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United States Senate,

WASHINGTON, D. C.

May 1, 1918.

NUMBER SIXTEEN

Major Archibald M. Johnson,  
Army Post Office 714,  
American Expeditionary Force,  
France.

My dear Arch:

I have been delayed so long in arguing the case before the Supreme Court which I have undertaken to argue that I am fearing so great a hiatus between my last letter and this, which you will not understand, so I am sending you just this note this morning to tell you the case was set for argument Monday, but the calendar of the Supreme Court is of such length that we have been delayed from day to day. I am not sure whether our matter will be taken up today or tomorrow. Immediately upon its conclusion I will write you at length.

Jack has sent you cigarettes each week but they have been returned to him under a ruling of the military authorities.

I had Miss Connor telephone to ascertain what this ruling was, and she was told-

"Shipments of any articles will be limited to those articles which have been requested by the individual to whom same are to be shipped, such request having been approved by his regimental or higher commander", and that a copy of this approved request must be attached to the shipment.

Atholl McBean called upon me a day or two ago saying he was going to Switzerland, and would have something to do with the prisoners and their exchange. In the hotel, I told him of the



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difficulty of getting cigarettes to you, and asked him if he would carry a package to you from me, so I will take this method of sending you some.

Up to this time we have received letters from you - Number Two and Number Five, and the very brief, sweet note to Mother, that came about the time of letter Number Two. I am carefully numbering all my letters so that you may know just how often I am writing, and just how many you don't get.

It is generally becoming known that we have taken the old Lord Baltimore house. There was a little article in the Washington Post this morning. I enclose you a clipping of it. I fear this old inn and road-house joint which we are endeavoring to transmute into a mere habitation will give the idea that we are about to move into some tremendously spacious and marvelously luxurious mansion. One of the jokes of the place is that there were about two thousand empty bottles in the basement. I have been insisting they should be carried out before we got into the house. I thought if we endeavored to dispose of them after we got into the house I would have unjustly earned a reputation for an unquenchable thirst.

The news of the last couple of days of the battle is better. May the Lord in His infinite mercy permit our allies to prevail!

With all our love.

Affectionately your father,

*Hiram W. Johnson*



HIRAM W. JOHNSON  
CALIFORNIA

United States Senate,

WASHINGTON, D. C.

May 5, 1918.

Mrs. Amy Johnson,  
The California Sanitarium,  
Belmont, California.

My dear Daughter:

I was so sorry to miss my weekly letter to you a week ago yesterday - much more sorry perhaps than you. I have come to like these weekly talks to you. I like them because it is the only time I unburden myself, and the only instance in which I say very freely that in which I am interested, and the only letters - aside from the brief ones to Jack - in which I feel I can exercise the supposedly God-given American right ( a right we are gradually whittling away ) of free speech and full expression. I will have to change my days of writing to you because Saturday is one of the important days of the military committee. Each Saturday at 9:30 we meet at the office of the Secretary of War, and, in an hour or two session then, we are supposed to be informed confidentially of everything transpiring in a military way, and of those events which affect us in the great struggle. From the few of these conferences I have attended, I returned to the Capitol just before 12. The session then commences and continues practically all afternoon. Yesterday was a fair instance of this sort. I was at the War Office at 9:30. The Senate commenced at 11. I reached there at 11, and was on my feet five minutes after 11, and left the Senate chamber sometime after 5 o'clock. I asked, therefore, my real secretary to



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come here this morning, and, this, Sunday, morning I am dictating my letter to you. Hereafter, if I can not write it Saturday or Sunday, I will write it on Monday, and if there is a delay of a day, or even two days, you'll understand.

What is stated to us at the War Department is stated in confidence. It is, of course, not my intention to repeat what is thus told us in confidence, and, if in the haste of dictation and the the length of any of these communications you find intimate statements which you'll ascribe to the disclosures made to the military committee, of course, they must be sacredly kept between you, and Jack, and myself.

My entrance on the military committee has been quite interesting. There is quite a little feeling of jealousy among Senators generally, and particularly, among some of the members of the military committee. This has been the one great committee, which has had the limelight and the prominence since the war was declared. And the members of it, like men basking in the sunlight of publicity, have grown very great in their own estimations, and the advent of any new figure is rather resented by them. Sensing this situation, I am doing exactly what I did when I first came into the Senate - moving very quietly and carefully, effacing my own personality temporarily in the committee, and, generally endeavoring to act in friendly and kindly fashion, without offense to anybody. I find also that because of their familiarity with what has been transpiring and the detail relating to



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the army, the members who have industriously and regularly attended the meetings have a great advantage over a new member. And, for this reason, if for no other, a new member should be quiet and unobtrusive until he has mastered every detail possessed by the older members. Within a very short time, just as occurred in the Senate, I will feel myself on a parity with my colleagues in committee, and then, just as I now do in the Senate, I will go to the bat on anything that interests me. It has been very interesting, and, I can assure you, not at all disagreeable, to find myself at present in the Senate consulted in matters at least pertaining to the Republican Party and any attempted Party solidarity, by Mr. Lodge, and Mr. Brandegee, and other old leading standpatters; and, because of one or two votes, which have been conscience votes by me, and not at all related to politics or party, they have reached the conclusion that, after all, I am a pretty good Republican, and that I have the nerve to vote as I see fit - a characteristic which they deprecate in some of their old standpat brethren. These old standpatters are exactly as I used to describe them in California. They have no partisanship. They measure every vote by their own selfishness and the possibility of advantage personally, alone. They prate of the grand old party and of the necessity for everybody who belongs to it ever to stand with it; but, when the test comes, they are found voting for their own profit, and gain, and aggrandizement. Political favor from the Democrat in power will buy them just as readily as a bribe of money will purchase a



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crooked supervisor. This we have seen exemplified very recently, in what was termed the "Overman bill" for a re-transfer of offices, and re-distribution of executive powers. Overman told me that the leading Democrats had opposed this bill because they deemed it such an outrageous subversion of the Constitution and the laws of the land. Finally, with some misgivings, he presented it. In the cloak-room every Republican denounced it in unmeasured terms, and the old standpatters with absolute unanimity hysterically insisted upon the awful consequences which might ensue from such a measure. Personally, I never became very greatly excited over it. I thought it a cheap piece of political strategy on the part of the President. You will remember that the military committee after its investigations a couple of months ago, which demonstrated how inefficient had been our preparation and how we had fallen down in our war work, presented two bills providing for a munitions minister and a war cabinet. They were fashioned after the English and the <sup>French</sup> British models. They would have been most appropriate in this crisis. The President burst forth in angry abuse of these measures and of Chamberlain. He was guilty for the first time since I have been here of losing his head and his temper, and, I think, he felt, after his unjust and untrue outburst against Chamberlain that he had blundered. He knew some such law which would compel cooperation and co-ordination as the war cabinet bill and the munitions minister was necessary. He is so obstinate, opinionated, and egotistical that he would not accept the measures thus presented by



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the military committee, but, realizing how unjustifiable and indefensible his attitude was, he presented the "Overman Bill" for the re-distribution of the functions and powers of executive offices as a foil to what the committee proposed. It was the Fabian policy of carrying the war into Africa - and it succeeded admirably. Nothing more was heard of the war cabinet bill or the minister of munitions, and the fight waxed warm on the "Overman Bill" for the redistribution of the powers and functions of executive offices. Now, my objection to the "Overman Bill" was that nobody could tell what was desired under it, and nobody knew what the purpose of the President was, and the President declined absolutely to tell what offices he wished to consolidate, what executive powers he wished to transfer, and what functions of government he would alter or modify. I felt, as a part of the government, it was our right to know, and I felt that if he held us in such cheap contempt as to decline to tell us his purposes, I would not vote for a measure, the consequences of which I could not foresee, and information of the purpose of which was arrogantly denied. Ten thousand reasons were advanced against the bill by the Republicans, but the underlying reason with most of them was their distrust and hatred of the President, which they were ever vociferously asserting, and with which asseverations I have no sympathy, and none of which do I ever voice. But when it came to a show-down on the vote on the Bill, there were just 13 votes against it, of which I was one. One Democrat voted against it, and the standpatters from New England, together with such dark-age politicians as Watson and New of Indiana,



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voted for the measure. I took great pleasure in saying to Knox that his standpat brethren didn't have an ounce of "guts," and, he was so disgusted with them, he said, "Neither an ounce of guts, nor an ounce of anything else that belongs to real men." I have written to you somewhat about the story of the "Overman Bill" because it is so truly illustrative of the standpatter. He is so accustomed to be for a special interest which stands behind him, and with its power and its influence holds him up, that when left to stand by himself, where he must depend alone upon his own nerve and his own courage, he falls down egregiously and crawls.

The Secretary of War sat in our committee recently and told us something of his experience in France. It was the first time that I had listened to him at great length and you can imagine how interested I was. You know, too, that I am prejudiced in his favor, for I like him personally and that I think in at least one respect he performs a useful and vital service to the American people. I have thought for a long time that he stood between us and a militarism which might ultimately become as ruthless as Prussian militarism. I felt that with his liberal views, with his knowledge of humanity, and with his thought so often expressed that Government, after all, should concern itself first with human kind, he was peculiarly situated to render the very highest service to the Republic. I thought, in the days past since the war commenced, he has felt something of this himself, but, I fear that the attacks



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on him have been so numerous and the pressure of the military so continuous and so over-whelming, the big business so insistent and over-shadowing that he is today simply drifting, and that the very things against which so staunchly he stood, and the very people whom he so valiantly resisted, are gradually coming to control the War Office. I listened to him, gently and optimistically speaking, while every day was bringing us worse and worse news. He was more interested, apparently, in a couple of little anecdotes I'll relate to you than in the great big things upon which, <sup>now our</sup> ~~apparently~~ civilization hangs. I came away from the meeting with rather a puzzled estimate of him. I think he is a splendid optimist - the sort of man who would be unruffled by any occurrence, and who could twist any disaster to happy advantage. His did not seem to me to be the mind to deal with what now confronts us. He seemed to me like an idealist in the ring with a brutal prize-fighter - an idealist who thoroughly and passionately believed in his triumph because of the justice of his cause, and utterly unable to comprehend that brute force might overwhelm him. In another aspect, too, he seemed to me to be wanting. There was an utter lack of grasp of detail - the very detail one would have sought first to know on the field of battle. He glibly told us about the number of aeroplanes there and how well we were doing in that regard, how many flew over him in welcome as he came to the American camp. And, when he was asked, "Were they American aeroplanes?", he hesitated doubtfully, and said, "Well, I don't know." He was asked the question - was he aware that we had



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sent but one American plane abroad, and his answer was "More than twenty or thirty were flying over me when we reached camp." He told us how cannon were being furnished, just as many as we desired, and how equipment and material of every sort were also forthcoming from the British and the French Governments, and Chairman Chamberlain quietly said, "Why, Mr. Secretary, it was testified here only two days ago that the allies were living from hand to mouth, so far as powder is concerned. What do you know of the powder supply?", and the answer was glibly and quickly made, "I don't know anything about it. I've never heard of what you state." If I could give you an adequate idea of the kindly, intimate way in which he was talking to us, and how frankly, and nicely, and decently, he answered the questions, you would understand the feeling I express of being drawn to him and liking him, and yet, the sorrow I felt at the realization of his deficiencies of which he had not the slightest conception. He told us of the first attack of the Germans, which scattered the fifth army of the British - a story which has been sufficiently related now in the newspapers to be wholly familiar to you. One thing, however, which has not been published, he related. He said the French blamed the British, and the British blamed the French. The fifth army of General Gough had just recently taken over the sector which connected the southern end of the British line with the northern end of the French line. They assumed that adequate preparation had been made <sup>behind</sup> between the line so that in any untoward event they could fall back upon an appropriate defense, while the French, apparently, assumed that the



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British would have sense enough immediately to prepare such works behind the line as might be necessary in case of attack and forced retreat. The Germans with their peculiar military instinct, picked out this very sector, smashed into it, and <sup>pierced</sup> threw it in four different places, and Gough's fifth British army was simply disintegrated and scattered all over the surrounding country. They were so scattered that there were practically no commands, and the men just wandered about, not running away, but going through the country back of them, and to the sides of them, in small parties, and thus <sup>many</sup> were <sup>captured</sup> scattered by the enemy. At one point far back of the line, four or five thousand of these men found themselves together some days after the attack. There was no commanding general, but a Major Cary coming along, simply assumed command. There was half a regiment of American engineers, too. They threw down their shovels and their implements, and picked up guns, and this four or five thousand British and half regiment of American engineers stemmed the German advance for nearly two days. It was one of the dramatic actions of that terrible defeat. The Secretary expressed his full confidence in the ability of the French and English to hold the line, but, in this, he was simply re-echoing what the British had said for a long time. The best accounts of what is transpiring over there I find in the correspondence of Frank Simonds published in many of the papers, and particularly, in the Review of Reviews. He writes interestingly and he writes of military maneuvers in the way the ordinary

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man can understand him. Baker told us, too, of just a laugh-  
able little incident among the American forces. Three depots  
of supplies are maintained by our forces. One of these is <sup>just</sup> be-  
<sup>behind</sup> <sup>^</sup> tween the lines and is called "the service of the rear". The men  
in charge of it, of course, are soldiers, and to be designated as  
being in the rear rather than a part of the fighting forces grated  
upon these men, and finally, they held a public meeting to ask  
that their certain depot be designated in some other fashion,  
which would not convey the idea that they were soldiers far be-  
hind the line. They adopted finally the designation "service of  
supplies", for their depot, and they sent this name in to the com-  
mander-in-chief asking the change, when suddenly it occurred to  
many of them simultaneously, that the abbreviated designation was  
"S. O. S. ", and now they are debating what other name <sup>^</sup> would be  
given.

