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United States Senate,

WASHINGTON, D. C.

[1919]

Saturday, Feb. 1, 1918.

My dear Jack:

It seems my time is becoming more and more limited, and that I'm getting further and further behind. I'm working in the Senate this morning so that the day may not pass without some word to you.

This morning I went to the Post Administration with Harst and Winstock and afterwards with you. We were assured that the

embargo would be removed Monday, and
this Frost and Munstuck said would be
satisfactory. We are asked to consider the
matter confidential until Monday and that
was why I wrote you as I did.
I saw Rossiter last night and talked
the situation over with him. He did
not share the confidence of K. and W.
about Denmark and said Denmark
was applying to him for ships. He
added, however, if we could find a
market for our barley there, he might
aid in the matter of shipping.

I read what you said in your
last letter about the Reclamation legis-
lation and McCabe's activity, with
feelings that I can hardly describe
to you. Much as I dislike to
think it, I fear McCabe is in the
employment of Armour. If not this,
he is acting with full knowledge
that he is doing their work, for Innes.
You are quite right in your
statement that we'll have to fight it

out in court and do our best
to prevent injustice.

I shall probably have to
remain here during March
because of the new case for
San Francisco. The matter as
you know, has developed and
apparently is all right. The
Clerk of the Supreme Court tells
me the case will come up
the middle or latter part of
March. I'm mighty glad to
have the employment and will
of course, do my best. I'll
study it very carefully and hope
to present an appropriate argument.

(2)

United States Senate,

WASHINGTON, D. C.

Arch arrived Wednesday. He was sick in New York and for a few days before he arrived here. I think it was the "flu". He had all the symptoms and still is troubled with a cough. He is in pretty good shape considering all things. He is not as nervous as he was when he came to us before, but a day or two with us is beginning to have its effects. I've been hoping he could rest and

recuperate with us; but I'm
not at all clear he can still
the quiet long. We haven't
discussed his future movements.
He's very happy to get out of
his uniform, but his mother
was correspondingly unhappy. She
wanted him here with his soldier
clothes on, but he insists every
dub in the country is now
sparking around in khaki and
blowing about his achievements in
the war.

In your next letter you
spoke of the warehouse Com-

mandeered from a client of
yours during the war. I'll go
after this matter if you wish
and any time you say the word.
Write me if you'd like me to
go to it.

February I look up the
discharge of the young man
for whom you sent affidavits.
I hope for an early response and
will advise you.

I made a long Russian speech
again this week. I think we
pretty well got over here although

The extreme length of my remarks
made it impossible to present it
in the press adequately. The
New York papers gave me about
a column. Read the whole
thing, even the newspaper articles
I used, and let me know your
opinion. I think the whole
situation infamous. But it is
no more infamous than what
is occurring at the Peace Congress.
The country is in absolute
ignorance of that to which it
is being bound, and the most
momentous decisions, dealing with

(3)

United States Senate,

WASHINGTON, D. C.

our future destiny are being made,
without the slightest knowledge on
the part of Congress or the Country.
How very true some of my
remarks made since we entered
war have proven! The Republic
has become the biggest autocracy
on the face of the earth. Nobody
there, except a few unarticulate
old fashioned patriots. It is like
my Russian situation. The mothers
and fathers of boys we are murdering

There are bitterly resenting the government's
action; a few others stay in their own
glum concerns long enough to say it's a
shame and then pass on; one or two newspapers
rejoice more a less stridently; but the murmur
goes on steadily, the government doesn't
keep reply, and a contemptible congress,
frightened by epithets of Bolshevism and
poisoned by patriotism dare not act.
I shall keep at the matter just as long and
just as often as I can.

The weather here continues good.

This is supposed to be the harshest month;
but certainly up to this time we have no
just complaint. The home is comfortable and
dearly loved by me.

Goodbye, Dad. At the earliest moment I'll
write you again. I'm sorry the Reclamation matter
is going badly but after all we contemplated a
legal fight and together we'll go to it.

Affectionately,
Dad.

GEO. E. CHAMBERLAIN, OREG., CHAIR
GILBERT M. HITCHCOCK, NEBR. FRANCIS E. WARREN, IOWA.
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SAMUEL W. MCINTOSH, ASST. CLERK.

United States Senate,

COMMITTEE ON MILITARY AFFAIRS,

WASHINGTON, D. C.

