



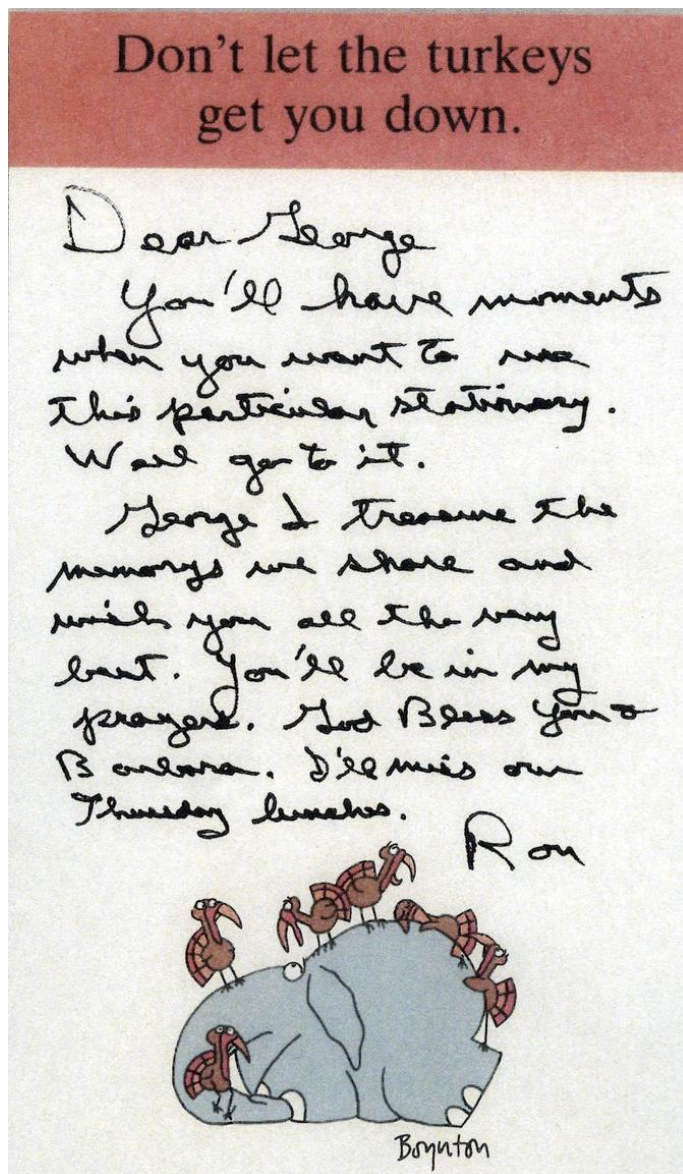
PARTNERSHIP FOR PUBLIC SERVICE

CENTER *for* PRESIDENTIAL TRANSITION

TRADITIONS FOR PRESIDENTIAL TRANSITIONS: HISTORICAL LETTERS AND TELEGRAMS

LETTERS LEFT IN THE OVAL OFFICE (REAGAN TO TRUMP)

From President Reagan to President H.W. Bush, 1989:



Dear George:

*You'll have moments
when you want to use this
particular stationery.
Well, go to it.*

*George, I treasure the
memories we share and
wish you all the very best.
You'll be in my prayers.
God bless you and
Barbara. I'll miss our
Thursday lunches.*

Ron

From President H.W. Bush to President Clinton, 1993:

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Jan 20, 1993

Dear Bill,

When I walked into this office just now I felt the same sense of wonder and respect that I felt four years ago. I know you will feel that, too.

I wish you great happiness here. I never felt the loneliness some Presidents have described.

There will be very tough times, made even more difficult by criticism you may not think is fair. I'm not a very good one to give advice; but just don't let the critics discourage you or push you off course.

You will be our President when you read this note. I wish you well. I wish your family well.

Your success now is our country's success. I am rooting hard for you.

Good luck -

George

Dear Bill,

When I walked into this office just now I felt the same sense of wonder and respect that I felt four years ago. I know you will feel that, too.

I wish you great happiness here. I never felt the loneliness some Presidents have described.

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You will be our President when you read this note. I wish you well. I wish your family well.

Your success now is our country's success. I am rooting hard for you.

*Good luck—
George*

From President Clinton to President Bush, 2001:



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

January 20, 2001

Dear George,

Today you embark on the greatest venture, with the greatest honor, that can come to an American citizen.

Like me, you are especially fortunate to lead our country in a time of profound and largely positive change, when old questions, not just about the role of government, but about the very nature of our nation, must be answered anew.

You lead a proud, decent, good people. And from this day you are President of all of us. I salute you and wish you success and much happiness.

The burdens you now shoulder are great but often exaggerated. The sheer joy of doing what you believe is right is inexpressible.

My prayers are with you and your family. Godspeed.

Sincerely,

Bill

Dear George,

Today you embark on the greatest venture, with the greatest honor, that can come to an American citizen.