We are now getting a really considerable force in France.  
Last month we sent over 115,000. We have now more than a quarter  
of a million fighting men with their full complement of mechanics,  
engineers, and the like, in addition. If we can continue, and it  
is the purpose of continuing, during the year, sending over 100,000  
men a month, by the end of the year, we will have in France much  
more than a million men, sixty or sixty-five per cent of whom will  
be actual fighting men. These figures, of course, are not supposed  
to be known. To be exact, there are 485,000 of our men now in  
France.



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We have fallen down in our aircraft production just as we have fallen down in every other fashion. The charges that are rife here are not only have we fallen down in the production of aircraft, but that the whole system is honeycombed, not only with inefficiency, but with the rottenest kind of graft. Every effort is being made by the Administration to cover up these <sup>facts</sup> efforts, and, inasmuch as they control all the avenues of publicity, my opinion is, they will succeed. What is as bad is the information that has just come to us that we have fallen down, after all our speeding up, in the manufacture of artillery, and that our program of artillery is not only lacking, but is very far from what will be sufficient for supplying our men. I am gradually reaching the conclusion that it is our captains of industry, and our great manufacturingies of which we have always boasted, that have fallen down most completely in this crisis. Of course, they give one reason or another - lack of coal, labor difficulties, and the like - but, the outstanding fact to me is that when these men who represent big interests, who have ever claimed the right of the exploitation of the rest of us, have been called on in this crisis, they have been found utterly wanting. They know how to make money and they know how to coin others efforts in ordinary times, but they are not equal to emergency.

We have received two more letters from Arch, the last one dated April 10th. The most astounding thing is that he has received but one letter from all of us. My record here shows that I have written many which he should have received. Mother has written as many more, and I have no doubt that from California, there were others

Mrs. Amy Johnson - 12.

Mail facilities in France are nothing short of an outrage. I mean, of course, our mail facilities there. We have given ample funds, and there is not any reason in the world why we should receive but three of the letters he has written, nor that he should receive one out of nine of mine. I was very glad to note in his last letters a different tone. He seems much more cheerful and apparently entirely philosophical. His first letter distressed me greatly,

*Paul Herrett  
his former confidential  
secretary, etc* ↗

The death of Paul was shocking to us. Ever since he entered the service I have feared this, but it came to me as I left the Supreme Court the other evening and I could think of nothing else all that night. The worst of it is that I do not believe it was necessary. I think conditions at his field were not what they should be, and, in making a little speech yesterday, I read into the Record what the father of the boy, who was killed with Paul, said. I enclose you this little speech because I think you may be interested in what this father suggested. In the bill upon which this speech was made, I succeeded merely in kicking up a row. What I said yesterday was entirely extemporaneous, but it expressed, in general terms, my detestation of measures like the one presented.

Mother had your letter this week, and, of course, we were awfully glad to hear from you. I don't see why with your good courage, and your fighting spirit, you don't get rid of that little rotten fever that you have. I am now mentally willing that it should leave you and that you shall get rid of it. Please obey.



Mrs. Amy Johnson - 13.

Mother has had a most discouraging time the past week with her house. First, one accident has happened, and then another, until last night, she was quite beside herself. I don't know when we will get into this house, and Mother has ceased prophesying the time. We were given some publicity in the Washington Post about it, and it has seemed to me, that everybody has since been asking me concerning it. Men like Knox think it is fine. I really have an awful soft spot in my heart for him. When he had learned that we had taken the place, he went quietly out to look the place over, and then we ascertained how interested he was. And, another thing that made Mother and myself feel so kindly toward him is that when I was arguing the other day in the Supreme Court, there, in a back seat, sat Knox listening during all of the time I was on my feet. Little things like this, I think, are affecting to all of us.

I end this letter as I end most of them, hoping that you are getting vigorous and strong, knowing that you are fighting, and with the expression of absolute confidence in soon having you yourself again. We may be with you before you realize it now.

Affectionately,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to be 'D.H.' or similar initials, written in dark ink.

HIRAM W. JOHNSON  
CALIFORNIA

United States Senate,

WASHINGTON, D. C.

May 5, 1918.

Mr. Hiram W. Johnson, Jr.  
Mills Building,  
San Francisco, Calif.

My dear Jack:

This is Sunday and I have just dictated a long letter to Amy. I have not been able to write you much this week, although I have sent you a couple of short letters, because I was very busy with my duties in the Senate, attendance on the various committees, and with getting ready for argument in the Supreme Court of the case of the Associated Press vs. International News. I can't tell you how exercised I was over this argument. Aside from the fact of the particular representation, about which I need to say nothing to you but concerning which you know and will understand fully my feelings, I was up against very learned lawyers, with an associate, apparently, of great fame - Samuel Untermyer, and who, probably was not over-pleased at my employment in the case. I told you I was to argue for half an hour. I did so, and the last twenty minutes of it I did well enough. Untermyer had an hour and a quarter in opening. You will not think it egotistical of me to say that he was rotten. Judge Lehmann, <sup>Counsel</sup> respondent for the Associated Press made a powerful plea, but by cracking the International News Service and referring to the blood and the brawn of the Associated Press in gathering news, he gave me some opportunity to get back at him, of which I did not fail to take advantage. We have a



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fair case on the law, but the Supreme Court of the United States is only human and they will knock us because Hearst is involved, and because they will feel that the equities are against us. I have no regrets for taking the case. It was most unfortunate that it occurred when it did, and that it was put off from time to time - from Monday until I argued on Friday afternoon. This kept me on tenterhooks for a week and I have had a sleepless and a horrible week. I know, of course, there are many people who regret exceedingly that I have engaged in this litigation. However, I know none who do not sell their goods, and to whomever they please, and I have sold my goods - my ability to present a legal argument for thirty minutes in the Supreme Court for the fee that I have told you of, and the fee comes mighty handy. Way down deep between you and me, I enjoyed looking up<sup>^</sup> legal propositions again, and I enjoyed the intellectual combat after once I was in it. The court were very courteous and kind to me. The case, of course aroused a great deal of interest and there had been lengthy publications about it throughout the east. I wonder if this has been so in the west. The New York American undertook to print my whole argument yesterday but it was so badly botched up by the shorthand reporter that I can not feel highly complimented by the publication.

I am glad that the reclamation case is going through. We will try to give them a good fight. I am unable to formulate a course of conduct. I will try to get my thoughts in shape during the week and write you any views I may have, although as I look at the matter now, I can't see there is anything else you can do, ex-

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cept to make your protest, and with a bold front, tell the other side what you are going to do to them. I must have been crazy when I made the drawing for you in my letter. When I wrote Feather River, I meant, of course, Sacramento River. McClatchy's position is that the by-pass is absolutely essential to carry the flood waters, and that the river has not sufficient capacity to do this; that there is less carrying capacity in the river just below your lands than immediately above them, and there is danger of flooding of your lands arising from the overflow north of you backing up upon you. I am sorry I wrote you in such idiotic fashion as to be confusing.

I kicked up a row on the conference report of the amendment to the Espionage Bill. It is well-nigh impossible, after a bill has been passed and comes back from conference, to accomplish any results with it, but I kicked up enough fuss over it, so that it was two or three days in <sup>debate again</sup> conference, and when it came to a vote last night, it was carried 47 to 27. They were about to put the question at 11 o'clock yesterday morning when I entered the chamber, and, immediately extemporaneously I made some remarks upon it. These remarks were directed to such bills generally and I wish you would read them. We are mad here - mad with the hysteria of the moment, and secondly, with abject fear. The administration is determined, and has practically succeeded thus far, in gagging the press and stifling free speech. The Democrats don't care a damn about anything. They could be for peace



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today and war tomorrow with equal celerity and enthusiasm. They vote as they are told. A number of the Republicans anxious only about their own consequences, violate their consciences <sup>and</sup> ~~and~~ their votes because the blatant and the loud-mouthed patriot demands it of them. There is one consolation, my lad, that you and I may have, and that is, I will vote just as I please and as I deem right, no matter what clamor there is, no matter who insists or who demands. I am sorry that there are not <sup>more</sup> ~~many~~ who will vote in this fashion.

I will send you tomorrow Art's more recent letters and you can gather for yourself his present mental attitude. I am trying to have Athol McBean take across a box of cigarettes for Arch. I don't know how else to do it. The whole system here is outrageous and anybody who does not readily agree with everything that is rotten is dubbed "disloyal". You can't imagine how nauseated I become with this sort of thing. You and I, and those about us, have a patriotism that was instilled from our birth to the present time - a patriotism that will make any sacrifices for the nation, as we love it, and for those things within the nation that we think necessary for the perpetuity of the Republic. But some blatant, unprincipled, selfish ass, like Kahn, can utilize this period, when we know he doesn't mean a word he says, to become in the estimation of the public, a great patriot, while, thinking men whose only desire is with their whole souls to preserve the nation, and to preserve its institutions, because they think, are held in

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dis-esteem.

Mother and I are just leaving for a luncheon. After that, we are going out to see the new quarters, which we are beginning to think will never be ready for occupancy, so many difficulties have arisen. I will write you soon again.

Affectionately,

*Hu*



United States Senate,

WASHINGTON, D. C.

NUMBER SEVENTEEN

May 6, 1918.

Major Archibald M. Johnson,  
General Staff College,  
Army Post Office 714,  
American Expeditionary Force,  
France.

My dear Arch:

I received last Friday your letter Number Six dictated and typewritten. Mother was in the Senate gallery at the time it came, and, first, one of us read it, and then, the other, and then, we both went out to talk about it. I have received now from you Numbers Two, Five, and Six. Numbers One, Three, and Four have never reached me. I observe from your letter that up to April 10th you had received just one letter from us. This is most outrageous. Up to April 10th I had written you nine letters. Your Mother had written you as many more, and those, who care for you in San Francisco, have, doubtless, doubled their aggregate. If it had not involved a personal matter, when I read your letter, I would have taken it up on the floor of the Senate. I am arranging now to have the military committee do something in the nature of a probe about our mail facilities. I am told there is no excuse for letters failing to reach our boys abroad or for their letters failing to reach us.

