

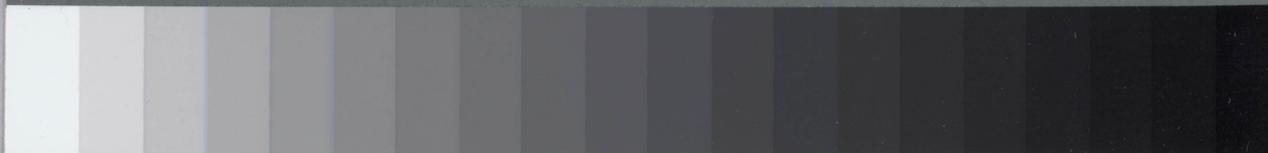
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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION

March 1, 1926

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

My dear Jack:

I have just received yours of February 24 and you can imagine the interest with which I have read it, and am saving it now until Mother comes in for me within the next hour or so. You were very good to us in the matter of Arch's illness, and kept us advised during the period in which we were extremely worried. I am in the office now, as you can judge from this letter, not feeling any too strong, but nevertheless very thankful that I am here at all. Since two weeks ago last Thursday I have been occupying another room in the house and your Mother has slept on a lounge in that room each night. My present situation and my escape from what might have been a very serious illness, I think, due entirely to her unremitting care.

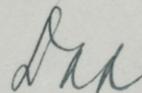
I am writing this among a few letters that I am dictating today so that you may know that we are on the high road again. There is nothing of news I can send you. Within the next day or two, when I get the time I shall tell you somewhat in detail of the amazing experience we have had with Senator Caraway who has bought the Calvert Mansion in which we live. It is a tale that seems incredible in its duplicity and deceit. Caraway is perhaps the

Mr. Hiram W. Johnson, Jr. 2

meanest rat in the Congress, and it is very unfortunate that he has become our landlord. Of all this I will write you later.

Love to the kiddies and much to yourself.

Affectionately,



HIRAM W. JOHNSON, CALIF., CHAIRMAN
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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION

March 6, 1926

Mr. Hiram W. Johnson, Jr.
Major Archibald M. Johnson
San Francisco, California

My dear Boys:

This is the first time for a long while I have written you in this fashion. It seems an age since I have gone to work and really I am doing but little at present. We have been greatly comforted and rejoiced at Arch's progress, and we are hoping that he is on the way to full recovery now. My own experience shows me the after-effects of a very slight pulmonary illness, and I can readily understand the long process of convalescence yet ahead of him. I do hope he exercises, in getting up, the most vigilance and care. I know both are necessary.

We have been greatly disturbed over the situation regarding our house. Eight years ago we went into this old structure after Pickford, the proprietor, and Mother had worked some months upon it. During those eight years there never has been a complaint or a suggestion regarding our occupancy or our lease or our care of the property leased, either real or personalty. In December when I returned I was shocked to receive a letter from Pickford, the owner, saying that he had sold the property and would give us a month or two to get out. I sent for him and in the presence of your Mother he said that the letter he sent us should be disregarded; that it had really no foundation; that he had mailed it merely to satisfy an intending

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purchaser to whom he had no intention of selling. I have always paid my rent in big gobs and at that time I accepted his account and paid in full what he claimed to be due and received from him a receipt in full in accordance with the existing lease. He told us that the property he intended as a part of the heritage of his son and that we could remain there, of course, as long as we desired. I had an original lease in 1919 running to the end of my term, March 4, 1923. That lease was renewed by a renewal duly executed and recorded, running to the end of my term, March 4, 1929. Pickford left us in December after ~~his~~ ^{reassuring} various statements, but I was very doubtful of his attitude, and asked him then and subsequently in writing, to come to the house and inventory the personal property, there being a good deal of the furniture that belonged to him and much that belongs to us. He repeatedly promised to come and as often broke his promise. In the latter part of January I received a note from him that he had sold the property to Senator Caraway and that the rent should thereafter be paid to Caraway. I sent Caraway a check for the rent for January and Caraway called upon me. In the conversation he recognized the lease. I asked him why he had not said something to me about his negotiations and his purchase inasmuch as we met daily in the Senate, and he responded that he hadn't had the moral courage. He left the office after that interview without any disagreeable suggestion, and within a few hours thereafter wrote me a letter which was virtually the service of a notice that because of various things that had been done to the house, my lease was forfeited, and making many com-

plaints concerning the personal property. Four years ago, not having a fit place for a garage, we enlarged a door in one of the wings in the house and made that particular wing into a garage. The lease, of course, provides we are to use the premises as a dwelling and to do nothing to interfere with the insurance. Both of these provisions, Caraway asserted, were violated, and he asserted violations in various other ways that are trivial in character. Of course Pickford knew of the making of the new garage for four years; has accepted rent, and indeed our new lease was executed after the new garage was made and established. Legally I think we have all the better of the situation. Caraway, however, is the meanest rat that there is in Congress. He is one of the few men in the Senate who has no conception of the usual amenities that obtain among gentlemen, and he is as acquisitive and avaricious as any usurer. He paid a very small sum down on his purchase - \$500. I am informed - and is to pay in notes due at stated intervals on the purchase price, the remainder then subsisting by mortgage on the place. He bought upon a speculation, I think, hoping at once to turn the property over and make a profit, but dependent for this upon getting possession. There is no limit to which he will not go in order to obtain possession. His knowledge of the place was derived solely as my guest, and he bought without inspection of the premises or of the personalty which we hold under our lease. It was the dirtiest trick that I think ever was perpetrated upon me. There are certain things that simply aren't done. Those things Caraway has done. I am in for a long and nasty

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time because my tenure will be made as unpleasant as possible and will be made the subject of various law suits. I am determined, however, that I will maintain my right to the premises for the period for which they have been leased, and upon which I have expended very large sums. The differences with a scoundrel outside the Senate would be bad enough - with a member of the body who has no finer feelings, it has become infinitely worse. However, troubles never come singly and ours have rather come like an avalanche upon us in the past month or two.

