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W. H. KILLAM, CLERK

## United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION

March 2, 1927

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

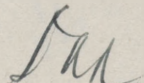
My dear Jack:

Herein is my tax return. I tried to understand it, but don't know a damn thing about it. I take it for granted it is fine and dandy. I attach my check on The Riggs Co., National Bank, #1505, for \$95.70, the amount of the tax. I understood you to say the return was made both for Mother and myself. I note it is entirely in my name. However, I suppose the statement that it is made for husband and wife is ample. Anyway, I don't know anything about it, and I rely entirely on you, so please do whatever is essential. The check, I take it, for \$95.70, is the total amount that ought to be paid.

I have been at it night and day. Have had a wonderful fight, which commenced on a shoe string and ended in dramatizing the Boulder Dam Bill. Will write you in detail later.

Love to the boys and yourself.

Affectionately,



P:S: I return the duplicate as well as the original. After original has been filed, would you do me the kindness to return the duplicate for my files, or advise me if you think it should be kept in San Francisco.



Washington, D.C.  
March 5, 1927.

My dear Boys:

We adjourned yesterday, as you know. Today I have been trying to adjust myself but the reaction prevents any real concentration of thought. I did not think it possible to get along with so little sleep as I have got along with the last few weeks. I feel none the worse for it, except for a general fogginess and an inability to get down to detail. This will clear in the next few days, I am sure, and then I will be myself again.

I contributed a part to the excitement and hectic character of the session. I tried to break a filibuster on the Boulder Dam Bill by keeping the Senate in session for more than thirty consecutive hours. I failed in breaking the filibuster because I had to depend, not upon a general knowledge of the Bill, nor upon enthusiasm for it, but upon personal friends who were willing to sit up all night by my side. I did succeed, however, in immensely advancing the measure for I dramatized it to the Nation when before it was known only to a few, little understood, and little cared for. I kept it, in the closing days of the session, before the Senate for ten days - an almost impossible feat. I even threw my scruples concerning



cloture to the winds when it was about to be displaced, to invoke the cloture rule. Had I not done so, I would have been displaced on the day that I presented the cloture motion. I knew cloture was hopeless, but I wanted to continue to emphasize the Bill, what it was, and the opposition to it, and I think I succeeded measurably in doing this. I smoked out the opposition so that it is obvious to everybody here now we're up against the most powerful, concentrated, and influential trust in the world, - the electric power trust. I demonstrated also that the pretense of the Administration being back of the Bill was sheer pretense. Although this will never be mentioned by our dear Los Angeles people, nevertheless, the votes that were taken prior to cloture and upon cloture, show the fact conclusively. I showed, too, what was the fact, but what sometimes is denied, that there is no difference in the leadership of the Republican and the Democratic parties. Each responds to exactly the same influences, and it was made apparent that to win a measure such as the Boulder Dam, we must win it through the rank and file, and not through leaders. I got this Bill upon the floor of the Senate by myself, and I held it there by mere fighting strength during ten days, although eleven men on the congressional delegation in the House could not even get it out of the Rules Committee. I pried it loose from the Rules Committee by my activities in the Senate, and yet our people in the House could not get it upon the floor. On the whole, I am very well satisfied with the effort that I made, and with the accomplishment I state. Just as soon as I got the bill upon the floor of the Senate, there came a flank attack from Los Angeles, partici-



pated in by all public bodies there, the Lieutenant-Governor, and others, probably unwittingly by most of them, which was used against me with many Senators. The Los Angeles Times finally making the pretense of desiring legislation appealed to the people of southern California to demand of Congressmen and Senators an emergency appropriation for flood control to protect Imperial Valley, that is by strengthening the levees in Mexico protecting Imperial Valley and Chandler's 850,000 acres of land in Mexico. In answer to this appeal of the Times, civic bodies and innumerable individuals wired us asking this emergency appropriation, and many Senators came to me with the statement that they would be very glad to give an emergency appropriation, and because of the complexities of the Bill, permit that to lay over until it could be thoroughly understood and digested. It was an infamous thing that was done us by the Los Angeles Times, and none the less infamous that it was done ignorantly by many good people. Those who were behind it knew just what they were doing. Aside from the Scripps papers in southern California, no others have dared say anything upon the subject, and the pretense of aiding Imperial Valley silenced every one there. When I get to California, I intend to make a speech in Los Angeles and explain just exactly what was attempted, and the harm that it did to me when I was fighting for their very life, and against greater obstacles than every encountered a bill here. Of course, it would be all right to give Imperial Valley any money that the Government saw fit to give it, but the amount that could be used this year for levees would be a small fraction of that which was asked, and



