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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE

M. A. CONNOR, CLERK

May 3, 1930.

My dear Boys:

Summer has come! The long deferred season, to which we have all been looking forward, is here at last, and frankly, I wish it were some other place. I don't know why, but the sudden change here affected me very strangely. The middle of the afternoon finds me completely exhausted, and there is no reason why this should be so. I am ascribing it to the arrival of summer, and am hoping that a few days more and I will be accustomed to it, and feel like myself again. Our garden has started to bloom. I counted five flags last night, all blue, suddenly appearing from nowhere, burst into bloom, and all sorts of funny, little shrubs, and weazened little white flowers, have sprung up and blossomed. The little garden is a delight, and I need not say to you that Mother has made of it, out of practically nothing, and with nothing, a charming, little delightful spot.

We're in the throes of the Parker case here, in which I have taken a very great interest. The edge immediately wore off the debate, and while I contemplated talking in the first instance, I have let the speaking pass. Like the Hughes case, there is fundamentally the cleavage upon the economic theory; there is, in addition in the Parker case, the intense agitation

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of our Ethiopian brethren. Moreover, Parker is unquestionably a very mediocre Federal judge, with no particular background, except that of a perennial candidate for office in North Carolina, and a Daugherty appointee, while Hughes, of course, was regarded as one of the outstanding lawyers of the Nation. It is rather the irony of Fate that if Parker is beaten, it will not be because of his lack of qualifications, his conservative economic views, his questionable background, the fact that he is purely a political appointee, nor even the fact that he smacked his lips over the "yellow dog" contract decision, but it will be because he said the negroes were not fit for citizenship or to participate in politics. The negroes in certain doubtful states have just about enough influence to turn three or four votes from him, and if he is beaten, three or four votes will do the job. Hoover had no business to appoint him, but Hoover's appointees are not such as to commend themselves to men who think first of the public welfare.

I wonder how long the White House myth will continue to obscure everything in the Nation! In this morning's paper, another great slump in the stock market is described. It occurred practically contemporaneously with an address to the United States Chamber of Commerce by Hoover saying the slump was over, prosperity again was here. There have been times while I have been in this official position that I have resented the bunk of the national administration, but in all our history,

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I do not think we have ever had anything approach the present organized system of fooling the people. I think, however, that they like to be fooled, and it is of little value to get greatly exercised over the process. Another piece of sheer bunk has come to us in the shape of the London Treaty. Everybody is singing paeans of praise to peace, and without the slightest knowledge of the details of the treaty, demanding the immediate ratification. I imagine there will not be half a dozen votes against it in the senate. I am having some work done upon it that will decide my course, and if the studies that are being made for me now demonstrate that it is a bad thing for the country, I shall vote against the treaty, if I am the only one. T

To use one of my father's expressions, I am as busy as a bee in a tar bucket with the commerce committee. We are now engaged in daily hearings on the Rivers and Harbors Bill, a bill of really vast importance, but one, too, which contains appropriations for nearly all the states, and which, therefore, incites the cupidity and the avarice of every statesman. In this game more and more the theory is developing that a statesman, after all, is one who can get appropriations for the particular territory he represents. Probably the most important committee in the senate is the Commerce Committee, and there is no doubt at all that its meetings are better attended than in

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other committee, and there is much more interest in what it is doing among members.

I hope nobody has been hurt in the recent fluctuations of the market. Of course, my ignorance is so great that I don't understand the situation at all. I can only repeat to you what I have so often said, that poverty has its compensations. In this direction, at least, I have no personal worries. The fact is, however, I would rather have the personal worries than feel that those I love were similarly afflicted.

My love to all, in which Mother joins.

Affectionately,

Dad

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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE

M. A. CONNOR, CLERK

May 3, 1930.

My dear Arch:

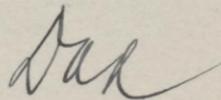
I have written my usual letter today to you and Jack. I want to add one little note to what I said. I am reading now the Chronicle of Tuesday, April 29, 1930, page 4, containing in the fourth column, a part of District Attorney's Fitt's statement in respect to S.C. Lewis. Fitts says concerning his negotiations and conversations with Lewis:

"I informed him that the State did not care for him as a witness, as I would not personally believe him under oath, and therefore could not conscientiously ask a jury to do so".

I write this as a mem., which may be well to be preserved.