February 8, 1919.

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

My dear Jack:

We have just been seeing Arch off. He left for New York at ten o'clock, where he expects to remain a few days, and then go to California. I am very seriously concerned about him. All of his peculiar restlessness and nervousness, which were a marked characteristic of him before his recent sickness, have become accentuated since, and I think the effect upon him, both physically and mentally, is increasingly bad. He was better on this visit than when he came to us immediately after returning from France, but the last few days it was perfectly obvious to me he was fighting himself all the time, so that he might not appear to be too eager to get away and might not show too plainly how we got on his nerves. Of course, I tried to talk to him in various ways, but you know how barren the results of good advice, or argument, or entreaty are with him. I finally sought in the last chat with him on yesterday to have him spend a month at Burlingame with his horses and his dog before he began actual work. He would not agree to it, but I think I made some little impression

Mr. Hiram W. Johnson, Jr. - 2

in this effort. He is unfit for work now. He is not in good shape physically. He has a nasty little cough that must be as disagreeable to him as it is to those who hear it, and his whole mental outlook is clouded. He cannot see things plainly now, and when he tries to think seriously his thoughts are darkened and distorted. Really, Jack, I am puzzled and very greatly worried, and my worry is not decreased by my utter impotence. I have a suspicion, too, that he may be more or less entangled, and that this is preying upon his mind. Perhaps he will pull out all right, but I don't like the situation at all. I had hoped that he might come here, and in this big house, which is now really very comfortable, read and lounge, go with us to an occasional theatre at night, wander about here, if he wished, during the day, but generally rest. He certainly was unable to do it. Your mother and I this week have not been to bed before one o'clock any night, and God knows how long he sat up after we finally retired. He has risen very late in the morning, but each day has told me how little sleep he had. From the first moment of consciousness in the morning until the last at night he has a cigarette in his mouth, and this he caps off with a good corking highball. I am writing to you thus intimately because of our love for the boy, and because I am hoping that you may be able to accomplish something where we have failed. I can't

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get his confidences. One of Art's admirable traits, which I have always admired, is that he suffers in absolute silence, either physical discomfort or mental torture. Try as I would, I never could break through with him, and have him talk to me as I would like ~~to~~, so that I might aid him. If I might use a homely simile, I would say that he appears to me mentally like a man whose mind has become a bit twisted, and is running back upon itself and ~~running~~ ^{feeding} constantly upon its own misgivings and worries. It is this state of mind that I think we must combat and overcome. I am writing to you as I am because my failure to accomplish anything is resting heavily upon me now just as I have left him at the depot. Art is so much to us all. He has such splendid and admirable traits, and is so fine a nature that perhaps I may be more concerned than the real facts warrant; but I have been observing him very closely these ten days and I do not think that I am in error. There is a singular psychic current between my boys and myself and I seldom err in the knowledge of them which comes to me intuitively. I know how crammed full of worries and cares you are, but, nevertheless, I wanted you to know just my thoughts concerning our dear boy.

We awoke this morning to the second real snowstorm of the winter. It is beautiful to look out of our windows and see the surrounding country covered with its mantle of white. The winter has been a delightful one. Indeed I think it has

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been no worse than what we would term a fairly harsh California winter. Your mother and I have attended a couple of social functions, which I leave to her to describe. Mother, I am very glad to say, in addition, is going about to various teas during the week, and I really think that she has got some enjoyment out of them. You probably know that she and Mrs. Knox gave a joint tea, which was a very successful, and apparently, a very popular occasion. She is lunching today with the Countess Gzickie, and some other friends. The Lord gave her hostess the compensating advantage of brains to offset the disadvantage of a woeful lack of pulchritude. I am so dead weary today that I am anxious to get home as early as I can and take a nap. We had a big dinner last night with the usual red-blooded crowd, consisting of Knox, Weeks, New, Hale, Frelinghuysen, and Harding. After dinner we engaged in the royal indoor sport until midnight. Mother and I sat with Arch then until half past one, and then had to get up early to catch Arch's train.

