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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

June 4, 1941.

CHRISTIE B. KENNEDY, CLERK

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

My dear Jack:

I received your ~~one~~ short letter, after the speech, and I received your wire, and today your note of June 2. I am very glad you liked the speech because it was dictated hastily, and I was by no means certain of it myself. I presume that I will always have trouble with publicity three thousand miles away, and I'll have to do the best I can. I took the trouble to write Eleanor McClatchy for fear the valleys of the state would not be covered, and she had all of the Bee's radios, save Fresno, but Modesto and Bakersfield and Sacramento covered that. If people read the radio programs, as we do here, they would have known of the speech and of the time.

There were some parts of the speech I say to you, and you alone, that I have learned, made our dictator very angry, so we may look for some reprisals. I don't care much about this because I do not feel fit for any more than the present fight, and I will take

Mr. Hiram W. Johnson, Jr. - 2

what is coming to me in it.

I am still oppressed with Philip's sickness, but I feel some comfort this past week in reports that I have heard of him. Dr. Moffitt was here for quite a while, and we had him at luncheon twice, and I had the opportunity to talk to him. He was very careful in his utterances, but he left me feeling very hopeful. It's a pity that he is growing old. I notice it more keenly in my fellows than I used to, and think I can distinguish the fact.

With my love to all the members of the family and Miss Schow, in which Mother joins, I am

Affectionately,
H.W.J.

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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

CHRISTIE B. KENNEDY, CLERK

June 8, 1941.

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

My dear Jack:

I have today your letter of June 6.
I was very glad to have the news concerning Philip.
I don't understand the continuance of the treatment
by which the leg is up in the air, but I suppose the
doctors themselves know, and we ought to be satis-
fied with their determination of the matter. If the
celebrated remedy of Dr. Hogan is the "Rear Admiral"
remedy, it is the one that your Mother swears by.
Mother wanted me to write you, too, that Mrs. Bennett
Champ Clark (wife of the Senator from Missouri) who,
for some years was a victim of infantile paralysis,
has spasms in her leg yet, and very severe ones. She
claims that the doctors say they are a good thing;
that if they stopped, she would be in more distress,
and so she bears with them patiently. She is still
more or less crippled, and has been through a terrible
ordeal.

Mr. Hiram W. Johnson, Jr. - 2

I think, on the whole, the response to my speech was very good. About four hundred telegrams and thus far, perhaps fifteen hundred letters have been received. I have had fifteen telegrams taking me to task and about forty letters. You see the proportion is not great. It is not the same number of letters that I had in the heat of the campaign, but they are very earnest, and the writers of them have gone to the trouble of sending me a hand-written communication, and what touched me more than anything else was the number of people, - fifteen, who sent me little donations of a dollar and a fraction. Of course I sent the money back immediately to the donors, but their letters sending it indicated they were poor and could ill afford it. I was very much touched by them.

I was getting ready to make a speech on the infamous bill he sent in to us, but they have withdrawn the damned bill, and I suppose it will come up in some other form.

Please send me a word of Philip's condition each week, simply "Philip has been better this week", or, "Philip has not been so well this week"; that is all that

Mr. Hiram W. Johnson, Jr. - 3

I ask, and I will be very grateful for it.

With my love, in which Mother joins, to all

I am

Affectionately,

Ed

WALTER F. GEORGE, GA., CHAIRMAN

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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

June 17, 1941.

CHRISTIE B. KENNEDY, CLERK

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

My dear Jack:

Pardon me for having missed my usual time of writing you. I try to do so Saturdays, when it is possible; when not, I always do so on Sunday. I have let two days pass this week, for which I apologize.

I quite agree with you that parties like your Mother had on her birthday are fine. Our house, at a maximum, will gather but ten people, and we had ten the night of her celebration. The difficulty with them is the immense amount of preparation Mother puts in on these occasions. It is not necessary at all, but she has to oversee everything herself, and have it just so. The result of course is a corking good dinner, but the events leave her worn out and weary. I doubted the advisability and the feasibility of ringing up Philip, but Mother was determined to do so, and it turned out beautifully. We heard him perfectly, and

Mr. Hiram W. Johnson, Jr. - 2

it was such a delight to hear his voice. I think we can honestly say, without being unduly optimistic, that he shows improvement, and Hiram's letter, received just yesterday, confirms this. I can't understand why the traction, as they term it, is not removed from his leg, but I can understand how the endeavor to remove it causes him great pain. If one of us were bed-ridden as he has been I imagine our muscles would become very painful indeed when we tried to adjust them to new conditions. I hope, however, he will persist - if other things are equal - until, if it can be done, his leg becomes fairly normal again. However, I am very thankful for the little improvement that he shows. I can't help but think he is confined in a place where little attention is paid patients. The mishaps to his leg, and others that have occurred, and then the recent one of the first day he was allowed in the sun to have it cause him a real sunburn, all illustrate this, and I think that hospitals after all are horrid places. I should think you had doctors enough, however, to shepherd him about when such a thing was permitted as a sun bath.

