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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON NAVAL AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON, D. C.

ED AHEARN, CLERK

May 2, 1935.

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

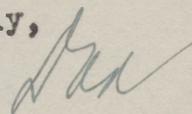
My dear Jack:

I have been trying to ascertain something about the California Debris Commission, and the appointment of attorney as you suggested in your recent letter. I have not succeeded in getting the sort of information that I desired. Colonel T.H. Jackson is in charge in San Francisco, and Captain Drinkwater in charge at Sacramento. I am advised that the Commission has some law clerks in their employment now, and that they may employ part-time attorneys. The attorneys, it is stated to me, would be appointed by Colonel Jackson, subject to the approval of General Markham, Chief of Engineers, War Department, Washington, D.C. I want to be perfectly certain of this information first and then see if we can not go to work in the line that you have suggested. Will you please, through Bill Dwyer or Senator Rich, or some other individual interested in the work of the Commission, have the requisite inquiries made to ascertain the exact procedure of appointment. Particularly, I want to know whether Jackson or Drinkwater, in the first instance, will have the right of appointment. Of course, if they have, it

Mr. Hiram W. Johnson, Jr. - 2

It would be necessary to get immediately their recommendations. Since I tried to appoint Bill to a position within the jurisdiction of the army, and had something of a run-in with the Secretary of War Dern, I have not been highly regarded in the War Department, and that is why I am rather careful in making inquiries there. I am writing you thus very inadequately and indefinitely merely that you may know I have the matter in mind and will continue until we learn exactly what to do and how to do it.

Affectionately,



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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON NAVAL AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON, D. C.

ED AHEARN, CLERK

Sunday, May 5, 1935.

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

My dear Jack:

We are embarking upon a financial outlay which staggers even one as improvident and as imprudent as I am. Before us is the Bonus Bill, which means an expenditure of \$2,600,000,000.; following it will be the Bankhead Bill, which means an expenditure of \$1,500,000,000; and following that will be the Frazier-Lempke Bill, which will take about two and one-half billions. We have just passed the big Relief Bill for \$5,000,000,000. Here within a brief period will be \$10,000,000,000, which some day, somehow must be paid. In the language of the newspapers of today, it leaves me jittery, and using George ~~de~~ Morse's old expression, "it gives me the Willies". All of these expenditures are of course outside of the usual expenses of government; and there are any number of other things that have many advocates, which may be adopted. The President did the country a great dis-service when he ceased his opposition to the Bonus. His advocacy of such enormous sums to be immediately appropriated but to extend over a couple of years, and now his yielding to the bonus appropriation have broken most of the

Mr. Hiram W. Johnson, Jr. - 2

barriers, and it is not difficult for our legislators to embrace any new, dazzling expedient of tremendous and unheard of cost.

I have been waiting to hear from Philip about Annapolis. I presume his examinations have precluded him from writing. If I do not hear from him during this week, I will take it for granted that he is not interested.

Somebody like Bill Dwyer must know Captain Drinkwater in Sacramento. Can you ask Bill to go to Drinkwater and talk to him frankly on the attorneyship proposition. You are at liberty to say that I ask him to do so, and if you prefer not to talk to Dwyer yourself, let me know and I will write him. The matter must come from that end, in the first instance. I presume that Jackson is over Drinkwater, and Drinkwater would probably have to report to Jackson, and Jackson then here.

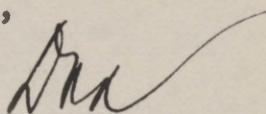
We had a couple of decent, warm days, then it began to rain and is raining, intermittently, since, and the thermometer has gone way down again. This is the rottenest, meanest, most devilish, and most trying climate that there is on the face of the earth. I just kept my head above water the last few days, but I am glad to say to you that this, Sunday,

Mr. Hiram W. Johnson, Jr. - 3

after doping myself with amytol last night I am feeling pretty good. The San Francisco delegation is back here on the Hetch-Hetchy matter, and must appear before Ickes tomorrow morning in defense of their contract. I am very seriously concerned about the matter. I will not, however, go to make an argument before Ickes. If necessary, after they are all through, I will file a brief expressing my views.

