

© The Tiffen Company, 2000

KODAK Gray Scale



Kodak
LICENSED PRODUCT

A

1

2

3

4

5

6

M

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

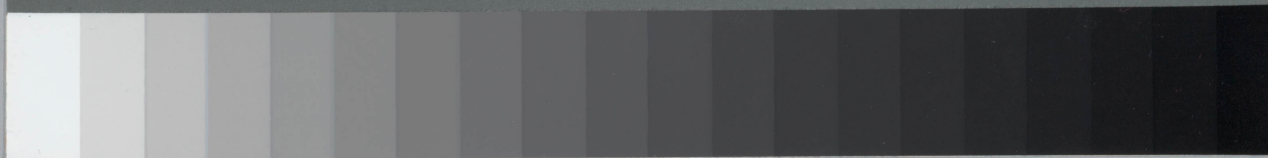
15

B

17

18

19



KEY PITTMAN, NEV., CHAIRMAN
PAT HARRISON, MISS.
WALTER F. GEORGE, GA.
ROBERT F. WAGNER, N. Y.
TOM CONNALLY, TEX.
J. HAMILTON LEWIS, ILL.
ELBERT D. THOMAS, UTAH
FREDERICK VAN NUYS, IND.
F. RYAN DUFFY, WIS.
JAMES P. POPE, IDAHO
JAMES E. MURRAY, MONT.
DENNIS CHAVEZ, N. MEX.
LEWIS B. SCHWELLENBACH, WASH.
CLAUDE PEPPER, FLA.
THEODORE F. GREEN, R. I.

WILLIAM E. BORAH, IDAHO
HIRAM W. JOHNSON, CALIF.
ARTHUR CAPPER, KANS.
ROBERT M. LA FOLLETTE, JR., WIS.
ARTHUR H. VANDENBERG, MICH.
WALLACE H. WHITE, JR., MAINE

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

April 2, 1938.

HENRIK SHIPSTEAD, MINN.

EDWARD J. TRENWITH, CLERK
JAMES A. WHITE, ASST. CLERK

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

My dear Jack:

I received your very welcome note during the week, and I thank you for it. It has been a week of surprises. First, there came the President's pronouncement about the Senators. I waited all that day to see if somebody would not respond to it, but there was not anybody on that floor of ours that had the guts to do it. I suggested a response by two or three people, but they doubted the wisdom of it, and questioned its importance, and so on. Finally, I did it myself. At once it awakened a debate in the Senate, and nobody would justify the President's remarks about the purchase of Senators. I send you herein copy of the Record. I want you to see just exactly what was said. Although I spoke extemporaneously, and under some strain of feeling, I think I did an artistic little job. I understand that it got under the skin of the President, and he was very angry about the use of the word "complex". At any rate, that night, or the next morning between one and two o'clock, he routed out the newspaper men, and gave out his famous letter.

Mr. Hiram W. Johnson, Jr. - 2

It was the strangest proceeding in which a President ever indulged. In the language of Lincoln concerning the Dred Scott case "it was an astonisher", and the phrasing of his famous communication was still more surprising. It was "I", "I", "I". It was not the destruction of democratic government or democratic processes, but simply "I"; and, of course, it did not mean a damned thing. To think of this proceeding occurring in the wee small hours of the night is just incredible.

The Reorganization Bill was coming up in the House the following day and he had that incentive for his letter. In addition, he was very angry at the few remarks that I made. He did something that was wholly improper in assailing the Senate by implication, as he did, and he emphasized this by refusing to change the word "purchased" at the instance of his secretary who recognized at once what the use of it would do. In the long debate that followed my few remarks, there was no man on the floor, who justified the use of the language. Of course, the gutless body, of which I am a Member, did not deserve any defense at all, but being one of that body I thought I would respond in my own behalf. Such men as Borah kept off the floor the two hours, and sneaked in only at the conclusion of the debate. Such men as Norris, who is a sad figure these days because of his insanity over the T V A, had nothing whatever to say. Norris had always been a man who wanted to go to the stake, and who took a real pleasure in being burned alive, but

Mr . Hiram W. Johnson, Jr. - 3

now in his old age, while ~~not~~ senile, because of Roosevelt's gift to him of the T V A, which has meant about a half billion dollars, and because of his fanaticism in respect to that project, anything that Roosevelt does, or anything that he says, Norris will defend, although at variance with all his former life. He is truly a pathetic figure now. Young LaFollette, on the other hand, in the full bloom of life, has become one of the first Vice-Presidents of the A.K. Inc., and shows just what he has probably always been. He will raise the standard aloft for the LaFollette family at any time, and in their behalf, will lead a gallant charge; but on any other topic, or any other subject, he is a broken reed.

I wonder if you like these inmost thoughts of mine about my colleagues. I can't imagine they would be very interesting, but I am so full of them, and kindred subjects, that I feel I like to express myself to somebody I can trust, and so you find me writing in a most uninteresting fashion.

The Reorganization Bill is before the House. Because of a temporary victory last night, the opponents are in high glee. It will be passed by the House, and we'll probably kick up a row for a short period in the Senate when it comes back upon conference. There has been such a widespread discussion of this Bill, and such tremendous opposition that I think it will have a very salutary effect upon the gentleman in the White House. Especially will this be so because of the letter that he released

Mr. Hiram W. Johnson, Jr. - 4

in his night conference. I do believe he was toying with a dictatorship, and he still is. Perhaps the noise that has been made in opposition to the Bill will give him pause. I hope so. He has reached the place where he thinks he is so damn smart that he can do anything and pass it off as cleverness, but I do not think that he could accomplish many more so-called cunning things without an explosion on behalf of our people. You know I write to you about these incidents and about this Bill because I have a real fear for the future of our Republic. As you know, I've had this fear for some time. Under ordinary circumstances, I would have thought the Reorganization Bill all in the day's work, and been against it, but not with the fervor that my fears engendered. At other times, and under ordinary circumstances, with other men in office, we might have experimented with the reorganization of government and employees, without any particular harm; but, at this time in the world's history, with the man that is in the White House now, with his constant iteration and reiteration of his mandate from the people, and his boast, constantly, of his majority, to do what he willed, it was a mighty dangerous proceeding. It is possible that this would be a Pyrrhic victory for the President, but it was too dangerous to take the chance, without making a fight.

It is a pretty difficult thing for me to get any publicity now in California. I have been checking up as best I

Mr. Hiram W. Johnson, Jr. - 5

could during the last couple of months. The A.P. and the U.P. claim that they send stories on different things, but none of them appear. The only publicity I have had on the Bill is from the Hearst press. The Chronicle, with the dispatches at hand evidently refuse to print anything, and you would not know that I was a part of the fight. In the East here, I have had fair publicity, particularly during the Reorganization Bill fight, and specifically upon my repudiation of the President's remarks concerning Senators. I don't see how it would be possible for the Chronicle to keep this out, although it has suppressed any utterances of mine during the long debate upon the Bill. Every paper in the East has published what just recently I said concerning the purchase of Senators by the President. I am calling this to your attention because of the singular situation in which I find myself. I've met some people from Los Angeles, nearly all of whom think that they will beat McAdoo there, but they are afraid of what Creel and Harrison, and the rest of them, will do in northern California..

I take it that it is two weeks now since the conclusion of Hiram's "exes". Probably you have learned something about them by this time. If you know, send me word, please. I keep thinking of them, and of him. Give the dear boy my best wishes and love.

