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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE

M. A. CONNOR, CLERK

Sunday, November 22, 1931.

My dear Boys:

Two days only here and I am beginning to feel as if I had never been away! I am dictating as I used to on Sunday to Miss Connor, who has been fairly free for nine months, and now finds herself in jail again, as I feel I have been for the past nine months. My two days here have been devoted to the press. I could not get away from them. When I got into Chicago they grabbed me, and while I was not prepared to give an extended interview, I went ahead, and talked just as I pleased. The one remark I made about Coolidge's decision not to run again and that if Hoover made a like decision, he would have the undying gratitude of the rank and file of the Republican Party, I found on my return to Washington created quite a sensation. Everybody here was laughing at it, and of course the Hoover papers just went mad with anger. I said, singularly enough, what every single individual here in the Republican Party, regular or otherwise, actually believes, and that is why the remark raised such Cain.

Last night we turned on the news flashes to see the result of the game in California. When the radio gave everything else but that game, Mother telephoned to the Herald, and ascertained that California won six to nothing.

2.

We were very glad that finally the old college beat Stanford.

The house is just the same. It is very comfortable, although by no means elaborate, and I will confide to you, how very fine it was for me to be in a home again. The hotel was excellent, and they were all very kind to us there, but I guess I am so old that I love just a home.

I find there has been a great deal of gossip about a candidacy on my part in the coming primaries and election. The smart reporters of course peg along asking questions, and I tell them not to kid me, and when I am a candidate, I will let them know, etc. The state of uncertainty in which this apparently leaves them and everybody is perhaps the best thing that can be done. Of course, I have no such intentions as are attributed to me, but I haven't any objection to worrying the ^{yellow} old man in the White House.

Coming here on the train I read a book by John Hamill, entitled "The Strange Career of Mr. Hoover Under Two Flags". Possibly its obvious hostility detracts from its strength. There is however, a circumstantiality of detail that gives the appearance, at least of accuracy. There is one chapter devoted to the oil activities of Hoover in California dealing with the General Petroleum Company and the Union Oil, I think. I confess I have heard nothing of these. I would appreciate it immensely if you would read this chapter, and then suggest to me somebody who could carefully check upon the statements there made, to determine their accuracy. Apparently, in the course of some proceedings an injunction was issued in our

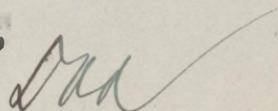
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Superior Court, and from the name of the Judge mentioned, which is spelled erroneously, I have thought the injunction was issued by Crothers. The statement in the book on this point however is so very vague that I did not follow it well. Some day, when you have time, read the chapter, and let me know what you think of it.

Tubby came through the trip across the continent in fine shape. Mother had a cold that at first apparently got better, and then much worse. It has, however, been better the last couple of days, and I think she is feeling all right again. Except for the regrets of leaving you all, and for missing you terribly, as we do, I feel like a man just out of jail

With love to all,

Affectionately,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to be 'Dad', written in dark ink.

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

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE

M. A. CONNOR, CLERK

November 27, 1931.

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

My dear Arch:

Since you were good enough to write me under date of November 23, and your letter has just arrived this morning, I am taking a moment to thank you and to reply very briefly.

We have missed you all of course very, very much. I have had little time for anything else than interviews since my return. First, the press have been constantly after me, and then various individuals, who are most anxious for me to get into another political fight this year. A burnt child dreads the fire, but from the standpoint of realities, it would be a perfectly absurd thing for one who has nothing, and who does not know where to turn for the contributions which would be necessary to finance a contest, to inject himself into one. Were I a millionaire, nothing would please me better than to take a crack at the gentleman in the White House, and the opposition to him is so deep-seated that the possibility of his destruction would not be wholly remote. It would be quite another thing, however, that his destruction would mean the selection of the individual who destroyed him. I am amusing myself, therefore,

Major Archibald M. Johnson - 2

in permitting him and his friends to speculate on my course, which to myself is fairly plain.

I note from your letter that you went to Sacramento on your Leach matter. I gather, although you did not state the result, that you are not very hopeful. I would not want to dash cold water upon any optimism you may have, but I would be perfectly certain the present State administration renders no decisions upon the righteousness of the case, but determines everything upon the basis of ~~the~~ mean and petty opportunism. The administration is now holding a circus on the Mooney matter, in which I observe my distinguished partners presumably ^{are} ~~ought~~ to be a part. I have not written them of course about the matter for I have no desire to interfere with their predilections or desires. If our people had not lost their sense of humor, they would laugh the whole thing to death, for there could be nothing more ridiculous than a Tammany Mayor of New York coming to California to tell Californians of their injustice to some individual, and to weep about a miscarriage of justice.

