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April 15, 1942.

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

My dear Jack:

I think, as you impliedly expressed yourself yesterday in your wire, it was a rotten idea to keep a fellow standing around all day, and at the end of the day not knowing what his assignment was, or when it was going to be told him. This may be the regular occurrences with the Army, and according to Cal, it is, but I think it is a damned poor system. However, there is nothing to do but possess your soul with patience and take what is coming. We might rail from now until doomsday about the system, and we would not be able to alter it.

I have been thinking of you ever since the receipt of your wire. At first, I was indignant, but latterly, I began to think that they were probably following the line they had to follow for many years, and we could do nothing about it anyway, however much we yowled.

I just wanted to send you a word of encouragement, and to tell you keep a stiff upper lip; a few days will determine what will be done, and how. Until then I send you all my love, in which Mother joins.

Affectionately,

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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

April 18, 1942.

ROLAND YOUNG, CLERK

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

My dear Jack.:

I am dictating this at home where I am compelled to be by reason of another cold. Mother, too, is much more seriously ill than I am and I feel very sorry for her. The arthritis from which she has suffered has kicked up a row this week, and her pain has been intense; so, you can see the two old folks have been in a bad way. In addition to this, young Roche and his wife arrived, and we would have liked to have shown them some greater attention than we did, but we had to be content with taking them to luncheon a couple of times at the Senate restaurant, giving them the automobile and chauffeur to enjoy themselves, and generally, tried to make their stay pleasant, save in the one particular, of remaining at our house. Neither one of us felt equal to the latter task.

I don't know just what Ted is here about, but he seems to think that everything has come off successfully with him, and I let it go at that. I have pursued the same tactics that I have ever followed of divorcing myself completely from any activity here before any governmental body. I have neither inquired of him nor have I, in any way, learned what he is here about, save it is something relating to oil. In all matters of this kind, where the firm might be a party I have with meticulous care remained aloof, having nothing to do with the matter, nor participating in the emoluments. I have kept this up so long, and so often have had occasion to call it to the attention of the firm that nobody longer thinks anything of it.

2.

I send you a little item that appeared in yesterday's Washington-Times-Herald, which indicates that somebody is keeping tab on you.

You have been in the Army a week now. How do you like it ?

I hope that the cloth Mother sent you enabled you to be the same nattily dressed soldier that you were as a civilian. Mother limped all over this town trying to get what was appropriate, and even received some samples from New York.

I looked at the photographs of the Chief of Staff and Harry Hopkins, the famous representative of our Army abroad, and really, I could not say much for their sartorial accomplishments; and so, if they set the example in the Army, there is nothing that poor Majors have to imitate, and there is no selection they could make that would redound to their pulchritude.

Mother joins me in best wishes that the pin-pricks from which probably you have suffered in the beginning of your service may be speedily over, and that it may be a pleasure in the future.

Both of us send our love.

Affectionately,

Dad

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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

April 25, 1942.

ROLAND YOUNG, CLERK

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

My dear Jack:

It is now nearly noontime on Saturday and I have been looking at the mail with great care all during the week hoping for a letter from you. I am anxious to learn how you are getting on, and whether you like your work. I could write you quite a bit upon this theme, but I content myself with the mere inquiry.

We're struggling along domestically here, and worse, otherwise. I have been under the weather for a couple of weeks now, and while I feel somewhat better I am still far from being myself. Mother is the great problem at present, though. She developed an awful arthritis, which leaves her limping and in constant pain. Finally, she has gone back to Dr. Hall, the man who attended her in her accident in 1936, and I am hoping for some results; but the two of us, she in very marked degree because of her lameness and the pain, and myself, in lesser degree, are the very picture of two very old people. I won't dilate upon this.

Summer weather at last, apparently, has hit us. I think it is here now to stay. I have gone to some of the ball games of late and taken your Mother with me. The teams, thus far that I have seen, barring the New York team, are a pretty poor lot, but the days have been fairly good, and it has been a great pleasure to sit in the open air.

Mr. Hiram W. Johnson, Jr. - 2

We're in very unhappy times. For obvious reasons I don't discuss them with you, although I should like to write you my views. There is nothing, of course, for us to do, but whip the Japs, and do it at the earliest possible date. No self-respecting nation could take from them what we received, and particularly when it was such a foul blow. I have every confidence that we'll speedily chastise them.

With my love, in which Mother joins, I am

Affectionately,

HWA

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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

May 3, 1942.