Mr. Hiram W. Johnson, Jr. - 3

I was mightily amused over the big league baseball. The history of this one is rather peculiar. Mother and I have front seats just at an angle from the home plate. It seems incredible that a man will hit fouls standing with his back to you, and that these occasionally you have to look out for. Well, one day during the progress of a big league game, there came one of those sizzling fouls straight for me. My whole thought was for Mother, and I put my hands up like a good fellow to catch the ball. My eyes are not good now, and instead of catching it in my hands I caught it on my right wrist. It bounced from there into Mother's lap, and was going at such velocity that it bounced up the stairs immediately behind us, and finally was retrieved by one of Clark Griffith's boys, who was directed by Griffith to give me the ball, and I took it as my souvenir of that game. I had a souvenir on my wrist, too, as it left a beautiful big black and blue bruise which lasted for quite awhile. We brought the ball home, and Mother finally sent it to you. I tried to dissuade her, but nothing would do but she would send it, and from your account of it, I am mightily glad she did. It

Mr. Hiram W. Johnson, Jr. - 4

was a sizzling foul tip. Since your letter we have been to one game, and Mother spent all of her time during the game hoping that another would land near us so that she could pounce upon it, and send it to you. I would be just as willing it bounced on someone's head rather than my arm, however.

What a pleasure it is to write of a little incident like this rather than of war, The Great Dictator had an incident of which he was only too glad to take cognizance. In a most hypocritical manner he asked the American people to withhold judgment upon it, and then through his State Department, he abused Hitler for having slain so many innocent people. Now, that they are all saved, he hasn't a word to say. I shouldn't wonder if there was some incident about this that we have not learned of yet. He is doing one thing after another; first, irritating the Germans; and secondly, all are acts of war, for which they would have the right to declare war upon us. I saw the other night a picture of young Englishmen being trained at Los Angeles for flying, and I must say they were a fine looking set. The caption said there were going to be five thousand of them. Of course, a nation not a party to a war cannot do everything in the nature of aiding another nation

Mr. Hiram W. Johnson, Jr. - 5

like sending arms and munitions, and all sorts of implements of warfare, and the training of men to fight the other belligerent without laying itself open under international law. He tries everything, and Hitler, thus far, has not permitted himself to be affected by it save in the recent incident, which, apparently, is cleared up.

Somebody must have seen the last speech that I delivered because the response was immediate and large.

Your Mother was so interested in the machine, concerning which you wrote, that she immediately went down to the establishment here and examined it. She came home last night quite enthusiastic about it, and I think that I shall get one. I have two or three troubles, however, physically, and I am not entirely certain that it will do the job for me. If I can convince myself of this I certainly shall buy one. Dr. Willcutts tried for a long time to put upon me a corset, but it is so uncomfortable and so disagreeable that I have not yet worn it. This new gadget of yours seems to have solved that problem. I look forward with great interest to trying it. I will let you know how I get along.

Mr. Hiram W. Johnson, Jr. - 6

I was very sorry to read of Mrs. Bowles' death. What human tragedies there are, of which we know nothing !

With my love, in which Mother joins, to Hiram, Philip, and Miss Schow, I am

Affectionately,

W.H.

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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

June 24, 1941.

CHRISTIE B. KENNEDY, CLERK

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

My dear Jack:

I received your recent letter and was very glad and very thankful for the improvement that has been noted in Phil. I presume at the beginning of this week they took off the traction (why it is termed such I can't conceive) and that you have had a chance for the last couple of days to determine his condition, with the traction removed.

First, I am going to take up little things, out of which we get a real kick and which are so innocent in themselves.

We're taking three-day recesses here, and your Mother and I have gone out to a good many league ball games, more than I have ever seen before. Since your letter about the league baseball Mother has been on the qui vive every time a foul has been hit, pokes me in the ribs, and asks me immediately to go after it. It is a standing rule here that if the ball comes anyway near

Mr. Hiram W. Johnson, Jr. - 2

you, and you can grab it, you get it. And for some reason or other, Mother wants another ball thinking Hiram or Philip would be glad to have a league ball, and I can't rid her of the idea by telling her that neither one of them takes any interest in baseball, and both would laugh at her thinking of getting a ball for either; so she jumps up each time that one comes anyway near us, and pokes me, just as if I were not watching it, and expects me to scramble around like a little boy, and get it. Thus far, the ball has not come so close to us that I could snag it. I believe she goes out to the games solely in the hope that a blessed Providence will place in our hands again a league ball. I could get one for the asking, but that would not be half the fun.

It has been hotter than Tophet here last week, but we saw one game of thirteen innings without a score, and then the much-abused Washington team by an error of Cleveland (Cleveland is the leader in the league) won. The weather broke last night apparently, with what we'd call a cloudburst, - a fearful rainstorm for a short

Mr. Hiram W. Johnson, Jr. - 3

period. Today it is overcast.

I wish you would not be so insistent about the Exercycle. I mean this as a joke because I have one in my bedroom and I exercise for about ten minutes each day upon it. This exercise has now been continued for some three or four days, and I think I am going to get some good out of it. One of the things that has troubled me greatly in the past year has been my legs. I have been unable to walk more than a couple of hundred yards, and I have been riding from our house to my office each day. I have begun now to walk to the office, and Mother accompanies me. With the Exercycle I think I am going to improve my walking very much indeed. I am not trying to do stunts upon this Trojan Horse. I am content to ride him, and content half of the time to minister to my extremities. I have tried to get your Mother to use the machine, but, apart from her almost tearful requests that I should use it, she remains aloof, content to seeing me upon it. I read with a cynical sort of smile how your imagination was playing pranks with you, and that you could imagine yourself taking a ride in the park. We have no such view

Mr. Hiram W. Johnson, Jr. - 4

as you have, and it is quite enough to stick to the thing for a reasonable time, and I think I will continue. By the way, what was the cost of your machine? I ask this simply to compare the cost with ours, which is \$285.00. The salesman did not impress me when he said the price was going up on the first of July.

