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KODAK Gray Scale



Kodak
LICENSED PRODUCT

A 1 2 3 4 5 6 **M** 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 **B** 17 18 19



United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D. C.

May 9, 1929.

My dear Jack:

Your letter of Jan'y 4, reached us yesterday. This note is solely in reference to the assessment notice, and is written by hand because I didn't wish to dictate to the office the story of my finances.

I'm sending you today my safe deposit key so that you may get into my box at any time necessary. I'm enclosing you also the River Gardens assessment notice in which we are advised of a \$5. per share assessment, which will become delinquent July 14, 1929. This assessment means the payment of something over \$2500. I do not feel able to make this payment. I am more sorry than I can tell you to bother you with the matter, or with details of my situation, which should trouble and worry only myself. I have in the safe deposit box \$11,000. in Liberty bonds, I think, one bond of

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D. C.

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\$10,000. and one of \$1,000. I do not want to touch the \$10,000. It is all I have after payments I've indicated to you, and I feel at all hazards I should keep this little for what eventualities sickness or old age may bring to your mother or myself. My life insurance (I have but one policy now for \$5,000.) is pledged to the company for the full amount the company would loan upon it a year ago. Your mother has contracted to purchase a house here for \$40,000. The payments necessary in order that a loan may be obtained for the remainder, can be made out of money she has and cash I have on hand. Beyond this I'm unable to go; and the situation makes it imperative that I go to work again. That is why I am expecting to join Sullivan & Roche and begin life anew. I make these explanations to you that you may understand what confronts me. I send you my safe

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D. C.

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deposit Key that you may obtain your Mother's stock, pay the assessment if you desire, and retain the stock. You have already paid for her one large assessment. I paid another. If the stock could be sold for anything of consequence, I'll be glad to have that done; for it is obvious that sooner or later in my poverty stricken condition, it will be assessed away from us. If it cannot be sold, I would pay if I could towards the assessment (if you thought it wise) the \$1000. bond in my ~~box~~ and if you cared to, have you pay the remainder, returning the stock. I wouldn't care to throw away this \$1000. unless you really believed that some time there might be a fair certainty of its return.

The fact is of course, I know nothing about the value of the stock or the prospects of the farm. Once or twice I asked Doc. Dow about the matter but

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D. C.

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I gathered no adequate idea of conditions, and I had a reticency about pressing inquiries. Indeed, I don't think any of us could, without doing something we never do, probe into the financial affairs of the Company; and I'm very certain I wouldn't have any real conception of them in any event.

I leave to your judgment whatever may be done. I don't want you to risk more money in what appears to be not only an uncertain but a non-paying investment. I don't want to risk even the petty amount of \$1000. either. But I don't know what to do. If there's any prospect of saving something here for Mother, of course that I'd like. Write me frankly, please.

Appreciatively,
Dad

January 10, 1929.

Major Archibald M. Johnson,
Attorney at law,
Mills Building,
San Francisco, California

My dear Arch:

Thank you so much for your telegram. I am really at sea. She has been ill, and so therefore do not like to annoy her with questions. I only am judging her as I would myself. It seems to me that if I had her wealth and her opportunities I would either take the money and invest it somewhere else, or give you some information. She has done none of these things. I will wait a few days and then I will try to write a letter that may bring forth an answer, and let you know exactly what it is.