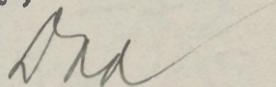
Mother's cold, I think is all right. Yesterday, unfortunately she had a terrible headache, and it really spoiled our Thanksgiving. I came mighty near telephoning to you all last night, but I thought I would delay it until our regular Christmas talk.

Major Archibald M. Johnson - 3

How is your horse? I can only keep track of him now from the San Francisco papers, because the eastern press, while carrying the entries at Agua Caliente, do not mention Tanforan at all.

Mother joins in love to Martha and yourself.

Affectionately,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to be "A. M. Johnson", written in dark ink.

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

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE

M. A. CONNOR, CLERK

Sunday.
November 29, 1931.

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

My dear Jack:

We have had no letter from you since our return, and Mother and I have begun to fret a little about it. We are both hoping that you are feeling all right, and that you have been prevented from writing by no untoward event.

I am in good shape. Mother is not in quite such good shape. I am going to get her, if it be possible, early this week, to see one or the other of the doctors we know well here, and ascertain whether she can not be somewhat helped by them. Thanksgiving Day, unfortunately, she had such a terrible headache that the day was miserable for her, and the blamed thing has intermittently been with her ever since.

I read the accounts of the Football Game with the greatest interest. We can imagine you cheering your head off, and the rooters for California going crazy. I think they were entitled to it. Yesterday, against Dartmouth, Stanford played a most brilliant game, and if Stanford did anything like this in the California game, the ^{U.C.} football team must be among the top notchers. By the way, there is

Mr. Hiram W. Johnson, Jr. - 2

something in our climate, or something in our youngsters that makes them pre-eminent in sports. All over the country, there are no such teams that have such an average as the California football teams.

I have been greatly bothered by people who have been anxious to get me into the political contest this year. I have been letting the people on the other side worry and speculate and have declined to say more than I said in Chicago, when I told the reporters not to kid me, and if ever I became a candidate for anything, I would let them know. If I were a millionaire, I would not hesitate for a moment. It is perfectly absurd, however, to dwell upon anything of this sort without ample financial backing; so I am not worrying at all about it, and shall not. I don't think anything has made the Hoover people so angry, or has caused such hysteria among them as my suggestion that he would earn the undying gratitude of the rank and file of the Republican Party if he declined to be a candidate. They have literally frothed at the mouth, and their papers have gone mad, all of which is the demonstration that I hit upon something in the hearts of most Republicans and most feared by the Hoover group. If there were anything like a solidarity of action among those who do not wish him renominated, he would not have a corporal's

Mr. Hiram W. Johnson, Jr. - 3

guard at the next Republican Convention, but the power of the place is sufficient and the cohesion of conservatism strong enough to keep him to the fore, and probably to nominate him by acclamation.

I have been wondering when you expect to get to work on your Wood case. Don't hesitate to bother Theodore or any member of the firm about it. I left it in my memoranda to the firm as one of the things to be done. I have talked to all of them, and there is no dissent among them. You will have to keep at Theodore though, and don't let yourself get impatient doing it. You know him well, and I have learned to know him, I think, better than any other person. He is all right, but his success has changed, in some degree, his outlook. It has not altered, in my opinion, the sweetness of his disposition. Singularly enough, success has made him more timorous. Beneath that modest exterior of his, and his childish naivete, there is really an overweening ambition; and this has bred in him a perfect madness for publicity and anxiety we can little understand to see himself in the public print, and be a public figure. This strange development in him has, in some degree, dampened his ardor, perhaps, for a real legal contest against great power. I endeavored to arouse him in your particular case by telling him it would redeem his disastrous defeat in

Mr. Hiram W. Johnson, Jr. 4-

Woodfield vs Wells Fargo National Bank. In that case, he went off half-cocked on a proposition of law, and was woefully beaten. After being beaten, he shrunk from the task of presentation in the upper courts, and I wrote the briefs for him there. When I left, we still had pending before the Supreme Court a petition for re-hearing, in which I feel there was no hope. I have tried to make him see that here in your case was an opportunity, which, in other days, he would have eagerly sought, and he claimed to me that he was very glad to have it. I am wondering how you have got along with him since I left.

