

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION/PRIVACY ACTS SECTION

SUBJECT: LOU GEHRIG

b7c
[Redacted]
Detroit, Michigan
October 14, 1939.

Mr. Tolson	.....
Mr. Nathan	.....
Mr. E. A. Tamm	.....
Mr. Clegg	.....
Mr. Ladd	.....
Mr. Coffey	.....
Mr. Egan	.....
Mr. Glavin	.....
Mr. Crowl	.....
Mr. Harbo	.....
Mr. [Redacted]	.....
Mr. [Redacted]	.....
Mr. [Redacted]	.....
Mr. Rosen	.....
Mr. Sears	.....
Mr. Quinn Tamm	.....
Mr. Tracy	.....
Miss Gandy	.....

Honorable John Edgar Hoover, Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

I wish to take this golden opportunity and privilege to inform you Mr. Hoover, America's most brilliant and popularity No. 1 G-Man and forceful crime-fighting Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, United States Department of Justice, which I notice with interest in the November publication of "G"-Men, that you Mr. Hoover, have delivered recently an important address before the Junior Chamber of Commerce of America, at Tulsa, Okla., Convention, entitled "Put Your Prints on File," and, I indeed would be very glad, if you Mr. Hoover, will send me an additional copy of your most brilliant address named above, your kindness in this regard will be deeply appreciate thereof.

Also, for your information, I am enclosing herewith a newspaper clipping in relative to the appointment of Mr. Lou Gehrig, a former ball-player and captain of the World's Champion New York Yankees, as Parole Commissioner of New York City., by Mayor F. H. LaGuardia. And, I do hope that Mr. Gehrig, will impress upon the minds of the juveniles which are brought before him for minor infraction that "CRIME-DOES-NOT-PAY."

See file no. [Redacted]
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With kindest regards and all good wishes to you, I remain

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

OCT 17 1939

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Very truly yours,

L. Joseph [Redacted]
Co-Worker

FBI United States Department of Justice*

Enclosure

[Redacted]
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Continued from Page 1

The prisoners under the Parole Board's jurisdiction theoretically are minor offenders, but in fact many racketeers, gangsters and other dangerous prisoners are sentenced to city institutions.

Gehrig, who will be 37 next June 19, was born in New York City and is a graduate of Columbia University. He joined the Yankees in 1923 and became a regular in 1925.

Since he was examined at Mayo Brothers Clinic, Rochester, Minn., and found to be suffering from a strange malady called "amyotrophic lateral sclerosis," Gehrig has remained in the background of the Yankee dugout and made few appearances on the diamond. As captain of the Yanks his job nominally would be to hand the Yankee batting order to the umpires every day, but he begged off doing this task because he "didn't want to appeal to the fans' sympathy."

Although progress is said to have been made in checking his disease, he has trouble walking, especially up steps.

Gehrig Named to Parole Board on New York Parole Board

He Must Take Salary Cut Like All City Employees, Netting \$5,700 a Year

NEW YORK, Oct. 11 (U.P.)—Lou Gehrig, whose "iron man" baseball career was ended last season by a form of paralysis, today got a new job for the next 10 years when Mayor F. H. LaGuardia appointed him a member of the Municipal Parole Board.

Gehrig, who established the almost unbelievable record of playing in 2,130 consecutive games from 1925 through May 2, 1939, will be sworn in Monday at the City Hall, but his duties will not begin until Jan. 1. In the interim he will visit several penal institutions to become acquainted with his new work.

\$400,000 in 17 Years

Gehrig's salary will be \$6,000 a year, less the 5 per cent cut imposed on all City employees in the higher brackets. Thus he will receive \$5,700, only a little more than he received from the players' share of the Yankee World Series pool. He was voted a full share, \$5,614. His salary last season with the Yanks was \$34,000.

In 17 years with the Yanks

Gehrig collected approximately \$100,000 in salary and World Series dividends. His highest salary was \$39,000 in 1938, the second highest outright player's salary in the history of baseball.

Gehrig was believed to have turned down several other more lucrative jobs in favor of the public-service post. Recent rumors had him going into radio work at a much higher figure than the one he will now receive from New York City.

The now slightly gray Gehrig has had the parole job under consideration for several months and has been studying criminology and doing research work to fit himself for his new career.

"I believe Mr. Gehrig will not only be an able, intelligent commissioner," said Mayor LaGuardia in announcing the appointment, "but that he will be an inspiration and a hope to many of the younger boys who have got into trouble."

"Surely the misfortune of some of the young men will compare as trivial with what Mr. Gehrig has so cheerfully and courageously faced. He expects to devote his life to public service."

