

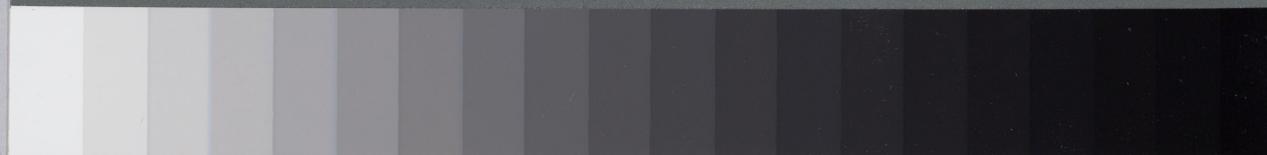
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KODAK Gray Scale



Kodak
LICENSED PRODUCT

A 1 2 3 4 5 6 **M** 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 **B** 17 18 19



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United States Senate,

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Riverdale, Md. Jan. i, 1921.

My dear Boys:

I wired you in rather a cryptic fashion from New York, because I was most anxious that the subject matter about which I was telling you should not reach others.

The Bowes spent a day with us recently. After their departure Bowes phoned me that he had a proposition to make, and we went to New York Tuesday last. He proposed that he and Frank Godsol would underwrite me for a period of four years, guaranteeing me forty thousand dollars a year, and that he and Godsol would undertake to direct from a business angle the office, and if the proceeds of it exceeded the guarantee, they should receive fifty per cent of the excess and I should take the remainder. He made the proposition in the shape that he did, so he said, that I might feel ^a I was entering into a business arrangement, in which they had a direct interest as well as myself. Godsol is probably the controlling interest in various moving picture enterprises, while Bowes is a director in the Goldwyn Company. At a meeting of the heads of the different organizations, it was voted to offer me a sort of general counselship at a salary of fifty thousand dollars a year. Hess of the Goldwyn Co. and Brady representing his own interests called upon me at the Ritz, and made the tender. The picture people fear the passage of blue laws, censorship etc. and my duties would be to fight such laws, speak in behalf of the industry and generally

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be its propagandist and defender before legislatures congresses and the like. Bowes proposed to rent the best offices in New York, furnish them elaborately and at once commence forming an organization, with the business of the moving people as the foundation. He, and Godsol, when he chose, would manage the financial end, making contracts, fixing fees, engaging only in large enterprisés and taking only high paying business. This upon the theory, so often expressed by you, that I had no sense of values, and no financial head. While I was nesitating, Bowes added another attractive feature - that we should announce opening offices in San Francisco and New York, and that the San Francisco branch should be in connection with and under the control of my sons. The future was painted in the most roseate colors, and the services were enlisted of W.J. Burns, a friend of Bowes, in the presentation of the alluring prospect. Godsol, by the way, is a strange and remarkable individual. He is the son of a Jewish Rabbi of Cleveland. He early went to France where he engaged in many enterprises, with marvelous success. Before the war, his businesses being in France, it was suggested that he become a French citizen. This he did. The war then broke out and he was shoved into the army as a Poilu. Finally, ill health procured his dismissal. He maintained his organizations while in the army, and after his dismissal, sold practically all the autos bought by the French army to it. He came to this country, and was arrested by the French government which alleged frauds on his

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part totaling millions. A most determined fight for extradition ensued, resulting after some months of incarceration and a long legal struggle in the complete exoneration by the Courts here. The proceedings were very costly to Godsol, and his opinion of leading lawyers of New York received a rude shock. He is an intimate friend of Bowes and joins in the proposition I think, merely to oblige Bowes.

Of course, acceptance by me, means resignation substantially at once, and residence in New York. I shall not weigh with you, the advantages and the disadvantages. I would not consider the matter at all, were it not for the attitude of your mother. Should I resign and enter into this thing, I would feel that my life was ended. I am balancing this against matters about which I cannot write.

This is written on New Years Day. It's a sad and a gloomy time with us. May it be filled with pleasure and happiness and contentment with you.

Affectionately,

Red

The cold recital of the above would indicate lack of appreciation by me. I don't want you to get this idea. Bowes has been kindness itself and I am deeply grateful to him. I could without doubt modify the details of what he has presented and he would gladly acquiesce in anything I wished, with the basic proposal as indicated.