How beautiful your garden must be now! I think you know the interest I always had in it, and how I loved it and admired your good taste. This is intensified by my anxiety over our little bit of a place, where I am waiting and watching for each new flower.

Affectionately,



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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE

M. A. CONNOR, CLERK

May 9, 1930.

My dear Boys:

This is late Saturday afternoon now and I have had no opportunity to write you today. This morning early Miss Connor telephoned me upon her arrival at the office that it had been entered during the night, and that a search had been made of our papers and correspondence. I immediately came over and found that the cabinets containing my private correspondence were all opened and disarranged, and that which was exclusively directed to letters to and from you, C.K. McClatchy, and Frank Doherty, and one or two others, have been mauled over, and a large part of the correspondence apparently extracted and examined, and then left on top of the cabinet. Every receptacle in the office had been opened, even to the extent of jimmying open a cupboard in my room, which contained odds and ends of little or no consequence. Unfortunately, there were no locks upon the correspondence cabinets, and it was not difficult for anyone desiring to examine them to do so. Our correspondence I find is kept by a card index system about which I know nothing, and the card index had been obviously mauled and gone over. The Capitol police are practically useless, and upon the suggestion of the Captain, I telephoned to the Chief of Police

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at Washington, who sent up a couple of detectives. We have been unable, of course, to discover the culprit, but the examination of my private correspondence seemed to be such a futile thing, that I am utterly unable to understand why it should have been done. I do not know anybody that could profit by reading my gossipy letters, or my views upon certain individuals or governmental policies. It may be that someone thought he could find something, which would redound to my discredit. It is perfectly plain that intimate personal letters that should be published, no matter how harmless they are, or how justified, ~~they~~ could be used against one. We have had a succession all day long of press men and photographers, and now late in the afternoon I am sick of the whole thing, because of the amount of bother. I am beastly angry, of course. I recognize that we are in an era of espionage, and that there are more detectives connected with this administration than all the other administrations since the Government was founded. I recognize that Hoover is so enamored of detectives that he utilizes them for every conceivable thing, and one of the principal secret service men is one of his regular secretaries. I am unable to reach any other conclusion than that some of these detectives did the job. I may be utterly mistaken in my suspicions, but I can not fathom why anybody else would attempt such a thing, and it certainly is in line with the present mode of running things here.

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I wired you this morning simply as a precautionary measure, and that you may know the fact. I presume, however, you will read it as soon as my wire reaches you.

My love to all.

Hastily and affectionately,

Dad

HIRAM W. JOHNSON, CALIF., CHAIR
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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE

M. A. CONNOR, CLERK

May 17, 1930.

My dear Boys:

I wrote you on Saturday last merely about the amazing ransacking of my office here. Sunday morning I came over, as I have been accustomed to do of late and worked two or three hours in the office. I found the cabinets again opened. There was nothing like the disorder of the previous day, but there was no doubt at all that some intruder had been up to his tricks again. I know no more about the matter now than I did a week ago. It is all extremely mysterious. The solutions have varied from the humorous references of the press men that the White House sleuths were searching the office to find the lost invitation to the White House to those who seriously think material was sought by the Hoover people to be utilized in the campaign in California this year. I think that now like the child who has had scarlet fever I am immune. It is perfectly useless to indulge in any suspicions because they are only suspicions. I feel I am justified in saying that someone in authority in this city, exercising that authority over a miserable little employe of the Capitol entered the office with the use of one of the master keys in possession of the custodian of the building. Beyond this I can not go.

I am meeting with the Commerce Committee early in the morning, leaving it then at ten thirty to go into the Foreign Relations Committee where the bunk treaty is being considered.

Really it was deemed les majestie to say anything about the Treaty. It was taken for granted that no one would have the temerity to ask questions of any official who appeared before our Committee. You can imagine how impatient and irritable this sort of attitude made me. Finally, on the last day of the three days' of talking to us by the Secretary of State, I endeavored merely to question him. I did it with the utmost courtesy, but with some degree of pertinacity, and in the eyes of people here generally I think I have been regarded as actually guilty of sacrilege. I have had one or two of the old Admirals testifying, and those who favor the Treaty, and they are practically unanimous, are perfectly wild with rage, but gradually we're beginning to show the holes and jokers in it. Of course, this will make no difference in the ultimate result, but limitation of armament, which costs us more than one billion dollars, and which gives us, after the payment of more than one billion dollars, an inferior Navy, does not greatly commend itself to me. The selection of two Senators to help make the Treaty, whose advocacy really was bought by a European trip and hobnobbing with the great, and the near-great of the world, at our country's expense, makes the task more difficult for the Senators now must deliver the goods. With the help of our distinguished brother Borah, they are doing just this thing. The Treaty will be rushed through the Senate at a very early date. No doubt it would have been rushed through by this time if I had not stopped it, and in-

sisted on hearings and on taking some testimony.