Mother has been dickering for a new machine and probably will obtain a Lincoln limousine which has been used but is in perfect condition, for \$3250. Just as soon as the bargain is consummated I will write you about it.

With all my love, in which Mother joins, to Jack's household, the kiddies, and to Martha, I am

Affectionately,

Dad

United States Senate,

WASHINGTON, D. C.

At Home: Sunday, March 14, 1926.

My dear Jack:

Yesterday, my regular time for writing, I had neither the time nor inclination so utilize a few moments of this Sunday at home. We learned Tuesday that Arch had a relapse, and Friday night Mother was greatly worried. The fact is that she has had so many worries of late that she is near the breaking point, and her anxieties therefore may be excused. She has had me on her hands for a long time - indeed I'm still living in one room, then came the sudden news of Art's sickness and with the sickness were her troubles over our home, which with a litigious and pertinacious scrub to deal with were constant and annoying. She has an affection for the old place beyond that she has ever had for any residence,

and the thought of losing it is quite unbearable to her. While I'm very fond of it I'm not certain that residence in it during winter is good for either of us; but I am as determined as she is to fight for it and for our rights until the termination of our lease. The relapse of Arch was a sort of last straw with Mother, and now Sunday noon she is impatiently awaiting a word of his condition. The epidemic of pneumonia here has somewhat abated but when each day we read that the death rate exceeds thirty-five per cent., it is not conducive to our peace of mind with one of our own afflicted.

During the past week, I've been attending to my duties as well as I could. We've started on executive committee hearings on the Boulder Dam Bill and I hope to push it now to a conclusion. There is practically no chance of passing the bill at this session; but it will

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United States Senate,

WASHINGTON, D. C.

be a great step forward and a tremendous victory if I can get a favorable report from the Committee and thus take it to the Senate floor. The diverse interests, and particularly the States insisting upon rights in the Colorado River, make the situation peculiarly delicate and difficult.

The Judiciary Committee of the Senate reported against McManant by a vote of ten to four, two Republicans favorable to the Administration, declining to vote. No nominee of the President has ever received such a crushing defeat. I may say, without egotism, it is the greatest personal victory that has been won here in many a day, and is so regarded. Of course it is possible the issue before the Senate may yet be changed; but I think we will reject him. In the New

Republic of March 17 the story of the proceedings before the Judiciary Committee is accurately written. It took months and months to get even a skeleton of the facts printed anywhere.

I've often wondered what you did in the matter in which you and Doc were interested and in which shortly after your investment, he disposed of his share. I've watched the fluctuations and read them to Buster and we've hoped you quit at the peak.

We about concluded to buy a used Lincoln ^{Limousine}, one year old having gone 12000 miles, but used only by the Agency for \$3250. This was however a used town car have in sight and Mooker is dickering for it, for \$3750. I want her to have what she wishes and of course, I'll do whatever she concludes. Her heart is set on a town car - nothing else apparently pleases her - and that's that.

This morning I read with great interest the stories of E.W. Scripps, his

United States Senate,

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WASHINGTON, D. C.

wanderings on the sea and his death in far off Liberia. I'm not certain but he chose the happier way to end his career. My interest was heightened of course, by the fact of our wonderful voyage in a yacht he had first utilized in his last plan of his life.

I hope the dear boys have kept well. Mother joins me in love to them and all your household.

Affectionately,

Dad.

HIRAM W. JOHNSON, CALIF., CHAIRMAN
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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION

March 16, 1926

Major Archibald M. Johnson,
1055 California Street,
San Francisco, California

My dear Arch:

I can't tell you how badly we felt to learn that you had had your relapse and that you were again laid up. You know, my dear boy, when you are three thousand miles away from those you love, no protestations of the slightness of an illness are reassuring. Mother and I have been very much worried, and particularly ^{because} we've both paid so much attention here to the after effects of pneumonia.

I presume that they have annoyed you to death telling you that you should not have got out as soon as you did, and that your own indiscretions are responsible for your plight. I can remember years and years ago when I was a boy, and used to be afflicted once in every five weeks with an extreme sore throat and high fever, sicknesses, indeed, which probably were responsible for my great amount of adipose matter and my lack of muscularity. Father's first greeting when he came to me while I lay in bed really suffering was that I had not taken care of myself, that if I had done something other than what I did, I would not have been ill. Mother, on the contrary, never indulged in these reproaches, but devoted herself, with the sweetness that characterized her, to my comfort and recovery. I am not inclined, therefore, to follow the general lead and indulge

in recriminations. The fact of the sickness is bad enough for the one afflicted, and in your illness you have my love and my sympathy.

I am about again, not as full of pep as I would like to be, but gradually I am sure, getting to be my old self. I don't like sustained effort and I get very tired in the afternoon, even doing little. I have lived constantly in one room at the house during the past month. I am hoping to cease this within the next few days. March has been blust^ery and cold. During the month we look for spring. Thus far, there are no evidences of it. Indeed, I don't think this territory was ever meant for human habitation. It should have been left in its original swamps, wherein birds of ill-omen and slimy and amphibious beasts disported themselves.

Last week, the judiciary committee reported the McCamant nomination adversely. The vote really was ten to four. No personal nomination of a President ever received such a crushing defeat from a committee. I think I will be able in the full senate now to reject him. It has been a very interesting and gratifying personal victory. When I commenced, no one, least of all myself, believed there was any hope of success. Now, not only are the people here against him, but I think his own state, if I can judge from the communications that have come to me, is quite overwhelmingly in opposition. He is a small, narrow, mean individual, who ought never to have been nominated for judge, and who never would have been nominated by any appointing power with a just sense of duty.