There is extraordinary discontent here over the proceedings at Paris. Nobody knows what is transpiring there or what negotiations are being made for our country. Reading as best we can between the lines we think that what we feared has happened. Wilson is getting a paper league of nations without real power, and in return is pledging our country in various directions, which will require us to keep troops possibly in

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Togo land, the Sam~~UR~~um, and even the Dardanelles. I took occasion recently to say that I never would vote for a treaty of peace requiring our boys to do anything of the sort, and I will not. I plug away on the Russian situation whenever I get a chance. Yesterday I made a determined effort to get a hearing on our resolution, and in order to do this, it was necessary to move to lay aside the bill which was before the Senate and take up my resolution. I was defeated in this effort to lay aside the pending business by a vote of 52 to 37. Three so-called Republicans voted against me - Poindexter, Sterling, and Nelson. Had they voted with me I would have won. The vote doesn't indicate what the vote will be upon the request to withdraw our troops from Russia. Some Republicans who voted with me to take the matter up, like Lodge, and McCumber, and a few others, will vote against me on the resolution, and while some Democrats voted against laying aside the pending business I am sure they will vote with me on the resolution. I am determined that there shall be a vote on the resolution and one way or the other I will accomplish the desired result. Every day confirms me in the position that I have taken. Every death of one of our soldiers in Russia is just plain murder. I am glad to put the onus upon the Democratic Party. It means that they hope to justify war without a declaration of war. Absolutism and autocracy in our

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rulers are as pronounced as that against which presumably we have fought in the war.

In reading The Bee yesterday I saw that the farmers of Glenn and other localities were meeting and protesting against the Reclamation Board's assessment. If they are meeting in large numbers and with anything like ~~openness~~ ^{proximity} it ought to be possible to marshal them before the Legislature and make a real fight. If they will come to the Legislature as they did the last session when I was there, really fighting for their rights, they can put over anything within reason. I strongly advise those farmers whom you represent, and who feel the injustice of ~~the~~ endeavor to make everybody pay for Armour's reclamation, to get together in their communities, fix upon a plan of action before the Legislature, and go there with their demand. I know from experience the power of delegations such as this, and I do not believe the Legislature will resist anything like a united effort of the farmers. If they take action, and you wish me to, (this is confidential for you) I will wire McCabe that I want him to keep hands off. The wire may be ineffective but I think it might cause him to be very careful. I wrote Louis Frankenhimer the other day asking him about Atherton's attitude and about his opinion of what had been done by the Reclamation Board. I think he will write me frankly, and as soon as he does, I will advise you. I also wrote C.K. saying that he thought I might be mistaken last year in my iteration and reiteration

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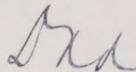
that the endeavor was being made to have reclaimed lands pay for Armour's reclamation. I told him that he might demonstrate the accuracy of my statement by ascertaining whether McCabe, Dozier and DeMotte had been acting in the recent reclamation bill for the public interest or for the private interest of Armour. I am curious to see his reply.

The memorial exercises are to be held here tomorrow for Roosevelt. I don't care to attend, although I have no doubt that Lodge will make a most scholarly and excellent address, but I love my Sundays and the rest I really obtain in the country. If I do not attend I will try to write you on the machine from home. If you do not receive a letter from me one day after this you will know that I have lost one of my treasured rest Sundays.

We were alarmed at the receipt of your letter that you were not well, and it is for that reason I wired you. Your wire was reassuring and I hope you're in good shape now. Keep your health. Without it, nothing counts.

Love to the kiddies, and lots to yourself.

Affectionately,



GEO. E. CHAMBERLAIN, OREG., CHAIRMAN.
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SAMUEL W. MCINTOSH, ASST. CLERK.

United States Senate,

COMMITTEE ON MILITARY AFFAIRS.

WASHINGTON, D. C.

February 12, 1919.

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

My dear Jack:

I have received your recent letters, the last one telling me you were about to go to Colusa on the reclamation case. I don't know just when the Legislature meets again, but I hasten to say to you what I said in my former letter. If ninety per cent of the farmers affected are opposed to what Armour is endeavoring to do with the Reclamation Board, these farmers ought to be organized and come to the Legislature and make their fight. I don't know who are the strong men in the Senate, or whether any of the old fellows whom I knew so well are managing affairs there. If I knew who they were I might endeavor to write to some of them confidentially. But, at any rate, these farmers in large bodies at the Capitol are mighty persuasive with legislators, and I hope you may get them into action. It's the last chance for two years, remember, in that direction.