Mother joins in love to the boys, Miss Schow,
and yourself,

Affectionately,

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

PARK TRAMMELL, FLA., CHAIRMAN

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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON NAVAL AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON, D. C.

ED AHEARN, CLERK

May 9, 1935.

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

My dear Jack:

I am sending you this brief memorandum, in case of anything happening to me. The mutability of human affairs has been brought home very closely to me in the death of Senator Cutting, and in one or two little incidents that recently have happened to me. I know that it is unnecessary for me to say anything to you about Mother. I know of course, in your affection, you will do everything that may be essential for her, if it becomes necessary.

This is a pitiful sort of statement to be left by me after a quarter of a century of official service but for your information hereafter it ought to be made.

(1) Mother has, as you know, a lot on Vallejo Street, mortgaged for \$5,000. If there is ever a recovery it might have a value of a few thousand dollars in excess of the mortgage.

(2) The lease upon our home at 857 Green Street, as you know, has expired. There is a great deal of personal property in the house, but now because of age and depreciation, I do not imagine it would amount to a great deal.

Mr. Hiram W. Johnson, Jr. - 2

(3) There is some personal property on storage at Bekins.

(4) In Mother's name is an undivided half interest in what we term the REDONDO acreage in the County of Los Angeles, which, if there is ever a recovery, is a valuable asset. There exists today upon it a trust deed of \$15,000 payable formerly to the Pacific Mutual Life Insurance Company, but which has been purchased by Louis Myers of the firm of O'Melveny, Myers and Tullar, and Louis Lissner. These two are co-owners in the property. It is the irony of fate that these two men are now trying to swindle us out of our property because of their riches and our lack. When Louis Myers was out at the heel I broke with Edwin T. Earle and his cohorts and appointed him on the bench, and started him on his way again; and when Louis Lissner was just starting life I made him an assistant United States district attorney in Los Angeles in opposition to everybody interested there. Both of them now are rich and they would like to steal Mother's interest in the Redono property. They have been unable to do so because I have never defaulted in our one-half of the taxes, interest, etc. levied against the property and have promptly met every payment due from us for our share. They will, however, doubtless persist in their efforts. I have asked of them a "give or take proposition" inasmuch as they would like to

acquire the property for themselves; or if they wouldn't do this, then an amicable partition, which could very readily be made, each assuming his portion of the indebtedness. They have declined to do anything. This property at a low estimate, before the depression occurred was worth over \$50,000; indeed estimates were then made of \$1500 per acre, which would give \$75,000 as the value to the property. Naturally, nothing can, at the moment, be done with it, but these two rogues, Myers and Lissner, knowing the possibilities, in the event of recovery, want to obtain the full title.

(5) Under the rules of the Senate if anything should occur to me, your Mother is entitled to one year's salary, \$10,000.

(6) I have an insurance policy with the Pacific Mutual Life Insurance Company for \$15,000, straight life policy, upon which I have borrowed \$4500, the interest on the loan and premiums being paid to date.

(7) Our home here at 122 Maryland Avenue, Northeast, is upon two lots, the exact designation of which Miss Connor can give you. We paid for this property \$40,000 and we broke ourselves in reconstructing the interior of the home and much of the exterior, expending in addition to the original purchase price about \$25,000. There is a trust deed upon the property, the full details of which Miss Connor can give you. It was for \$25,000 and at one time I paid \$2250 upon the indebtedness. The interest is payable at 6 per cent, and the interest is paid in full to date. The property ultimately will be valuable. We purchased the property in 1928 at the height of the boom times, but if normal times ever return there ought to be an equity in this property of a very substantial sum; and

Mr. Hiram W. Johnson, Jr. - 4

its locality should make it readily rentable at a fair sum, too. There is a great deal of personal property and furniture in the house. Much of it is of real value which could not be duplicated for a very considerable sum, and I think it has not depreciated as ordinarily personal property depreciates.

(8) I say nothing of the firm with which I am connected because I am probably overdrawn to date upon my interest therein, which is one-sixth. My regret is that I have never been able to do my part in connection with that firm. Uncle Matt and Theodore have treated me with the utmost generosity.

