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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

HENRIK SHIPSTEAD, MINN.

EDWARD J. TRENWITH, CLERK

July 8, 1935.

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

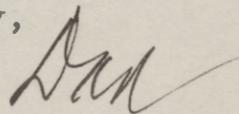
My dear Jack:

Yesterday your Mother and I went out with the President and his party upon the SEQUOIA on Chesapeake Bay, driving to Annapolis for that purpose. We returned about 7:40 last evening. We had just a charming little family party, consisting of the President, and his secretary, whom we know very well and whom Mother likes very much, Miss Le-Hand, two of her nieces, Judge Moore of the State Department, of whom I am very fond, Mother and myself. I will write you about the trip hereafter. I am sending you this note, so that you may know why I did not write you yesterday.

This morning we have a fine letter from Hiram from Savannah. Evidently, the boys are getting along well on their homeward trip.

Mother joins in love to Philip, Miss Schow, and yourself,

Affectionately,



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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

July 13, 1935.

HENRIK SHIPSTEAD, MINN.

EDWARD J. TRENWITH, CLERK

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

My dear Jack:

Your letter of July 11th I received this morning. It was fine to learn that you had had a wonderful week's vacation on the Kemah at Courtland, and that you were in such excellent shape. I wish I could say as much for us here. We're in the worst kind of a mess legislatively; and in addition to that, the weather has been simply terrible. I think this weather has had its effect upon both mother and myself, and I know, that in conjunction with the innumerable California things yet to be done here and pending, it has left me wretched physically and nervously shattered. However, that is part of the price paid for the job, and anyone who remains in the job has no right to complain in the slightest. When we'll get out is uncertain. The President insists that we shall not leave until a Tax Bill is enacted. The great majority of the congress would prefer to defer this until later in the year. Each day strengthens the President in his resolve, and adds to the number of those in the congress who want to quit. If he persists, there is no doubt he can have his own

Mr. Hiram W. Johnson, Jr. - 2

way, but at the cost of a great deal of dissatisfaction, irritation, and grumbling.

The boys, I think, had a good time here, and I know that we enjoyed them. Hiram has developed wonderfully and it will not be long before he will have the poise and the stability of a man of thirty-five or forty. I would make one suggestion to you concerning him, and that is, to get him "mixing" as much as you can. He has such unlimited possibilities that in the next two or three years, I don't want to see him withdraw into himself. I am sure you will understand what I am trying to say to you, and it is because of my pride in him, and the future that I think I can foresee for him, that I make even this small suggestion regarding him. We had a wire from him from New Orleans, and under the schedule that he left with us, he was today to be in Denver. He is going down to Boulder Dam, and if the weather there is anything like I found it on my one visit he will be very glad to get out of there. His schedule calls for his return on July 20th, but he may spend a couple of extra days at the San Diego Exposition, and inasmuch as he has good company with him, I imagine he will greatly enjoy it.

Last Saturday, as you've seen by the press, we went on a little trip with the President. The only ones upon the

Mr. Hiram W. Johnson, Jr. - 3

trip were Judge Moore of the State Department, whom I know very well, Miss LeHand, the President's personal secretary, two young nieces of hers, your mother and myself. You can see therefore the party was an intimate one, and the opportunity was presented us to observe him at very close range, and in his moments of relaxation. We drove from here to Annapolis, there boarded his boat, the Sequoia. We left here at 11:40 in the morning, taking a little less than an hour driving rapidly with escort to Annapolis; we lunched at one o'clock on the boat, and then went about Chesapeake Bay. He did some fishing on the boat, catching the large number of two, and Judge Moore caught a like number. I did not attempt to fish, but watched them. Accompanying us on Chesapeake Bay, which is, in reality, an inland sea, was a little destroyer. It remained a few hundred yards in the rear, but kept watch and ward. Early in the morning on Sunday came an aeroplane from Washington with some letters for him, and newspapers, and such communications as they thought ought to be sent to him. He arose late, and devoted his first hour to clipping stamps off envelopes sent him by the State Department from far off countries. It was very interesting to observe him during that period. He was thoroughly relaxed, intensely interested in what he was doing, himself