I sent Philip an old, old photograph the other day, because I thought he would probably preserve it. Occasionally, when things of this sort I find, I am going to send them to the boys for in the years to come, they may have some interest for them.

Mother joins in love to all of you.

Affectionately,

Dad

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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE

M. A. CONNOR, CLERK

December 1, 1931.

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

My dear Arch:

Your friend Mr. Odell of the Pacific States
Company called today with a letter from you. He was accompanied
by his attorney Mr. Dahlquist, a member as I understood him,
of the Orrick firm. I was delighted to talk to Mr. Odell and
give him what little information I could, which practically
was nothing; but I assured him if anything arose in which he
might be interested I would endeavor to keep him advised ~~of~~.
I think both parties were pleased and I write you so that you
may know the fact.

With love in which Mother joins,

Affectionately,

Dad

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

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE

M. A. CONNOR, CLERK

Sunday
December 6, 1931.

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

My dear Arch:

I dug up the papers here containing the record of BRIGHT HOPES, so you can see how even while I am not sympathetic with the race horse game, I have an intense interest in anything in which you are interested. I was sorry to see that her last two performances have not been such as to indicate to the unknowing she could accomplish any results. I can only wish you better luck.

Mother since her return here has been afflicted with almost constant headaches. The most that we could get her to do was to have her blood pressure taken by our Senate physician here. This was between 160 and 170, and she has agreed to have it taken at intervals. I don't know what to do, because I can not get her to do anything, and the mere suggestion that she see other doctors here, many of whom we know fairly well, will apparently distress here. It is beginning to wear on me somewhat, because while at first I did not worry particularly, the long continued miserable

Major Archibald M. Johnson - 2

feeling on her part has worried me.

We begin the big game here tomorrow and under the most remarkable circumstances. There is not a man in Congress but who wants to do something to aid the present business situation and the increasing unemployment. I do not think it is exaggerative to say that while the desire is intense, nobody in reality knows what to do. Our difficulty will be to keep from adopt ing rather foolish measures, the design of which may be the best in the world, but the execution of which may be disastrous. Apart from the consideration of matters of this sort, we'll have a plethora of politics, and some little contest over international affairs. I will oppose the moratorium, but with the influence of Morgan and Company and the international bankers so overwhelming, I will have little or no support in this opposition. I will continue, however, to be a block of one, glorying in the fact that I do exactly as I damn please. Both parties are owned by the big powers, and the so-called leader of the insurgents, Mr. Borah, is just as thoroughly under their control. I created an intense furore with my statement

Major Archibald M. Johnson - 3

made in Chicago, as I wrote you. It has not worn off yet, and the White House lackeys are still frothing about it. As the days go by, I find I simply said what everybody believed, and nobody dared say.

Yesterday I had a long talk with William Howard Gardiner. He gave me the history of Breckenridge, and his marriage, and his social ambitions, and the like, and I could understand why Breckenridge turned against the Navy League. He also told me that it was only with the utmost difficulty they held up Howe. He was a thorn in the side of all of them who believed in a Navy, because of his intense interest to stand well with the White House and local society here. Apparently, there was no back down in Gardiner personally, but undoubtedly, they are making inroads upon his organization and hope ultimately to destroy him and take possession of his organization.

I observe you had a big show in San Francisco over the Mooney case. I regard it merely as a circus. It is just among the possibilities the kind of thing which Rolph blithely arranged, and which may ultimately do him very great harm. I am by no means certain of this, because I never have very fully understood just

Major Archibald M. Johnson - 4

what the feeling was in the Mooney case, and whether there was such a tremendous sentiment in his behalf as has been pretended. There is something, however, utterly repugnant to the right-thinking citizen, I believe, in making a show of such a real tragedy. I am perfectly free to admit that my views may be those of a by-gone age, and that our people generally will love such an exhibition, but I am not wholly convinced of it.

Let me know how you are, and how things generally are with you. What has been the result of the case you commenced with the distinguished lady client?

Mother joins in love to Martha and yourself.

Affectionately,

Dad

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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE

M. A. CONNOR, CLERK

Sunday, December 6, 1931.

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

My dear Jack:

We were immensely relieved last night to receive your telegram in answer to mine stating that you were all right, and had written Wednesday. You see, tomorrow will be three weeks since we left California, and Friday last, two weeks since our arrival here. Our thoughts are so continuously with you that perhaps we became unduly worried. As each day, we looked for a letter and received none, we began to get more and more anxious. I am here at the office today, Sunday, and the last mail has been distributed, bringing your letter of December 2. I have just read it, and I am putting it in my pocket to take home to Mother.