Mr. Hiram W. Johnson, Jr. - 6

There was a funny little accident I met with yesterday, and I am extremely thankful it did not happen to your Mother. I just stepped out of my shower when the ceiling began to drop down. I felt a couple of thumping blows on the arm, and after the surprise of the falling plaster had left, I found that hunks of it, that were as heavy as so much lead, rough and sandy, had hit my left arm, and made some pretty sore places. I went to the hospital at once. There was nothing the matter, save a few pretty bad bruises, which were attended to immediately by your Mother's physician, Dr. Wilcutts. It was my left arm, and how I thank God your Mother did not catch it. With a half disabled right arm, and with a bad leg, to have thumped her on the left arm would have been a tragedy. So, all is well that ends well. If either one of us had been in the shower when the plaster began to fall, we'd probably have been beaten to the ground. So, there is a Providence that watches over us after all.

How is Philip getting on? Is he sticking to his philosophic studies?

Your Mother joins in love to Miss Schow and the boys, with lots to yourself.

Affectionately,

Dan

KEY PITTMAN, NEV., CHAIRMAN

PAT HARRISON, MISS.
WALTER F. GEORGE, GA.
HUGO L. BLACK, ALA.
ROBERT F. WAGNER, N. Y.
TOM CONNALLY, TEX.
J. HAMILTON LEWIS, ILL.
ELBERT D. THOMAS, UTAH
FREDERICK VAN NUYS, IND.
F. RYAN DUFFY, WIS.
JAMES P. POPE, IDAHO
JAMES E. MURRAY, MONT.
DENNIS CHAVEZ, N. MEX.
LEWIS B. SCHWELLENBACH, WASH.
CLAUDE PEPPER, FLA.

WILLIAM E. BORAH, IDAHO
HIRAM W. JOHNSON, CALIF.
ARTHUR CAPPER, KANS.
ROBERT M. LA FOLLETTE, JR., WIS.
ARTHUR H. VANDENBERG, MICH.
WALLACE H. WHITE, JR., MAINE

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Sunday, April 10, 1938

HENRIK SHIPSTEAD, MINN.

EDWARD J. TRENWITH, CLERK
JAMES A. WHITE, ASST. CLERK

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

My dear Jack:

This morning I received your letter of April 8. I am back at my old habit of spending Sunday at the office writing to you. and answering the personal letters which I consider pressing, and I am glad to report to you that I am dictating to Miss Connor.

Of course, I was intensely interested in the Reorganization fight. After O'Connor had made his first attack, and, apparently, shot his bolt on the motion to strike out everything after the enacting clause, which was lost by a vote of 191 to 169, I felt as if there was very little hope. He, however, never lost hope and kept assuring me that they were going to recommit the bill. It was Friday night, when we were listening to Lowell Thomas between 6:45 and 7 o'clock, when he said there was a news flash, that the Reorganization Bill had been beaten. He gave no figures, and I thought it must be a fluke, but the next moment Bennett

Mr. Hiram W. Johnson, Jr. - 2

Clark telephoned me the figures, and then came other telephonic messages of like sort. Yesterday, with a perfectly straight face I said to many of our opponents in the Senate that I did not sleep a wink all night, I laughed all the time, and all of our group in the Senate felt just this way. There were so many things that contributed to the result that it is impossible to tell them. The one great thing, however, was that the American people, for the first time, although tremors had struck them before this, felt a great fear of a one man government, and although at previous times some sort of bill of like character had been submitted to different Presidents, it did not allay the fear. You know what very few people know, that the original bill which was so enthusiastically approved by the President and prepared by his experts Brownlow, Gulick, and Merriam, gave such tremendous powers over every conceivable department, even the semi-judicial ones, that there was real cause for the fear the people had ; and in addition, the midnight shirt-tail letter of the President that he did not want to be a dictator added to the resentment and the fear. And then, there were many like myself, who felt certain some devious purpose lay in the devious mind of the President, and we would never know what it was until we woke up to the fact that we had given him the power. He was given, as you know, six new contact men at a salary of \$10,000 apiece, who were described in the report as men of great physical strength, and with a passion

Mr. Hiram W. Johnson, Jr. - 3

for anonymity. I spoke of this in my brief address, but I descanted on it constantly in conversation, and always referred to them as the six pulchritudious gentlemen with a passion for anonymity. There was just as much use in giving him these six additional men as annexing ^{another} secret service agency to the Presidency. Very little has been said about this, but it was one of the things the bill sought, and that was granted by everybody. The most remarkable thing of all is that 108 Democrats went the route on the motion to recommit the bill and make possible the result. You can have no understanding of the cohesiveness of the Democratic Party and the loyalty of the southern Members. If you could understand this, you would marvel as I do at this victory. The Democrats from California who voted for recommitting the bill were Buck, Costello, McGroarty, and Lea. Havenner, of course, voted with the President. But this was not his worst vote. When the question arose on the first day the Bill was up as to whether a gag rule should prevail, which would prevent any honest debate, this was beaten by an indignant House, and Havenner was recorded in the affirmative. Last year he was for the Court Bill. He really has been something of a disappointment to me. I don't suppose he should be blamed. Someone once said the cruelest slave driver was the ex-slave, and the meanest

Mr. Hiram W. Johnson, Jr. - 4

controversialist was the apostate. Poor Havenner seems to think it is duty on everything to out-regular the regulars. I don't quite understand it, but I suppose he thinks his job is at stake, and the only way to retain it is to do as he is doing, and he may be right, at that, and so we'll think of him charitably. I have seen last year certain members of the Senate of the Democratic Party worked up to the highest pitch, and do their full duty in the Court fight, and since then try to crawl back into the favor of the President. We can't expect too much of weak, human nature.

It is very interesting to observe Hiram's enthusiasm as you detail it in his new undertaking. Mother is more than interested in it. I am thinking constantly of whether he got through his exes. It is time you should have heard. Can't you get someone to find out for you, and be sure to advise me at once. The news you give me of Philip is not good, and inasmuch as the need does not exist for him to do what he is doing, he ought to quit, and devote himself to getting well. Good Lord! if he breaks his health at his age, he will have to go through all his life with a physical handicap. I suppose there is no more use of my talking about it, as for you to talk about it.

I observed what you said about the political situation, and was glad to get the clipping from the Examiner. It seems to me they are uncovering enough

Mr. Hiram W. Johnson, Jr. 5

against McAdoo to give him a pretty thorny path. He announced his candidacy the other day. He relies in the northern part of the State upon Creel and Maurice Harrison together with the members of the Federal brigade. Creel is a man of ability, with whom I became fairly well acquainted, but whom I believe to be a mighty dangerous man. My opinion of Harrison has been greatly diminished. I regarded him as a man of some ability, of some character, and some conscience. I am not certain that I was right. He seems to accept what McAdoo says without demur, and certainly a man of character could not be engaged in the political machinations of McAdoo and Creel.

About those photographs. I did not know they had been sent to you. I think they are rotten. Mother does not wholly agree with me, and she sent them to you as a likeness of me in my 72nd year. I may look like them, but I'll be damned if I think I do. I have told her to take up with you whatever she wished in connection with them. The time has long passed when I care a rap about photographs. In other words, my pulchritude having vanished with the years, I am willing to let it go at that.

I saw in some paper that Dan Murphy would have the A.F. of L. support, and Olson the C.I.O. Why don't you attach yourself to the Murphy fight, or even the

Mr. Hiram W. Johnson, Jr. - 6

other one, if you wish. I think a successful Governor might be of service to you in the days to come.

You made too much ado over the check I sent you for the expressage on the books. The office was in the "dithers" at that time, and the books were sent collect, for some reason that the Lord only knows. I sent my check to correct the mistake, and you prevented it by not keeping the check. It was such a little matter, there is no use wasting time about it, but I felt rather foolish in sending the books and leaving you to pay expressage on them, more than the value of the books.

