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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE

Sunday, July 3, 1932.

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

My dear Arch:

I have received no letter from you for two weeks. I have heard from you only in a wire asking about an attorney in New York. I do hope you are all right, and I do wish you would find time to send me any kind of word.

The grandchildren have been with us since a week ago last Tuesday. Mother has been on a constant round with them. Occasionally, but not very often, I have been able to go with them. I hope they are enjoying themselves.

We'll adjourn this week. I would like to go and hide for a month, before I begin active work again, but I do not feel that this is possible. It will take me a week after adjournment to clean up here, and then I shall come home the quickest possible route.

I was delighted at the outcome of the Democratic Convention. It is quite true the big interests with Smith are sour and disappointed against Roosevelt, but if he is able to conduct a campaign as he should, I think he will make vastly more gains among common people than he loses from financial crooks who have ruined everybody in this country. On the prohibition issue, the Democratic platform is unequivocal, and

Major Archibald M. Johnson -2

nobody knows what the Republican platform means. You will have the opportunity in the campaign to see the attitude of many of those whom you have heard talk loudest on this issue.

As usual I am at my office on Sunday endeavoring to do something with my personal correspondence. This session has been just terrible. Physically, I think I am probably better than when I came back, perhaps due to the immense amount of tinkering that was done with my teeth. Nervously, I am shot to pieces, and am ready to go off the handle at literally nothing. Because I feel so shattered nervously I will keep my mouth shut about the campaign until I get to California, when I may talk to you about it, and talk to you, too, about my very uncertain future.

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

Affectionately,

Ada

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

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE

M. A. CONNOR, CLERK

Sunday, July 3, 1932.

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

My dear Jack:

Just my usual Sunday note to you to tell you the boys are well, and I hope enjoying themselves. Yesterday, I took them to Annapolis, and from there to Baltimore, driving through that city, and thence home. Personally, I enjoyed the trip very much. I watch the lads very closely and I think they are in fine condition.

We'll adjourn here this week. It will take me about a week thereafter to clean up, and then we'll come home. I observe that the lads write to you regularly, and so I attempt no description of their activities.

Mother joins in love to Miss Schow and yourself.

Affectionately,

Dad

I was very glad of the Roosevelt nomination. Of course, the big interests, of whom Smith was the lickspittle spokesman are sour and sullen; but I think their loss is more than offset by just common people. However, anxious days are required for us to have any definite idea. I'm so shattered nervously that I distrust my judgment, and will probably keep my mouth shut until I can talk to you all at home, and then I'll discuss my very uncertain future. Dad.

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M. A. CONNOR, CLERK

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE

July 9, 1932.

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

My dear Arch:

I am doubtful of my ability to write you tomorrow, because I may drive out of town, and so I am sending you my regular weekly note on this Saturday. I realize how perfectly futile it is to indulge in any adimadversions upon your failure to write, but really, my dear boy, don't you think it is a little unfair that you should let your Mother and myself go three weeks without hearing from you at all? As I've repeatedly said, we don't ask long letters, but when we receive none, we become very much disturbed and worried. It was because of this that I wired you on Tuesday, and was very glad to have your brief response. I had thought by this time I would receive a letter from you, but I have none.

I have been hoping that each week would see the end of this session. The recent row over the great Relief Bill has delayed us undoubtedly for another week, and God knows how much more. I am hoping against hope now that next week will see us prepared to quit. It has

Major Archibald M. Johnson - 2

been a terrible session, so far as the grinding is concerned, and the wear and tear upon one's nervous system. I feel, notwithstanding, it is my duty to get to work as soon as I can in San Francisco, and I am extremely anxious to begin, not because I want to, but because of existing necessity.

The grandsons have been with us, as you know. They are very remarkable boys. I have been observing them quite critically, and of course, with affectionate interest. They spent a day in New York this week with Mother. We thought that inasmuch as they were here, and inasmuch as this is probably the last time we'll ever have the opportunity to have them here with us, they ought to be given the opportunity to see the greatest city in the world, even very briefly. I think they enjoyed it. The very brevity of their visit contributed to their enjoyment.

