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KODAK Gray Scale



**Kodak**  
LICENSED PRODUCT

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M. A. CONNOR, CLERK

## United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE

Sunday, May 1, 1932.

My dear Boys:

Since last I wrote you the political scene has shifted a little, leaving Mr. Roosevelt somewhat weaker, and Mr. Hoover somewhat stronger. In the primaries of Tuesday last in Massachusetts and Pennsylvania, you may phrase it either way, Smith showed unexpected strength, or Roosevelt unexpected weakness. Massachusetts was wholly expected. That state has become merely a dependency of Rome, and Smith holds his grip with his co-religionists. In Pennsylvania Smith polled more votes than it was expected that he would. The bosses there, however, indicate that a very large preponderance of the delegates will be Roosevelt's. If they are correct in this, so far as the delegates are concerned, the primaries did not do Roosevelt very much harm. All eyes are now turned to California on Tuesday next. If Roosevelt gets a drubbing there, I think he will be in a very serious position. The one thing that draws to Roosevelt those of us who believe in real democracy is the character of the opposition to him. This opposition embraces all of those who believe in the right to exploit government for their own selfish advantage. Smith has become the mouth piece of these people. Like all the old Tammany fellows, he has grown rich from his politics, and growing rich, has lost his common touch.



2.

One of the reporters best expressed his present attitude. Smith, he said, took charge of the tallest building in the world, the Empire State Building. He went to its very top. His eyes instinctly turned in the panorama before him not to the east side, but to Park Avenue. That is the Smith today.

This campaign is going to present quite a problem to the old man. I can't support Hoover. I would not want to support a Democrat, who represented exactly what Hoover represents, and I can see the possibility of being a hard working lawyer during the campaign. Of course, this means substantially retirement from politics two years hence, but I am afraid I have been in this job so long I am not fit for any other. However, you have your problems, too, and there should be no mention of mine.

I told you a week ago how I was enjoying the very few flowers we had, and then in this infernal climate, suddenly came a couple of rotten cold days, when I trembled for the blooms I was so treasuring. I think we got by all right, and that we're going to have a very pretty little yard. Mother is so interested in it that yesterday for the fountain that Joe and Fong made last year, which had a little water constantly in it, she got about twenty little fish, and also some funny little floats for the surface of the water. Joe and I have planted everything under the sun.



3.

One thing, however, has developed beautifully, and that is Joe's violets. They are a beautiful little flower, so delicate and fragrant, and apparently, are much more hardy than anything else. The bulbs remind me of certain politicians. Suddenly they burst into a glorious bloom, more attractive than anything about, and then a wisp of air, or a touch of frost, and they are gone, and of no further consequence whatever.

I am hoping to get home the middle of June. Of course, it is possible we may get into such a wrangle over the tax bill, that this won't occur; but I have an abiding conviction that with the advent of the real scorching weather, and the approach of the campaigns, Congress will quit.

What a rotten verdict in the Massie case! There is either something we don't know about that case, or the white jurors were held in the thrall of terror. Of course, I realize there was no justification for what was done, but I can't conceive of any Anglo-Saxon who had the power of passing upon the matter, doing otherwise than acquit the defendants. I think it was a terrible blunder to take Darrow over there. He is very old, physically in bad shape, and in my opinion, has deteriorated greatly mentally; and then again, knowing him as I do, I have always believed his reputation was built upon his bizarre and extravagant views, rather than upon his ability as lawyer, or legal strategist or tactician.



4.

When Floyd Gibbons was here, he came to the office to talk to me for a short time. He, Moses, and myself went out and were pictured with the movietone. You can tell the boys, if they have the opportunity, to go and look at it. I have not seen it, but the operator said it was all right. Gibbons thinks that Hawaii should be used solely as our extreme military post, and as the last line of naval defense. He insists that the tremendous preponderance of Japanese with an autonomous government such as Hawaii now has makes it a danger point for the United States, and worse than that for the white races. He was very insistent in talking on that subject, but I felt less enthusiasm for his view, when upon interrogating him, I found the sole extent of his knowledge was derived from forty-eight hours upon shipboard in the harbor of Honolulu. The descendants of a very few missionaries brought the cheap labor into the island, and they are the ones responsible for the present conditions. I smiled when I saw the Chronicle editorially in defense of the Island. I do not pretend to say that Gibbons' theory is entirely accurate, but I have not the slightest doubt of what induced the Chronicle's advocacy of the rights and the virtues of the Oriental races in Hawaii. The Chronicle, by the way, is occupying a rather paradoxical position it seems to me, but it is simply another illustration of the wets and their political attitude being quite different from their dinner table

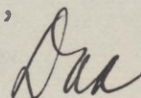


5.

The Chronicle is published in a wet city. Its former manager, Cameron, has insisted that it was a wet newspaper, and it <sup>has</sup> editorialized in this fashion frequently. Its management <sup>ment</sup> now, at least partially, and I am not clear but wholly, is in the hands of the representative of the Anti-saloon league, Mr. Rowell, who is the chief dry spokesman, and spokesman of the Anti-saloon League in the State of California. He proposes as soon as he takes the management, a fake referendum, which can never be carried out under existing circumstances. Republicans, of course, swear by the Chronicle in San Francisco, and then growl about prohibition. It is this that makes the so-called wets wholly ineffective.

