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# KODAK Gray Scale



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



HIRAM W. JOHNSON  
CHAIRMAN

## United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION

March 2, 1928

My dear Boys:

The great event of the week for Mother has been the receipt of her new automobile. So far as I am able to judge, the company more than kept its word, and Mother finds herself the proud possessor now of a brand new locomobile purchased for the amount of the insurance we received upon the old one, and worth more than double that sum. The model of the car is 90, the motor number is 33384, the serial number 33186. It comes from the Pennsylvania agency, that is the Locomobile Company of Pennsylvania, Inc., 1415 Spring Garden Street, Philadelphia, Pa. There is some sort of law in Pennsylvania which requires the filing of a detailed description of machines changing hands, and this detailed description shows the machine to be absolutely new. Erling says it is perfect. It looks to me exactly like the machine we had, but I am told its wheel base is four inches less. It has every modern improvement and convenience. I do think it was a wonderful accomplishment upon Mother's part. Such a thing as writing to the Agency, as she did, would never have occurred to me, and if it had occurred to me, I would not have thought the Agency would have displayed any such sentiment as always touches us. Mother's letter was sent really to Bridgeport, but transmitted to the Pennsylvania Agency at Philadelphia, and between the two, the car was finally sent down here from the factory to Philadelphia, charged to that Agency, and then driven here. The man

who brought it down and is in charge at Philadelphia is Earle McQuivery. Of course my knowledge of automobiles is extremely limited. What pleases my eye and ministers to my physical comfort in riding, are the only things I am able to observe. This machine is most pleasing to the eye, and has every convenience, and every aid to comfort.

Again for the last two weeks I have been engaged in executive session with the Boulder Dam Bill. It is the most disagreeable thing that has ever come to my lot, and the fact gradually is being borne in upon me, it is the most thankless task I have ever undertaken. I sit in the committee with four members of that committee representing other Colorado River States in opposition and distinctly hostile. I row first with one of these men, and then with another, and then with all together. The other members of the committee, of course, have their different duties to perform and their other interests, which engross them. They come but intermittently therefore to the meetings, and in all these days we have been thus in executive session we have actually voted upon just one amendment. The outcome of the thing, in my opinion, will be a sort of compromise measure by which the members generally of the committee will yield to the anguished cry of Arizona and Nevada for tribute. The infernal thing has got on my nerves dreadfully, and has destroyed absolutely what little pleasure there might have been in this session. While I devote myself to it exclusively, my colleague does not attend the committee, but continues the hero of southern California.

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A few nights ago Mother awakened and began to sneeze, and from five o'clock until six in the morning sneezed continuously. She began again about seven and kept it up for half an hour. I was very greatly concerned, but you know how Mother is under such circumstances, and she got terrifically wrought up when I was endeavoring to get a doctor. Now the strange part of it is that she has apparently thoroughly recovered from what seemed to be a most devastating cold. She will not go to see a doctor, nor permit me to bring one to the house. The unfortunate fire we had left its impress on both of us, and there is the constant reminder at the house. I will be mighty glad when we leave those premises. Pickford, the mortgagee, says that he will rebuild the destroyed wing. But after he and Caraway made a most exorbitant and fraudulent demand upon the insurance company for property of Caraway destroyed in the fire, Pickford took the boat for Europe. I haven't any confidence in either one of these rascals, and I presume we're doomed to live the remainder of the time we will have at the house with the unsightly situation that now exists there.

A lot of the representatives of farm organizations were here yesterday. They feel very kindly toward me because of what little I did in their behalf in past sessions. They are a unit against Mr. Hoover and they told me that this would be made increasingly plain in the days to come. Unless their plans fail, the first convention of the farm belt to be held in South Dakota next week will, in so many words, condemn Hoover. These representatives of the farm organizations, say they are telling the east they will

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bolt the Republican ticket if Hoover is nominated. I have little confidence in what the farm organizations will do politically, and indeed, in what these representatives may accomplish, but they seem to be quite in earnest.