(9) There are a lot of little things in the office which have not much intrinsic value. Some of the photographs in the years to come will have, I think, quite a historical interest. If it were possible I would like my grandsons to preserve them.

(10) Home Owners Loan Corporation bonds in my safe deposit box, \$10,000.

I am sending this memorandum with a very brief will enclosed, merely that you may utilize it in case anything happens to me. There is just one word I would add, a word, I know is unnecessary, my dear boy, but it is my hope which you will always justify, that your Mother may ever have your loving thought and care.

Affectionately, your father,
Hiram W. Johnson

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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON NAVAL AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON, D. C.

ED AHEARN, CLERK

May 13, 1935.

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

My dear Jack:

This, Sunday, I have just received yours of May 10th. I do hope that you will be able to maintain your position on the taxes, and that your long task at Sacramento will be successfully closed.

We were shocked more deeply than I could describe by Cutting's death. There were some things about the accident that will bear investigation, but what affected us most was upon a contest, conceived in malice and ill-will by the administration here, without legitimate foundation and devoid of merit, he had gone to New Mexico to collect his evidence, and was returning to take part in the Bonus fight here. What makes it even worse from the sentimental standpoint is that the poor, little tool, really a rat of a man, who was used as the contestant against him by the "big ones" here, receives the appointment. His mother, who is a very remarkable woman, eighty years of age, centered her whole life in his. She had lost husband, and her other son, and now the remaining lad, upon whom all her

Mr. Hiram W. Johnson, Jr. - 2

hopes and life centered. We had become very well acquainted with her, as well as with Bronson, and some of the days this past week have been heart-rending.

I voted against the Bonus because with the amount of appropriations we have made, necessary for recovery and rehabilitation, and with those confronting us, I feared for the future financial stability of the Republic. We could, of course, I think have weathered the storm, but with practically \$5,000,000,000.00 just voted; with the veterans' bonus, not due until 1945, \$2,600,000,000.00; the Bankhead share-cropper bill, \$1,500,000,000; the Frazier-Lemke Bill, \$2,500,000,000.00; and other possible appropriations of quite a great extent, you'll see the enormous sum of debt we will have created within a very few weeks, and without provision for payment. Of course, the Patman Bill, too, is purely an inflationary measure, and I am fearful of embarking upon that scheme. We could stand it men like McAdoo say, who pledged himself to the Bonus during his campaign, as well as everything else he thought would get him a vote, because it is such a little inflation. That might be entirely true, but it is a start upon the road. I remember well, too, the fight upon the Bonus, and originally I was for the recognition of our veterans in that regard, and their ac-

Mr. Hiram W. Johnson, Jr. - 3 A

acceptance of the insurance certificates, which were given them, as a final and conclusive agreement. I remember also when we had ten thousand poor bonus marchers here in Washington, and when they besieged the Senate Chamber one night during one of the most dramatic sessions we ever had, we stood firmly against the payment of the Bonus then, because of the agreement that had been made, because payment was not due, and because we did not want to enter upon an inflationary period, and I was one of those who resisted, although it hurt like the dickens to do it, the appeals and importunities of those poor veterans who were here. I could not see any reason for changing this year, and I am taking a "lacing" accordingly. This is perfectly natural when one does not do what a part of his constituents insist he should do, and while I don't like it, I have been here long enough to feel that I ought to do exactly what I think I should do, and if I do not have the "guts" to take the consequences, I better get out; so in fairly good temper, I am taking the consequences.

I have been so wretched all week that I have done little. I will endeavor during the week to get some information concerning the attorneyship you mention. It is a bad group to invade here, and that was the reason I thought it might be taken up through the California end. I will try to do something, how-

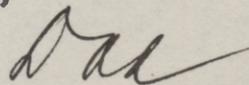
Mr. Hiram W. Johnson, Jr. - 4

ever from this end, too. Of course, Senator Rich could show my letter in any way he saw fit, and I'll write him any kind of a one you think might be of value, if you have any suggestions in that line.

I received Philip's wire. Perhaps he decided wisely. At any rate, he ought to be old enough to make a decision for himself, and whatever he decided, was satisfactory to me.

Mother joins in love to you, the boys, and Miss Schow,

Affectionately,



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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON NAVAL AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON, D. C.