Mother joins in love to all.

Affectionately,





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

## United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE

Sunday, May 1, 1932.

My dear Arch:

I have been reading with a great deal of interest the statements made by Donald Conn, and the proceedings had by his grape association. My chief interest centers in the claim that the grape growers of California had the approval of the President, and the Department of Justice before proceeding on their way, and that they have been betrayed by the administration. Do you know anything about the matter?

Affectionately,

*Dad*



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

## United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE

May 7, 1932.

Mr. Hiram W. Johnson, Jr.,  
Major Archibald M. Johnson,  
Attorneys at law,  
Mills Bldg.,  
San Francisco, California

My dear Boys:

Mother and I expect to go into the country tomorrow, not far from Washington, to a sort of country lodge of the Burlings, merely for luncheon, but the day will thus be occupied, and so I am writing my usual weekly letter to you on this Saturday.

The Tuesday primary in California was a paralyzer. If Roosevelt had won the Democratic primary, he would have been well on his way to the nomination. His task now is an extremely difficult one. If, in the Republican primary, Hoover had polled a small vote, it could have been utilized very effectively against him. His very large vote, remarkable under the circumstances, justifies him in boasting of his popularity in California, and that he has lost nothing there in the last four years. On Monday, the primary was held in Maryland, and Dr. France, literally crazy, polled a vote sufficient to disappoint and depress the Hoover people. He actually carried three districts of that State, when the supposition was he would not have a corporal's guard voting for him. Tuesday's primary in California, however, brought back



the confidence of the Hoover people. He has begun a political campaign, which is fairly intelligent now. He is berating congress, and having every one of his papers in unison denounce congress; and as usual, when a body is thus denounced, each individual in his egotism and vanity ascribes the denunciation as applicable to his colleague, and is perfectly certain it was not meant for himself. Thus, there is little answer to en masse impersonal abuse. In addition to this, the Democratic leadership consist of a lot of lice, and down in their gizzards they really prefer Hoover to Roosevelt. There is no denying the fact that the Hoover stock has gone up in the last few months, and is still going up.

Here is the latest story of Hoover. Perhaps you have had it, and it is an old tale to you now, but only recently has it come to me. Hoover was suddenly kidnapped the other day, and his kidnappers left a ransom note. This note said "If we do not receive \$500,000.00 within two hours, we'll bring him back". The tale can be told with all of the embellishments that are possible in Washington. For instance, one of our brethren rushed to a little group of us during the week, apparently out of breath, saying that Lawrence Richey, White House secretary and detective, had just advised him of the terrible deed, and then recited the note left by the kidnappers.

I have been going through something of a physical examination here lately, because of some little difficulties, and I am



very glad to say to you that as Arch calls it, the "old pump" is all right, and there are no evidences of arterio-sclerosis, and save for certain teeth, which of course they all conclude are responsible for any ills, I am in bully good shape. Before I return home, I hope to have the teeth removed, although I confess a skepticism in relation to the sort of diagnosis that now is made ascribing every ill to teeth. I feel perfectly certain it is merely explanatory of the puzzlement on the part of the diagnostician. At any rate, it was very good news to learn that I am substantially physically fit.

Bill Langdon is here this week attending some convention of judges, law associations, and the like. He told me Rowell was in full charge of the Chronicle now, which means that I will have a thorn in my side constantly while I am in public life, and means a very determined opposition if ever again I become a candidate. I did not know that I could ever express any appreciation of Cameron particularly, but as between Cameron and Rowell as manager of the Chronicle, from the personal standpoint infinitely do I prefer Cameron.

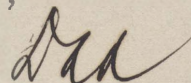
We're at the threshold of summer now. The little yard is to me very beautiful. I love this wee bit of a confined space with Mother's pretty and artistic planning and some of our own handiwork in it. The leaves are out finally, and the few flowers we have are blooming. Some of the things we



planted indiscriminately are coming up, and each day many times I walk about this small confined space, and count the little shoots just peeping from the ground. One of the amazing things in this wee garden are a couple of beds of violets which Joe planted there last year. They've suddenly rushed up like ambitious weeds with lots of beautiful little flowers. At the brink of our tiny fountain, Puss sits now for hours looking down at the fishes Mother put there, and I think I can understand her longing for the days of her strength and her prowess, for she is now growing very old and thin and shrunken. The birds that come into our yard, particularly the starlings, which are so plentiful here in Washington, take the crusts from just outside the kitchen window, carry them over to the fountain, actually dip those crusts in the water permitting them to soak, and then recover them and eat them. Two or three squirrels have found the yard, and while Tubby is extremely indignant that they have invaded his territory, they scamper away from him up a tree, and then, when he is not looking, grab some of the food we leave out for them. I wonder if it is age that makes all the phenomena of nature and the little antics of the birds and the animals so interesting to me!

Mother joins in love to all

Affectionately,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'Dad' or 'Dad' with a flourish.