I have only a few moments in which to write you, and here is something very confidential, and please consider it so. Night before last a man on the Hearst papers telephoned the Senator and said Jim Nourse had wired him asking him if it were true he was to open a law office, and then went on to say that he had seen the article in the bulletin saying that, and also that Jack Neylan was to be appointed by the Governor in his place. Query? I, of course, have no faith nor trust in Jack Neylan, and it occurred to me that it was invented solely by that gentleman, as there is nothing within the grasp of the Governor to which he does not aspire. His loyalty to your Father evaporated long ago. It seems to me that if it were not inspired by Jack Neylan, Jim Nourse could very easily have asked Neylan if such a thing were true, instead of sending a wire on here to your father. If you can run into Jim Nourse get him to tell you just what did ~~exp~~aspire, and find out if Neylan was at the bottom of it. I suppose it is useless because no doubt Jim Nourse would feel it necessary to protect the octopus, but nevertheless, give it a try, as I have been anxious to pin something on that gentleman for a long time. It would have been so easy for Jim Nourse to have asked Jack Neylan. Your Father was very much disturbed over it, as he did not know just what to think of it. Of course I am the only one who thinks the dirty things. He hates to think such a thing could happen. Father immediately wired Nourse telling him not to publish any such thing, that confidentially he did intend to go into the practice of law during the interims. This is just a little note. I will write you in full later. Many thanks for my lovely gifts.

Devotedly,

Mother.

HIRAM W. JOHNSON, CALIF., CHAIRMAN
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M. A. CONNOR, CLERK

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION

January 12, 1929.

My dear Boys:

Saturday afternoon, and just before going home I am writing you merely a word that the week may not pass without at least some little greeting to my lads from me.

The return of Hoover to Washington has over-shadowed with the people in political life everything else. He is holding his levees at the Mayflower Hotel here, and of course, high and low, big and little, are flocking to his apartments. I am interested in but one thing that he may do, and that is a special session of congress. The best information I have today is that the special session will be called about the 15th day of April. It raises Cain with me, and leaves me neither fish, nor flesh, nor fowl. It is going to make it very difficult to go back to California, for, in the very nature of things, we cannot finish here until about the 15th of March with what hangs over from the session, and I do not want to remain, with important personal matters pending, in Washington for a month, or a month and a half. However, man proposes and God disposes, and the present god of the American people is Herbert Hoover.

We have had a singularly good winter here, what Washingtonians call an open winter. I am looking forward daily, however, to the usual thing we encounter at this period, and I presume as a compensating disadvantage for the pleasant weather, we'll have a month or two of the most disagreeable kind. And

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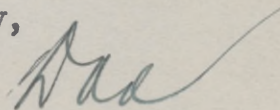
unfortunately during that period we'll have to be moving. The question of where to move is more or less in the air. When there is the slightest definiteness about it, I will write you in detail.

The senate has been busy with the Briand-Kellogg Treaty for the past week. It is in conjunction with this that I wanted to quote Francois Villon's apostrophe to Monsieur Noel. The explanations and interpretations by the proponents of the treaty have made its nothingness complete.

Mother and I are living our usual secluded life, going out only semi-occasionally; sometimes with great pleasure, and sometimes with not so much. The life here is interesting, and notwithstanding what Mother may say in respect to it, I know very well that she enjoys it.

With love to all,

Affectionately,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to be 'Dad', written in blue ink.

HIRAM W. JOHNSON, CALIF., CHAIRMAN
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M. A. CONNOR, CLERK

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION

January 19, 1929

Major Archibald M. Johnson,
Attorney at law,
Mills Building,
San Francisco, California

My dear Arch:

We were awfully sorry to have your wire that your garage had burned, and both your cars had been destroyed. Doubtless, too, our own experience had made us much more sympathetic than otherwise we might have been, for there us nothing like a fellow-feeling to make us wondrous kind.

I do hope that you were amply insured, but I fear that while you may have had your insurance upon your cars, you were perhaps uninsured in the matter of your garage.

I presume, of course, like with us, you haven't any idea how the fire started, but it is not difficult to imagine what may happen when there are fumes of gasoline confined within close quarters, and the prevailing habit is the awful one of smoking cigarettes.

We also received your wire concerning the arrival of a million and a half little Danes, who, in due time, will develop into big Danes. When they do begin developing, I can imagine that you'll have a pretty lively place. It will seem as if a herd of elephants had taken up their abode with you, but I t h i n k that it will be great fun, too.