Mother has had her worries of late, first with me, then with your illness, and then, with our house. I could not attempt to describe to you, Caraway. If you can think of the meanest practitioner you ever ran across, industrious, smart, cantankerous, nasty, disagreeable, and bound by no limitations of truth or decency, you will have a faint idea of the kind of man who has purchased the place we love so much. He has no conception of the amenities, but worse than that, no conception of fairness or justice, or truth. When he has nothing else to do, he writes a rotten communication. Necessarily, I have to respond. I do not propose that he shall rob me of my lease or my personal property. He seeks to do both. Unfortunately, Pickford started with him in his rotten design, but now expresses himself as extremely sorry. I presume that our tenancy will be one continuous fight from now on.

This morning I am sending you eight or nine books, a part of those purchased during my sickness and read by me. Some of them I think are fairly interesting, and I hope you will derive a little pleasure from them. I send you only those I thought were more or less readable. The rottenest of the recent tales - and while I was laid up I read them all - I do not attempt to transmit. May you get a little pleasure out of those I have forwarded!

Give Martha my love. You know how much I send to you. May this note find you on the high road to recovery is my very heartfelt wish. Please be careful, lad; if not, for yourself, for the old people here, in whose thoughts you ever are, and whose hearts are wholly yours.

Affectionately, *Dad*

HIRAM W. JOHNSON, CALIF., CHAIRMAN
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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION

March 20, 1926

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

My dear Arch:

Yesterday I received your letter sent by air mail and dated the 16th. It did Mother and myself a world of good. We fretted a good deal during the week concerning your condition, and probably have been more or less bothersome in endeavoring to ascertain it, but yesterday's wires and then your thoughtful note dictated at home reassured us, and we have since been rejoicing. Please be careful. Take no chances at this time and get thoroughly well before you attempt to get out or do anything. Perhaps, I have never felt the precarious hold we have upon this life so much as I have the last month or so. I am perfectly certain that I don't fear the end, but I am equally certain that life, after all, with its perplexities, and its difficulties, its disadvantages and its disappointments, is very sweet to me, and whatever despondency I may feel in passing ills, the very joy of existence is ever in my being. Of course, all this means that a fellow ought to do everything that he can to preserve his good health. I certainly want to, and above all things I want you to.

Major Archibald M. Johnson - 2

Since I wrote you last the McCamant matter has come before the senate, and he was rejected. It was a very interesting thing to me to have the administration senators, and those who had sponsored McCamant, ask me to permit the matter to be passed by the senate without a record vote. I agreed to do this, provided, of course, there was no catch in it, nor possibility of anything else happening than his rejection. I insisted that these administration senators should see the vice-president and assure me that he would upon a viva voce vote declare against McCamant. They did this, and in every respect kept faith. When the nomination was read by the Clerk, the vice-president put the question whether the senate advised and consented to the nomination of Wallace McCamant, there was one inaudible "aye" and a tremendous chorus of "noes". Immediately, of course, the vice-president declared the nomination rejected. This ends a very remarkable contest. When McCamant was appointed by Coolidge last year, while I was in California, immediately I said I would fight the nomination, and thereafter, every newspaper in the United States commented upon my malice and the fact that it was a contest between the president and myself upon a personal appointment of his, in which I would be entirely alone. For many months I could not get in the press a statement of the facts even. Finally, the judiciary committee unanimously recommended the nomination. In the senate then, in executive session, feeling that I was entirely alone but that I was wholly in the right, I indulged in two speeches, one in the initial presentation, and one in response to his advocates.

Major Archibald M. Johnson - 3

They probably were better speeches than I have ever made in my entire life. At their conclusion those who sponsored McCamant asked a re-reference of the nomination to the judiciary committee, because they feared defeat. I opposed this, but by a vote of 38 to 32, the nomination was sent back to the committee. Thereupon he appeared before the committee, and demonstrated his utter unfitness. Then the same committee which had recommended him originally, by a vote of 10 to 4, reported adversely upon him. I began without any votes at all. When we concluded McCamant had none. I regretted of course that the matter became a personal one, but because it did, the result is the more gratifying.

You asked in one of your letters about Boulder Dam Project. I was dumfounded when the Secretary of the Interior approved our project, but insisted that it be financed by a bond issue instead of an appropriation as my original bill provided. Not only this, but the Secretary, in contravention, apparently, of the position taken heretofore by the administration, desired the distribution of power, which will be generated in a degree greater than at any other place in the United States, be under the authority of the Federal Government. Of course, I was very glad to accept Secretary Work's suggestions, and prepared a new bill providing a bond issue of some forty million dollars greater than I had asked originally, and for the erection of the necessary electric generating works by the Government. This bill, in its amended form, has been endorsed by Secretary Work and quite enthusiastically by Secretary Hoover.

Major Archibald M. Johnson - 4

Now comes Secretary Mellon, yesterday, and smashes the whole theory of the bond issue and generally the entire idea of governmental control demanded by Secretary Work. I have not made up my mind thoroughly just what to do with these conflicting opinions, but I will make very plain before I conclude my opinion of an administration, two parts of which, Hoover of Commerce, and Work of the Interior, approve and insist upon the particular detail of a measure, and another part of which, Mellon of the Treasury, opposes that detail and that measure. The situation is complicated by the attitude of certain of what are termed, the upper-basin states, - Colorado, Utah, New Mexico, and Wyoming, and by the very active opposition of Arizona. You can see, therefore, that the difficulties in the way of the passage of the measure are well-nigh insuperable. It is my hope, however, to obtain a favorable report from the senate committee, and get the bill upon the floor. If I can accomplish this, I think we'll have won a great victory. The amount of time that has been taken with this bill passes belief. The vastness of the project, the interests of the different states, the constant dealing with the departments, all occupy the major part of my days.