Mr. Hiram W. Johnson, Jr. - 4

performing the clipping, and ~~he~~ carefully putting by those stamps which he had removed. Apparently, during the trip he had not a care in the world, and during that time, he seemed free from worry and troubles of any sort. What a wonderful trait this is in him! I had the greatest sympathy for him in observing how he endeavored to overcome his physical handicap. He has a little wheel chair which enables him to go short distances, and from which into another chair he would have to lift and hoist himself in order to fish from the side of the boat. Each time that he would move about, how I felt for him really I can not describe. He never mentions, of course, his disability, and is cheerful under all circumstances; but as I looked at that great body of his, strong, vigorous, and powerful, and then at the helplessness of his extremities, and his inability to do what the rest of us could do, I realized more than I ever had before, something of a will power about him that very few human beings possess. We talked, of course, of all sorts of pending matters, and with the utmost freedom. As I have told you, I think before, his mind is very active. He readily goes from subject to subject, and apparently is not tired by concentration upon many different and varied matters. Now and then, he goes off on a tangent on a more or less startling proposition, with which one can not agree, but

Mr. Hiram W. Johnson, Jr. - 5

when he observes the disagreement, immediately he shifts to another topic. He rides in an open automobile, and I rode with him in that automobile from Washington to Annapolis, and on the return journey. It was hotter than Tophet, and I am still puzzled as to why he rides in this open car. All in all, your mother and I really had a good time on the boat, and it was such an intimate little party both of us enjoyed it. There never was a time that we were stilted, or that there was any impression the Chief Executive of the Nation was with us, but we felt during all of the period that just a darned good fellow upon common ground was meeting with those who were with him, and pleasantly passing the time. The boat, by the way, is not a big boat, something like 105 or 110 feet in length with Diesel engines, a little broader than yours, and a little more commodious. In comparison, however, you need not feel at all ashamed of the Kemah, and if you could enlarge the Kemah to the size of the Sequoia, I have no doubt, in every respect, it would more than favorably compare with it.

I am writing this letter to you on Saturday, because if there is any chance tomorrow to rest without working at the office, I am going to take it.

Mr. Hiram W. Johnson, Jr. -6

Mother joins me in love to Philip, Miss Schow,
and yourself,

Affectionately,

Bob

KEY PITTMAN, NEV., CHAIRMAN

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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

July 13, 1935.

HENRIK SHIPSTEAD, MINN.

EDWARD J. TRENWITH, CLERK

My dear Jack:

In my letter to you today I forgot to say to you that Foley, the attorney for the PWA is on his way or has already arrived in San Francisco. I have just learned this fact. It might be that he will go first to Los Angeles. My information is simply that he has gone to California. I am very well acquainted with Foley. He is a nice fellow, and I think quite friendly. It wouldn't be a bad idea if he comes to San Francisco, that you look him up, and if you care to, show him any little attention that you desire. I have found him on the level, and without the peculiar attitude that some people in the PWA organization possess. Of course, do just as you think best. I wanted to notify you of the fact.

Affectionately,

Dad

KEY PITTMAN, NEV., CHAIRMAN

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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

HENRIK SHIPSTEAD, MINN.

EDWARD J. TRENWITH, CLERK

Sunday, July 21, 1935.

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

My dear Jack:

This morning I received your letter of July 19th. Rather wonderful mail service, don't you think so! Last night Mother and I received Hiram's wire from Boulder City. He expects today to be in San Diego, and then we can all feel that he is just across the street from home. It has been a wonderful trip evidently for him, and glorious youth has regarded with contempt, doubtless, the discomforts and all the small irritations of such a long journey through varying climates, and with different degrees of conveniences.