Major Archibald M. Johnson - 2

During the week, there has been little of consequence here. There was a bit of excitement over the Kellogg-Briand Peace Treaty, and the verse from Francois Villon made quite a hit. This was so, not only in the senate, but generally in the eastern press. I could not find myself getting excited over the Treaty. I think it is just a piece of bunk utilized by so-called statesmen the world over to fool their people. We now have up the cruiser bill, and it has gone struggling along for a few days, and will continue for probably a few weeks more.

The last two days I have had two distinct jolts. First, came the word from Sacramento that Lester Hinsdale had died, and yesterday, early in the morning, came word from Jack Stafford that Judge Hart had passed away. I do not want to meditate upon the mutability of human affairs, but with the passing of these two men, who were a part of my Sacramento life, I am rather emphatically impressed with the years that have ~~passed~~ ^{gone}.

Mother is still looking for a house and will be looking for a house, in my opinion, as long as we remain here. There is nothing that I can do in the matter, except let her do just exactly as she pleases, which, of course, would be the result in any event. It is just an infernal nuisance.

With love to Martha and yourself,

Affectionately,

Dad

HIRAM W. JOHNSON, CALIF., CHAIRMAN
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M. A. CONNOR, CLERK

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION

January 19, 1929.

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

My dear Jack:

We disposed of the peace treaty this week, and had a little flurry of excitement in the concluding moments. As we concluded, I expressed my opinion of the treaty by dedicating to it, as an adequate conception of it, the Francois Villon verse concerning Messire Noel. The verse made quite a hit, both with the press, and in the senate, and I think, undoubtedly, expressed the opinion of clear-thinking people here, for this new piece of bunk.

Jack Neylan was here this week, and he was loud in his praises of your club. He said you had done a distinct thing for San Francisco in providing a new kind of enjoyable life for the city. I was quite surprised to hear his praises, and of course, gratified. It isn't quite the thing for Neylan to praise anybody except one Neylan. In this instance, however, he was unstinted in what he said.

I had two jolts this week. The first was day before yesterday when I received word from Sacramento that Lester Hinsdale had died, and the second came yesterday when Jack Stafford wired that Judge Hart had passed away. Somebody once said that if a man lived the years between sixty and seventy, most of his

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time was occupied in either burying his friends or meditating upon their passing. These two deaths following each other by a day took me back rather vividly to my old life in Sacramento.

There is nothing particularly new here. Your Mother and I keep reasonably well. She is greatly exercised, of course, about the house, concerning which I hope to be able to write you in detail, but I'll probably have to wait a day or two longer to advise you definitely.

With love to the boys and yourself,

Affectionately,

Dad

HIRAM W. JOHNSON, CALIF., CHAIRMAN
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M. A. CONNOR, CLERK

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION

January 26, 1929

Major Archibald M. Johnson,
Attorney at law,
Mills Building,
San Francisco, California

My dear Arch:

Another week has come with the startling rapidity that weeks arrive and go now, and although I have done little during that time, I seem to have been tremendously engaged. We are busy with the naval bill in the senate, and will be for a few days more. It makes little difference that we pass the bill because in one fashion or another, those who control our destiny will see that we maintain a navy inferior to that of Great Britain, and which will ultimately invite assault by Japan.

Mother is house hunting, but can in reality find nothing satisfactory. Because of the situation in which we find ourselves, the whole blamed atmosphere is blue. To make it worse, Mother today has a rotten cold, and she is so careless of her health that I am frightfully worried about what may happen. We have had a very remarkable winter, better than any since I have been here, but it does get very cold, and it is dangerous running about as she does.

I am wondering how your new arrivals are getting along. If they have weathered the first week or so,

they must begin now to be rather interesting and cute.