Like me, you are especially fortunate to lead our country in a time of profound and largely positive change, when old questions, not just about the role of government, but about the very nature of our nation, must be answered anew.

You lead a proud, decent, good people. And from this day you are President of all of us. I salute you and wish you success and much happiness.

The burdens you now shoulder are great but often exaggerated. The sheer joy of doing what you believe is right is inexpressible.

My prayers are with you and your family. Godspeed.

Sincerely, Bill

From President Bush to President Obama, 2009:

Jan 20, 2009

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Dear Barack,

Congratulations on becoming our President. You have just begun a fantastic chapter in your life.

Very few have had the honor of knowing the responsibility you now feel. Very few know the excitement of the moment and the challenges you will face.

There will be trying moments. The critics will rage. Your "friends" will disappoint you. But, you will have an Almighty God to comfort you, a family who loves you, and a country that is pulling for you, including me. No matter what comes, you will be inspired by the character and compassion of the people you now lead. God Bless you Sincerely, GW

Dear Barack,

Congratulations on becoming our President. You have just begun a fantastic chapter in your life.

Very few have had the honor of knowing the responsibility you now feel. Very few know the excitement of the moment and the challenges you will face.

There will be trying moments. The critics will rage. Your "friends" will disappoint you. But, you will have an Almighty God to comfort you, a family who loves you, and a country that is pulling for you, including me. No matter what comes, you will be inspired by the character and compassion of the people you now lead.

God bless you.

Sincerely,

GW

From President Obama to President Trump, 2017:

Congratulations on a remarkable run. Millions have placed their hopes in you, and all of us, regardless of party, should hope for expanded prosperity and security during your tenure.

This is a unique office, without a clear blueprint for success, so I don't know that any advice from me will be particularly helpful. Still, let me offer a few reflections from the past 8 years.

First, we've both been blessed, in different ways, with great good fortune. Not everyone is so lucky. It's up to us to do everything we can (to) build more ladders of success for every child and family that's willing to work hard.

Second, American leadership in this world really is indispensable. It's up to us, through action and example, to sustain the international order that's expanded steadily since the end of the Cold War, and upon which our own wealth and safety depend.

Third, we are just temporary occupants of this office. That makes us guardians of those democratic institutions and traditions—like rule of law, separation of powers, equal protection and civil liberties—that our forebears fought and bled for. Regardless of the push and pull of daily politics, it's up to us to leave those instruments of our democracy at least as strong as we found them.

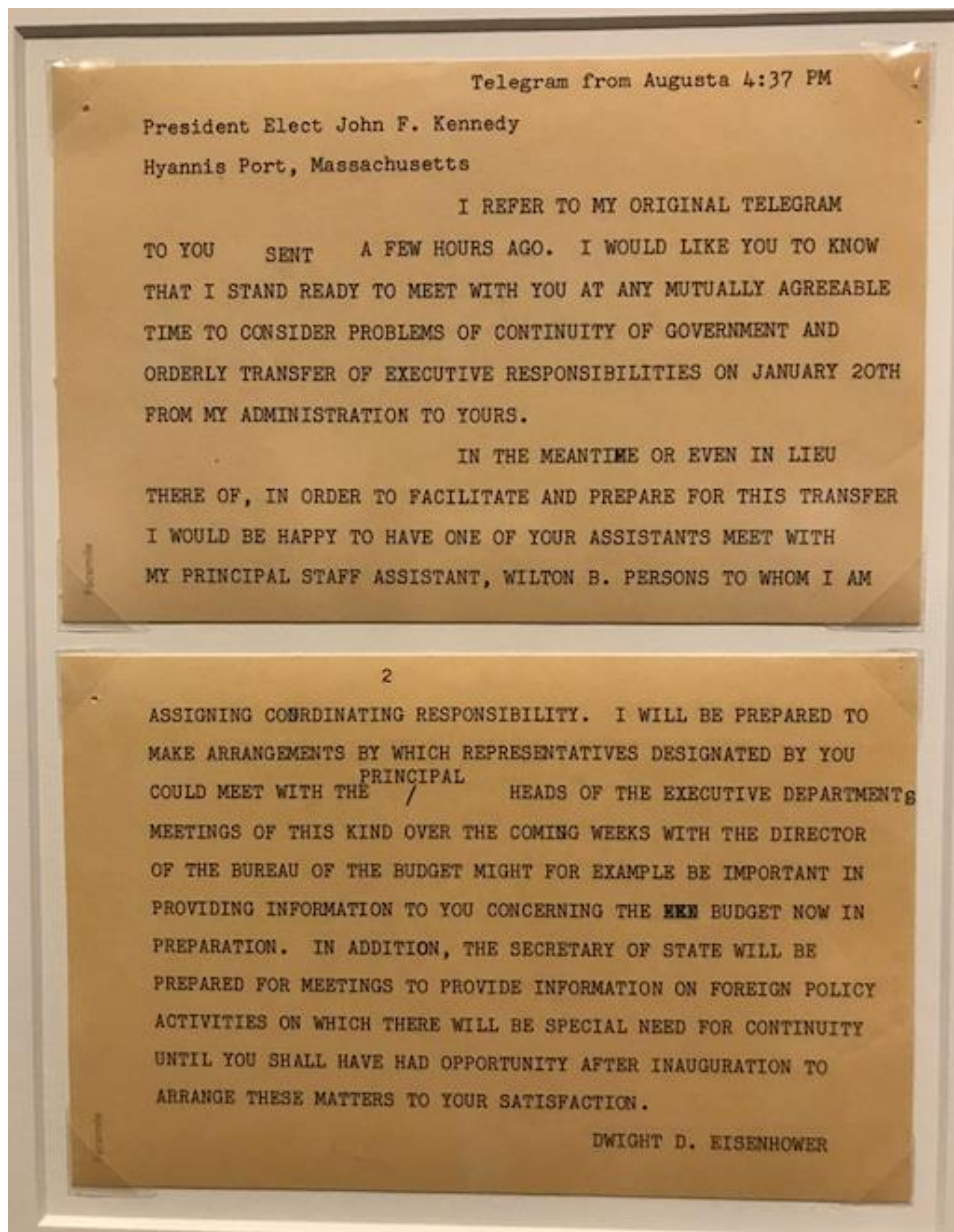
And finally, take time, in the rush of events and responsibilities, for friends and family. They'll get you through the inevitable rough patches.