I am wondering whatever became of Spread Eagle. I watched until I wearied of it the New Orleans reports, but I never saw his name after that one sensational race. Is the poor old fellow gone again?

Yesterday and today have been more or less like spring, the first days of this sort. I am hoping that our good weather will begin now. It certainly has been bad enough during the winter.

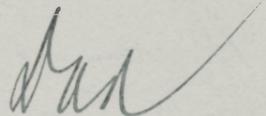
Major Archibald M. Johnson - 5

We are annoyed constantly with our new landlord, who writes a nasty communication every little while, and who is undoubtedly determined by hook or crook, or any devious method to get us out of our home. However, this is one of the disagreeable things that arises in life, and I presume I should accept it philosophically, but I admit that it worries me.

Tell Martha that we sympathize with her in the worry that undoubtedly has been hers the past few weeks, and that we wish that we were there to be of some service to her. We daily ~~talk~~ talk of you and nightly speculate upon your condition. May your own good sense and a watchful Providence keep you indoors and careful until you are thoroughly recovered.

With all the love of your Mother and myself, I am

Affectionately,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to be 'Dan', written in dark ink.

HIRAM W. JOHNSON, CALIF., CHAIRMAN
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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION

March 20, 1926

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

My dear Jack:

Your letter of March 6 duly reached us, and of course, Mother and I eagerly read it. I am enclosing you the envelope in which it came. It was addressed to San Francisco, California, and doubtless, re-addressed by the San Francisco post-office. This may have delayed it a day or two.

Of course, we have been worrying about Arch, but yesterday's telegram from you, and a letter received from him reassured us, and we have since been rejoicing at his convalescence.

We were, of course, very greatly interested in the story of your encounter at the Yacht Club. Apparently, you had the best of it, and of course, you were thoroughly justified in smashing the individual you did. Singularly enough, the first intimation I had of this fight was a story in the Los Angeles Examiner. After reading the account in the Los Angeles Examiner, which was not bad, I went through all the other papers, and read eagerly everything I could find upon it.

Mother and I were delighted to note from your letter that you escaped the recent break in the market. I hope you will always escape such breaks, and that everything will turn for you

Mr. Hiram W. Johnson, Jr. - 2

just as you desire.

Since I wrote you last the McCamant matter has come before the senate, and he was rejected. It was a very interesting thing to me to have the administration senators, and those who had sponsored McCamant ask me to permit the matter to be passed by the senate without a record vote. I agreed to do this, provided of course, there was no catch in it, nor possibility of anything else happening than his rejection. I insisted that these administration senators, should see the vice-president and assure me that he would upon a viva voce vote declare against McCamant. They did this, and in every respect kept faith. When the nomination was read by the clerk, the vice-president put the question, whether the senate advised and consented to the nomination of Wallace McCamant, there was one inaudible "aye" and a tremendous chorus of "noes". Immediately, of course, the vicepresident declared the nomination rejected. Thus ends a very remarkable contest. When McCamant was appointed by Coolidge last year while I was in California, immediately I said I would fight the nomination, and practically every newspaper in the United States commented upon my malice and the fact that it was a contest between the president and myself upon a personal appointment of his, in which I would be entirely alone. For many months I could not get in the press a statement of the facts even. Finally the judiciary committee unanimously recommended the nomination. In the senate then, in executive session, feeling that I was entirely alone but that I was wholly in the right, I indulged in two speeches, one in the

Mr. Hiram W. Johnson - 3

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Mr. Hiram W. Johnson, Jr. - 4

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Caraway evidently made his purchase of the home we live in with the idea of making a quick and profitable turn over. He found, however, this was dependent upon giving possession. He has therefore commenced a base and shameful campaign to drive us out of the premises. He takes such a position as this. Four years ago, the garage at the premises being wholly inadequate, Mother enlarged a door in one of the wings, and in that wing, we

Mr. Hiram W. Johnson, Jr. - 5

have kept the car, and have kept it as a garage. Pickford was advised of what was done and there was no objection on his part at all. Caraway now takes a provision of the lease, which says the premises should be used for residential purposes, and nothing should be done to affect the insurance, and asserts that the use of the wing is not for residential purposes, and that the insurance is invalidated because of it. He says our lease is violated. It happens that early in 1922, the work was done and assented to by Pickford. In 1923, Pickford executed a renewal of the lease to me, and since that time has been paid the rent and has accepted it. Caraway makes the most bizarre and outrageous charges about the personal property. Our lease, as you'll probably recall, is not only of the realty but of certain household furniture, which Mother and Pickford, in 1918 when they renovated the premises and made them habitable, took from the stuff that was in the house, suitable for our use. For eight years there never has been complaint in reference to this household furniture, never a claim by Pickford of any sort. Caraway now makes many. In my opinion, he is aided and abetted by Pickford in these claims, although Pickford recently has written me that he had no complaint of any sort to make. Caraway bought without any inspection of the premises, and without any knowledge, nor examination of the personal property. He demands the right to inventory the personal property. In December, when I began to fear there might be difficulty with Pickford, I asked him, and repeatedly thereafter demanded of him, that he come out and inventory what was his, so that there might be no error in the future. He refused to do this until very recently when he