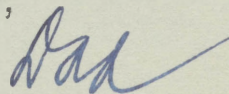
Politically, there is every evidence we're going to have a remarkable campaign. The predatory interests, the power trust, the individuals and the corporations who fatten off of government will all be with Hoover. I do not know whether the other elements of our citizenship, which greatly outnumber these will be with Roosevelt. If they are, of course he will win, and if they can not be aroused, he will lose. The prohibition issue will

Major Archibald M. Johnson - 3

present undoubtedly a perfectly sharp line between the two parties. How politically-minded the anti-prohibitionists have become remains to be seen. You know my opinion of them. I think they will talk at dinner time and in odd moments over their cocktails and their high balls against prohibition, and then vote the Republican ticket when election day comes. The Methodist Church and the remnants of the anti-saloon league will go solidly to the polls for what they regard as a principle. I have been getting a great deal of publicity in the eastern press of late, because of the kindly statement I made concerning Roosevelt's flying to the Democratic Convention and expressing himself there. There was something about that which fired my imagination, and I expressed my admiration of it. This has been taken as indicative of a bolt upon my part, and I have been roundly abused by the Hoover press. This, however, is of no account, and I can stand it with a fair degree of philosophy.

Mother joins in love to Martha and yourself.

Affectionately,



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M. A. CONNOR, CLERK

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE

July 9, 1932.

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

My dear Jack:

I am writing you this Saturday, instead of tomorrow, because I may take an excursion with the boys out of town Sunday. I think that they got a real kick out of their very brief visit to New York. The very brevity of that visit intensified their enjoyment. They had sufficient time, however, in their two days there, to get a view of the city, and to see those things most worth seeing. Both of them seem to me to be in the best of condition, and I need not tell you how much your Mother and I enjoy their presence.

I was interested in your statement that you were 100 per cent for Roosevelt. I think there is no comparison between the two men who are candidates, as men. I thought there was something fine about Roosevelt flying to the Democratic Convention, and immediately expressing his views, and I said so publicly. I have been abused like a pick pocket by the Hoover press, because of this expression, and it has been taken in most quarters as indicative of a bolt upon my part. This impression was intensified when McAdoo called upon

Mr. Hiram W. Johnson, Jr. - 2

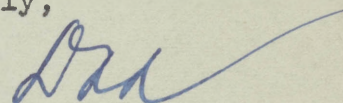
me the other day, although there was not the slightest political significance in his visit or our talk. No one, in my opinion, can at this time prophecy with any degree of certainty concerning the result in November. At Chicago, every crooked interest in the country was trying to break Roosevelt. During the campaign, the power trust, the rotten international bankers, and all of those who fatten off of government by robbery of the people will be in the Hoover campaign, and their strength, and power, and influence, can not be over-estimated. The majority of the electorate, however, are the other class of our people, and the problem will be whether they will be for Roosevelt, or luke warm in the campaign. You will find your anti-prohibition friends what I have said they were in the past, bitterly denunciatory of the 18th amendment and the prohibition laws, but with the clean cut issue presented as there is in this campaign, those who are Republicans in the main will find excuses for ~~voting~~ their party ticket. Various Republicans here repudiate the Republican prohibition plank, and various Democrats, with equal force, repudiate the Democratic prohibition plank. I have not observed one of them, however, who will leave his party because of his repudiation of this particular policy.

Mr. Hiram W. Johnson, Jr. - 3

This is a terrible session, *as* I have repeatedly said to you, ~~We~~ meet at ten in the morning. We run until six or seven at night, and sometimes even later. I am most anxious to get back to work, not that I want to work or that I feel equal to it at the present, but because of absolute, dire necessity. I am hoping that next week will see the end of this mess.