Yesterday broke our season's record here with the heat, but a few degrees more or less when the thermometer gets over 80 degrees are of little consequence. This morning fresh from my shower I needed another one immediately. I suppose it is the humidity that causes us such distress; at any rate, we have had little surcease from it the last couple of weeks. The so-called cooling plant of the senate chamber has gone cock-eyed, although some of us have a dirty

Mr. Hiram W. Johnson, Jr. - 2

suspicion that it was inefficiently run in order to put the heat upon the senate. I have had to sit the last week watching the AAA bill for the olive growers, the peach growers, the asparagi men, the ~~citrus~~ growers, the walnut growers, and all the other growers, and dealers and stinkers in the State of California. I have been about as happy in it as you would be walking a block out of your usual way going some place, and having your entire formula for the day interfered with. I would like to sing a song that I want to be a statesman, but I cannot sing it for I am destined to be a dirty little driven errand boy. I don't know how to prevent it, and I do not think it ought to be prevented. The people who send me here have the right to whatever efforts I can give in matters that are of consequence to them, even though there is nothing appealing to me in the matters in which they are interested.

If you've followed the press, or even I imagine from your daily contacts, you will have observed the increasing criticism of Roosevelt, and the fact that with ordinary individuals like ourselves he has been "slipping" politically. Long ago, he lost the support of all the "best people". I don't think his "slipping" is sufficient to give real uneasiness in the next campaign. I certainly don't think that it is when you consider the various candidates upon the Republican ticket.

Mr. Hiram W. Johnson, Jr. - 3

He is a remarkably lucky man, however. Just after the fight upon the "Holding Company" bill, wherein I think he was eternally right, the propaganda had made serious inroads, and then came the lobby investigation, which was a mere shot in the dark; but out of it, the very first thing developed was the horrible trickery and ~~knavery~~ knavery of the holding companies, and the Western Union Telegraph Company in their faked wires, and the further fact that from the first two witnesses the concession was wrung that the two great power adjuncts alone had expended in the fight here more than a million dollars, and the amount which actually was spent staggers the imagination. When it is made plain, as it will be, that every penny of this money blown in for high powered rogues reflects itself in the rates ultimately paid by the consumers, of electricity, and that the pocket of every ordinary citizen of the United States is picked, as we used to say in 1910, to enable crooked corporations to bribe our very selves, I think there will be a reaction which will not only overcome the ill effects of the power trust propaganda, but will redound immensely to the benefit of Roosevelt.

One of the most interesting things in the political situation here is that the leadership on the Democratic side, speaking generically, has little more stomach for what Roosevelt is doing than the leadership upon the Republican side. It is

Mr. Hiram W. Johnson, Jr. - 4

simply the old story of the bipartisan combination when you touch the quickened financial nerve. And incidentally, the hollowest thing that has been presented politically is the constitutional stuff now about which the Republicans are orating, and old-standpat papers are raving. The great Bar Association composed of the Frank Hogans, and the James M. Becks, and the W. F. McCrackens, and all the other unsavory crew who have grown immensely rich out of representing special privilege, literally makes me sick. On the other hand, there are so many petty annoyances from those about Roosevelt, so little idea of realities from some of his advisers, the undoubted scheme to distribute money legally under relief laws, and legally, I must concede, under AAA laws, with the secret design, as I imagine in many instances, of affecting the political situation, ^{that it} is disgusting in the extreme. I presume though as always in this life of ours, ^{we must} ~~they have~~ weighed the advantages over the disadvantages, and in doing this with Roosevelt, I think we can balance the ledger greatly to his credit.

I am crazy to get away, - crazy mentally and physically, and yet I know when I get to California, there will be no rest, but I must make what little endeavor I can to hold myself in the firm of which I am a mere cipher. However, we

Mr. Hiram W. Johnson, Jr. - 5

all have our troubles, and trials, and tribulations, and to
each of us, his own seem harshest.

Mother joins in love to Miss Schow, Philip, and
yourself.

Affectionately,

Dad

ROYAL S. COPELAND, N. Y., CHAIRMAN
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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE

Sunday, July 28, 1935.