ED AHEARN, CLERK

Sunday, May 26, 1935.

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

My dear Jack:

I think we'll be out of here about the first of July. I have been saying this for a long time, but it has been vigorously denied by those who imagined we'd be here indefinitely. It is among the possibilities we may get into a snarl within the next four weeks that will keep us here indefinitely, but I really believe we'll get away before the great national holiday.

Of course, the excitement here during the past week has been over the Bonus. There is a good deal of bitter feeling for those who sustained the veto, and quite a bit of hostility toward the President. He made the colossal blunder of presenting the Harrison compromise to the Senate when the contest was at its height, and while men like myself, who do as we please, were not affected by what he did, some much weaker individuals, were bitter that suddenly he cut the ground from under their feet. Of course, he now claims that he never did anything of the sort, and that he never agreed to the Harrison Bill, but I haven't any doubt at all that he

Mr. Hiram W. Johnson, Jr. - 2

did, and it is the incident of the whole struggle which left a very bad taste in my mouth.

I haven't done anything in regard to the attorneyship, except to make some inquiries, which would indicate that there is little or no thought of employing attorneys, as you have suggested. Don't take this, however, as final at all, because I have not had the opportunity to do what I wish in regard to the matter. It seems to be the general view that Ickes will be the maker of jobs, and probably employer. I simply cannot go to Ickes, although I imagine that he would receive me with open arms; but my differences with him the last summer make it almost impossible for me to ask anything from him.

Yesterday and today we have had spring. We have had none in reality heretofore, and I think we'll have none in the future. I expect within the next week summer will burst upon us, and because of the harshness of the winter, I think it will be miserably severe. The thoughts of the legislators will turn to shady nooks and comfortable homes far away, and we'll then do things much more quickly than have been contemplated.

Friday night Bert Meek blew in with Mrs. Meek, and was with us from ten to eleven when they had to catch a train back to New York. They gave us no warning, and we had not the

Mr. Hiram W. Johnson, Jr. - 3

slightest idea they were in town until our return from seeing old Mrs. Cutting when we received their telephonic message. The most interesting news that Bert gave me was that the political fight in 1936 in California will be **between** Hoover and Merriam for the Republican delegation to the National Convention. In a sort of sketchy way I gather something of what is being done at Sacramento by Merriam for our "best people".

Kyle Palmer blew in on me last week. He told me he ^{now} ~~sat~~ at the elbow of Merriam and had left the Los Angeles Times. He had come back here with a bill that was to be introduced in the legislature concerning those who were likely to become public charges upon the State. He desired my opinion upon the Bill, and whether or not it would interfere with Federal Relief to the State. I wired him subsequently that I utterly disapproved the bill, and that all of those with whom I had talked here considered it a horrible enactment. I did not of course say that the Federal Government would refuse ^(it probably would not) Federal Relief because of the enactment of the bill by the State. I wired him, however, upon this point merely that I did not know what the attitude of the Federal Government would be in that respect. I gather from what I have seen in the Examiner that

Mr. Hiram W. Johnson, Jr. - 4

that the bill has been introduced and is going over with a "whoop". It is rather immaterial to me, but it is what would be expected of Walter Tuller and the Los Angeles Times, and if you will read the Bill you will see that it is a delegation of power which ought not to be accorded to any Governor, and yet here there have been some cases, notably the Passenger case, long ago decided by the Supreme Court, which seemed to support it. I have not desired to enter into the controversy, if one arises, because it is impossible to know, so far away, exactly what is happening, but I have not any hesitancy in saying to you that I consider the bill little short of infamous.

Mother joins me in love to the boys, Miss Schow, and yourself,

Affectionately,

Dad

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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON NAVAL AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON, D. C.

ED AHEARN, CLERK

Sunday, June 2, 1935.

