

Correspondence: Smith, Harrison H.
1972 August

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WILKES-BARRE, PA.

From the desk of
HARRISON H. SMITH

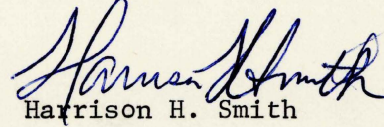
August 21, 1972

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Judge Rosenn
Mr. Lashford
Mr. Morgan

Gentlemen:

For your information I am enclosing
a copy of a letter I received from Donald E.
Sutter describing the make-up of the Governor's
Emergency Council in the Gulf Coast Area.

Sincerely,


Harrison H. Smith

Enc.



DONALD E. SUTTER
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

PHONE 863-1621
AREA CODE 601

GULFPORT, MISS. 39501

August 15, 1972

Mr. Harrison H. Smith
President
Wilkes-Barre Publishing Company
15 North Main Street
Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania 18701

Dear Mr. Smith:

It was a genuine pleasure and a privilege to meet you and your associates during our recent visit to Wilkes-Barre.

We were tremendously impressed with the caliber of people you assembled to cope with the problems relating to your disaster. Also, I must say we were deeply impressed by the extent of the damage your area has suffered. It brought back many poignant memories to all of us from our area and we are anxious to help in any possible way.

You may recall that I mentioned the work of the Governor's Emergency Council in our area and I have communicated with the man who headed up this council and who devoted many, many months to its operation. He is one of the most outstanding lawyers in our state, is extremely imaginative and dynamic, and gave unstintingly of his time and talent to this work.

Of course, it must be recognized that this is a thankless task for which one cannot expect praise but can expect criticism, yet it is a job which can contribute tremendously to the recovery from a disaster.

The Governor's Emergency Council in our state was composed of outstanding, successful businessmen from all over the state and the Governor turned over to them, without restrictions of any kind, the job of coordinating the flow of funds to this area and of providing leadership to inspire thinking for the future. Mr. Edmund L. Brunini, of the

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law firm, Brunini, Everett, Grantham & Quin, First National Bank Building, Jackson, Mississippi, telephone number 601-948-3101, is the gentleman who headed this committee and I shall list below his views which may be helpful to you.

Mr. Brunini says that Mississippi has a type of government known by lawyers as a weak executive type whereas his recollection is that Pennsylvania has a strong executive type of government, which means that the Governor has far more power he can exercise than the Governor of Mississippi.

His recommendation is that if we were to have a similar disaster that a Governor's Emergency Council should again be created to handle the problems. As he expresses it "sitting at a distance" he believes that the scope of the disaster in Pennsylvania is such that the Governor should pick out the strongest available man that he has in Pennsylvania and draft him for his staff for full-time work on the problem for the next two years. This man should have immediate and constant access to the Governor and, in turn, the Governor should sponsor the designation by each of the Pennsylvania Senators of the most competent man each has on his staff to serve along with the best available staff member from each of the Congressmen who might be involved in the stricken area.

He feels that the Governor's draftee should almost be a dictator in this field and should be charged with the responsibility of coordinating (1) in Washington the staff members available by the Senators and their Congressmen, (2) in the State of Pennsylvania the other members of the Governor's staff who have knowledge as to the operations of the various state agencies, and (3) a council or task force made up of representatives from the local affected jurisdictions.

The Governor's draftee should be paid and should have assigned to him at least five full-time assistants, one of whom should be an engineer, one a lawyer, one a financial expert, one with public relations experience, and one familiar with Federal Programs.

He says the foregoing is naturally just a sketch outline but might be helpful to you in your thinking as it appears that a great deal of co-ordination in your area will be necessary to expedite recovery.

I am enclosing the information I used for my short talk and

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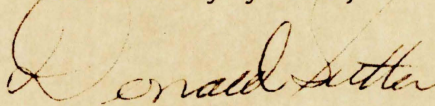
Mr. Harrison H. Smith

the background from which I obtained the information.

Also, would you be so kind as to send me a list of the people who attended the Dinner the Friday night we arrived.

With best wishes for the success of your efforts and the recovery of your area, I am

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Donald Sutter".

Donald Sutter

Enclosures

DS:jr

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