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

Affectionately,

Dad

KEY PITTMAN, NEV., CHAIRMAN

PAT HARRISON, MISS.
WALTER F. GEORGE, GA.
ROBERT F. WAGNER, N. Y.
TOM CONNALLY, TEX.
J. HAMILTON LEWIS, ILL.
ELBERT D. THOMAS, UTAH
FREDERICK VAN NUYS, IND.
F. RYAN DUFFY, WIS.
JAMES P. POPE, IDAHO
JAMES E. MURRAY, MONT.
DENNIS CHAVEZ, N. MEX.
LEWIS B. SCHWELLENBACH, WASH.
CLAUDE PEPPER, FLA.
THEODORE F. GREEN, R. I.

WILLIAM E. BORAH, IDAHO
HIRAM W. JOHNSON, CALIF.
ARTHUR CAPPER, KANS.
ROBERT M. LA FOLLETTE, JR., WIS.
ARTHUR H. VANDENBERG, MICH.
WALLACE H. WHITE, JR., MAINE

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

April 16, 1938.

HENRIK SHIPSTEAD, MINN.

EDWARD J. TRENWITH, CLERK
JAMES A. WHITE, ASST. CLERK

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

My dear Jack:

Another hectic week has passed here, in confusion and disquiet. The President has a remarkable technique that he always uses, which is as old as the hills and yet constantly new. When anything arises that is disquieting he diverts the mind of the people and sets them thinking of other things. This system of governing is as old as government itself but it has always proved effective. Last year, when the Black appointment grew so hot with Ku Klux Klan charges and Black was spending his days and nights, here and in Europe, dodging reports, and Roosevelt found himself in a nasty situation, from which there was no extrication, he made the celebrated quarantine speech in Chicago, and thus turned the discussion from Black to war, and he avoided either a statement on Black or any answer to the charges against Black. Parenthetically, I may say that he was ably aided by Senator Borah, who took the truth in his hands and juggled it seven ways, upon the question of Black's membership in the Ku Klux. Last Friday night Roosevelt got a

-2-

wallop such as few Presidents have received from the Congress. It was the more pronounced because his leadership in the House, Rayburn and Speaker Bankhead, deliberately and designedly put up to the members of the House whether they would by their votes repudiate Roosevelt and immediately thereafter they did just that by their votes. So this week, although suffering from a perfect hysteria of rage, the President adopted the old technique and shot into the Congress four and a half billions of pump priming to lick the depression. He has done what he started out to do, made the newspapers forget the drubbing, and has minimized that by giving us something else to play with. He is a brilliant strategist. I don't think for an instant, without the untoward events of last week he would have put up to us the latest scheme; but, there is just enough of good in it, just enough of humanitarianism utterly to confuse and confound the honest opposition. This is the method that he adopted to beat the depression before. He has pursued this policy for five years and finds himself just back where he commenced. He won't admit that he is wrong or that the policy he has pursued is wrong. With an enormous sum necessary to relieve distress and unemployment he annexes various other sums which, in a period of a couple of years spending may accomplish some results, and, after that, the deluge. The worst of the situation is that I feel this whole program will go through. There is mutter-

-3-

ing and angry discontent upstairs but it is election year and very few people will want to be in opposition to him, and fewer still have any head for finances and understand where ultimately this spending will lead us. I confess I have no financial sense, but I think I can clearly see the result of a spending program, especially with the knowledge of what was done. So I feel a little disheartened at the outlook, although I shall do what little I can to prevent it.

Summer suddenly "has come". We have had three days this week of quite warm weather. We have been trying to put out some flowers in the yard, which is rather a difficult proposition, and we're trying a grass which the Vice President gave me, that is claimed for it the qualities of Bermuda and other grasses which spread and can't be destroyed and which will grow in the shade of trees. That has been the trouble with trying to put a very small lawn in our little yard. We will not cut down the trees because your Mother and I like them and when they leaf out they are really beautiful, and this precludes the possibility of grass growing under them, because it gets no sun. There is a funny tale about this grass of Garner's. He sent to Texas for it, presumably to get some for the White House, and some for me, for very little would suffice in my case. In some way they

-4-

botched the story here that he delivered all of his grass roots to me, and the White House had to go without them. This story came just at the time of the publication of the row between Garner and the President, over the President's policies. The latter story evidently annoyed Roosevelt very much because he referred to it in his press conference, vigorously denied that there had been any row and said that Garner had denied the story to him. The fact is there was just such a row. Garner did tell him the allegory about the cattle that were put in pasture and were so harried they couldn't eat and couldn't get fat, and he told Roosevelt he ought to leave business alone sufficiently long to let it acquire some strength and fat. There has been a great to-do about this tale. Garner maintains a tight-lipped silence, while Roosevelt has denied it all over the lot.

Your Mother and I are getting along fairly well. We each of us have our good days and bad days. I have grown exceedingly weary of going each day to the hospital as I have been doing rather religiously. I think I will cut it off next week. I think Mother gradually improves in her arthritis, but very gradually. I presume we have got to make up our minds to the ravages of age, and we ought to be very thankful that it is no worse.

-5-

Tomorrow will be Easter. I don't mean to say to you that I am getting religious, but my mind dwells more upon the Day, its historical character, more than in my youth. I do hope the day finds you, the boys, and Miss Schow with everything you desire.

Mother joins me in love to all of you.

Affectionately,

Dad

KEY PITTMAN, NEV., CHAIR

PAT HARRISON, MISS.
WALTER F. GEORGE, GA.
ROBERT F. WAGNER, N. Y.
TOM CONNALLY, TEX.
J. HAMILTON LEWIS, ILL.
ELBERT D. THOMAS, UTAH
FREDERICK VAN NUYS, IND.
F. RYAN DUFFY, WIS.
JAMES P. POPE, IDAHO
JAMES E. MURRAY, MONT.
DENNIS CHAVEZ, N. MEX.
LEWIS B. SCHWELLENBACH, WASH.
CLAUDE PEPPER, FLA.
THEODORE F. GREEN, R. I.

WILLIAM E. BORAH, IDAHO
HIRAM W. JOHNSON, CALIF.
ARTHUR CAPPER, KANS.
ROBERT M. LA FOLLETTE, JR., WIS.
ARTHUR H. VANDENBERG, MICH.
WALLACE H. WHITE, JR., MAINE

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

April 23, 1938.

HENRIK SHIPSTEAD, MINN.

EDWARD J. TRENWITH, CLERK
JAMES A. WHITE, ASST. CLERK

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

My dear Jack:

I am writing this Saturday instead of tomorrow, Sunday, because I fear the condition of Connor may not be conducive to a lengthy dictation then. She did pretty well for a while, had certain lapses which I pretended not to notice, and because I didn't notice them, she thought she was getting by. Day before yesterday she was in rotten condition, and she is little better today. It is a terrible thing, but I don't see how I can put up with it much longer. I have done everything within my power to assist her and your Mother has done much more, but she is most exasperating in the way in which she fibs. She will look me straight in the eye and tell the most outrageous whoppers. I really think it is the saddest case that I have ever heard of, and because I feel it is so sad I have put up with more than I think I would put up with under any other circumstances. Of course, sooner or later it has got to come to an end. She's got to quit boozing, or else ----. It is because it makes it so unpleasant here in the office that I am troubled and bothered and irritated with the situation.