I came in on Sunday to the Roosevelt Memorial service and listened to Lodge's address. It was really a very good one. I am sending you a copy of it by this mail. It is

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very interesting to me to watch all of Roosevelt's enemies now indulging in eulogies upon him. It's a nasty thing to say, but I believe most of them are glad that he has gone. The effect upon the political situation has been quite marked. All of the little standpatters are again very much in evidence, and all of the standpatters are perfectly certain that they are in command, and that they need no help of those who formerly were Progressives.

I have been making unsuccessful attempts to get a hearing on my Russian resolution. They have got me pretty well bottled up. I am going to make another try tomorrow, but even though I get a vote on the merits I will be beaten. The Democrats, generally, from partisan reasons, will vote against me, and a number of Republicans, who, in my opinion, are better representatives today for England than America, will also vote against me. However, the agitation of the subject has been of inestimable value and has reached even across the water.

When you get an opportunity, read the very brief speech I made on the ^{hundred million dollar} Food Bill. It did not get over much here, but I thought that it was not a bad little attempt.

Mother and I have been keeping pretty rotten hours of late, and both of us are feeling the wear and tear of it. Arch is in New York, and anything but well. I can add nothing to what I said to you recently regarding him. I can only emphasize it. It is impossible, however, for me to influence him. Good-bye until Sunday when I hope to write you fully at home.

Affectionately,

Dad

GEO. E. CHAMBERLAIN, OREG., CHAIRMAN.
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HOKE SMITH, GA.

CARALYN B. SHELTON, CLERK.
SHELDON S. JONES, ASSISTANT CLERK.

United States Senate,

COMMITTEE ON MILITARY AFFAIRS.

At Home. Sunday Feby. 16, 1919.

My dear Jack;

Sunday night again and I am taking the opportunity, the only one I have really had for a long time, again to write you. The last couple of weeks have been more than busy. Not only have I tried to keep up with the every day hurly burly, the regular meetings of committees, and to attend the ever increasing lengthy sessions of the Senate, but during this period your mother and I have been about much more than usual and have seen more people than has been our custom. But two short weeks yet remain of this session, and in this period must be crammed much of the routine necessary legislation, like financial bills, and the Democrats anxious to conclude and avoid an extra session, are pressing the work and with Friday last commenced night sessions. The Administration at all hazards is determined to avoid an extra session. They want the President to hold the stage, and have the only forum of expression. He does not wish and his party represents only his personal wishes, that the Senate in the coming months, pregnant with so much of extraordinary importance to the country, shall be daily in a position to comment or criticize. Some months ago in speaking of an effort to revise our rules, to curtail debate, I remarked that we had a cowed press and a cowed people and a cowed congress, but nevertheless the last free forum in the nation was the Senate, and so I bitterly opposed any effort, however salutary it might appear to be, that would limit the possibility of discussion of the remaining free forum

2-HWJJr.

of America. I think it quite true that our citizens generally do not pay much attention to what is said in the Senate; but after all, it's the only place where any sort of expression may be found. I think it's equally true that of the ninety-six members, a very small minority only dare speak; but this small minority may possibly, I say possibly designedly, keep the remaining ~~small~~ ember of free speech and Americanism from dying out. The President understands this full well. He knows himself more than a match for anything that may emanate from Congress, but like all Autocrats, he wants no opposition, nothing which may stir the slumbering spirit of freedom in the nation, and in my opinion, therefore, he will not call us into session after the fourth of March, until absolutely compelled to. Of course, the Republicans by anything like an organized effort, could prevent the passage of the essential appropriation bills and make an immediate call imperative; but the Republican party lacks leadership most woefully, and hasn't guts enough to face a real fight. Its principal members will swear in private and criticize in a left handed fashion in public, but it is as incapable of organized frank open effort as any mob crushed by two years of suppression. I've been fond of saying of late that the spell of war is still on us, the representatives of the people, and that our constituents have emerged long ago from the thrall in which we have been held; and this is quite the fact. The moment there's an independent expression, the New York papers begin to howl of a German menace, and our dear brethren scamper for cover. We will have to have an extra session. We ought to have it

3-HWJJr.

immediately after the fourth of March. We will have it when our royal liege sees fit to give it to us, and this will be when he can't not help it.

