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KODAK Gray Scale



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LICENSED PRODUCT

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United States Senate,

WASHINGTON, D. C.

NUMBER EIGHT

April 3, 1918.

Major Archibald M. Johnson,
Army Post Office 714,
American Expeditionary Force.

My dear Arch:

My letter Number Seven was written by hand last Sunday at the hotel, and after its subscription as I used to sign all of my letters to you - "Dad," I thought that some of the astute and acute censors, with that peculiar discrimination which has thus far characterized them, might believe the signature to be some cabalistic and mysterious sign with a whole volume of information useful to the enemy, and so, after "Dad" I wrote my name in full. Perhaps, even that will not identify the letter sufficiently to have it passed to you, and I am writing you concerning it so that you may know the number immediately preceding this was in my hand-writing, and you may ascribe to that fact its failure to reach you.

Today is the fourteenth day, as we have counted them, since your arrival in France, and so, within a week, we ought to have some letter from you, and it but feebly expresses the situation to say that Mother and I are anxiously awaiting your first communication. Indeed, I think there are others in California just as anxiously waiting.

Major Archibald M. Johnson - 2

The big battle, apparently, still continues, although, yesterday there was something of a lull. I had expected by this time (although I am not a military critic) that our reserves would have shoved back the enemy - and to tell you the truth, I am disappointed that this has not occurred. The fact is, those who have lightly considered the situation in the past, are gradually beginning to understand what lies before us. I am not clear how this realization affects most people. I do know that it is a spur to men like you and me. I am unable accurately to estimate the feelings of our populace - the great unknown multitude. The news doled out to them has been so poisonous for a long time that it's doubtful whether they fully understand. The theory that I had of government in California during the long time we were at the head of affairs there was to state the fact, and not under-state it, and then, having stated the fact to the people, to preach to them the mode of action with the utmost frankness. In this war, we have, nationally, pursued exactly the contrary course - we have carefully concealed facts, and then preached our national activity upon a predicated inaccurate premise. I look upon the present situation as really a great crisis for our Nation, but a crisis which should neither deter nor frighten us from the righteous course upon which we have entered. The thoughtful people here, I believe, are beginning to adopt this view, and I hope the realization will be commensurate with a full recognition of conditions and an absolute determination to see it through.

Major Archibald M. Johnson - 3

While I can get nothing definite in respect to the Grizzlies, I think it will not be long before they will be on their way. I had a letter from Stewart Edward White yesterday that was rather pathetic. I think I can understand exactly how he feels. He had no ambition to become a soldier. He volunteered, because of his patriotism, and because he deemed it his duty to his country. He finds himself now with the rank of major, qualified, so far as he can be qualified in this country, to do his part, and he is compelled month after month to sit in camp, eating out his heart, and doing the routine of soldiery - a routine admittedly of no value now. The feverish desire to send troops over, I think, will finally enable the ambition of your old comrades in the Grizzlies to be realized, and that, within a brief time, they will be on their way to France.

Your Mother is looking here at a house in the country. If she succeeds in obtaining it, which I will hardly believe until the fact is accomplished, we will be residing a few miles from Washington during the remainder of the session. My views are mixed in regard to the desirability of this change. We have lived so long at the hotel, with its life and animation, with its constantly changing personnel; we have seen so much of people so continuously there, that ~~the~~ ~~thought~~ of living in a country house, far removed from every place, may be not only lonely but perfectly deadly to us. The one great advantage in it will be to give us room, as Mother remarks, to change our minds if we desire. The rooms we have now at the Shoreham are

Major Archibald M. Johnson - 4

a fright , and I do not know with our luxury loving dispositions, how it has been possible for us to remain there with any degree of content.

I would like to send you some of the gossip of Washington, political and otherwise. I fear, however, it would not get by, and that I would have to suffer the humiliation of having my personal views expressed to my son erased by some gentleman in uniform. If your letters indicate that I may freely gossip with you, I will be delighted in the future to tell you little things that transpire in the congress, and of the news that goes about concerning the President, and the fluctuations of public sentiment, etc. There was an election yesterday for United States Senator in Wisconsin. There are two outstanding facts in that election, first, Berger, the Socialist, who, in our opinion, had the support of all the pro-German and disloyal elements in the State, was beaten. We were very glad of this. Secondly, Lenroot, the Republican, who was denounced by the President, was elected, and we are very, very glad of this. I expressed my pleasure concerning Lenroot's election because after he had made a loyalist fight in Wisconsin, a fight specifically in behalf of the war, and the Administration in the war - a fight which was a gruelling and a bruising fight - he was cruelly assailed in a letter the President wrote to his opponent, and the stamp of disloyalty, unjustly and unfairly, was put upon him. The denunciation of him caused the most intense indignation and resentment with all of us who knew Lenroot. My opinion of him is that he is an able man, really a statesman,

Major Archibald M. Johnson - 5

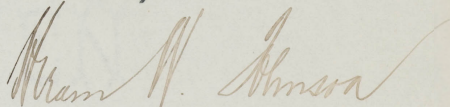
and there is no more doubt of his loyalty than there is of that of the President. His success is a distinct slap at the nasty tactics which were used for his defeat.

In One of my letters I asked you whether you could have newspapers. If you could, I would subscribe for two papers of opposite politics for you. I hope you will write me in one of your early letters.

If you try to answer all the queries put to you, in our first letters, ~~yours~~ will be of extraordinary length. I realize you will be very busy and I don't expect you to do more than just let us know how you are from time to time. The main thing with us is to understand that you are comfortable and well. Your work, I take it, will absorb most of your time. Wherever you are, we will be with you. Both Mother and I are so filled with thoughts of you, and we are so filled with emotion when talking of you that I write you little in this line. Indeed, I doubt that I could write you without what you might think mawkish sentimentality.

We send you all our love, my boy.

Affectionately your father,

A handwritten signature in brown ink, reading "Hiram W. Johnson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping "H" and a long, flowing "J".

HIRAM W. JOHNSON
CALIFORNIA

United States Senate,

WASHINGTON, D. C.

April 3, 1918.

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

My dear Jack:

Just a line in answer to your letter dated March 28th received this instant. I am leaving Friday morning for Pittsburg, as I wrote you on Saturday last. I will be gone Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, returning Monday night. So all those four days I will be unable to write any letters.

Thank you very much for your goodness in regard to my income tax statement. Your letter acknowledging its receipt relieves me, and I know it can now be dismissed from my mind.

I am very glad this morning at Lenroot's election. We were all indignant and resentful when the President dubbed Lenroot disloyal. Lenroot had made a fight in Wisconsin in the primary upon a loyalty platform - loyalty to the war and to the Administration. It was a bitter and a bruising fight. After he had won it by a very slender margin, and immediately upon his winning it, the President gave out his letter in which he made the acid test of patriotism and loyalty that which Lenroot had opposed. Immediately, all the satellites of the President were sent into Wisconsin. The vote there is a rebuke to the President and to the tactics employed. I have always had a high opinion of Lenroot, and of his ability, and his statesmanship, and I think he will be a very big man in the Senate, with all

Mr. Hiram W. Johnson, Jr. - 2

of LaFollette's ability, and with LaFollette's right views on social questions, without LaFollette's disagreeable personality, and oblique views on the war. Lenroot wished me to come into Wisconsin for him. He paid me the compliment of saying that I was one of two men whom he desired in the State. I felt that I could not go, because, first, I would not have been quiet respecting the President and the Administration, and I would thus have been at variance with Lenroot, and, secondly, I would have made internal national issues as a part of the issues of the campaign, such as I wrote to Roosevelt, and in these issues, I would have been at variance with the leaders of the Republican Party. Under these circumstances, I deemed it unwise to go, and I am very glad that I did not.

I see from the clippings that come to me that the way is being made easy for Stephens - being made easy for him by a singular sort of combination of Essicks and so-called Progressive office-holders. However, this may be the solution of the situation after all.

I smiled when I read your letter that the only people you cared to talk to intimately were Lissner, Williams and DeLigne. There are two or three others whom I would add to those, but those whom I would add could be counted upon the fingers of one hand, and they would not include some who are foremost in settling the destiny of California. Don't feel harsh or bitter about this, however. I tried to say something of that in my last letter to you. There is something about politics that not only makes men cowards,

Mr. Hiram W. Johnson, Jr. - 3

but makes them untrue to themselves - that makes them lie to others,
and what is worse, lie to themselves.

Affectionately,

Dad

CLASS OF SERVICE	SYMBOL
Day Message	
Day Letter	Blue
Night Message	Nite
Night Letter	N L

If none of these three symbols appears after the check (number of words) this is a day message. Otherwise its character is indicated by the symbol appearing after the check.

WESTERN UNION TELEGRAM

NEWCOMB CARLTON, PRESIDENT

GEORGE W. E. ATKINS, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

CLASS OF SERVICE	SYMBOL
Day Message	
Day Letter	Blue
Night Message	Nite
Night Letter	N L

If none of these three symbols appears after the check (number of words) this is a day message. Otherwise its character is indicated by the symbol appearing after the check.