Love to all in which Mother joins,

Affectionately,

*W. H. H.*

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M. A. CONNOR, CLERK

## United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION

March 6, 1928

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

My dear Jack:

Hastily answering yours of the 29th I have received coverage clause from Rathbone, King and Seeley insuring the car for the full listed market rate. I think they ought to be advised of the purchase price, so that there can be no question in the future. This I think from my recollection of the old policy is essential anyway, because the old policy stated on its face that the car was insured for \$4,000. <sup>and the purchase price was \$2500.</sup> While it is true, our purchase price in this instance is \$4,000, we have received a brand new car just from the factory, the price of which is as listed. If anything happened to the car I would not, of course, want any question to arise as to what we paid for it. As soon as I receive the bill for the premium I will be glad to remit. The car is everything that we imagined it to be. Mother is getting seat covers for it today, so as to preserve it.

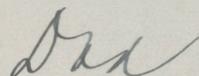
I agree with you that what Mike Kelly sent me from Alameda County is the finest thing politically that has ever been done for me. I have tried to express my thanks to him. I am writing to each signer as well, and when I tell you there are some nine hundred names, you'll readily understand why I have two stenog-

Mr. Hiram W. Johnson, Jr. - 2

raphers at work at present writing letters. The unfortunate part is that I could not write different kinds of letters to each, but this is impossible. If this sort of letter could be obtained, as you suggest, from different counties, it would have a very good effect upon the opposition this year. It pledges us to nothing, but leaves us in an enviable position. I am glad you had the opinion that you expressed. I am more than in accord with you.

With love to all

Affectionately,



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M. A. CONNOR, CLERK

## United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION

At Home, Riverdale, Md. March 11, 1928.

My dear Arnh:

Yesterday I received yours containing the note from Scott and the statement concerning the old stock transaction. I was of course, mighty glad that the miserable thing was at an end. Let us rejoice and forget it now. I have followed as well as I could in the meager press reports the cases that have been going on in Los Angeles and apparently in a decision just rendered, it has been held that the Receivers had no authority to bring any such actions as the Andersons brought. I do n't know just how the case being tried is proceeding. It seems int erminable.

Evidently you are enjoying your beautiful home. I can understand your raptures. Everything about it is glorious, and as the Spring approaches, each day will add to its attractiveness. How fortunate you are ! I do not envy you - I rejoice in your happiness and pray your health will keep pace with it and that it will be ever increasing. It is now, with disappointments about me and a mental attitude none too bright, that I have some vagrant regrets for a life of imprudence and improvidence. So, my dear boy, with an awful example before you, look to the far future and provision for that time.

Because of many little circumstances, not the least of which was that I seemed to be up against a brick wall, I let the week pass without our usual committee fights on the Boulder Dam Bill. I have had therefore, a better week than for some time past. Tomorrow we begin again, and the infernal thing hangs over me like a pall. I

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## United States Senate

### COMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION

shall try to finish it up this week so far as the Committee is concerned, and get the bill upon the floor. I can't see daylight however, and getting it on the floor will mean little therefore.

To add to my troubles, the California representatives here are quarreling among themselves, and part of them threaten to go over to the enemy in the hope that they may get something in the way of legislation. I wish the Boulder Dam instead of damning me had damned itself.

Our house has not been touched since the fire and I doubt if it will be. Certain personal property was destroyed belonging to Caraway. It was old stuff that was stored in the garage in the main, and stuff your mother would n't have in the house. Pickford and Caraway

undoubtedly put a fictitious value upon it with the insurance company,

and immediately after filing the fictitious claim, Pickford ran to Europe. Caraway really has never had any knowledge of what was in the house, always pretending that what he bought from Pickford had a

tremendous value. This was to lay the foundation doubtless for claims against me. The cold nosed insurance adjusters have been poking

around here, and the other day spent a couple of hours at the house inquiring into everything, and I have a suspicion mother was not at all reluctant in talking with them. The result is that Caraway is having

difficulty collecting what he claims, which incidentally is about ten times what he is entitled to. Our insurance appears to have struck a

snag too, although nothing has been said intimating objection to my claim.