My love to Martha and yourself,

Affectionately,

Dad

HIRAM W. JOHNSON, CALIF., CHAIRMAN
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M. A. CONNOR, CLERK

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION

January 26, 1929

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

My dear Jack:

I take the Examiner and the Chronicle, and upon looking at the latter one day last week we found the description of the Yacht Club, and we learned of the new honor that had come to you. Singularly enough, your Mother, without realizing the fact at once suggested that we cut out the article and send it to you, but of course, we both laughed when we realized it was in the local paper, and that you were thoroughly familiar with it. Subsequently we received copy of the article from San Francixco, too. I think it was a deserved recognition of all that you have done for the Club, and I presume that hereafter I must make a nautical salute and address you by your title. We were also very much interested in the photogravure page of the same paper devoted to the Yacht Club. It must be exceedingly gratifying, and you must have the exultation that comes from a job well done.

The Senate is in the throes of the Cruiser Bill, which substantially as it is before us I believe will be passed. There is a great deal of opposition from

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our internationalists, and the propaganda of the W.C.T.U., women's organizations, pacifists, etc., has been quite voluminous. Fortunately, with long experience here, we learned to pay no attention to all the propaganda.

We're in a hell of a fix about a house. I am not going to burden you with my trials and tribulations, but I think you can understand how difficult it is for your Mother to be pleased with any abode, and I think you can understand how the situation keeps us in such hotwater at home that I sometimes wish that I could return to the state of our pre-historic ancestors when houses and luxuries were neither known nor wanted.

I am hoping I may write you something definite next week in regard to our plans.

With love to the boys and yourself,

Affectionately,

Dad

HIRAM W. JOHNSON, CALIF., CHAIRMAN
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M. A. CONNOR, CLERK

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION

February 2, 1929

My dear Boys:

I was going to wire you early in the week respecting Mother's illness, but I thought no good could be accomplished by it, and therefore refrained. A week ago today she contracted a terrible cold. It grew rapidly worse until she had practically acute bronchitis, in addition to the worst cold in the head that I have ever witnessed. Of course, some temperature developed, but it was with the greatest difficulty even then that we could persuade her to remain at home. She has been confined to the house all week, and to bed for a couple of days. She is better now, but far from well. I have been dreadfully worried as you can readily imagine, and during the week I have felt like one with a pall over him. The whole world has been mighty dark. Probably Mother will be able to get out Monday, but you can imagine ten days' restraint and confinement to the house have been not only difficult for her, but very trying for everybody else. Mother is so active and so careless of her health that she will not take even the most ordinary precautions. Her sickness at this time was singularly unfortunate too, because she has been dickering for a home here, and she will permit no one else to do anything in respect to it.

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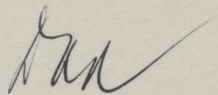
We've had a splendid winter up to just the day that Mother got sick. Since that time it has been extremely cold here, and it looks like we are going to have a February of rather extreme weather. We have had some little snow the past week, and the thermometer has been way down during the entire week.

Because of its pendency and because of my interest in the subject, I talked the other day upon the Cruiser Bill, and was quite surprised to find ~~the~~ amount of publicity given through the East upon the subject. It was not carefully prepared, but it has been as widely commented upon as anything of like character that has occurred here.

I wish we were back in California. I had hoped we would be back next month. I think there is no chance of it now. Sometime about the first of April we'll have the extra session, and we'll have the week after the fourth of March confirming the Cabinet, etc., here. It has been my intention to begin the practice of the law with Sullivan and Roche on March 1, but the changed situation will doubtless work a change in our affairs as well.

With my love to all,

Affectionately,



HIRAM W. JOHNSON, CALIF., CHAIRMAN
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M. A. CONNOR, CLERK

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION

February 9, 1929

My dear Arch:

The Civil Service Commission have certified to me the standings of those who took my examinations for West Point and Annapolis. The first seven are:

T.J.Conway
W.A.Jensen
W.H.F.Fuller
M.E.Kaiser
E.P.Wells
H.S.Tubbs
J.W.Stilwell, Jr.

I am perfectly willing to appoint young Stilwell, although it is rather an injustice to the others who stand ahead of him, and took the examination, because I think that I am entitled to make a personal appointment. I never have done so, and in this instance I shall exercise my prerogative. The only thing that is troubling me at all is that I understood the lad was to take the presidential examination sometime since, and I am not clear, whether he did so, or whether he has received an appointment. I am wiring him today to get the facts. If he has not received the presidential appointment I will myself appoint him. Miss Connor suggested wiring you, but I thought you simply would have to communicate with him, so she is wiring directly to him today.