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The engrossing piece of news with us last week was the death of Paul Herriott. I know little of the details. There was simply a dispatch from the father, and then, a brief newspaper item that in flying with a Lieutenant Ennis, both had been killed at Taliaferro Field, Fort Worth, Texas. I am oppressed with the thought that there was no occasion for the untimely death of these young men. On Saturday morning when I made a brief speech upon the amendment to the Espionage Bill, I read into the Record an interview I had observed in a New York paper Friday with Lieutenant Ennis' father. I enclose you the speech herein so that you may see just what was said. I have written the father today at New York and I have wired Paul's chum in Texas hoping to learn something definite, but I fear every avenue of information will be closed to me. A couple of weeks ago I was asked to argue by the attorneys for the defendant in the case of the Associated Press vs International News. I accepted the employment because of the fee involved. Thursday afternoon I made the closing argument in the case before the Supreme Court. The case was an exceedingly interesting one involving really the appropriation of news after once that news has been published. The Associated Press insisted that the International News indulged in the practice of purloining its items, and I insisted that the Associated Press was guilty of similar acts, only less in degree, and that, under the law when news once was published anybody might appropriate and use it as they saw fit. The law, I think, is with me, but as in every case, where equities may be on the other side, the decision



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will probably follow the equities. I did not care for the particular employment but I did care for legitimate employment, at large compensation. This is the first legal case at large compensation, and, therefore, I undertook it. This is the first legal proposition I have argued since early in 1910, and, really, I rather enjoyed it. The Supreme Court is a lovely place to argue a real legal point, and the judges were exceedingly courteous.

We have not got into our new quarters, and the Lord only knows when we will. Mother has been working now a full month, and, yesterday, when I was at the house I was utterly unable to see the end. She has become quite dispirited, because of the innumerable delays and difficulties. However, we hope in another week, to see daylight in the matter.

I am meeting now regularly with the military committee. I listened on Saturday morning to General Marché, the assistant secretaries of War, and various officers who are supposed to enlighten the military committee concerning military events, preparations, and the like. We have a big task ahead of us - but a task by no means insuperable. If the line can only be held in France now during this year, the weight of our numbers next year will be, in my opinion, successful. I have ceased praying for a great victory for our forces in France. I pray now only that they may hold the line and maintain their armies intact.

Not to repeat what I have written before, but because you probably have not received my letters, I want to tell you I have sent you a copy of the letter to Medill McCormick from Colonel McCoy

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and I also enclosed you a letter from Frederick Palmer. Palmer's letter was fine, and nice, Don't have any hesitation about seeing him and meeting him. He is a real man of the world, educated, cultured, kindly, and fine, I think. His letter that I sent you was really about you.

I again say - Don't have any misgivings if things go wrong with you in the college.--come back to your command to fight the good fight with the men whom you know, and who are chafing at their delays in getting abroad. The poor Grizzlies have been having a tough time of it. Their organization is gradually, they tell me, being whittled away, and men like Stewart Edward White have written me most pathetic letters of how they are eating their hearts out doing nothing and being denied that for which they entered their country's service. So really, my dear boy, it may be the very best thing in the world that you are where you are. General Lyon was <sup>promoted</sup> ~~confirmed~~, the other day one notch, and I was very glad to get him confirmed.

Amy has not been doing quite so well of late. She has had continuous fever for a long time. We are worried about her again, and I shall continue to worry until her fever wholly abates.

Write us such detail as you can. We want to hear of yourself, personally, and of your life, and your thoughts. Don't think you can bore us with any intimate personal details.

With all our love.

Affectionately your father,

Hiram W. Johnson



HIRAM W. JOHNSON  
CALIFORNIA

United States Senate,

WASHINGTON, D. C.

May 7, 1918.

Mr. Hiram W. Johnson, Jr.,  
Mills Building,  
San Francisco, California.

My dear Jack:

This morning I received your short note about DeVeuve. Immediately upon receipt of it I sent Havenner to the Shipping Board preferring my request on behalf of DeVeuve. On Havenner's return I wired you. I had him write out at once just what transpired and I send you herein what he had transcribed for me. From it, you will see there is no hope in the matter. If there is anything else that you want in connection with it, or anything further I can do I will be glad, indeed, to undertake it. Don't hesitate to bother me about anything in which you are interested. It is a pleasure, when I know that you are interested, immediately to do anything that I can. The difficulty arises from the fact that I am now without any pull here at all. Pull and influence are measured by subserviency to the administration; and while I have not been abusive of the administration, I have been mighty independent of it. Nothing could better illustrate this than one of the incidents which oppresses me so much in the death of Paul. A short time before his death he wired me asking me to get him transferred to Minneola, or, to a field near here. Because it was Paul, I preferred his request to the appropriate department. Forthwith I was answered that it was a strict rule of the depart-

Mr. Hiram W. Johnson, Jr. - 2

ment that transfers could not and would not be granted. I accepted this as final because I did not want to ask anything for myself which was not granted to everybody, and I wired Paul accordingly. His last letter to me gave me the names of many men who had pull, and wealth, and influence, who were transferred to various fields all over the country, and, I learned, too, that a rich Californian was being transferred from back here to California, simply because he was rich and powerful, and those who made the request had influence. If the Department had treated Paul as it treated the rich, and the powerful, Paul would be alive today. I have been extremely indignant about this instance. I said to Phelan this morning, because Phelan tried to help me out in Paul's instance, that he amounted to little, and I amounted to nothing with these rotten Departments, and then, I explained to him why. His conceit, however, does not permit such a matter to affect him at all. As you know, I have constantly opposed every effort of the administration to stifle free speech and, occasionally, have indulged in some pointed references. I have said some little things about the right of criticism, and how inefficiency and incompetency endeavored to prevent it; and then, I voted against the Overman Bill, which was the test of subservient allegiance. I wrote Amy about the vote on the Overman Bill last Saturday, and, by this time, you have almost received that letter.



Mr. Hiram W. Johnson, Jr. - 3

I wired you this morning about DeVeuve. Late this afternoon, your letter of May 2nd came and I have it now before me. You can not send packages to Arch at the present time. I am going to try to send Arch a big box of cigarettes by Althol McBean, who is now at the Washington Hotel and expects to leave within a day or two for Europe. I don't know what to say to you about Arch's office. I would let it ride a little while yet, although I agree with you that it seems utterly useless to maintain it. I will reach a conclusion in a very short time and advise you definitely.

I have read the copy of the protest that you annexed to your letter about the levying of an assessment from the lands of your district. While I have not the matter as well in my mind as I ought to have, I am inclined to think that in dogmatic and positive fashion I would state that your lands are thoroughly reclaimed, that, at your own expense, you have constructed your system of reclamation, that your levees are intact, and that by the construction of the by-pass your lands will derive no benefit whatsoever, and that an attempt to levy an assessment upon the lands is not only illegal but wholly unwarranted and unjust. All these things probably are stated in your protest, and, inasmuch as the protest is not a legal necessity, it may not be necessary to amend your copy, and my suggestions may be utterly without value. The idea in my mind, which, perhaps I have not well expressed is in positive and unequivocal form, even indignantly, to assert the lack of bene-

Mr. Hiram W. Johnson, Jr. - 4

fit to be derived and the injustice of saddling upon lands already fully reclaimed at the private expense of the owners the cost of reclaiming other lands by virtue of the by-pass.

I can't find Devlin's brief to which you referred. If you could get me another copy I would very greatly appreciate it, and, at odd moments, I will study it. Having just studied one legal proposition I am keen to study another.

Yesterday I wrote Odgers and told her to repay you what she had recently borrowed of you. At least, this particular part of our account ought to be made straight. I sent her a check sufficient for that purpose. I am ready any time to send you any part of the amount I owe you, and I am sure, my boy, you'll understand that I want you to ask me whenever you wish all or any part of the amount. Purposely, I refrain for the reason of which we have spoken before.

I want to tell you how good it is of you to go down to attend to Arch's matter at Los Angeles. I know what a task it is, and knowing it, I appreciate what you are doing all the more. We are all mixed up on the house that we were going into, and the Lord only knows when we will get in. I feel sorry for Mother, because she has worked so hard. Love to the kiddies and to Amy.

Affectionately,

*H.W.J.*



GEO. E. CHAMBERLAIN, ORE., CHAIRMAN.  
GILBERT M. HITCHCOCK, NEBR. FRANCIS E. WARREN, WYO.  
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## United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON MILITARY AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON, D. C.

NUMBER EIGHTEEN

May 10, 1918.

Major Archibald M. Johnson,  
General Staff College,  
Army Post Office 714,  
American Expeditionary Force,  
France.

My dear Arch:

Yesterday I received your letters Number Seven and Number Nine - Number Eight has not come. I quite agree with all your kicks about the mail service. With the definite information that you give me, I could kick up a beautiful row about this, but I hesitate to do this where the matter is personal. I did go yesterday, however, to the chairman of the post office committee of the senate, told him the information I had, and asked him what was the matter? Of course, he laid all the blame on the military authorities, talked about the continual moving around of the troops, and so on; but I interrupted to say that this was a stationary post office, fixed in France, and that the individuals were in that particular locality. He admitted the post offices were established by the Postmaster General, but could give me no adequate reason for the rotten service. There is a constant howl here, and I am hoping we will correct it somewhat.

Major Archibald M. Johnson - 2

Lyon was promoted, as you say, to Major General. I looked after his confirmation, and wired him and Raymond. I have received a letter from him, a copy of which I enclose to you herein. I send you this letter, because in your last note ( Number Nine ), dated April 21st, you speak of going with him. I am not clear whether he has this in mind, or not, because of his reference to Raymond. At any rate, I have written him today a nice response to his letter telling him of the affection that he arouses in all of those under him, and how the charm for you had been the fact that you were with him, and asked him where he would be stationed, etc. My letter calls for a response and, undoubtedly, I will have one, although there is nothing in it at all which could savor of a request or of presumption on your part, or mine. As soon as I get a reply, I will send you a copy. I notice in the Army Orders issued the day before yesterday, he was assigned, I think, to the 143rd.

The world goes on the same here. We are working along the lines with which you have become familiar in the past. Our military committee is really doing a vast good. It does not seek publicity, but it keeps its hands upon production, and the like. It finds, wherever it turns, inefficiency, and, by dint of pointing it out, and standing in a sort of threatening attitude, it removes many, many delinquencies. It is without the power of initiative, or of real, constructive accomplishment, but it acts as a deterrent and a spur.



Major Archibald M. Johnson - 3

We have little news from California except in regard to Jack, and Amy, and the babies. Amy, in my opinion, has not, of late, progressed satisfactorily. Her mother, in a letter received by mother yesterday, did not seem unduly worried, but the continuance of the fever for the past month, I confess, troubles me. The doctors, apparently, regard her condition as not unusual, but I shall not be content until her fever has wholly disappeared. The children are well, and Jack, apparently, is in fair shape, and working hard. California politics have reached the inevitable and obvious state, where Stephens will be nominated by the Republicans and Heney by the Democrats. You can imagine that I am somewhat nauseated.

Mother is working like a Trojan on the new house with about the same prospect of getting into it as we did four weeks ago. She has, however, transmuted an old, tumble-down structure into a very beautiful place. Yesterday, Senator Hale, Senator Knox, and I drove out there. I had not been there since they had begun to tinker with the exterior, and I was simply amazed at the beauty of it. It is extremely difficult, however, to get anybody to work inside and I don't know when we will get into it.

We are still feeling very wretched about Paul's death. He didn't have a fair chance, in my opinion. I am oppressed with the idea that many of the cantonments, and fields, have been put in Texas, not because the best location is there, but because of the greatest political influence. A young friend of Paul brought

Major Archibald M. Johnson - 4

me in a letter from him, which was later than any letter I had, and in which Paul told of the bumpy air, of the high winds, the difficulties of aviators, etc.; and, since I made the little speech in the senate about the matter I have received three or four letters confirming my suspicions, and giving me some detail about the lack of inspection of machines, and of the fatalities at Taliaferro field. Of course, we must not be over-critical in this time - and the Lord knows, I don't wish to be critical at all. I realize the difficulty under which the administration has labored, and that there will be mistakes, and faults, and short-comings. I don't care to dwell upon these or even to use them in any fashion. However, a great sadness overcomes me when I find a young life, like Paul's, suddenly snuffed out, because, as I believe, sufficient care was not taken, and because, as I think, of our neglect. The answer to me is obvious - that we are snuffing out, by the tens and hundreds of thousands, lives in Europe - and that, one, more or less here, must be forgotten in the general holocaust; but the individual's right to live - to live decently and freely, has ever been the appealing thing to me in our life.