Lou Talks Shop

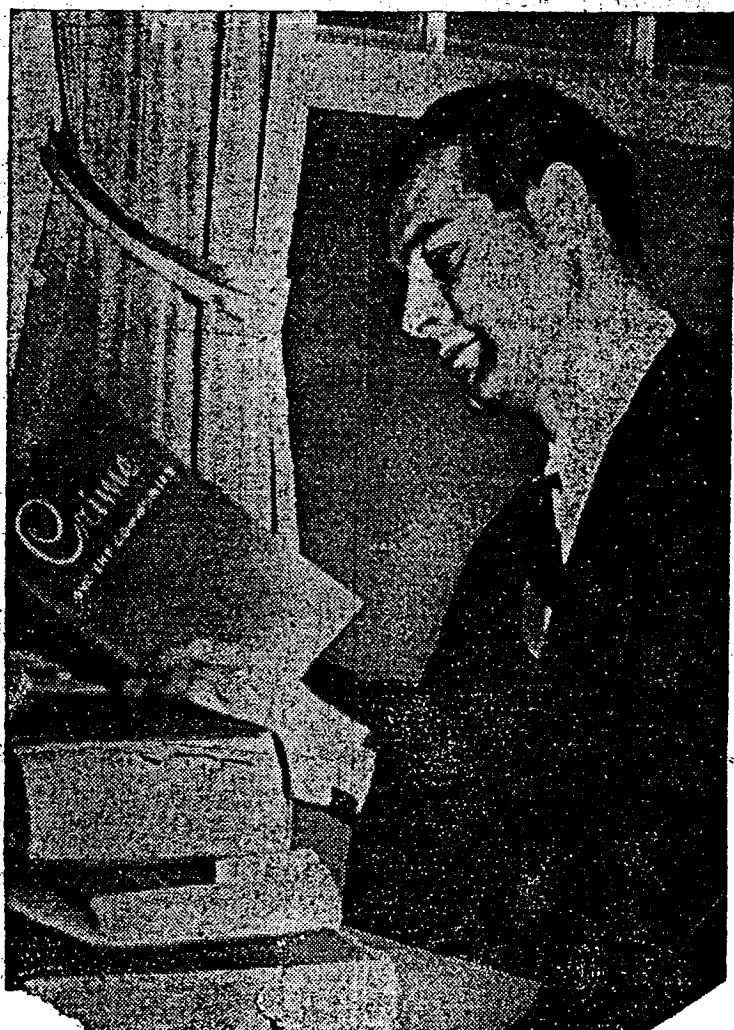
When Gehrig was questioned about his appointment he said from his home at New Rochelle, N. Y., "I consider the offer from Mayor LaGuardia very flattering, and my appointment will permit me to engage in a lot of constructive work. I have been reading books on penology and parole and am making a thorough study of all phases of criminology."

Because Gehrig is not a resident of New York City he will be forced to move inside the city proper from his suburban home before the City Council and the Board of Estimate can approve his appointment.

The Municipal Parole Board is composed of five members, three appointed by the Mayor. Gehrig succeeds the late Mrs. J. Ramsey Reese. The other two members are the Police Commissioner and the Commissioner of Corrections, usually represented by deputies.

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Studying Up on Crime



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- Mr. Lester
- Mr. Hendon
- Mr. Nichols
- Mr. Rosen
- Mr. Sears
- Mr. Quinn Tamm
- Mr. Tracy
- Miss Gandy

Parole Commissioner Gehrig

Our dynamic and unpredictable Mayor has made page one again with another of his characteristic appointments. Who but the inimitable Fiorello would have thought of naming Lou Gehrig to the Municipal Parole Commission, with the view that baseball's "Iron Man" "will be an inspiration and a hope to many of the younger boys who have gotten into trouble?"

Like many of Mr. LaGuardia's previous appointments, this one has merit, spiced with showmanship. The whole nation was saddened at the news that Larrupin' Lou, disabled by infantile paralysis in his prime, had come to bat for the last time. None will begrudge him felicitations at the start of his new career, which he has accepted eagerly as an opportunity for "constructive work."

The Yankees' peerless first baseman is deserving of commendation in view of the fact that he preferred the public service to other more lucrative but meretricious ventures. His salary of \$5,700 a year will be only \$86 more than the sum he received for his participation in the last World Series alone. He is further to be commended on his decision to move back to New York from the rural acres he prefers, despite the certainty that his exemption from the provision of the Lyons residence law could easily be arranged. There is no reason why the Yankees' star player should not, in the words of the Mayor, "prove himself to be an able, intelligent commissioner." Unlike some of the simple children of nature who function in our sports arenas, notably the squared circle, Lou is a college man.

This is an appointment which could have happened only in America. According to popular standards, Lou Gehrig has, in the old phrase, deserved well of the Republic. The whole incident illumines a refreshing facet of the American psychology, which Mr. Gehrig summed up the other day when she remarked: "It's better to fight over a base hit than over somebody's territory."

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