ROLAND YOUNG, CLERK

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

My dear Jack:

Your very welcome letter was received yesterday. Mother and I pored over it, and there were one or two expressions at the close of the letter that alarmed us a bit. You said, however, that you did not intend immediately to jawp concerning them, and therefore, I won't bother you about the conditions now surrounding you. Bear them a reasonable time, and then please advise me about them.

We continue in the invalid class here, but the whole story is expressed in what I have heretofore said to you, in the gradual sniping of the years at the human frame. Mother, apparently, gets no better with her arthritis, but I am hoping that the past week or so, as she has settled down for treatments in Dr. Hall's office, that she will suddenly find herself very much better. Sufficient time has not elapsed yet.

We were both immensely surprised to learn that Philip is coming to San Francisco and will take up his residence at Hiram's home. I am not clear about this change. He was doing so wonderfully well in the mountains that I fear somewhat the change. However, perhaps, he knows best. I have a great deal of confidence in the boy doctoring himself. I think he would have been kept in the hospital indefinitely had it not been for his own willpower and his determination to get out. I think he is really a wonderful boy, and that we can look forward - provided everything goes well - to great deeds by him, - deeds that we won't agree with perhaps, but which he will see through to the end. Here, everything is topsy-turvy in confusion, but so great are our resources that we'll come out on top.

Mr. Hiram W. Johnson, Jr. - 2

Hogan is still at Cincinnati with Doctor Fischer. He is having various operations on his mouth to clear up what he thinks is an infection. I do hope he gets along well. When I think of the fight he has made, and realize the odds against him I am reconciled to the years' encroachments, and feel a great thankfulness that I am spared in the manner that I have been. He is coming here probably immediately upon the conclusion of the work that is now being done to him.

I have been trying to do what Dr. Fischer wishes, and I am at present wrestling with the Secretary of State. I am not without hope that I may obtain some sort of document for him that will prevent the annoyance Fischer in Mexico has had to suffer in the past. I was more than happy to go to the bat for him.

George Selmeier was in the office yesterday. He told me that he thought of being a candidate for Congress, but he feared the great sprawling Vallejo that had grown up on our preparations for war; and that although he felt that Buck had outlived his usefulness he was very doubtful of undertaking a candidacy because of conditions existing at Mare Island. Did you ever run across him?

I wish there was some way that I could do what I wish for you and save you the difficulties which may beset your path.

With all my love, in which Mother joins,

Affectionately,

And.

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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

May 9, 1942.

ROLAND YOUNG, CLERK

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

My dear Jack:

Another week has passed, and a week full of confusion in the press, and some incidents here that have taken precedence of all else. The incident concerning Senator Walsh of Mass. is one we wouldn't even have dreamed of. I cannot believe it to be true. Those of us who have served here long were a unit in believing that he ought immediately to have gone to the bat. Those who advise him otherwise do so upon the theory that the paper making the charges in New York, - the New York Post, was a paper of little or no circulation, and only publicity would be given to a refutation of the charges and make the situation worse than before. This is a most damnable determination, in my opinion, and you can imagine how I have felt during the past week in the undercover discussions that have been held. Suffice it to say, that I have no sympathy with the policy of delay, and personally have been in favor of an immediate denunciation of those responsible for the infamous charges.

I have always considered Walsh an ascetic, - almost a member of the Church, than whom no man on the floor was more intimate with its hierarchy than he. I got myself into a fine state in ~~the~~ discussion of the course pursued until I felt exactly as I felt in 1936. However, I am quieter now, though each day has confirmed me in my opinion how to deal with the subject.

We were dumbfounded to receive a letter from Chris this morning. Mother had a brain storm and wired him to put himself at Philip's disposal immediately upon his arrival in San Francisco. He writes

Mr. Hiram W. Johnson, Jr. -2

this morning that Philip remained, I think, only one day in San Francisco, and then went back to Twain - Harte. I presume the explanation of this will come in our next letter from you. Philip wrote a very fine description of his condition and gradual improvement. All the doctors congratulated him upon it, and said he ought to be a doctor. He should have been something beside a dreamer and a thinker, but perhaps, after all, he has chosen the right course.

We are hungry for news from you, and I may say, hungry for news of Hiram. I keep hearing of different people whose mail is opened, and for that reason I can't write you as I would wish.

I send you this note merely that you may have some word from us. Incidentally, Mother is going every other day to Dr. Hall, her old physician, and undergoing treatments. I shudder to think what the result will be when our automobile is sequestered.