At any rate, it has not yet been paid. This is in every sharp contrast to what Rathbone King & Seeley did for us in the insurance on the

auto. The new machine by the way, is very beautiful and apparently

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## United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION

runs like a charm. I have discovered one defect, and the discovery of it made Mother indignant at me, and she will not confess it exists. The little seats are so constructed that it is almost impossible for one to sit on them because one's head hits the ceiling. I am not very tall, but the other day when I endeavored to sit in one of them, my head rubbed the top, and I had to get out. Mother is so proud of the car she would not try the little seats, simply fastened them up, denied any fault existed and gave me fits. Really her pride in the new car is delightful, and it is a mighty fine bus.

The presidential fight is warming up. I think the chances of Hoover exceed those of any other candidate. While he will not have in the first instance votes enough to nominate him, he is engaged in honey combing the various delegations, so that when the break comes they cannot be delivered. This in my opinion, he is doing successfully in New York, where ostensibly the delegation is to be uninstructed, and fairly well too, in Pennsylvania and Massachusetts. Of course, if Willis in Ohio should give him a good beating and Watson do similarly in Indiana, his chances would go glimmering, but the general opinion is that he has more than an even break in Ohio and an excellent chance in Indiana. The press continues to give him everything and to refuse to publish anything against him. Everybody surrounding Coolidge is for him from the Postmaster General to the Private Secretary. Under these circumstances, it seems to me idle to speculate on Coolidge's attitude.

Love to Martha in which Mother joins. Lots from

Your affectionate

Dad

HIRAM W. JOHNSON, CALIF., CHAIRMAN  
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M. A. CONNOR, CLERK

## United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION

At Home, Riverdale, Md. March 11, 1928.

My dear Jack:

Yesterday I received yours two letters, one describing the Reed meeting and other things, and the second answering mine concerning the lads and my unformed scheme of writing them. The first I read with the greatest interest, and the second pleased me

beyond anything I have had for a long time. It was a fine letter, and the presursor I hope of many that may pass between us. I have no more ideas about what I want to do than I tried to express to you, but gradually I'm sure the thing will crystallize

with us, and as I get time, I'll at least make a start. I will as soon as possible have Connor look up old files and see if copies of letters written during the war were preserved. I think with you,

if we could begin with the first essay in politics and the contest in California, it would be an excellent preface; but this I fear would be rather an ambitious undertaking, and might put me in the category

of the egotistical individuals who have strutted a brief period in public life, without noteworthy accomplishments except in their own conceit, and who then write autobiographies to preserve for a grateful posterity what they fondly imagine are their undying deeds. However, I made the start in finally talking to you about it. Someday I'll make the real break in a surprise letter to the boys. I was really intensely gratified that you thought of the matter

so sympathetically.

Your mother and I have been talking about the chess games which Frere beat Hiram. I think I can understand this in a measure. For checkers or chess (you'll remember your own checker games with me) one may have a flair, but it signifies little! How do you like that? If Hiram needs consolation, tell him you

used to beat me at checkers, but it signified nothing. Joking aside, I do think it quite remarkable that Frere could master his brother at chess. I hope you encourage them both to play, and do not let

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COMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION

Hiram stop because of a few beatings. I could never abide chess. I had n't the patience or stick-to-itiveness to play

the infernal game. A teacher I once had devoted some little time to trying to teach me, but mere games of chance appealed much more to me, and I soon abandoned all efforts to learn.