- 2 -

Yesterday the conferees on the tax bill reached an agreement. You have probably read it. It was a victory for the President and however Senators may talk they "caved on the bank" and yielded to his insistence. Perhaps it was too much to expect these Democrats, and especially the Southern Democrats, to stand up against the gun, but Harrison had boasted so much about what he would do and what the Senate would do that his surrender yesterday came as a blow. I wish I could rid myself of the idea that everything in the Senate had to receive my approval, and that every fight in the Senate was my fight. I was so mad last evening when I heard of Harrison's surrender that I couldn't contain myself. I at once set about trying to organize the fight, but Senators generally shied away and tried to minimize the President's victory yesterday. You know how it is when a fellow gets cuffed about, he don't want to admit he has been soundly trounced. He'll state little things that are his way that he imagines minimize the result, so that Democrats upstairs in the Senate, to save their face pretend they have gained something, when the President has taken them to the cleaners and the House whipped them to a standstill. There isn't much stomach, though, for a fight. I think I explained to you the reason in my last letter. The recalcitrant Democrats would rather

--3--

rest on their laurels in the Court fight and the Reorganization Bill and cry then "let us have peace".

Frank Snook was here yesterday, and Mother and I sat talking to him the greater part of the afternoon. There was nothing we could talk about except old Sacramentans and we called the alphabet of them, and buried them one by one. There are just a very few of us left. After I got through the afternoon I felt as if I had been talking all day with one of Jeffrey Farnol's ancients; and, by the way, I have a new book by Jeffrey Farnol, and as soon as I complete it I will send it to you. It seems to me a great many years ago that I so enjoyed him, and perhaps he has lost his flavor or I my capacity for enjoyment. There is nothing new to say to you save the tax retreat. The Navy Bill plods along its weary way. The pacifists are having their innings now, and when they finish we'll vote, and undoubtedly carry it.

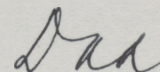
I read Mother's letter from you about a house you had found. I leave the matter of the selection of an abiding place entirely with her. If I had my way I would go back to the Mark Hopkins, with all its drawbacks, and its indifference. This last time we were there they were much more indifferent than any other time, and their service was very much worse. Still, I knew the place,

-4-

knew everybody connected with it, and I could get along very well. Mother will select some other place, and I make you the prophecy, although I will shoot you if you tell it, that we won't be there a month before she will want to change. We had a couple of spring days this week, real warm ones, too. I went out to two ball games, at the opening of the season. They were between Washington and Philadelphia. I just about half enjoyed them, and I doubt very much if I will go to any more. This proves better than anything else the ravages of age.

Mother joins in love to the boys and Miss Schow.

Affectionately,



W

KEY PITTMAN, NEV., CHA.
PAT HARRISON, MISS.
WALTER F. GEORGE, GA.
ROBERT F. WAGNER, N. Y.
TOM CONNALLY, TEX.
J. HAMILTON LEWIS, ILL.
ELBERT D. THOMAS, UTAH
FREDERICK VAN NUYS, IND.
F. RYAN DUFFY, WIS.
JAMES P. POPE, IDAHO
JAMES E. MURRAY, MONT.
DENNIS CHAVEZ, N. MEX.
LEWIS B. SCHWELLENBACH, WASH.
CLAUDE PEPPER, FLA.
THEODORE F. GREEN, R. I.

WILLIAM E. BORAH, IDAHO
HIRAM W. JOHNSON, CALIF.
ARTHUR CAPPER, KANS.
ROBERT M. LA FOLLETTE, JR., WIS.
ARTHUR H. VANDENBERG, MICH.
WALLACE H. WHITE, JR., MAINE

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

April 29, 1938.

HENRIK SHIPSTEAD, MINN.

EDWARD J. TRENWITH, CLERK
JAMES A. WHITE, ASST. CLERK

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

My dear Jack:

I received day before yesterday your letter of this week, in which you refer to the political activities of Theodore, and sent me a clipping. I was quite as astonished as you at this clipping; but Theodore is over twenty-one, and is entitled to do as he pleases politically. Personally, I never have supported one whom I thoroughly believe to be a crook in politics and I never will. I suggest to you what I suggested sometime since, although then I had no inkling of what you first informed me in regard to Theodore's activities,--- that you choose somebody whom you believe to be honest and upright and support him. I don't care whether it's Olson, or Murphy or anybody else. Make the choice yourself and make one that will satisfy yourself and I will be entirely satisfied.

I have had the Devil's own time for the past week. Since Sunday I have been in bed with what the Doctor first described as a streptococci throat. I don't know whether he accurately described the throat or not, but it has been a very disagreeable one, and it is far from well

- 2 -

yet. They have been all week upon the Naval Bill in the Senate. I would like to have said a few words in its behalf. I'll have to content myself by pairing on the bill. I don't like this way of voting, but the Doctor tells me that this is a peculiar sort of bug that afflicts me at present, not uncommon, and it can cause an immense amount of trouble and havoc if not cared for. He has forbidden me to get out before next week, and he is doubtful then. You can imagine how disagreeable it has been for me to lie about here this week, especially when I thought I was just getting into my old stride. However, that can't be helped. What can be helped is the condition of Connor. In the past week she has been carted out of the office, literally carried out, twice. She has been stinking, rotten drunk and during the rest of the time she has been nervous and in a dreadful state. My office now serves two purposes for her. First, she gets drunk there, and, secondly, she sobers up there, and the sobering up process never is thoroughly completed. If I hadn't been a damn fool in relation to this matter months ago I would have settled it then once for all. She is now beginning to have a persecution complex and is really getting delusions of grandeur in respect to the office. The solution of the matter will have to await my ability to go out.

The President's getting a little doubtful, it

-3-

seems to me. His interview with Ford, his backtracking on what he said before, although he doesn't mean a word of it, generally his vagaries regarding his foreign policy, indicate a confused mind that doesn't know which way to go.

I have been waiting so patiently for news of Hiram. I can't for the life of me see why it hasn't come thus far. I think it is a most interesting thing that he is going to build over at Belvedere, and if ever I get out to California I will be very glad to see his locality and what he is doing. I am dictating this at home, and I will send it by immediate delivery to your house.

Mother joins in love to the boys and Miss Schow,

Affectionately,

Dad

PAT HARRISON, MISS.
WALTER F. GEORGE, GA.
ROBERT F. WAGNER, N. Y.
TOM CONNALLY, TEX.
J. HAMILTON LEWIS, ILL.
ELBERT D. THOMAS, UTAH
FREDERICK VAN NUYS, IND.
F. RYAN DUFFY, WIS.
JAMES P. POPE, IDAHO
JAMES E. MURRAY, MONT.
DENNIS CHAVEZ, N. MEX.
LEWIS B. SCHWELLENBACH, WASH.
CLAUDE PEPPER, FLA.
THEODORE F. GREEN, R. I.

KEY PITTMAN, NEV., CH. MAN

WILLIAM E. BORAH, IDAHO
HIRAM W. JOHNSON, CALIF.
ARTHUR CAPPER, KANS.
ROBERT M. LA FOLLETTE, JR., WIS.
ARTHUR H. VANDENBERG, MICH.
WALLACE H. WHITE, JR., MAINE

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

May 6, 1938.

HENRIK SHIPSTEAD, MINN.

EDWARD J. TRENWITH, CLERK
JAMES A. WHITE, ASST. CLERK

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

My dear Jack:

I have just received yours of May 4th. I am still at home, sitting around without any clothes on, and hoping each day that tomorrow will bring me desired recovery. This is a funny sort of a sickness that I had, but it ceased to be funny when it stretched into two weeks, as it is now doing. I hope to get out of the house Monday, and I really think I will get back to work then, whether or not I am really prepared. Ever since I have been gone Connor has been kicking up a muss at the office, and on three different occasions has literally gone out in the middle of the day. This involves having her transported home, and the transportation can't take place without a great many people knowing of it. She has apparently dulled her former sensitiveness, and she cares very little for exhibition of herself, escorted by police, or by others. The thing has now become my fault, because of my reluctance to do what I ought to have done a year and a half ago, when I realized how quickly she was sliding. However, I'll not burden you with this.