With all my love, in which Mother joins,
I am

Affectionately,

Ada

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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

May 17, 1942.

ROLAND YOUNG, CLERK

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

My dear Jack:

We received your latest letter this morning at home, and I am answering it at once.

I read with a great deal of interest your statement that you would go to school, evidently to prepare yourself to be an officer. I don't know how such things are done, but I should imagine one with legal training, who has a head on his shoulders, would be able to make himself felt. However, we'll take it philosophically, and hope for the best. I can't understand the long hours that you are put up against. It would seem that with the innumerable individuals who are now taken into service that there would be no want of aid essential to a reasonable number of hours in any given duty. I suppose this is another conundrum that will work out.

We have been fairly busy here the past week, and particularly with an explosion caused by Downey in reference to our automobiles. I went up, the first morning of the gas rationing, prepared to prove just how many gallons of gasoline were absolutely essential for me. Your Mother for sometime has had arthritis. It has grown no better. I have written you she went to see Dr. Hall, who ministered to her when she broke her arm, and she is under his care now. She goes downtown every other day. She has to go down in the car, of course, and each trip to the doctor, by actual measurement, is something over three miles each way. I was very grateful to the people in command, who, without explanation by me, tendered me on the morning of the rationing an X card entitling me to unlimited gasoline.

Mr. Hiram W. Johnson, Jr. - 2

This fellow Downey, pretending that he was performing a patriotic duty, introduced a Resolution that forbade members of the Senate to accept X cards, and what a hell of a row it started with the press. Barkley, the Democratic leader, grew bitterly indignant, as did nearly all the rest of us, and when the Downey Resolution came to a vote, after he had received a spanking, just two Senators voted for it, - Pepper and Downey. It subsequently transpired that Downey had two automobiles in California, and had bought 16 tires for them, which he alleged he was going to use for the purpose of inspecting defense works; so out of it all he came a rather badly battered man. However, the incident was not worth the attention paid to it in the press. They played it up, and they are playing it up yet as a terrible case of special privilege appropriated to themselves by the Congress.

The facts are, - and these are the facts I personally know, because they concerned us. I went to the rationing prepared to prove the amount of gasoline essential for my needs. Before I could make any explanation the girl tendered me an X card saying that these were intended for Members of Congress by Mr. Henderson. It entitled me to all the gasoline I desired. I thanked her, and accepted the card, and that was all. Now, 200 of these cards were tendered to legislators and accepted by them. Forty thousand were given to diplomats, bureaucrats, and other residents of Washington. Not a word was said of the 40,000, while the 200 have enabled the newspapers to slur the Congress (they may need slurring and may deserve it but not on this thing), and utilize it as an excuse for abuse and denunciation. Barkley was quite right in denouncing the whole thing, and asserting that there was a real conspiracy here to blacken the Congress so that the people should look with placid and contented eyes upon its abolition. It will be abolished within a few years now. I need not tell you what this means, and I am only hazarding one man's opinion in regard to the matter.

Mr. Hiram W. Johnson, Jr. - 3

I have had some correspondence with Dr. Fischer concerning his travel and I have been trying to aid him in such journeys as he may take into Mexico and other countries. I have not met with very much success, solely because of the stiff-necked attitude of the Secretary of State. There is no reason why the Doctor should not be granted all the privileges that accrue to a man of his distinguished past, but I imagine the authorities are very chary now in such matters. In the course of his correspondence with me he has written me incidentally about Dr. Hogan's condition. It may be all right from the Doctor's standpoint, but I don't like it at all.

Mother was delighted to have your encomiums upon the neckties. She is constantly thinking of you, and endeavoring to get things for the pleasure of the boys and yourself.

Woth all my love, in which Mother joins,
I am

Affectionately,
Wm

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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

May 24, 1942.

ROLAND YOUNG, CLERK

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

My dear Jack:

We received your note of Friday, May 22, at the house this morning. It is pretty good, with the disruption of regular services, to receive this letter in the brief time that we did.