What a rotten era we are in at present. Nothing better illustrates it than what you wrote of Reeds assault on

M Mellon. This is the exact situation all over the country. Every newspaper in the East is for Hoover, and none will publish

anything against him. He is the foremost candidate and will express himself on no issue. People are quite content with ~~ti~~

this attitude, and every international sheet, and they are the most important of the press, praises him to the skies for differing reasons, and dogmatically assert, where their policies are at variance, that

he believes in their particular creed. There is no embarrassment

in a wet international sheet saying he is wet and a dry international rag saying he is dry; in a public ownership paper averring he is for public ownership, and a conservative one cackling over the fact that public ownership is anathema to him. The League of Nations people regard him as their hero and say he will take us into Europe, while the Moseses and Edgeses who are making his fight blazon forth he has become the greatest isolationist in the nation. He simply sits tight, with enormous wads of money behind him, and the presidential support. He may get by. It looks like it now; but there are a great

many decent fine fellows that have his measure and are bitterly opposed to him.

We are having a bad time at the Muse here. Nothing has been done in the way of rebuilding the wing and I do not think anything

will be done. Caraway and Pickford are going to have a time with the insurance company upon which they have attempted a swindle and it is more than likely we will be brought into the fray. By the way, we have not received our insurance yet - a very great contrast with the

way Rathbone Seeley and King treated us.

Love to the boys in which Mother joins.

Affectionately,

Dad

HIRAM W. JOHNSON, CALIF., CHAIRMAN  
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M. A. CONNOR, CLERK

## United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION

March 17, 1938.

My dear Boys:

I breathed a sigh of relief yesterday when finally I got out of the irrigation and reclamation committee of the senate the Boulder Dam Bill. My child is rather battered, but still recognizable. Although it concedes much to the little states that have been fighting us, I do not think its chances of passage are at all bright, but worse than that, there are so many conditions precedent to annexed to the execution of the great project, that even if the bill did pass, I doubt the ultimate accomplishment. However, we'll plug along with it as best we can. It has been a month or more of very disagreeable experience. Yesterday morning, when we were voting upon very crucial points in the measure, my colleague was not present. I voted his name upon the assumption that I had his proxy, which I knew he would not dare question, and thus he appears upon the record as having voted. He is the hero of California, and it is utterly useless to indulge in any criticism concerning him, for Progressives of every kind and hue love to sit at his feet and be ordered about by his moral Eunuch, Mr. Benjamin.

This is the 17th of March, a day not only celebrated by our Milesian friends, but one for which our negro brethren have a peculiar superstition. For some weeks they have been telling me that we could only determine what the weather was going to be, and when winter would cease, by the 17th of March, and if on that day,

it was stormy or doubtful, a considerable period would yet elapse before spring. Well, the weather report for today is rain and sleet or snow, and the colored barbers told me it would be quite a period now before we can consider winter at an end. The fact is, however, that it has been getting warmer, and with a few possible flurries in the next couple of weeks, I think we can look forward to the end of winter. I am mighty glad, and so is your Mother, although neither of us can quarrel greatly with this past winter. It has not been particularly severe, and would not have been trying, except to a couple of old people who were not in very good shape physically.

Some of our political wiseacres here claim that Hoover has been stopped in his mad career to the presidency. I do not believe it. Every rogue, every unconvicted thief, every scoundrel, politically, gravitate naturally to his banner. According to the New York Times, the latest to be added are Will Hays, of unsavory recent memory, and Pennsylvania Vare discredited elected senator. Every man close to the White House is practically in the open now for Hoover. Some of the polities shut their eyes to this fact, but it seems to me ridiculous to do so. Wherever there is a delegate to be bought, we find that delegate for Hoover. Wherever there is a crook to be placated by a promise of future preferment, or office, there is a Hoover shouter. Wherever there is a big business enterprise, that seeks to despoil the people and rob the government, there you find a "business man" for Hoover. The sum total of all this is the control of the Republican Party. It may be that events of the next few weeks will change this situation, but I doubt it very much.