Now, a few words regarding recent developments. Our State Department and our President after some years of the foulest sort of abuse, which, in my opinion, was justified, regarding Joseph Stalin and the government of Russia, are now preparing to embrace Stalin and fight by his side. I think this is a horrid condition of affairs, and gives the lie to all our pretense regarding saving civilization, the high ideals that have actuated us in the war, and our solemn objurations that we're fighting for the rights of humanity. Russia has been the admitted awful example of a ruthless tyranny against which we have ever inveighed. I hasten to add that I consider Hitler no better, and so far as I am concerned, I would leave these two scoundrels Hitler and Stalin to fight it out. But it is perfectly obvious to me that Winston Churchill is directing our foreign policy,

Mr. Hiram W. Johnson, Jr. - 5

and that we'll be sending aid to Russia at the earliest possible moment. After the long years behind us for the abuse of Russia for her cruelty, her destruction of religion within her borders, with all her communistic philosophy, we're going to fight by her side now in the hope of eliminating one particular dictator. I see nothing, but first, misfortune; and secondly, the stultifying of a great nation in the path that has been mapped out for us. I might add, parenthetically, that the eastern press is a unit in rushing us to get into war on Russia's side, and of course, a large part of it, is dictated by the President himself. He seeks now this infamous law of his authorizing the taking of any property, tangible or intangible, of any character; and what is worse, he will be asking the congress to extend the time of service of those who reluctantly accepted the command of the government to enlist for a year. The whole bloody thing drives me distracted. And what we are to gain by a victory for Russia I shudder to think of, just as I shudder to think what will be the result if Hitler is successful.

Mr. Hiram W. Johnson, Jr. - 6

I am glad to see that you and Hiram are in good shape. I am worried more than I can tell you about what will transpire in the boy's case. I would not have him see this for fear it would take from him all ambition; but I say to you that I am dependent upon one man's word, and while he has assured me more than once of what he will do, I long ago learned to be wary. The whole situation rather cramps my style, too, because the one man is the chief of operations, and appears before the naval committee regularly. I have already locked horns with the committee in one instance, and that is the Secretary of the Navy's pet scheme of having a private army, as I have termed it, with a couple of million dollars to pay for it. This upon the ground that there are so many who are guilty of subversive practices in our industries that he requires it. I am wondering now what he will say that he has the good Stalin at his right hand.

I refrain from writing this sort of thing to Hiram because, first, I have no reason to doubt the assurance that has been given me; and secondly, it is only

Mr. Hiram W. Johnson, Jr. - 7

my nasty nature that makes me feel that something might
arise.

Mother and I keep reasonably well. Although
I feel the ravages of age, the years have passed over
Mother's head very lightly, I am very glad to say.

With my love to all, in which Mother joins,
I am

Affectionately,

Ed

WALTER F. GEORGE, GA., CHAIRMAN
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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

June 29, 1941.

CHRISTIE B. KENNEDY, CLERK

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

My dear Jack:

The reason for the request that I made of you in regard to the Lindbergh meeting was that I had received a request from John J. Taheny, Regional Director Northern California America First Committee, San Francisco, asking me to designate somebody to represent me at the gathering. Of course, I, at once, thought of you, and wired you. I was very glad indeed to have you accept. The request came in a telegram that reads, as follows:

"San Francisco Calif. 27
The Hon Hiram W Johnson
(SU) Washington, D.C.

"America First Committee requests that you designate person to represent you on speakers platform Lindbergh mass meeting San Francisco July 1 1941 Wire collect John J. Taheny Regional Director Northern California. "

I replied by wire, as follows:

"John J. Taheny,
Regional Director Northern California
America First Committee,
San Francisco, California

"In accordance your wire twenty seventh I designate my son Hiram W. Johnson junior to represent me on speakers platform Lindbergh mass meeting San Francisco July first 1941

Hiram W. Johnson "

Mr. Hiram W. Johnson, Jr. - 2

I don't assume that there is anything for you to do, except appear there and sit on the platform. Lindbergh is anathema to the administration now. He has won my sympathy and regard by his nerve and his courage. I am not too greatly enamored of his desire to make a negotiated peace, but he has the right to express his views on that subject decently, as he has done, and when the President stoops to call him a "copperhead" I think this reacts upon the President much more than upon Lindbergh.

The bitterness of the Anglophile and ground-kissing Britain against Lindbergh is horrid, and if I get the opportunity I am going to say that as an American how much I admire his courage and steadfastness.

I am writing this letter Sunday. It is now ten minutes to twelve. I am expecting it will reach you at the latest Tuesday morning, so that if there is any inquiry you wish to make of me you will have ample opportunity before the meeting.