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NIGHT MESSAGE	CABLE LETTER
NIGHT LETTER	WEEK END LETTER

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# COPY OF WESTERN UNION TELEGRAM

Hiram W. Johnson Papers  
Benard Library

May 9, 1932.

Major A. M. Johnson,  
Attorney at law,  
Mills Bldg.,  
San Francisco, California

Under merchant marine act mail contracts were made by, Post-master General with various steamship companies STOP Some of these apparently are open to criticism and certain members of congress are assailing them and the whole act STOP Senator McKellar has pending joint resolution practically abrogating these mail contracts ~~STOP~~ Because they have been duly executed by the United States Government and are in full force I do not think they either can be or will be abrogated by congressional enactment STOP Legislation upon the subject may be attempted indirectly by riders upon appropriation bills but neither this nor any other kind of legislation affecting these contracts is likely to be passed STOP I think you will be justified in saying that there is little danger for existing contracts at this session STOP The only danger is that both executive and legislative departments have temporarily gone crazy

DAY LETTER

HIRAM W JOHNSON

B B



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

## United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE

May 14, 1932, Sunday.

Mr. Hiram W. Johnson, Jr.,  
Major Archibald M. Johnson,  
Attorneys at law,  
Mills Building,  
San Francisco, California.

My dear Boys:

The most interesting event of the past week, although perhaps it will be little understood nationally, is the remarkable somersault turned by the President and the leaders of the Democratic Party upon what is termed direct relief for unemployment, and the issuance of some sort of government securities for a vast program of governmental construction. When the Lafollette-Costigan bill was before the senate, there was sufficient testimony to demonstrate that private charity had reached its limits in caring for the unemployed and those who were really destitute. The effort was made to get Federal relief. With an astonishing vigor and bitterness the leadership upon both sides of the Chamber and the President himself opposed any sort of Federal relief and succeeded in preventing just this thing. Early in the week, Robinson, the leader of the Democrats, out of a clear sky, read the proposed plan to aid the unemployed and to furnish immediate funds for the destitute. It was obvious from his difficulty in reading, that the whole



2.

thing had been carefully written for him by others. Immediately it developed that his scheme in principle had the enthusiastic support of the President, and it had been presented after consultation with Baruch, Owen Young, and Al Smith. The President, so contemporaneously, that none could doubt they were acting in concert, enthusiastically endorsed the Robinson-Democratic program, and since then, the Democrats, at the instance of the President, have been endeavoring to write a bill. You may interpret this action of these gentlemen in various ways. It is believed here that Hoover is willing to do anything, no matter what, from now to November to popularize himself, and that on the part of the Democrats, the endeavor is to make Mr. Owen Young appear as wholly sympathetic with the common man, and thus enable him to be nominated in the June Democratic convention. Mr. Young has taken occasion during the week, as well, to announce himself for the equalization fee, the most radical endeavor made for farm relief in the past eight years. His conclusions make very plain that he is really a candidate. Gossip runs that Mr. Smith is relied upon to stampede the convention for him at Chicago. There is a sullenness and a sourness upon the Republican side, at which I have had many a laugh. Personally, I was for the equalization fee as presenting a bizarre, but the only possible relief



## 3.

for the farmer. Personally, I was for direct relief for those in want. The administration, with every power at its disposal, has <sup>fought</sup> both. If I were running a newspaper I could enjoy myself immensely, and particularly so, when these hard and fast administration papers that take their orders from on high, and have no principle on earth, suddenly shift their opposition to ~~ecstasy~~ and welcome the wonderful new policy of the great leader. It is quite true both the Democrats and Hoover camouflage their new scheme, but, nevertheless, it is Federal aid extended for unemployment and for the destitute, the principle of which they have most emphatically denied in the past.

Senators upstairs like Dill and Wheeler and Barkley think that Roosevelt will have a majority of the delegates at the Democratic convention on the first ballot, and that with a majority on the first ballot, they will be able to secure his nomination; on the other hand, men like Louis Seibold, who of course, takes his tone now from the Hearst press, for which he is employed, insist that Roosevelt hasn't a Chinaman's chance. Conservative Democrats talk most of Baker, Ritchie, and Young, about in the order named.

I heard the latest Hoover story the other night. On one of his trips to the Rapidan, Hoover's car became



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mired down and was in a very precarious situation, likely to topple over at any instant. The President because of the dangerous condition of the car was unable to alight, and there was consternation for a brief period. A farmer came along, and very skillfully extricated the car and the President. After he had been hauled to safety, Hoover got out of the car, and graciously thanked the farmer. He said, "You have saved the life of the President of the United States. " The farmer replied: "Ugh, don't mention it. "

We have had the most extraordinary weather the past week that I have ever seen here. We had a day or two of weather like summer, and suddenly it began to rain, and for four days steadily we had rain, and a cold rain. Today is clear and warm, and again, apparently, summer is at hand. The red azaleas that I had have practically all the blooms beaten off them. Five white vines, however, are in a mad riot this morning, although the rain did them some harm.