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

My dear Jack:

A week ago when I was writing you, I was rather counting the days until we could return, and I felt an abiding certainty then that we would be home by the first of July. I am by no means certain now. The decision last Monday in the N. R.A. case was an absolute knock-out to the administration. Apparently, those in command had given little or no thought to the possibility of a decision, which would upset the entire industrial recovery organization. The administration had scraped through with a Minnesota Moratorium decision, which seemed to liken the Constitution to a living, breathing, sentient thing that of necessity kept pace with human progress, and the President had just got by with a Gold decision which actually eliminated the solemn promises of the government. There was something of a jolt in the 5 - 4 case of the Railroad Pension Bill, but this had not been really an administration bill. It represented the wishes of the railway workers and they had driven it through

Mr. Hiram W. Johnson, Jr. - 2

Congress, so little thought was wasted by the breezy birds who run the game here now upon just railroad men. They had chosen, too, for the test of the N.R.A. a "sick chicken" case, as Hugh Johnson calls it, involving three or four "kikes" in New York City. It was a terrible wallop, and it is made worse by the fact that a lot of the men around the President are as gleeful as the standpat Republicans.

I don't know just how much it will affect Roosevelt's prestige, or whether it will affect it in the long run at all. At present, however, every rat seems to have come out of his hole and is making faces at the White House. None of them would have dared up to this time to have more than snarled a little in the dark. They are all in the open now, and the worst of it is that with the people about him, and his mode of doing things Roosevelt has given them some cause for their attitude, and has provided, himself, the ammunition used against him. Literally, he does not know which way to turn. He has held himself in good check, and notwithstanding some of the eastern papers assail what he said the other day in his long talk with the newspaper men, I think he has done well in the most trying circumstances. If he demands a new N.R.A., or if he follows the long, torturous course of endeavoring to amend the Constitution, we'll be here a consid-

Mr. Hiram W. Johnson, Jr. - 3

erable period of time beyond July first. The atmosphere may clear during the next week, and we'll be able to tell then what is likely to happen; but with the smashing blow that has come to him, either course that he pursues will find much stiffer opposition that has heretofore existed, and consequently a much longer time in development. Nobody is talking anything else here than the Supreme Court decision and the death of the Blue Eagle. What a commentary upon our intelligence (and this I've said in the very beginning) when we must be driven into a policy by signs and symbols and the beating of toms toms, and our screeching that "We do our part" and with tattooing/our anatomy, and with putting eagles on our windshields and in our windows! What a strange thing it is, too, that a clause of the Constitution written in 1780's when the Constitution was first conceived, relating to interstate commerce as then known, and never altered since, is the thing that trips what Roosevelt thought to be a great and necessary policy! And how stranger still is it that a modern, ^{ive} progress-, sensible, presumably intelligent government, rests in its final analysis for the determination of social questions and the policies to be pursued

Mr. Hiram W. Johnson, Jr. - 4

for humanity upon the veto power of nine old men, who, just as much as the movie star in Hollywood, dramatize themselves for their big day! Well, the whole world is cock-eyed, and this country is double cock-eyed.

In a letter of yours recently you referred to a communication from Harold F. Brown, General Manager of the Consolidated Airlines, operating from the Alameda Municipal Airport, in which he stated that the Pan American Airways wanted the company to move off the municipally owned airport and operate from the Bay Air Drome. I wrote you on the 21st that I had taken the matter up with John S. Wynne, Chief of the Airport, Marking and Mapping Section, Department of Commerce, and under date of May 31st, he sent me the enclosed letter, which I think is self-explanatory. I think that if you care to take the matter up with Doolin, he could give you any information you wish. I have found him very courteous and anxious to furnish any information upon any subject that he can.

I gather from your local papers that your legislature is in something of a jam, and the date of its adjournment is quite as uncertain as the date of ours. I hope you are wholly finished with your work, and that everything

Mr. Hiram W. Johnson, Jr. - 5

has come out satisfactorily for you.

The judgeship appointment has taken a strange turn here. Clarence Lea, as you know, is the dean of the California delegation, and he stands high in the Democratic Party. He undertook the fight in his own behalf for himself. Of course, he had the backing of some nationally-known Democrats here, and of his own particular territory, lawyers, judges, etc. In my opinion, he is going to be named. I saw a note in last night's NEWS that Marcel Cerf had been stricken at his hotel here and was in a very critical condition. The item said that he was about to be appointed judge, but I happen to know that this is not correct, and that before he was stricken, the Attorney General, and I think the President as well, had made up their minds to appoint Lea, although the appointment has not been announced. I was very sorry to read this story of Cerf's sickness.

