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COLE L. BLEASE, S. C.

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION

December 3, 1927

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

My dear Jack:

As creatures of environment we have resumed the old life here in the very few days since our return. The long stay in California seems part of a very dim past. Our trip across the continent was not particularly pleasant. On the day of our departure, your Mother evidently contracted a cold. It grew constantly worse, and she was very miserable throughout the journey. It is still with her, so that she coughs very frequently, and with that peculiar deep terrifying croupy cough, that probably wrings my nerves more than it affects her. It is next to impossible to get her to take care of herself, and so our brief period here has been one of constant anxiety.

We found, of course, that Joe and Fong had done everything that was essential at the old house, and we could fit into the exact situation that we left. Tubby was no trouble coming across the country, but he has been a constant care since our arrival. He has many times the activity and energy of the other dogs, and he takes sudden notions of assaulting them. This makes little difference with the Pekinese, but old Spartan stands it just so long, and then gets mad, and a mad dog is mad. We have numerous occasions therefore of holding Spartan and endeavoring to catch the elusive Tub. Thus far, he has escaped injury, but

Mr. H.W.J., Jr. 2

we are in constant terror that he will exasperate the old fellow so that he will get a good bite, and a good bite might end him.

I have not got quite into the seething and the boiling that are a part now of the hectic life of Washington. Politics and the next presidential election, of course, are the principal topics. I think I may safely say that everybody is in the air. Half of the press men actually believe that Coolidge is still a candidate and that he will be nominated, and I was dumbfounded to find among the New England Senators exactly the same opinion. My view is of little value, but I can not conceive under the circumstances that this result will occur. Various incidents are cited to prove that the President has not taken himself out of the picture, and his language is construed by men like Bingham, Hale, Reed of Pa., as meaning merely that he is not an active candidate, but will accept the nomination. Were I a member of the Democratic Party, or if I intended to leave public life, I would, with the Senate as a forum, nag him and his supporters into a definite declaration and an honest explanation. Notwithstanding what the cunning and astute members of the press believe, and what the New England Senators desire, I do not think that Coolidge will be a candidate or will be renominated. The other candidacies are more or less nebulous at present. The consensus of opinion, however, is that the big shadow in the background is Dawes. Perhaps there may be some clarification of the situation at the meeting of the National Committee next week, but advance copy of the President's speech to the Com-

Mr. H.W.J., Jr -3

mittee indicates that he is maintaining his sphinx like
silence.

Remember us to Miss Schow and give our love to the boys,
with much to yourself.

Affectionately,

Dad

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

COMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION

December 10, 1927.

Major Archibald M. Johnson,
Attorney at Law,
Mills Bldg.,
San Francisco, California.

My dear Arch:

Mother and I are beginning to worry about you and I have been seriously thinking of wiring you. Then I thought it possible you were busy and that you have been unable to write. You see we left two weeks ago yesterday, and we have not had any letter from you at all. If we had not been thinking so much of your health, and had not been so fearful concerning it, perhaps we would not have felt any uneasiness. I am hoping that either today or Monday we'll be rejoicing by having a letter from you.

Winter is here in all its rigors. Yesterday the highest thermometer was 25 degrees, and the lowest 16. I looked at the report from San Francisco, and it was 56 and 50, and I can't tell you how I envied you all who are permitted to remain there.

We're off to a hectic session. Having devoted long hours in the last few days to the Smith and Vare cases, we disposed of them, and Monday we'll begin the hard work of the session.

The Hearst papers have been having a great expose' of Mexican documents, and yesterday they published that a million and a quarter dollars had been transmitted to a Mexican agent

in New York for payment to four Senators; \$500,000 to one, \$350,000 to two others, and \$15,000 to another. The charge was so baldly made that the Senate thought it necessary to notice it. An investigating committee was appointed, of which I am one. The whole thing on its face seems to me ridiculous, because I can't conceive that anybody would pay \$500,000 first, to a United States Senator, and I can not imagine that the Mexican Government ever had a million dollars, or if had a million dollars, would send it to New York for delivery to a few United States Senators. A week's debate over Smith and Vare, their large expenditures, and the political corruption of their States, probably made Senators a bit supersensitive, and when the direct charge of bribery appeared, they adopted a very solemn and serious mien. I confess I am unable to take the thing as seriously as some of my brethren do.