We have begun meeting at 11 o'clock in the morning, and we are to run continuously until ten at night. We'll pass the tax bill, in my opinion, about the end of the week, with a week or so for the remaining appropriation bills, and notwithstanding the prognostications of many, I believe that we'll finish here about the Saturday before the Republican convention. There is such a feeling of

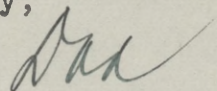


5.

unrest however, of uncertainty, and of constant  
bitterness that anything may happen.

With my love, in which Mother joins,

Affectionately,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'Dad', written in a cursive style.



-6-

My dear Jack:

I was disappointed, and so was Mother, at the decision that you reached concerning the boys coming here. I think you may reconsider it. According to what you wrote, the round trip including Pullman was \$180.00. For the two of them this would aggregate \$360.00. I can transmit to you without any strain whatever \$500.00. This would leave \$140.00 to the lads for the start of the trip. Of course, everything here, including what spending money they might desire, you know Mother and I would only too gladly take care of, and it would be of little or no consequence. Clothes, they do not need, because they would probably reach here in our real summer, and our stores are full of decent, cheap summer suits, that we are accustomed to call here Palm Beach suits, worn by everybody. The purchase of them would mean nothing. It wouldn't be necessary for you to expend a dime in their behalf. I am not clear from your letter whether both really wished to come. Of course, I would like both, but if either did not care about the trip, I would be equally glad to welcome the other. I think both, however, should be given the opportunity if possible. Now, the fact is, that the next session is the short session running from December first to March fourth. I think with Hoover's experience in the



past, he is unlikely to call an extra session, and the opportunity, therefore, would not be presented in the next session for them to come. Following that next session, the session in 1933 would be a long session, which would extend from December 1933 to the middle of the year 1934. I do not know that I care again to be a candidate, although if things are propitious I very likely will be. If I were, I would have to stir myself in 1934 and cover the state pretty thoroughly beginning undoubtedly about the first of June. I am very doubtful what the outcome will be, and particularly am I doubtful if Shortridge should be re-elected this year, which now seems likely. Were I a candidate in 1934, there would be no such situation presented in Los Angeles as is presented today. Mr. Chandler, and the Times would see to it that there was just one candidate from that territory, and the Chronicle, and Oakland Tribune, and the Hoover people, generally in the north, would, of course, embrace that candidacy. It would make for me an uphill fight that is perfectly sickening for me to contemplate. I have done a good job for the State here, and I am not inclined to go before its people and prate of that good job, and beg their consideration. I say these things to you because I think this may be the last chance when we could do what in my dream concerning the grandchildren I suggested. Think it over very carefully,

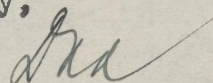


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send me a wire if you have changed your view, and I will send immediately, by wire or airmail, check to you for \$500.00 to start the lads on their way. If you thought it would be necessary to send you \$700.00, I can do that and would be glad to do it, but I thought the sum that I mention for the initial expenses will do all that you desire, and that is required.

I received your letter about John W. Davis, whom you wish recommended to Admiral Billard, and I have taken great pleasure in doing that.

Affectionately,





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

## United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE

Sunday, May 15, 1932.

My dear Arch:

During the week I had your letter enclosing the statement concerning the Oil Company in California and the proceedings in which Hoover was interested. The reason I wished to learn about this was because it furnished the opportunity in our own territory to check up upon one of the charges made by O'Brien and by Hamill. Apparently, there was little or nothing in the stuff they wrote of this particular. Thank you very much indeed for sending it to me.

It was fine to hear your voice over the 'phone a week ago. I wish we were rich enough to do this every few days. There is an economy committee, bipartisan in character, meeting in secrecy daily. What it is going to do, nobody on earth knows. The Republican members of it, however, ought to protect existing contracts which the Government has made, and Jones of Washington, particularly has been interested always in the shipping contracts. As I wrote you, I can not see that these contracts justly could be abrogated, no matter what they are, unless of course, downright fraud or bribery could be shown, and that no

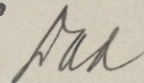


Major Archibald M. Johnson

one claims. The situation here, though, is such that any fool thing may be attempted, and while I do not expect it, I would not be surprised at any kind of an endeavor which would save the Government money, even at the expense of its good faith.

My love to all

Affectionately,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Arch", is written below the typed word "Affectionately,".



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J. C. WILLEVER, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

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HIRAM W JOHNSON JR=

ATTORNEY AT LAW MILLS BLDG SFRAN=

YOUR WIRE CAME LIKE A BOLT FROM THE BLUE STOP I DID NOT  
VOTE FOR TYDINGS AMENDMENT BECAUSE OF VERY DOUBTFUL VALIDITY  
IT SOLVED NOTHING NEITHER PROHIBITION NOR TAXES STOP I  
EXPECT BEFORE END OF SESSION TO VOTE FOR RESUBMISSION  
AMENDMENT EITHER OF MODIFICATION OR REPEAL STOP IN  
SITUATION YOU DESCRIBE YOU ARE QUITE RIGHT AN EXPLANATION  
HOWEVER COMPLETE WILL ACCOMPLISH NOTHING MATTER I MUST BE  
WHOLLY OUT OF TOUCH STOP HERE THE MATTER ASSUMED NO SUCH  
PROPORTIONS BUT WAS REGARDED AS JUST ANOTHER UNSUBSTANTIAL  
COLLATERAL OF ISSUE STOP THANK YOU VERY VERY MUCH FOR YOUR  
TELEGRAM WOULD APPRECIATE ANY FURTHER INFORMATION=

HIRAM W JOHNSON.



