

April 29, 1944

Mr. W. Randolph Hearst
Wynton
McCloud, California

Dear Mr. Hearst:

The other day in our sessions here when the role of the newspapers in the war effort and the work of leading newspaper makers was under discussion, my thoughts turned to you; what you and your papers were doing now, what you had done through so many years, for your country, for the newspaper business and for the men and women who make them. Then I recalled that today you will be eighty one years-not old, but young. Hence this letter, as the telegraph companies will not permit transmission of strictly birthday greetings and even circumvention of the rule would not permit me to say what I feel.

Yours has been one of the most remarkable careers in the history of our nation. It would have been had you done no more than revolutionize the newspaper business; to give to the newspaper workers a status they not only had not enjoyed previously but perhaps would not have attained for another generation had it not been for your recognition. Your outspoken and vigorous championship of the cause of Americanism and your devotion at all times to the public interest, have profoundly influenced American opinion and brought about needed reforms. I know that it has been a fight all the way but I also feel that in retrospect you must enjoy the greatest of all human satisfactions-the satisfaction of really worth-while accomplishment. You have lived to see most of the things you fought for, accomplished; yourself proved right in many campaigns where you lost.

But as important as all of these things are, the most important and the most gratifying to me and your host of friends in and out of the newspaper business is, that you have lived to see these changes come about and at that at a time when most people of your age have been consigned to the scrapheap or sidetracked to the ivory tower of observation and counsel, you

still possess your physical and mental vigor and the ability and genius to direct successfully your far-flung properties through two of the most critical phases of our national economic life-the depression and the war.

My heartiest congratulations and my sincerest best wishes. May you live to observe many, many more birthdays and may the rest of us, beset as we are by daily problems that sometimes seem insurmountable, take courage from you and profit from your example.

Sincerely,

P.S.

I have just read this letter to Ed Swasey and he enthusiastically endorses it in its entirety.