There is an amazing situation politically in New Jersey. Morrow, a part of the J.P.Morgan firm, and therefore, one of the masters of our Government, was selected by Hoover as United States Senator from New Jersey. Morrow, being a shrewd man, and unaccustomed to take chances, found that New Jersey was wet, and so, when he began his candidacy, he declared himself for repeal of the 18th amendment. Mr. Hoover therefore is in the difficult situation of disentangling himself from the embrace of the House of Morgan, or kissing the "noble experiment" in New Jersey good-bye. His close intimate yesterday, Mr. Franklin Fort, got into the fight as a dry. The newspaper men here insist that Fort also has been put in the fight now by Hoover, but it seems incredible to me that any man could be so base as publicly to select a candidate as Hoover did with Morrow, announce it to the world, and then surreptitiously and secretly put into the campaign an opponent in the hope that his public selection will be beaten. This is exactly what the press people think, however.

I confess I don't understand very well the campaign in California. I was told yesterday that Governor Young had sent an "S.O.S." to Mrs. Kahn here imploring her aid. I don't know whether this is so or not, or whether it is just some little boasting of hers. The newspapers, generally, seem to be lined up for the Governor, and continually I am being told

that the Los Angeles Times is by no means unfriendly to him. I think it would be a tragedy to have a fellow like Fitts elected. He seems to me to be wanting in every conceivable qualification. I have been unable, as yet, to read of anything that Rolph stands for or wishes to do. I don't think that ^amere glad-handing campaign will get by, although I may be wholly wrong in this. It was not the glad-handing proposition that enabled Rolph to win in the San Francisco fight. It was his anti-boss declaration and his constant and effective hammering upon Finn and Finn's organization. I should think from reading the few papers that I read that Young has by far the best of the contest.

We have had a week or very pleasant weather here. Our little yard is a great delight to us. Indeed, the house is pretty well finished now, and Mother, as usual, has done an excellent job.

What a terrible calamity the death of the two Weinstock girls was! It was more than a shock for us here to read the account of it. The accident seems inexplicable, but I have little thought of its causes. To think of the lives of these two girls in an instant snuffed out, and the anguish of the parents makes one heartsick.

Love to all.

Affectionately,

Dad

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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE

M. A. CONNOR, CLERK

May 24, 1930.

My dear Boys:

Late Saturday afternoon, - my first opportunity in a week to write you even at all! It has been a gruelling and a terrible week. In about the most lonely fight I have ever been in I am opposing the horrible bunk Treaty that was entered into in London, and each day we have been having our meetings before the Foreign Relations Committee, where, with the exception of Robinson of Indiana, I have no support at all. I have had to call at random the high officials of the Navy, and it is a tribute to the traditions of their calling, that they have told the truth, notwithstanding the President and the Secretary of the Navy, their superior officers, bitterly resent it. They have displayed a rarer courage, in my opinion, than that of mortal combat. Some of them have been exceedingly poor witnesses, and others have been very remarkable witnesses. The upshot of the situation is that I have established that the Treaty will require if we build up to it \$1,100,000,000, and if we don't build up under it, it is perfectly farcical to enter into it. I have shown that it does not give us parity with Great Britain, that it increases the ratio of Japan with no corresponding benefit to us, and that in the matter of cruisers, we are permitted to build the number Great Britain designates for us. On the other hand, it is

asserted that the Treaty is a step in the right direction, that it means limitation of armament and world peace.

All of this I think is the veriest twaddle. However, the press, the women's organizations, the pacifists, the administration, and all the internationalists are in full cry and determined to put it over. Our votes against it will be few, but I am determined that we shall have a record at least both before the Foreign Relations Committee, and ultimately in the Senate.

In addition to this Treaty work during the past two weeks, I have been engaged with my own Committee. This week with several night sessions, we finally put upon the floor Thursday afternoon the Rivers and Harbors Bill, of which I have command. I don't wish you to understand that I am whining about the hard work I have been doing here, but really, my dear boys, I don't believe I have ever worked harder in my life, and I know that I feel very keenly the effects of it. I have been getting one or two little shocks the last few days like the old vertigo I used to have, and I don't like to think that infernal thing is coming back.