- 2 -

I can't tell you how worried I got about Hiram. And when so much time passed without any news I began to be very pessimistic. I was tickled to death to have his wire. It was first a relief of the greatest kind, and secondly, I chuckled at the juxtaposition of words. It ran something like this:

"THE PORTALS OF THE LAW HAVE OPENED. I AM IN LOVE"
Of course, I punctuated it and set off the love, but nevertheless it could have been taken as a new complication in the young man's life. It was fine of him to wire us, though, and Mother and I greatly appreciated it.

I noted what you said about the Congressional fight. I think it would be a good thing probably if you were a candidate, although of course you would have to give up your business and your practice of the law, and you only can determine whether that is worthwhile. I don't feel the same bitterness toward Havenner that your Mother does. She is extremely sore at him; but you must recall that he came in as a disciple of Roosevelt and that by himself he couldn't get to first base in a Congressional fight. He is now up for re-election. If he'd shown any independence during his brief career here he probably wouldn't be nominated, and certainly wouldn't be re-elected. I think I am infinitely stronger than he is, yet I doubt very much, unless the scene shifts, if I can be re-elected in 1940. It is rather a sickening sight to me to see McAdoo, who at least is a

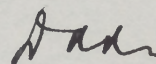
- 3 -

chosen companion of crooks, if not one himself, come back here without much difficulty this year. The McClatchy newspapers, now in the hands of Jones and Hamilton, will be for McAdoo. How Charlie McClatchy would turn in his grave!

I have said to you I am dictating this at home. I am going to send it to your home, but ^{with} an immediate delivery stamp, and I hope it may reach you tomorrow. Not that there is anything at all in this note, but I just wanted you to know I am feeling as well as could be expected, and hope to be out on Monday.

With love to the boys and Miss Schow, I am

Affectionately yours,



W

KEY PITTMAN, NEV., CHAIR

PAT HARRISON, MISS.
WALTER F. GEORGE, GA.
ROBERT F. WAGNER, N. Y.
TOM CONNALLY, TEX.
J. HAMILTON LEWIS, ILL.
ELBERT D. THOMAS, UTAH
FREDERICK VAN NUYS, IND.
F. RYAN DUFFY, WIS.
JAMES P. POPE, IDAHO
JAMES E. MURRAY, MONT.
DENNIS CHAVEZ, N. MEX.
LEWIS B. SCHWELLENBACH, WASH.
CLAUDE PEPPER, FLA.
THEODORE F. GREEN, R. I.

WILLIAM E. BORAH, IDAHO
HIRAM W. JOHNSON, CALIF.
ARTHUR CAPPER, KANS.
ROBERT M. LAFOLLETTE, JR., WIS.
ARTHUR H. VANDENBERG, MICH.
WALLACE H. WHITE, JR., MAINE

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

May 13, 1938.

HENRIK SHIPSTEAD, MINN.

EDWARD J. TRENWITH, CLERK
JAMES A. WHITE, ASST. CLERK

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

My dear Jack:

I was confined to the house up to a couple of days ago, and in bed most of that time. I have been out the last few days, spending a couple of hours in the Senate and in the office. The damn bug I had in my throat is with me yet, and controls my voice, but apparently that is all that remains of it. I detest sicknesses like that I recently had, but I presume I must be philosophical about them.

I am not going to try to write you a lengthy letter at this time. I saw in the press here yesterday that McAdoo had released a letter dated March 16th last, of the President to him, that was fulsome in its praise and covered his whole life. It is the damndest most hypocritical letter I have known the President to write, and that is saying a good deal. To me personally, up to two years ago, he frequently denounced McAdoo, called him all sorts of a double-crosser, expressing the lowest opinion of him, and wouldn't have him around. With my defection, I think probably he turned to him, or McAdoo thrust himself in. I presume with

-2-

George Creel and Maurice Harrison he is off to a flying start and there is no possibility of beating him for the Senate. This seems a shame, when you consider the last year and a half's fights here, when McAdoo was a mere "yes man". The world's turned topsy-turvy, and with the recent victories ^{Roosevelt} ~~he~~ has won, he imagines he is on top again, authorized to do as he pleases. I shouldn't be surprised to see any day the Reorganization Bill again brought up. He was very badly scared, and the Florida primary, stangely, has made him and all his people feel that he is again in command. The newspapers played up the Florida primary, although I never for an instant imagined any other result would come from that benighted State. There was a primary held the same day in South Dakota and the Democratic incumbent for the Senate here, who had been a super-serviceable rubber-stamp ran third, and the Republican vote in the primary exceeded that of the Democrats, yet you don't here a word about that primary or its affect.

With love to ~~the~~ boys and Miss Schow, in which Mother joins, I am

Affectionately,

dad

KEY PITTMAN, NEV., CHAIRMAN

PAT HARRISON, MISS.
WALTER F. GEORGE, GA.
ROBERT F. WAGNER, N. Y.
TOM CONNALLY, TEX.
J. HAMILTON LEWIS, ILL.
ELBERT D. THOMAS, UTAH
FREDERICK VAN NUYS, IND.
F. RYAN DUFFY, WIS.
JAMES P. POPE, IDAHO
JAMES E. MURRAY, MONT.
DENNIS CHAVEZ, N. MEX.
LEWIS B. SCHWELLENBACH, WASH.
CLAUDE PEPPER, FLA.
THEODORE F. GREEN, R. I.
ALBEN W. BARKLEY, KY.

WILLIAM E. BORAH, IDAHO
HIRAM W. JOHNSON, CALIF.
ARTHUR CAPPER, KANS.
ROBERT M. LAFOLLETTE, JR., WIS.
ARTHUR H. VANDENBERG, MICH.
WALLACE H. WHITE, JR., MAINE

HENRIK SHIPSTEAD, MINN.

EDWARD J. TRENWITH, CLERK
JAMES A. WHITE, ASST. CLERK

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

May 23, 1938.

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

My dear Jack:

I received yesterday, Sunday, your last letter. I was so interested in noting Hiram's activities in uncovering what appears to be some fellow's graft in the matter of the appointment of policemen. I hope he'll see Theodore, but I don't think Theodore will do him much good. For various reasons he will be very timid about giving any advice or doing anything. I think it was fine of the boy to uncover this sort of fraud.

Connor has kept this office more or less disorganized. She is able to accomplish this by coming here drunk and then by writing letters when she gets, for a brief period, sober. She is now in Connecticut, really in a first-class institution. The doctor wrote me the other day and he said that it was useless to talk of a couple of weeks' treatment, that it would take much more than that to cure her. I have made up my mind to keep her upon the rolls, ostensibly my secretary, but not to permit her to come back here until this institution where she now is, certifies her as cured. This

-2-

will not be satisfactory to her, and she will be striving, as she is now, in every conceivable way, to limit the time of her stay and to getting out as she wishes. She is, in my opinion, a perfectly hopeless case now, and to take her back upon her own terms, without competent authority saying she is cured, would be simply asking for more of the same thing that has happened of late. I think I wrote you that while I was sick on three separate occasions she was dead drunk in the office, and had to be removed by the police, in broad daylight, to the edification and applause of a couple of hundred tourists. The situation has become intolerable. I have been willing to go to any length to aid her. She won't cooperate, and I suppose she can't. I have begged her merely not to get drunk in the office. She has promised many times not to, and each time she has broken her promise. I really feel that it is a disease, and that's why I have been so lenient with her, but I have reached the end of my patience, I think, at last.

I have been able to understand what you meant by the after-effects of this bug that gets in one's throat. I have grown fat again and look the picture of health, but I never was so shaky on my pins or with so little energy or strength. The last few days I have felt better, but far from well yet.