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

My dear Jack:

Yesterday I received your letter of July 24th. I think it would be all right now for any of those whom you mention to write to the Congressmen who are interested in reclamation, as suggested in your letter. We have three things in this matter which we must accomplish: First, the creation of the place; second, fixing a reasonable salary; and thirdly, the appointment. The only one with whom I could talk upon the subject of the creation of the place is Dr. Mead, with whom I will talk within the next day or two. The chances are, however, that he can do little more than suggest and urge.

We received a wire from Hiram saying that he had reached San Francisco. His was a wonderful trip, and I think it is marvelous he withstood it so gloriously. I can't imagine anything more educative than journeys like this across the continent. They are quite like the mode in which the English formerly polished off the education of their youth with a continental tour, travel.

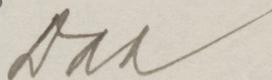
Mr. Hiram W. Johnson, Jr. - 2

Yesterday we had a good day, and how thankful were we all. The weather man says tomorrow it will be hell again, but one day out of fifteen or twenty enables us to breathe and live again. There seems to be a general consensus of opinion here that we'll be out of here, and on our way the latter part of August. It is terrible to have to stay here another month. It will be doubtful, even then. I am hoping for an explosion any day that will take us away.

I am not going to attempt a lengthy letter to you today. I have some annoying things before me which will require a couple of hours hard study. If the opportunity presents itself during the week I will write you again.

Love to the boys, Miss Schow, and yourself.

Affectionately,



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PETER G. GERRY, R. I.
RUSH D. HOLT, W. VA.

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON NAVAL AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, D. C.

ED AHEARN, CLERK

August 1, 1935.

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

My dear Jack:

I received yesterday your letter of July 30th. I was very glad that the communications from the Secretary of the Interior and the Public Works Administration gave you some information, and I was more glad to know that your situation with the Yacht Harbor Project was proceeding satisfactorily.

Our room last night when we went to bed about eleven o'clock was 86. Fortunately, we had a couple of decent days early in the week, and they have enabled us to live through another terrible hot spell. I have not had brought home to me so clearly since the war, the advantages which we have of mere existence in our home. I think everybody here has the same feeling about the Washington summer climate, although men and women live and hate and love apparently just the same in this damned hell hole as in a place that it seems the Lord made as a real habitat for human beings.

Mr. Hiram W. Johnson, Jr. - 2

You have doubtless, if you've read the papers with any degree of care, observed in the past month or two the whispering campaign that has been carried on against the President. It is a remarkable thing that the lobby investigation against the utility companies now proceeding, developed the genesis of it yesterday, and that, undoubtedly, responsibility for this whispering campaign that the President was suffering a not-unusual aftermath of infantile paralysis, emotional instability, and even insanity, rests with the great, thieving holding companies, which opposed the utility legislation. It is just another instance that crookedness is as natural to exploiting big business as sinuosities are to a snake. Of course, all big business is not crooked, but the exceptions prove the rule, and whenever you delve into their hidden practices, it is like exhibiting maggots in turning over an apparently polished stone.

There is no bill that comes before the senate now but what I am overwhelmed with wires and letters to do various and sundry things for our people. These I endeavor to do, and they are not done spectacularly, but ~~they~~ require constant and wearing effort. Pretty generally, I have been

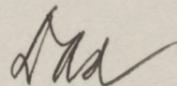
Mr. Hiram W. Johnson, Jr. - 3

fairly successful, but I am heartily sick of it.

I was taking this weekend with your mother on some kind of a vacation, but it is so extremely hot and disagreeable we both thought it would not be enjoyable.

We both send our love to you, the boys, and Miss Schow,

Affectionately,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dad".

PARK TRAMMELL, FLA., CHAIRMAN

DAVID I. WALSH, MASS.	FREDERICK HALE, MAINE
MILLARD E. TYDINGS, MD.	JESSE H. METCALF, R. I.
ELLISON D. SMITH, S. C.	JAMES J. DAVIS, PA.
GEORGE MC GILL, KANS.	HENRY W. KEYES, N. H.
RICHARD B. RUSSELL, JR., GA.	HIRAM JOHNSON, CALIF.
HOMER T. BONE, WASH.	
HARRY FLOOD BYRD, VA.	
WILLIAM H. DIETERICH, ILL.	
FRED H. BROWN, N. H.	
PETER G. GERRY, R. I.	
RUSH D. HOLT, W. VA.	