The San Francisco Bridge Delegation will arrive, I understand, tomorrow, for hearings before the committees of the House and the Senate. I was asked who the witnesses would be by some individual interested, and I said, Engineer O'Shaughnessy, Supervisor McSheehy, City Attorney O'Toole, accompanied by possibly Judge Sullivan. The answer immediately was that the inquiry had been of those who were coming from San Francisco, not those who were coming from the Irish Free State, and we had a resulting good laugh. I don't know whether this delegation will be as futile as the Los Angeles delegation for Boulder Dam or not. If they have as little energy, and as little influence, and as little activity, and as little acquaintance, and as little knowledge of human beings, as the Los Angeles contingent, San Francisco will not get very far with the proposed bridge. I am hoping the Irish will make a better showing than the Puritans. What an awful disaster it was in San Francisquito canyon! I can imagine nothing worse than a disaster of that sort. I observe in the eastern press, because our western papers have not arrived with accounts of it, that all the territory affected is blaming Los Angeles, and I am hoping, in order to spare the heart-breaking regrets, that it will be determined finally the disaster was not due to neglect or faulty construction.

Mother joins in love to all.

Affectionately,

*Dad*

HIRAM W. JOHNSON, CALIF., CHAIRMAN  
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M. A. CONNOR, CLERK

## United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION

March 23, 1928

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

My dear Jack:

I received your letter day before yesterday. I was very sorry to note that Frere had been ill, and delighted that you report he is all right again. I suppose it is all right to have him sail his boat, but I confess I am fearful of the risk.

Mother had a letter from Mrs. Bowles yesterday about her illness. I wish you would say to her how sorry I was to hear of it. I would not dare tell her that such an illness as she has at an age like ours, is always a mighty serious thing, and she'll probably feel the consequences of it for a long time.

I have just been upstairs. Immediately we adjourned because of the death of Senator Ferris of Michigan. It is true, he was seventy-five years old, but it is only a few days ago he was in the senate chamber, apparently in the best of health. Pneumonia carried him off. You were quite right in your observations of how the death of so many of those with whom I have been intimate in the past affected me. They come all in a bunch now, in an ever increasing list. The thought of it dampens the ardor of our little struggles, and neither our little triumphs nor our little defeats seem of any great consequence.

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The insurance companies have settled with Caraway and our insurance has also been paid. We now begin another controversy in relation to the house, the effect of which will be to keep me in hot water for the remainder of our term.

You've doubtless observed that the President named Louderback as Judge. He did this after personal investigations of his own, the reports of which in every instance, save one, were adverse. He did it, too, after sending for me and intimating very strongly he would not do anything of the sort. He told me he was unable to appoint Griffin because, as he put it, "I can't confirm him". Immediately I told him this was nonsense, and then he said that Shortridge had stated he would invoke the so-called senatorial courtesy and say that Griffin was personally offensive to him, and thus have Griffin rejected. I told him Shortridge had not the guts to do such a thing, and asked him to name Griffin, and permit a demonstration of that fact. I don't know whether to oppose the confirmation of Louderback or not. If you have any views upon the subject, immediately upon receipt of this letter, I would be glad if you would wire me. I think a case could be made against him, with difficulty perhaps, but nevertheless of fair import, and if any of the so-called leading members of the bar would protest, he might fail of confirmation. I don't feel any too much like making ~~the~~ a fight of this kind, but I am so indignant at the absolute misrepresentation and downright lying of the President, that I am half inclined to do it. He told Senator Norris in conversation that he would not

3.

appoint Louderback, and told him exactly what I have said about his investigations of Louderback. His statements to me could not be doubted, and he left me with the impression that he was very likely to name Wyckoff.

It must be fine again to be out on the boat. I envy you your week ends.

I noticed a little flurry in the stock market of late, and I have been hoping that it may have been advantageous to you.

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

Affectionately,

Dad

## United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION

April 2, 1928.

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

My dear Arch:

Saturday the commerce committee was in session until five o'clock in the evening, and therefore I had no opportunity to send you my regular weekly letter. I was so infernally tired yesterday that I did not try to thump my typewriter, and so today, Monday, I am sending you my brief word. Of course, the big thing with you and the big thing with us has been the operation recently performed upon Martha. We have been immensely gratified to have your favorable reports, and those as well of Jack and Mrs. Bowles. I can well imagine how very much worried you were and how the infernal thing hung like a pall over you in its early days. I do hope that the whole horrid nightmare has now passed, and that this one operation will be the cure forever of all of Martha's troubles.