I am delighted that your mess has turned out so well. I will ascertain, as you suggest in your letter just received, about Howe, and will write you in my next. I would like to write you some detail of the war, too, but what is told to us by the department, is told us in confidence, and I feel that that confidence ought to be very strictly kept by us. Sufficient has been published, however,



Major Archibald M. Johnson - 5

about our men being sent across the water, that I violate no confidence in telling you that we put over one hundred thousand men last month, and we will carry a like amount over every month during this year. Sixty or sixty-five per cent of these will be fighting men - the others, a part of the Army, it is true, but not the fighting part. The very force of our numbers, therefore, within a reasonable period now will probably be felt. Indeed, with all the difficulties, handicapped by inefficiency and incompetency, we are going to muddle along, but, finally we will have an army in France that ought to turn the tide of this war. Of course, much is dependent upon the result of the present German offensive and our hopes have been raised in the last couple of weeks. I was delighted to note from your letter that you thought the German forces were spent. I think that your view in this is erroneous, but I am hoping now the line will be held - held in some way <sup>with</sup> the British and French armies intact; and if those armies are maintained intact and the line held, we'll whip the damn Germans finally and end the slaughter.

I noted from your last letter that if Lyon did not ask for you, you thought you would make an effort to get back to the line and your battalion. Of course, you know best what to do in this regard. My own view has been, and I wrote it, I guess, eight or ten times successively in my letters, that if anything should befall you at College, you would be best with your own people. You had such a splendid organization in the Grizzlies - the men, in my opinion, who could do the best fighting - that I'd like to see that


Major Archibald M. Johnson - 6

organization kept intact, and I'd like to see it on the battle line, led by the men who conceived the idea, and then executed it. In addition to this, I think that men like White, <sup>home</sup> Lyon, and yourself, and the others, will fight better together than you will split up, and assigned among strangers and strange organizations.

Whether you get letters from me, or not, you may be certain that I write you at least twice a week, and, as you say, when you don't get my letters in just that number, you may rest assured that they are knocking about some place in France - a monument to an inefficient Post Office Department.

With all our love.

Affectionately your father,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Hiram W. Johnson". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name.



Headquarters  
65th Brigade  
Field Artillery.

Camp Kearny, Calif.  
May 1, 1918.

Senator Hiram W. Johnson,  
U. S. Senate,  
Washington, D. C.

My dear Senator:

I wish to thank you most sincerely for your interest not only in the "Grizzlies", your particular pet in this Brigade, but in the Brigade itself, and in me as shown by your many kind offices, especially with reference to letting us know about my confirmation so promptly.

We had understood from newspaper reports that there might be some objections offered to some of the men on the list of nominations sent in by the President. Your telegram cleared up that situation and made us all feel much happier.

I received cable congratulations from your son Major Johnson in France. I especially appreciated this and shall write him a letter thanking him for his thoughtfulness. I hope that my assignment may take me to France, where I may thank him in person.

Armsby, my Aide and your friend, has rendered most efficient service as an Aide, and it is going to be my pleasure to take him with me wherever I go. I shall see that he is promoted to Captain as soon as I reach my new command. He is in many respects an ideal Aide and relieves me of many small social and semi-official duties that formerly required my personal attention. He will be of still greater use to me in my new position as a Division Commander, where I shall have to come in contact with so many people, civilian and military, outside of the Division.

Thanking you again for your interest and kindness, and with kindest regards from Armsby and myself for Mrs. Johnson.

Sincerely,

'Signed' LeRoy S. Lyon.

P.S.: I am enclosing the "Toast" I proposed to my Brigade on the occasion of the Banquet given me by the officers of the Brigade on the night of April 27th, at the Hotel Coronado. I thought you might be interested to know just how I felt about my 65th Brigade.

A TOAST.

To the 65th Brigade Field Artillery,  
April 27, 1918.

To the 65th Brigade,  
Born of the Spirit of the West!  
To that young, but lusty, son of Mars,  
Who shall carry his Red Banner of War,  
From the shores of the Pacific,  
To Berlin's crumbling gates!  
To the Spirit of that Brigade,  
Which, to the roar and rumble of the gun,  
Shall ever answer,  
"It Shall be Done! "  
To the one and only,  
My 65th Brigade.



GEO. E. CHAMBERLAIN, ORE., CHAIRMAN.  
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SHELDON S. JONES, ASSISTANT CLERK.

## United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON MILITARY AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON, D. C.

May 11, 1918.

Mrs. Amy Johnson,  
The California Sanitarium,  
Belmont, California.

My dear Daughter:

This has been rather an uneventful week with us. It always happens in our legislative sessions, that when there has been a time of tension, at the conclusion of the matter which has aroused our feelings, and put us on edge, there is always a relapse - a sort of reaction. That is how this week finds us. Last week, for a couple of days, we were debating the conference report on the amendment to the Espionage Bill, during which some of us became very much wrought up, and which culminated in a vote, that I have related to you, which carried the conference report through. This week, there has been a let down accordingly, but we are gradually now beginning to climb again until we reach some interesting, even exciting, subject matter, and then, we'll touch the high pinnacle of emotion - dispose of the matter, and drop far behind the ordinary routine. There has been quite a bit of agitation for adjournment about July 1st. I think it was fairly well agreed that we should pursue this course, although the older Senators wagged their heads and very sagely remarked that year after year, the same unanimous sentiment for an early adjournment had been expressed, but that sentiment never crystallized into a real, early adjournment. A bomb-

Mrs. Amy Johnson - 2

shell reached us, however, yesterday, when it was stated that a new revenue bill was desired by the administration for raising increased billions. If such a bill is presented, it will mean months of hard fighting again on the method to be pursued. Perhaps, the request of the Secretary of the Treasury will not materialize and the revenue bills may be permitted to await the December session. Most of us devoutly hope this. And, yet, on the other hand, there are some very earnest people here, and I can not but respect their opinions, who think that Congress, notwithstanding its lack of power, and notwithstanding its subserviency to the administration, has, after all, a function to perform, and an obligation to the people, and that it should therefore remain in session. These members reason that, while it is true, the administration can put over anything it desires, and, while, it is equally true, that the power of Congress to initiate has been practically abrogated, nevertheless, Congress stands as a constant spur and deterrent, and, because it is watching things, and occasionally investigating, it keeps the administration upon its mettle. It ferrets out inefficiency, and incompetency, and worse at times, and, by the mere process of exposure, remedies the delinquencies. And this is quite true. The democratic administration - and I do not think I am too severe - would cover up inefficiency, which might cost thousands of lives, rather than remedy it by exposure. There is another attitude, however, with the majority of the military committee, and this attitude has



Mrs. Amy Johnson - 3

been productive of untold good, and will be productive of very great results during the continuance of the war. It has insisted, therefore, that if we adjourn in July, and leave the prosecution of the war to the President, who pays no attention to it, or to departments, some of which are grossly incompetent, we shirk a plain duty and preclude ourselves from rendering the only possible service that we can render to the country at this time. Naturally, I would like to get to California for a few months. I want to get there, not only that I may be in California for a brief period during this year, but I want to see you, and be to you what our military committee is to the war - a sort of spur or speeding up process. Again, I want to get out because Jack has very kindly taken me into a lucrative case and I wish to earn the compensation.

I have just returned from our Saturday morning seance at the War Department. There is little new to report. There was, however, a much greater feeling of optimism than has evinced itself in the meetings I have attended in the past. There is, apparently, a greater security about the line in France. As I analyze, however, what was said, I do not see that the feeling of confidence rests upon any other foundation than the passing of the days, and that the Germans in the last two weeks have not made further gains. In the matter of our shipping, there was a like optimism expressed; and indeed, one of the lecturers to us today told us that the point of destruction and construction passed with this week - that is, that our construction from now on will more than equal the destruction by submarines, and he insisted that our construction work had very rapidly

Mrs. Amy Johnson - 4

increased. This was coupled with the statement that it was essential there should be a rapid increase in shipping and construction in order that we might take care of the men we were sending over now in such large numbers. The Department aims to increase the number of men sent abroad to 120,000 a month. We passed on May 3rd the 500,000 mark, but, bear in mind always, sixty per cent of these only are fighting men. The military men do not call the other forty per cent non-combatants, but those who are in the service of the rear. They are, it is stated, quite necessary to an army, and I can readily understand this, but they are not in the front line trenches and do not do the fighting. We have four divisions in the line now, that is, in the front line. A division consists of twenty seven thousand men, so you can see just exactly how many fighting soldiers we have on the battle front. This number is being rapidly increased, however, and it is obvious, our very numbers must make themselves felt in a short time. I asked the question this morning about the brigading of our men with the English and French; whether this meant that the individuals were put in various parts of the French and English armies, and their organizations then lost? I was assured that this was not so. That, while they were brigaded with the English and French, that they were brigaded by their companies, maintaining their companies' officers, et cetera. General March spoke of the Italians today again in quite an interesting fashion. He said that they had so many men they were falling over one another, and that they were so superior in man power, there ought to be no question about holding their line. He



Mrs. Amy Johnson - 5

was rather contemptuous of the fighting value of the Italians, however, and said that the inefficiency of the officers had been thoroughly demonstrated. The Italian officers, however, like the officers in every military establishment, are very proud and very conceited. The French and the English observed their deficiencies and their real lack of technical knowledge, and so, put their heads together to see whether some plan could not be evolved for the education of the Italian officers. They finally hit upon the idea that they would have officers' schools, and would, themselves, attend in order to induce the attendance of the Italian officers. The plan was kept very secret among the English and the French, and finally was agreed to by all and the schools opened. The English and the French went to them to carry out the bluff and in order thus, insidiously, to instruct the Italians. But, the schools opened crowded with English and French, and with just four Italians attending, and, the joke of the matter was that the English and the French had to go through the bluff, and continue what they already knew, and with the officers' schools from which they had already graduated. The newspaper stories of the Italians coming to the French front in like numbers with the Americans are all bosh. The French were so anxious to teach the Italians that they carried out several operations, on a small scale, by themselves, in the presence of the Italian army, accomplishing their results, and then retiring, merely as lessons to their allies. It was hoped some sort of instruction might in this fashion be instilled into the Italian officers.

Mrs. Amy Johnson - 6

The great world event of the week has been the flare up in England. I have read it with intense interest. It would have been a calamity if Lloyd George had been overthrown at this particular time. I don't think I have missed a single word in the American papers, and yet I was a little perplexed, even after Lloyd George's victory, over the facts. Lloyd George's speech, described as a wonderful effort, struck me as having but one virtue - a fair directness, except in one particular. He did not clearly demonstrate his statement that the British man power on January first, 1918, was greater in France than on January first, 1917, to my thinking, but he got away with it, and I presume that is the real test. I can't understand an officer of General Maurice's standing, making the charges which he did, without, apparently, ability to substantiate them. The fact is, we probably have not got the full story, but it, doubtless, will soon develop. If George had been overthrown, there would have been a very restless feeling, undoubtedly, in France, and in Italy, and we would have had a reflex of it here, too.

It is amazing the number of Californians, who come to Washington, or, who pass through it. Yesterday, it was a little more strenuous than usual with me in callers at the Senate. From the time I took my seat at twelve until two o'clock, I answered cards, and saw people from our state and I really got quite beside myself before I concluded. Among others who called was Willis Booth, and, inasmuch, as he had called in kindly fashion, I endeavored to talk with him as pleasantly as I knew how.



Mrs. Amy Johnson - 7

I confess to you the half hour that I sat with him chatting, I was constantly thinking of his olive complexion, of how handsome he would have looked in the United States Senate, and of all the things I had said about his personal appearance in the campaign of 1916. There were times it was very difficult to keep from laughing, and asking him about his beauty. However, I got through the interview, and then laughed all by myself.