and the reason for its use, in reality, was the reclamation of more lands in Mexico enabling Chandler to cultivate a greater area, and take a greater amount of water there from the Colorado River, depriving Imperial Valley of just that greater amount he would appropriate. Congressman Swing in his timidity and fear that he would be misunderstood, fell for Chandler's scheme, and made a gesture in its behalf in the House. The wickedness of it you may understand when I say to you there never was a chance either in the House or the Senate of such an appropriation being granted at this time. The rules and the law both precluded it, and the only thing the effort could accomplish was what it actually did accomplish - make my task in the Senate in behalf of the Bill more difficult.

My troubles are now going to begin in persuading Mother to come, just as soon as possible to California. I shall, however, make the attempt. All my plans are inchoate now, and I have no definite time that I am anxious to leave, except that I know I want to come at the earliest possible moment, and that I know, Mother will not come until the last possible moment.

I will write you early in the week when I become more settled and have a better conception of what I wish to do.

My love to my dear grandchildren, and to Martha, and both of you.

Affectionately,

*Dad*



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W. H. KILLAM, CLERK

## United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION

March 11, 1927

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

My dear Arch:

I received your telegram in response to mine that I was not coming immediately to California, and I received also your good telegrams, which pleased me beyond measure during the time I was fighting the Boulder Dam fight.

It would take a volume to tell you about the contest. I began on a shoestring. I am one of ninety six Senators. Nearly all the other members of the Senate are engrossed with their constituencies and have their own pet measures. The short session is an abomination in which there is a perpetual jamb, and a rivalry which unfortunately degenerates into more or less hostility and bitterness to get different measures, aside from appropriation bills, considered. No individual thought that I could get the Bill upon the floor at all, because, however we may be interested in it in parts of California, the rest of the United States regards it as a mere local measure, designed for the benefit of a very small part of our country. We got it upon the floor because of a peculiar relation which has sprung up between the Vice-President and myself. Our rules provide that when a Senator wishes recognition, he addresses the chair, and that the chair will recognize the first in point of time in addressing him.



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The Public Buildings Bill, engineered by Lenroot; the Prohibition Bill, of which Willis was the chief; the Radio Bill in which everybody was interested; the Tyson Veterans' relief bill, that had a practically unanimous support, all sought recognition, but because of an understanding between Dawes and myself, when we were all on our feet clamoring, his eye rested upon me alone, and he recognized the Senator from California. After a short and sharp contest, on Friday evening, February 18, the Boulder Dam Bill was made the unfinished business. The item was so limited that practically everybody served notice on me I would be accorded only a day or two to do the job, which of course, was an utter impossibility. I kept the Bill the unfinished business before the Senate for ten days until cloture on prohibition finally displaced me. It was a feat that I think never before has been accomplished in a short session, and one that I never could do again. There are only two ways in which filibusters can be broken; the first is by a continuous session in which it is the hope physically to wear down the opponents; and the second is by cloture, which requires two-thirds vote. In order to hold a continuous session it is necessary to have forty-eight men stick with you to maintain a quorum. This has been found in the past to be an impossible feat. I tried a continuous session and remained in the Chamber, taking but one meal during that period, for more than thirty hours, but with the little understanding that