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1918 APR 5 AM 5 05

B24CH 165 NL 1/72

WASHINGTON DC 4

HIRAM W JOHNSON RR

2932

MILLS BLDG SAN FRANCISCO CALIF

LETTER THIRTIETH RECEIVED, WOULD LIKE EMPLOYMENT BUT THERE MAY BE
TWO OBJECTIONS, FIRST WHILE GOVERNOR I MAY HAVE ASSENTED TO MODE
OF LEVYING ASSESSMENTS IN SOME WAY IN APPROVING ACTS OF
RECLAMATION BOARD OR BEEN PARTY UNKNOWINGLY BY BACKING RECLAMATION
BOARDS DECISIONS REGARDING FIFTEEN HUNDRED TO PRESENT ACTS, IN ALL
TROUBLE OF BOARD WITH SUTTER COUNTY ARISING OUT FIFTEEN HUNDRED
LOCATION OF BY PASS PLANS FOR RECLAMATION ETC I STOOD BY MCCLATCHY

Hiram W. Johnson Papers
Bancroft Library

CLASS OF SERVICE	SYMBOL
Day Message	
Day Letter	Blue
Night Message	Nite
Night Letter	N L

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WESTERN UNION



TELEGRAM

2953

NEWCOMB CARLTON, PRESIDENT

GEORGE W. E. ATKINS, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

CLASS OF SERVICE	SYMBOL
Day Message	
Day Letter	Blue
Night Message	Nite
Night Letter	N L

If none of these three symbols appears after the check (number of words) this is a day message. Otherwise its character is indicated by the symbol appearing after the check.

RECEIVED AT PINE & MONTGOMERY STS., SAN FRANCISCO. ALWAYS OPEN.

1918 APR 5 AM 5 05

Hiram W. Johnson Paper
Bancroft Library

B24CH SHEET 2/93

AND HIS COLLEAGUES, I DO NOT REMEMBER EXCEPT MOST VAGUELY THAT
METHOD OF ASSESSMENT EVER MENTIONED BUT IT IS QUITE POSSIBLE TENTATIVE
PLANS PRESENTED UNDER MY ADMINISTRATION, IF ANY OF FOREGOING
SHOULD DEVELOPE EMPLOYMENT OUGHT NOT TO BE TAKEN BY ME, CAN YOU BE
CERTAIN ON THESE POINTS, SECONDLY I FEAR I MIGHT NOT GIVE
EFFICIENT SERVICE THIS SESSION WILL PROBABLY LAST INTO JULY AND
PERHAPS LONGER, DO YOU THINK UNDER ALL CIRCUMSTANCES I OUGHT TO
ACCEPT, THANK YOU VERY VERY MUCH LEAVING FOR PITTSBURGH AT WM PENN
HOTEL THERE RETURN MONDAY NIGHT

HIRAM W JOHNSON.

April 1918

Monday Night.

My dear Jack:

I'm here at the office, trying for the first time in eight years to master an intricate legal proposition in Associated Press vs. International News. I'm to argue thirty minutes for \$6000.

I was sorry to see the reflex in your bulky long letter received today about this employment. It is exactly what I felt and what others ^{will} feel, but I'm going ahead anyway and take the consequences. I'm no doubt Snork. Madsen, the Reclamation Board and others will feel the same way about the good case you have given me. But, I'll be relieved now for two years of the awful worry I have had when

Each month I've seen my expenditures exceed my salary by \$100. to say nothing of what happens in new purchases etc when I'm at home. There may be compensating advantages otherwise, too, altho' I doubt this.

I started simply to enclose you Archie's letter—the only one outside a brief sweet note to Alister we've received. Here it is. When you finish with it, please return to us.

Love to all

Affectionately Dad

Your "Hay" letter was great. Your feelings were exactly mine. Ned's worry about harmony, however, that will all be healed its pieces torn I get into another flight.

United States Senate,

WASHINGTON, D. C.

April 10, 1918.

NUMBER NINE

Major Archibald M. Johnson,
Army Post Office 714,
American Expeditionary Force,
France.

My dear Arch:

The last few days I have not written you because I left Friday morning for Pittsburgh and returned only late Monday night. I went there to open the drive for the Third Liberty Loan, and, I think did some good. We had remarkable meetings, embracing the wealth of that over-wealthy territory. Pittsburgh, as you doubtless know, is the centre of activity in manufacturing. The tremendous steel works have been enlarged and every sort of industry is running there night and day. For miles, and miles of miles, there is nothing but furnaces and smokestacks and every species of plant - all going at full blast. Senator Knox went with me as toastmaster of the occasion, and, aside from the hard work of talking on several occasions, we had really a very good time. Mother utilized my absence to make a quick trip to New York.

It is twenty-one days today since I received your cablegram. We have been waiting and watching with such patience and anxiety for a letter from you. I have been telling Mother it was not time yet, and I am still trying to fool her by saying that sufficient days have not elapsed to enable us to hear from you. I pre-

NUMBER NINE - 2

sume the fact is that the tremendous struggle in France these last couple of weeks has made it well-nigh impossible to have anything like regular mail service and that we may be delayed very much longer before we hear from you.

What a terrible struggle it is, and what an awful strain it must be upon the men who are holding the line! I read today Lloyd George's speech to Parliament last night, and reading between the lines, I think I can understand the grave position in which we are at present. As I read Lloyd George's speech yesterday, frankling talking to his people, telling them of the numbers engaged in the strife and its possibilities, I could not but contrast his methods with those of our Government. Our papers are filled with boasts and flamboyant articles. Reading an American newspaper, one would believe that the Germans had suffered a tremendous defeat. Reading Lloyd George's speech makes us understand the exact condition and makes every brave man who loves his country more grim and more determined.

Mother probably will get into a house in the country within the next two weeks. I am going to leave to her the pleasure of describing that house to you. We will be half an hour's ride from Washington in the State of Maryland, near a little town they call Hyattsville. With the automobile this will not be a very great obstacle to me, but I am very fearful of what it may mean to her.

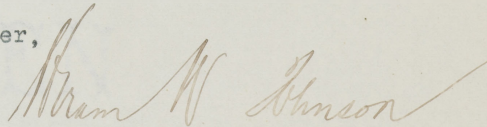
NUMBER NINE - 3

I was told by a Senator today that while he received his mail fairly regularly from the other side, that which he wrote to his son was delivered with no such regularity, and not at all within the same limit of time. He said it was not unusual for his son to receive letters written long subsequent to others, and our facilities for the distribution of our mail going into France were wretched, while there had been fairly good facilities for the delivery of mail leaving France.

The Congress proceeds in the usual way, voting powers to the Government and to the President; each day chipping off a little more of what we thought to be our inalienable rights, and each day adding a little more to swollen departmental authority. I assume it ~~ought~~ to be necessary in time of war, and yet, I confess some regret at the necessity. Of course, all of us very willingly, if not very cheerfully, do everything that is asked of us because our hearts are with our own across the sea, and we do not wish to withhold anything, no matter what, which is asserted to be essential for their success.

With all our love, affectionately

Your father,

A handwritten signature in brown ink, reading "Hiram W. Johnson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "H" and a long, horizontal flourish extending to the right.

HIRAM W. JOHNSON
CALIFORNIA

United States Senate,

WASHINGTON, D. C.

April 10, 1918.

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

My dear Jack:

Monday night I returned from Pittsburgh. Miss Connor on Sunday transmitted your telegram to me there, but because I went to the country on Sunday I did not receive your message and saw it only yesterday. I sent you a brief night letter last night. I should be glad to go into the case. I should do it because it is absolutely essential that, in some fashion, I realize on my earning power. Of course, I do not want to go into the case if there can be any kind of just criticism or any reflection upon me, because of my activities in any direction while I was Governor. I wired you that I had some dim recollection that a mode of assessment was once suggested to me by somebody, which would embrace the territory far removed from the by-pass. I had got into my head that the attempted assessment of your lands was for the lev⁶ upon the by-pass protecting fifteen hundred. I will leave to you and those about you my protection in the matters that I have mentioned, and if all of you conclude that there is no possibility of any action of mine in the case reflecting upon me or upon my past official career as Governor, I shall be delighted to go ahead. Confidentially, I think I will accept employment, if arrangements can be made, for argument in the United States Supreme Court of the case of the Associated Press against the International News. I do this,

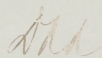
Mr. Hiram W. Johnson, Jr. - 2

solely, for the reason that I have suggested to you - because my expenses run far beyond my salary here and make it absolutely necessary that, in some way, I should augment my income. Mother is so bitterly opposed to the one thing which nobody could question - the Chautauqua circuit, and grows so hysterical whenever I speak of making a contract, that, for the sake of peace, I have not attempted this work, although I have had many opportunities. The International News Service wishes me to argue in the Supreme Court on April 29th their case. I see no reason why I should not take employment, except that it will be asserted that I am representing Hearst, which is the fact, and that by representing him, as attorney, I may be tarred with some of his delinquencies. I made up my mind that if I can come to satisfactory terms I will take this chance. I will not, however, make my appearance in the United States Supreme Court unless I am paid some thousands of dollars for it.

I had a great time at Pittsburgh, and I am satisfied with the speech I there made. I will write you of this at length in my letter to Amy on Saturday. I was so sorry to miss my weekly letter to her. I am sending her a night letter tonight that she may know how I regret it, and the reason for it.

I was very much in evidence last Thursday, the day before I left, and again yesterday on the amendment to the Espionage Bill. I do not care what transpires, I will not stand for these measures which destroy the Republic. I would rather have no political future than violate my every idea of liberty.