I quietly drove out to the house the day before yesterday, taking with me Knox and Hale. It had been some time since I had been there. I did not know that they were painting the outside of it, and when I saw the exterior, with its new fresh white coat of paint, I took off my hat, metaphorically, to Mother. The place, exteriorly, is really beautiful, and when, - with my lack of artistic discernment, I say this to you, you may know that it is most striking. I thought I saw, notwithstanding mother's despondency, that she was really making progress with the interior. Indeed, I should not be surprised if we could get in next week, notwithstanding the delays. Mother, as usual, has done a great job, and her eye for the beautiful, and her exquisite taste are going to give us, I think, a very remarkable abode.

I have received a couple more notes from Arch, copies of which I have sent to Jack. They are more cheerful than his first letter, yet, I do not think he is enjoying himself a great deal on the other side. However, I feel he will come through it all right.

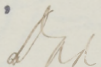
We are muddling along with our war preparations. Perhaps we could expect nothing else than this kind of muddling. It will all

Mrs. Amy Johnson - 8

straighten out in time, but it will take probably a year more before we will be going smoothly with the great war machine. With our improvidence and extravagance, which pass understanding, the grave question will be, how long can we stand the strain? We, of course, with our vast resources and our late entry into the conflict, ought to be able to stand it much longer than Germany, but I am wondering whether her greater efficiency and economy, and her perfect military mechanism, may not more than overcome our vast resources in lasting materially. In the early part of this game, I made some prophecies about the possibility of revolution - that ours would come from the top down. A new revenue bill, just suggested, contemplating the raising of billions, may justify those prophecies.

I have not a vast deal of news in this letter, and I fear you may find it a rather uninteresting screed. Good luck to you!. I hope to find today or tomorrow a letter from you, which will tell me that you have no fever, and that you are galloping to your old strength.

Affectionately,





House was the old "Calvert  
Mansion" at Riverdale,  
Maryland - about 12 miles  
from Washington. An  
outstanding example of  
Georgian architecture.  
"Missouri Compromise  
supposed to have been  
written there."  
C2

## United States Senate,

WASHINGTON, D. C.

Sunday, May 12, 1918

My dear Jack,

I am figuratively speaking under our own vine and fig tree at the new house thinking of you and yours, and writing something of my thoughts. Mother and I drove out at noon and I'm very comfortably seated under four large oak trees at the back of the old house. As I look up from writing before me are the four white columns immediately in front of the back door, and the symmetrical old structure has the most compelling way of arresting your eye. The back of the house I think is almost as beautiful as the front. The beauty of neither very greatly appealed to me while Mother painted everything pure white. Now I'm utterly unable to describe the remarkable effect. To my right now is a little mound, surmounted with the old rusty cannon, which it is claimed belonged to the Americans in the war of 1812, was sunk in the Chesapeake to prevent capture



by the British and then recovered when the British had gone. Everything about me is a verd green, the green of the East in summer, with which we of California are not familiar. The ground slopes away from the house to a round pool, more or less picturesque, but with potential mosquito possibilities, I fear. It's all very wonderful to me, the more so because our outlook has been two small rooms ever since we've been here. I think we have a good chance of getting in this week. You know the marvels mother can accomplish with a paint pot. Well, she's done herself justice with the exterior of this place, and the furniture, now undergoing the same sort of metamorphosis looked to me today as if especially made to fit the rooms. Nice another hurdle to get over with help, but that will somehow solve itself I'm sure.

Our experience with the colored race is convincing us that the Southerner has a great problem, and that perhaps our ideas of the fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man be applied to our

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## United States Senate,

WASHINGTON, D. C.

Citizens of African descent, may be a little wrong.

Yesterday I wrote Army my usual weekly letter, but there was little of interest in it. Gradually everybody here is crying for an enormous army, and as usual on such topics as this, the demagogue who shouts loudest and for the greatest number is immediately voted the purest patriot. However, inasmuch as we have assumed the burden now, there's nothing to do but go to it, and do everything necessary to accomplish the end. The gravity of the situation with millions of unarmed people, is understood, and to meet the crisis thoroughly is every one's thought. I'm not clear whether our Military will overcome and overcome Baker, whose crews but a short time ago were for such an army as we could well maintain - 2,500,000 by the end of the year, and another million next year - and compel him



immediately to call for five or ten millions. The latter numbers we could neither support nor transport abroad; and I hope he keeps his head and sticks to his national program.

I had a nice note from Partridge to which I replied yesterday. I cannot see any remedy he can invoke in advance of the assessment unless it is the one he suggests of injunction to prevent a cloud on the title. I presume the averments of the complaint as to what is intended and threatened might be made strong enough to support such an action; but I'm not clear how far you can go in preventing the levy of a tax or assessment where your defense is purely a statutory one resting upon the justice of the assessment. If there were a legal impediment to action by the Commissioners, the case might be brought within the purview of the Capital Removal case, where we restrained the election or rather its calling on the Secy. State upon the ground of the <sup>un</sup>Constitutionality or invalidity of the statute. However, you good lawyers



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United States Senate,  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

On the ground must determine the  
immediate remedy

I'm getting some unpleasant reflex  
about my employment in the  
International News case but this I  
contemplated when I took it. Have  
you heard anything concerning it?  
just at this time Hearst's activities  
are emphasized by the controversy  
between Roosevelt and the postmaster  
General. I think Roosevelt has  
all the better of the fight to date.  
The treatment of the Metropolitan  
was infamous and was possible in  
my opinion, only in this country and  
only because of the laws we have  
passed.

Upon my knee is a little  
persian kitten given to mother by  
Montague and Watson. They sent to  
Philadelphia and bought the most  
expensive blue blooded feline they  
could find. It's so small and so



pretty so cute and almost baby like  
in its actions that it has scratched  
itself into Mother's heart and I  
confess a great warmth of feeling for  
it.

How I wish you were here sitting  
with me in this yard! I'm lonely for  
you, lad. I wish Amy's fever would  
go away. I don't feel wholly at  
ease about her while that fever  
continues. I presume today you  
are again in Los Angeles, this time  
for Arch. I've sent you now all  
his letters and will continue. I think  
of him far away in France, of Amy  
and of you and the kiddies, of us here  
and I wonder if a merciful Providence  
will ever permit all again to be together  
as of old.

Lots of love to all.

Affectionately,  
Dad.



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## United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON MILITARY AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON, D. C.

May 15, 1918.

### NUMBER NINETEEN

Major Archibald M. Johnson,  
General Staff College,  
Army Post Office 714,  
American Expeditionary Force,  
France.

My dear Arch:

I wrote you Sunday in pencil from the house we expect to occupy and mailed it to you Sunday afternoon. Mother wrote you that night briefly, and, at my suggestion, put another of the old cuts of the house in her note, so that you might see what sort of place it is. The cut, however, does not adequately present the place, and when we once get into it, I am going to have some real photographs made, so that you may picture our abode. When we get in is still the serious problem. Mother had hoped by this time to be settled, and I had hoped that by Saturday ( this is Wednesday ) we might make it. The hopes of neither of us, from present indications, will be justified. However, "hope springs eternal in the human breast", and we will begin prognostications for another week as we have been indulging them the past four weeks.

On a Postoffice Bill today, we stuck a rider authorizing families to send, at least once a month, packages, and if ever we get the infernal thing finished, I will begin sending you packages of cigarettes. By that time, perhaps, you will cease



Major Archibald M. Johnson - 2

to want them and you may be cured of the pernicious habit of smoking.

There is prospect of a beautiful row between the Senate and the President. Senator Chamberlain, the chairman of the military committee, introduced a resolution for various investigations recently, and the President is out today in letters to different members in bitter opposition and saying the passage of the resolution will be a vote of want of confidence in him. I think he is wholly in error in the view that he takes, but he jealously guards his every power, whether he exercises it or not, and he looks with disfavor upon any patriotic effort by any other person in relation to the war. The whole thing, doubtless, will result in some compromise resolution being passed. The President is in absolute power and can do exactly as he pleases in any matter pending before the congress. Recognition of this fact makes me philosophical even when I believe that he is wrong.

We had a dispatch from Jack this morning in which he said Amy had been taken back to The Pines at Oakland. Mother and I both construe this as ominous. She has not been getting along as well as we would wish the last month, and it seemed to us it was necessary she should stay in the sanitarium, and that it was only by remaining there, with the constant attention and supervision of that place, that she could rapidly improve. Evidently, she has been so mentally affected by the constant confinement that it was deemed absolutely necessary, in order to relieve her mind, to let her return to Oakland. I confess I am worried

Major Archibald M. Johnson - 3

about her, but it is just possible that if she feels easy mentally, the summer months at Piedmont may be beneficial to her.

I don't know what to make of the long delay in the matter of the offensive in France. I am utterly unable to tell from a military standpoint whether it is good for us, or for the Hun. Our military observers, I think, are just as perplexed. I had a great sympathy with the concluding part of your last letter in which you expressed the hope that the bloody mess may sooner be over, but that you will be eternally disappointed if it were over before you were a part of it. I can't see, unless something unforeseen shall occur, the end this year. I wish it were possible for us to gain such a victory that we could compel our kind of a peace, but it does not seem to me to be near at hand.

I haven't been able to learn anything about your friend, Howe. I have inquired of several people here, but, inasmuch as I can only describe him as "Captain Howe", well-known in Washington", I could get no satisfaction. I will run into somebody, sooner or later, whodoes know, and then I will write you. I am tickled to death that your mess has proved a success. After all if you have congenial companions, everything else can be borne.

Mother works all day at the new house, and devotes herself to it so exclusively that sometimes I regret we undertook it. My days are spent in committees and in the Senate and they have not been very interesting or exciting, of late. I wish there was some way in which we could fly over to you, or that



Major Archibald M. Johnson - 4

you could fly over to us for an evening. We talk of you so often that if there were any such a thing as mental telepathy or thought transference, you would know that we were talking about you. I am hoping that the week will bring us another of your notes.

With all the love of Mother and myself.

Affectionately your father,

*William M. Johnson*

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## United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON MILITARY AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON, D. C.

May 16, 1918.

Mr. Hiram W. Johnson, Jr.,  
Mills Building,  
San Francisco.

My dear Jack:

I received yesterday your letter of May 10th and I am answering it now while I have an opportunity. I am glad everything turned out well in the reclamation case, and that Dr. Dow, and others, are pleased at my employment. I am delighted at it myself, now that I have got into it. The only fear I have is that the service will not be commensurate with the compensation I'll receive. You ask me what you should do with the check when you receive it. I think it is just as well to deposit it in the Donohoe, Kelly Bank. I think, too, that after its receipt, we should pay the outstanding note, which is drawing interest, and then take what remains and either put it in a Savings Bank, or some other place, where it will draw a little interest. Don't you agree with me in this? The chief virtue in my employment in the case would be to force some sort of settlement or compromise, and this could readily be accomplished if it were not for the Devlins. It is not that the Devlins have any particular courage that makes them litigious, but it is because they are so grasping and avaricious. If there were any other attorneys for our opponents than the Devlins I would have high hopes of bringing this thing to a speedy conclusion, but, knowing



Mr. Hiram W. Johnson, Jr. - 2

them of old, I have no hopes of them. I know that Snook will have a dreadfully faint feeling at first when he learns of our employment, and that those, who are closest to the particular power we are endeavoring to make do justice, will have something of the same feeling, but the lapse of time, and the Devlins' desire to foment the litigation, so that they make more fees, will gradually bring returning courage. I think that the protest that you have sent me is far better than the original protest. I do not think it expresses anything more, but it certainly is more belligerent, and I fear, that, with an apparent belligerency is the only way to deal with the people on the other side.

I am awfully glad you attended to Art's oil matter. We have received no other letters from Arch, except what I have sent you. The mail service is simply atrocious, and, like every other department of our government, utterly inefficient.

We have the makings, as Irishmen say, of a splendid fight before the senate now. Chamberlain introduced a resolution last week to provide for investigations by the military committee. The President has declared his opposition, and, in Machiavellian fashion, resurrected a corpse in the person of Charles Evans Hughes, to conduct investigation into the aircraft scandal. I do not think the senate will stand firm. Some of us will. The Democrats will endeavor to prevent investigations by the committee. Tomorrow, we ought to have quite a debate.