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# WESTERN UNION

NEWCOMB CARLTON, PRESIDENT

J. C. WILLEVER, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

## SIGNS

DL = Day Letter

NM = Night Message

NL = Night Letter

LCO = Deferred Cable

NLT = Cable Night Letter

WLT = Week-End Letter

The filing time as shown in the date line on full-rate telegrams and day letters, and the time of receipt at destination as shown on all messages, is STANDARD TIME.

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1932 MAY 21 AM 9 36

AB237 98=SC WASHINGTON DC 21 1209P

Hiram W. Johnson Papers  
Bancroft Library

HIRAM W JOHNSON JR, ATTORNEY AT LAW=

MILLS BLDG SFRAN=

THIS MORNING I HAVE BEEN GOING THROUGH THE SITUATION STOP  
TYDINGS AMENDMENT WAS AS STATED IN MY WIRE OF NO VALUE FOR  
TAX REDUCTION AND ILL CONSIDERED GENERALLY STOP BINGHAM HAS  
PENDING AMENDMENT TAXING BEER WHICH ELIMINATES MANY NUISANCE  
TAXES STOP THIS I SHALL STUDY TOMORROW STOP I WAS ENTIRELY  
RIGHT IN PREVIOUS VOTE AND THERE HAS BEEN HERE NO SUCH  
SITUATION AS APPARENTLY EXISTS IN SANFRANCISCO STOP I WAS  
MIGHTY GLAD TO HAVE YOUR WIRE FOR WE ARE WORKING NIGHT AND  
DAY HERE WITH NO TIME OR OPPORTUNITY TO KNOW WHAT IS  
TRANSPIRING ELSEWHERE LOVE TO ALL=

DAD.



## CLASS OF SERVICE

This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable sign above or preceding the address.

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1932 MAY 21 PM 12 19

## MINUTES IN TRANSIT

FULL-RATE	DAY LETTER
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HIRAM W JOHNSON JR=

937 973 GREEN ST=

YOUR TODAY WIRE JUST RECEIVED IF YOU ARE IN TOUCH WITH ANY  
 PEOPLE WHO ARE INTERESTED TELL THEM TO KEEP THEIR SHIRTS ON  
 THAT THE MATTER IS COMING UP IN VARIOUS FORMS AND IN SUCH  
 FASHION ON THE TAX BILL AS TO BE APPROPRIATE AND EFFECTIVE  
 AND FOR THEM WITHHOLD THEIR VIEWS UNTIL THEN STOP I AM  
 WHOLLY INDISPOSED TO INDULGE IN STATEMENTS WITHOUT FULL  
 UNDERSTANDING AND UNDER PRESSURE=

HIRAM W JOHNSON..



HIRAM W. JOHNSON, CALIF., CHAIRMAN  
WESLEY L. JONES, WASH.  
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JOSIAH WILLIAM BAILEY, N. C.  
MARCUS A. COOLIDGE, MASS.

M. A. CONNOR, CLERK

## United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE

Sunday, May 22, 1932.

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

My dear Arch:

I received your letter this week commenting upon Preston's decision in the loan case. I have read the text of the decision. It stamps the writer as anything but a profound lawyer. I do not quarrel at all with the conclusion reached because that is quite possible. I do, however, object to placing a decision entirely upon a lopsided and ill-considered opinion of an inferior court. However, this is the practice of the law, and is only another illustration of the frailty of human nature.

Last Wednesday there came before the senate an amendment designated as the Tydings Beer amendment. It was an amendment to the pending tax bill. Upon that bill I have taken a rather strong position against the so-called nuisance taxes. When the Tydings' amendment came before us, I considered it probably too much as a revenue measure and an amendment to the tax bill, rather than as a gesture toward prohibition. The Tydings amendment, after legalizing 2.75 per cent beer provided for a tax upon it, and then set up a long-winded scheme of amortization and allocated the taxes to certain, specific,



Major Johnson -2

designated purposes, entirely unconnected with the tax bill, and did not afford any relief from this tax bill to taxpayers, or any relief from the numerous nuisance taxes levied by the bill. There is pending another amendment called the Bingham amendment, which does, in the first instance what the Tydings amendment did, endeavors to legalize 2.75 per cent beer, then tax the output, and applies the amount raised from the taxes to the elimination or reduction of the nuisance taxes. It is an amendment applicable to the present bill, accomplishing the result that many of us desire, of lessening the taxes in the bill, of our people, and relieving them of many of the so-called nuisance taxes. I voted against the Tydings amendment, because it was ineffective and inappropriate. If I am confirmed in the investigation I am now making of the Bingham amendment, I shall vote for it.