CLASS OF SERVICE	SYMBOL
Telegram	
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 telegram. 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
Telegram	
Day Letter	Blue
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RECEIVED AT

A 32 DA 40 NL

HB WASHINGTON DC 5

HIRAM W JOHNSON JR

2477

ATTORNEY AT LAW MILLS BUILDING SANFRANCISCO CALIF

NO DECISION YET IN SMITH MATTER HIS VIEWS ARE QUITE LIKE YOURS
BUT HE IS MEETING VERY GREAT DIFFICULTIES WITH OTHER PARTY HERE
MOST NEARLY CONCERNED LETTER MAILED JANUARY FIRST DISCUSSION WELL
NIGH IMPOSSIBLE LOVE TO THE KIDDIES AND YOURSELF

DAD.

1921 JAN 6 AM 3 08

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RECEIVED AT

1921 JAN 8 PM 2 19

A35IDA-45 NL

CS WASHINGTON DC 8

618

HIRAM W JOHNSON JR

MILLS BLDG SANFRANCISCO CALIF

JUST RECEIVED YOURS SECOND DID NOT KNOW OF COMMUNICATION ENCLOSED
 FACTS ARE DETAILED IN MY LETTER OF FIRST YOU ~~HAVE~~ HIT THE ONE
 GREAT POINT AND YOU CORRECTLY DIAGNOSE MY MIND MY DIFFICULTIES
 ARE ALL IN THE ONE DIRECTION I HAVE INDICATED LOVE TO ALL

HIRAM W JOHNSON.

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RECEIVED AT

49SF ZE 54 GOVT

CS WASHINGTON DC 412PM JAN 8 1921

MAJOR ARCHIBALD JOHNSON

49

SANFRANCISCO CALIF

BY ALL MEANS HAVE FRIENDS OF TOBIN GO AFTER MATTER STOP MAKE CONCERNED
AND ACTIVE DRIVE STOP I DO NOT BELIEVE IT IMPOSSIBLE BUT I AM UTTERLY
UNABLE TO TELL WITH ANY DEFINITENESS WHAT THE APPOINTING POWER WILL
DO ASSURE DICK I WILL DO EVERYTHING IN MY POWER SOMEBODY SHOULD SEE
SHORTRIDGE FOR HIM

HIRAM W JOHNSON

205PM

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F. R. HAVENNER, CLERK

United States Senate,

COMMITTEE ON CUBAN RELATIONS.

January 13, 1921.

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

My dear Arch:

You're a dickens of a correspondent! I have received one letter from you this year, and that was written before the first of January. I want you to write me at least once a week, if you only write me three lines telling me of your present condition. It is this that is ever on my mind. You may think that engrossed as I am here I forget your condition, which was such a frequent subject of conversation with us, or rather with me while I was in California, but I can assure you there is not a day I do not think of how you are, and wonder what you are doing to aid yourself. Because ~~of this~~ I am so concerned, please write me with regularity, if it is only half a dozen lines telling me how your cough is, what your weight is, and what your condition has been the few days previous to your note.

Mother has had Mrs. Smith and Nettie Hamilton with her the past week or so, and she has been twice glad. Each of us is hoarse, and I have been seriously considering investing in ear trumpets or megaphones. With all the drawbacks, however, I rather think, although your mother is very, very tired, that she has enjoyed the visit. She wont admit this, and she has become

Major Archibald M. Johnson - 2

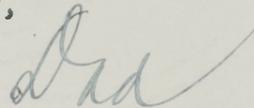
exceedingly weary.

I have reached my conclusions concerning the matter I wired you about and wrote you of on January first. I have refrained from a definite response, however, because of hysteria in other directions. Sunday I will try to write you again on the same matter from home.

We are looking forward to seeing Jack next week, and looking forward to the puppy as well.

Do take care of yourself, and do let me know just how you are.

Affectionately,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Arch", is written below the typed word "Affectionately,".

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United States Senate,

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

[Jan 3]

Sunday, May 16, 1921.

[Arch.]

My dear Son:

I promised to write you today, but I'm hardly in the humor for correspondence, even with my boy. I can't write of my difficulties for many reasons. I cannot only say to you that time instead of softening is intensifying them, and my position here is becoming untenable. This is because of occurrences from within, rather than from without, and because they are domestic in character, I cannot, even to my sons, recount them.