What a horrid thing for McCandless to do! Until I just read your letter I imagined of course the option had been executed. He simply is wholly untrustworthy, apparently. You are quite right concerning Uncle Matt. The years have taken their toll. I found that not only is he unable to grasp accurately and thoroughly a situation, as he could readily formerly, but that he is quite likely to go off half-cocked, and then with great stubborn-

Mr. Hiram W. Johnson, Jr. -2

ness, insist upon an utterly illogical line? If it were within the realm of possibility, I wish you would get the time to talk the matter over with Theodore. I know how difficult it is to get his attention at all. Latterly in the office I did not attempt it, and I accomplished much more by making no attempt to see him or consult him. He would then come in to see me at intervals. Of course, you can not do this, so butt in on him. He won't resent it, and after all, he has a very remarkable legal mind.

I have talked to a number of people since I have been here about the financial situation. There are some of course who pretend that we soon will see better times. The majority, however, insist that there will be no change until after election, and they are extremely doubtful when it will come then. Couzens tells me that the automobile people are going to put their men to work during December and January on a speculation purely that they might be able to sell the output, but that there are few of them who believe that will be possible, and they look forward to a worse situation in February in reality than has existed heretofore. The newspapers say that in the great centres certain reporters are now detailed for the sole purpose of ballyhoo, and that by design, without anything to justify it, these men run up and down telling

Mr. Hiram W. Johnsons, Jr. - 3

of the improvement in conditions, and writing articles accordingly. Nobody understands a damn thing and to me that is the tragedy. Every man in the Congress wants to help and there are more bizarre bills to be introduced than would patch all the scarred financial institutions in the world; but the fact remains nobody really knows what to do.

We begin tomorrow, and I am going to continue a block of one. I don't think I could ever come back here if I wanted to, and I am not so very sure about what I will want to do anyway. The big powers have both parties and sad to relate some of those so-called Progressives, and they have the entire press of the country, with the exception possibly of the Hearst press.

I know what you are passing through, but I have an abiding confidence that you will come through all right. When one is ill, he pays little attention to well meaning people who tell him not to worry, so I know how utterly useless it is to indulge in the usual banalities; but, my dear boy, I want you ever to keep in mind that there is an old fellow here, who will be very glad to share your burdens to the utmost

Mr Hiram W. Johnson, Jr. - 4

of his ability, and who would welcome any call.
Mother joins me in love to you and the boys, and
remember us, too, to Miss Schow.

Affectionately,

Dad.

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

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE

M. A. CONNOR, CLERK

December 12, 1931.

Mr. Hiram W. Johnson, Jr.,
Major Archibald M. Johnson,
Attorneys at law,
Mills Building,
San Francisco, California

My dear Boys:

I am writing you this note on Saturday, instead of tomorrow, because tomorrow I wish to devote wholly to the pending moratorium proposition, and my proposed investigation of international bankers. The proposed moratorium for one year, because it is an accomplished fact, will go through with very little opposition, except from myself; but I have kicked up enough of a row to halt, at least temporarily, after the moratorium, the cancellation of our foreign debts. The most enthusiastic interest has been aroused by my resolution of investigation. The international banking people in the Senate did not dare oppose it, and to the astonishment of everybody, I had it immediately passed. Unfortunately, the investigation is dependent upon the Finance Committee, which is very completely stacked with standpatters, and of which I am not a member. I shall, however, keep very close watch of it, and out of it ought to come, if it be conducted with only the smallest fraction of energy, a very great good. I have been literally astounded at the response to the resolution from the country at large, and even among my colleagues.

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However, there are more ways of scotching a snake than one, and these gentlemen who run the country, like J.P. Morgan and Company will probably by flank attacks and the usual hush hush methods, endeavor to destroy what we are seeking to do. At any rate, I have raised hell. It has been delightful to see the gentlemen upstairs, who represent the international bankers, running to cover and pretending that uncovering foreign loans, out of which these bankers have made so much, would be a splendid thing for the American people. The one year moratorium will be shoved through instanter next week, it is expected. Upon it, however, because it is the entering wedge, and these damn hypocrites are for it because they know it is the entering wedge, I shall express myself with such vigor as I can. The intellectual dishonesty of emphatically protesting opposition to revision or cancellation of debts, and then voting the first step does not commend itself to me.

