency.

Faithfully yours

Hon. President-Elect Franklin D. Roosevelt
49 East Sixty fifth Street
New York, N. Y.