I have the same feeling about Paul's funeral that you have, but I presume relatives feel they can't do too <sup>much</sup> after one

Mr. Hiram W. Johnson, Jr. - 3

has passed away. From a letter that was brought me today by a friend of Paul, who attended the funeral, a brother-in law of John D. Fletcher, I noted that Paul was probably driving at the time the accident occurred. If this were so, the very thing happened that I have always feared, probably.

We received your telegram about Amy. Mother and I both appreciated your thoughtfulness in wiring us. We wired her last night just some sort of little greeting on her arrival home. I confess to you, my boy, I am a little worried about her condition. I had about reached the point where I thought everything was going beautifully, but her return home and the continuance of fever trouble me very much. I hope that our worries are wholly groundless. It is fine that you have found a nurse who equals Martha. The children could not look better than they did in those pictures you sent us. They certainly were great. We have them upon the wall in our rooms at the hotel. Mother is working daily at the new quarters, but something unforeseen arises each day. The day before yesterday when they tried out the water, a newly papered room was flooded, and it was obvious that repairs had to be made to the pipes. They may be completed this week, and we may get in next week, and then, as I think of what has happened in the past, we may not. I noted at the bottom of your letter that you've paid \$130 or \$140 for taxes. I sent Odgers a check a week or so ago with the request that she return you this particular part of my debt, - the rest of it, in whole or in part, will be forthcoming whenever you want it, as you know. She ought not to have bothered



Mr. Hiram W. Johnson, Jr. - 4

you in the matter, although I presume it was necessary and she  
could not help it. Mother joins me in all kinds of love.

Affectionately,

*Ada*



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## United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON MILITARY AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON, D. C.

May 18, 1918.

Mrs. Amy Johnson,  
The Pines,  
C/o P. Bowles,  
Union and McAdam Streets,  
Oakland, California.

My dear Daughter:

The big event of the week, of course, has been your return to The Pines. We have not yet had time to hear what the effect of your return has been, but I am very sure it is going to be beneficial, and that already as I write, this Saturday afternoon, you will find yourself improved. This is a sort of clairvoyant effort on my part to make the reality conform to the hope. Mother and I are anxiously awaiting definite reports. I have been picturing "The Pines" during this month of May and I can not imagine a more beautiful place ~~to be~~, nor climatic conditions more auspicious. With familiar surroundings, with the cessation of worry, and with the bloom of nature about you, we'll all pull together and see you gain with a rapidity greater than you did at any time.

I am today, because of many events which are transpiring, in a resentful and depressed mood. I have received a telegram from V. S. McClatchy in the case which Jack was kind enough to arrange for me, which I fear presents the facts in a fashion I was stupid enough not before to see, and I am debating, while letting twenty-four hours to pass, whether I must not give up



Mrs. Amy Johnson - 2

the employment. I have received as well a letter from Arch in which he complains bitterly of his lack of mail and in which he expresses great uncertainty of his future. I have received as well evidence today of the cowardice of our side of the senate, and I feel this afternoon more separated from most of my colleagues than I have felt for many, many a day. This arises from a resolution of investigation introduced by Senator Chamberlain and the events centering around it. It was a week ago, Chamberlain introduced his resolution authorizing the military committee to make extensive investigation into various things, and hire experts and attorneys, and appropriated <sup>ing</sup> the money for the purpose. The President immediately denounced the resolution, and, because of a phrase in it referring to the "conduct of the war" insisted that the design of the authors of the resolution was to supercede him and his authority, and he called for a show-down between "friends" and "opponents". Whether he meant "friends" and "opponents" of himself, personally, or was insinuating that those who favored the resolution were "opponents" of the war, and those who were against it were the war's friends, is not clear. At any rate, he called for all his Democratic henchmen and the fight was on. Yesterday, the resolution was reported by the Contingent Expenses Committee of the Senate 3 to 2. The obnoxious phrase relating to the "conduct of the war" was stricken out and it was <sup>otherwise</sup> thus safeguarded. No man could justly object to the resolution as reported, and yet, the

Mrs. Amy Johnson - 3

President insisted that in that form it was not to be passed. He did then a very cunning thing - cunning is the appropriate word to describe his action. He went into the political graveyard and resurrected Charles Evans Hughes, and asked him to take charge with the Attorney General of the investigation of criminality in the matter of the aircraft, <sup>production</sup> prosecution. Hughes, just like the man he is, knowing the situation here, and having among the Senators, men like Weeks, Wadsworth, and Lodge, who had been his firm friends, communicated with nobody, but accepted at once the proffered position. Of course, the Democrats say now "What need for any investigation by the military committee of aircraft? The Attorney General, in conjunction with the standard bearer of the Republican Party, will conduct with vigor, and ability, and courage, a full and complete investigation"; and the President's Machiavellian course has received the enthusiastic indorsement and approval of all of the metropolitan press, and of nearly everybody else. The purpose of the President seems to me obvious. Just as is <sup>the</sup> Overman Bill for a redistribution of ~~the~~ powers was intended to prevent agitation of a war cabinet and a munitions director, and just as that Bill distracted attention from the shortcomings of the administration in the war, just so, his appointment of Hughes, equally cunning and equally Machiavellian in conception, will distract public attention from the aircraft fiasco, and the inefficiency of the administration in this important branch of the war work. It



Mrs. Amy Johnson - 4

was a cunning conception and a clever political trick, and it will succeed. But, while it was cunning and a smart political trick, in the big aspect, it was unworthy, and with one like myself, simply adds to the contempt I feel for the perpetrator. The nub of the matter is that the public will know nothing now of the facts of the investigation. With <sup>every</sup> the mere appearance of industry, and vigor, the investigation will be secretly made, and the delinquencies and deficiencies, and worse, will be carefully covered up, unless there is such brazen criminality that, months hence, some wrong doer shall be prosecuted for a crime. The military committee investigation would have been one which the public would have followed from day to day, and it was just this thing the administration wishes to avoid, and which it probably has avoided. But the thing that has most depressed me today, and indeed, has angered me, has been the lukewarmness of the Republicans, and the abject fear they have of proceeding, even in a righteous course. If you could just understand their <sup>violent hatred</sup> fickleness as I do, and listen to their profane abuse of the President in private, and then see them crawl in public, you would share my present feelings <sup>of</sup> and anger and contempt.

At the War Office this morning we found little that was new. Indeed, I am gradually reaching the conclusion that our people in command really don't know what is transpiring abroad. They gave us figures today, of men who had gone abroad, considerably less than those they gave us a week ago. And in relation

Mrs. Amy Johnson - 5

to the campaign of what has been done upon the battle front, the Secretary and his two Assistants and Chief of Staff seemed to have little knowledge.

Mother and I dined last night again with Mr. and Mrs. Hard. They had as the guest of honor a distinguished statesman of Bohemia, whose name I can't spell and won't attempt therefore to write. Some of the things that he told us were quite interesting. Bohemia is one of the separate nations held together in the Austro-Hungary empire. The people of Bohemia detest the Austrians, and, much against their will, have been compelled to fight in this war. Indeed, when opportunity presented itself, and in very large numbers, they surrendered to the Russians; and, in another instance, to the Italians. During their whole lives they have been steeped in hatred of the Austrians, and yet, they find themselves, at times in the battle line for those whom they regard as the worst of the human race. Instances have not been rare, he said, of Bohemians fighting under the flags of the allies, meeting on the opposite sides friends and relatives, and two touching instances of this, he told of on the Italian front. The Bohemians, after they surrendered to the Italians, formed a regular army corps and fought against the Austrians, and, on one occasion where a trench was charged, a son found himself with a bayonet thrust at his father. The father following the son, donned the uniform, and fought on the other side afterwards. Brother met brother in just similar circumstances. And the story of this Nation, of which I knew so



Mrs. Amy Johnson - 6

little, with its national live and its national hatreds, was the one interesting part of our dinner last evening.

Mother was certain by this time she would have got into our new house. I had put today, merely, because I selected a day I thought was <sup>so</sup> far distant that there would be no doubt as to the time we would move. But today finds us just as the end of every week of the past five has found us - still in the hands of incompetent workmen, and hoping again that by another week, the work will be done, and we will be in our own quarters. I really think, however, by this time next week we will be moved. Mother thinks we will move Monday, but we have had so many disappointments, I have little or no hope of this.

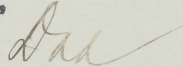
The Washington Hotel in which we are living seems to be getting worse every day. The service is execrable, and the food is deteriorating. We went <sup>have gone</sup> to the Army and Navy Club the past week or ten days for our dinners and really enjoyed them more. There has been quite an influx of Californians this week, and, inasmuch as they all call upon me, and, inasmuch as I have had two important committees with which I have been meeting, and I have been attending my sessions of the senate as well, I have been pretty well occupied. Every Californian who comes, of course, is here for but a short time, and he thinks that all of the time he is here he should spend with us. It gets a little difficult now and then to keep pleasant, and apparently glad, to see some of those who come. They are all probably well-meaning and have been politically with us in California, but

Mrs. Amy Johnson - 7

they have no realization of how others' time is here, and how thoroughly one is occupied. There are <sup>a</sup> few, of course, whom we are most anxious to see and have with us as much as possible.

This is a rotten letter and it is written by a rotten feeling man today. May it find you mentally better than he, and physically improved with each hour!

Affectionately,





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## United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON MILITARY AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON, D. C.

May 20, 1918.

### NUMBER TWENTY

Major Archibald M. Johnson,  
General Staff College,  
American Expeditionary Force,  
France.

My dear Arch:

I received Saturday two letters from you - one dated the 17th or 18th of April, I think, and the other one about the 28th of April. I left both of them at the hotel, and for that reason, I can not give you the exact dates, but I know they were almost two weeks apart. They were not numbered. The Army, fortunately, now has taken over the mail service in France. I said, "fortunately", hastily perhaps, because if we judge by some of the administrative efficiency of the departments, perhaps our mail service will be no better than it has been in the past. There is one consolation, at least, and that is, the mail service can not be worse. There is a unanimity of sentiment upon this around here and all over the country, and the universal complaint compelled the change.

On Saturday last, D. L. Beard of Napa, called at my office. He is about to go to France for the Red Cross. I asked him if he would take over to you some cigarettes. I explained to him



Major Archibald M. Johnson - 2

about Tobin, your address, etc., and he has a large package of Egyptian Deities, but, unfortunately, Egyptian Deities with corked tips. Plain tips could not be obtained in this rotten town. I do hope that they reach you. I missed Althol McBean. He got to New York. I wired there and his sister wired me that he had left. I think in future we will be able to take care of your needs in this regard.

I am just leaving for a meeting of the military committee. We are to consider the resolution introduced by Senator Chamberlain providing for various investigations, etc. I don't know what will be done. The President has put his stamp of disapproval upon this kind of endeavor by the military committee, and I presume that the President will prevail. There are a few members of the military committee - perhaps you may guess one or more of them - who feel, when they are prohibited from doing something which is their right, and within their jurisdiction, the more determined to do it. I feel, however, those of this kind are in the woeful minority.

The President made his speech to the Red Cross on Saturday in which he said - "Why speak of an army of 5,000,000 men!" This is interpreted here to mean that we will within the next year raise an army of many millions. The industrial difficulties, the matter of supplies, etc., apparently, are but minor considerations. I presume, however, our future course in many respects, will be determined by the present offensive. We are



Major Archibald M. Johnson - 3

waiting breathlessly to see the outcome and praying God that we may whip the Hun.

Judge Van Fleet has been here the last week, and spent the greater part of Sunday with your Mother and myself. He talked to us quite at length about the Hindu trial, about Theodore, and about the shooting in the court room. In my next letter to you, I will try to gossip with you about the matter. The judge's son, W. C. Van Fleet, is in the French escadrille. He has passed his various examinations and is a qualified fighting pilot.