The League of Nations came to us Friday. Apparently, before it came, the great majority of our Senators were opposed to it. I'll not now attempt to discuss it with you, but I hope during the time it may be before us, or while it is being perfected to speak upon it. I wanted now to make you a prophecy, which is ⁱⁿ line with what I have been saying about the Republicans. It will be accepted by the country and adopted by the Senate, and the men like Lodge and Knox now most opposed to it, will be found voting for it. In the set speech on Russia I made a couple of weeks ago I purposely went on record as favoring a League of Nations which while not destroying our sovereignty would be in some measure a preventive of war. I'm not entirely clear about what has been presented, but I'm inclined, without serious and intensive study, to think Wilson has accomplished something, though nothing like what he started to do. The trouble with our body is that every member is a candidate for President, and measures his acts therefore, by the effect upon his chances. It is this that curtails our usefulness, and makes some of us cynical. Moreover, ours is a body possessing ^{no} great ability. There are many average men, and some of long experience and high education, but unfortunately those of great experience ~~ix~~ in most instances are old hacks, who have learned nothing but Senatorial detail, and the highly educated are too often so narrow that they have little vision. When you add that they all play a single handed game,

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wither for their constituents or for the publicity they may obtain, and that the dominating personal characteristics with all its egotism and vanity, you may ^{see} understand something of our ineffectiveness and the partial contempt in which we are held. I often wonder as I look over the body and listen to the insincere utterances and observe the orators watching out of the corners of their eyes the press gallery, whether the Senate of which I used to read in history and that I followed in my early manhood, was like the present. Of course, old timers say no; but I am growing more and ~~more~~ more suspicious of history, as I observe it in the process of making. I realize now with a clarity I never before had, that history written from a research of contemporaneous happenings, is very likely colored so that the participants in the events described, would hardly recognize their motives or their real purposes. Presumably the documents which will be most valuable to the historian a hundred years hence in writing of today will be the Congressional Record and the utterances of those in power; and yet we who are a part of these know them to day to be reeking in pretense and rotten with hypocrisy. The League of Nations was first I really think one of those nebulous thoughts of Wilson, which enabled him to turn a phrase and make one of those appeals rhetorically in general language, which subsequently he might twist in any possible direction. He made it the excuse for his triumphal progress in Europe, and prating the same generalities, found an answering and sympathetic echo. He then had to get something, and he has returned with IT. I do n't think he had any more idea of what he wanted or what he would strive to get, than the man who constantly insists in political life on obedience

5-HWJ Jr.

to law or wanting to see the wheels of industry go 'rou nd.
However, the League is here now and it is going to be a mighty
live thing in the next few months. There's one very interesting
factor in the case. Old Taft is goigg about the country now
lecturing at so much a speech on the subject, and there's a
propaganda, enormously financed, in full swing for its sucess.
I do n't quite understand this part of the situation, nor who is
paying the immense sums of money now being expended in its behalf
Perhaps all this will ultimately come out. There's another thing
I have noticed of late from the New York press and from some of
those who have been most warlike. Every refe ence to England
in the way of inquiry or suggestion, every intimation that our
watchful care should be exercised for our own, is met with
furious rejoinder, and studied insistence that any attempt
to inquire into English activities which may affect injuriously
this country is dictated by German propaganda. In our body
four or five men who are pronounedly pro-English, we are beginning
to look upon as Senators from England, and some day that deignation
will be given to Poindexter, King, McComber and Sterling. No man
now can safely defend American interests, so far as the Eastern
press is concerned, when they come to opposition with British
interests. Out of the war, I feel quite certain , when we come
to add up substantial gains, we will not find Englandloser.
But England is finding her troubles to home now with near
rebellion among her laboring populations. Watch what is there
transpiring. The recent strikes are interesting only that they
are of a new kind, cutting under trade unionism, and assuming

the phase of industrial revolution. They will not at present succeed, but they are ominous and of very serious portent.