ED AHEARN, CLERK

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON NAVAL AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON, D. C.

August 12, 1935.

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

My dear Jack:

I did not have the opportunity to write you yesterday at length, and I have not now, but I had a strange feeling after I finished late yesterday afternoon here that I had been neglectful in not having written you. The fact is, I was so weary when I got through the absolutely essential things I had to do yesterday that I did not attend to my personal correspondence as is usual. There is nothing new to write you save the fact that we are all getting ready for an adjournment here, and hope that it will come at a very early date.

I received your letter about Jackson, the engineer. I don't know just what can be done with him,, and my experience has taught me that if he has here some individual interested in him, an assault from the outside would be wholly resented.

The great event of the week of course was your birthday. It is just beyond me to realize your age.

When I say this, I do not mean that I have not a very lively conception of your progress and advancement, but I simply can not understand how the years have slipped by with such rapidity. It is like when I looked at Hiram here, and grasped the maturity of his mind and the fact that he was no longer really a boy, it simply seemed impossible to me that his years had reached twenty one.

The little Rhode Island election is like a shot in the arm to the Republicans here. They have perked up amazingly, but they are still floundering around as to the mode of procedure, and as to a candidate. Borah has the opportunity he has sought all his life, and if he has the guts to go through, a fair chance of nomination. I am thoroughly convinced he is not gambler enough to hazard the United States Senatorship from Idaho upon a fair chance of attaining the Republican nomination for the President. I am looking to see him quit, therefore, long before things start, although he is extremely active now. The other candidates from the Senate are not worth considering for a moment. Candidates outside of the Senate like Frank Knox, Pat Hurley, Ogden Mills, James M. Beck, are even worse than the senatorial candidates. There is one man in the offing

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of whom little is said, that you can keep your eye on in the future, and that is James Wadsworth of New York. He is a dyed-in-the-wool, old-line conservative standpatter to the core, but has personality, poise, and a very fair ^{ability} ~~ability~~. Of course, prognostications such as these I make are at this time perhaps immature.

I hope you had a wonderful time on your birthday. I tried to get a telegram through to your boat, and was advised that Sacramento had telephoned it to Courtland, so I suppose you got it. It was merely a greeting from Mother and me. We called in the two boys at dinner time, and we drank our toast to our lad.

Mother joins, in love to all,

Affectionately,

Dad

KEY PITTMAN, NEV., CHAIRMAN

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ARTHUR H. VANDENBERG, MICH.
WALLACE H. WHITE, JR., MAINE

HENRIK SHIPSTEAD, MINN.

EDWARD J. TRENWITH, CLERK

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Sunday, August 18, 1935.

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

My dear Jack:

This morning I received your letter upon which you noted that it was mailed August 16, at 2:30 p.m. Pretty wonderful work, is it not? I am writing you this now about one p.m., and with the mass of stuff that I am cleaning up, it will be mailed probably within three hours to you.

I had something of a snicker over Philip's selection of a car. I suppose that cars are the appropriate and usual thing now for youngsters in college, but imagine during our day that some fellow felt that it was necessary that he have a spanking team with a beautiful barouche!

We ought to adjourn the end of this week. Everybody is hoping that we will. We are all sick and tired, and nasty tempered. Because of the nearness of adjournment, I am not going to attempt to write you at

Mr. Hiram W. Johnson, Jr. - 2

length today. Mother was so singularly affected by the terrible accident to Rogers and Post she has asked me to plead with you not to fly about. There have been too many accidents of late anyway, and while pretty generally, they are quickly hushed up, unless they take the toll of people as well known as Post and Rogers, the record still mounts; so, take care of yourself, if you can, and remember the appeal made by Mrs. Rogers when her husband started upon the journey. They tell a story here about Senator Harrison, who is a great golfer, asking him not to fly. Rogers said "Why not?". Harrison said: "Because of the danger of death from accident in the air", and Rogers' response was "You may be killed by a golf ball." The answer is in what happened.