Affectionately,



United States Senate,

WASHINGTON, D. C.

April 11, 1918.

NUMBER TEN

Major Archibald M. Johnson,
714 Army Post Office,
American Expeditionary Force,
France.

My dear Arch:

This afternoon your letter "Number Two" was brought to me at the Senate. It is the first communication we have received from you. Number One either is reposing in the ocean or may some day in the dim future arrive. I have been inexpressibly shocked and deeply grieved by what you say. There is little that I can say to you that will either cheer you or be of value to you. I wanted, however, immediately upon receipt of your letter, to do as I am doing now - tell you how much I sympathize with you, how much my heart is with you, and how, in anything that may transpire, no matter what, I am with you and behind you. I want also to impress upon you that if you finally are to return to your command I believe it is the very best thing that could happen. Your sensitive viewpoint of failure in the college is all nonsense, and particularly is it nonsense if you have not a square deal. I know exactly what you are up against. In some of my letters long ago I expressed to you the singular thing I have observed of certain gentlemen, who, after many, many years of inactivity, subserviency, and acting by indirection, and i n -

NUMBER TEN

siduously, find themselves in a position finally of great authority. Please, now, follow my advice: Do your best. Accept with indifference and philosophically, what may come to you, but have neither misgivings nor humiliation at a return to your command, nor permit any sort of unfortunate occurrence at the college to hurt your pride or interfere with your course. Please, my son, trust to my older and maturer judgment in this.

I am hoping against hope that with the passing of time, many of your difficulties will be overcome or forgotten; but knowing the breed as I do, and as I have seen it intimately here, I should not be surprised at anything which may transpire.

I can not tell you what a thrill I had when your first letter was put into my hands and I have thought of nothing else all day, and I shall think of you continuously until your next letter arrives. Please don't worry, and please don't let a situation, which must be hard to bear, get upon your nerves or interfere with the course you ought to pursue. The fact of the matter is, since I have been thinking of it, I'd rather you would be back with the Grizzlies, and do your fighting with the men whom you know, and who you know will fight.

With all our love, affectionately

Your Father,

Hiram W. Johnson

United States Senate,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

April 12, 1918.

NUMBER ELEVEN

Major Archibald M. Johnson,
Army Post Office 714,
American Expeditionary Force,
France.

My dear Arch:

Mother received today your sweet note that was postmarked March 19th. It is useless for me to comment upon that note. We were both overcome in reading it, and for your thoughtfulness in thus writing to Mother I can not sufficiently thank you.

Your letter came yesterday as I wrote you last night - the letter "Number Two". Medill McCormick sent me this morning the following communication that he had received -

"
GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCES
Office of Secretary of General Staff.

France, March 26th, 1918.

Representative Medill McCormick,
House of Representatives U.S.,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Medill:

Your letter dated Feb. 25th, reached me a short time ago. I met your young friend Major Johnson the other day while passing through Langres and found him in the staff class up against such old veterans as Stimpson, Herbert Parsons, Willard Straight, and Grayson Murphy, so that it will take all of his youth and energy to stand the competition; but this particular staff class is one of the finest lot of men in America and the course is a most excellent one. I shall keep an eye on him and let you know how he is getting along.

With best wishes,

Faithfully yours,
(Sgd.) Frank McCoy

"

NUMBER ELEVEN - 2

I saw Medill afterwards. I told him your experiences with McCoy. He said nothing and I did not wish to do more than tell him the fact, because his act was an intended kindness to us. I thought that McCoy's letter might make you feel a little better.

The Stimson mentioned in McCoy's letter was formerly Secretary of War, and although he has a big reputation, there are many people who discount it. Herbert Parsons, I know. He is a Republican Boss in New York City. I asked Wadsworth at luncheon today if Parsons had ever had any military experience. He said, "Not a bit". Willard Straight belongs to the favored few of New York society and is connected with the big interests, and has a reputation for keenness and ability. I think the Grayson Murphy is a friend of Reginald Fernald, a wealthy man of New York, and something of a litterateur. I may not be entirely correct in this.

I impress upon you, as I did yesterday. Don't worry about coming back to your command, if anything befalls you at the college. If you can avoid it, don't go into line there, except with your own command.

Perhaps everything will be determined by the time you get this letter, although I hope not. Mother wanted to cable to Tobin yesterday, and so we did so, rather enigmatically, telling him we had received only your second letter, and asking him if you were feeling better. I hope he will respond.

We follow the battle still with keenest interest but with many misgivings. We've got to whip these boches before we get through, and we've got to make up our mind that this must be done at all

NUMBER ELEVEN - 3

hazards.

Stick to it, lad. Don't fret if you do the best you can. Remember my injunction to return to your command and your regiment if anything goes amiss, and if you do, you need not feel in the slightest degree troubled, or worried, or humiliated.

With all our love, affectionately

Your Father,

Hiram W. Johnson

HIRAM W. JOHNSON
CALIFORNIA

United States Senate,

WASHINGTON, D. C.

April 12, 1918.

Mr. Hiram W. Johnson, Jr.,
Mills Building,
San Francisco, Cal.

My dear Jack:

Last evening we received our first letter from Arch. The letter was one that made us inexpressibly sad. He finds himself in a delicate and almost untenable position at the War Staff College. The regular army officers are acting in France just exactly as this breed ever act when they have authority. They feel that this is their war; they are in command, and they have no use for a national guard officer or one who has received his training recently. In my letters to you I've said something about these military men. Arch's letter confirms everything I've said in that regard. He's miserably unhappy. I think, however, this news ought to be kept between ourselves. I do not send you his letter because I haven't it here, and it would make you feel just as wretched as it made us feel. His letter was numbered "2", so that evidently he had sent us one before that, which never reached us. I learned from an independent source today that the college is situated at Langres. Where this place is I do not know. I am dictating this hastily to let you know the first news I've had from the lad. I do hope our next letter will be a little more cheerful. He

(H.W.J. Jr.-2)

indicates that the position is harsh and difficult, that every effort is made to humiliate those who are not regular officers and that he expects to fail utterly. He says he is determined to take his punishment standing up, however, and do the best he can until the end. How I wish he had never left his regiment.

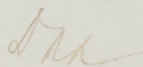
I am ever so grateful to you about the reclamation case. I wired you yesterday because I received Dow's wire that Poundstone was probably coming on to consult me. I thought this was an unnecessary expense and trip for them, and I wanted you to know that I was ready to go ahead if you felt there was nothing in my past official conduct which touched the subject matter of the litigation and nothing which would ultimately reflect upon me.

I have made up my mind fully to take such business as I can now, as you will observe from my willingness to take the International News case. This case has not yet developed, probably because I charged a fee just three times as much as Borah was charging for making the half-hour argument in the Supreme Court.

I wrote the Donohoe-Kelly Bank today that if you had not taken my bank book, for them to send it to me. If you have it, would you please forward it. I've had to draw a considerable check today to Odgers to meet insurance expenses, etc.

Love to all.

Affectionately,



United States Senate,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

April 13, 1918.

Mrs. Amy Johnson,
The California Sanitarium,
Belmont, California.

My dear Daughter:

I was extremely sorry to miss my usual weekly letter to you last Saturday. While the mode of talking to you by letter is by no means satisfactory, still with the great distance separating us, it is the only substitute, and, I really think that I probably miss this substitute of weekly talking to you more than you do.

I was besieged with requests to make Liberty Loan speeches and open drives in various cities; indeed, I was asked to come to California and devote myself during this month to the bond issue. I would have come to California for the purpose but I could not afford the expense, and, although the men in charge there cheerfully would have paid any amount of expenses, I could not bring myself to accept the money for such a purpose. I don't like the idea of money being paid for patriotic speeches, and I do not like, although I admit my feeling in this regard is unjustifiable, even the acceptance of necessary expenses for making patriotic speeches. When Pittsburgh, through Senator Knox, asked me to make the opening speech there, and the Senator told me that he would go up and be the toastmaster, I thought that I could thus perform my part. We left on Friday and returned Monday night. A couple of brief

Mrs. Amy Johnson - 2

speeches were made during the day on Saturday - one to the women, and another at a luncheon - and at night, all of the great interests of Pittsburgh and vicinity were gathered at a banquet at the William Penn Hotel. I have never talked to so much money before. There are rotten rich in that vicinity. Pittsburgh is really the industrial centre of the world today. Every sort of thing is being manufactured in its vicinity, particularly everything which pertains to steel and munitions. When the sun goes down, for nearly forty miles outside of Pittsburgh the furnaces glow and burn, and the picture presented is a veritable hell - the hell of our childhood. The men to whom I talked in Pittsburgh were the kind with whom I have seldom associated, and to but few of whom have I ever talked before. Knox, in his kindliness, was so very anxious for my success before his rich and powerful friends that I put into the address at night every ounce I possessed, and I really think I made good with my audience. The lavish hospitality of those in charge beggars description. There was nothing during our stay in Pittsburgh that they omitted, and no want of ours which was not anticipated. On Sunday morning, the Messrs. Mellon took us to a private club of theirs a couple hours automobile ride from Pittsburgh. This club comprises eight thousand acres; the most expert golf architect in the country is engaged now in constructing a golf course; the English pheasant is being cultivated in great numbers; the little streams are stocked with trout; riding horses, galore, are stabled in a cement building which would answer the purposes of a mansion under ordinary circumstances; garages are now under con-

Mrs. Amy Johnson - 3

struction of like sort. A new club house is being laid out which will equal almost anything in the country. Notwithstanding the evidences of superlative wealth, the two individuals who possessed it I found rather unassuming, and exceedingly pleasant and hospitable. We stayed at this club until Monday morning, when we drove to a nearby station and took the train for Washington. Taken all together, the trip was not only successful, but quite enjoyable, and gave me a brief surcease of the detail of this office, and a little vacation.