I am mighty glad to be able to tell you that Mother is out again. I had a bad week, but of course, she had a worse one. As I said in my little postscript to you on your birthday,

she was really quite ill. She had an acute bronchitis, with an awful cold in the head, and a temperature that was annoying, and that might have become worse possibly. She is not entirely herself yet, but very much better. Indirectly I have learned that you have not been yourself. Both Mother and I have been very much concerned about this. I do hope you take care of yourself, and please let me know just how you are feeling.

We both felt so sorry to learn of your fire. I hope your insurance at least enabled you to pull out to some degree. Certainly, the automobile insurance people are the finest that I ever dealt with, and I was glad to know that they treated you with the same delightful consideration that I was ~~afforded~~. The fire insurance people ~~otherwise~~ are a mighty independent ^{lot} ~~block~~, and I have always insisted that they do not determine losses from the standpoint of justice at all, but solely from that of expediency, and the possibility of some other business.

Mother is in the throes of obtaining a house here - purchasing one I mean. It is a very serious undertaking of course. I know that she would prefer to write you in reference to the matter rather than have me express opinions that she did not care particularly for. I am leaving her to do this and if she gets the opportunity, undoubtedly she will do so tomorrow.

Everything here is in preparation for the inaugural. The skies will be all ~~just~~ overcast until the fourth of March, and then ~~god~~ will reign. You can understand, perhaps, something

of my feelings concerning the great honor that has come to the greatest Californian. But I am very glad to say I have grown old enough to take things with a fair degree of equanimity and philosophy.

I hope your bevy of elephant dogs has weathered the illness of their mother and that now they are gamboling around your yard. I can readily imagine that if they gambol much they will knock down an occasional tree, and possibly uproot the most hardy and powerful shrubs. I'd dearly love to see them.

I hope you had a bully birthday and a fine time, and I hope, above all, that the birthday found you at least recovered in health.

With love to Martha and yourself from Mother and me,

Affectionately,

Dad

HIRAM W. JOHNSON, CALIF., CHAIRMAN
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M. A. CONNOR, CLERK

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION

February 9, 1929

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

My dear Jack:

It was fine and generous of you to write me as you did returning the check I sent you in relation to the assessment upon the Rivers Gardens Farm stock. I will consider this, as you so delightfully and in such kindly fashion, phrase it - as something of Mother's in which our dearly beloved older son is protecting her, and endeavoring to save for her. I am deeply grateful to you, and only hope that some day there will be such value to the stock as will rejoice Mother, and at the same time repay you for all of the very great outlay you have made upon it. There is no doubt that among the many failures of your Father, the most pronounced is in financial matters. But really, my dear son, except when I think of your Mother, this neither bothers me nor troubles me in the slightest degree.

I received this morning, too, the telegraphic money order for \$1012.05 for the sale of the remaining \$1,000.00 Liberty Bond I had in the Safe Deposit vault. I sent for this, as you probably have surmised, in gathering together every penny that I could to help finance Mother in the purchase of a home here. I do not write you about it because I know that she would prefer to send you her views, and I leave to her, therefore, to write

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you the details which possibly she will do tomorrow.

We were both very much interested in the photographs you sent of the Yacht Club. They are very beautiful. There is a certain exaltation that comes to one in the fruition of a creation of his own. You can have that in marked degree in relation to your Yacht Club. You have done a great job. I don't think that many people had any adequate conception of what you were doing or any ^{vision}~~opinion~~ respecting it. I really do think that I had, and therefore I rejoice with you in your great success.