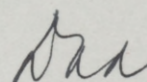
I suggested to you in one of my letters that

-3-

you get behind one of the candidates for Governor, and go to it as best you could. I know that you would never pick a crook, and I wouldn't have the slightest objection to your being in the fight for any decent man. I won't conceal from you that if I could feel satisfied with any of the candidates for United States Senator I wouldn't hesitate to get into the fray, but the trouble is with the individuals.

Mother joins me in love to the boys and Miss Schow.

Affectionately,

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

KEY PITTMAN, NEV., CHAIR
PAT HARRISON, MISS.
WALTER F. GEORGE, GA.
ROBERT F. WAGNER, N. Y.
TOM CONNALLY, TEX.
J. HAMILTON LEWIS, ILL.
ELBERT D. THOMAS, UTAH
FREDERICK VAN NUYS, IND.
F. RYAN DUFFY, WIS.
JAMES P. POPE, IDAHO
JAMES E. MURRAY, MONT.
DENNIS CHAVEZ, N. MEX.
LEWIS B. SCHWELLENBACH, WASH.
CLAUDE PEPPER, FLA.
THEODORE F. GREEN, R. I.
ALBEN W. BARKLEY, KY.

WILLIAM E. B. GRAH, IDAHO
HIRAM W. JOHNSON, CALIF.
ARTHUR CAPPER, KANS.
ROBERT M. LA FOLLETTE, JR., WIS.
ARTHUR H. VANDENBERG, MICH.
WALLACE H. WHITE, JR., MAINE

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

May 28, 1938.

HENRIK SHIPSTEAD, MINN.

EDWARD J. TRENWITH, CLERK
JAMES A. WHITE, ASST. CLERK

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

My dear Jack:

We have had the rottenest weather here for a long period of time that you can possibly conceive of. By the fifteenth of May we have been heretofore clad in our light clothes, with straw hat, but the constant rains have prevented it this year, and the weather has been exceptionally cool. This, with an extreme humidity in the atmosphere, has made it very unpleasant. I am hoping we'll get home pretty soon. How I long for San Francisco! I don't know what I will do without the Club and without my swim. What's the situation now in regard to their strike?

I was tickled to death to read the newspaper account of Hiram. He did a great job undoubtedly, and uncovered a filthy mess, by the way. I am wondering if the ~~man~~ he uncovered was big, fat, sniffly Morris, whom we've all known for a hundred years. I laughed as I thought of him. Congratulate the boy for all of us.

You know, the Connor situation has grown from bad to worse, and I am satisfied her doctors think, as I do, that there has been a real mental deterioration, to put it mildly. For fifteen months now I have been receiving the

-2-

same sort of notes from her when she'd get drunk, begging to return, and saying that she was cured, etc. She at last went to a place of very high repute, that has every facility. It is in Connecticut, near Hartford, termed the Hartford Retreat. I have investigated the doctors and find that they are skilled men of excellent reputation in their profession. It is an enormous sanitarium, with every conceivable amusement and device for curing the patients. She has been there two weeks. The doctors tell me, in her advanced state of alcoholism, it is perfectly futile to expect a cure in that time, or for some months. She, of course, is mad to come home, promises everything as she has done a hundred times before. She wants to leave there, and I presume the cause of it is the appetite for booze. I am perfectly certain that to have her return now would lead to a resumption of the past two years' drunkenness, and I have told her she could not come back to the office. I have no doubt at all she will return on Sunday, notwithstanding my statement to her, and then we'll have hell to pay again. It seems incredible that she is in the condition that she is, and that she gets on these horrible debauches, but they have grown so rapidly worse that the situation in the office would be intolerable with her return. I have done everything I know how to do, have kept her on the rolls, and will keep her on the rolls when she comes back, but will not permit her in

-3-

the office. How long this sort of thing can continue I don't know. She bothers not only me but your Mother, and this session has been anything but pleasant because of her. Perhaps it is my fault in being too lenient everysince my sickness of two years ago, and it certainly has been my fault during the rapid progress of the disease during the past six months.

We're on the lending-spending bill upstairs. The President was in a chastened mood before the Florida primary. After the Florida primary he grew extremely cocky, and is pursuing his role as dictator even worse than before. This spending program bodes ill for us all. Congressmen and Senators dare not oppose it, because of the number of people on relief and interested, and for fear of subjecting themselves to the charge that they won't relieve human misery. I am convinced that in one way or another the powers that be are determined to twist the economic situation so that there may be a cry from business, that has neither conscience nor courage, for some one to lead them out, and the only place they can turn is to the President. This is the technique of Mussolini. It has been the technique of dictatorship in all climes and in all times. I really feel that the future has dark days in store for us.

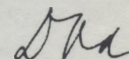
I observe from your letter to Mother, that

-4-

arrived this morning, that Philip had gone to Canada. The boy has the wanderlust, but I am not sure it is such a bad thing.

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

Affectionately,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'JH' or similar initials, written in a cursive style.

KEY PITTMAN, NEV., CHAIR
PAT HARRISON, MISS.
WALTER F. GEORGE, GA.
ROBERT F. WAGNER, N. Y.
TOM CONNALLY, TEX.
J. HAMILTON LEWIS, ILL.
ELBERT D. THOMAS, UTAH
FREDERICK VAN NUYS, IND.
F. RYAN DUFFY, WIS.
JAMES P. POPE, IDAHO
JAMES E. MURRAY, MONT.
DENNIS CHAVEZ, N. MEX.
LEWIS B. SCHWELLENBACH, WASH.
CLAUDE PEPPER, FLA.
THEODORE F. GREEN, R. I.
ALBEN W. BARKLEY, KY.

WILLIAM E. ...AH, IDAHO
HIRAM W. JOHNSON, CALIF.
ARTHUR CAPPER, KANS.
ROBERT M. LAPOLLETTE, JR., WIS.
ARTHUR H. VANDENBERG, MICH.
WALLACE H. WHITE, JR., MAINE

HENRIK SHIPSTEAD, MINN.

EDWARD J. TRENWITH, CLERK
JAMES A. WHITE, ASST. CLERK

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

June 4, 1938.

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

My dear Jack:

I am a little the worse for wear today, because of the long night sessions we have had the past few nights. Last night, however, we disposed of the spending bill, and it was passed by a vote of sixty to ten. I was one of the ten in opposition. We tried three different ways to eliminate the pump-priming feature of the bill and give adequate relief to those who required it. Our efforts where wholly unsuccessful. We were beaten and badly beaten in all of the amendments proposed. The bill is a terrible bill that saddles upon this country such an enormous amount of money, a large portion of which is in the pump-priming category that has been demonstrated to be without any lasting results. It simply enables the expenditure of a billion dollars or more at the sweet will of the President. Ostensibly he does it for the purpose of relieving unemployment and bringing back prosperity. It's the same plan that he has pursued before, that gave a brief, temporary relief, and then sunk us deeper into the depression. While therefore anxious to relieve the destitute, I felt I couldn't vote for the bill, with its horrid implications, and

- 2 -

terrific disastrous results. As you have read, it is like a short in the arm that peps the patient up for a brief period, and then makes him worse. I thought I ought to have guts enough to vote against the bill, when I felt as I did about it, and when I knew how my colleagues felt. The fact that the vote was as indicated is a sad reflection upon the Senate. I don't believe a corporal's guard in our body would have been for the bill, but for the fact they were frightened by the iteration and reiteration that one-third of our people were "ill-clad, ill-housed, and ill-fed", and that these people needed government assistance. I do not doubt that a vast number of people, possibly from ten to fifteen millions, mostly unemployed, require assistance, and I would give this to them, because no government can permit its people to starve; but the only way we could protest mixing up an equal amount of money for Ickes and Roosevelt to play with, to "prime the pump", as they termed it, but to prime the polls, in reality, was by voting against the bill. I presume I will take a good beating on this vote of mine, but I am not here for very long now, and no consideration of that sort shall I permit to influence me. I think the country is on the downward path. Unless something intervenes to save us, we're bound for a totalitarian or Fascist government, inflation, or repudiation.