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there is of our measure, and dependent as I was, solely upon friendships, it was more than difficult to maintain a quorum, and we lost a great deal of time in utilizing the power of the Senate to bring men in. I am immensely indebted to about thirty fellows, who from sheer kindness and affection stood with me all night long. I owe nothing and the Bill owes nothing to the Administration, or to Hoover, or any of the others in high places, who pretended to be for it. I kept the Senate in session for thirty-odd hours, and as I wrote you last week, dramatized the situation and the bill to the people of the Nation. Mother sat all night long in the gallery, and strange to say, there was no time during that night session when there were not people in the galleries. I am indebted beyond measure to men like LaFollette, Norris, and the group of insurgents from the middle west, who stuck with me hour after hour and never failed me. Vote after Vote was taken in that thirty hours to adjourn and to recess in the hope of breaking up my endeavor, and the Republican leader and the Democratic leader voted against me, but in every vote it is most amazing thing, we beat them. I would have been displaced on the Thursday afternoon that I made the cloture motion, even if I had not made that motion. I made it, not because there was any hope of success, but in order still to keep the Bill before the Senate and the country. When I realized I was beaten on cloture overwhelmingly, I went to the White House and told Mr. Coolidge that this was a bill which he had endorsed, a measure which he had asserted he desired passed, that it was in extremis, and that



the Republican leader, Mr. Curtis, apparently, was against us. When I say to you that Curtis is a mere errand boy, who, without demur, takes his orders upon any question, and who has never failed at the nod from the President to do exactly as he was told, you can understand why I made the last appeal, purely on the ground of the bill being an administration measure, to Coolidge. I told him that my poll showed I had no chance of cloture unless the entire power of the administration was exercised in its behalf. He told me he would exercise it. When the vote was polled, only those who had promised me personally to vote for cloture, voted for it, while Curtis and his administration band voted against it. I cannot blame many of the Senators who voted against me because of their interest in other measures. I do blame some who broke faith, because of the powerful influences to which they were subjected. I am up against the greatest power there is in this country, the electric power trust, which reaches into every State and almost every community. Not only did it send an avalanche of wires to various Senators, but telephonic messages from two thousand miles away in different states, were received by Senators on the morning of the cloture vote, and individuals from nearby states flocked to the capitol that day telling the awful consequences that would ensue if the Government exercised its option under our Bill of erecting a generating power plant at Boulder Dam. An unfortunate thing, too, about the vote on cloture, was that my best advocates like LaFollette, Nye, Shipstead, Wheeler, and many others, are conscientiously opposed to cloture in any form, and could not vote with me, although they were for the Bill. No words of mine can adequately describe the insidious influences that work against this measure. These influences are led on the floor by Phipps of Colorado and Smoot of Utah, and



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they are peculiarly persuasive with the New England and Eastern Senators. These influences will, in my opinion, get any man who fights them, and I am under no illusions concerning the future. The whole thing was a one man's job for which we may have no regrets, and of which I think we can be reasonably proud, and the ultimate result of which was beneficial .

Both Mother and I are wondering how you are getting in your search for a new house. I hope you have found one satisfactory, and that you have one on the peninsula. You were so beautifully located before that I have often envied you, and it is a pity that you could not have continued in your present abode. My recollection is you had to move about the 15th day of March, so by the time this reaches you, you probably will be in the throes of house hunting, and I can imagine with what regret and sadness you leave the delightful and beautiful home you had the past year or so.

It was my hope to come out to California this week, but man proposes, and somebody else disposes. I wanted to come out immediately, first, while the recent contest was fresh in the minds of the people, and secondly, to determine whether or not to open a law office. As you know, there has been some talk between Theodore and myself in the past about going together, but this is ended. I want to prepare, if I can, for the future. I know no other way to do it than to commence the practice of the law, try it out, and see whether or not I can be successful. This I think I should do by myself. I want to come out and get settled without delay in one of the new buildings, send out my notices, and do what is essential to begin. I will not conceal



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from you the fact, as I have written your brother today, that I would prefer to continue in this life. I have reached the stage in it now when I am not only most useful, but when I have a real influence, and I think a more or less small following. I have become accustomed to it, so that the game is in my blood. Last year's events, however, give me pause, and make me very doubtful about making another campaign. I do not wish to convey this to anybody but to remain in the attitude of being a candidate next year to succeed myself, although I believe it would be the part of wisdom to prepare for the few years that are remaining, and at least try out whether I have an earning capacity in my old profession. Please think about this carefully, and I will talk it over with you and Jack as soon as I return. Think over, too, where you believe would be the most appropriate place for me to open an office.