I was simply dumbfounded yesterday to receive various wires from Jack indicating that I was facing a tremendous crisis, and was being subjected to an overwhelming denunciation and criticism. There was no such view of the amendment here, and no such importance attached to it, and as I wired Jack, his dispatch came like a bolt from the blue. I endeavored in other wires to him to ascertain just exactly what was transpiring



Major Johnson - 3

but I am yet in a state of puzzlement and surprise. He was very earnest and I was very grateful to him for advising me that it was absolutely essential for me to make an immediate statement upon the prohibition question, and give it wide publicity for Sunday morning. Without understanding of the situation, and with a knowledge that my vote had been entirely correct, and that within the week would come the opportunity to vote as I desired, I could not see the necessity for any such public statement; and particularly I was disinclined to make any under pressure. Jack's last wire to me, which came last night touched me very deeply., He said that silence at this time needlessly sacrificed myself, and crucified my friends. I simply cannot understand what has happened. I have not said so to him, but I spent an entirely sleepless night, not because of the sacrifice of myself to which he refers, but because of the hurt I always feel perhaps more keenly than most men, of "crucifying my friends". I am writing you all this that you may be familiar with what has transpired. I don't wish you to speak to Jack about it, because it would only cause, I think, misunderstanding. If any one speaks to you concerning the matter, I have given you the exact facts of the two amendments. Both of them, it is very seriously asserted here, are illegal, and there



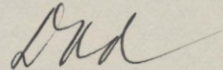
Major Johnson - 4

is doubt as to whether or not the Congress has power to pass them. However. I am willing to try it out with amendment to the tax bill, which would accomplish real good.

I don't know when we're going to adjourn. I have insisted constantly we would quit June 11, just before the conventions. Many of the leaders assert we'll run all during the month of June.

Love to Martha and yourself, in which Mother joins,

Affectionately,





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

## United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE

Sunday, May 21, 1932.

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

My dear Jack:

I received yesterday your letter of May 19 and Mother and I were delighted beyond measure at the reconsideration of your decision concerning the boys' trip here. The trouble now is as to dates. I confess I had not understood, or had forgotten, that they could not leave until June 17, which would bring them here June 21. Three weeks from today will be Saturday, June 11, and will be the last Saturday before the Republican Convention. I have thought, and I still have that opinion, although there is much more doubt now than before, that we would adjourn here on that date, June 11. If we did, it was my intention to leave during the following week for California. I think it my duty to come out as soon as I can after adjournment in order to do what lies in my power in the firm of which I am a member. During the past week things have become so tangled that the prophecies are numerous we'll run during the whole month of June. If this be so, everything will be fine and the boys can leave on the 17th. If, however, it transpires that we can do our work within the three weeks I have suggested from now until June 11, an entirely different



2.

situation is presented, and we would have to forego the visit of the lads, to which Mother and I are looking forward with such keen anticipations. I am letting the matter ride, therefore, until toward the end of this week. At the end of this week, which takes us until May 28, and means but two weeks more, we ought to be able to make something like an accurate forecast of when we'll adjourn. We'll consider the matter settled therefore, if you are willing, if the congress continues in session, and the so-called leaders of both sides say that it will. Perhaps I am more or less alone in my prognostications of adjournment on June 11, - and at any rate, we will leave the situation as it is for a few days with the hope and prayer on the part of Mother and myself that everything will adjust itself so that we can have our grandsons with us.

I know just how you feel about the money personally, but I am entirely frank with you in saying that without strain, and with a very great deal of pleasure, I can stand it.

I was simply flabbergasted by your telegrams of yesterday. The Tydings amendment took on no such color or importance here as apparently in San Francisco. Doubtless, I was derelict in regarding the amendment more or less casually and looking at it from



3.

the tax bill standpoint rather than from the standpoint of the 18th amendment. I have taken a rather firm position against the nuisance taxes in the tax bill.

I voted for higher income rates in order that they might be eliminated and because I thought <sup>higher income</sup> the/rates not unjust in a financial crisis. As I endeavored to explain in my telegram, the Tydings amendment sought to legalize 2.75 per cent beer, and then provided a singular sort of amortization for the expenditure of a tax which might be levied upon the beer, and then allocated the tax to certain, specific designated funds. It would thus have proved of no aid whatsoever in the pending tax bill, nor have afforded no immediate relief to the overburdened taxpayer. The Bingham amendment, on the other hand, after providing for the legalization of 2.75 per cent beer, and a tax upon it, applies the amount of revenue received to the pending measure by striking out, in some instances, and in others reducing the so-called nuisance taxes. The Bingham amendment will come up this week, and if it does what a brief study of it indicates it will do, I shall vote for it. The legal right of the Congress to enact such a measure is very seriously questioned. It is unfortunate that my vote should have had the effect you have described in your telegrams. The part I most regret is your statement that I crucify my friends. The effect upon myself, with a fair degree



4.

of philosophical equanimity I can stand, but it hurts beyond measure for me to think that I have in even small degree hurt my friends. I am very grateful to you for wiring me as you did, and if I had had any idea of the misconception and misunderstanding concerning the Tydings amendment, I should have given it much closer attention, and much closer thought than I did. In view of the whole situation here, I think my vote upon the Tydings amendment was entirely right, but with a knowledge that it had no chance of success at all, I might have done what most of my fellows do, voted for it, forgetting, because of fore knowledge of its defeat, its ineffectiveness and its inappropriateness at the particular time. I do hope you will wire me, but do so always collect, please, upon any occasion where you think an action of mine will have its repercussions locally. I am singularly wanting in advices or information of this sort.