We think we are going to get into our new quarters this week. We spent a couple of hours yesterday afternoon sitting outside the house, and I can't tell you how anxious I am to get into it. Mother has done wonders. She is pretty well tired out, and more than exhausted in her squabbles with workmen and tradesmen in Washington, who are about the most unreliable set I have ever encountered.

I wrote you that General Lyon had been ordered to Macon, Georgia, and that I had written him. I have not had a reply from him yet, although I had a wire from Raymond en route, simply stating that he is on his way with the General. I presume as soon as he gets settled in Georgia I will have definite word from him then and I will advise you.

With all our love,

Affectionately your father,

*Hiram W. Johnson*

United States Senate,

WASHINGTON, D. C.

Wednesday, May 22, 1918.

My dear Jack:

I occupied so much time trying to work about the Reclamation case this morning, that I didn't answer one of your questions in your letter received last night. In my letter to Army I said we might be out soon because there is an almost unanimous sentiment here for early adjournment. The one thing which may prevent



This is a new revenue bill. McAdoo wishes this bill no member of Congress sees. All of the big Democrats want to avoid the issue before election, and there's general revolt against the McAdoo program. The matter is now up to Wilson and will be determined by him this week. If he decides for a revenue bill from this Congress, we are likely to be here all summer; if he decides otherwise, we will

adjourn in July. Let us soon as I know definitely, I will write you.

We're feeling rotten at present. First the hot weather has come, and secondly, we can get no work done at the new place, and it's on Mother's nerves and mine too. I'm worried about Army and am anxiously awaiting definite news of whether the change has improved her. Love to Kiddie and Army and yourself. Affectionately,  
Dad

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## United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON MILITARY AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON, D. C.

May 23, 1918.

NUMBER TWENTY-ONE.

Major Archibald M. Johnson,  
General Staff College,  
A. P. O. 714,  
American Expeditionary Force,  
France.

My dear Arch:

Almost another week has rolled around. It is Thursday now and, while nothing of very great moment has transpired at all, the days have passed so quickly that we cannot understand how it is possible. I wonder if, with us, it is approaching old age. I told Mother this morning, while we were at breakfast, that time was running with us so rapidly now that, before we knew it, we would be in the grave and Mother, who detests references of this sort, took me rather severely to task. She is struggling away still and we have now set Saturday as the time to get into the new house. We have set each Saturday for some weeks. The unfortunate thing is that we will probably adjourn early in July and so will have gone to all the bother, trouble and expense for the privilege of being in the house for four weeks. However, I will do almost anything, or pay almost any price to get away from these infernal profiteering



Major Archibald M. Johnson - 2.

Washington Hotels.

I told you the other day that Judge Van Fleet had been here and talked to us of the Hindoo Case. He told me that he grew to like the Hindoos; that they were a rather mild, courteous and courtly crowd, all of whom, however, were fatalists. The most extraordinary precautions have been taken to disarm them during the trial. Each morning and each noon every individual was searched. The testimony in the case developed that <sup>Chandra</sup> ~~Ramsingh~~ who was killed, collected funds from patriotic Hindoos, for which he scrupulously accounted to his fellow countrymen, and collected, as well, large sums from the Germans for which he rendered no account. Another faction of the Hindoos believe he was thus grafting, ~~He was grafting~~ and there was very bad blood between the two factions.

On the day the case was submitted to the jury and when one of the brief mid-day recesses had been taken by the Court and the Judge had just retired from the court room, one of the faction opposed to Chandra suddenly arose, put his automatic gun practically against Chandra's body and began to shoot. Chandra was shot through the heart, probably by the first bullet, but he maintained his equilibrium and even jumped while his assailant continued to fire.

Stanley Moore grabbed the shooter by one shoulder and Marshal Holahan, who was quite across the room, believing that the assassin, with his automatic, would kill several

Major Archibald M. Johnson - 3.

others, took a chance and, raising his gun high in the air, shot over the heads of spectators. Holahan says what he feared was that his high power cartridges would go through the Hindoo and kill somebody on the other side but, fortunately, the bullet hit the shoulder, cut the jugular vein, went up in the head and instantly killed the assassin. Van Fleet says it was the most marvelous quick thinking and quick action upon the part of Holahan of which he ever heard.

Theodore, I understand, was very much worn and has gone for a vacation to the southern part of the State. He expects to come on here later but this is probably like many of his contemplated vacations, a matter to be discussed until it becomes imminent and then to be abandoned.

I suppose you know that Amy, last week, returned home. Really, Lad, I am very much worried about her. For more than a month now she has had continued pleurisy and some fever. A note from Jack last night said she weighed 116 pounds. This, for a girl of her size, would indicate extraordinary thinness. I feel very sorry for Jack and I feel more sorry for her. There is nothing, I presume, that can be done except to hope that her return to familiar surroundings will have a beneficial effect.

I presume you have had details of Paul's accident. Later reports that have come to me indicate that he was in the rear, or driver's seat, and the instructor in the front

*Death of Paul  
Morris, his former  
secretary*



Major Archibald M. Johnson - 4.

seat. Just what happened, nobody knows. There was suddenly a nose dive by the machine and it crashed into the earth with such force that they had to use a derrick to lift it afterward.

The expected battle between the Administration forces and the Military Committee did not materialize. Accomprmise was effected yesterday and the investigation of the aircraft production, which was really the matter that caused the difference, will probably be left to Mr. Charles Evans Hughes. It was a very clever thing that the President did in appointing Hughes. It was machiavellian in execution and, while I readily yielded <sup>praise</sup> for its <sup>cunning</sup> ~~game~~, I deprecate such actions and the motives inspiring them at this particular time. In the world conflagration now, with everything at stake in the war and with our boys at the front, I do not think there should ever be occasion for cunning political tricks or machiavellian policy.

I received a note from Dick Tobin the Other day saying he wanted to become an Army Censor instead of a Navy Censor and I replied, of course, that I should be tickled to aid him.

I had a call from Colonel Whitney on Monday. I will write you his story in my next note. It made me feel really quite badly.

We are looking to see the mail service improved but, personally, I have little hope of that. We will, however, as time passes, gradually eliminate the inefficient and incompetent. Finally, our <sup>war</sup> machine will become proficient and will do its work. I have no doubt at all about this, but the period of muddling

Major Archibald M. Johnson - 5.

along gets on one's nerves.

Mother joins me in all our love. I wish there was some way we could talk to you or convey messages to you except by intermittent and uncertain mail delivery. You don't know how much I am with you in spirit, my boy.

Affectionately,

Your father,  
Hiram W. Johnson



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## United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON MILITARY AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON, D. C.

May 25, 1918.

Mrs. Amy Johnson,  
The Pines,  
C/o P. Bowles,  
Union and McAdam Streets,  
Oakland, California.

My dear Daughter:

Although we had an extremely long session with the Secretary of War, General March, and the Assistant Secretaries of War this morning, there was little of real importance developed. A sudden overwhelming enthusiasm has seized everybody here for an enormous army, and not only would the slightest opposition be wholly misunderstood but it would be quite as useless for anyone to cry against it, as to endeavor to stop the passage of time. The War Department with the British ships is actually sending vast quantities of men over. They gave us amended figures this morning - six hundred and seventy-two thousand are already in France or on the way. While the officials said that the figures recently given by congressmen were inaccurate, ~~that~~ a quite conservative estimate was that nine hundred thousand men would be in France by the first day of July. We are wabbling along with the manufacture of ordnance and aeroplanes, but gradually getting better with both. Our war machines will be straightened out probably by the first of January next, and if



Mrs. Amy Johnson - 2

the Germans can be held off until that time, we will be, doubtless, the real factor in the war.

The event of interest of late with the senate and with the administration has been the Chamberlain Resolution. Finally, a compromise was effected, which both sides claimed to be a victory, and both sides asserted they were satisfied. In my opinion, neither side was wholly satisfied. The compromise effected did not interfere with the investigation of the military committee, eliminated the language "conduct of the war" and provided for the payment of expenses, and the like, of such investigation as might be undertaken. Mr. Hughes wrote a letter to the Attorney General, which was transmitted to the military committee, asking that his investigation be not paralleled by another. We had a heated session early in the week in which most of the members present thought that no investigation of aircraft should be carried on because of that which was now being undertaken by the Attorney General and by Hughes, and that any action on our part should remain in abeyance until they had concluded. I vigorously combated this view. I am sorry that we were in executive session, and that the diverse positions could not be made public. I insisted that what ~~was~~ concerned us was of far greater importance than a mere investigation; that we could afford, if necessary, to forego any specific desire on our part to go into any particular matter, but that when we were challenged and our right denied to do

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Mrs. Amy Johnson - 3

what was plainly within our jurisdiction, and which was, as well, our duty, we could not afford to yield. I insisted that whatever might be asserted of the magnanimity, and the generosity, and the earnest purpose of the President in appointing Mr. Hughes; and whatever might be claimed for Mr. Hughes' ability, his tenacity, and his power of thorough investigation, the effect of the selection of an unofficial and unattached individual to do what we were contemplating was to take from us the obligation which it was our duty to perform; and that our acquiescence in any such program abrogated our functions; and was submission to that which would destroy utterly our usefulness. Hughes appointment, I pointed out, was to investigate <sup>cr</sup>iminality. Our duty was to follow the funds we had appropriated and ascertain if inefficiency and incompetency existed, and, by exposure, and publicity, remedy any wrongs we found. Hughes' investigation, of necessity, must be secret, while ours would be public, and from day to day, those who were entitled to be informed of what was transpiring and what we were doing with their money, our constituents, would have the opportunity of knowing the exact condition. The Executive's objection to our Resolution had the effect of stalling the investigation of what was said to be <sup>a gross</sup> wrong and a startling condition. Hughes investigation in secret would simply delay the knowledge that the public were entitled to have until an indefinite period in the future, and until world events would have transpired which would utterly obscure the present issue. New, of Indiana, stood consistently as I did, and Sutherland of West Virginia, as well.

Mrs. Amy Johnson - 4

The matter was left in abeyance; and, yesterday, I tried to bring it up again and there seemed to be a much stronger sentiment for an investigation. The trouble with the matter is that the President has accomplished just what he set out to do. He has, first of all, delayed the investigation, and secondly, he has made a false issue and distracted public attention. In the meantime, there has been a most tremendous effort to speed up the aircraft program, and in small degree, it has succeeded, so that our agitation has done some good in any event. The public now will probably never know ~~of~~ the facts, although yesterday's attitude of the military committee was much more hopeful of a courageous undertaking than the previous meeting. The fact of the matter is, the President is much more astute and <sup>of</sup> infinitely greater cunning than the members of the Senate, and he constantly gets the better of them, because of his extraordinary cunning. In addition to this, he has all the avenues of publicity and all the special correspondents, and, by virtue of the Espionage Bills we have passed, he is free from criticism. Can you wonder that I get a bit discouraged at times! If it were not that I had spent my political life in fighting and never considering the consequences or the odds, with my peculiar views, I would feel like quitting the game and going into absolute retirement.

There is still another matter that is pending now in which the President will put it all over the Republican members of the Finance Committee. I take a little malicious pleasure, how-



Mrs. Amy Johnson - 5

ever in their predicament. The Secretary of the Treasury has insisted upon another revenue bill. With absolute unanimity, the Democratic leaders have begged him to defer it until the next congress. The Secretary remained obdurate, and they have appealed to the President. The President today is proposing to the Finance Committee of the senate that if they will agree to pass a certain kind of bill by February first next, he will not press a new revenue bill at this time. The Democrats do not want to go to the country with the kind of bill they passed last year - a bill which was passed by those who favor big business. A new revenue bill, undoubtedly, will be passed upon the lines for which I contended last year, and for which I spoke last year in California. The little minority which favored last year's method of taxation, is having its smile now because the administration, apparently, is going to insist upon substantially what we insisted upon a year ago. The purpose of the administration and of the Republicans who voted with the administration was to ~~le~~<sup>take</sup> last year's enormous profits with the great corporations who were coining the war - and they succeed in this. Evidently such a sentiment has developed that they find they can no longer put over this sort of outrage upon the ordinary taxpayer, and we will have our justification for the ~~ex~~<sup>op</sup>osition which was so bitterly assailed in the last session. The Republicans of the Finance Committee do not want to agree to

Mrs. Amy Johnson - 8

what the President now wishes, but I bet Senator Smoot a luncheon today that they would yield., and, in my opinion, they will . If I am correct, there will be no tax bill and we'll be home sometime in July. If I am not correct, we will have a revenue bill, and the chances are we will be here all summer.