Each day I become more and more depressed over the battle in France. After the first couple of days of our battle, I thought I saw a crushing defeat for the English. All of our newspapers were lying to us, as usual, and of course, our Government gave us no information at all. When Lloyd George made his speech a week ago it was obvious that not only had the English been whipped, but that they had been surprised in the initial attack, and I found the depression I had instinctly from reading the colored accounts given in the press justified. Since Lloyd George's speech I have hoped and prayed for some magical and impossible event which would turn the tide, shove the Germans back and overwhelm them. I have longed for some deed of valor, more heroic than any ever sung, which would turn defeat into victory. But after Lloyd George's speech, I read Bonar Law's to the House of Commons, and then, this morning comes the pathetic special order or pronouncement of Marshal Haig - his despairing cry "There must be no retirement. With our backs to the wall and believing in the justice of our cause, each one of us must fight to

Mrs. Amy Johnson - 4

the end. " I fear the end is near, and that the British Army is about to be scattered, or dispersed, and overwhelmed, and the Germans will reach the channel ports. What this means, I am not able, for the moment to determine. Its possibilities, however, ought to be faced. How fervently I wish that somebody was at the head of the Government fit to face the dark days that are ahead of us, and able to rally us, and to tell us with high courage how to meet what is in store for us. The very worst that can befall us, it seems to me, is that France must yield, that England's army be destroyed, and that our own boys over there be captured. I think if there be a real disaster, France will make a peace. Whether England will do so I am not clear. At any rate, my prophecies made in April 1917 that we would ultimately hold the bag, and that not only our treasure but our men would fight the final conflict, apparently, are near their demonstration. A couple of weeks ago we met the English Ambassador, Lord Reading. He is evidently a man of ability, self-contained, and certain of himself. He has little of the outward characteristics of the Jew, and in his conversation, of course, nothing indicates it. He talked well but with no particular magnetism or attraction. He was guarded in his utterances, and yet, when the men were smoking after dinner, and the conversation was carried on by him and by me, he did not conceal the seriousness of the situation, nor his anxiety. He would not talk in detail, but that he was filled with grave apprehension was obvious. A few nights afterwards, we dined with Jusserand and his wife, the French ambassador. Jusserand was quite the opposite of Reading. He is a loquacious Frenchman, with all of the

Mrs. Amy Johnson - 5

French vivacity, expressing himself freely concerning everything, but without any particularly deep thought concerning anything. His wife struck me as having much more ability, and a far greater comprehension of events, and a deeper understanding. The husband is not at all attractive, but the wife talks well and sweetly, and is very simple and charming in her manner. From them I had a much greater impression of how war weary France was; of the nearness to exhaustion there, and, underlying all that Jusserand said, I found, I thought, a note, not only of keen disappointment, but somewhat of contempt for the part our country had thus far played in the war. The result of listening to these two people - one, very able but calm and quiet; the other, a man, vociferous, gesticulating, and frothy in expression, was that I reached the conclusion that any great, untoward event might in a day change France's course, and that her people in their utter weariness would almost welcome such an event. Another thing that has been made plain to me of late, is that the morale of the Italian people is at the very lowest ebb. This is ascribed to the Pope and his influence, and to the fact, as well, that there is a shortage of food and great suffering among the Italian people, and to the fact also, in no small degree, that the common man in Italy who thinks, believes that his country is in this war wholly for territorial gain, and with imperialistic aims. Anything any day may be looked for in Italy, therefore. What a terrible prospect I have pictured to you here! But, it is the true situation, and if I were the President of the United States I would paint this picture even in blacker tones to our people, and, by

Mrs. Amy Johnson - 6

going from place to place, and crying aloud from the house tops the wrongs we assert, the necessity for the preservation of our integrity as a Nation, and for the upholding of our national honor and the perpetuity of our institutions, I would arouse, if it were possible, the national pride and the national spirit. But the Administration, unfortunately, thinks only of repressing discussion, and of putting men in jail who think clearly about what is transpiring and speak truthfully of it; and gradually, by these insane and autocratic tactics, the Government is chipping away the fine edge of patriotism in our land.

Recently an amendment to the Espionage Bill was presented. It came up a week ago Thursday just before I was going to depart. There was mumbling, and grumbling about it in the Senate; a suggestion here and a suggestion there, until I grew weary, and, in a ten minute speech, just prior to my departure, I denounced the bill, and said I never would and never could vote for it. At once, real opposition then developed, and it was the subject of debate during all of my absence. On our return Tuesday we found still the most obnoxious portion of the bill yet retained, and I again went after that. With Knox's aid, we amended this obnoxious portion, and then inserted another amendment at the end of it about the right to speak the truth with good motives. I was glad to take my stand in the matter and glad to lead in that stand. The bill has passed but ought never to be a law of a free government, but as passed, it is much less vicious and wicked than as originally introduced. I really had a good time on Tuesday. I had meant to say just a sentence or

Mrs. Amy Johnson - 7

two about Creel and his statement - - - he was glad we were unprepared, but I used this statement as a argument against permitting the obnoxious language to which I have referred to remain in the bill. I was heckled by at least a half dozen advocates of the bill, and, feeling pretty good, and being at myself, I had a bully time answering them all. My attack upon the bill has led to some adverse comment in the eastern press, but, it has led also, I think, because of its publicity in the east, to a great deal of very high praise from men who are true patriot~~x~~s.

For a couple of weeks past, there has been a great contest on for appointment to the military committee. Each side - that is the Republicans and the Democrats - has a committee on committees. These committees select the individuals who shall serve upon the various committees of the senate. There has been a vacancy in one of the Republican members of the military committee. There has been a scramble for this position because the military committee is now by far the most important committee of the senate. I have felt rather good that those who do not care particularly for me, in their desire to strengthen the Republican side in this important committee, have insisted that I shall be given the position. I have declined to ask for it in any fashion. The thing has finally narrowed down to Nelson, of Minnesota, who has been here twenty years, who is a veteran of the civil war, and who, by reason of seniority, is entitled to the position, and myself. I was told last night that I probably would be selected. I should be very glad if this is so, but I have kept myself wholly aloof in the matter, even expressing

Mrs. Amy Johnson - 8

indifference when the matter was mentioned to me, so that I could not get in the position of being denied a request. If I get upon this committee I will be a very intimate part of the war, and I have some ideas that may make us even a more intimate part of the war than that committee now is. Perhaps I can write you then more interestingly. The incident has given me some little pleasure, because it has demonstrated a real advance in the body - an advance which may be of little consequence viewed from the outside, but which indicates progress and a growing personality, rather than one which is retrograding.

I wrote you quite in detail at one time my view of the Japanese situation, and I told you what little confidence I had in our diplomacy, and what I thought ultimately would result. I presume you have noticed of late that the Japanese seized with avidity upon some excuse and landed their marines in Vladivostok. We have tried to soften this by telling the world the British marines are landed, and that our own have just been placed in charge of the docks there. The fact is - that Japan determined to get into eastern Siberia, and the fact is, in my opinion, Japan will never get out of eastern Siberia. Excuses will be found in the future for a gradual advance, for the occupation of more territory, and particularly, the taking over of rail^{roads} and strategic points. Bear in mind my prophecy, that when Japan shall have accomplished her design and shall be in complete control of eastern Russia, she, the Hun of the Pacific, will join hands with the Hun of Europe.

Mrs. Amy Johnson - 9

And all this time the President sits serene, declining to discuss war or war aims, playing golf and going to the vaudeville shows. Was ever a great Nation and a great people in so sorry a plight!

I wrote Jack yesterday of Art's first letter. I prefer not to write you in detail about it. The lad is up against it, and I feel so sorry for him that I can not write of him without emotion. He has that singular bent of mind that will not yield, that errs on the side of personal punishment, and he is standing his ground as best he can, taking what comes, and bearing with fortitude the ills from which he has no escape, and against which he has no defense. What Bob wrote me, and, in greater degree, what I've realized from Art's one letter make me the more anxious to be upon the military committee.

There is a bit of news that has been published that I think our people little understand. It has been published flamboyantly and boastfully as if a great honor were conferred upon us. We've been told that our troops are to be mingled with the English, and thus receive all of the benefits and all of the wonderful advantages of association with veterans. What I fear this means is that American boys are to supply the wastage of British regiments. If this be so, it means America no longer fights as America, our Army no longer retains its integrity, and we simply send our boys, substantially, as enlisted men of the English Army. It is the first time in history a great nation played such a part. I have inquired

Mrs. Amy Johnson - 10

from the members of the military committee just what is intended by the order that we were to be billeted with the English troops. None has been able to tell me. No part of the Government has seen fit to enlighten us. The real information came from Lloyd George's speech to his people, and that is the extent of the authentic information we have. What a contrast George's speech was to our modes and our policy. He told his people bluntly about the great battle, of the surprise that had been effected by the Germans, of General Gough, and his incompetency, and of just what they were up against. Two days afterward, Bonar Law followed in like strain. They were talking to the legislative branch of the Government of Britain - an integral part of the Government. Here we sit presumably the popular branch of the Republic - one of the three important and integral parts of this Government - and we sit in absolute ignorance of the Government's plans and designs. We are asked now to pass what is termed the Overman Bill, which is at present being debated in the Senate, authorizing the President to do as he pleases with the various departments of Government, and no one has yet told us what the President wishes to do or why he wishes to do it. Sometimes, I think, the President in his contempt for congress has reached the conclusion practically to abolish it, and that his dreams are those which have actuated and inspired the autocrats and the conquerors of the past. Such a suggestion seems incredible, but each day some little thing adds to the black impression I am gradually gathering.