Summer is with us. The only good thing about it is that late at night we sit in the yard, which really has been a great consolation both to Mother and myself.

I have been trying to learn something of what is happening politically in California. If I can believe what the few who call upon me and who write me say, Fitts has in great

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degree blown up, and it looks as if Young would handily win. I have not the slightest conception of Rolph's strength, but I am utterly unable to see how he can do anything of consequence in the south.

Mother is in fairly good shape. She has been attending the hearings before the Foreign Relations Committee, and taken the deepest interest in them. Indeed, rather too deep an interest. She becomes very tense and excited in the little exchanges that now and then I have, and it is none too good for her.

If the opportunity presents itself, I will write you soon again, but I am not clear when I will have the chance. The rifling of the office here remains just as much of a mystery as it did the first day. We have had no more experiences after the first week, and neither the local detectives nor any of us have been able to fathom why my files were ransacked.

With love to all,

Affectionately,

Dad

P:S: How are you, my dear lad, anyway? I know you are working hard, and I do hope successfully. When you have time please write me how you are getting along. I think of you very, very often, notwithstanding my engrossment here, and my heart is always with you, as you know.

Affectionately,

Dad.

I talked 200 words on the treaty in the Fox Morestone today. Distribution they told me to make Wednesday next. It should be shown in Cal. in a week or ten days.

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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE

M. A. CONNOR, CLERK

May 30, 1930.

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

My dear Arch:

It was more than good of you to wire us as you did concerning Jack during the past week. An illness such as he had we ought to know about, and both Mother and I feel very, very grateful to you for your thoughtfulness, and then for your subsequent wires. I telephoned you yesterday, notwithstanding that the dispatches we received, and our telephone communication with Ebright had wholly reassured us, simply because we wanted to talk to you a minute and hear your dear voice. All day long, Mother and I talked of nothing else than our little conversation with you. We had debated for hours your telegram saying for us to ring you up at twelve o'clock our time, and eight o'clock yours. We had gone so far as to have Miss Connor take up with the authorities whether in San Mateo County there was daylight saving, or any reason for the four hours you had fixed as the difference in time, and learning nothing, we finally reached the conclusion that we would ring you up instead of at twelve, between eleven and twelve upon the theory that you had in some way made a mistake in your computation. We had

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a good laugh afterwards at your unconscious acceptance of a difference of four hours in time between Washington and Burlingame, when the fact was, there was only three hours difference. At any rate, we talked to you and heard your dear voice, and that was enough.

I made some investigations here concerning streptococci infection, and I did not like what was told me. Indeed, I think Jack will have to be rather careful for sometime, and watch himself with even greater intensity than usual. We are hoping, as your advices would indicate, that he will be himself again in a very few days.

As I wrote you, I'm in a pretty lonely fight here against the London Treaty. I can not at present see that many votes will be polled against it. This arises primarily because the Democratic Party was annexed by Hoover when he sent the leader of the Democrats in the Senate to the conference. Adding the Democratic vote to the "yes" men and rubber stamps on the Republican side - the pacifists, who constitute the Insurgent group and who hate the Navy, leaves a mighty small opposition. However, I made a case before the Foreign Relations Committee against the Treaty, which, with the passage of time will be the demonstration of my opposition, and I am determined, if I am the only vote against the infernal thing, to go on and do what I conceive to be my duty. From now on, when-

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ever I can, I am going to take a smash at the thing. Our publicity unfortunately is confined to the Hearst papers and the Chicago Tribune principally, but they will afford something of a background from which to fulminate.

All of my plans are knocked into a cocked hat, and I am very seriously distressed. I had hoped to get to California about the first of June, and begin what my own improvidence here has made necessary, the practise of the law again. I do not see how it is possible to get out now before the middle of July, and perhaps not even then. I will not repine, however, about the situation if our Loved ones keep their health. This is the important thing. I can last through this year, but beyond that I can not see my way clear. However, the Lord has been very good to us, and I will rest on the assumption that he will continue to be so.

Mother joins in love to Martha and yourself,

Affectionately,

Dad.

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Major Archibald M. Johnson

P:S: Since writing the above your airmail letter of the 28th has reached me. It was bully of you to write so fully. I am taking it home with me to Mother so that she may understand just what the troubles were and the whole situation. I can't tell you how much we thank you.