Mother joins in love to you, the boys, and Miss Schow.

Affectionately,

Dad

KEY PITTMAN, NEV., CHAIRMAN
JOSEPH T. ROBINSON, ARK.
PAT HARRISON, MISS.
WALTER F. GEORGE, GA.
HUGO L. BLACK, ALA.
ROBERT F. WAGNER, N. Y.
TOM CONNALLY, TEX.
J. HAMILTON LEWIS, ILL.
NATHAN L. BACHMAN, TENN.
ELBERT D. THOMAS, UTAH
FREDERICK VAN NUYS, IND.
F. RYAN DUFFY, WIS.
JAMES P. POPE, IDAHO
ROBERT J. BULKLEY, OHIO
JAMES E. MURRAY, MONT.
DENNIS CHAVEZ, N. MEX.
HENRIK SHIPSTEAD, MINN.

WILLIAM E. BORAH, IOWA
HIRAM W. JOHNSON, CALIF.
ARTHUR CAPPER, KANS.
ROBERT M. LA FOLLETTE, JR., WIS.
ARTHUR H. VANDENBERG, MICH.
WALLACE H. WHITE, JR., MAINE

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

EDWARD J. TRENWITH, CLERK

Sunday, August 25, 1935.

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

My dear Jack:

I have this, Sunday, yours of August 23rd. I was very glad to read that you came out so well in your proceedings. You, doubtless, have read of our disappointment last night, and that we'll go back to work at twelve o'clock tomorrow. I don't think this will last very long, although every existing legislative fraud and job, which have been unable, thus far, to receive enactment, will be devoting the ensuing day and a half to lousy schemes and we may be delayed for a day or two. Our expectation is, of course, that we'll adjourn sine die tomorrow.

It is very doubtful that I am home in time for my birthday, so the fact that you will be in Los Angeles then need not in the slightest worry you. It need not, in any event, because I would not want the day observed at all, but it is quite likely Mother and I will not reach San Francisco until after the second.

Mr. Hiram W. Johnson, Jr. - 2

The Roche appointment came about in a very strange manner. I won't attempt to write it, but will save the tale until I see you in San Francisco.

I never was more disgusted with the Senate than during last night's antics here. I fear I am getting old.

Mother joins in love to the boys, Miss Schow, and yourself.

Affectionately,

Dad

KEY PITTMAN, NEV., CHAIRMAN

JOSEPH T. ROBINSON, ARK. WILLIAM E. BORAH, IDAHO
PAT HARRISON, MISS. HIRAM W. JOHNSON, CALIF.
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HUGO L. BLACK, ALA. ROBERT M. LA FOLLETTE, JR., WIS.
ROBERT F. WAGNER, N. Y. ARTHUR H. VANDENBERG, MICH.
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ROBERT J. BULKLEY, OHIO
JAMES E. MURRAY, MONT.

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

December 27, 1935.

HENRIK SHIPSTEAD, MINN.

EDWARD J. TRENWITH, CLERK

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

My dear Jack:

Christmas has come and gone and it held for your Mother and me just one great pleasure. That was talking to our dear ones at midnight over three thousand miles of storm and snow and ice. It does not make any difference what we say on occasions like this. The mere fact that we can hear the voice and see you directly in front of us give us the thrill and the enjoyment. The telephone company did the job well for us this time. They got you on the stroke of midnight, according to our time, and the voices were as clear as a bell to me. I gathered from our little conversation that you were in pretty good shape, only my inquiry was limited to - how are you? I do hope this note finds you in your accustomed physical vigor and excellent health. Let me know, please. Your Mother and I are in fairly good shape, although at the end of our journey, she got her usual cold, and has been suffering from it since. It is so difficult to restrict her and keep her within

Mr. Hiram W. Johnson, Jr. -2

December 27, 1935.

bounds that I really worry when she has one of these colds of hers.