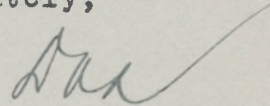
I don't know what we'll do about Tubby. He has kept on fairly good terms with the two Pekinese, although I think he constantly startles them. He will not, however, permit Spartan either to interfere or participate in his pleasures. The result is warfare between the two. Tubby gets absolutely hysterical, snapping and barking in a fashion that would drive even a better tempered old fellow than Spartan into anger and resentment, and the result is, that Spartan finally becoming aroused, gets quite as mad himself. I am in constant terror that one bite of Spartan may end Tubby's career. I certainly am getting very tired exercising all my strength holding

Spartan when they get into their musses.

I am not writing you about the political situation now because my time is very limited. Sufficing it to say that events of the past week have inured tremendously to the benefit of Hoover, and in my opinion, he is the foremost candidate at the moment.

With love to Martha and yourself in which Mother joins,

Affectionately,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'Dad', with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

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

COMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION

December 10, 1927

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

My dear Jack:

We were delighted to have a letter from you during the week, and I have today your note concerning Weeks and Day. In respect to the latter matter I shall be delighted to advise Mr. Wetmore, supervising architect of the Treasury Department of Weeks ability, my knowledge of it, and to recommend him in the very highest possible fashion.

Your mother's cold has held on wretchedly. It is somewhat better, I think, but is sufficiently severe still to trouble me. Notwithstanding the cold, she insisted on going out a couple of times this week, and going out now in the evening in Washington is not particularly pleasant. Yesterday the thermometer got down to 16 degrees, and winter is upon us with all its rigors. We have had but one snowstorm that was not particularly severe, but the last few days have been extremely cold. It is interesting to me to compare each day the thermometer in San Francisco with what we're undergoing here.

Mother keeps wondering about her radio set of which we have not the slightest news, and inasmuch as it is now two weeks and a day since our departure, it seems as if we ought to have heard something of it. Joe, during our absence was buncoed into buying a radio for which I think he paid quite a little sum. It is

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fairly good at times, but is nothing like equal to the one that Mrs. Bowles gave Mother.

Since Congress convened we have devoted ourselves exclusively to the Smith and Vare cases, and finally disposed of them last evening. Immediately upon their heels came another investigation. The Hearst papers with flaming head lines here published a story that the Mexican Government had sent to an agency in New York a million and a quarter dollars to be paid to four Senators. Reed of Pennsylvania, who had been conducting the Vare case, and whose sensibilities, doubtless, had been ruffled by repeated references to Pennsylvania and Philadelphia politics, asked the appointment of a committee to investigate the charges. I was made one of that committee. My brethren take the thing rather seriously. I can not say that I do. The whole thing on its face seems to me, obviously the purest bunk. I can not imagine anyone paying \$500,000 for a United States Senator, and I certainly can not imagine the Mexican Government having a million dollars, or if it ever had that sum, transmitting it to New York City for four Senators. The whole thing is probably a great newspaper sensation without any fact back of it.

The political situation has all inured to the benefit of Hoover. I am unable today to write you in detail respecting it. The Coolidge utterances and Hughes withdrawal put Hoover in the very front rank of the candidates. Sometime during next week I will undertake to tell you more in detail just what is happening here.

Simply that you may know that it has been done, I have paid

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the San Francisco Bank the interest on the note of \$1,000.00
that the Bank holds to December 24, 1927.

With love to the boys and yourself in which Mother joins,

Affectionately,

Dad

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

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION

December 24, 1927.

My dear Boys:

I tried early in the week to write a word to each of you of Christmas greeting, but I failed lamentably in expressing what I wanted to express. I hope you take the intent for the miserable performance. We're all victims of restraints and repressions. We fear that somebody will think us soft or laugh at us if we express fully our emotions, and I was so steeped in feeling when I attempted to write my Christmas greeting that paradoxical as it may seem, I could not do it at all. I am not going to try again now on the eve of Christmas. You both know what I feel and I will let it go at sending you for the Holiday Season everything that that Season may bring to human kind, and in the expression of the hope that the New Year may give you prosperity, health, happiness and your fondest desires.

It is going to be a miserable Christmas tomorrow for your Mother and myself. We expect to be alone, and the one thing we shall look forward to is hearing your dear voices at night. There is nobody here really who has not his own little holiday circle. We'll sit at our big table with our elaborate dinner by ourselves, and we'll sit with the thoughts of those who are far away and the longing to be with those we love.