Mr. Hiram W. Johnson - 6

did come out and inventory the stuff that was his. He made no complaint of any sort, and there was no difference as to what belonged to him and what belonged to us. He sent Caraway copy of the inventory he thus made. I have told Caraway he might come out and examine the property, but he insists that he has the legal right to do so whenever he sees fit, and under any circumstances, and does not choose, apparently, to come as a matter of permission from me. Of course, his attitude is not one taken in good faith, because he bought without inspection or examination. The only man who knows the personal property is Pickford, and Pickford has now an inventory of everything that belonged to him. Long before we ever entered the house, Pickford has some sort of inventory of things that were there probably a great many years ago, and about which Mother and I know nothing. This inventory, undoubtedly, he gave to Caraway at the time of Caraway's purchase, and Caraway flaunts that inventory, of which we know nothing, and which does not describe everything in the house. The very fact that Pickford gave him such a thing, makes it very clear to me that the two of them are acting together, although Pickford now expresses his great regret, and insists, as is the fact, that he sold subject to our lease, and that he never has had any complaint of any sort to make in reference to the realty or personalty. The matter is rapidly coming to a focus, and I assume, because of the constant threats of Caraway, that he will begin action before very long. I know no way to prevent it, and I shall, of course, contest any action

Mr. Hiram W. Johnson, Jr. - 7

to the best of my ability. Caraway is simply a scoundrel. His proceedings and communications demonstrate that conclusively. He coveted my home, and the very things that make that home attractive. He thought my position is such that I will yield to his covetousness rather than have the publicity that would come from a contest and a lawsuit. It is a miserable situation, because it annoys me so much; and I have so many important things on hand that I don't want to be annoyed with this kind of matter.

Mother joins me in love to you and the boys and all your household.

Affectionately,

Dad

HIRAM W. JOHNSON, CALIF., CHAIRMAN
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HIRAM BINGHAM, CONN. COLE. L. BLEASE, S. C.

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION

March 27, 1926

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

My dear Arch:

Yesterday I received your letter detailing your condition. I read it more than once and rather solemnly too. It seems quite obvious, and I am glad to note that you recognize this, that for a period, at least, you must take the utmost care of yourself. Even though you feel the urge otherwise, let the entreaties of your Mother and myself, prevail with you. Please be cautious and careful. Err on the side of caution and care, rather than otherwise. Until your lung shall have assumed its normal state, you should not attempt any work, in reality, or any exertion at all. Indeed, I am not entirely certain but what it would be better for you to go down to where Mr. Bowles was accustomed to go at Palm Springs, and stay for a month or more. I wish you would think this over, and seriously determine the matter, not cast it aside. I think, my dear boy, that you are in a situation now where you may affect your health for your entire future, and with so much at stake a few weeks or a few months of activity in the present are of little consequence. I could preach to you for hours but I realize how little good it will do, and I am hoping, that with your recent experience, it is unnecessary. Please, please, do not be rash or foolhardy.

Major Archibald M. Johnson - 2

Our spring has just come, apparently. From now on, the days in the main should be delightful. We'll enjoy, in a measure, being in the country, but hanging over us all the time is the pall of the Caraway controversy, and the possibility of innumerable petty lawsuits. There is no way, however, to prevent a skunk from polluting the atmosphere, and we'll have to bear our ills in this direction with such equanimity as we can.

Our household of dogs ^{is} is a great delight to us, although Chops has little affection, and won't mind at all. He is the dearest little thing on the face of the earth, but at the same time, the most independent. His sister, Peke, is just full of affection, and the slightest pleasant word, she ^{repays} repays with an excess of gratitude. Chops, on the other hand, simply grunts and goes his own way.

We have not, as yet, obtained our new automobile, although Mother has, as I told you, contracted for a used Lincoln limousine, which, so far as I can see, is in most excellent condition, and will be everything we can desire. She has been unable to obtain, however, a town car, which she wished above all things.

There are additional complications in the Boulder Dam Project, and the Lord only knows where we'll ultimately land. Next week before the committee I am going forward and have a conclusion reached, one way or the other. The administration has been playing fast and loose with us. Hoover and Work favor our bill, and Mellon, apparently, is against it. This situation may be straight-

Major Archibald M. Johnson - 3

ened out, but I have little confidence in what any of these gentlemen may say.

I am assuming from your letter that you will spend the spring and summer in San Mateo. I can't imagine anything nicer than to live during this period on the peninsula.

I hope that you have obtained a house that meets with your desires, and which you'll enjoy as much as you enjoyed your apartment on California Street.

With love to Martha and yourself, I am

Affectionately,

Dad

HIRAM W. JOHNSON, CALIF., CHAIRMAN
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HIRAM BINGHAM, CONN. COLE. L. BLEASE, S. C.

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION

March 29, 1926

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

My dear Jack:

I did not write you Saturday, as I usually do, because of lack of time, and so I am making amends this Monday morning. Mother and I were greatly interested in your last letter, and the story of how you had held on to what you and Doc together purchased, and of the revamping of the KEMAH. We are watching again now each evening the Chicago reports, and hope the thing may be as big as it was the latter part of December. At any rate, I want you to come out way ahead of Doc in the matter. I never read of such an article as appeared in the Washington papers this morning concerning Magdalena Bay without thinking of the voyage on the KEMAH. Just like many other things, with the lapse of time, the events of our sea trip become more vivid. All of the difficulties are forgotten, and only the marvels - and there were many, recalled.

We are going to have a smashing couple of weeks here, I think. First, we'll have the Brookhart election contest, in which I have the suspicion (which may not be well-founded, however) that a combination of old line Republicans and partisan Democrats is jobbing Brookhart. Southern Democrats, as a rule, make a religion of their politics, and they would seat anything

Mr. Hiram W. Johnson, Jr. -2

of the label "Democrat" under any circumstances. On the other hand, Brookhart has been so independent of the Republican powers, that they would be very glad to be rid of him. Personally, he does not amount to much. He is a great, big simpleton, but likable. His economic views are as unsound as one can well imagine, but he is honest and straight-forward, and tries to do the right as he sees it. The other proposition impending is the ratification of the Italian Debt Settlement. Just exactly the same combination is resolved to put this over, and I have little doubt the result will be what the administration desires.