Ada

HIRAM W. JOHNSON, CALIF., CHAIRMAN

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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE

M. A. CONNOR, CLERK

May 30, 1930.

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

My dear Jack:

We were dreadfully sorry this week when we learned of your sickness, and we have been immensely relieved by your thoughtful telegrams. In addition, we telephoned to your home and talked to Miss Schow, and we talked over the 'phone on another occasion to Dr. Ebright, so that we were kept as well advised as we could. I would have talked to you but I assumed that with your throat in the condition that it was, this might not have been possible. If you continue to improve, we'll ring you up some evening soon just so as to hear your dear voice, and know that you are all right. I imagine that the infection you had, you'll have to watch very carefully, and both Mother and I beg you to do this. How very small and insignificant everything else becomes when one is really ill! The contests in which we engage, and to which we devote, with our peculiar temperaments, every ounce of our vitality, are immediately forgotten when real sickness comes

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to one we love. This has been so obvious to me during the past week, during which I have been engaged in another very lonely fight over the London Treaty - a fight which was forgotten in an instant when we heard about you. Watch yourself carefully, please, and be sure of your physician's watchfulness. The only fault I find with Ebright is his apparent indifference. I say "apparent" because really I do not think he is indifferent, but that long experience has made him wholly matter-of-fact in illnesses that disturb us so much. I was glad that you had Houston, and I hope that you keep in touch with the very best experts there are.

I am terribly distressed over the prolongation of our session here. I really see no prospect of getting to California before probably the middle of July. My plans are knocked into a cocked hat again, and while I can stand it probably through this year, I do not see my way clear beyond that time. However, the Lord has been very good to us, and I am sufficiently thankful if the health of our loved ones will be wholly recovered.

I began in investigatory mood in relation to the London Treaty, and as I proceeded, a case was made against it that is impregnable. I think it is the wickedest thing that has been foisted on us since

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the effort to take us into the League of Nations, and of course, under these circumstances, it is a matter of no consequence to me whether I have any support or not. I shall do what I can against its ratification. As I have told you before, the sending of the Democratic leader to London annexed the Democratic Party, and this makes ratification absolutely certain. All the rubber stamps upon the Republican side necessarily will be with the Administration, and unfortunately the Independent portion of the Senate is pacifist, and against anything relating to the Navy.

Mother remains reasonably well, and apparently is content to stay here because of the political fight in California. When you wrote me that you thought the contest was between Rolph and Young, I smiled believing you were wholly mistaken; but I have been astonished at the people I have met here from California, who express the same thought. I can't understand why this is so with the enormous vote in southern California, and the support which I have assumed Fitts has there. However, I learned long ago the utter uselessness of attempting three thousand miles away to determine a political situation, and it may be that you, and the others I have met here are entirely right.

4.

Mother joins me in lots and lots of love. Both of us regret that we are not in San Francisco to be with you at this time. Perhaps we could do nothing, but just being with you is what we most ardently wish for.

Good luck to you, and may this note find you yourself again. Again all our love.

Affectionately,

Dad

HIRAM W. JOHNSON, CALIF., CHAIRMAN.
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WILLIAM E. BROCK, TENN.

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE

M. A. CONNOR, CLERK

June 11, 1930.

My dear Boys:

I am writing you on this birthday of Mother to let you know that I think she is in good health and in good spirits; save occasional eruption in her eye that makes it bloody^{shot} for a short time, I think the horrid shingles that afflicted her have gone completely. I am mighty glad to report to you that I believe your Mother is in good health, and very content with her home and situation here. I am very happy that this is so, and I know that you are happy with me.

It has been utterly impossible for me today to do anything for Mother on her birthday. I wired both of you as I did last Saturday night because she was so insistent that it be done. I have sneaked a big box of candy back here from Maskeys, which is the limit of what I will be able to do for her. I pleaded with her to have a dinner tonight in which we might have just a very few intimates, but she decided she did not want it, and is having a large formal dinner Saturday night. It is quite enough, however, to have her physically and mentally well, and I think we may forget everything else in this.