With my love, in which Mother joins,

Affectionately,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "H.W.J.", with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

an
Answer
is
expected

by the sender of this
message. Please give
it to the messenger or
telephone it to

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1932 NOV 3 PM 6 50

VA343 122 NL=NR EMPORIA KANS 3

ARCHIBALD M JOHNSON, ATTY AT LAW=

5 TH FLOOR MILLS BLDG SFRAN=

MINUTES IN TRANSIT

FULL-RATE

DAY LETTER

HAVE WIRE BRENNAN ASKING TELEGRAPHIC STATEMENT FOR TUBBS I
KNOW THE BITTERNESS EXISTING WITH REGULAR REPUBLICANS
AGAINST ME FELT IT KEENLY LOSANGELES MY ENDORSEMENT WOULD
DO HIM INCALCULABLE HARM HE MUST DEPEND UPON REGULARS FOR
SUCCESS IF ENDORSED BY ME AND DEFEATED THESE AND MEN LIKE
BRENNAN AND MOST OF HIS FRIENDS WOULD ASCRIBE DEFEAT SOLELY
TO MY ENDORSEMENT MOREOVER ALL MY INTIMATES IN PRIMARY AND
NOW IN HIS FIGHT I SINCERELY WISH HIS SUCCESS BUT I HESITATE
FOR HIM AND FOR MYSELF TO TAKE BURDEN NOW WHICH I KNOW CAN
BE OF NO AID TO HIM I AM SURE MY JUDGEMENT SOUND IN THIS
PLEASE TALK OVER WITH FRANK DOHERTY AND WIRE ME BOTH OF YOU
FRIDAY CARE IEKES CHICAGO LOVE=

HIRAM W JOHNSON. I

CLASS OF SERVICE

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Received at Main Office, 722 Market St., San Francisco, Cal. TELEPHONE SUTTER 4321 1932 NOV 5 AM 8 16

CC36 99 DL=CHICAGO ILL 5 953A

ARCHIBALD M JOHNSON=

ATTY AT LAW 5TH FLR MILLS BLDG SFRAN=

MINUTES IN TRANSIT

FULL-RATE	DAY LETTER

HAVE MOST CAREFULLY CONSIDERED TUBBS STATEMENT I AM FOR HIM
 AND HAVE SO CONTINUOUSLY ANNOUNCED TO EVERYBODY STATEMENT
 WOULD HAVE BEEN APPROPRIATE WHEN ORIGINALLY OFFERED WITH
 CHANGED CONDITIONS AND BITTERNESS NOW BY REGULARS COULD DO
 ONLY HARM AND SOME OF HIS MANAGERS KNOW THIS FULL WELL AND
 WOULD NOT OBJECT TO HAVING BOTH OF US INVOLVED AND OF COURSE
 IF STATEMENT MADE NOW HE AND HIS PEOPLE IF HE WERE DEFEATED
 WOULD ASCRIBE IT TO ME THE BIG THING IS TO HELP HIM AND THIS
 CAN ONLY HURT MY JUDGMENT IS SOUND I AM CLEAR NOTHING SHOULD
 BE DONE=

HIRAM W JOHNSON.

HIRAM W. JOHNSON, CALIF., CHAIRMAN.

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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE

November 30, 1932.

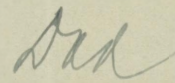
My dear Boys:

I wired you yesterday that we were all right and had arrived. I did not care to tell you by wire that Mother arrived ill. Evidently, she caught cold on the trip, and when she got home here, she had a very stiff neck, and generally, was extremely miserable. She is really no better today, and of course, I am in my usual state, because I can only treat her at long range. We have obtained some medicine from the Capitol doctor for her, but she won't permit him to come to the house. We have had Dr. Hogan telephone her, but she won't permit him to come to the house, and the little old physician we used to have, she says she won't permit to come in the front door, so I am having my usual hell of a time. If today does not find her any better, I shall get the doctor myself, go home with him, and chance the subsequent row.

We miss you all dreadfully. This session is going to be a worse mad house than a year ago.

With all my love,

Affectionately,



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

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

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE

Sunday, December 4, 1932.

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

My dear Arch:

I miss the mornings when you used to call, and we had our familiar little chat for a very brief time. I miss them too, notwithstanding we're in an atmosphere here that is a sort of whirlgig of crazy political and governmental emotions. I get as tired by the end of the day here as I did the last couple of weeks in San Francisco. I can't convince those who come to me here any more than I could those whom I saw at home that I have no patronage to distribute, and that I entered the campaign without a thought or suggestion of patronage, or even of the future politically. When I came back here, I thought I would take the offensive, so immediately I said to all of the press men who met me the afternoon of Tuesday that I would not tolerate any talk of Progressives being read out of the Republican Party, and if it continued I would read out of the Republican Party all of the old standpatters. I insisted that Roosevelt had obtained practically as many Republican votes as Hoover, and this left us in a position where we could talk, rather than the rotten old conservatives. I really thought that someone of these astute young gentlemen here, who repre-