We're in a tremendous swirl here. Nobody knows what will emerge from it. It is generally admitted privately that Germany is going to crack. Japan, the powerful nation engaged in appropriating a neighbor's territory, coerced the League of Nations, which in turn coerced the weaker nation, China; and yet, such charlatans as Rowell stand before an audience in San Francisco, and say the League of Nations has just prevented a great world war, and the

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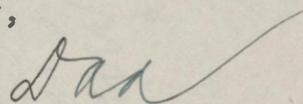
pacifists applaud, and the internationalists scream their agreement.

Mother has been anything but well, and this interferes with me here. I have been terribly on edge the past week. As I have repeatedly said to you, I don't know what to do, and I simply can not get Mother to attend to herself.

I was terribly shocked this week in the death of Judge Mathews. He was really, my boys, one of the dearest friends I have ever possessed. He was a sweet, and a fine character. He was a right-thinking man, who never sought to force his opinions upon any one else, but who was always absolutely firm for the right. He was always kindness itself to me, and in addition, he had a really wonderful affection for your Mother. I can not tell you how we both feel.

I do hope that things are going reasonably well with you. Our thoughts are ever with you. With love to all, in which Mother joins.

Affectionately,



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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE

M. A. CONNOR, CLERK

December 19, 1931.

Mr. Hiram W. Johnson, Jr.,
Major Archibald M. Johnson,
Attorneys at law,
Mills Building,
San Francisco, California

My dear Boys:

I have a fatal facility for getting into a lone fight,—that is, a contest where I feel entirely right, and where most of my fellows feel exactly as I do, but in which none of them has the guts to go the route. That is the sort of thing I am in now with the moratorium. I have had a terrible time the past two days trying to have an examination of Morgan and Company, and the National City Bank under my resolution for an investigation of foreign loans. When I conceived the notion of the investigation, it seemed absolutely hopeless under the personnel of the Senate, but by being extremely careful, and gradually overcoming different obstacles, and putting the investigation in the Finance Committee, whose members are the puppets of big financiers, I made it impossible for them to stand on the floor, and oppose it. Now, that the investigation is on, of course, they do everything in their power to prevent it being effective, and not being a member of the committee, I have to sit there and butt in occasionally. Finally, this morning, I grew sick of their methods, and practically

took charge, much to their disgust. The remarkable thing about the investigation is that all of the papers, like the Hearst papers, who were wildly in favor of it in the beginning, are frightened to death of it now, so frightened, ^{were the Hearst papers} that they sent Forbes, their financial man here to write the story of it. The fact of the matter is, all of the whispering here is of worst times to come, if possible, bank failures, etc. You can imagine with the loneliness of the fight, how tremendously engaged I have been, and the worst part of the whole thing is that I am beginning to have my old trouble about sleeping. However, maybe a little vacation at Christmas will do everything necessary.

At Mother's request, I repeat of course, our Christmas is to be without gifts. I am going to arrange a time to talk to you either Christmas eve or Christmas night. I presume you will all be together one of those nights as usual, and that I can make the necessary arrangements. You'll probably have to wire me on receipt of this letter which night you will be together, and where, so that I can arrange things here, ten o'clock by our time, and seven o'clock by yours, for Mother and me to talk to all of you.

Mother is feeling better, I think, and I am very glad, because of the stress under which we are at present.

I do hope both of you are well, and that your families are well. Take care of yourselves, please. With all my love, in which Mother joins,

Affectionately,

Dad

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

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE

M. A. CONNOR, CLERK

Sunday,
December 27, 1931.

My dear Boys:

We spent Christmas very quietly, our one great event being of course telephoning you. For an hour just before dinner, we went to Mrs. Patterson's Christmas tree, and met there a vast throng. We ate dinner alone, and just existed thereafter until we got you on the telephone. The sad part of these 'phone messages is that with the utmost reluctance I am compelled finally to lay aside the 'phone, and of course, one never says what he wants to say when he has the opportunity. However, it was fine to hear your voices, and to know that you were all together.