Sitting two seats from me in the senate up to last Thursday night was Frank B. Willis of Ohio. He was the biggest and the strongest man in our body. He exuded pep and radiated vitality. When Friday night the news came to us that he had suddenly slumped and fallen dead, just as his torchlight procession came into the hall, we could not believe it. The shock has stayed with me since. It was not unnatural that Ferris should be taken off by a light case of pneumonia a week or ten days ago, but that Willis, buoyant,

powerful, with a physique that apparently could withstand any fatigue, or undergo any test, should suddenly be carried away seemed impossible. Somebody said the stars in their courses were shining for Hoover. The last week before his taking off, Willis campaign had picked up measureably, and it was pretty generally conceded that he was going to wallop Hoover in Ohio. Now, of course, the time has passed for any other candidate to oppose Hoover, and whatever may be the attitude of the Willis people, the situation is bound to redound to the benefit of Hoover. Willis had no sooner dropped dead, than the Hoover newspapers in the east told what a tremendous change to Hoover there was after Willis' demise. There has been a deal of resentment against this, but how it is possible to make itself felt in the primary is at present enigmatical.

Caraway says that he is going to begin building the wing that was burned this week. He asked me if I would not please get out either now, or at the end of this session. Your Mother wont get out until the termination of the lease. It struck me that it would be more profitable for us in every way, if we quit on the first of June, saved all the ensuing rent, when we will not be here, and get rid of the whole mess; but of course, I yielded to her desires, and told him we would not leave.

Tubby of course has got into our hearts. Confidentially, I must admit that he is a good deal of a nuisance. He raises such hell all the time. He is so anxious to fight with Spartan, and barks so much when I most want quiet, that, notwithstanding,

my affection for him, I am sometimes sorry that he is with us. I thought when last I wrote you that spring was here. The weather, as it often ~~does~~ in this territory, was a deceitful minx, and we had a little return of winter. Today looks like spring again, and I really think that from now on, we're going to have pleasant and enjoyable days.

In the bridge hearings before the senate committee on commerce, Rolph and Matt Sullivan appeared. Sullivan is the same old sturdy champion of the right that he has always been, but age has made terrible inroads upon him mentally. He was here in the best of faith to fight for a municipally owned bridge. He did everything in his power. I observed Rolph with very great interest and more care. Indeed, we had Matt and Mr. and Mrs. Rolph at dinner with us one night. He is a different Rolph from what he was in the days I knew him. Mentally he has deteriorated, and his disposition has been metamorphosed. Early in life I had the bad habit of judging men in every walk of life by whether or not they were for me politically. In later life, I learned what a futile test of human beings this was. In earlier life Rolph had a different view, but now in his later life, his thoughts are all of one sort. He is thinking only of publicity and politics, as he always thought, but he positively hates any man he believes might have been against him in his last campaign. His littleness and his pettiness, his vanity, have all been accentuated with the passing of years. His frankness and openness, pleasing personality, and kindness have gradually been minimized. I don't think at present he is a very lovely character. It might be that because

4.

Matt made him stop entirely drinking on this trip, that he was in bad shape mentally, and perhaps when he resumes his libations, he may resume his former self. I have seen too little of him to be able to judge of this. His last victory has made him believe not only that he is invincible politically, but that all the world is looking forward ecstatically to further honors for him.

With all my love to Martha in which Mother joins, and with the sympathy of both of us for the suffering she has had to bear, and with all our love to you, dear lad, I am

Affectionately,

Dad

HIRAM W. JOHNSON  
CHAIRMAN

## United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION

April 2, 1928

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

My dear Jack:

Saturday until five o'clock we ran before the commerce committee on the San Francisco bridge matter. I did not therefore have the opportunity to write you as usual at the end of the week, and yesterday, although I got the typewriter out, I was too blamed tired to thump out letters.