- 3 -

We're going to try to adjourn next Saturday night. I don't know whether we'll succeed or not, and I am having the same difficulty I have encountered every time I either start for Washington, or start for home. We get at a regular impasse until I shut up, and let Mother do as she pleases as to when we'll come.

You probably have noticed the furor that was kicked up here by Hopkins injecting himself into the Iowa primary. It really was outrageous, but I have been suspecting this thing, and suspecting it in regard to California. I was rather interested in Gillette because he is one of those likeable, pleasant men, always gentlemanly, and kindly. They probably will beat him in Iowa. He doesn't know how to fight and the going there is rough. The primary is Tuesday. It's being watched very carefully here. The President is out to get every man who was against him on his attempt to pack the Supreme Court. The Royal Family and the Crown Prince take an active part in the matter. When it comes my turn, if I am a candidate again, I think that I could conduct a campaign that would be rather surprising in its intensity, and which would make son James and his father realize they had been in a fight. They ganged up on Governor Martin in Oregon and beat him. They got a wallop in Pennsylvania solely because of the breach in labor's ranks, and poor old Jim Davis, who imagines he will be overwhelmingly successful there, I think, is in for a rude

- 4 -

awakening. It's the Administration politics that wanted without earmarking a large part of the enormous appropriation for their use politically. However, I presume this is part of the game.

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

Affectionately,

Dan

KEY PITTMAN, NEV., CHAIR

PAT HARRISON, MISS.
WALTER F. GEORGE, GA.
ROBERT F. WAGNER, N. Y.
TOM CONNALLY, TEX.
J. HAMILTON LEWIS, ILL.
ELBERT D. THOMAS, UTAH
FREDERICK VAN NUYS, IND.
F. RYAN DUFFY, WIS.
JAMES P. POPE, IDAHO
JAMES E. MURRAY, MONT.
DENNIS CHAVEZ, N. MEX.
LEWIS B. SCHWELLENBACH, WASH.
CLAUDE PEPPER, FLA.
THEODORE F. GREEN, R. I.
ALBEN W. BARKLEY, KY.

WILLIAM E. ... AH, IDAHO
HIRAM W. JOHNSON, CALIF.
ARTHUR CAPPER, KANS.
ROBERT M. LAFOLLETTE, JR., WIS.
ARTHUR H. VANDENBERG, MICH.
WALLACE H. WHITE, JR., MAINE

HENRIK SHIPSTEAD, MINN.

EDWARD J. TRENWITH, CLERK
JAMES A. WHITE, ASST. CLERK

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

June 11, 1938.

Mr. Hiram W. Johnson, Jr.,
896 Mills Building,
San Francisco, California.

My dear Jack:

I have received your note of June 9th concerning the possibility of you and Bill in the gubernatorial fight. It was very good of you to write me that you did not want to move without my O.K.. I did not expect this and you ought not to have to do it, but I realize that complications occur and I will frankly state to you my opinion.

Since 1913 Murphy has been my constant adherent. Of course, it was not necessary in the later years but in the earlier years he was one of labor's representatives who~~x~~ always stood up and upon whom always I could count. This is what has given me pause in the matter.

Of course, if you declared for Olson, the Olson people would advertise it and, if they could, would connect me with it, and in order to avoid the implication of ingratitude, perhaps it would be just

-2-

an implication, ~~and~~ I would have to make a statement
in behalf of Murphy, which under the circumstances
I do not like to hook up with on a doo any more than
I do not care to do. [^] The atmosphere may clear soon. *you don't*

Olson, as you know, if he is nominated,
will meet with the same sort of fight, less intensive
only, as that against Sinclair four years ago. He
publicly subscribed to all of Sinclair's vagaries and
fancies.

It is my intention to leave here for
California on the 20th, if possible, at the latest
on the 23rd. Now do not misunderstand me, lad.
You have the right to go anywhere you see fit in
politics, and I resent the fact that anybody would
think otherwise, but we have just had an occasion here
in the Iowa primary where young Roosevelt, whom we
have dubbed the crown prince, intimated he was for
Wearin and against Gillette, and we have all asserted
that his father was guilty of rotten hypocrisy in asserting
he took no part in that primary. By the way, we felt
mighty good about the result there, but the damned
Democrats are a peculiar lot and I am afraid wont stick.

You know what day this is and I reached
the office late. I found your letter of June 9th. You

-3-

asked me to wire but I feel it is unnecessary to wire
and have written instead so that the letter will reach
you tomorrow night.

With all my love,

Affectionately,

Ada.

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.

WESTERN UNION

(21)

R. B. WHITE
PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

J. C. WILLEVER
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

SIGNS

DL = Day Letter
NM = Night Message
NL = Night Letter
LC = Deferred Cable
NLT = Cable Night Letter
Ship Radiogram

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.

Received at Main Office, 722 Market St., San Francisco, Cal.

TELEPHONE
SUTTER 4321

Hiram W. Johnson Papers
Bancroft Library

AA389 72 DL=SN WASHINGTON DC 17 246P

HIRAM W JOHNSON JR, ATTORNEY AT LAW=

1938 JUN 17 PM 12 25

MILLS BLDG SFRAN=

YOUR WIRE CONCERNING HIRAM DULY RECEIVED. LET HIM MAKE
THE CHOICE. I WILL NOT TAKE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF CHOOSING
FOR HIM NOR THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR A POSSIBLE DEFEAT WHICH
MIGHT CHILL HIS ENTHUSIASM IN THE YEARS TO COME. THE
THOUGHT OCCURS TO ME THAT IT IS PREMATURE AND THE WORST TIME
HE COULD SELECT. I HAVE NO OBJECTION TO ANY CHOICE HE MAY
MAKE BUT I WILL NOT MAKE IT FOR HIM=.

DAD.

122 MARYLAND AVENUE, N.E.
WASHINGTON, D.C.

Confidential: —

[JUNE 17, 1938]

Sonny boy:

Wish I could make
you understand what a hard letter
this is to write — because of the chance
that it may be misunderstood —
but life is like that, and feeling
as I do I must take that chance.
You of course know that we want
for Hiram whatever he wants for
himself that goes without saying,
but I am now telling you
secretly, because Dad does
not know of this letter — that
I wish Hiram would just wait
awhile. — before swimming
in the Saltillo Sea. — Son

surprised you would not
see the situation yourself &
keep him from the
disappointment of waiting.
You do not understand
his bitterness ^{toward} your
father for having voted & stood
as he has. — He is marked
for slaughter. — Roosevelt
has at the end of this session
reached his peak of
popularity & knows if
it is threatening all that
opposed him. — Your dad
in particular. — And has
started already to make
his threats, which no doubt
are legitimate. — Du Franck

2
122 MARYLAND AVENUE, N. E.

WASHINGTON, D. C.

Daughterless letter today
he tells of the bitterness
against him because of
his stand on the reorganization
Bier. Etc. & that but Mr. Woods
help & the Presidents visit they
hope to make defeat for him
Easy. — This is just one of the
many things. — If any
one of the names of N. P. J.
reads ^{them} they will be defeating
him ^(Hiram) point to the downfall
of the Hiram Co. Mr. Bier is used
as only they know how to use
it. — They are a hundred
other angles but cannot write
them. — Your Dad certainly
has earned the right to make.

his fight uncompromised - He
must begin as soon as the
President leaves the State -
And while it seems selfish
to ask Herman to wait yet
I do it, with great earnestness.
He has his whole life
before him - Your Dad
has just one more fight -
So you figure this out
for yourself. — He would
be very angry if he knew
I wrote you — He would
not tell you these things
but he is nervous, anxious
& fearful of his powers
to make a ~~of~~ hard fight
but not even the Dictator
can tell him what to do

122 MARYLAND AVENUE, N. E.

WASHINGTON, D. C.