The recent days, particularly at the close of the session just before the recess, have been very full and exciting. Way back in June when Hoover made his first statement on the moratorium I realized that practically the whole congress had pledged itself. I undertook an absolutely losing fight with full knowledge that it could ~~not~~ be won, so far as the votes were concerned upon the particular message. By constant agitation, however, I really feel that more than to any other one individual, I am responsible for the crystallization of the sentiment of the congress, and perhaps our people in relation to the debts due us from foreign nations. There was undoubtedly

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a conspiracy immediately after the moratorium to appoint a commission, as requested by the President, to scale down the debts, and then cancel them. I have made this impossible, at least, for the moment, and because of the results that have come from the contest, I wrote or wired you that it was one of those losing fights, which was won. It is very amusing and interesting to me now to see men like Watson, and Borah, who voted for the moratorium, practically using the phrases that I used on the floor of the senate on various occasions, and pledging themselves with the utmost solemnity against the cancellation of foreign debts. Of course, they will be "convinced" again but for the time being, we have frightened them away from the scheme to which they were a party. One of the sickening arguments used is that these foreign nations are never going to pay us, and we should therefore cancel the obligations. I insist we shall stand our ground, and if our debtors desire to default, let them do so, and we'll know then just where we stand; while, if of our own initiative, we constantly grant moratoria, scale down debts, etc., we invite just exactly such situations as we find ourselves in today with sixteen billions of dollars, exclusive of debts, invested in Europe, in securities that are not worth one-tenth of what our people paid for them. If we let our debtors act in the scheming obligations which exist, we

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may well learn our lesson for the future, and any government is going to think a very long time before it repudiates its written obligations. However, I did not begin this on this Sunday to write a dissertation upon foreign debts, and I have written what I have that you may know I have a definite policy, in regard to foreign debts, which I believe is the only American policy which should be pursued. Of course you can understand the great newspapers of the country take me to task for my views, and that the great financiers are quite indignant at me; but this desk loaded with mail at which I sit now where the overwhelming preponderance is commendatory makes me perfectly positive the ordinary man understands, and that he, like myself, resents in this time of stress being saddled with unusual and harsh taxation, and paying \$250,000,000 this year, which should have been collected from Europe, and which would have been paid by our debtors, if our own President had not initiated the postponement, which he fondly believed would lead to an ultimate cancellation.

My recent activities have led to a political trend among many of my correspondents and some of my old friends. I do not write you in any detail of this, because I have not the inclination, first, to enter any national political fight, and secondly my poverty forbids it.

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The most positive assurances have been given to me from Illinois that if I permit my name to be used in their primary, the contest will be made easy for me, and there will be no doubt of the result. This would entail, however, a fight in California, and at my age, and under the circumstances, I have little disposition to indulge in a bitter contest in my home state. I write you of this information just in passing, merely that you may know something of what is happening here. There is a universal belief that the nomination of Hoover will be a futile, and unuseless thing. It is generally believed, though, that he has the power, because of his position, to renominate himself, and this I believe, too. There are some, though, who think that any demonstration which would show his unpopularity would communi^{cate} itself to any kind of a Republican National Convention, and preclude his success. I am very doubtful about this sort of thing. At any rate, I am not at present troubling my head in the slightest degree.

Your Mother is in better shape than when she arrived, but she complains greatly of her inability to feel like she formerly did. It is useless for me to say to you that I can get her to do nothing.

We have had very remarkable weather here since our return, the meanest day really was Christmas Day. The rest of the time it has not been far from spring. I presume when

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winter starts in earnest, it will be just that much worse.

With all my love, in which Mother joins,

Affectionately,

Dad

HIRAM W. JOHNSON, CALIF., CHAIRMAN

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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE

M. A. CONNOR, CLERK

December 30, 1931.

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

My dear Arch:

It was mighty good of you to think of me and telephone me last night as you did. Of course, I appreciated it immensely because of your thoughtfulness. If anybody were idiot enough, upon the unsupported word of such an unmitigated liar as your former client, to believe anything, why I think that individual would be hopeless. When, in addition, one of two statements is made, which relates to Neylan and myself, that Neylan himself knew to be made out of whole cloth, neither Neylan nor his principal should, for an instant, have paid the slightest attention to anything your former client said; but, my dear boy, whether it was one thing or another, whether the party should be believed or distrusted, I don't care a tinker's most profane word for what the distinguished gentleman represented by Mr. Neylan might do. I am at the end of my political career, and I am almost at the end of my life, and unlike the timid in politics, and unlike nearly all of those

Major Archibald M. Johnson - 2

who are in political life, I grow stronger and more determined with the near approach of the end, in my indifference and independence.

I am writing this note merely to express to you my appreciation and thanks, and to tell you how mighty good it was to hear your voice over the 'phone again.

Mother joins me in love.

Affectionately,

Ada