When I returned from Pittsburgh recently I found I had a new home. Mother had taken advantage of the opportunity to move from

Mrs. Amy Johnson - 11

the Shoreham to the new Hotel Washington. The new hotel has the advantage of cleanliness and newness. It has the disadvantage of not having been completed and ready for occupancy when opened. We expect, however, to remain there one week or so longer and then to go to our COUNTRY HOME. This country home, I think, is a pretty ticklish experiment, but I am ready to undertake anything which Mother thinks will make her more contented here.

I've had no letter from you this week, and neither has Mother. I am hoping that this is not because you have been ill again. I hope this note will find you in good shape. I wish I could fashion your thoughts for you in this trying period of yours. I am told that this mental attitude is just as essential for quick recovery as physical attention. I want you to be your old self when we get out to California in the next three months so we can have a regular reunion.

With all kinds of good wishes,

Affectionately,

Dad

United States Senate,

WASHINGTON, D. C.

NUMBER TWELVE

April 16, 1918.

Major Archibald M. Johnson,
Army Post Office 714,
American Expeditionary Force,
France.

My dear Arch:

The main purpose in writing you again today is to re-iterate the advice I have before given you. If anything untoward befalls you, return to your command and be with your own people. I am convinced that this will be infinitely better for you, and in it you will be more happy, and there is not a thing in the world in such a return that ought to trouble you for a half instant. I am writing this advice again because I do not know what letters will reach you of mine, and I shall continue to state it for a couple of weeks yet in the hope that someone of my many letters containing it may ultimately be read by you. All of the information I get here about our mail facilities abroad is that they quite equal in efficiency the various departments of our Government in war preparations.

I have tried every method to aid the Grizzlies in getting abroad. I met with a rebuff from General McCain. Senator Kellogg, who knows him very well, and knows Edward Stewart White, thought he could accomplish the result. He sent me a note Sunday which indicated that he had been rebuffed in exactly the same fashion as I. Yesterday, I took lunch with Archbishop Hanna, Phelan, Kahn, Henderson of Nevada, and others. I spoke of the plight of the

Grizzlies and their desire to be in active service. I was eloquently seconded by Archbishop Hanna. Phelan and Kahn have this morning undertaken to go to the bat. I am curious to see if they succeed any better than Kellogg and I did.

We have received thus far from you your letter to me Number Two, and the day following that, your brief, sweet note to Mother. We have had no mail from you other than this. Your whereabouts I learned, as you will observe from the letter sent you of Colonel McCoy, from his communication to Medill McCormick.

I told you something of the men McCoy mentioned were in your staff college. The information I gave you, I think, was accurate. Willard Straight married one of the Whitneys, and, of course, with that extraordinary wealth, became a very great man. Those who know him speak of him in very high terms. He has had some experience in the diplomatic service, a great deal in financial matters, and his wife and he are supposed to be the backers of The New Republic. Indeed, the information I think is authentic that Mrs. Straight has furnished the money for The New Republic. I told you Herbert Parsons was a Republican Boss in the City of New York. I met him in 1910 first, and at infrequent intervals since I have seen him. He is a smart fellow, well-educated, and disliked exceedingly by Senator Wadsworth, of New York. Senator Calder, of New York is his protegee'. I asked Calder to write him about you, but since your experience with McCoy's letter, I am rather doubtful about what may happen to you. Parsons has the reputation of being very crafty and mean, but I've always felt kindly

NUMBER TWELVE - 3

toward him because in the convention of 1912, when Root was jobbing us, and cut my time down on the California case, Parsons made a motion which gave me an additional five minutes for speaking there.

We have little or no news from California. Amy has her ups and downs, and, in the last month and a half, has had two severe attacks of pleurisy. The doctors say that this is to be expected, we ought not to worry, etc., but they not only retard her physical recovery, but depress her very greatly mentally.

Spring is just commencing in Washington. How we wish you were with us! I don't think there's an hour of the day that you are out of the minds of your Mother and myself. I am unable to speculate about the great battle or its possibilities. I don't want to. I am only hoping and praying for our success.

Affectionately,

Your father,
Hiram W. Johnson

HIRAM W. JOHNSON
CALIFORNIA

United States Senate,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

April 16, 1918.

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

My dear Jack:

Unexpectedly V.S. McClatchy came into my office yesterday. In the course of our conversation I put to him frankly that employment had been offered me in the line you recently suggested and asked him whether there was anything that he and I had done, or anything the administration had undertaken while I was Governor which would militate against that employment or which would ethically, in any degree, preclude me from accepting it. He said, "Decidedly not." He then went into detail as to assessments. He said the plan of the Reclamation Board had been to avoid as much trouble as possible in the levying of assessments; that, of course, assessments were based proportionately to the benefits to be derived. Whenever assessments had been contemplated by the Reclamation Board the parties in interest had been called before them, and then the parties in interest had agreed upon the general principles that should govern the levying, not only of specific assessments, but of all assessments, and these general rules had been substantially agreed to by every land owner. These rules which considered the possibility of flooding the present levee construction, flooding of land, etc. seemed to me rules which were obvious and which received no greater force from the agreement of the parties before the levy.

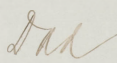
Mr. Hiram W. Johnson, Jr. - 2

He drew me a little diagram like I annex at the end of this letter. He said the reason the land across the river, like distret 108, should pay a portion of the assessment on the levee upon the by-pass was that the Feather River to the north had a capacity far greater than the Feather River to the south of 108, and that the excess water carried down in flood time had to be taken care of, and unless taken care of by the by-pass, 108 and contiguous land were likely to be flooded. I asked if 108 had an impregnable system of levees, why they should be taxed at all, and his response was that such a system was practically impossible, that the flood would not come from the river immediately adjacent but would come from the north and would back up over the land, etc.

I don't know that anything I have written is of any value to you at all, but it will show you something of what was in his mind, and why these lands on both sides of the river should pay the assessment for constructing the by-pass levee.

I am exceedingly grateful to you for this case if it shall materialize. As I wrote you the case for the International News did not materialize. Borah had agreed to make the argument for the International News for \$2500. When he ran out, I wanted several times that sum, and the negotiations then ceased.

Affectionately,



P.S: I have just before me a long letter from Lissner, and because of the dear way in which he referred to you and our kiddie, I am quoting to you its conclusion:

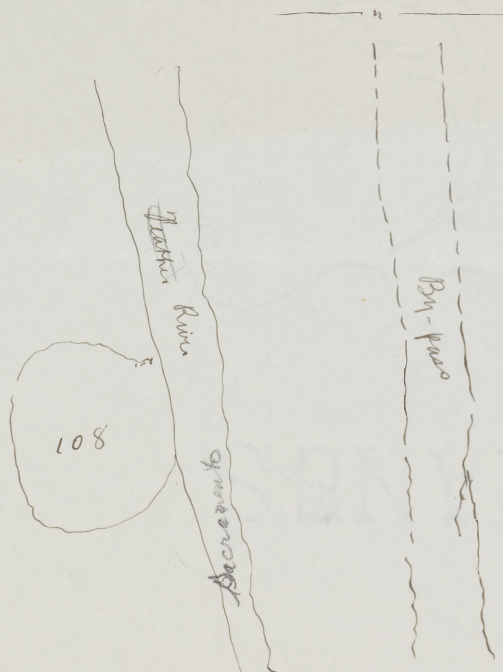
Mr. Hiram W. Johnson, Jr. - 3

"This letter would be absolutely incomplete, however, did I not tell you of the very pleasant evening I had with Jack in San Francisco one day last week, when he had me up to the house for dinner. What a remarkable situation the home occupies and what an attractive place it is. But what interested me more than anything else was His Majesty Hiram W. Johnson third. I am not handing you anything when I tell you that I never saw a more interesting kid; and we became great friends at once. While Jack went out to fix a cocktail young Hiram sat on my lap and we swapped stories. He told me the White house bear story, with all the gesticulations, inflections and mannerisms of a certain well known and extremely popular political character in California, and I told him one of my stories, which are very celebrated in my own little household. He drank his cocktail with Jack and me like a major, topping it with the proverbial "good luck", and after awhile we went in to a mighty good little dinner. He entertained us through the greater part of the dinner; and I discovered also that he was as sensitive as --- well, let us say a prima donna; because when Jack corrected him for some little thing that I have forgotten, he got a real peeve on and for several minutes wouldn't respond at all. Finally, when he did consent to talk, he informed his father that he was going to Washington the very next day. What for? To see his granny, of course. I think about the cutest thing he said was when I asked him if he would do me a favor the next time he saw you. He indicated that he would probably do so, although I thought I could detect a certain amount of inherited cau-

Mr. Hiram W. Johnson, Jr. - 4

tion about that commitment. Then I said to him "Well, when you see Grandpa Hiram you say to him, "Hello, Chief!" That seemed to affect his risability for a moment only; then he became real serious, and, shaking his head most deliberately, he said, "No, I don't think I would do that." "Why not?", said I. "Because", said he most thoughtfully, "I don't think he would like it. "

I was glad to hear that Amy has seemed to be improving, and feel sure that if the improvement continues she will be all right before many months have passed. I was glad to hear from Jack that he seems to be getting along very well. He is a brick. But that kid is a real "chip off the old block" once removed. He will bear watching. "



North end of River of
immensely greater capacity
than immediately South of
108. Be pass absolutely
necessary to care for
wells in high water which
could not flow through river

HIRAM W. JOHNSON
CALIFORNIA

United States Senate,

WASHINGTON, D. C.