So today, I'll simply wish you

well. Because you've sent me no real
word of yourself, I've been quite
worried about you. This I spoke to
you about in mine of a couple of
days ago. Do, please, however unnecessary
you may deem it, write me of
your health.

Jack we are advised, leaves tomorrow,
and simultaneously with the receipt of
this note by you, we will see him.
Up to this time, we have had a winter
which would not have been had in California.
Perhaps the worst is yet to come. We've
had little snow, few very cold days and
generally a most agreeable surprise in the
winter. Last week we succeeded in getting
the village water supply piped into the house,
and thus far, the improvement has been
delightful. Apparently our worries over
water are at an end.

Mrs. Smith and Nettie Hamilton
left yesterday after a nine days visit.

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United States Senate,

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Mrs. Smith turned out to be a very pleasant guest, adapting herself to circumstances and ever expressing herself as pleased with everything. Poor Nettie is a case of arrested mental development, and is like a child of ten. Her hearing too, has grown decidedly worse, and efforts to converse with her are not only difficult but mighty wearisome.

Bert Meek writes me he is coming on the twenty-first - I presume in behalf of olives. With Republican success, has come the demand from everybody fearing foreign competition for high tariff duties. We're going to have an era of the greatest tariff wall in our history.

I'm unable to write a story today, so goodbye,
Affectionately Dad

HIRAM W. JOHNSON, CALIF., CHAIRMAN
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NATHANIEL B. DIAL, S. C.
F. R. HAVENNER, CLERK

United States Senate,
COMMITTEE ON CUBAN RELATIONS.

January 29, 1921.

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

My dear Arch:

The other day I had quite a chat with Mr. Moore who came here to talk about Dick Tobin. In order to start the ball rolling it was agreed upon between us that I write President-elect Harding concerning Tobin. This I have done and I enclose you herein a copy of my letter. I don't know whether there is a real chance in this case or not. I am hoping that Harding will advise me, but, apparently, he is making no decisions at present. A rumour came to me recently that Richard Washburn Child, who it was thought at one time would be Harding's secretary, wanted the ambassadorship to Spain. I don't know whether this is so or not. At any rate, if Tobin's friends will strike, and strike hard from now until the fourth of March, and thereafter continue we may be able to put it over.

I forgot to acknowledge the return of the check that I sent you. It came all right.

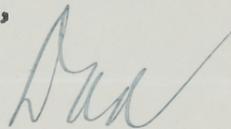
Jack after some days cooped up at the Willard Hotel expects tonight to come out to the house. He says he is feeling very much better. Mother had a nice letter this morning from Mrs. Chase, and it is plain from it how narrow was your escape.

Major Archibald M. Johnson - 2

We have not yet ceased from thanking the Almighty for your miraculous preservation.

With love,

Affectionately,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Dad", written in a cursive style.

January 29, 1931.

Hon. Warren G. Harding,
Marion, Ohio.

My dear Senator:

Richard M. Tobin, of San Francisco, would like to be Ambassador to Spain. I have known Mr. Tobin for very many years, and there is no man of my acquaintance who would better grace or more fittingly fill such a diplomatic post. Mr. Tobin is a man of very great wealth, the acting head of the Hibernia Bank of San Francisco, highly cultured, and widely traveled. His acquaintance is not local, but world-wide. He is as much at home in the capitals of Europe as in our own. He is a learned man, and a linguist. He has taken an active part in our politics, was one of the financial treasurers of your campaign in California, and did yeoman service in that campaign. No man among us is more beloved or more respected. He stands very high in the Catholic church, and to the great men who are the leading prelates in that church I am sure his selection would be most gratifying. He has been connected with many civic matters in California, and with many charitable enterprises. He is one of those rich men who was not content with riches alone, but who with a thirst for knowledge acquired the learning that distinguishes him; and added to that the experience of travel abroad and acquaintance, and in very many instances friendships with those who directed affairs

Hon. Warren G. Harding - 3

abroad. This is one of the rare instances in which I have no hesitancy in saying that no man in the United States can be found better qualified for an ambassadorship than Mr. Tobin, and no more pleasing appointment to all of us could be made.

With best wishes and fondest regards, I am

Yours most sincerely,