We have not got our machine yet, but I presume, one way or the other, the matter will be settled this week. We have gone too far now to back out on the Lincoln proposition, and unless Mother can shift it into a town car purchase, it will go through.

I wish there was some adequate description I could give you of Caraway. He probably never has had anything in his life. He covets, just like a petulant child does, the possessions of his neighbors and his friends. He has every characteristic of the pertinacious shyster. His legal acumen is confined exclusively to endeavoring to get the better of somebody, and he undoubtedly regards as a great victory, wrongfully or fraudulently obtaining what belongs to somebody else. Add to this the fact that he is a glutton for publicity and imagines that a contest with one like myself adds to his glory. I am trying to be as philosophical as I can in our constant controversies, but it is pretty difficult.

Mr. Hiram W. Johnson, Jr. - 3

I imagine by this time you are again upon the bounding billows, and enjoying your week ends as you enjoyed them last year. Certainly nothing could be more restful, nothing more delightful, and nothing more beneficial.

Mother joins me in love to yourself, the kiddies, and your household.

Affectionately,

Wm

Mr. Wm. W. Johnson, Jr. - 3

I imagine by this time you are again upon the bounding
billows, and enjoying your week ends as you enjoyed them last
year. I certainly nothing could be more restful, nothing more
delightful, and nothing more healthful.

Boquard

Thomas J. Boyle

Affectionately,

Wm. W. Johnson, Jr.
→ W
→ W
→ W
→ W
9³⁰

HIRAM W. JOHNSON, CALIF., CHAIRMAN
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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION

April 3, 1926

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

My dear Arch:

I don't want Saturday to pass without writing you at least a line. Of necessity, it is but a line I am writing you today, first, because I have been so busy, and secondly, because there is little or nothing to say. I have hoped all week to have another letter from you saying that the conditions you described have improved, and I am hoping that no news in this regard is good news.

I am assuming that by this time you are living down the peninsula and devoting yourself to getting well. I don't want to harp upon the subject or worry you with advice. I am simply begging you to take care of yourself, not alone for yourself, but for those of us who love you so dearly.

I am up to my eyes in work, and really quite important work, and with it is the constant annoyance concerning our home, and the scoundrel who bought it, with whom we are dealing. Probably by the time this reaches you, we'll be involved in the first of a series of lawsuits. I dread them more than I can tell you, but I have either got to yield what belongs to me, or suffer the humiliation of having litigation with another United States Senator. If the man weren't dead to all sense of decency, and without any of the finer feelings, this sort of

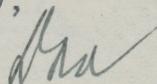
Major Archibald M. Johnson - 2

thing would not be possible, but he is the dirtiest rat on the face of the earth, barring none.

The weather is just beginning to be delightful here and living in the country from now on will be charming.

Mother joins me in love to Martha and yourself.

Affectionately,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to be 'A. M. Johnson', written in dark ink.

HIRAM W. JOHNSON, CALIF., CHAIRMAN
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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION

April 3, 1926

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

My dear Jack:

This morning I have your letter in which you describe your trip to the ranch. There is really nothing new to write you of here. The weather is now beginning to be delightful, and our days would be charming but for our difficulties over our home. Caraway served me with notice yesterday that he is about to begin action concerning the personal property and follow that with an action regarding the real property. Of course, I dread the publicity and the fact that it will be wired all over the country that two United States Senators are engaged in litigation of this sort, but I must either surrender and get out of the premises, or fight. Your Mother, under no circumstances, will get out. Recently, through another Senator, I offered to give Caraway \$2500.00 for his bargain, and he countered by offering me \$2500.00 for my lease. Mother says she will not sell at any price, and Caraway says he will not sell at any price, - so that's that.

I have been plugging along in executive session of the committee on irrigation and reclamation with the Boulder Dam Project, and getting along fairly well. The Lord only knows what the outcome will be.

Mr. Hiram W. Johnson, Jr. - 2

I am hopeful of getting a favorable report from the committee. There is no hope really of passing the bill this session.

I thought I would have a letter from Arch today and wish he had written me telling of his condition. Confidentially, I did not like his condition as detailed in his last letter to me. I think that it will require the most scrupulous care on his part, and I fear he will not nurse himself as he should.

From now until the close of the session will be rather a hectic time. The elections this year make all of the Congressmen, and a large part of the Senate, anxious to adjourn at the earliest possible moment, so they may get into their campaigns, and this anxiety, of course, will cause us to proceed with increased pressure.

The news I get from California about Young is that he is developing, and his campaign has real vitality. Clarke, on the other hand, I am told, has not been making much headway in the north, although in the south, he is doing well. However, it is quite too early to prognosticate.

Pardon such a skimpy letter today. Mother joins in love to the kiddies, and you, and your household.

Affectionately,

Dad

United States Senate,

WASHINGTON, D. C.

[1926]

At Home Sunday Apr. 11.

My dear Arch:

I saw Dick Welch yesterday and he told me he had seen you at the Olympic Club and described to me your appearance. I've thought so much of you that it was a pleasure, much more than that, to talk first hand about you with one who at least had recently seen you.

Mother and I have tried to visualize you, not very successfully, but very tenderly.

I am certain you have a long pull to be wholly yourself again.