One thing that worries me is the house here. Caraway, who is different from any human being I ever ran into, hates me, first, because of the wrong he did, and secondly, because he has not been able to have his way, and I am fearful that as soon as I leave for an extended stay in California, he will begin some sort of action that will necessitate my coming clear across the continent again. Since his purchase he has received from me on the first day of each month for fifteen months the rent under my lease, and he has accepted it. Under our law, this would effectually dispose of any claim of the forfeiture of the lease, and effectually dispose of any action that might bring. In writing Jack, I asked that sometime when his Mr. Day



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had nothing to do, he would send me a list of authorities on the receipt of rent <sup>after</sup> ~~for~~ a claimed forfeiture, and its effect in waiving also the cause of action. If one of your young men could do this, too, I would appreciate it immensely.

Your Mother and I have kept well, that is reasonably so, and I feel very grateful that we have got through the winter as well as we have. She has had some difficulty with her neuritis, and an awful time with an ulcerated tooth, but I have never been able to get her to go either to the doctor or the dentist. This is another reason why I would like to get out just as soon as I could. I am hoping to be able to come out in a couple of weeks, but I may be delayed even longer than that, but I hope not.

With my love to Martha and yourself, in which Mother joins, I am

*Archibald M. Johnson*  
*DM*



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## United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION

March 11, 1927

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

My dear Jack:

I have just received your interesting letter of March 5. I had your telegram during the Boulder Dam fight, and it was a great pleasure to receive wires that I did from my boys on that historic occasion.

It would take a volume to tell you about the contest. I began on a shoestring. I am one of ninety six Senators. Nearly all the other members of the Senate are engrossed with their constituencies and have their own pet measures. The short session is an abomination in which there is a perpetual jam, and a rivalry which unfortunately degenerates into more or less hostility and bitterness to get different measures, aside from appropriation bills, considered. No individual thought that I could get the Bill upon the floor at all, because, however we may be interested in it in parts of California, the rest of the United States regards it as a mere local measure, designed for the benefit of a very small part of our country. We got it upon the floor because of a peculiar relation which has sprung up between the Vice-president and myself. Our rules provide that when a Senator wishes recognition, he addresses the chair, and that the chair will recognize the first in point of time in addressing him. The



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I made the last appeal, purely on the ground of the bill being an administration measure, to Coolidge. I told him that my poll showed I had no chance of cloture unless the entire power of the administration was exercised in its behalf. He told me he would exercise it. When the vote was polled, only those who had promised me personally to vote for cloture, voted for it, while Curtis and his administration band voted against it. I cannot blame many of the Senators who voted against me because of their interest in other measures. I do blame some who broke faith, because of the powerful influences to which they were subjected. I am up against the greatest power there is in this country, the electric power trust, which reaches into every State and almost every community. Not only did it send an avalanche of wires to various Senators, but telephonic messages from two thousand miles away in different states, were received by senators on the morning of the cloture vote, and individuals from nearby states flocked to the capitol that day telling the awful consequences that would ensue if the Government exercised its option under our Bill of erecting a generating power plant at Boulder Dam. An unfortunate thing, too, about the vote on cloture, was that my best advocates like LaFollette, Nye, Shipstead, Wheeler, and many others, are conscientiously opposed to cloture in any form, and could not vote with me, although they were for the Bill. No words of mine can adequately describe the insidious influences that work against this measure. These influences are led on the floor by Phipps of Colorado and Smoot of Utah, and they are peculiarly persuasive with the New England and Eastern Senators. These influences will, in my opinion, get any



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man who fights them, and I am under no illusions concerning the future. The whole thing was a one man's job for which we may have no regrets, and of which I think we can be reasonably proud, and the ultimate result of which was beneficial.

I wanted to come to California while the fight was fresh and I would like to have returned this week. I am sorry that I cannot. It will be a couple of weeks yet before I will be able to come. I hope not more than that but I fear it may be even longer.