Affectionately,
Dad

You better look up Lantry and confirm these telegrams

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HIRAM W JOHNSON JR=

973 GREEN ST SFRAN=

WHO PRESIDES TUESDAY NIGHT? I AM ANXIOUS TO HAVE MEETING
 BIG SUCCESS SUGGEST TO LINDBERGH AS COMING FROM ME ANOTHER
 ELEMENT IS IN THE WAR NOW THE INFAMOUS STALIN AND A FEW
 SENTENCES IN RELATION TO HIS TYRANNY AND BLOOD THIRSTINESS
 WOULD NOT BE INAPPROPRIATE THE MEETING BECAUSE OF STALIN
 ENTRY OUGHT TO BE BROADCAST ARRANGEMENTS COULD BE MADE
 TUESDAY SUCCESS TO YOU ALL LOVE=

DAD.

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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

July 6, 1941.

CHRISTIE B. KENNEDY, CLERK

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

My dear Jack:

I awaited eagerly your letter describing the Lindbergh meeting, and read it with the utmost interest. I am delighted that the meeting was such a success. I noted that it was five minutes to eight when Hiram and you arrived, and it was with the greatest difficulty that you got in even through a side door. I think you might have made it more difficult if you had arrived at eight thirty. However, this is a slight, good-natured jibe. I was very glad that you thought Lindbergh made a fine speech. I have admired his courage, and there was one time during the campaign when the President hoped to break him by calling him a "copperhead", and every little stooge in the country was blasting away at him. He stood up nobly, and he has kept his poise, and said what he thought he ought to say without regard to name calling and newspaper abuse. Your Mother and I both felt very proud of Lillian Gish and of the reception she received. We all know how difficult her position is when she is de-

Mr. Hiram W. Johnson, Jr. - 2

pendent upon the Jew proprietorship of the movie industry, and when she is required by sentiment and choice to care for her mother. All in all, it was a fine meeting. Apparently, there were no untoward incidents, and the speeches were all well received.

During the week we have had quite a flare-up here over the attempt that is to be made by the Administration to hold the men of the National Guard, and the men of the so-called Selective Service Act in their service for an indefinite period, - as long as the crisis shall appear. I gave forth a statement upon the matter, which received scant attention in the east. Do you know whether it carried in the west? A copy of it I send you herein. It was dictated hastily and did not contain all that I would wish, but sufficient for my purposes. It is becoming increasingly difficult for anybody to get publicity opposed to the war party.

I don't understand the funny little incident which made you feel quite foolish, - that when you got back to your seat, Hiram suggested you had arranged the thing in advance? What thing?

Mr. Hiram W. Johnson, Jr. - 3

I see very plainly from your letter that we can congratulate ourselves upon a very fine meeting in San Francisco, both as to attendance, which was the principal thing, and the speeches. I feel very happy over the result.

I received a fine letter from Hiram detailing the condition of Philip for the week previous to last week. Everything looks to me to be fine now, and barring little ups and downs, Philip ought to be on the high road to recovery. To say this relieves us but mildly expresses it. Your Mother and I feel as if the great pall which rested upon us for so many months, and made difficult doing anything else or even thinking of anything else, has been raised; and, although, we are not too confident yet, we feel the Lord has been very good to us.

I have the Exercycle, and I ride horseback about twice seven minutes each day now. I have been very cautious in using it because of some other little troubles that I have. I believe it will accomplish some good, and if so, I will stick to it, gradually lengthening the period of my horseback ride.

Mr. Hiram W. Johnson, Jr. - 4

It is perfectly apparent to me that the President and his stooges in the Cabinet, and his Army, are going to try to put over the horrid suggestion recently made by General Marshall. They will sneak this over in some way in the manner in which they have done all their work. You doubtless noticed by the papers that the English are crazy to get our boys into action in the air, and have been paying great attention to the Lafayette Escadrille Number Two. After an action they say then one or two of these American manned planes did not return, and nothing else. In some sort of crooked way this Administration will have some of these boys killed, then spectacular funerals, and the like, will arouse our people.

It looks as if Hitler is going through Russia in his march on Moscow, Leningrad, and the Ukraine, and the experts here say that he cannot be stopped. I never did believe the Russians were good fighters or good soldiers, and it would take more than Russian communiques to make me believe otherwise.

Mr. Hiram W. Johnson, Jr. - 5

Tell Hiram that I was very grateful for his
last letter, and will write him during this week.

With our love to all, I am

Affectionately,

DLH

STATEMENT OF UNITED STATES SENATOR HIRAM W. JOHNSON
July 3, 1941

COPY

This statement as I understand it does just the reverse of what the President has repeatedly promised would not be done. It alters the contract that was made by our Selective Service Law. It makes other changes that are equally bad, and worse than all, it, apparently, contemplates the taking of our boys across the water to fight a foreign war, which, in the most solemn manner that could be conceived of, was promised them and the people of the United States would never be done. I can't conceive, the promise having been made, that any events have transpired to cause us to break it, save the one thing -- that handsome Joe Stalin has been washed white as snow of all his villainous characteristics, and this country, with its high ideals, is to be made his instrumentality for making the world safe for communism. This I would never do. If I had the ordering of events I would place Stalin and Hitler enclosed in an elevated cage and let them fight it out. It's worse than nauseating to an honest American to see his country, with its idealism and preaching of the four freedoms, aid either.