Day and night I have been engaged of late. The sudden flare up in the Senate concerning the Hearst publication reflecting upon Senators caused a committee to be appointed on the spur of the

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moment by the Vice-President, and I was selected as one of that committee. It is possible I might at the instant have been excused, but once having started on the committee, not only would it have been the subject of very great remark had I sought to be relieved of the duty, but it would have been cowardly on my part too. When we commenced we imagined we would have a very brief investigation in relation to the Senators. As we progressed, the demand was universal, in and out of the Senate, that we proceed to the limit and ascertain the genuineness of the documents, which the Hearst papers had been publishing. I am in a peculiarly disagreeable position therefore. The entire country, as evidenced by the press here, is in full cry after Hearst, and he and those who represent him, are perfectly willing to dump upon the door-step of Congress a nasty mess never sufficiently investigated as to its genuineness before publication. Confidentially, I say to you now from what has come to us the documents seem to be spurious, although of course, the evidence is not yet conclusive, nor would I, at the present time, deliver any judgment concerning them. If the proof should establish their genuineness I would have no hesitation, notwithstanding the attitude of the remaining press of the Nation, in saying so; but it is equally certain that if the proof shall demonstrate those documents are forgeries, I shall unhesitatingly and most emphatically so declare. There is nothing to be gained in any event. On the one hand, an honest judgment of their genuineness will bring down the wrath of a press just as rotten as the Hearst press, and on the other hand, to declare the papers spurious will alienate forever probably the Hearst publications. I am very clear as to my course. It will be the course

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I've always pursued of doing exactly what I think I ought to do without regard to consequences.

We're in a terrible state concerning Tubby. I would appreciate it immensely if you would ascertain from any individuals who know dogs and dogs' dispositions, whether anything can be done. I have written you of the difficulties when first we brought Tubby. He gets along well enough now with the Pekin~~an~~ese, although he quarrels a good deal with them; but the instant that he sets eyes on Spartan now he goes perfectly insane and attacks him with the utmost ferocity. Spartan no longer delays but when Tubby jumps at him, he responds in kind and becomes quite as enraged as Tubbs. The result is I have had to rescue Tubby on a number of occasions of late, and I am fearful that it is only a question of time until Spartan kills him. The fact that Spartan pins him to the ground apparently does not affect the little fellow at all. He is quite as aggressive and continues to snarl, and bark and fight with unabated vigor. Thus far, he has received no serious hurt, and practically no hurt at all, but on two occasions Spartan has held him down on the ground with bared teeth just over him apparently ready to strike at the moment I have intervened. For the first couple of weeks we could keep them in the same room unless something arose that started one or the other. Now they cannot be together at all without an immediate fight. When Spartan is in one room, Tubby has to be shut in another. This is, of course, extremely disagreeable to us because we are fond of both dogs, and it is very interesting how we hate to be unjust to either. Remonstrances or

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whippings have no effect upon either. It is the most remarkable exhibition of a lion-hearted little animal that I can possibly conceive of. The old man Spartan has evidently made up his mind that he is sick and tired of it, and he is as belligerent now as Tubby. I do hope you can make some suggestion so that without breaking the spirit of either dog, we can make them be friendly. It may be that with the advent of Spring when both dogs could be outside, this condition could be cured, but in min-winter now, when neither can be left in the open, it is a real trial.

The Hoover campaign in the East is in full swing. I think he has a fair chance of success, although the opposition to him is beginning to develop the things of which we know that were developed in 1920 in California. One of the questions which has been widely discussed in the East has been his eligibility under the 14-year clause of the Constitution. All of the newspapers are favorable to him, and he gets the break in every way. They can not, however, ignore a Constitutional question, and there are not lacking those who insist that inasmuch as he has not been a resident of the United States for 14 years continuously prior to 1928, that he is ineligible to be President. He is endeavoring to show, as he attempted in California in 1920, that he always maintained a residence in Palo Alto during his twenty years' absence from this country, but as I recall the facts, he was unable to demonstrate in our celebrated contest that he had ever voted during his twenty years of absence, or ever even registered, or that he had anything like a home in our State. If you have any recollection concerning this, I would be very glad if you would write me.

The Boulder Dam proposition will be up in January. It looks as if the obstacles are insuperable. I have made up my mind, however, to do the best that could be done and let the result take care of itself. It is rather too much to expect with the opposition of the States interested, and the powerful electrical industry of the country, that we can win before the Senate as at present constituted.

Mother's cold has gradually abated. She has worn herself out searching for Christmas gifts, and sometimes I think, notwithstanding the softening influences of the Holiday Season, that it has been distorted into mere bargaining for the benefit of tradesmen.

With all my love to you, to the kiddies, and to Martha,

Affectionately,