I need not tell you how busy I have been in the exchange with the Secretary of State last Saturday and Sunday, because of a perfectly stupid error on his part in quoting Washington, I had a come back which has made this city laugh. Of course, the ridicule

which has been heaped upon the Secretary of State, for which I am really sorry, has, doubtless, made him and his associates much more bitter enemies than otherwise they would have been. It was impossible for me to avoid the clash, unless I took lying down what he said. Really, with practically no support here, I have done a good job, so far as the Treaty is concerned. I think I have succeeded in doing that good job, because the Treaty will not bear close analysis. It is wicked thing to foist on our country, and because I feel so thoroughly that I am right, makes it easy for me to indulge in controversy respecting it. This does not mean that I have succeeded in getting many votes in the Senate, for I have not, and I will not have many, but I have arrested the speed with which it was to be put over, and have caused a great many people to think about the matter, who, otherwise would have let it pass, and a great many more to oppose it, because its evils have been brought to their attention.

My impression is that it will probably be after the fourth of July at the very earliest before we can leave here for home. Of course, nobody can tell about this cantankerous body of ours, and I may be shoved to a conclusion on the Treaty within a day or two after we meet in special session, but if my wind and health hold out, it will take a little bit longer than a day or two.

I started simply to send you a line on Mother's birthday, and give you a little of the feeling that I have of thankfulness and gratitude that we are all here, that the day probably finds us

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fairly in health, and that you may rejoice with me that dear
Mother is well and happy.

With love to all,

Affectionately,

Dad

HIRAM W. JOHNSON, CALIF., CHAIRMAN

WESLEY L. JONES, WASH.
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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE

M. A. CONNOR, CLERK

June 14, 1930.

My dear Boys:

Yesterday the long-winded Tariff Bill was disposed of by the Senate. Immediately, the River and Harbor Bill, of which I am in charge, was made the unfinished business, and will now be dealt with. In the interim, while we are dealing with this Bill, the London Treaty will be considered by the Foreign Relations Committee, and within a few days reported out favorably. I have about reached the limit in presentation of the Treaty, and as a single-handed fight, I am rather proud of what I have done. As I have remarked to you before, in this contest I have everything but votes. My private opinion is when the vote ultimately is taken, we'll not be able to muster more than a dozen. However, this does not detract from the contest, nor deter me in the slightest degree. I have described to you before the various elements which go to make the overwhelming result against us in the Senate, - the Democrats, who, in their clannishness will follow Robinson, the "Yes Yes" and rubber stamp Republicans, who will be perfectly willing to cede this Nation to Japan and Great Britain at the instance of the President, and the pacifists, among whom may be counted most of the Insurgents, will vote for anything they think would hit the Navy. I am about all

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there is left. While there isn't any very great sentiment in the Nation upon the subject, I think that some has been aroused by the controversy, and my mail would indicate that it is by no means unfriendly. I went again into the movie-tone yesterday with Pathe¹, and next Thursday night I am to go on the radio if all is well with a national hook-up. I will talk from here at 9:30 P.M. (eastern standard time).

I am hoping, of course, that this letter will find Jack himself again, and Arch in the best of shape. Mother feels well, as I wrote you on her birthday, and tonight, is having another dinner at our house. I rather dread these affairs because she does too much, but she has rather desired it this winter, and I feel better for it, because it enables us to repay some of the courtesies that we have accepted from others.

My opinion is that we'll get out of here early in July. Of course, I expect immediately to come home then. There is a restlessness among members of both Houses, particularly as it is a campaign year. If the Lord is willing, and if nothing unforeseen happens in the interim, Mother and I, doubtless will be with you the latter part of July. I have undertaken too much of late here, and I shall be very glad to have some little respite.

Mother joins me in love to all.

Affectionately,

Dad

HIRAM W. JOHNSON, CALIF., CHAIRMAN
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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE

M. A. CONNOR, CLERK

June 20, 1930.

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

My dear Arch:

I received your good wire yesterday about the radio talk. We have been worrying somewhat about Jack, and Mother particularly has been fretting, so when I got home from the radio station night before last, she telephoned to him just to ascertain how he was, and she was anxious, too, to learn whether our talk got into California well. He said that he was all right, but weak, and still staying at home. This was quite a relief to us, because it does not make any difference in what we are engaged here, our thoughts, after all, are with you and your brother, and nothing matters to us but that you two and your loved ones are well.