I thought after the Cruiser Bill I would have some little surcease here, and then out of a clear sky, came the fight upon the Sacramento River Project, and the items in the War Department Bill. This really has taken practically all of this week, and I have had to be on the ground constantly. The items ~~that~~ had been put in the House Bill out of regard for Curry, and because he is very very sick, and his colleagues wished to do something to please him, in what they have believed is his last illness. There was no such sentiment on the senate side. One of the items for a refund of over \$4,000,000.00 was decidedly at variance with not only the custom, but the distinct and definite policy of the appropriations committee in the senate. The committee turned down the item with some indignation, and I really had the toughest little fight I have ever had here through a whole afternoon upon the floor. I won it by a lot of combinations, and because I really think I have many very good friends upon the

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floor of the senate, who, when it comes to a personal item, will strain a point in my behalf. The most powerful committee in the matter of legislation, of course, is the appropriations committee. It has eighteen members, who stick together, and are the only ones familiar in reality with appropriations bills. I was alone, except with the individuals I could enlist in my behalf, who, of course, had little knowledge of the subject. The item under ordinary circumstances would have been wholly unjustifiable, and it was much more *than* difficult to break down the objections against the destruction of a policy of long standing. I finally won out on the floor by twenty-two to thirty-five, but there were constant repercussions of the matter that kept me in hot water until at 5:15 last night the bill was finally passed. If ever I was indebted to the Sacramento Valley I paid the debt this week. The fellows around me in the senate have been laughing at me because it is really the first time the appropriations committee has been whipped on an item of this sort. Singularly enough, Illinois had a couple of little items, nothing like ours, however, and I had to stick to fight their items out too, and our combination won again, although by a much narrower margin, 32 to 34, and 31 to 33. It was a real victory. I don't want any more contests like this however. It may be we have not heard the last of it yet, but I think the bill is in such shape now that *if* it is agreed to at all, our items will stick.

I am glad to tell you that Mother is very much better. She has been about this week, and it has been a tremendous relief

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to me. While she did not have the "flu" the past week, she had an acute bronchitis, with a cold in the head, some temperature, and was decidedly ill. I can stand anything else, but this kind of sickness.

Everybody here now is preparing for the inaugural. I do not need to tell you the thoughts that ~~cross~~^{course} through my mind when the greatest Californian, who has ever existed, is about to be initiated into the Presidency of the United States.

With love to all in which Mother joins,

Affectionately,

Dad

I'm sending you what I saw on the Briand-Kellogg peace treaty. It's so short you can read it in a minute. I send it to you because of the interesting comment on it in the East - more diffuse and approving than I have had in many a day.

P.S. I find Miss Comnor had these remarks photostated & sent you.

POSTAL TELEGRAPH - COMMERCIAL CABLES

CLARENCE H. MACKAY, PRESIDENT

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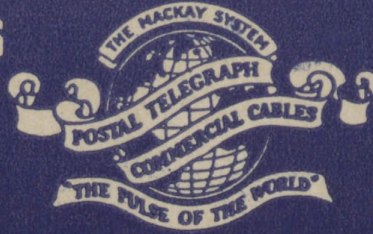
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NL	NIGHT LETTER
NITE	NIGHT TELEGRAM
LCO	DEFERRED
NLT	CABLE LETTER
WLT	WEEK END LETTER

Form 16 Dbl.

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ST WASHINGTON DC FEB 12 1929

MAJOR A M JOHNSON

ATTY AT LAW MILLS BLDG SANFRANCISCO CALIF

STILWELL SEVENTH OUT OF SIXTY TAKING CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATIONS STOP
I HAVE NO OTHER APPOINTMENTS UNTIL FOUR YEARS FROM NOW STOP HE WOULD
STILL BE ELIGIBLE THEN BEING NOW SIXTEEN YEARS AND ELEVEN MONTHS STOP
I MUST CERTIFY THAT APPOINTEE IS ACTUAL RESIDENT OF CALIFORNIA STOP MY
UNDERSTANDING STILWELLS PARENTS AND HIMSELF INTEND TO RESIDE CALIFORNIA
STOP HE HAS APPLIED TO TAKE PRESIDENTIAL EXAMINATION IN MARCH BUT IS
DOUBTFUL IF HE CAN PASS WROTE YOU SATURDAY LAST

HIRAM W JOHNSON

HIRAM W. JOHNSON
CHAIRMAN

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION

February 19, 1929.