April 19, 1918.

Mrs. Amy Johnson,
The California Sanitarium,
Belmont, California.

My dear Daughter:

I have been wondering these past two weeks if you had permitted yourself to get into such a mental state that you did not want to write letters. I wouldn't blame you at all if you did. If, at times, you feel rotten, and yet, you believe that it is your duty to write letters, just let your duty slide, and we, at least, will fully understand. I get a bit worried, I admit, when we don't hear from you personally, and then, I answer my own misgivings by saying - what a nuisance it is to write with a pen, anyway, and that there are times when we don't care to put our thoughts on paper. I received a nice telegram last evening from your Mother congratulating me upon my appointment to the military committee, and telling me you were getting along nicely; and so the Boss and I felt quite relieved.

You don't know what a busy girl my Boss is these days. I think that the happiest moments of her life are when she is fussing with a house and fitting it for occupancy. From early in the morning until late at night she is on the jump. To their amazement, she tells the painter how to do his work, dances into another room and orders the paper hanger how to do his, and then, they listen in even greater wonderment, when she orders the carpenter to exercise his technical skill in a specific fashion.

Mrs. Amy Johnson - 2

There is so much to do in the place with which she is fussing, the difficulties of obtaining help are so numerous, and the situation of the house is so distant from Washington, that, in my opinion, it will be weeks before we can move in. Every man who labors with his hands now is as independent as a multi-millionaire, and he impresses you just as some of our multi-millionaires do - that he does you a great personal favor by taking your money. The work at the house proceeds one day; and then, the following day, the plumber disappears; and then, the supplies don't come; and then, the carpenter has another engagement; and the paper hanger has to lay off a few days; and of course, the colored laborers have to take a siesta morning, noon, and night. Really, if we worked in California like they do here and in the South, a building, modern at the commencement of its construction, would, at the completion of it, be historic and of a past age.

Yesterday, I took my seat with the military committee. I listened without comment to testimony all day directed to what is termed the Chamberlain court-martial bill. I heard men - doubtless good men - swept off their mental equilibrium by hysteria insisting that it was necessary to put the Nation under martial law and demanding immediate enactment of the Chamberlain bill. The bill provides that all those things which have been constituted crimes during the war, and all the innumerable acts made offenses by the Espionage bill and its amendment, shall be tried by court-martial. It substitutes the mil-

Mrs. Amy Johnson - 3

itary for the courts of the land. In my opinion, it abolishes not only the Constitution, but abolishes the State Courts and the Federal Courts, so far as those crimes are concerned which we have created since we entered the war, and, of course, eliminates wholly the jury system. Such a bill, of course, is abhorrent to me, and obnoxious to every idea I have of our Government. I found myself in ^{the} very unpleasant position, therefore, the first day that I sat in the military committee, of being in opposition to my colleagues. After the testimony had been concluded, we devoted two hours debating the bill in committee. Practically all of the members of the committee favored it, at first. Naturally, I fought it bitterly. When I commenced, I had little aid, but I think, when the day was ended, quite a number of the members of the committee were with me. I don't know whether the bill will ever be reported to the Senate for consideration or not. I assume that if it does come to the Senate, the same hysteria, which makes men come before the committee crying and yelling, and demanding that the military be placed in charge of the Nation, will pass the measure; but I assure you, it will not pass without a real fight - a fight no doubt that will dwarf any preceding contest. Some of our people are going mad, and the demands that they make pass all understanding; and yet, however extravagant these demands are, they find something of a ready echo in congress, and with a large part of the press. If you can just fancy a man who says things which

Mrs. Amy Johnson - 4

others may not like, arrested by a company of soldiers, brought before a drum-head court-martial, without counsel, without jury, without rules of evidence at all, with a mere statement of a loose or critical expression attributed to him, and with a certain gentleman of brief authority in uniform, sitting in judgment, you'll understand what is asked now. And, just let your imagination picture this condition all over the United States, and you'll realize what I mean when I say - a great number of our people and our press, who seriously contemplate that condition, under the stress of war have gone mad. Of course, I presume any man who doesn't favor this new plan of shooting at sunrise, or who thinks or speaks at variance with those in authority, will be designated disloyal or pro-German, but I long ago reached the conclusion that this is the penalty that must be paid in time of war by those who value and would preserve the liberties of the Republic.

This morning I attended with the committee the regular Saturday morning seance with the War Department. We met in a room set apart for that purpose in the War and Navy Building, with Secretary of War Baker, and his two assistants - Stettinius and Crowell, the Chief of Staff - General March, and various young officers, who detail the progress of events upon the other side, and our work upon this side. There was nothing really new that was told today. The seriousness of the situation in France is not disguised, but among those at the War office there is a greater optimism than among those of us who have been following

Mrs. Amy Johnson-- 5

press reports and the speculations of the various war correspondents. This battle of the last few weeks has been a nightmare to me. All of those who have been upon the western front--the British particularly--were so cocksure that they would hold the line, that we had a very rude awakening when the Germans went through in the manner that they did. The last couple of days when the British, apparently, have held their ground, have raised everybody's hopes and we are again beginning to boast.

But I have a fear, which amounts to a haunting horror, that any moment I'll read now of the Germans going through to the great railroad center, Hazebrouch. If they get there, I don't see how they can fail to cut the British line, and then, with the old Napoleonic strategy, defeat the parts in detail. One of the interesting things to me in this week's news, which, I think, shows the gravity of the situation, was the bringing of Italians from their front to hold a part of the British and French lines. All of our war correspondents have been telling us for two weeks now that General Foch was preparing a counter-offensive and was about to strike, and we've been waiting, with bated breath, for this counter-offensive. Something has occurred over there that we don't know, or this counter-offensive long ago would have been launched. Our pitiful contribution to the war is almost negligible. Indeed, it consists in flamboyant utterances and boasts of what we intend to do. Last month we sent across eight, four thousand men. The men we have in France now seem to be conceded to be a little over four hundred thousand, about sixty per cent of

Mrs. Amy Johnson - 6

whom are fighting men. If we continue sending men across with the speeded up process of the last month and a half we'll really have a very large army in the battle area by the end of this year. The question, of course, is whether we will be too late for effective service. Incidentally, I have been told of late that the leading men in both France and England have expressed, not only the greatest disappointment but the utmost contempt for what we have thus far done in this war. They have claimed there have been a maximum of promise and a minimum of fulfillment. They don't openly accuse, although Lloyd George in his recent speech said that the American aid had thus far been disappointing, and I think they are all inclined to scoff a little at us as rather boastful and bluffing. Under the surface in the two countries, France and England, there is, as I have written before, a tremendous unrest. The effect now of a German victory, overwhelming the English army, it is utterly impossible to forecast. But that it might lead to anything seems perfectly plain. There is another little rumble coming to us, as well, and that is - from Mexico. Just what is transpiring there I don't know, but it seems to be admitted that there is considerable activity, and this activity is hostile to us. I have little or no fears in that direction, however. How we do long and pray for a counter-offensive by Foch now which will win a decisive victory over the Germans - a decisive victory which would ^{compel} ~~compel~~ ~~with~~ a peace, but the fear deep down in the hearts of all of us is that the very contrary may happen.

Mrs. Amy Johnson - 7

Spring, apparently, commenced a week ago here; then as suddenly decamped. I am told that every Signal service man here that has had to do with weather predictions has finally been confined in an insane asylum. I can readily understand, because no two days are alike in this climate. I expect suddenly within the next few days summer will arrive, and then, the next few months will be the frightful sort of thing we became familiar with for the first time last year.

The big battle in France is overshadowing everything else. You will observe that very quietly our Japanese allies are fastening themselves upon eastern Russia, and as the war progresses, Japan will grow more prosperous, annex more territory, and become more powerful.

I hope this uninteresting letter will find you in good shape physically, and mentally content. It seems so utterly absurd for me to wind up every letter to you with this kind of utterance. It seems equally absurd for me each week to conjure you to make your fight philosophically and courageously. I know there is no doubt you'll do all this. Don't let your little setbacks get on your nerves. They are bound to come, but the big thing is ahead of you, and your normal activities will sooner ^{come to} ~~conquer~~ you if you will it so.

Affectionately,

Dad.

United States Senate,

WASHINGTON, D. C.

April 20, 1918.

NUMBER THIRTEEN

Major Archibald M. Johnson,
Army Post Office 714,
American Expeditionary Force,
France.