One little thing that troubles me about coming to California and being absent so long is what may happen concerning our house here. I have paid Caraway now since his purchase fifteen months rent on the first day of each and every month, and he has accepted it. He is the worst beast of a man I have ever encountered. Because he did a gross and dirty thing, naturally he hates me, but like all scoundrels, he has worked himself into a tremendous passion against me upon the theory I have done him a great wrong in not giving up to him the premises and doing exactly as he wished me to do. My lease, as you know, runs to March 4, 1929. I would get out of the infernal premises for many reasons, but first because I don't want anything to do with anything this skunk owns. Mother, however, is of an entirely different view, and I will not, of course, therefore, surrender. Under our law, any cause for the forfeiture of a lease would be waived by the acceptance of rent, certainly for the acceptance of rent monthly for such a long period. Some day, when your Mr. Day has an hour off, would you have him collate the authorities upon this subject, and send them to me. Don't trouble with it, if it causes him the slightest inconvenience, because I do not



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think there can be any doubt of the principle. My fear is that this scoundrel, for the sole purpose of annoying me, will begin action after I have departed. I cannot see but what, if he does, I shall have to make a hurried trip back here. This, of course, I don't want to do, and would like to avoid. And if I were dealing with any other human being I have ever met, I would not give it a moment's thought, but really I never have met a human being like this man, and in this opinion I am not alone.

I returned you at once my income tax blank, and I suppose long since you have it with my check in payment of my taxes. I leave to your Mother entirely what she will do in relation to her lot, and she sent you, I think, various wires expressing her view.

It was very interesting to read of Frere and his standing at school. I have always thought him capable of standing at the head of his class, but I rather think that the reputation he will acquire in his classes in the future will be like that I had at Berkeley - that his standing does not indicate what it might be if he devoted himself to his work, and that within him are possibilities to do much more than ever he does do.

It was interesting to watch the last few days of the session and to see another filibuster in which there was a party alignment. There was no difficulty keeping a quorum when partisanship was inflamed. Men who rebelled exceedingly at being brought from their beds upon a great measure like the Boulder Dam Project were thoroughly philosophical in sitting all night in the Chamber



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when their passions were involved, and the party whip was cracking. It was interesting, too, from another standpoint - the same sinister figure that was behind the filibuster upon the Boulder Dam Bill was behind the filibuster on the Reed Resolution, Phipps, a multi-millionaire of Colorado, and the same pitiful contemptible instrument that was put forward to begin the filibuster on our Bill, Cameron of Arizona, who was unable correctly to pronounce words of a written speech, was first put forward to kill time in the closing days of the session.

It was my hope to come out this week and open a law office in preparation for any eventuality of the future. I do not conceal from you, of course, that I would prefer to continue my life here, but the iron entered my soul last year in the deliberate treachery to me by those presumed to be my friends, and a part of the faction of which I had been the leader in the past, and I have become unduly distrustful and suspicious of what may occur in the future. I was anxious, therefore, and am still anxious, to guard myself as best I can before the prestige of my position might be lost or compromised, and to begin again in my profession. I want to open an office in San Francisco, preferably in one of the new buildings, and see whether or not I can succeed. I do not like the idea, I admit, but I do not like the idea either of being dependent next year in a political contest upon men whom I think, whether justly or unjustly, sold me out last year. I would very greatly appreciate it, my son, if you think seriously of this, and give me the



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benefit of your judgment when I come out, as to my location, the mode of starting, and the like. In the past, there has been more or less that has occurred between Theodore Roche and myself concerning a partnership, but this is for the present, at least, at an end, and I must depend alone, as I ought, upon myself, and it is far better, I think, probably to go it alone.

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

Affectionately,

*Wad*



WASHINGTON, March - -

The Sixty-Ninth Congress has come to a close, the second, or short, session being marked by the discussion of an unusually large number of bills of major importance, by unusual features such as night sessions and prolonged debates and finally by filibusters which prevented the enactment of many measures of importance, including the Boulder Dam bill in which California is so vitally interested.