With my love to all, in which Mother joins,

Affectionately,

*Sam*



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M. A. CONNOR, CLERK

## United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE

Sunday, May 29, 1932.

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

My dear Arch:

These have been terrible days. We started in running from eleven o'clock in the morning until ten o'clock at night continuously. The great galleries which invested the senate chamber after eight o'clock at night led some of us to believe we could accomplish more if we cut out the later hours of the night session. When these galleries are crowded, as they have been lately, the temptation is too much for the orators of our body, and they demonstrate not only their ability and their wit, but their commanding presence and pulchritude to the admiring crowd. We changed our mode of meeting, therefore, the last couple of days, so that we run from ten to 7:30 continuously. It is really awful, because one like myself, who likes to be informed and keeps on the alert, is pretty well killed by such hours, particularly in an ill ventilated and stinking chamber.

I wrote you a week ago about Jack's perturbation concerning my vote upon the Tydings amendment. I voted



Major Archibald M. Johnson - 2

just right upon this amendment, which was no test on prohibition at all, and was not recognized as such here. I voted for the Bingham amendment this week, because there was justification for it, in the tax bill, as I explained to you, although it was a perfectly useless gesture. In addition, on Monday last, I made a statement of what the senate should do. This I observe carried in the San Francisco papers. Among those things I stated the senate should do before adjournment was the resubmission of the 18th amendment. I have thus made my position clear. If anybody does not like what I do, in your picturesque language, he can do something else. I wrote Jack today that the people who complained so bitterly to him and denounced me so much, he would find in part ~~were~~ those who voted at the Republican primary blithely and cheerfully for the Hoover delegates and the anti-saloon league. He will find them as well readers of the Chronicle, which through its present manager, Chester Rowell, has now been delivered to the drys. Moreover, during the ensuing campaign they will be the people who will talk mostly at the dinner table and then forget their talk for a dry <sup>Candidah</sup> campaign.



Major Archibald M. Johnson - 3

I received a peculiar telegram from Honolulu:

"NLT HELEN JOHNSON US SENATOR  
WASHN

"THE PAUL GAGANS WILLIAM LEIBS AND CHARLES BLYTHS SEND  
CORDIAL REGARDS AND ENTHUSIASTIC APPRECIATION YOUR  
VIGOROUS STAND IN DEMANDING REPUBLICAN PARTY CEASE  
PUSSYFOOTING ON NATIONAL INTEMPERANCE AND LAWLESSNESS"

I assume this telegram must have been sent after  
my statement of Monday last. I got a kick out of the  
"HELEN JOHNSON".

I am trying to get the grandsons to come on here  
on a visit with us before we adjourn; but our ~~dates~~ <sup>dates</sup> are  
so mixed that the whole matter is uncertain at present.  
I would like if it were possible before I pass out or  
quit here, to give these lads a little knowledge of  
their capital, and the pleasure of a visit here, which  
would be, I think, both entertaining and instructive.  
When we'll adjourn is problematical. I have thought we  
would get out before the conventions. I am by no means  
certain that this will not be accomplished. My col-  
leagues generally now think, however, that we'll be here  
at least during the Republican convention. We're in  
a terrible jam, but I have seen this thing before and  
I have seen the jam with an impending political campaign  
suddenly broken. I have had the devil's own time the  
last few weeks with my teeth. The doctors told me that



it was absolutely necessary to have some of my teeth removed, because of a peculiar sort of feeling that they could diagnose in no other fashion except possible infection from infected teeth. The dentists at the Naval Hospital did what I thought was a rather remarkable job. They spent what seemed to me an interminable time, many days in fact, making what was essential for my upper front teeth in order that I would not go about with a gaping crevasse. When this contrivance had been completed, they extracted two of my front teeth, and immediately inserted their mechanical accomplishment. During the past few days I have gone about with this thing, and even though I have saved the gap, which, it was feared, would interfere with my articulation, I feel that I have a devilish vise in my mouth., It has, however, done the job, and therefore I ought not to complain. Tuesday, I go down again to have one of my big teeth extracted, and then I hope to be through. The whole thing has been more nerve racking than anything else. I have no doubt of the correctness of the decision for extraction, but I think it was dictated, as I believe most of these opinions now are dictated with doctors by the fact that they could reach no other conclusion in a diagnosis.

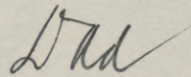


Major Archibald M. Johnson 5

Summer is here, and I rather think Mother enjoys it. She is in pretty good shape, and as usual, not at all anxious to return.

With my love to Martha and yourself, in which Mother joins,

Affectionately,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be "D. H. D." with a stylized flourish at the end.



HIRAM W. JOHNSON, CALIF., CHAIRMAN

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M. A. CONNOR, CLERK

## United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE

Sunday, May 29, 1932.