Michelle and I wish you and Melania the very best as you embark on this great adventure and know that we stand ready to help in any ways which we can.

*Good luck and Godspeed,
BO*

COMMUNICATION BETWEEN PRESIDENT EISENHOWER AND PRESIDENT-ELECT KENNEDY

From President Eisenhower to President-elect Kennedy, 1960:



From President Eisenhower to President-elect Kennedy, 1960:

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

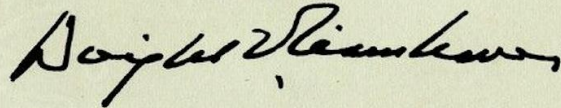
December 16, 1960.

Dear Senator Kennedy:

I have now heard from both Secretary Gates and General Decker regarding your desire to retain General Goodpaster temporarily after your Inauguration. They have arranged, as you asked, for him to stay on in your office for a period ending sometime in February or March, the exact date to be determined later. At the same time, they have taken steps to see that, as we agreed, when he ends his service here he will be sent to the same assignment that is now planned for him.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Dwight D. Eisenhower". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent "D" and "E".

The Honorable John F. Kennedy,
The President-elect.

From President Kennedy to President Eisenhower, 1961:

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

January 21, 1961

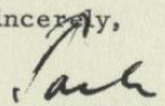
My dear Mr. President:

On my first day in office I want to send you a note of special thanks for your many acts of cordiality and assistance during the weeks since the election.

I am certain that your generous assistance has made this one of the most effective transitions in the history of our Republic. I have very much enjoyed personally the association which we have had in this common effort.

With all good wishes to you and Mrs. Eisenhower in the days ahead, I am

Sincerely,


John F. Kennedy

CONGRATULATORY TELEGRAM FROM PRESIDENT HOOVER TO ROOSEVELT

PATRONS ARE REQUESTED TO FAVOR THE COMPANY BY CRITICISM AND SUGGESTION CONCERNING ITS SERVICE 7384

CLASS OF SERVICE	WESTERN UNION	SIGNS
This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable sign above or preceding the address.	NEWCOMB CARLTON, PRESIDENT J. C. WELLESLEY, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT	DL = Day Letter NM = Night Message NL = Night Letter LCO = Deferred Cable NLT = Cable Night Letter WLT = Week-End Letter

The filing time as shown in the date line on full-rate telegrams and day letters, and the time of receipt at destination as shown on all messages, is STANDARD TIME.

NAN106 44=STANFORDUNIVERSITY CALIF 8 1000P

HON FRANKLIN D ROOSEVELT=

I CONGRATULATE YOU ON THE OPPORTUNITY THAT HAS COME TO YOU
TO BE OF SERVICE TO THE COUNTRY AND I WISH FOR YOU A MOST
SUCCESSFUL ADMINISTRATION IN THE COMMON PURPOSE OF ALL OF
US I SHALL DEDICATE MYSELF TO EVERY POSSIBLE HELPFUL
EFFORT=

HERBERT HOOVER.

THE QUICKEST, SUREST AND SAFEST WAY TO SEND MONEY IS BY TELEGRAPH OR CABLE.

Hon Franklin D Roosevelt

I congratulate you on the opportunity that has come to you to be of service to the country and I wish for you a most successful administration in the common purpose of all of us. I shall dedicate myself to every possible helpful effort.

Herbert Hoover.