During the entire session Senator Hiram Johnson of California was most active and many Washington observers and news writers have expressed the opinion that because of his activities it was one of the most notable sessions of his career. The major objective of Senator Johnson was the Boulder Dam bill. Although it was impossible to pass it in the face of the prolonged filibuster and great jam of legislation marking the last month of the session, Senator Johnson's masterly handling of the difficult situation resulted in the bill receiving attention from the Senate and the entire country which will be of great value in assuring early passage when the bill is brought before Congress at the next session. Besides the filibuster by a small group of opposing Senators the bill was fought by the national lobby of the allied power interests, said to be one of the most powerful lobbies ever assembled against a piece of legislation. Despite the opposition and the pressure of other legislation Senator Johnson held the Boulder Dam bill before the Senate for eight days including one continuous session of thirty hours. He has every confidence that with the impetus given the bill this year there will be no difficulty in securing its passage in the next Congress.

Another notable incident of the session was Senator Johnson's speech on the navy situation which attracted the attention of the entire country and is credited with being responsible for the voting of authority and money to at once start construction of three new cruisers. He spoke not in a spirit of militarism, but called attention in ringing words to the fact that our navy has fallen far below those of other nations and that our nation was practically defenseless.

Senator Johnson was instrumental in preventing the sale of our merchant marine, presenting a resolution in the Senate to stop the proposed sale, and later heading a special committee which gathered facts establishing the value of the merchant marine as a governmental activity.

Senator Johnson favored the passage of the McNary-Haugen farm relief bill, believing that something should be done to apply the principle of protection to agriculture in order that there might be some stabilization of the farming industry. In co-operation with Commissioner Hecke of California he secured federal aid in eradicating the white citrus fly which has gained a foothold in northern California and threatened the citrus industry. He also on behalf of the California cattlemen took up the matter of imported beef being used by the navy and secured cancellation of the purchase order. He also aided the creamerymen of California in securing a chance to bid on dairy products used in the navy.

As a member of the Commerce Committee, Senator Johnson was able to be of great service to California in connection with the rivers and harbors bill, which included authority for Stockton's waterway to the sea, Mare Island channel deepening, Oakland harbor work and smaller projects. Not a California project was taken from the bill and he also had added an extension of the breakwater at Crescent City for the improvement of that harbor.



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Senator Johnson worked and voted for the Sheppard-Towner Maternity bill, which was endorsed by most of the women's organizations of California.

Senator Johnson was, as always in the past, actively in favor of all veteran legislation, including the bill to retain veteran's hospital pay at \$80, the bill to allow the Veterans' Bureau to make loans on adjusted compensation certificates, and the emergency officer's retirement bill. The latter met the same fate as the Boulder Dam bill, being lost in the legislative jam despite all efforts to bring it to a vote. In addition Senator Johnson secured pensions for a large number of Civil War veterans and widows, putting through special bills for their relief.

In the closing hours of the session Senator Johnson had passed through the Senate the Lea bill which opens to deer hunting a large section of government land in the mountains between Lake and Mendocino counties and the Sacramento valley. At all times Senator Johnson kept a watchful eye on all legislation relating to California and cooperated with the Congressional delegation to the end that the state might get full recognition in every way.

Senator Johnson will return to California in the near future and during most of the recess period will maintain an office in San Francisco. His Washington office will also be kept open during the summer and any departmental work desired by his constituents will be given prompt attention.



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W. H. KILLAM, CLERK

## United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION

March 17, 1927

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

My dear Arch:

I have just been writing a note to your brother telling him that Mother gradually is getting ready and I hope that we'll leave here at the end of the month. She has no desire to come to California, and the weather has been so delightful the last few days that I can't blame her for wanting to stay here during the spring. Were I in a position where I was financially independent, I would stay here until the first of June, and then come to California, indifferent to what might happen politically thereafter. It is this dreadful fear of the future from the financial standpoint that constantly worries me. While I love the traits of your disposition and character, which I think are quite like mine, really as I look forward to the next few years, I deplore them, too. You ought now to prepare yourself for independence in the next few years, an independence of which you think little now, but which as the years creep upon you, if you had it, you would prize above all things. Unfortunately, you have inherited my imprudence, and prodigality, and improvidence, financially, and I assume that it is as useless to talk to you about setting by a store for the future as it would have been, at your age, to have talked to me. However, my dear lad, I would



like your Father to be a horrible example to you in this particular, and I would like, too, that from that example you would learn the lesson that he never learned and at which he always scoffed. The more I think of my own situation, and I am in good shape now, having become fairly rested and my mind having become fairly clear, I think I ought to prepare for eventualities, and that I ought to try out whether I can get back to my old profession. I don't know what makes me so fearful about the trial, or so doubtful of success, but I am both.

I have been delighted with the reflex and sentiment of California on the Boulder Dam fight and what I have done here during the last session. I am under no illusions, however, about the southern part of the State. In that territory, there will be no lasting appreciation nor gratitude, and particularly this will be so if I should fail in the next session to put over the Boulder Dam Bill. The opposition to the measure is such that it is almost a superhuman task and when you realize I have nobody but myself to do the job and that the representatives of power companies from every state in the Union are on that job, with weak-kneed and timid, and sometimes corrupt officials here, you'll understand the difficulties that beset us. However, it is the sort of fight that I like, and I will make it in quite a different fashion next session when there is ample time. I have been very careful this last session to create neither hostilities nor enemies. I will care for neither when the Bill comes up again.



I thought of you on the 15th of the month and of your moving to another house. I do hope you have a home that you'll love as much as the old one. At any rate, I am glad you are still down the peninsula, and I trust you will spend just as much time there in the beautiful months that are to come as it is possible for you to do. I was glad to note from your letter recently received that you had been exceedingly busy. This means, of course, prosperity, and I want for you the fullest measure of that.

I have been trying to put Frank Griffin over as federal judge. I wanted to do this while I was still in a position to make the attempt, and before I died. I have always had a sort of protective parental feeling for Griffin, and I have appreciated, too, how he has worn with the years. There never has been any doubt of his loyalty, no matter what the situation, and then again he has a character which may be described, in one direction, as sweet, and in another, as with a real nobility. Coolidge, of course, has an entirely different idea of the qualifications of a judge than what you and I have. I am emphatically presenting Griffin as a fit man, and he has been able to obtain some endorsements that will be difficult for them to disregard. I am basing no false hopes upon the situation, but I wanted to make the attempt while it was possible, and I am doing so.

Love to Martha and yourself, in which Mother joins.

Affectionately,

Dad



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W. H. KILLAM, CLERK

## United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION

March 17, 1927

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

My dear Jack:-

I received yesterday your letter of March 12 enclosing my receipt from the Internal Revenue Collector for Income Tax. Thank you very much for attending to this for me.

I have caught up a good part of my sleep now, and the most of my work. I am restless to come to California and begin again. As I get all rested now the world looks brighter. What an interesting thing it is to observe in a detached sort of fashion the working of one's mind. When I am troubled and worried, or physically bad, the reflex is immediate in my mental processes. As I read the story of great English statesmen and find some of them so afflicted as they were, like the younger Pitt and his illustrious father, I marvel that they could have done the amazing things they did, and that their intellects until really toward the end of their lives were unclouded. They lived, too, in an age when every gentleman was supposed to indulge elaborately in what this modern age in America prohibits, and when it was considered not at all reprehensible to come into the House of Commons to talk with unsteady legs and obviously under the influence of liquor. As my mind has cleared in the last week it seems to me that I would be entirely wanting in judgment if I did not make the effort to get back into my old profession. The temporary



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prominence that has been given me in this session, which will be totally eclipsed by a failure in the next, my knowledge of the southern part of the State, where effort counts for naught, and the Los Angeles Times for much, where a people have no lasting sense of gratitude, or even appreciation, all compel my reason to one course, while my inclination, I admit, beckons the other way. I leave the matter for definite conclusion until I reach California, and I fear, of course, because I know myself so well, and have a pretty accurate idea of how men's minds work, that inclination and desire will override a coldly reasoned program.