At the end of the week we received your good communications. I was delighted to read from mine that three months' rent had been paid by the executors of the estate of our tenant, and that the house was well cared for. I noted that the tenant was about to leave in Kate's old place, and I hope that the lady with whom Mother dealt in that section will be able to get another tenant. Above all, I observe from your letter to Mother you had taken a couple of fliers recently and they had been successful. This was fine.

We read ~~of~~ peculiarly mixed accounts of the floods in California and from them I concluded that the whole Sacramento Valley was under water. After talking to your Mother, she suggested that I wire you, and so I did. Your telegram gave us good news, that the River Gardens Farms were entirely safe. They must have had to withstand, however, a pretty tough time, and I imagine it speaks volumes for the way in which those lands have been forti-

fied by the ~~Doc~~ that they came through the flood without damage.

I was awfully glad you wrote Mother as you did, and I hope you will continue to do so. While I feel that those <sup>things</sup> that come are to be shared by both of us, I think she really prefers to have one of her own, and if you knew how she treasured them, and how she enjoys them, you would be very glad to write frequently to her.

Willis' death was an awful shock to us. You'll remember him and how big and strong he was, how he exuded good nature, and pep, and ginger, and radiated vitality. Had I been asked to select the man who would live longest and be strongest in our body, I would have selected Willis. I can't get him and his sudden death out of my mind. The last week of his campaign he told me things had got in such shape that there was no question of his success and of Hoover's defeat in Ohio. Now, of course, with no other candidate in the field, the untimely event can only redound to Hoover's benefit. How very lucky some men are, and it seems as if the bigger crooks they are, the more kindly fate is to them. The whole situation is in the air for the moment, but with the passing of days, and with but one candidate upon the ticket in Ohio, I can see only one result.

In the bridge hearings before the senate committee on commerce, Rolph and Matt Sullivan appeared. Sullivan is the same old sturdy champion of the right that he has always been, but age has made terrible inroads upon him mentally. He was here in the best of faith to fight for a municipally owned bridge. He did

everything in his power. I observed Rolph with very great interest and more care. Indeed, we had Matt and Mr. and Mrs. Rolph at dinner with us one night. He is a different Rolph from what he was in the days I knew him. Mentally he has deteriorated, and his disposition has been metamorphosed. Early in life I had the bad habit of judging men in every walk of life by whether or not they were for me politically. In later life, I learned what a futile test of human beings this was. In earlier life Rolph had a different view, but now in his later life, his thoughts are all of one sort. He is thinking only of publicity and politics, as he always thought, but he positively hates any man he believes might have been against him in his last campaign. His littleness and his pettiness, his vanity, have all been accentuated with the passing of years. His frankness and openness, pleasing personality, and kindness have gradually been minimized. I don't think at present he is a very lovely character. It might be that because Matt made him stop entirely drinking on this trip, that he was in bad shape mentally, and perhaps when he resumes his libations, he may resume his former self. I have seen too little of him to be able to judge of this. His last victory has made him believe not only that he is invincible politically, but that all the world is looking forward ecstatically to further honors for him.

With all my love,

Affectionately,

*Dad*

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ARCHIBALD M JOHNSON=

ATTORNEY AT LAW MILLS BLDG SANFRANCISCO CALIF=

HAVE HAD NO OPPORTUNITY TO WRITE YOU BECAUSE ONLY REACHED  
OFFICE THURSDAY TRYING TO GET IN SHAPE FOR MY BIG FIGHT NEXT  
WEEK ON THE BOULDER DAM BILL WILL WRITE JUST AS SOON AS  
POSSIBLE NOTHING NEW HERE PARTICULARLY MOTHER JOINS IN LOVE  
TO MARTHA AND YOU=

HIRAM W JOHNSON.