All must be published or none. - Hiram W. Johnson.

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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

CHRISTIE B. KENNEDY, CLERK

July 13, 1941.

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

My dear Jack:

I received today yours of July 11. I note that Mrs. Klauser is on her vacation and that, therefore, you are unable to dictate one of your usual letters.

I think [^]very good play was given in the statement that I enclosed to you, which is intended to be a reflection upon our Nation, prating of its ideals, fighting for Stalin. The Examiners, both of Los Angeles, and San Francisco, and the Chronicle, published it in full.

Mother and I were very glad to learn that the operation of Miss Schow was successful, and that she is likely to come home this day. We do hope she progresses well, and has a speedy recovery.

Things are white heat here. The endeavor of Marshall to change the term of enlistment by law, not with the consent of the enlisted men, will give a real fight in the congress, but its result will probably be the same as the other fights that have been held. We'll

Mr. Hiram W. Johnson, Jr. - 2

start off well, and then, one by one our friends will
be ^{picked} ~~begged~~ off; some by argument of the Administration,
others with promises of patronage, until a real majority
is presented by the other side. It gives you a contempt
for your brethren seeing thus a righteous cause is beaten.

With my love, in which Mother joins, I am

Affectionately,

Mad

COPY

July 19, 1941.

Mr. Hiram W. Johnson, 3rd,
973 Green Street,
San Francisco, California

My dear Hiram:

I received your letter of a week ago, and the last one came last night. I think I see that you feel there has been improvement in Philip, though not as much as we desire, nor with the rapidity that we would wish. I think we are justified in believing that there has been a steady progression with Philip, and that we may look for more as time goes on. Good Lord, the boy has had sufficient trial and suffering!

You have been very good in the matter of these reports, and I can't tell you how grateful I feel. Your Grandmother is of like mind, and we are both very grateful to you.

We're edging closer to war with each day - sometimes, it is a very slight move, but always in that direction; and sometimes, it is a move, which is an act of war, like the occupation of Iceland. It is only because Hitler has his hands full, and wants no more enemies that the damn scrub does not declare war upon us. We have given him cause many, many times, and continue to do so. I think Roosevelt is very much disappointed that he has not declared war, as he would have a perfect right to do, as then he would have the unity, that he lacks now, in our country, for fighting it. Who would have thought Iceland was garrisoned by eighty thousand British! I can't believe it yet, but the newspapers have repeatedly published that this is the fact. It has a population of only one hundred thousand, or thereabouts. The British garrisons were evidently tired of their job, and they fixed up a plan by which they very kindly offered to put Iceland in our lap, and we would send there garrisons of from thirty to eighty thousand. In the sending we might have one of our ships torpedoed, and then the indignation of the country would be intense, and then, every individual possible would be ordered into service. Military men want

COPY

2.

July 19, 1941.

everybody in the service. The miserable lie that they have put forth that the army will distengrate if they don't break their contract solemnly made to the men of the draft is simply an expression of the military will with nothing to justify it, but with the President mad and greedy for it. I get so sick at heart over the whole business that I am not fit to talk about it.

How are you getting on? Does the business of your official position keep you engaged, and is it increasing? Does it approach, in any way, the much heralded national defense, or is it wholly divorced from that?

With my love, in which Gran joins, I am

Affectionately your Grandfather,
Your Grandmother is of like mind, and we are both very grateful to you.

We're edging closer to war with each day - sometimes it is a very slight move, but always in that direction; and sometimes it is a move, which is an act of war, like the occupation of Iceland. It is only because Hitler has his hands full, and wants no more enemies that the damn army does not declare war upon us. We have given him cause many, many times, and continue to do so. I think Roosevelt is very much disappointed that he has not declared war, as he would have a perfect right to do, as then he would have the army, that he lacks now in our country, for fighting it. Who would have thought Iceland was carried by eighty thousand British? I can't believe it yet, but the newspapers have repeatedly published that this is the fact. It has a population of only one hundred thousand, or thereabouts. The British garrisons were evidently tired of their job, and they fixed up a plan by which they very kindly offered to put Iceland in our lap, and we would send there garrisons of from thirty to eighty thousand. In the sending we might have one of our ships torpedoed, and then the indignation of the country would be intense, and then, every individual post-
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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

July 20, 1941.

CHRISTIE B. KENNEDY, CLERK

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

My dear Jack:

It is now one thirty and I have just finished reading your letter of July 18. Your description of the loss of your cutlets, and Ronald kindly licking his chops, and then the horrifying discovery the day afterwards, that the skewers that held the meat together, had, doubtless, been swallowed with it, would have been a scream, if it had not been so tragic. I thought you were going to lose the dog, and I think it is wonderful that the veterinary dove into him, and removed the offending skewers. I will keep mum as an oyster, and warn Mother. I can imagine Philip going into a tantrum, and blaming everybody around, so we'll keep silent, and thank the Lord the incident had no more tragical aspect.