My dear Arch:

Yesterday I took my seat for the first time in the military committee of the United States Senate. I was very glad to go upon this committee for many reasons. I am intensely interested in the war and anxious to do what little I can for its prosecution and success, and desirous, of course, of being in intimate touch with what is transpiring. The military committee of the Senate is ^{the} one body that has kept close to the subject, sometimes praising, sometimes criticizing, but maintaining, at least, a modicum of information that could be obtained from the various departments, and acting with discretion when it deemed action necessary. I was glad to be a member of the committee, too, because membership in it was eagerly sought upon our side, and my selection meant that I was gradually progressing here, and had reached the point where my colleagues selected me for their most important assignment. This morning, for the first time, I attended a meeting between the department and the committee. At this meeting, Secretary of War Baker, his assistants - Stettinius and Crowell - and General March, Chief of Staff, were present, and various young officers stated in detail the campaign in France,

Major Archibald M. Johnson - 2

and our progress, industrially and otherwise, in this country. Secretary Baker told me that I had the most elusive son in the world. He thought that you were in the particular convoy that he sailed with, which embraced¹, in reality, three ~~dozen~~^{separate} convoys. As they went across, he signaled and had the roll called on each boat to find where you were, only to find there was no such person on board. He said, subsequently he had learned that you had crossed, I think he said, on the "Fatherland".

We have still received but the one letter from you - Number Two, and the brief, sweet note to Mother. I do hope that your next letter will tell us things are happy with you. I repeat here, as I have repeated in every letter I have written since the receipt of your letter, and I repeat it, because I feel that so many of my letters will go astray. Do not worry or feel hurt at anything that may transpire. If anything untoward happens, return, if possible, to your Grizzlies. If you can prevent it, do not go into line over there in a new regiment, but return to your old one. I know that my advice in this respect is sound, and I hope that you will be guided by it.

Do you realize, my boy, you have been gone from this country more than a month now. It seems but yesterday I bade you good-bye in New York, and yet, it seems an age since I had your last letter. This is Saturday afternoon and I feel that we will have no note now from you until Monday. You can see how I count the days, and I know that your Mother counts them even more impatiently and eagerly.

Major Archibald M. Johnson - 3

Our absorbing topic still is the great battle in Picardy. We are feeling a little better and a little more hopeful these last couple of days. Oh, for a big victory over the Germans! A crushing defeat to them by a counter-offensive now will mean a victorious end of the war.

Mother joins me in all our love.

Affectionately your father,

Archibald M. Johnson

HIRAM W. JOHNSON
CALIFORNIA

United States Senate,

WASHINGTON, D. C.

April 20, 1918.

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

My dear Jack:

Just a line in acknowledgment of your letter received yesterday and your note of this morning concerning Poundstone. Poundstone, I thought, would arrive today, but yet, it is now Saturday afternoon with no word from him. We have two rooms engaged for him and his daughter at the Washington Hotel, and I presume he will get in some time tonight. I will spend with him all the time that is necessary, and will, if everything is as I imagine it will be, most eagerly accept employment in the case. I am extremely grateful to you for it. I know I don't need to thank you for what you have done for Arch. I think it was bully of you to go down to Kern County and attend to his matters. I know what it means when a man is busy to take two or three days out of his work, and that is why I appreciate it the more.

Strangely enough, the representatives of the International News Company are pleading with me now to argue their case. It comes up on the 29th. If I can see my way clear to get the thing into my head during the next week I think I shall go ahead and argue it.

Mr. Hiram W. Johnson, Jr., - 2

I am so sorry Amy has had a bad month of it. Your telegram of yesterday and one Mrs. Bowles so kindly sent me indicated that she was getting along better. While she has fever, however, I worry about her. I have written her today, but there was little to say to her. When you see Mrs. Bowles, tell her how much I appreciated the telegram. I shall write her, of course, and thank her for it.

The pictures you sent of the two children, I think, are wonderful. Your Mother and I have been in ecstasies over them, and we have them in our room in a most conspicuous place. I feel they have grown so big, we'd hardly know them now.

Affectionately,

Dad

United States Senate,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

April 22, 1918.

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

My dear Jack:

I spent yesterday with Poundstone. Everything was satisfactory. We agreed that nothing had occurred while I was Governor of California, in any way connected with the Reclamation Board, which would militate against my employment. I had previously gone over this matter with V. S. McClatchy, as I wrote you, so I feel that even with the finicky fashion in which I feel and the extraordinary care I always take in matters of this sort, that there is no impediment of any sort in the way of my going ahead. Poundstone and I agreed on the terms as indicated in your letter - a retainer of ten thousand dollars and one hundred and fifty dollars per day in the actual trial.. He understood and I made plain that I could not be in California until the end of the session. The preliminary work in the case would have to be done by the other attorneys. I wired you last night and I thank you very, very much for this case. It relieves me immensely. Of this, I will write you more in detail hereafter. I will not be able to write you much this week because I am going to devote all the time I can to studying the Associated Press vs. The International News Service case. I am going to try to argue this case next Monday. I don't want to neglect my duties here and to attend to them and properly prepare an argument will keep me mightily well engaged during the week.

Mr. Hiram W. Johnson, Jr. - 2

I had a cable from Arch this morning saying that everything was all right with him. The cable probably has taken about ^{five} days in coming. I have had just one letter from him. The mail facilities are awful and there is universal complaint here regarding them.

Within the last forty-eight hours I have learned two important things about California politics; first, that Crocker is to support Stephens and be an intimate, although a ~~most~~ silent part of his fight; and secondly, that the Los Angeles Times long ago agreed to support Stephens except in the event that Bardwell became a candidate. One of my correspondents today says that it seems to be the general opinion that Stephens and those about him have very skilfully outgeneraled all the Johnson men and have quietly annexed them all, with the Los Angeles Times and Crocker in the background, and without any corresponding obligation on the part of Stephens at all. The fact of the matter is, although I don't blame him at all for it, that the result is due to McCabe, of course. He has played the game as usual in his political fashion, and played it, I think, very skilfully.

Love to Amy and the kiddies,

Affectionately,

Dad

CLASS OF SERVICE DESIRED	
Fast Day Message	
Day Letter	
Night Message	
Night Letter	

Patrons should mark an X opposite the class of service desired; OTHERWISE THE TELEGRAM WILL BE TRANSMITTED AS A FAST DAY MESSAGE.

WESTERN UNION TELEGRAM

NEWCOMB CARLTON, PRESIDENT

GEORGE W. E. ATKINS, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

Receiver's No.
Check
Time Filed

Send the following telegram, subject to the terms
on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to

San Francisco, Calif. April 23, 1918

Hiram W. Johnson
U.S.S., Washington, D.C.

If newspaper reports are correct you are losing your old candor and courage, otherwise cant understand your failure to state Billings was convicted without Oxman's testimony and that Oxman himself was tried and acquitted by a jury on the charges you refer to, which charges were largely manufactured and wholly distorted and magnified by Mooney defense to mislead and prejudice the public. You know that the prosecution of Oxman was carried on in a court which has no fear or favor for any man, not by Pickert, but by Deputy Attorney General Raymond Benjamin and John B. Nourse, latter now judge superior court. You know too that Weinberg was acquitted after the witnesses for the State had been broken down, terrorized and scattered by money and publicity of defense. Your position lines you up with those Bolsheviks, Frankfurter and Creel. Believe me, that's no company these days for a red-blooded American who believes in a government of law and not of force, direct action and anarchy.

Frank H. Dunno.

ALL TELEGRAMS TAKEN BY THIS COMPANY ARE SUBJECT TO THE FOLLOWING TERMS:

To guard against mistakes or delays, the sender of a telegram should order it REPEATED, that is, telegraphed back to the originating office for comparison. For this one-half the unrepeatable telegram rate is charged in addition. Unless otherwise indicated on its face, THIS IS AN UNREPEATED TELEGRAM AND PAID FOR AS SUCH in consideration whereof it is agreed between the sender of the telegram and this Company as follows:

1. The Company shall not be liable for mistakes or delays in the transmission or delivery, or for non-delivery, of any UNREPEATED telegram, beyond the amount received for sending the same; nor for mistakes or delays in the transmission or delivery, or for non-delivery, of any REPEATED telegram, beyond fifty times the sum received for sending the same, *unless specially valued*; nor in any case for delays arising from unavoidable interruption in the working of its lines; *nor for errors in cipher or obscure telegrams*.
2. In any event the Company shall not be liable for damages for any mistakes or delays in the transmission or delivery, or for the non-delivery, of this telegram, whether caused by the negligence of its servants or otherwise, beyond the sum of FIFTY DOLLARS, at which amount this telegram is hereby valued, unless a greater value is stated in writing hereon at the time the telegram is offered to the Company for transmission, and an additional sum paid or agreed to be paid based on such value equal to one-tenth of one per cent. thereof.
3. The Company is hereby made the agent of the sender, without liability, to forward this telegram over the lines of any other Company when necessary to reach its destination.
4. Telegrams will be delivered free within one-half mile of the Company's office in towns of 5,000 population or less, and within one mile of such office in other cities or towns. Beyond these limits the Company does not undertake to make delivery, but will, without liability, at the sender's request, as his agent and at his expense, endeavor to contract for him for such delivery at a reasonable price.
5. No responsibility attaches to this Company concerning telegrams until the same are accepted at one of its transmitting offices; and if a telegram is sent to such office by one of the Company's messengers, he acts for that purpose as the agent of the sender.
6. The Company will not be liable for damages or statutory penalties in any case where the claim is not presented in writing within sixty days after the telegram is filed with the Company for transmission.
7. *Special terms governing the transmission of messages under the classes of messages enumerated below shall apply to messages in each of such respective classes in addition to all the foregoing terms.*
8. *No employee of the Company is authorized to vary the foregoing.*

THE WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH COMPANY

INCORPORATED

NEWCOMB CARLTON, PRESIDENT

CLASSES OF SERVICE

FAST DAY MESSAGES

A full-rate expedited service.