I received a letter from Philip indicating he did not want, at least for the present, the appointment at West Point, and, as you know, he has already declined the one to Annapolis.

Mother joins in love to the boys, Miss Schow, and yourself,

Affectionately,

dad

PARK TRAMMELL, FLA., CHAIRMAN
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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON NAVAL AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON, D. C.

ED AHEARN, CLERK

June 7, 1935.

Mr. Hiram W. Johnson, Jr.,
973 Green Street,
San Francisco, California.

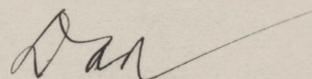
My dear Jack:

I wired you last night as I did suggesting that nothing be done in the direction you indicated in your telegram until you received this note. Very hastily, I am writing you now.

Clarence Lea is a candidate for appointment of Federal Judge in San Francisco. He has received the endorsement of the Attorney General and his name has gone from the Attorney General to the President for appointment. Of course I have done nothing against Lea but I have continued my advocacy of the two names I have presented. No longer ago than Tuesday I interviewed the President on the subject and the appointment is now resting in his hands. Under these circumstances, I felt that any activities in my behalf or yours requested of Lea would not be particularly effective and might be misunderstood.

So far as Englebright is concerned, I do not think he could have been of much service in any event.

Very hastily and affectionately,



PARK TRAMMELL, FLA., CHAIRMAN
DAVID I. WALSH, MASS. FREDERICK HALE, IOWA
MILLARD E. TYDINGS, MD. JESSE H. METCALF, R. I.
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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON NAVAL AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON, D. C.

ED AHEARN, CLERK

Sunday, June 16, 1935.

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

My dear Jack:

We're in the midst now of one of the beastly summers which characterize this place. I knew it was going to come on soon and I realized, because of the very peculiar winter and spring, it would give us a terrible wallop, and it has done so. The only thing that makes life bearable at the Capitol is the cooling system in the Senate and House Chambers. This does not apply, however to offices, so this, Sunday, I am sitting here without collar or tie, coat or vest. The fierceness of the heat probably will have the effect of cutting short debate, and general activities, and enable us to get out of here sooner than the recent chaos would have permitted. Originally, I said to you I thought we would get out of here about the first of July. Had there been no mishaps, I think we would have done so. I revise my judgment now by saying the 15th of July, although many of my colleagues insist it will be a way long in August before we can leave.

Mr. Hiram W. Johnson, Jr. - 2

We're looking forward to the coming of Hiram. He wrote us with that peculiar care, which I so admire in him, that he was leaving last Monday night by bus for Detroit, where he expected to arrive Friday night. Mother, from Friday until now, Sunday afternoon, has been anxiously awaiting word from him, and got so fidgety over the matter that this morning, I think she wired you. I presume the lad will be here sometime during this week. I shall be very, very happy to see him. I was sorry his brother did not come with him, but I can understand some of the reasons which may have actuated the younger boy.

I received your note from Sacramento showing the vote in the Senate on the "Soak-the-Poor" Bill of Mr. Tuller, knocking it into a cocked hat. I think Olson did a mighty good job. If the bill was in the form that was shown me, it was an infamous measure. I rather gathered, however, that there were some rather important amendments inserted in the Assembly, but even with qualifying amendments, the bill was one which no man, in my opinion, with statesmanlike vision, could sanction.

The Rivers and Harbors Bill ought to be reported this week. I presented appropriate amendments for various things in California, including the work upon the Sacramento

Mr. Hiram W. Johnson, Jr. - 3

River. As soon as the bill is reported I will write you, and send you copy.

I gathered from the press the legislature would probably adjourn last night. I hope for your sake this is so, and that the session has found you successful in what you were undertaking. You never have told me, and I have hesitated to ask you, because I thought you would tell me if you desired, what became of the Sausalito Project. I would like to know before I leave Washington for various personal reasons. Would you, if you feel that you could, write me whether it has been abandoned.