I quite agree with you on the letter written by Lindbergh anent the Iokes incident. When first I read the story I thought he had made a mistake, but everyone has a different viewpoint of such incidents. Lindbergh has never, in any fashion, abused the President. I should have felt

Mr. Hiram W. Johnson, Jr. - 2

at the time the President called him a copperhead that he had opened the door for such response as one chose to make to him. Lindbergh has a peculiarly gentle sort of nature, and an exaggerated opinion of high authority, and the two together will give you some understanding of why he acted in the fashion that he did. It was perfectly childish to do so. These people here at present are engaged in throwing bricks, and the only way to deal with them is to throw two back.

The President is going to send a message during the week to Congress favoring an extension of the time of enlistment. How he can do this is beyond any sensible man's understanding. He will be given the power by a lot of folderol of Congress, and will move on with one more victory; and this will be almost the last he will require. If he were a proud man, who felt the country he is governing is the best on earth, and was in earnest in prating of the "four freedoms" he would be expanding his chest and taking credit to himself for every success now; but he seems to have acquired the old familiar inferiority complex in his dealings with England. He permits any sort of remark to be made by Englishmen, either in respect to our government, or our mode of procedure; and so long as he is not directly

Mr. Hiram W. Johnson, Jr. - 3

attacked, he thinks the adimadversions of the English reflect on everybody but himself.

We commence tomorrow with a bill concerning which I am very doubtful. It authorizes the President to appropriate property that he may deem necessary for the national defense, and is appropriate to it. The bill has been amended so that it isn't so repugnant as the first draft, but I feel always with the legislation asked by the President that somewhere in it are weasel words which will enable him to do just what he has sought.

I have not ridden my horse so much of late. Your Mother is going daffy (for God's sake don't say so to her) upon my wearing a corset, or some sort of support, and I have been trying to do so for the last few days. It is hell. There stands my horse clawing at the bit, and I don't feel like getting on him under the circumstances, or riding him very long distances. The combination of both remedies has pretty well made me feel like the man who was given too much patent medicine. I don't know how long I will be able to stand it, but perhaps I will be able to stand it indefinitely; but it is pretty tough for a seventy-five year old gent to go about trussed up like a fowl. I get so damned sore that I curse the time artificial supports were created.

Mr. Hiram W. Johnson, Jr . - 4

We were glad to read of Miss Schow's apparent improvement; but it makes one rather sick of the medical profession to read now the aftermath and to remember the original diagnosis. Who is her doctor, anyway? These doctors seem to grow particularly callous, and they are always on vacation when you want them. Give her our love, please, and give it to the boys, too.

Affectionately,

Jack

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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

CHRISTIE B. KENNEDY, CLERK

July 27, 1941.

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

My dear Jack:

I have yours of July 25, and I answer it now for fear the opportunity will not present itself for me to do so during the week. We're going to have up, possibly tomorrow, the whole Wheeler incident. He is rather a difficult man to deal with. Everything he looks at with his own personality, and while I think he is everlastingly right in his row with the Army and the President, I would rather he would not give to the thing the greater color of his own personality. He has grown immensely during the fight to keep us out of war, and this very fact gives him a bad slant on the trouble, which adds nothing to the strength of his position. However, we all have to fight different ways, and if I say anything in the matter, which I shall probably have to do, I am going to take the straightforward path, and inquire when it became treason for a man respectfully to petition our President, and when he became so great he should not be petitioned. Mother and I dined with the Wheelers last night, but neither we

Mr. Hiram W. Johnson, Jr. - 2

nor the other people present, could be of much value to him. He is really a candidate for President, and his conduct will be determined by the effect upon that candidacy. I told him frankly that I did not think we would preserve even the forms of another election, and that if one were held, it would simply be to ratify a fourth term for the President. How strange are human beings ! He met this with a tolerant smile, confident that nothing could arise where Burton K. Wheeler were concerned.

We have a chauffeur answering to the euphonious name of Ronald Davies. I think his eyes are mighty poor, and that sooner or later we'll have some accident. He is careful enough, as careful as a man of no sense can be, and he is young, and respectful, generally. He was riding down the street with Mother in the back seat when a boy on a bicycle came out just ahead of him, and frightened him to death, so that he yanked the brakes in such fashion as to stop the car and throw Mother out of the seat. She was quite severely bruised, and I think if he had displayed an interest in her bruises, rather than an utter indifference to them, she would have glossed over the accident as best she could, but Ronald

Mr. Hiram W. Johnson, Jr. - 3

Davies is occupying his present proud position by a very doubtful tenure at present. I was so damned mad at him I could not talk to him, and then he is the kind that you can talk to him for a week and make no impression on him. This has been one of the incidents of the past week, and it was a narrow escape for your Mother, and alarmed me quite a bit. The bruises she has upon her body are just awful, and you must remember, Mother and I are not as young as we used to be.

It seems that Philip has just one bad thing after another. I wish to God He could give him some surcease from pain. Miss Schow now is evidently suffering. I wish that we could gather up all our sick people, start them on the road, and then follow them to recovery.

I observe what you said about the Willkie meeting. I think he had a good meeting in the south, as well as in San Francisco. They took pains in Los Angeles to drum up the meeting. Apparently, from the Gallup poll, which was published this morning, they have Willkie still in the ring. I think he would be beaten out of sight if he attempts a come-back.

With my love, in which Mother joins, I am

Affectionately your Father,

Hiram W. Johnson

P.S: After dictating this letter I was compelled to leave to keep an engagement so Miss Connor signs it for me.