I've been rattling along here in a fashion which might keep me writing all night about national and international events, and I'm just realizing that while they are engrossing me, they may not be of very great interest when put on paper in half baked form. These things are my life at present. I'll not deny how they interest me, and how I want to play a part in them. I maintain myself as I have done since coming here - refraining from excessive talking or expression of views, until I am at least certain in my own mind, and then saying what I like. This course I pursued about Russia. On the 12th of December when I first spoke about our policy in Russia, I had little sympathy and no support. No topic is now discussed more, and upon none have I felt myself on a more certain foundation. I have now succeeded in making the retention in Russia of American soldiers almost a party question, and the interest in it is evidenced by a mail which has swamped me and made it literally impossible for me to answer. Friday on the last vote we tied, 33 to 33, and I was only beaten by the Vice-President. I had four Democrats with me and three Republicans against, so you can see it was almost a strict party vote. I do not think I can do any better than I then did, but I am just pertinacious enough, to continue to put the Senate on record and this I shall continue to do. The change in sentiment shows what pertinacity and public discussion will do. A large part of the press of the country, although this does not include the New York press, is with me; and the territory from which the soldiers in Russia come,

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Michigan, has been passing resolutions thanking me, and sent a delegation here yesterday that made me rejoice in the effort I had made. The other day when I again talked on the subject I spoke without manuscript (in the other speeches so that there would be no question about what I said I read my remarks after carefully preparing them) and went the air in the way I used to do in political campaigns. The staid and the dignified did n't like it, but the other sort did. Read the speech when you get the time. I told some unpalatable truths to the distinguished body.

Yesterday your two hand written letters to Mother and me reached us. I was glad you went to Colusa and happier still that you made your speech. I know it was a good one notwithstanding you disparage it. I hope those who employed me will not be sore that I did not attend these hearings. Really I did n't think that it was expected I should; although I can well understand that the men who paid ten thousand good bucks might be become somewhat disgusted that I am in Washington apparently taking no interest in their litigation. I am awaiting your letter telling me just how things stand. I made up my mind long ago to the idea we had a tough fight to make in Court, and anything that can be accomplished in the hearings or before the legislature will be just so much gain.

Arch left New York tonight. He has been sick there since he left us, but it is utterly impossible to get from him anything except that he is all right and feeling fine, though we know the contrary. I am more worried about him than ever and so is Mother, but what to do with a man who will neither take nor

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listen to advice is beyond me. I hope you will tactfully (if such a thing is possible with Arch) take him in charge on his arrival, make him see a Doctor, and care for himself before he begins work. I realize I am asking the impossible.

Mother has lost her glasses and is having an awful time now. I wo n't say that this is a daily occurrence. It would be more accurate to say a daily and nightly occurrence. But it is none the less annoying and she is relegated to playing with the Princess while I am thumping away here. I leave to her to tell of all social happenings, and I gossip with you about what is racing through my head.

Here in the middle of February the weather still continues fine. This winter with one or two exceptions has been now harsher than California. It is such a wonderful change from last Winter that I can scarcely believe we have been in the same place. Within a month now, Spring will be here. I hope you will decide to come on ~~East~~, as you suggested in your last note. My expectation however, has been to remain for the United Railroads argument, and then return to California. All this however is dependent on whether or not there will be an extra session. Upon this subject I can write you definitely perhaps within the next two weeks. It would be just bully to have you and Bill and Dow and Harry come here, and Mother and I would more than welcome your coming. I'm not so sure about bringing the kiddies, and particual rly if all you mention come. I do not mean by this that anything here would preclude it, or that we would not like to have them; but if you start for a vacation with the others, I think it might be better for you.

9-HWJ Jr.

However, I'll write you about this again, and Mother will too.

Goodnight, lad. Take care of yourself.

We were both troubled about your recent sickness, and were mighty glad to learn you had recovered. The "flu" is so dangerous and treacherous, take no chances. This is one of my worries about Arch. He had undoubtedly a touch of the infernal thing, and recently this past week has had a recurrence. I am fearing his long trans-continental trip.

Love to the kiddies. Lots to yourself.

Affectionately,

Dad

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United States Senate,

COMMITTEE ON MILITARY AFFAIRS,

WASHINGTON, D. C.

February 24, 1919.

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

My dear Jack:

I am sending you herewith a letter from Dr. John Rogers of New York regarding Arch. It is not particularly plain but it expresses, from his standpoint, what I imagined from your telegram you observed, and what I observed here. I hope you can prevail upon him to see both Moffett and Ebright. I have written him asking him to have a regular course of life marked out for him, and rigorously live up to it. I dare not say it to him, but I say to you that *in* his course of life ought to do two things. Firstly, cut down the number of cigarettes he smokes, and secondly, cut out entirely the high balls. I want you to tell Ebright for me, that in my opinion Arch indulges in too much stimulant. It doesn't affect him, nor his actions, but a man who *has* ~~is~~ to have a high-ball to go to bed on, and one while he is reading or working during the afternoon, is getting a habit fastened on himself which he ought to break.