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

My dear Jack:

I am sending you herein my check on Riggs National Bank of this city for Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) to pay the expenses of the lads if they make the trip to Washington. Never did I send a check with greater pleasure. There is so much whining and crying, so many rumours abroad about banks, that I advise you immediately to cash this and put it in the old sock.

A week ago I told you that at this time I could pretty well tell you how long the session was going to last. I was over-optimistic in this statement. Yesterday afternoon merely to satisfy myself I asked numerous senators their opinion. Nearly all were agreed we would run at least through the week of the Republican Convention, that is until Saturday, June 18. If Congress adjourns during that week from the twelfth to the eighteenth, Washington will be, as it always is in adjournment time, absolutely dead, and I doubt if the visit of the boys would be half as enjoyable as under other circumstances. In addition to that, as I wrote you, within



Mr. Hiram W. Johnson, Jr. - 2

a very brief period, a very few days after adjournment, I shall want to start for California, because of the obligation that I feel to the firm of which I am an absent member. I am sending the check, however, that everything may be in readiness, and I wish it were possible for the lads to move on Washington a few days prior to the 17th. I am simply expressing a wish, you understand, and do not desire to interfere in the slightest degree with your views or arrangements. I will keep you advised of the situation, so far as the congress is concerned. We're in a jam, but I have seen these things before, and I have seen that jam quickly broken with a political campaign in prospect.

I was very glad to have your telegram saying that the statement I made had been of some value. Naturally, I felt quite wretched over the original situation, which even now I am unable wholly to comprehend. Men like Charlie McClatchy, who have pioneered the prohibition movement, have an accurate conception of the beer bill. They understand it was not a real test, that it would have been better never to have presented it, and McClatchy writes me that my vote was entirely right. The reaction that I have received in my mail, too, to what has happened is not great, but I think it safe to say, the majority of



Mr. Hiram W. Johnson, Jr. - 3

the people who have written me take me very severely to task for the expression of the views I entertain. There are some who resented my vote on the Tydings amendment, but not many. I repeat to you, I have not any idea that our community looked upon the Tydings amendment as a test of our prohibition views. I venture the assertion that you will find many of those who expressed themselves emphatically to you were voters at the Republican primary actually voting for Mr. Hoover's delegates to the national convention with Mr. Hoover up to this time an ardent dry; and others who look upon the San Francisco Chronicle, now delivered, body and soul by Chester Rowell, its manager, the high priest of the Anti-Saloon League to the dry cause, as a marvelous newspaper, whose views should be read, and digested, and accepted by them. However, abuse or criticism we need not trouble ourselves about. I made up my mind on my position a long time ago, and there was no doubt about the course I was to pursue. If I did not pursue it at the immediate time or in the particular manner these gentlemen who talk wet and vote dry desired, is, after all, of little consequence. I learned long ago one had to pursue his own course in his own fashion, and that really was the only satisfaction there was in public life.



Mr. Hiram W. Johnson, Jr. - 4

It makes no difference that you and I may disagree as to what the sentiment may be upon any particular question. I want you to know that I appreciated your telegrams nevertheless, and I would be eternally grateful if prior to the happening of any particular event which is likely to occur, and there seems to be any marked sentiment respecting it, you would wire me, or wire me in relation to any public question. I have said to you before that I have nobody at all, who keeps me in touch locally. I have, as you know, not even the semblance of an organization, nor any individual of consequence, to advise me in the slightest degree politically. I may illustrate to you the difference between Shortridge and myself by saying to you that he told me after this week's voting upon the Bingham amendment that he had been in touch with certain people in San Francisco, headed by United States District Attorney Hatfield, who is a part of the Anti-saloon League's political organization. Shortridge, however, is actually afflicted with senile dementia now, and is likely to say anything under any circumstances.

I have had the devil's own time the last few weeks with my teeth. The doctors told me that it was



Mr. Hiram W. Johnson, Jr. - 5

absolutely necessary to have some of my teeth removed, because of a peculiar sort of feeling that they could diagnose in no other fashion, except possible infection from infected teeth. The dentists at the Naval Hospital did what I thought was a rather remarkable job. They spent what seemed to me an interminable time, many days in fact, making what was essential for my upper front teeth in order that I would not go about with a gaping crevasse. When this contrivance had been completed, they extracted two of my front teeth, and immediately inserted their mechanical accomplishment. During the past few days I have gone about with this thing, and even though I have been saved the gap, which it was feared would interfere with my articulation, I feel that I have a devilish vise in my mouth. It has, however, done the job, and therefore I ought not to complain. Tuesday, I go down again to have one of my big teeth extracted, and then I hope to be through. The whole thing has been more nerve racking than anything else. I have no doubt of the correctness of the decision for extraction, but I think it was dictated, as I believe most of these opinions now are dictated with doctors by the fact that they could reach no other conclusion in a diagnosis.

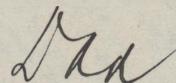


Mr. Hiram W. Johnson, Jr. 6

Yesterday we received your telegram that you had been unable to write because you had a hard week ahead of you. I hope it is a week of good business with plenty of return.

My love to all in which Mother joins,

Affectionately,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'H. W. Johnson, Jr.', written in a cursive style.