You may seem all right; but your present affliction is the worst in my opinion of all diseases. The only illness I really fear is pneumonia. This has been so with me ever since I reached man's estate. How futile it is to tell you to take care of yourself. I will know; but whenever you are 'tempted' to do too much perhaps the thought of two old

people a long way off. May I tell you,
Certainly as your last
letter indicated you have had a
jinx on your activities. I feel
very sorry to learn of poor old
Spread Eagle. I had scanned racing
programs for the first time in my
life looking for his name and
wondered what had become of him.
I hope he recovers fully, but I
presume his racing days this year
are at an end. My ignorance
of race horses is only exceeded by
my ignorance of the stock market.
There are some advantages in being
too poor to speculate - you can
count your gains like Van Bibber,
in what you don't lose. The
game is a lousy one, in the hands
of crooked gamblers in New York.
It's like our international policy -
the set up comes from others who
understand and we don't and in
the end we are bound to get
the worst of it.

I've been sending you a book
a day. I'm troubled with insomnia

2

United States Senate,

WASHINGTON, D. C.

And read a novel nearly every night. Then I go to bed and recite it all endeavoring in re-writing the infernal thing to get to sleep. Few of those I've sent you have any real merit. I'd like you to read the two recent books of Bowers - "The forty battles of Jackson's Jemie" (that isn't exactly the correct title but nearly so) and "Hamilton and Jefferson". They are as interesting as novels, and not at all difficult to read. The chief charm is the picture of the times and the intimate glimpses of the characters that loom largest in our history. Mother joins in love to Martha and yourself.

Affectionately,

Dad.

HIRAM W. JOHNSON, CALIF., CHAIRMAN
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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION

April 13, 1926.

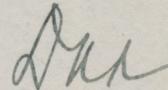
Major Archibald M. Johnson,
Attorney at law,
Mills Building,
San Francisco, California

My dear Arch:

I received yesterday your letter telling me that Spread Eagle had died, and mother and I sent you our wire. Don't think the jinx is after you. I have thought it about myself. This is one of the days when I want to quit this life here. I really think if somebody would make me some kind of an offer under which there would be a reasonable probability of living peacefully the rest of my years, I would jump at it. I don't suppose you know of an institution that wants a mere figure head, for that is all I could be, in any event, and would pay a large sum per annum for the use of the abilities, and the talents, as well as the beauty and the reputation of a bum statesman. Seriously, we feel terribly about your poor horse. I am mightily sorry.

With love to Martha and yourself, I am

Affectionately.



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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION

April 14, 1926

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

My dear Jack:

I did not write you my usual letter on Saturday last, although I wrote you a note about taxes. We received your telegram and we were mighty glad to have it, because it gave us some first hand information about Arch's condition, which worries your Mother and me very greatly. His letters indicate a considerable mental stress, and I feel very sorry for the difficulties he has been encountering. While I can understand how wretchedly he feels, and I share his feeling in the death of his prize race horse and his financial losses, the big thing to me, after all, is his health, and with the very severe sickness that he has had, it overshadows everything else.

The one great event of interest lately here has been the Brookhart case. A very remarkable combination unseated him. The Republican National Committee, the Democratic organization, and the Ku-Klux Klan, were united against him. In spite of Butler, chairman of the National Committee, Phipps, the chairman of the Senatorial National Committee, the Republican members of the Elections Committee, which had rendered a decision against him, we had thirty-one Republican votes in his favor, but, at the last moment, two, who had promised him, and two Democrats

Mr. Hiram W. Johnson, Jr. - 2

who had promised him, were taken from us, with the result of seating his opponent. I think it was an unjust and an unfair decision. He has gone to Iowa now to run again against Cummins. I am not clear whether he is dead politically, or whether the wrong done him will arouse the resentment of his people.

The result in the Illinois primary yesterday looks like a pretty definite decision against the World Court and the attitude of the administration in our foreign relations. This sort of thing is the only thing that will give pause to this Morgan controlled government.

I have been thinking a great deal lately about the future. I wish it were possible for some great institution requiring a figure head to pay a very large salary for a definite number of years to a bum statesman. I would jump at such an offer. The old difference arises between your Mother and me, however, as to our place of residence. She, and it is very flattering to have one person on earth thus believe in me, fondly imagines that I could go to New York and immediately jump into prominence and wealth. I do not believe this, in the first instance, and in the second, I don't want to go to New York. I would be entirely satisfied with something much more moderate than she contemplates in the place above all others that I love, San Francisco and California. I am really rather weary of this task here. Perhaps this is superinduced by a depleted vitality, to which other causes contribute, too; but more than at any other time during the nine years I have been here, I feel that I would

Mr. Hiram W. Johnson, Jr. - 3

like to quit. I am talking to you in this strain because there is really no one else I can talk to. I am deterred from talking to Mother upon the subject, because of her prejudices respecting localities, which I can not share. I have an intense longing to pass my remaining days in California, and I know that I will be dreadfully unhappy, no matter how prosperous I may be, in any other place. All this is intended for you alone.

Miss Witter called upon me yesterday, and I told her I would be delighted to be of any possible service. I had already sent, immediately upon receipt of your letter, a strong recommendation of her to the State Department, and of course, I shall gladly do anything else that lies in my power. I think that she has a very difficult task because of an instinctive prejudice against women in the particular kind of service she desires. There are, however, two women at present in this service, and it may be that she will stand out so prominently that a third will be accepted.

With love to the children and your household,

Affectionately,

Dad

HIRAM W. JOHNSON, CALIF., CHAIRMAN
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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION

April 26, 1926

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

My dear Arch:

Last week was a peculiarly trying one for it was the culmination of the long fight in the committee of the Boulder Dam Project. Finally the committee by a vote of 12 to 3 reported our measure favorably, and Friday I so announced it in the Senate, and Saturday, I presented the written report of the majority. This written report is not a particularly artistic document, but it states the facts sufficiently to demonstrate the necessity for the measure. I won a very great personal victory in getting it upon the floor for the thing has been pending six years, and never before has anybody been able to obtain this kind of favorable consideration. I enclose you copy of the report that you may, at your convenience, if you desire, read it.