We had a wretched exhibition here recently of the crazy man from Louisiana trying to run a one-man filibuster. There neither was object, nor point, nor reason for the filibuster. Nobody knows what he was trying to do, and he does not know himself. It happened to be the week when the Shriners were meeting here, and the galleries were jammed, and in the view of all of us, he was simply putting on a show for their benefit. He failed miserably of course. Exhausted nature made him quit about four o'clock in the morning, and an angry quorum of the Senate sat all night until his physical endurance was at an end; and then from four to six went on with its work and did what had been in-

Mr. Hiram W. Johnson, Jr. - 4

tended, and what it was absolutely certain would have been done under any circumstances. I was so disgusted with the situation and so certain of the result that I went home in the evening as usual and did not attempt to sit here all night long. There is such a peculiar psychology in the country at present that perhaps Long created some sympathy for himself, but no man with an ounce of brains would do otherwise than resent what he did, and realize its perfect idiocy.

The atmosphere here is surcharged with rumors, and counter-rumors. Among many of the Democrats there is a feeling of hostility and bitterness towards the Administration. Among many others there has been gradually occurring a feeling of uncertainty of his certainty. He is still, in my opinion, fundamentally right upon great national policies, but not entirely clear often in his mode of execution.

Mother joins in love to all,

Affectionately,

Dad

PARK TRAMMELL, FLA., CHAIRMAN

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COMMITTEE ON NAVAL AFFAIRS

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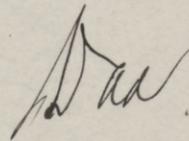
June 19, 1935.

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

My dear Jack:

Herein I hand you copy of the Rivers and Harbors Bill as it has been reported out of the Commerce Committee and is upon the Senate Calendar. You will observe on page twenty-eight I had inserted the items for the Sacramento River (debris control). I will of course endeavor to keep this item retained in the bill as it is finally enacted into law.

Affectionately,



PARK TRAMMELL, FLA., CHAIRMAN
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ELLISON D. SMITH, S. C.
GEORGE MCGILL, KANS.
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FREDERICK [REDACTED], MAINE
JESSE H. METCALF, R. I.
JAMES J. DAVIS, PA.
HENRY W. KEYES, N. H.
HIRAM JOHNSON, CALIF.

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON NAVAL AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON, D. C.

ED AHEARN, CLERK

June 24, 1935.

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

My dear Jack:

The event of the past week was the arrival of the boys. Of course, we were more than delighted to see Hiram, and welcomed, as well, his friend. I think they have had a good time. We certainly have enjoyed them. Yesterday, I did not write you because with Phil Swing we went on a little excursion to a rather beautiful country resort called RUGBY HALL seven miles or so on the other side of Annapolis. We had luncheon or dinner there, sat around the grounds during the afternoon, and for one, I enjoyed the day. It happened to be a good day, and was the first Sunday that I had not spent some hours in the office.

I was delighted to learn from your letter, and to observe from it that you were entirely successful at Sacramento. After the discomfort you suffered, the result must have consoled you.

I had Miss Connor send you yesterday the detail of the proposed improvement of the Sacramento River, which is

Mr. Hiram W. Johnson, Jr. - 2

embodied in the Rivers and Harbors Bill. This Bill ought to be passed within the next couple of weeks, although there is no telling what will happen here. Of course, the important thing in the Rivers and Harbors Bill will be to get the money to carry out the projects. The Department here expects, I think, to obtain the money from the very large relief fund, but nobody knows yet whether this expectation will be realized.

I am having the devil's own time with the Central Valley Project, hampered by certain gentlemen who are here in its interest, and whom, I suspect, of receiving, as my father would designate it "fair ^{to} ~~and~~ ^a midling" compensation. The President's rule, if he sticks to ~~it~~ rigidly, will leave us out in the cold, but I am hoping we may be able to devise some make-shift, or breakdown the perfectly idiotic, inflexible arithmetical computation which the President has set up.

I ~~do~~ sooner dispose of one California matter than two replace it. Suddenly into me last week came the asparagus men from the territory in which I have an affectionate interest, the pear men, olive growers, and others, all interested in the A.A.A.