I couldn't write you at home yesterday. I was studying the railroad case, and then, the Lowreys came to dinner.

Mr. Hiram W. Johnson, Jr. - 2

Dailey of the City Attorney's Office is here, and he is like a nightmare, because it takes me time to grasp the legal proposition involved in this case, and to think out the exact course I wish to pursue. He has been living with the case, of course, for months, and is engaged in writing a brief here in which I am to help him. However, I am delighted to have the thing, and after the fourth of March I will devote myself exclusively to it.

There is tremendous tension here over the League of Nations. Purposely, I have refrained from discussion. I want to see what defense the President presents this week for some of the provisions which are abhorrent to us. I have written you before that the idea was alluring to me, and if a League of Nations could be adopted which would prevent future wars, we'd all welcome it. Of course, for such a League some price must be paid. Are we paying too high a price for the present one? Upon its surface, it would look as if England had put one over on us. We are to be the guarantors of England's security, and not only of England's security, but of the integrity of all of her possessions all over the world. Not only are we to be the guarantors of her territorial integrity but we have given her five votes to our one in the League of Nations. I am inclined to think Borah was right when he exclaimed that the League of Nations was the greatest diplomatic victory England had ever won. I am enclosing you a copy of the League so that you may have it in your office. Some night, when you have noth-

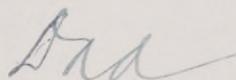
Mr. Hiram W. Johnson, Jr. - 5

ing better to do, read it carefully. It is going to be a big thing in our politics this year. Old Taft has been in California, and all the women's clubs, civic organizations, chambers of commerce, and labor unions, have been wiring me in favor of the League of Nations. My private opinion is that none of them know anything about it. At any rate, I don't propose to be affected in my judgment by all the resolutions which R.B. Hale, C.C. Moore, P.H. McCarthy, and the women's organizations may pass. The question is too important for any one of us to be swayed by propaganda.

I do hope that you are getting action in the reclamation matter before the Legislature. If it can be found any measure can be passed, send it through, so that it must be acted on while the Legislature is in session. Don't let it ride until the last ten days. If it waits until the last ten days of the session the Governor has thirty days to act after adjournment, and he may then, without a word, pocket a measure. If he must act during the session and he attempts to nullify a measure, he must veto it and send his reasons to the Legislature for it. If legislation is sought, therefore, make the Governor act during the session.

I may not have the opportunity during the week to write you again. We're holding night sessions now and we are running under great stress and a tremendous speed. Give my love to the kiddies.

Affectionately,



P:S: While dictating, certain clippings have been brought in to me sent by Mike French regarding floods in Sutter Basin, and the indignation there against the Reclamation Board.

I have just finished reading them, and I suggest to you that now is the time to strike with the Legislature. Do anything which may be necessary for the protection of the lands unjustly affected by Armour's activities and the Reclamation Board's complacent acquiescence.

February 27, 1919.

Major Archibald M. Johnson,
Mills Building,
San Francisco, California.

My dear Arch:

I received your telegram yesterday, from which I take it that you have not received any word from Mother or me. Mother wrote you on Amy's birthday and you should have received it long since. I confess I had not written you because I have been so overwhelmingly busy here. We adjourn Tuesday. I don't think an extra session will be called until Wilson gets good and ready, and he won't get good and ready until he returns from Europe in the middle of the year. I shall remain here during the month of March because of the City case. Strangely enough, I find that Mother is in the humor to remain here until the extra session is called. However, I hope to come out in April and to be with you for some months. The all absorbing topic here is the League of Nations. I am sending you a copy which I hope you will read very carefully at your convenience. You ought to study it because it will be in the months that are to come the most important item of discussion, and because in the years that are to come it may alter the entire destiny of our country. I hope you

Major Archibald N. Johnson - 2

are getting all right. I dislike to keep talking to you about your health, but I do wish you would take care of yourself. I wrote you sending you a copy of Dr. Roger's letter the other day.

Affectionately,