Major Archibald M. Johnson - 2

sent the press, would get a laugh out of my attitude. I was inwardly grinning all of the time while putting a very bold face upon the situation. All of them took it seriously, however, and I have laughed my head off during the week at the articles, which have appeared in the eastern press. It never seems to have occurred to any of them that a single individual who had bolted was threatening to read out of the Republican Party the old bums who had not bolted. I have had my laugh therefore all by myself. The fact of the matter is these old Republicabs are as bitter toward Hoover as we could possible be, and from present indications, no individual in politics will be less honored after the fourth of March than the President.

Mother was very wretched when she arrived here, and had two days of extraordinary pain with a stiff neck, and evidently a sort of muscular cold. She is very much better now, and I think a day or two will find her quite herself.

We'll begin the session tomorrow, and the Lord only knows what these next three months will bring forth. Roosevelt is trying very hard to hammer out a program, but of necessity it probably will have to await his inauguration. Everybody here has been very kind to me, and except with the big interests representatives outside of the Senate my political bolt has made little difference. There is probably much more bitterness existing in California than in any other place.

Major Archibald M. Johnson - 3

I do hope you are feeling fairly well, and that things are beginning to improve with you. I can't tell you how often I think of you, and how very much you are in my thoughts, my dear boy.

Mother joins in love to Martha and yourself.

Affectionately,

Dad

HIRAM W. JOHNSON, CALIF., CHAIRMAN

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M. A. CONNOR, CLERK

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE

Sunday, December 4, 1932.

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

My dear Jack:

I thought I would have a few clear days before the session began, but the days have been quite as bad as those just before my departure from San Francisco. Everybody takes it for granted that I am going to be the distributor of patronage, in part of California at least, and try as I will, I can not get away from many of those who are seeking places, and I can not convince any of them that I have nothing whatever to do with patronage.

The old line Republicans have been knocked into a cocked hat. They have no higher opinion of Hoover than I have, and they are all agreed that after the fourth of March, even with them, he will be out of the game. He thinks otherwise, and I am convinced he believes he is so great that it will take only one Democratic term for the people with unanimity to beg and beseech him again to be President.

I have had a very good laugh since my return because of the attitude of the great part of the eastern press. Immediately upon meeting all of the press men with a perfectly set face, very emphatically I insisted that talk of reading the Progressive Republicans out of the Republican Party was all

Mr. Hiram W. Johnson, Jr. - 2

poppycock, and that the present situation was in reality the other way round; that Roosevelt had polled as many Republican votes practically as Hoover had, and if the talk of reading people out of the party did not cease, I would read out of the party all the old standpatters, who are responsible for the party's plight. I really thought that someone among the twenty odd press men who were here, would laugh, but they all took seriously what I said, wrote it down, and it was published broadcast. Of course, many of the newspapers editorially took it up, and some individuals, discussed it more or less seriously, and in some instances too, quite abusively, and in others my presumption was commented on generally. I took the attitude I did because I wanted to assume the offensive, and the only thing that made me doubtful about that attitude that that I feared it might make me ridiculous as one individual who had bolted reading out of the party all who had stood within it. The humor of the situation, however, apparently, escaped everybody but myself, and I have had to laugh all by myself ever since.

We miss you all terribly. I really think Mother gets a much greater kick out of living here than in San Francisco. She came back in wretched shape. She has gradually grown better, and while not entirely over the difficulties she contracted, I'm sure she will be soon.

The weather here since we have been back has been exactly like spring. It is really too good for this time of the year, and I have the same feeling about it that I had in

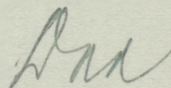
Mr. Hiram W. Johnson, Jr. - 3

San Francisco, that it is not exactly the healthiest weather for the season.

Miss Connor made inquiries about Severn School at Annapolis. I am attaching to this letter her memorandum. I think its terms and the time expected of a student to continue there put it out of consideration. Dr. Hogan tells me there is a preparatory school in San Francisco at which day attendance may accomplish the job. I think he called it the Drew School. I never heard of it, and know nothing about it.