HIRAM W. JOHNSON  
CHAIRMAN

## United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION

April 21, 1928

My dear Boys:

The last few days I have been sitting and awaiting the opportunity to move the senate to take up the Boulder Dam Bill. I am still sitting and still awaiting. Today possibly, we'll finish the Naval Bill, and then my motion will be made, and on Monday we'll go ahead with the Boulder Dam Bill. If the Naval Bill is not concluded today, I will sit and await next Monday. I think it is more wearing to sit about in the fashion that I have than to be fighting every minute of the time. I am fed up with the Bill anyway, and I am fed up with the people who are in favor of the Bill. They are at sixes and sevens here, and quarreling among themselves, and one faction treacherous really to the measure; and the whole thing, perhaps due to the fact that "Hope deferred maketh the heart sick", is up in the air, and it is utterly impossible for us to see daylight. I am looking forward to a month of beastly hard disagreeable work, when I must sit every minute of the time in the Chamber, go without my meals, and watch a damn Bill that some of its own progenitors have been endeavoring to sell out.

I was laid up about ten days. I am pretty well myself again. I am hoping to keep in trim now to the end of the session. We have had this week here both John Francis Neylan and H.H. Cosgriff, The former regaled us with stories of his prowess, ability, and greatness; the latter grows younger yearly mentally, and his con-

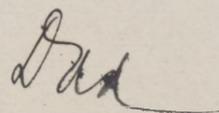
2.

versation has not proven particularly enlightening. Harry seeks an appointment upon the Shipping Board. I hope that he may obtain it. He can obtain it wholly through the three men he says are for him, Harry Chandler, Herbert Fleischhacker, and Paul Shoup, who, in order to give him his appointment, must obtain it, in the first instance, from the President himself. Whether these three men will go to the bat for him with Coolidge, I don't know. If they do, he will get the job. If they don't, he wont. His idea, of course, is just to get a job, and then to do as he is told by the men who appoint him. It makes one sick of the public service. The thought of rendering service to the public, and the idea that the people of a nation are to be served, does not enter his head, or anybody else's practically now. The whole thing is how to get a job in order to serve some private interest.

The political situation here twists about more or less. One day, those who are opposed to Hoover say with great glee, they have him stopped, and then an event occurs, like has happened this morning, when the President makes another pronunciamento, which is taken as favorable to Hoover's chances. My own view has been for a considerable period of time that Hoover will be nominated. I have been very greatly astonished, however, to find an innumerable number of people among Republicans who think that with Smith and Hoover the nominees, Smith will win. To me this seems impossible, but I confess but little knowledge of the situation.

Mother joins in love to everybody.

Affectionately,



HIRAM W. JOHNSON, CALIF., CHAIRMAN  
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M. A. CONNOR, CLERK

## United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION

April 30, 1928

My dear Boys:

Last Thursday I got the Boulder Dam Bill before the Senate, and we have since been plugging along upon it. It is a long, hard, gruelling fight ahead of us, the outcome of which is extremely doubtful. I will not bore you with details concerning it, except to say that the Federal Trade Commission here is uncovering, under the direction of the Senate, the most gigantic efforts ever made to interfere with legislation. These are the efforts made by the great power trust against my Boulder Dam Bill. What is being shown ought to be sufficient to make any body of honest, independent men rise in their majesty and might, and smite the corruptionists. We're in such a rotten era, however, that it is almost impossible to get any attention to the disclosures, and they will not, therefore, very greatly affect the result of the legislation. How long I can keep the bill before the Senate is problematical, but all of my time will be, for a considerable period, devoted to the task now.

The political situation has shifted so that it seems pretty well conceded now that Smith and Hoover will be the two nominees for the presidency. I have been astonished with some of the things that have been told me of Smith's strength in the East. Personally, I can not believe that he has any chance of success, but there are very many here who claim to have knowledge of conditions, who assert he will beat Hoover. To me this seems all nonsense.

2.

I am sending you this note today because I was unable to write you Friday or Saturday, and I can't tell when I will get the opportunity again. Harry was here with us for a short time. During the past week Bill came and stayed over night. Mrs. Bowles remained with us two days. We were glad to see them all.

My love to all.

Affectionately,

*Dad*