The people here had what they always cry for, a "white" Christmas. It was disagreeably cold, lots of snow on the ground, and at the time we were telephoning you, the great Supreme Court Building, across the street was almost obscured by the flying flurries. Yesterday, morning the thermometer was four, and since our return, it has been disagreeably cold. I hope that it will let up sufficiently, so that we can get about with some degree of comfort. I miss my little noon-day plunge at the Olympic Club, and I had determined I would substitute for it a walk of a mile or two daily here, but walking now, under existing conditions, is quite impossible.

A week from today we returned, and it seems now as if we had never been away. I spent the first day talking to the newspaper reporters, who came here in great number, but "stalled" them. I did not wish immediately to indulge in statements Senators so love to make, nor to commit myself, politically or otherwise. There will be ample time in the next few months, and there are one or two things I want to see with clarity before I indulge in the usual flamboyant utterances.

Mr. Hiram W. Johnson, Jr. - 3

December 27, 1935.

Saturday night the White House telephoned and asked your Mother and me to come to luncheon with the President on Sunday. This we did and had a very delightful time, with just himself, one of his sons, and his confidential secretary, Miss LeHand, present. He looks just the same, and endeavors to maintain his extraordinary charming good nature and philosophic poise. I think I could detect an under-current of worry, however. He said with some little bitterness that 85 per cent of the press were hostile, and he dilated upon the campaign fund the Republicans would have next year. He placed such an extravagant figure of so many millions that I am doubtful if he had any really accurate idea. He talked of the radio and the fashion in which his opponents were buying advertising space under the guise of speaking of Blifken's sarsaparilla at the beginning and the end of the allotted time, and devoting all the rest of it to abuse of him and his administration; but all the while he was insisting that the political outlook was excellent. He expressed some worry about the Supreme Court and evidently was fearful of what would be done with his cherished AAA, and perhaps certain other of his policies. Your Mother came away saying he was a very worried man. I did not think this was entirely correct, although there is no doubt he is looking forward to a very nasty and perhaps hard

Mr. Hiram W. Johnson, Jr. 4

December 27, 1935.

fight next year. On the Republican side, Borah is at present dwarfing all other candidates in the matter of publicity. He seems to have the press representatives here generally with him, and he has the capacity for furnishing them news. One has rather a contempt for him, when with some little knowledge of publicity, his endeavor to reach for it on every occasion is so obvious. When Schall was run over by an automobile, he not only expressed his sympathy but talked about the horrors of automobile traffic, and the necessity for some sort of action, etc. When Lindbergh left the country, Borah demanded the immediate passage of laws for the suppression of crime, and every little instance that transpires, Borah tells what the congress should do in order to remedy any wrong, or accomplish the desired object. It is rather laughable to me because I know him so well. At the same time, it is interesting because I do know him so well, to see his ability as a publicity agent, and the ease with which he directs the moronic members of the press. I still can not rid myself of the idea that he will not go through, but his actions, at present, are those of one who intends a finished fight. I can't see Hoover save in California, except as an object of contempt and ridicule. The others, outside of Borah and Hoover in the Republican picture are a lot of the com-

Mr. Hiram W. Johnson, Jr. - 5

December 27, 1935.

monest sort of selling platers. Hearst is shooting in the air for Landon of Kansas, and may get somewhere ultimately, but, at present, I don't think he has gone very far.

I have no doubt it is fine for you to have the boys with you for a few weeks. One of my great regrets is that I am not there, so that I could appropriate them occasionally.

There is a general agreement here on a short session, with as few matters as possible to be taken up. No one, however, can prophecy about what the congress will do, nor how long a given job, or no job, will occupy it. I am hoping, however, to get home this year reasonably early.

Mother and I send love to Miss Schow, the boys, and yourself,

Affectionately,

Dad