

Notes 182N, Copy 2

Mrs. Edwin M. Watson

Kenwood, Virginia

March 29, 1958

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Mrs. Edwin M. Watson, widow of General "Pa" Watson, at her home—Kenwood--near Charlottesville, 29 March 1958 by FC Pogue.

(Mrs. Watson is gracious; has huge place near Monticello; once a concert pianist; has music proteges. Forthright in views. Grimaces when she talks).

Remembered talking with Gen and Mrs. Marshall once when Baruch was there. It was before Gen Marshall was made C of S. Baruch and Watson went off in another room to talk. She thinks Marshall thought they were probably talking about him being C of S. He was ill at ease. Kept up flow of talk about baseball. She wasn't interested. Was like him to be embarrassed about the fact they were discussing him.

She confirmed Justice Frankfurter's view that "Pa" was for Marshall. Does not think Drum's Catholicism played a part. True he was Catholic and some Catholics backed him. However, I am a Catholic and that didn't mean I was for him. Doesn't think it played a part.

Mrs. Marshall a fine person. Gen Marshall adored her.

Marshall had great reticence. A just man. Must have been like Hindenburg.

I remember the story that they called him up from the White House or the Pentagon and awakened him to say that D Day attack had been launched. He said what do you want me to do about it and went back to bed. Typical of the man.

He was the best man for the job. Cold blooded in his approach to the job. Could deal coldly with his friends if country involved. He told off John Greely, whom he had known a long time, when he thought he was out of line.

I never heard him described as a brilliant man. That was not his great quality. It was character.

Roosevelt had the profoundest respect for Marshall. But that charmer in the White House didn't put things over on Marshall. Marshall was not what Gen Watson called one of the "By the way boys" who would go in and speak to the President and then say "by the way".

Gen Marshall must be very unhappy at times to see how the man he picked and pushed up has become such a poor leader. Says she guesses that Gen Eisenhower must have been a good soldier.

She spoke of Baruch. Said Felix told her to read Miss Coit's book. Said Baruch's book not as good. She tried to read Coit's book and didn't like it; enjoyed Baruch's. She said I told Felix you haven't read either and he hadn't. Said Baruch had great vanity.

Spoke of the fact that at Gen Watson's funeral, Gen Marshall came to the car at the cemetery and stood right by it while the service was going on. He knew I needed support and he silently gave it. Typical of him.

You have a hard job putting together this story. She said she would let me see some of Gen Watson's papers. Miss Dennison still with White House would help.