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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

August 8, 1941.

CHRISTIE B. KENNEDY, CLERK

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

My dear Jack:

Last Saturday and Sunday I did not write you . I was very busy in the office for one thing, and it has been hotter than hell here during the past three weeks. The weather has been so terrible that it got me down the middle of this week, and I don't believe I am myself yet. I have been endeavoring to see if it was possible for me to come to California, and I have not given it up yet. If I can see my way clear to remain there three weeks or so I will still endeavor to do so; and Mother, for the first time, is of like mind with me. The only recreation we have had during these past weeks has been going some three times to night baseball. Neither of us had ever attended one of these meetings on any other occasion, and we both really enjoyed them. The spectacle is what caught my eye rather than the game, although the latter was interesting, too. The grounds are big here, larger than the ordinary grounds in the east, and the lighting was very well done.

Mr. Hiram W. Johnson, Jr. - 2

(I have been indulging a little more in activity here in the way of talking, and I tried to play a small part in the lousy attempt of the administration to lengthen the term of the service of the draftees, under the Selective Service law, without the consent of the individuals concerned. The issue was perfectly plain. The result equally so. Last night (we were in session until after seven o'clock) by a vote of 30 to 45 the scheme of the administration and the army was carried. I think it was a damned outrage, and said so, and then, for good measure, I expressed my opinion of Stalin, and our alliance with him. You might just as well have had no debate for the other side was determined. They might not have been successful, but for the lamentable position in which the Republican Party finds itself. The Republican Party has a duly appointed leader, - McNary of Oregon. He ran out, as usual, early in the game, and it is said is living in a haystack in Oregon. The assistant leader is Austin of Vermont, who is popularly believed to have lunched once at the British Embassy, and then to have been given the high honor of dining there. I dubbed him some months since as the Member from Surrey, and he

Mr. Hiram W. Johnson, Jr. - 3

is fully entitled to that distinguished service.) The vote in the senate was: For the Bill 38 Democrats, and 7 Republicans, and against the Bill, 16 Democrats, 13 Republicans, and one Progressive. If there had been a solid Republican vote against it, you can see the difference it would have made. However, from my standpoint, it is simply another instance of "Truth forever on the scaffold. Wrong forever on the Throne". However, I presume you have seen all this in the daily press out there, and I will quit writing about it.

I tried to make a speech upon the subject. I was given excellent attention by those who were present, but I found myself unequal to the task. It makes me feel very badly to think that my speaking days are over. The only way I can do in the future is to dictate in advance what I wish to say, and then recite it. Nearly all of the speeches, at least those of any account, are prepared and delivered in this manner, and if I can only accustom myself to it and do it (which I dread) perhaps I can get along very well in the future, but the old days of fluency and fervor, and talking extemporaneously and well, I fear are done with me.

Mr. Hiram W. Johnson, Jr. - 4

I was glad indeed to have your last letter about Philip, and so was your Mother. Hiram has been very good to me in letters of late, and I hope he keeps it up. I am fearful of what may transpire with him. They are picking up all possible Reserve officers they can get hold of, and I dread what may happen. I see nothing we can do, though.

I will try to write you again Sunday to make up for my failure this week.

Love to all, Hiram, Philip, Miss Schow, both from your Mother and myself.

Affectionately,

H.W.J.

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CHRISTIE B. KENNEDY, CLERK

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

August 10, 1941.

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

My dear Jack:

I received this morning your letter of August 8, and in partial atonement for my neglect a week ago, I hasten to answer it.

I was very much interested in your views of my remarks in the Senate Thursday last. I quite agree with you that we should harp upon the alliance with Stalin, and never for a moment, permit our people to forget it. Finland, of course, as you said, is another horrible example. The only justification for the bombing of her ports is that she espoused the cause of Hitler; but even with that, there could have been some arrangement made with Russia, or with Great Britain, whereby this little country, the only country of good faith on earth, would be saved the horrors of bombardment.

I think the news you send me of Philip is just hell. I can't account for these doctors. They are supposed to be the highest men in their specialties, and yet, there seems to be an unbroken story of neglect in relation to Philip. I wonder if I am cockeyed in relation to this matter.

Mr. Hiram W. Johnson, Jr. - 2

I can scarcely keep my equilibrium in relation to this war. The mask is off, and that we are carrying on hostilities to save civilization, to make all people equal, et cetera, is no longer the case. We have taken our sides in the war with Great Britain, partly because of the lies that have been told to us, and partly because we wish it that way; and with the press grossly corrupted by money, or intellectually corrupted, the interventionists have been able to put over what they wish, and the President has, of course, been a very able assistant. Oh, damn it all, but I get perfectly frantic when I think of going into a war like this, and coming out without a country at all. I begin to think "it was planned that way", and according to plans, we'll find when hostilities cease, we'll have neither government, nor money, nor anything else, and we'll then be a prey to the evil elements among us, and God knows they are plentiful enough.

Tomorrow the vote will be taken in the House upon the amendment of the Draft Law. From all I can learn, the result is very much in doubt. If the House should save us from ourselves, it won't be the first time it has happened. I don't look for it, because they have had these two days

Mr. Hiram W. Johnson, Jr - 3

to line up their men, and I have seen skunks in the Senate
fall down regularly, and I have no hope of human beings in
political position.