My dear Sons:

I did not write you on Saturday, as is my custom, because of a rather hectic few days last week, and because I wished to delay until definitely I could tell you of our new venture. Yesterday it was completed. Since our return, your Mother has been looking for a place to live. Finally, the only situation she cared for, that was within any possibility for us, she found not far from the Capitol. She entered into a contract with the real estate agents. It was found thereafter that there was a tenant on the property who was utilizing it as a boarding and lodging house. The Dunkard Church owned the property, and the Church is governed by seven trustees. After delays interminable, promises that were broken, etc., the tenant finally vacated about ten days ago. An inspection of the house disclosed that it was in an awful state. In going home with Mother one day last week I learned that she had taken possession of the property, with the consent of the real estate agents, it is true, and that she expected the following morning to begin her repairs, and had large contracts with plumbers, carpenters, etc. Of course, I was tremendously worried, and it was then that my first acquaintance with the real estate people and the transaction really commenced.

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At any rate yesterday we got our deed, but I was pretty badly worried for awhile, imagining that I might have on my hands an action for specific performance. We are paying for the property \$40,000.00 ; \$15,000.00 in actual cash, and the remainder by virtue of a trust deed we have executed. I have no doubt that when Mother finishes with what she is now doing to the place, it will be a charming and delightful home. I enclose you a little map showing you where the property is located. It is in the old section of Washington, not the aristocratic portion; but it is in the very best part of the old section, and is exceedingly convenient in many respects. A new structure for the United States Supreme Court is to be erected in the blocks bounded by Maryland Avenue, Second Street, East Capitol Street, and First Street. If it is ever built there, as is contemplated, the premises that Mother has will look out upon a very beautiful park. At First Street and Maryland Avenue, the Methodist Building is shown on the map. This is a six or eight story apartment structure owned by the Methodist Church. I am enclosing you also two rough sketches of the two lots purchases, lots 7 and 800 in square 726. Mother is very hard at work, arriving in town now at an early hour, and leaving late, with carpenters, steamfitters, plumbers, paper hangers, tile men, plasterers, roustabouts, helpers, aides, employes, and bums, all being feverishly directed by her in their various activities. We expect before the expiration of our lease, March 4th, to move in, although not to have the repairs finished. I have no doubt when I move out

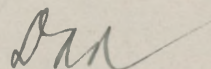
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of the Calvert House I will have a lawsuit with Caraway, and I am looking forward to this unpleasatness with no particular degree of joy. A description of this man I am utterly unable to give you. If you can imagine the sharpest and shrewdest and most unprincipled Jew shyster lawyer, you have ever known, who is impervious to every decent and fine feeling, and whose sole thought is acquisitiveness without any nice distinctions of acquiring, and then add a smartness of tongue, a glibness, and no hesitancy in undertaking anything, and then mix with this characterization, a paranoic grandiose view of himself and his activities, with a paranoic's insensibilities of consequences to what he does, and you'll approach this senator from Arkansas. I have never seen a human being like him, and I think it is very fortunate that there are but few. The weather has been remarkably good. I am so glad of this because Mother's real work, thus far, she has been able to do under pleasant weather auspices. I notice the signal service, however, says tomorrow we are to have rain or snow, and I am fearful then, with Mother's recent recovery, of what may happen.

I have been hoping against hope that I would get out next month, but I am fearful it will not be possible. I am terribly disturbed by this because it interferes with the plans that I have made, and with the commencement of my life ever again as practising lawyer.