NIGHT MESSAGES

Accepted up to 2.00 A.M. at reduced rates to be sent during the night and delivered not earlier than the morning of the ensuing business day.

DAY LETTERS

A deferred day service at rates lower than the standard day message rates as follows: One and one-half times the standard Night Letter rate for the transmission of 50 words or less and one-fifth of the initial rate for each additional 10 words or less.

SPECIAL TERMS APPLYING TO DAY LETTERS:

In further consideration of the reduced rate for this special "Day Letter" service, the following special terms in addition to those enumerated above are hereby agreed to:

A. Day Letters may be forwarded by the Telegraph Company as a deferred service and the transmission and delivery of such Day Letters is, in all respects, subordinate to the priority of transmission and delivery of regular telegrams.

B. Day Letters shall be written in plain English. Code language is not permissible.

C. This Day Letter may be delivered by the Telegraph Company by telephoning the same to the addressee, and such delivery shall be a complete discharge of the obligation of the Telegraph Company to deliver.

D. This Day Letter is received subject to the express understanding and agreement that the Company does not undertake that a Day

Letter shall be delivered on the day of its date absolutely and at all events; but that the Company's obligation in this respect is subject to the condition that there shall remain sufficient time for the transmission and delivery of such Day Letter on the day of its date during regular office hours, subject to the priority of the transmission of regular telegrams under the conditions named above.

No employee of the Company is authorized to vary the foregoing.

NIGHT LETTERS

Accepted up to 2.00 A.M. for delivery on the morning of the ensuing business day, at rates still lower than standard night message rates, as follows: The standard day rate for 10 words shall be charged for the transmission of 50 words or less, and one-fifth of such standard day rate for 10 words shall be charged for each additional 10 words or less.

SPECIAL TERMS APPLYING TO NIGHT LETTERS:

In further consideration of the reduced rate for this special "Night Letter" service, the following special terms in addition to those enumerated above are hereby agreed to:

A. Night Letters may at the option of the Telegraph Company be mailed at destination to the addressees, and the Company shall be deemed to have discharged its obligation in such cases with respect to delivery by mailing such Night Letters at destination, postage prepaid.

B. Night Letters shall be written in plain English. Code language is not permissible.

No employee of the Company is authorized to vary the foregoing.

United States Senate,

WASHINGTON, D. C.

NUMBER FOURTEEN

April 24, 1918.

Major Archibald M. Johnson,
Army Post Office 714,
American Expeditionary Force,
France.

My dear Arch:

The day before yesterday, the twenty-second, your cable was received. It was very kind and thoughtful of you to wire us, and Mother and I were delighted to receive even this brief word. We have received no letters from you except those that we have previously acknowledged - your letter Number Two and your brief, sweet note to Mother. I know, of course, that you have written many others, but, with our mail service in the wretched state of inefficiency which characterizes every other branch of our service, as well, I expect to receive from you, only intermittently, letters, and, I presume you will receive from me letters but intermittently.

I am dictating this note to you hurriedly this morning just before going to a meeting of the military committee. I shall miss no meetings of that committee, if I can avoid it. I am intensely interested in the war and the work here, and I expect to develop upon the military committee before a great many days. I am this week endeavoring, too, to prepare for an argument in the Supreme Court next Monday in a case which I will

Major Archibald M. Johnson - 2

relate to you hereafter. Employment in a couple of matters during the past week has immensely relieved me. I think you know how very poor we have been and how, with our luxurious habits, we greatly exceed monthly our income here. By dint of working overtime on a couple of legal propositions for arguments before the courts I will supply, I think, the deficit, which the habits of years of luxury create.

I wish we knew something of how you were getting on - whether your problems have been ironed out, and your difficulties have been removed. Because of the possible failure of my letters to reach you, again I repeat what I have said now to you for nearly a month. Don't feel badly over anything that may transpire in the war college. If anything happens of untoward character there, return, if you can, to your own organization, and do your fighting with that organization. Don't feel hurt or humiliated by a return. I feel rather foolish in continuing to write this thing to you. I continue it in the hope that one of my letters will reach you, and I beg you to be guided by me in this matter.

The big battle seems at a stand-still and we are gradually acquiring our confidence again. The present movements cannot be measured by anything which has transpired before, and the strategy of the situation is utterly beyond me. I can only hope and pray that when the appropriate time comes, Foch will drive the Germans back and administer an overwhelming defeat to them.

Major Archibald M. Johnson - 3

I probably will not be able to write you again until after Monday. I will then tell you about the case if I continue in it.

Affectionately your father,

Hiram W. Johnson

United States Senate,

WASHINGTON, D. C.

April 24, 1918.

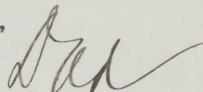
Mr. H. W. Johnson, Jr.,
Mills Building,
San Francisco, Cal.

My dear Jack:

I received a rotten telegram this morning from Judge Dunne. It is indefensible. There was nothing that I said which in any degree justified such a telegram or any criticism at all. I don't know how the matter was reported in San Francisco but if you will glance at the Congressional Record you will see that I indulged in the mere correction during Poindexter's remarks and endeavored justly to indicate something of Oxman's unreliability and I specifically declined to express any opinion in the Mooney case, stating my opinion of Mooney was a prejudiced one.

I also enclose copy of my reply to Dunne. I do this so that you may have both documents before you if anything should arise. It seems to me Dunne is as crazy on one side of this matter as our friend, the editor, is upon the other.

Affectionately,



United States Senate,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

NUMBER FIFTEEN

April 26, 1918.

Major Archibald M. Johnson,
Army Post Office 714,
American Expeditionary Force,
France.

My dear Arch:

Yesterday we received your letter dated April 7th, marked "Number Five". This is the second letter I have received from you - Number Two and Number Five. Mother has received the one brief little note written by you immediately after your arrival. As you will observe, this letter of mine is numbered "Fifteen". I have written you oftener than twice a week, and all of my letters have been numbered as above. I can't for the life of me understand why our mail facilities are so wretched.

Yesterday I received also a letter from Major Palmer, a copy of which I enclose. I send you this so that you may see what sort of a fellow he is, and that you may have no misgivings about meeting him. I hope you have received the copy of the McCoy letter that I sent you. It was a copy of a letter he wrote to Medill McCormick and which might indicate that he did not have just the attitude you ascribed to him.

I am writing you hastily now, my main object being to acknowledge your letter of yesterday and to send you a copy of

Major Archibald M. Johnson - 2

Major Palmer's letter. The tone of yesterday's letter - Number Five - was so much better than the one letter that we received, that we were very happy.

Affectionately your father,

Hiram W. Johnson

(COPY)

Hiram W. Johnson Papers
Bancroft Library

HEADQUARTERS AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCES.

Chief of Staff's Office
April 5th, 1918.

My dear Senator:

I heard the day after I received your letter of March 12th, which was over two weeks in arriving, of your son being at the Staff College and very cheery and well, according to this report. It is a tribute to him that he should have been selected for this course which will mean a good deal to him if the war lasts, assuring him of staff duty and of a systematic training which will be most useful to him in after life.

I plan to run down to see him very soon when I shall be able to make you a more detailed report. To save you and Mrs. Johnson any apprehension when you see the casualty lists I may tell you that for the next three months he will be living in an old walled town dating back to the Romans and going to his lessons as regularly as if mere at college - perhaps a little more regularly than most of us did at college. He is in no more danger than if he were at Harvard, the Univ. of Cal. or Stanford and the staff college building, as I remember, fronts or - at least is a few steps from - the old rampart which looks out over a far stretching panorama of rolling country of villages and farmland. In fact that boy of yours has "struck" about the best thing in France - and I am sure that it was the result of his possessing some of his father's and mother's brains.

I returned to find that the army has been growing very fast in my absence and conditions were generally improved. The results of our hard work had begun to develop; and General Pershing's programme had its proof in skilful battalions who will be worthy of all the country in its pride expects of them.

All our thoughts are centered on the resistance to the German offensive. No doubt the Germans are undertaking a decision. I have full faith that they will be held and the toll of their dead when it is counted in German homes will result in a reaction which will demand peace. The more we put our backs into it the sooner the orgy will be over. To hesitate at anything except united and full effort now would be fatal. The stronger our effort the greater our influence in shaping the future of the world when we have gained mastery over the enemy. At last accounts the Japanese are not to intervene in Manchuria and we are to get much needed shipping from them.

Perhaps we shall see you over here next summer. At all events I shall keep the boy in mind and have a look in on him at every opportunity.

With best wishes, I am,

Cordially yours,

(Signed) Frederick Palmer.