With my love to the boys, and Miss Schow, in which Mother joins,

Affectionately,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Dad", written in dark ink.

HIRAM W. JOHNSON, CALIF., CHAIRMAN	DUNCAN U. FLETCHER, FLA.
WESLEY L. JONES, WASH.	MORRIS SHEPPARD, TEX.
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WALLACE H. WHITE, JR., ME.	

M. A. CONNOR, CLERK

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE

Sunday, December 11, 1932.

My dear Boys:

We awoke yesterday morning to find Dame Nature had powdered the face of old man Earth, and that a snow storm of no mean proportions was upon us. It continued through the day, and is more or less with us this Sunday. It is really a bigger storm than we have had here in some years past, and undoubtedly it comes to us upon the theory of compensating disadvantages, for up to this time we certainly have had very remarkable and very fine weather. I love to see a snow storm here, when the flakes are large and come lazily down. It gives one rather a gentle experience, and all the rigors of a storm are absent. This one we're having now is not of that sort. It is a real storm, so much so that I am very glad to travel in an automobile than to walk the short distance between the office and the house.

The session, so far as the Senate is concerned, is moving along in an aimless sort of fashion, perhaps due to the natural result of the confusion and the expectancy of a change of administration. Garner made his dramatic move to endeavor to pass a resolution of repeal, and just missed out. Of course, as you have observed, he lost by reason of the lame ducks, and it is an interesting thing to realize that this is

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probably the last lame duck session. Hereafter, ^{the}/Congress which is elected in November, will meet in January, and those defeated in November will then be finally out. We changed the time of inauguration of the President by this amendment, and what is more to the point and more valuable to the country, we prevent those who have been defeated from legislating for those who have defeated them, and we eliminate, too, the use of patronage in that brief period by an administration to obtain its will in defiance of what may have been determined by the people.

Your Mother has recovered from the illness which overtook her crossing the continent. I wish there was some way in which we could avoid this constant recurrence of difficulty with her in our journeys. Because of her recurrences as the result of our trips, they have become a positive nightmare to me.

Although more than a month has passed since the election, I find it extremely difficult to get down to detailed work. In addition to this, the number of callers at the office make it quite impossible for me to get at what I want to do. I don't know whether I got more tired than I realized up to the time of the election, or whether it simply is the toll of the years, but I can not quite get back yet. Probably something will occur that will arouse me, and then I will get from myself the old response.

3.

My colleagues on both sides of the Chamber have been very nice since my return. There is no difference in the attitude of the Republicans, and of course, the Democrats are more than cordial. From the White House there filters the gossip that the gentleman there is bitterly angry and indignant, and that he has expressed himself that the people made a great mistake election day, and already they repent it. It is a glorious thing to be afflicted with a megaglomania such as this. It has rather a soothing feature in enabling one to ascribe all his ills to others than himself, and to see himself only in godlike proportions. I rather think the American people took Mr. Hoover's measure the last couple of weeks of the campaign, and that he disclosed himself then as he really is, inept and untrustworthy, and without real capacity. I had a lengthy letter the other day from some intellectual in New York City, which reminded me of Hiram's fraternity. You remember, after the election, in dismissing the result, the young gentlemen there said, "All the best people were for Mr. Hoover". The intellectual from New York argued to me how reprehensible had been my conduct in the campaign, and very solemnly recalled to me that Mr. Hoover had received fifteen million votes, that these could not be disregarded, and particularly when they represented all the best people in the United States. Old Professor Howison used to impress upon us in our philosophy class that right and wrong were relative terms, and I think I can add to them, that best

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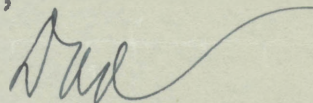
and worst are relative terms.

I have not very great pride in the speeches that I made in the campaign, but I have been not only astounded but exceedingly gratified at the number of people who have told me here they listened in in different states of the union, and who have given me unstinted praise. It really has made me feel very good to have so many nice things said about what I uttered. I don't believe it was the excellence of my speeches, but as I have said to you, it was because I was saying what so many people felt and wanted to hear said.