With love to all,

Affectionately,



HIRAM W. JOHNSON, CALIF., CHAIRMAN
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M. A. CONNOR, CLERK

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION

February 23, 1929

My dear Boys:

We are again immersed and submerged in renovating, constructing, and building operations. Your Mother has taken the four walls of the house, which she recently purchased, and is making practically a new house within. We get in in the morning at eight o'clock, and she spends the day with workmen in the house and tradesmen in the city. I have just one prayer in relation to the whole thing, and that is, that she may keep her health. You probably have not had letters from her because really she is going all day long, and figuring all evening long. As you know, our lease at Riverdale expires March 4th. We hope to move into one room of our new quarters next week, where we expect to live in confusion worse confounded for a considerable period of time.

As I wrote you recently, our winter was fine up to this week, when we had one of those big snowstorms, with the thermometer remaining quite low, and the Lord knows what is in store for us still. It is this weather in conjunction with your Mother's work and running about that worries me most.

We had a terrible shock in the death of Frank Flint. The thought of his passing away on a ship between Hongkong and Manila was awful. I was haunted by the spectre of him, and am still. As he sailed upon his voyage with his wife,

he wrote me how at last he was going to take the world philosophically, and enjoy his few remaining years in peace and comfort. He had just about six weeks thereafter. And now Mrs. Flint is returning from the tropics with the body. We got another shock day before yesterday. Elmer Schlessinger vacationing at Aiken, North Carolina, playing golf, suddenly said he was feeling ill, and died within a few minutes. His wife, Eleanor Gicyzka, is, as you know a very dear friend of your mother, and she received her first intimation from a telephone message telling her that he had just died. I am to attend his funeral as one of the pallbearers tomorrow. I record these deaths, as I did some others recently in my letters to you, as passing events, but they have singularly affected me.

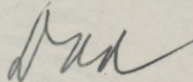
We're in the usual jam at the end of the session. Members of the senate are becoming irritable and nasty. The blood gets up in the neck of many of them, and there is constant friction. I am rather aloof from it in having accomplished the most of the things I desired to do. I won the Boulder Dam fight one year ago when I had the bill made the unfinished business for the first day that we met in December. If it were pending now, it is obvious I would get nowhere. Everybody is awaiting the inauguration and the new administration, and I say constantly to my colleagues that we need not worry, for after the fourth of March God will reign. A tighter hold is being taken by the new administration upon the press than ever before in our history, and we'll be kept in more abject

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subservience than at any other period. The world will move, however, just the same, and speculation will be just as rife. Anaconda will go up half a dozen points, and then will slip back four or five, and there will be rejoicing and lamentation, by turns, as the Reserve Board manipulates the market. And in the same old way people will go on living and loving, and marrying, and children will be born, and men and women will hate and will die, and be buried, and our own little concerns will loom ever greater.

My love to all, in which of course Mother joins.

Affectionately,



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M. A. CONNOR, CLERK

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION

February 28, 1929

Mr. Hiram W. Johnson, Jr.,
Attorney at law,
Mills Bldg.,
San Francisco, California

My dear Jack:

I am sending this brief note on Thursday because Saturday will doubtless be so overcrowded that it will be impossible to send my usual weekly letter. Mother is utterly unable to write and she wanted me to say this to you, so that you'll understand. We have been accustomed lately to get in about eight o'clock in the morning, and she devotes herself then until dark endeavoring to do what is necessary at our new quarters. She has actually taken four outer walls, and what she could use of the floors, and is making over the house inside, workmen of all sorts she oversees, and has them working over time. We're in the closing days of a session, which are always perfectly mad days. With the long hours including long night sessions, everybody gets irritated and exhausted, and we really are in a state of physical and mental exhaustion. To move during such a time, as we're endeavoring to do, is just hell. We'll let it go at that.

I am most anxious to come to California before the extra session begins. It will be nonsense for me to attempt to come if the extra session starts early in April.

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We'll have a few days session after the 4th of March to confirm the Cabinet, and doing routine always necessary with the incoming of a new administration. Thereafter, Hoover is to call an extra session. If it is the latter part of April, I shall endeavor to come to California. If early in April, I probably shall not attempt it. I am very anxious to make my arrangements and get to work. Indeed, it is necessary that I should. Mother unites in love to all.

Affectionately,