Mother and I have been delighted to observe, by indirect and indefinite news, your condition, and to learn that you gradually were getting better. Both of us are still worrying concerning you, and both of us praying that you take the best of care of yourself.

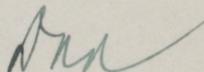
We'll probably go to New York on Wednesday for the remaining part of the week. Each of us feels somewhat done up,

and perhaps a day or two of different scene will be of value to us.

My difficulties over the house continue. This morning I am notified by the new landlord, the Senator from Arkansas that he is about to begin several suits. I want him to begin and get the thing over. It may be that the Court will decide that he is entitled to wander through our house at will, ~~and~~ to view the personal property he purchased without examination or inspection and which we have under lease, and it may be, too, that the court will decide that because in 1922 I cut a garage into the wing of the building, the lease is forfeited. I can't believe, however, such a decision will be rendered in either instance, but I don't know anything about the courts here ^{or} ~~and~~ procedure, and I do know that one who will neither lie about the situation nor misrepresent anything like myself, will be at a disadvantage with a couple of scoundrels who have no conception of truth and to whom decency and honor are unknown.

With all the love of your Mother and myself to Martha and yourself, I am

Affectionately,



HIRAM W. JOHNSON, CALIF., CHAIRMAN
HENRY W. KEYES, N. H. WILLIAM H. KING, UTAH
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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION

April 26, 1926

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

My dear Jack:

Last week was a gruelling week on the Boulder Dam project with me, and therefore you had no letter. Friday, the Committee on Irrigation and Reclamation authorized me to report the bill favorably. This was done by a vote of twelve to three in the committee, but the vote does not really represent the attitude of the committee, for several of those who voted with me to report it favorably, are not favorably inclined. On Friday therefore I reported the bill to the senate, and on Saturday filed the report of the majority. Copy of this report I enclose to you herein. It is not an artistic document because it was done in great haste in order that we might take advantage of every possible moment. It does state, however, the reasons for the bill and affords a text to those who wish to argue in its behalf. The bill cannot be passed at this session because of the limited time. I feel, however, that I have won a very remarkable victory, and that there has been a very distinct advance in the measure. I have done what was thought to have been impossible, so I am very happy over the present situation, although I realize full well the

Mr. Hiram W. Johnson, Jr. - 2

difficulties confronting me in the ultimate passage.

I read every word published in the papers of the Baldwin-Wood case before the receipt of your letter, Your Mother and I had put aside the Examiner with the pictures of the parties and of yourself, and we had eagerly sought every scrap because of your connection with it. Certainly it was a remarkable case. It seems to me a terrible one.

Will you clip such coupons as are in the Safe Deposit Box of mine. I imagine the amount should be something over \$300. Will you give to Odgers of this sum \$300 so that she may pay the outstanding debts and two months' rental of 857 Green Street. I am writing her today that you will do this.

Just as soon as I get time I am going to write Frere a little note about his newspaper. Mother and I feel that it was wonderful. The lad has real imagination, and just such things as he is doing are the best things to develop it. I want to write him so as to encourage him in that sort of work.

With the love of Mother and myself to the kiddies, and yourself, and all of your household,

Affectionately,

Dad

April 28, 1926

My dear Arch and Martha:

First of all I again must apologize to Martha for not having written her before this, but we both are pretty tired, and I know Martha will excuse me.

I was just delighted at the looks of your place. It looks like a real mansion, and is most attractive. It looks like the sort of a house I would like to live in, and always wanted to own. How in the world did you ever find such a lovely place. I remember at one time Jack drove by, and we remarked then what a lovely place it was. Do write me more of the details of it.

I hope you took the valet from storage. I am glad to get these things out of storage. Please do not hesitate to take anything that you want.

The little doggie looks exactly like Chops, the same head, same white vest, and all. He looks terribly cunning. We simply adore Chops, but I am afraid I must tell on him. I think he is a throw back because there is nothing genteel, gentlemanly, or refined about the young man. He likes nothing better after he had had his bath, than to go out in the dust, and then he comes back looking like a nigger more than anything else. It makes it simply impossible to keep him clean. He runs out and finds the dirtiest puddle, and rolls in it. It means another bath. He is too cunning for words. Many thanks again for him, but let me tell you, he does as he pleases at all times, and cares for no one but himself. In the picture that you sent, I think that Tubbs looks very much like Chops.

I am so glad you have that place down there because I am sure you'll enjoy it. I wonder if you have as many birds as I have. I find they like sunflower seed. Put it on a board where you can see them eat it. I have cardinals, blue birds, mocking birds, thrushes, whippoorwills, starling, and they are all too lovely for words, and in the morning we can't sleep for the music.

We went to luncheon at Mrs. McLean's Sunday, at her beautiful place called Friendship. This is the first time myself and dad have been anywhere for a long time, and we really had a lovely time. She had about two hundred guests. The place is ideal. The place extends in every direction as far as the eye can see. Beautiful hedges, great fences, flowers, and everything that riches can bring, and with it all, she still keeps simple and sweet, and paid us the great honor of having

us at her own table. Wish you could have been along, as she is very anxious to know you both. Just as soon as I can I will write you a letter, but the old arm is on the bum, hence this typewritten letter.

Please, Please, Please, Arch, take care of yourself. The least little thing and Dad is on the sick list again, so don't take any chances as you were much worse than dad. Lots of love to Martha. Tell her when she can forgive me, to write me a nice long letter. I am so anxious to know the gossip about the Bowles, or anything else that is on.

All my love to you both,

Devotedly,

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