And when to quit. — So the
fight must be made. —
It is hard to say all this
but your Dad would
die before he would
say a word. — And knowing
this I must tell you ^{myself}.
Please think this over
Carefully — & kindly. —
And do not in anyway
betray my Confidence to
your Dad. — I am sure
he would be cross if he
knew. — Even though he
would admit it is so.

My love — And pleadings
for your understanding.
Devotedly Mother.

KEY PITTMAN, NEV., CHAIRMAN

PAT HARRISON, MISS.
WALTER F. GEORGE, GA.
ROBERT F. WAGNER, N. Y.
TOM CONNALLY, TEX.
J. HAMILTON LEWIS, ILL.
ELBERT D. THOMAS, UTAH
FREDERICK VAN NUYS, IND.
F. RYAN DUFFY, WIS.
JAMES P. POPE, IDAHO
JAMES E. MURRAY, MONT.
DENNIS CHAVEZ, N. MEX.
LEWIS B. SCHWELLENBACH, WASH.
CLAUDE PEPPER, FLA.
THEODORE F. GREEN, R. I.
ALBEN W. BARKLEY, KY.

WILLIAM E. B. IDAHO
HIRAM W. JOHNSON, CALIF.
ARTHUR CAPPER, KANS.
ROBERT M. LA FOLLETTE, JR., WIS.
ARTHUR H. VANDENBERG, MICH.
WALLACE H. WHITE, JR., MAINE

HENRIK SHIPSTEAD, MINN.

EDWARD J. TRENWITH, CLERK
JAMES A. WHITE, ASST. CLERK

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

June 18, 1938.

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

My dear Jack:

This morning I received your very fine telegram on Father's Day. I didn't know such a day existed, and I was all the more delighted to have your wire. Yesterday the reaction was on from the closing days of the session, when we keep long hours, though we do little, and when one is on the alert day and night upstairs. I am glad the session is over. It has been as disturbing and disagreeable a session as ever I have participated in. I'll not bleat again about the possibilities of what we're doing, but suffice it to say I am anything but satisfied with the conduct of the Government now, and the actions of the President. We'll let it pass at that.

We're in the usual tangle about tickets on the railroads. The best we can do, apparently, is the Overland Limited of the twenty-fifth. We were unable to get satisfactory accommodations on either the streamliner or the 49'er, and we had to be content with the old Overland Limited. This ought to bring us out there on the twenty-eighth.

Apparently Snook has been as busy as a bird dog

- 2 -

in running me for Governor. I can't understand why he did this, because I had discouraged it in every possible way with him, but I presume his enthusiasm ran away with him, tinged a little with the hope of receiving his old position again. The first wire that I received from California about a meeting there was from him and Madsen. That was a day before any invitation came to me, and upon its receipt I wired them that I wanted no meeting and didn't care to undertake one. Next day Barrows wired for his constitutional organization, and subsequently Mrs. Mattei, for Pro America. I declined the invitation as I wired you. I don't feel quite equal to a big meeting and an extended speech and this of itself would be sufficient reason for declining, but just at this time, when the battle lines are forming in California, I thought it wouldn't be particularly appropriate, even in defense of my course here. At any rate, the first reason I suggest was reason enough for my declination. If I am living in 1940 and am a candidate, I would welcome something of this sort when I came back from here, but I do not think anybody would remember the two years, and I am not prepared to jump into the California situation at present.

I received yesterday your wire concerning Hiram. This morning I received the newspaper clipping from the Chronicle. I wired you frankly as you asked me to do. Hiram is very young yet, and has just entered upon manhood's stride.

- 3 -

He ought not to do anything which would militate against his possibilities in the future. I wouldn't prevent him from doing anything he wished to do, even if I could, but I would be wanting in fairness to you and to him if I encouraged him in the running for Assemblyman now. I look to see another Roosevelt victory in the coming elections. We may win one or two Senators and a few additional Congressmen, but not enough to make any appreciable dent in his overwhelming majority. The Democratic Party is in its zenith today. The time is anything but propitious, therefore, for running. Beside that, what would he run on? There is no issue that he could make in this sort of campaign, and he would be left to the devices of the ordinary politician, which he would shrink from. He has led a very sheltered life thus far. The first thing that he has ever done of a public nature, and this he has done well, and I was very proud of him, is the exposure of the racket in the appointment of police. He wouldn't go around ringing doorbells, presenting himself as a candidate and asking support, I am sure. I don't believe he is temperamentally fitted for that sort of thing. To be a candidate and to be beaten would be most unfortunate. Now I can't weigh his chances with the little information at my command, and that little is contained in your dispatch alone. You are on the ground. You're the lad's father. You ought to be able to see clearly the situation and not put him up against something where he

- 4 -

isn't reasonably sure of success. If you can feel a reasonable certainty of his success the case will be different, and remember always the youth of the lad, his absolute inexperience in this sort of thing, and his natural disinclination to do the things which would bring him success in a fight, a disinclination which I respect and wholly approve.

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

Affectionately,

Dad

KEY PITTMAN, NEV., CHAIRMAN

PAT HARRISON, MISS.
WALTER F. GEORGE, GA.
ROBERT F. WAGNER, N. Y.
TOM CONNALLY, TEX.
J. HAMILTON LEWIS, ILL.
ELBERT D. THOMAS, UTAH
FREDERICK VAN NUYS, IND.
F. RYAN DUFFY, WIS.
JAMES P. POPE, IDAHO
JAMES E. MURRAY, MONT.
DENNIS CHAVEZ, N. MEX.
LEWIS B. SCHWELLENBACH, WASH.
CLAUDE PEPPER, FLA.
THEODORE F. GREEN, R. I.
ALBEN W. BARKLEY, KY.

WILLIAM E. BORAH, IDAHO
HIRAM W. JOHNSON, CALIF.
ARTHUR CAPPER, KANS.
ROBERT M. LAFOLLETTE, JR., WIS.
ARTHUR H. VANDENBERG, MICH.
WALLACE H. WHITE, JR., MAINE

HENRIK SHIPSTEAD, MINN.

EDWARD J. TRENWITH, CLERK
JAMES A. WHITE, ASST. CLERK

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

December 29, 1938.

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

My dear Jack:

This morning I received your letter of December 27th, enclosing the check that I sent, with the signature torn off. I should have been delighted to have had you keep this, but I realized the necessity no longer existed. I rejoiced in your good luck, and Mother and I were very happy at the fortunate turn.

We arrived here during fairly decent weather, the thermometer hovering around forty. The last couple of days have brought a cold spell and the thermometer is down in the twenties. I guess we're both so old now that we feel the cold, as I never used to, but a temperature such as we're having at present is very disagreeable to me.

Things are in rotten shape here with the Administration. It still controls a sufficient part of the press and a sufficient number of the correspondents to put over the most childish propaganda. The worst of it is that our people believe it.

- 2 -

I commenced this note for the purpose of again congratulating you and telling you of Mother's happiness and mine at the way things have turned out. I find myself getting off the immediate subject matter, so I'll wish you and the boys and Miss Schow, for Mother and myself, a happy New Year, and everything you could wish for yourselves, and close.

With lots of love, in which Mother joins,

I am

Your Father

Hiram W. Johnson