I was glad to get the opportunity to talk upon the Treaty, because we're so lonesome in our fight here. I really think that a little sentiment was created, and I am perfectly certain that if there were anything like a full understanding of what the Treaty is, we'd be able to block it, because of an overwhelming opposition from our people. There is no change in the situation, so far as votes are concerned, from what I have written you

heretofore, and I have got to brace myself for a smashing defeat. Try as we will, we can not break through either the Democratic strength, which insists on following Robinson, or the infernal Pacifist-Progressives, and of course, not with the administration "rubber-stamp" men. However, the contest is like many more, - one can only do the best he can and endeavor to be true to his beliefs.

We'll probably adjourn here with the Treaty ratified, sometime just after the fourth of July, and I hope in that month to return to California. This, at best, would leave me but four months at home, and the limited time makes it impossible for me to do what I have to do. I am in a bad way, but we're all in a bad way, I take it, so let's laugh together, preserve our health, and thank God to be alive. I have watched the gyrations of the stock market recently, and I hope that long since you have passed from the possibility of further hurt there.

I was very much interested in observing from the Los Angeles press that Motley Flint, Louis Mayer, and others were acquitted by Judge Agler. I assume that this ends for all time the horrid, wretched endeavor to convict these people of usury. I noted also with the utmost surprise that Lewis, as his own attorney, succeeded in the bribery case in obtaining a verdict of acquittal. He either is a very remarkable man, or the case against him in that respect must have never been

adequately described in the Los Angeles papers.

In the beginning of the gubernatorial campaign, I had quite a few statements from different people that Rolph was a very serious contender. Now nearly all who communicate with me at all, seem to think that Young has a cinch and will be overwhelmingly successful. What is your view?

During the week I have been sitting in the Senate in charge of the Rivers and Harbors Bill, and this with the other things I have been endeavoring to do, has pretty well occupied me. Yesterday, Moses put into the Congressional Record my full speech upon the Treaty, which, of course, with the time to which I was limited before the microphone, had to be very greatly condensed. In order that you may have it before you, and at your convenience read it, I am sending you herein a complete mimeographed copy.

You observed, of course, that Senator Simmons was defeated for renomination in North Carolina. He is 75 years old, and broken in health, and has behind him the longest term of service of any man in the Senate. I have been looking at him lately, as he comes into the Senate, endeavoring to appear indifferent, and I think he is the most pitiful spectacle I have ever seen. I have thought, as I observed him, now broken-hearted at the very close of his life, repudiated by a people to whom, at least, he was faithful, and

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to whom he has given a lifetime of service, that I would never wish to get into his situation, and spend my last days in vain regrets and bowed in grief, however much one may try to hide it. I say this to you because it brought very plainly to me what ought to be my course in the future.

Keep well, my lad, and remember ever, there is an old man here ready with you always to fight the battle.

My love to all.

Affectionately,

Dad

HIRAM W. JOHNSON, CALIF., CHAIRMAN
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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE

M. A. CONNOR, CLERK

June 20, 1930.

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

My dear Jack:

Night before last Mother, with a double motive, was anxious to ring you up and that was the reason we talked to you briefly on the 'phone. She feared that you are not getting along as well as we had hoped in your sickness, and she also wished to learn whether or not the radio talk of mine, over which she was quite excited, had gone well in California. We were immensely relieved to hear your voice and have you tell us that you were progressing as well as could be expected. Of course, your sickness, which was no trifling matter, has left you in a very weakened condition. We both of us beseech you, take the most perfect care of yourself and do not attempt to go out, and certainly do not attempt any work until you feel fairly fit. As I have said to you before, everything pales into insignificance when sickness assaults one we love, so do be careful.

It was a rather difficult thing in the radio talk to compress a lengthy speech which I had written into $26\frac{1}{2}$ minutes. At first I was allowed but 23 minutes, but by cutting the music and the introduction, we added $4\frac{1}{2}$ minutes more. Generally in these radio talks, in the studio the speaker sits at the table and reads his notes, but I insisted on standing the microphone up in front of the clock and, on my feet before it, with my mind visualizing an audience in front of me, talking exactly as if they were there and in the same fashion I do upon the floor of the Senate. This put a great strain upon me and, although I spoke with extreme rapidity, I think the effect was much better than if I had adopted the conventional mode. The wires I have received from all over the country indicate that the thing got over fairly well.

I have been observing the Hoover Prosperity, as exemplified recently in the stock market. I am fearful that the recent devastating declines have been very hurtful to those I love. I'm praying that this may not be so. After all, if we can keep our health and strength and can be together, we can bear the other ills.