I have had no letter from Arch this week at all. I had expected surely that today one would come, but I ascribe it to the wretched mail facilities. There is such a universal howl about these facilities, that perhaps there may be a remedy within a brief time. At any rate, the War Department has taken them over, and as I said to you before, they cannot be any worse.

This is late Saturday afternoon, and we are still not at the new house. I am going to drive out now to see how things are getting along. If we can get through with the plumber within the next day or so, we will then move in permanently, but I have given up prophesying the exact time. The whole thing is getting upon the nerves of both of us, and, together with other worries, this has not been a very pleasant week for either Mother or myself.

We were glad, because you were glad, that you had come back home. I hope that everything will be bully with you now. I think that I shall have to come to California and take charge of this case, and, with that sternness and harshness, with which you are so familiar, order you around and direct just what you shall do. I know how from very fear you would readily obey, and of, course, I am perfectly confident that any orders I might give would, of



Mrs. Amy Johnson - 7

necessity, be of great advantage to you. At all events, I can issue far-away commands, and I command you not to quarrel with your food. However much you may not like it, it is quite necessary, and so, just set that iron will of yours and get speedily better. I am sorry I have little of gossip or news for you this week. In lieu thereof, I send you, if it were possible, a greater number of good wishes and a larger measure of love.

Affectionately,

*Dad.*



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## United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON MILITARY AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON, D. C.

May 28, 1918.

### NUMBER TWENTY-TWO

Major Archibald M. Johnson,  
General Staff College,  
Army Post Office 714,  
American Expeditionary Force,  
France.

My dear Arch:

I received yesterday your letters dated May first and May fifth. With the receipt of these letters came the news that the German offensive was on. You can imagine, therefore, with what a thrill I read in your letter of May first, that you expected to complete your course in three and a half weeks, and then be assigned to active duty. I have been thinking of little else since I read your letters. I took them to Mother last night, but the conjunction of events - the German drive and you being in active service at this time - did not strike her, and I have not dwelt upon it at all.

We moved Saturday night. We have really a beautiful place, and the land about it - some seven or eight acres - gives us delightful opportunity for a breathing spell in the present, terribly, hot weather. There are many draw-backs, however, in connection with the house, such as, the water supply, its distance from Washington, et cetera. Of course, in the first two days that we have been in it, and because we commenced with the



Major Archibald M. Johnson - 2

house only half furnished and half ready for occupancy, the disadvantages and draw-backs have seemed probably greater than they really are, and have been tremendously exaggerated. Last night, Mother was quite in despair, because of many little things that were wrong, but I hope, within a week, most of these will straighten out, and that we will have the house really running. The servant problem is as difficult as the house problem. We have a colored cook, but it takes her forever to get anything done. She is, however, kindly, and willing, and, unless Mother explodes, I am sure that I can bear with the little ills. And, how trifling they seem when compared with what you may be undergoing at this very moment! I have no fear at all of how you are acquitting yourself. I know your high courage and your devotion to duty. Indeed, it is your very high courage and your utter recklessness of consequence in performing your duty, that make me fear. Be careful of yourself, my lad. I can say little more in this regard. I wish only that my old, mis-shapen body could interpose itself between you and all danger.

Yesterday I saw Kenyon Joyce and had a long talk with him. He was so sorry to have missed you in France. He was really badly wounded. His arm has been operated upon four times. It is still in a sling and useless to him. Today he goes to the Walter Reed Hospital here to be operated on again, and have another piece of bone removed. He was cheerful and expects to get into the fray,

Major Archibald M. Johnson - 3

but I think it is very doubtful whether he ever does. My opinion <sup>with</sup> of his description of his injury, and with the bone that has been taken from his arm, is that his left arm will probably be useless for a very long time. He doesn't know just what is happening to him, or just where he will be in the future.

I have heard nothing at all from General Lyon. Immediately upon his transfer, I wrote to him, as I told you, and I have been expecting a reply daily, but none has come. Raymond is with him. He sent us a wire as he crossed the continent, but nothing beyond this have we heard. They are both, as I recall it, at Macon, Ga.

We are all, metaphorically, holding our breath and watching the present new offensive of the Germans. It is a dreadful time, and the fate of at least one of our allies, I think, hangs in the balance. We are sending a great many men over now, and if they can only hold the line during this year, our army ought to be a decisive factor next year.

I don't know how letters will reach you in future, because, I assume, by this time, you have left the General Staff College; nevertheless, I shall direct letters to Army Post Office 714, and to the General Staff College, in the hope that they may the more readily thus reach you. I am trusting you may be able to get a cablegram through to us telling us how letters may be sent. I mailed you recently all of the letters that have come here for you. I don't know whether they will ever reach you. At any rate, I did this



Major Archibald M. Johnson - 4

in response to your suggestion.

Good-bye, temporarily. I am thinking of you every moment  
of the day now.

Affectionately your father,

*Hiram W. Johnson*



## United States Senate,

WASHINGTON, D. C.

At Home, May 30, 1918.

My dear Jack:

You may notice how I have commenced — "At Home" — long have I looked forward to this, and that we might have the feeling of finally reaching our haven, we moved out here Saturday night, as I have advised you. We came before we should have and risked the destruction of illusions and the pygmalion of realities that we might once more feel we had a home. The house is but half furnished and half carpeted; the kitchen has developed into a smoke room driving all occupants into the open air; the water system is all but broken down; the water itself is doubtful; half the toilets need immediate repairs; and a thousand other things at variance with a completed household annoy and irritate; but all of them together are outweighed by the pleasure we've had in the yard and in our one bedroom. We eat our dinners under the trees on the lawn, and then we sit until



very late in our own yard, breathing the  
free air, a part of the wonderful summer  
nights. Although we have been here but  
four days, the summer the whole after-  
noon besides this, and the office has  
lost its charm even the morning picture  
show no longer entices me. Perhaps  
we may get our place into shape but  
it will take a long time. At any rate  
(unfurnished) and unfurnished as it is, with  
all its drawbacks, it is infinitely prefer-  
able to the hotel.

I presume you have noticed the  
discussion about a government here and  
how this is ended by the president's  
last utterance. Discussion now is ripe  
of a recess during July. At present  
nothing definite can be determined. Were  
I to prophesy I'd say we may get a  
breath and a half before settling down to a  
fight on the revenue bill, but this cannot  
be known for a couple of weeks.

I'm quit bothering about what might be  
said in the Reclamation case. The Union  
Article was simply inspired by the Armour  
interests, and I hope my published telegram  
will give them ~~the~~ sufficient kick to make up.



## United States Senate,

WASHINGTON, D. C.

I received a letter from Rutledge outlining his view of the intention of the Original Reclamation Act and the right of the Board to do some work. I received from McClatchy last night the "Be" article of Saturday night, and in that I thought he tried to be decent. The whole thing, aside from the personal annoyance which we may discount has been a fine production of good. It has thrown the lime light on the Reclamation Board, and has furnished what I deem the vital slogan in your fight: the injustice of requiring lands fully reclaimed to pay for reclaiming Arnow's lands. While of course my judgment at this distance is not of any value, in comparison with yours, O'Connor's and fundations on the ground nevertheless I think a fight such as this semi-public, is best carried on offensively, over stating and reiterating the wrong, and injustice attempted under the guise of the law. Whencever, therefore, there



is correspondence, controversy, or publicity, insist, and if necessary state the facts in detail how a levee on the East side reclaiming Arman's lands is being constructed with the design of making the impregnable levees and the complete reclamation on the West side pay the bill. In every telegram I sent I kept up this one thing as you may have noticed, and if as I suspect, some of the Board indignantly or sorrowfully take up what they may think is an unjust implication in my case to U.S., I'll continue my expressions of surprise, wholly justified, that such a ~~thing~~ wrong could ever be contemplated.

Thank you ever so much for the returns. Thank Dow and Foundstone for me. Give in my name any sort of receipt you wish as a returner. I feel that this with my fee on the International News case has given me success from financial worry for the next two years. I'm more than grateful to you, lad. I haven't had as much pounding on the International News fee as I expected. I observed the other day in Hearst's



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## United States Senate,

WASHINGTON, D. C.

fight in New York to prevent in some small towns the suppression of his papers because they were assumed to be disloyal. Ambassador Gerard appeared as his attorney. Nobody apparently objected to this.

I'm writing you this afternoon, not with the intention of sending you a newsy letter; but because, for some reason, out here in the country, I feel nearer to you; and in the effort of handwriting, I somehow seem to be talking more intimately to you. I've thought very much of you of late, very much of Amy. I've been quite worried, and while your telegram and Mrs. Bowler's word somewhat reassuring, by no means, am I wholly relieved. You've had an awful time my boy; the poor girl an infinitely worse one. What is transpiring in the world is all blurred to me by what is transpiring with my loved ones. I see you and the kiddies and the dear girl in California, fighting your fight, and then at the



other end of the world I see my other dear  
one perhaps in that blood drenching insanity.  
May we be preserved for me another!

I saw Kenyon Joyce Friday. His arm  
is in a sling and useless. He was going to  
the hospital for another operation the following  
day. He thought Arch would probably be with  
an Artillery unit in the present battle. He  
thought has not yet returned to Mother, so don't  
write it. I read a despatch this morning of  
some American officers who had been in  
training who had just been placed with the  
British and "whose losses were slight". I'm  
most anxiously awaiting news from the kid.

I shall enclose to Amy Saturday a  
photo of the Military Committee taken the other  
day on the Capitol steps. I was going to  
send it to you but thought I'd save it for her.

I'm now going into the yard again.

Love to Amy and the kiddies. Lots to you.

Dad

May 31, 1918.

NUMBER TWENTY - THREE

Major Archibald M. Johnson,  
General Staff College,  
Army Post Office 714,  
American Expeditionary Force,  
France.

My dear Arch:

This morning I am in receipt of a letter from General Lyon, a copy of which I enclose. I hasten to send it to you, because I know you have been anxiously awaiting word from him, or concerning him. I really don't know exactly what he means, but evidently he has in mind that you should be upon his staff if he gets to France.

I am enclosing you also photograph of the majority of the military committee recently taken upon the front steps of the Capitol. I don't know whether this letter or the photograph ever will reach you, but I am sending them to you, nevertheless.

We are watching with the utmost anxiety the present drive. I confess I am utterly unable to understand it, and, I confess, too, a feeling of insane rage that the Hun should break through, as he does, whenever he starts. If the feeling that obsesses me could prevail in all the army, the very insanity would enable it to whip any antagonist. I confess to you I am most



Major Archibald M. Johnson - 2

seriously concerned about the outcome of this drive - seriously concerned for our allies, for our own boys in France, and for my own. We can, however, at this distance, only wait, and wait, and wait, and hope and pray.

We are in our new quarters - still half furnished, half finished, and half carpeted. The Lord only knows when we can get these things ever done. It is beautiful, however, and it has been glorious these last few days practically to live upon the lawn. I accept with cheerfulness and equanimity all the disadvantages, because of the one great pleasure of freedom in the open air.

I am directing this letter to you as the former ones have been directed, because I do not know how else to do in respect to it. I do hope that somebody with sufficient interest in your welfare, and the welfare of the others at the College, will re-direct your letters to you. I presume, if this drive continues and the Boche succeeds in advancing, we'll have no mail service at all, but until I receive definite word from you, I will continue to address your letters to "The General Staff College, Army Post Office 714".

I can't tell you the thoughts that surge through my mind in these days. I am wondering - and wondering, where you are. Wherever you are, you will be my brave lad and will do your part; but don't let our family recklessness lead you into extravagant



Major Archibald M. Johnson - 3

and foolish actions. Take care of yourself as best you can  
while doing, as you will, your full duty bravely.

With all my love,

Affectionately your father,