We have had a few wonderful and beautiful days, and I cannot quite blame your Mother for wanting to remain here during the spring, at least. Were I well-to-do, I would stay right here until about the first day of June, and then come to California, quite indifferent as to the future. It is this unfortunate financial situation of mine that keeps me worried and makes me think of a future beset with financial perils and heartburnings. I congratulate you upon your foresight, your prudence, and your wisdom. You have pursued a course which after all, in my opinion, will lead to the greatest happiness with you, and when the time comes that you wish peace, and ease, and comfort, you have laid the foundation that you may have them in abundance. I quite mean what I say - I congratulate you, and I mean very much more than that. I fear that your brother has followed my improvident course, and that his later years will be spent as mine are in vain regrets that opportunity was not seized when it was possible to take it, and



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that provision was not made for a time when provision is quite beyond us.

I imagine that your Mother will be ready at the end of the month. I am hoping so. We think we'll go first to the St. Francis as we did before. She does not wish again to live in the little old house, although nothing would please me better. As I recall the lease, it runs only two months more, and I am very doubtful of Mother's ability to rent the house again upon similar terms, although she seems to have no doubt upon this point at all. At any rate, she does not want to live there longer - so that's that.

I have been trying to put Frank Griffin over as federal judge. I thought while I was still here, and before I died, I would like to do something for a man who in every crisis and conjuncture has been militantly loyal. Frank, too, has such a high sense of duty, and such a real nobility of character, that I would like to see him upon the federal bench. I am by no means sure that I can accomplish the result. As you know, I have had little to do with the patronage in the State of California, but in a matter of a judicial appointment, as I have advised the Attorney General and the President, I deem it not only my duty, but my right to make every effort possible in behalf of an appropriate bench. Frank has succeeded in getting some very good endorsements, and it is going to be rather difficult to disregard them. However, the President is wholly politically minded, under the influence, in great degree, of Hoover, and I am indulging in no false hopes, though presenting



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the matter with an emphasis that can not be misunderstood. Coolidge, of course, is a candidate for re-election. It is interesting to note the rotten press, which makes all sorts of pretense in this regard, but nobody here doubts the fact. There is not much consolation in considering those who want to take the nomination from him - Lowden, Dawes, and Longworth. They are all of the same sort politically. And what our friends in California forget is, that the first thing that will arise next year is not in the primary wherein a senator will be nominated, but the presidential preference primary where delegates will be sent to the national convention. In this our opponents unquestionably will be successful, and with the prestige of their success, no one can foresee what may subsequently happen. However, the year may bring forth anything, and of course, speculation is useless at the moment.

You don't know how I am longing for San Francisco, longing to see all of you, and longing just for the air, which has such vitality in it. The very joy of existence there, although one does not feel mentally or physically fit, is greater than any other place on the face of the earth.

My love to the boys and yourself, in which Mother, of course, joins.

Affectionately,

Dad



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W. H. KILLAM, CLERK

## United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION

March 22, 1927

My dear Boys:

I told you I would let you know at the earliest possible moment when I hoped to come home. Last night Mother went to New York on the midnight train, where she will be until tomorrow night. It was absolutely essential that she buy a pair of shoes in New York before she could return. Just before she left, she said she would be ready to go next Monday. This morning she telephoned from New York that she preferred to leave on Tuesday. In accordance with her wishes, therefore, I have made my reservations on the Pennsylvania train leaving here Tuesday next, March 29, at 3:10 P.M., leaving Chicago on the Overland Limited de Luxe, Wednesday, March 30, at 8:10 P.M., arriving, we hope, in San Francisco Saturday morning, April 2, at 9:10 A.M. I can't tell you how relieved I feel that finally we are considering getting under way. If there should be any change in our plans, of course, I will wire you. It seems incredible to me that we shall get started with only one change as indicated, so I will not be at all surprised if I am compelled to wire you of some other alteration in the scheme of things. However, let us pray that we'll get out of here a week from today, and that we'll be back in San Francisco a week from next Saturday. My present expectation is that we'll go to the St. Francis on arrival.

With love to everybody,

Affectionately,