Give my love, in which Mother joins, to Hiram,
Philip, and Miss Schow.

Affectionately,

Mc

COPY

August 12, 1941.

Mr. Hiram W. Johnson, 3rd,
973 Green Street,
San Francisco, California

My dear Hiram:

I received yours of August 9 containing the enclosures. I honestly don't know what to say. In your letter of August 4 to Hogan you say all that I might say, and say it better. I am very much in doubt, however, in regard to the application that you may make for promotion. I fear that it might be taken as acquiescing in whatever might be done to you. However, my thought is of much less importance than your own.

I got so indignant over the alliance with Stalin that I slopped over the other day. I'm fearful that this sort of thing may militate against you, and I should feel very wretched if that were so. I am as confused as you probably are over the situation presented, and I am inclined to let it drift as long as possible.

I have a feeling, too, that perhaps my mail is opened, and I do not write you as fully as I would like. Considering all things, however, I am rather clear on letting the situation ride. You, however, are the one to determine this.

With my love, I am

Affectionately your Grandfather,

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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

August 17, 1941.

CHRISTIE B. KENNEDY, CLERK

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

My dear Jack:

I have just received yours of August 15. You are having a horrid spell with sickness. I am more than sorry for Miss Schow and for Hiram, and I do hope they are in better shape by this time. Sickness is a terrible thing, and you certainly have had sufficient of it in your small family. I am glad the reports of Philip are, in the main, encouraging. I presume that I am an old fuss-budget, but if I were near Philip now, I would tell him to treat his leg that was broken very tenderly, and to devote more time to it now, than endeavor to hasten its recovery and get into trouble again. I presume everybody has his advice to give, and Philip receives the advice with an intolerant shake of his head, and the hope that the party never again will appear before him.

We had our tickets to California for tonight, but we have given them up, Mother switched entirely around, and thought it was better to bear the ills of remaining in Washington, rather than be subjected to the complaint

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in California that one did not stick on the job. Again, she thought that the "big Chief" was coming back this week. In this she was right. He will probably get into Washington today, and if he sounds ~~it~~ off, there might be something in what he will say that will require answer. I was anxious to go because I could do nothing here. I can't see that my remaining on the job makes a particle of difference; or that anything I could do or say would influence, in the slightest degree, the awful situation here. (What Churchill and Roosevelt signed was an offensive and defensive alliance, and specifically takes us into the war. It makes us a fighting part of it. I observe by this morning's papers that he has the nerve to say we have not advanced any further toward the war by what they have done, but he either deliberately lies in saying this, or, in his simplicity, he has been taken to town by Mr. Churchill. I do not believe the latter for a moment. I am confident he knew just what he was doing, and he did it with malice aforethought, and commits us to a fight to the death with the German Reich.)

In the month that I shall stay here I will strike a blow for freedom, but I despair of, in this miserable part of the nation, getting even a hearing.

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I do not give up by any means the possibility of coming out, but the odds against it have lengthened since I have had your Mother to contend with. Please don't say anything to her about it, because I am sure she is acting as she thinks best, and we'll see if this week will not bring forth a different attitude.

(You have seen, of course, the pictures of the meeting between Roosevelt and Churchill on the high seas, - the pictures showing the two great men at worship, and the two great men sitting in silence, each holding a prayer book. Somebody remarked here that they maintained such a pose at that particular time because Churchill was telling Roosevelt a dirty story. This morning there is great dissatisfaction with the mode of taking movies because they were out of focus, out of line, and various other things. They had regular movie outfits with them, and this movie force let out a great ~~blat~~ today. Just think of this job carefully planned for the delectation of our morons ! Think of our people eating it up, and our President engaged in such business. It is the damnest, lausiest, and basest endeavor that was ever attempted.) I think that these men (I am speaking from memory alone now) were drawing a

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picture of Alexander, Czar of the Russians, and Napoleon, at the height of his career, as they held their celebrated meeting on board a boat, and took their cue from this meeting. Roosevelt and Churchill, with the aid of modern improvements in photography, moving pictures, and the like, told their story. This was needed in Britain where the morale was getting low, but God knows, we needed none of it in the United States, where every effort has been made, and is being made, to incite the war spirit. So from two different standpoints entirely, the two great men hit upon the most "dramatic incident of the war". They played their parts like actors who had rehearsed them. And the lousy press of the country is taken in, and gladly taken in. We can only say "God help America. "

To come from the sublime to the prosaic. Mother is very anxious over whether you received a ham. It was sent to you a week or so ago, and was one of the Westphalia hams. Let me know, please, so that I may soothe her perturbed spirits.

With my love to Hiram, Philip, and Miss Schow, I am

Affectionately,

Dad

COPY

August 20, 1941.

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

My dear Jack:

We have arranged today for our transportation to California.

We leave here on the B and O Friday night. Saturday night, we take the Streamliner out of Chicago at 7:45, and this puts us in San Francisco Monday morning, I think. If there should be any change in our plans, I will advise you.

We, both of us, feel pretty well fagged out. The weather here has contributed to this, and the natural worry over the national situation has left us something of wrecks. I am crazy to be in San Francisco again, and as the time grows near, I think your Mother is, too.

May we be seeing you soon ! Love to all.

Affectionately,