I am thinking of both of you a great deal. I am hoping and that is all I can do I am sorry to say, that there may come some "breaks" for you. How I would love it if I could make the "breaks."

With my love to all in which Mother joins.

Affectionately,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "H.W. Johnson", with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Dec 11, 1932
Mr. H.W.J. - 5

^{have}
I thought a great deal about Philip since
I have been here. I told him when I saw him in San Francisco
that an army or navy career did not appeal to me. Very ear-
nestly, ^{he} insisted such a career did appeal to him. What
troubles me is whether he is old enough and mature enough
to make his decision for himself. I think in the last analysis
the decision must be yours, and it is your right to make that
decision, not only in the light of your own circumstances,
but I think, too, in accord with your own personal wishes.
I think no one can do this but you, and no one ought to
attempt it but yourself.

Ad

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M. A. CONNOR, CLERK

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE

Sunday, December 18, 1932.

My dear Boys:

We have had a corking snow storm. I have experienced nothing like it in Washington since the enormous storm, which resulted in the Knickerbocker theatre disaster. Today is clear and cold, and I presume the thing is over for a while. It raised Cain with the town for a brief period. The snow was banked in our streets and about our houses, sometimes in a most beautiful fashion, and sometimes in a most disagreeable way.

Now, first as to Christmas. Of course, there are to be no gifts of any sort in any way. That I think was thoroughly understood long ago. Of course, the situation in which we find ourselves makes it necessary for us to carry out our previous resolution. Are you going to be together on Christmas Eve, which is Saturday, in the usual fashion of past years? If you are, send me a wire upon receipt of this letter, and I will make arrangements here with the telephone company to talk to you, at least to say "Hello, how are you, Merry Christmas." If you are not going to be together, would each of you, please wire me, as to your whereabouts either Christmas eve or Christmas night, and Mother and I will try to communicate with you?

2.

We're doddering along here in the congressional session, and while there is no agreement as to what shall be done, there is a feeling that little ought to be done until after the fourth of March. The Beer Bill will be before us soon, and just what will happen to it is problematical. Of course, when the House Committee kicked out of the Beer Bill the provision for wines, the wine people, while not becoming prohibitionists, became decidedly anti-beer, and in the ranks of the so-called Wets, there is quite a bit of snarling and growling now. Some kind of a resolution of repeal of the 18th amendment will be before the Senate in the next week or two, but there are so many divergent views concerning conditions that delay may result in this also.

There has been a great deal said here of late concerning the possibility of a Cabinet position being offered me. More or less, I observe, has been published in California. While no definite offer has been made, various individuals have come to me to sound me upon the proposition, and I have tried to express to them that in my opinion it is a perfectly ridiculous for one to accept a position which has not been definitely offered, and even more ridiculous to spurn a position which has not been definitely offered. I have, therefore, declined absolutely to discuss any proposition. Naturally, I have thought a great deal of the matter, because of

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some of the suggestions that have been made to me, which I think have been more or less the result of statements made by Mr. Roosevelt. I am unburdening myself to you two now, so that you may know the state of my mind if anything should finally develop. I have lived so long in absolute independence that it is a very difficult thing for me to see myself a member of any group where I would discipline myself to the views of any one, or any few men. I have never been able to do this unless my judgment were convinced and unless I really believed in any suggested policy. A lifetime of this sort with all its ups and downs, with its petty disappointments, and its petty victories, make me believe that I would be very unhappy following any other course, and that if I were in a Cabinet it would not be very long before I would feel myself pursuing some course governmentally which was obnoxious to me, and this would have to be what I would have to do in a cabinet if my views ran counter to those of the commander-in-chief. I grant that this sort of view sets me quite apart from my fellows, and that it is utterly at variance with the conventional view. I have never been able to take my politics or my governmental policies from others. And this is why, perhaps I have been in rebellion and opposition so much. Conceding, as I do, that from a party standpoint this is perfectly ridiculous,