I think that our adjournment will occur of the special session to be called immediately after this

session concludes shortly after the Fourth of July. The special session upon the Treaty will not take a very long time, because there are so few of us in opposition. The Treaty will go through by an overwhelming majority and I'm bracing myself for a disastrous defeat. I'm sufficiently philosophical, however, upon a policy such as this to take my medicine because of the absolute certainty I have that I'm right and that I'm doing the thing that one who makes the slightest claim to vision or statesmanship ought to do. Sometime in the month of July I hope to get home. This gives me, therefore, a scant four months in California and knocks all my plans into a cocked hat.

I'm glad to say to you that Mother is in good condition and that, while pretty well fagged, I have no reason to complain. While endeavoring to keep alive this lonely fight on the Treaty, I have been sitting in the Senate in charge of the Rivers and Harbors Bill, and my time has been more than fully occupied.

Mother joins me in love to the boys and lots to yourself.

Affectionately,

Dad

P. S. I had to dictate the speech that I made before the microphone and, of course, it was much more lengthy than that I could deliver within the time allotted. I'm sending you herein a mimeographed copy of the whole thing for your perusal at your leisure.

Dad

Enclosure

W

HIRAM W. JOHNSON, CALIF., CHAIRMAN
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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE

M. A. CONNOR, CLERK

June 27, 1930.

My dear Boys:

Each week seems to grow more hectic here. I presume this will be so until finally we adjourn. A contest upon the Boulder Dam developed again this week in the matter of the initial appropriation, and it looked for a time as if we were going to witness another filibuster. Finally, we ironed the situation out and passed the Deficiency Bill with the \$10,000,000 item in it for commencing the project. We're not out of the woods yet, because the Bill had to go to conference, and has to come back then after the conferees agree for approval by the Senate. I am hoping, however, that we really have started on this tremendous undertaking.

Notwithstanding an agreement that the London Treaty would not be pressed until the extra session was called just after the adjournment of the regular session, suddenly there was a movement on foot this week to bring the Treaty on the floor and force it to immediate action. The bad faith of this movement was so obvious, however, that it was blocked, and I think we'll hear no more of that. The expectation is to adjourn this session next Wednesday or Thursday. The extra session will be called then for the following Monday, the 7th of July. It will not, in my opinion, last long because our ranks are too thin. I have just finished the minority report, which though tautological, presents the case against the Treaty fairly well.

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I will send you each copy when it comes from the printer on Monday. I was quite astonished to see the play given in the San Francisco Chronicle and other standpat papers in California to the speech of Reed replying to mine, and subsequently to the speech of Robinson (Ark). Reed's speech was printed verbatim, not as delivered really, but as given out for publication, which was all right. The Chronicle did not receive it from any news agency. It was a costly process telegraphing that across the continent, but this was done to the Los Angeles Times and the San Francisco Chronicle, and other papers in California. Stimson has printed, I understand, half a million copies of his speech, which has been sent everywhere. I was able to print three thousand of mine, which I must pay for, and could not print many more because of lack of funds. It's a pretty tough proposition that we are up against. The response from the country to me is fine, and I am wholly reconciled to the few votes that we'll get in the Senate. I was told a story today, political in character, that will illustrate to you my opinion of men in office, particularly here. In the olden days where a county committee had the destinies of a community in its hands, politician John met politician Jim, and with a great oath pounding the desk, he said, "Jim, 50 per cent of the members of this county committee are S. O. B.'s." A short time thereafter they met again after politician John had been

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interviewing some more of them, and again he pounded his desk and said "Jim, the S.O.B's are gaining on us". That is the way I feel about the politicians here. They are a lousy lot.

Mother and I have been more or less concerned about Jack. We were somewhat reassured by your letters this week, but his miserable illness seems to us to hang on unduly long. We do hope that a very brief period now will find dispelled the last vestige of sickness.

I get so beastly tired when night comes now that it takes a couple of hours for me to recover my ease and equilibrium. I presume it is partly due to strain, and partly to the fact that I have been very hard at work, and I know it is partly due also to an ever gnawing worry. I am so longing to get home that I could not tell you with exactness my feeling. One good thing about being so engaged here is that I have given little or no thought to the political situation in California. I have got firmly in my head anyway that the people out there will be very glad that I am detained here until after the primary. I assume from press reports that Young has all the best of the situation, but sometimes press reports have been very misleading.

With my love to all,

Affectionately,

Dad