Our Los Angeles brethren with the Metropolitan Water District had a very severe knock in the Supreme Court decision,

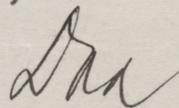
Mr. Hiram W. Johnson, Jr. - 3

United States versus Arizona. I remedied the decision by an Act I passed in the Senate. The twenty California Congressmen have been unable to do anything in the House. They are supposed to get somewhere today. All of these things, and the innumerable others are of course of extraordinary interest to our state and the different localities there, and naturally one wants to aid as best he can with them, but of themselves they are pretty uninteresting, and they grow mighty irksome, and leave me no opportunity to do the things I wouldlike to do.

I hope you are enjoying the boat upon the Sacramento River, and that all is well with you.

Mother joins in love to Philip, Miss Schow, and yourself,

Affectionately,



PARK TRAMMELL, FLA., CHAIRMAN

DAVID I. WALSH, MASS. FREDERICK HALE, MAINE
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PETER G. GERRY, R. I.

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON NAVAL AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON, D. C.

ED AHEARN, CLERK

June 29, 1935. Saturday.

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

My dear Jack:

I can't tell you the pleasure it has been to have the boys with us, nor how much Mother and I have enjoyed them. Even since I last saw Hiram, he has developed, in my opinion, both physically and otherwise. I think he has become one of the finest youngsters I have ever seen, and you can well be proud of him, as I am proud that he is my grandson. The boys are not sightseers, but I think they have measurably enjoyed their trip. They went on one little excursion to the Luray caverns, eighty miles or thereabouts from here, and both expressed themselves as delighted with what they saw. As I wrote you, we took them with Phil Swing last Sunday on an excursion, and because the day was so glorious, and the surroundings so pleasant, we certainly enjoyed it, and I think they did. This week, the weather has been simply terrible. By noon time, after meeting a mass of people here from California, I become quite exhausted, and I long for the ozone of San Francisco. When we'll be able to leave has become more and more problematical. I have an abiding confidence, however, that the hastening and chastening element in our work will be

this dreadful Washington summer, and I will be very much surprised if we're not out of here with reasonable celerity.

However, I know from past experiences what a tax bill means, and if there is any considerable fight over the President's views in that regard, the adjournment may be prolonged.

The President really kicked his foot in the mode with which he went at his tax bill. His philosophy aroused no such opposition as the endeavor to bludgeon it through in two or three days without either preparation, or study, or knowledge of detail. Since Roosevelt has been in office he has had no such berating from the press, and this not only from the Hearst press, and the Republican standpat newspapers, all of whom are arrayed against him on anything, but he has had it as well from his own newspaper friends. He has increased in the minds of many people, like myself, friendly to him, the feeling of uncertainty concerning him, and some think that his love of the dramatic has overcome his sense of proportion and his ideas of policies. If there were such a thing as the Republican Party, and if there were anybody in it that was not a cold, clammy, and disagreeable corpse, who might have just a little popular appeal as a candidate, he would be in for a merry time next year; but his safety lies in the fact that the Republican Party is shot to pieces, and has no

candidate worthy of the name. Now, if we only had a Merriam known outside of California, who had the marvelous appeal to all our "best people" as Merriam has in our State, we could look forward to a real battle in '36.

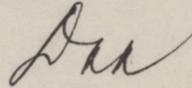
There is no rest for the weary here, and no surcease for a Californian who wants to do his duty, from the buffeting of various communities, and innumerable requests for funds from the federal treasury. It is a terrible psychology we have created with our people, and long after I am dead, it will plague this nation. It is a matter of right now in the minds of the people to take what they desire from Federal funds, and as always, under such circumstances, the unanswerable reason given is that somebody else, or some other locality has had funds for some other purpose. As I have said to you before, and I repeat with emphasis in these disagreeable days, that this has been an unhappy session, that I can not do the things I want to do, and I am compelled to do the things in which I have little interest, and that are unattractive and not at all appealing.

Hiram tells me you are likely to be on your boat this week and all of next week. I think that is fine, and I can imagine the pleasure that will be yours after your long siege at the legislature. I have been intending to write Philip in answer to

Mr. Hiram W. Johnson, Jr. - 4

a very interesting letter that he wrote to me sometime since,
but I have not been able to make the opportunity. I hope to
shortly. Mother joins in love to you, and Philip, and Miss
Schow.

Affectionately,

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