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and that from a governmental standpoint it can not be tolerated, if one is a part of the predominant power in government, nevertheless, I know myself well enough to know I could not change, and really, my dear boys, at my time of life with the very brief period that yet remains for me, I would not want to change. I do not think therefore that there would be any real charm for me in any Cabinet position, nor do I believe that such small ability as I may have, could be best thus employed. Real thought and careful consideration if the opportunity presents itself that I am told ^{well,} may perhaps change this attitude, but I am very doubtful about it. I realize that this puts the old man in a class by himself that may be justly criticized, and that logically demonstrates he ought not to be in politics at all, but singular thoughts come to one with age, and I am rather inclined to think I prefer to end my political life, as I began it. I believe, no matter what may come to me politically I will live more happily and certainly die more content with myself. Of course, there are other circumstances, too, that ought to be taken into ^{ac-}count; the difficulties of remaining here after bolting the head of the ticket, and on the other hand that I do not care to become a Democrat, for I have as little sympathy with the leaders of the Democratic Party as with those of the Republican Party. To continue as a United States Senator as a sort of lone wolf seems almost impossible, but I made my bed in the last campaign with

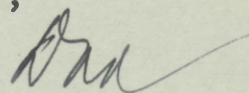
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full knowledge of what was in store for me, and accordingly I view the future with some degree of equanimity.

Mother seems in fairly good shape again, and really, it is quite interesting to me to observe how she enjoys the life here. She gets a real kick out of Washington and even out of the little we go about.

With my love to all,

Affectionately,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'H. W. Johnson', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

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

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE

December 26, 1932.

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

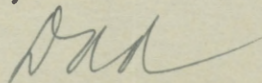
My dear Arch:

Your Mother and I conceived the idea last night that something was wrong, and our endeavor was not as successful as in past years. Would you write me, please, whether Jack was sick, or whether anything was the matter with him.

This is probably the last time that we'll be telephoning Christmas Eve because of the ratification of the Lame Duck Amendment. Hereafter the Congressional session will begin early in January so that Christmas may be spent at home. In addition to this, I will probably have only one more Christmas as United States Senator anyway.

I was mighty glad to hear your voice last night and to hear the tone of it. I rather think we'll all have to begin life over again, and I haven't any fears of starting at the bottom rung again..

Affectionately,



HIRAM W. JOHNSON, CALIF., CHAIRMAN

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M. A. CONNOR, CLERK

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE

December 28, 1932.

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

My dear Jack:

I haven't been worth much since Christmas, and indeed the feeling of lassitude that has been with me ever since my return still persists. It was good to hear your voice Christmas night, but both Mother and I imagined you were ill and were hardly reassured by what you said. I do hope you are all right.

As I survey the whole situation I think that you and Frere reached the appropriate decision about his future. While there is a glamour and a charm about attendance at the Naval Academy, and while I know I would be very proud of him there, if he must hereafter make his way in the world, I think to that end his education now should be directed. It is difficult for me to imagine him, for a lifetime in the Navy. I could see him for six or eight years with all the enthusiasm of youth, and I could enjoy with him his activities; but looking far into the future, with life's rugged path to be followed, now is undoubtedly the time for preparation. If you and he change your minds before the fourteenth of January send

Mr. Hiram W. Johnson, Jr. - 2

me a wire, so that I may notify those who take the examination that but one place is open.

By the time this note reaches you, you, doubtless will have finished the River Gardens Farm case. I gathered from the sentence or two that you spoke over the 'phone that you had made a good showing, but you felt that Theodore was so engaged with so many matters you were not entirely satisfied. I am simply pulling and praying for you.

There is a feeling of impatience and unrest in the Congress, but a feeling, too, of restraint, and the constant holding back until after the fourth of March. What is in store for us then no one knows. We're beginning to get most lugubrious reports of conditions in the country, and no one knows what is best to be done. The fear that possesses some of us now is that with the desire to do something, the congress may burst through all bounds.

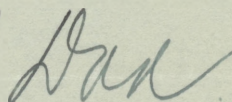
I received a fine letter from Hiram, and received also one from Philip. I hope to answer both within a few days. The boys write letters that would do credit to men of age and experience. We love to have these communications from them, and both Mother and I very eagerly read them.

Mr. Hiram W. Johnson, Jr. - 3

Mother, I am glad to say, seems in good health,
and aside from my utter laziness, I feel in good shape
myself.

With our love to all,

Affectionately,

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