I am very curious about what you describe in the nature of a "tip off", and shall be glad to know to what it relates. The difficulty with the opening of mail, and the endeavor to piece together isolated statements which may indicate anything perfectly apparent to a fair-minded man, is that some unprincipled individual, who is looking for an opportunity to injure another will pay little or no attention to the facts nor the context, and endeavor in any way he can to involve the one he is determined "to get". I have thought for a long time there was a possibility that my mail was tampered with. Now you come along to confirm it. I will try to arrive at some scheme by which mail may reach you without apparently being sent to you by me. I may do this in the name of Miss Schow, but I doubt if anything is of real value where malice is at work. Thank God, neither of us can be accused of the one sin that is a horror in the eyes of all decent people now, - treason; and therefore, I don't find myself unduly excited. I don't feel, of course, that I can write you with the intimacy that I have done for many years in the past. The censorship grows worse, and no one can tell what is developed by it. The only thing that I see to do is to continue our correspondence and tell every bastard to go plumb to hell, knowing that neither of us ever has thought of disloyalty. I think we can afford this attitude. The real trouble is that loyalty as understood by those in power now does not mean loyalty to the Nation, but loyalty to the individual who sits in the seat of the mighty at the present time.

Mr. Hiram W. Johnson, Jr. - 2

I notice your remarks upon the increased pay and I don't understand why the discrimination is made between the Army and the Navy. I will look into it.

If I conveyed the impression to you that Mother's arm was afflicted, I gave you a bit of misinformation and did an injustice to her wings. She has a very acute arthritis. It affects her legs in excruciating pain on any sudden movement, and she suffers the "tortures of the damned" with it. She has been taking all kinds of medicine, but they have done her apparently no good. She is under the care of ~~the~~ physician that she had in 1936 at the time when she broke her arm, Dr. Hall.

The gas cards kicked up such a row here, of which I would be a part, that I unburdened myself to you. The astonishing thing about the matter is that all the newspapers berated the senate in most extravagant fashion regarding these cards, and they have kept it up continuously ever since. The Walsh matter was of a different sort, much more important. This will probably die down. There is a very large proportion of the Senate that don't wish it touched, and a somewhat larger portion, I am very glad to say, which has felt it should be blown off and drastic measures taken. I belong to the latter crowd. I cannot fathom how any man can permit charges of the character that were hurled against Walsh continuing for three weeks without denunciation. It seems to me that with such foul charges I would be shouting my head off against the scoundrel who made them, and nothing could keep me from it. Enough said.

With my love, in which Mother shares, I am

Your affectionate Father,

Hiram W. Johnson

Mr. Hiram W Johnson, Jr. - 3

P:S: I am trying with this letter to adopt a course suggested by your Mother and address it to Miss Schow with your letter inside.

There are such varied organizations relating to censorship, and as an aside to that, opening mail, that I can't hope to warn you of them all. The Army has its censorship and its mail opener. The Navy has likewise. Every branch of government is filled with this sort of snooping, but probably the worst of all is Colonel Bill Donovan's organization, popularly called "Donovan's Cossacks". Attached to his outfit are very many wealthy people, and I have noticed at least one publication of late that stated he is the one man that makes no accounting to anybody. He is very friendly ostensibly with me, and he is on terms of intimacy with the Neylans.

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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

May 31, 1942.

ROLAND YOUNG, CLERK

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

My dear Jack:

Since your last letter I have been consumed with curiosity to know just what you referred to in its first paragraph. I hope that curiosity won't treat me as harshly as it treated the celebrated cat, but I am waitin' mad until I hear from you. Perhaps your letter will come tomorrow, and relieve your Mother and myself.

We had a great military parade here yesterday, but unfortunately the day was the first real hot day we have had - and when I say hot, I mean hot - and the people did not turn out as well as they should have. I confess I stayed in the house, and I am engaged now in digging up my old light suits getting ready for summer. It depends upon whom you talk to, whether the parade was a great success. Some were enthusiastic over the showing, and others were unduly critical.

You know I have been fearing the worst in your case, and that of Hiram. I fear - I hope needlessly - that either one, or both of you will be ordered to service overseas, and if this should be they would make one cynical response, - you are in the Army now, and there would be nothing to do but obey our orders and do our duty. Somehow or other, I have the hunch that this war is not going to be a long one, and that probably we'll see its end this year. I do hope so. Hitler has spilled the blood of his nation so lavishly that I have a feeling he is getting to the end of his manpower and can stand very little more. Let us hope that I am not wrong; although I observe all the experts in unity assert the length of the war will be very much greater.

Mr. Hiram W. Johnson, Jr. - 2

I found it necessary to begin my treatments at the hospital again, and I am going there now with fair regularity. It is rather difficult for me, because the hospital has been re-located about twenty miles from town, and is stocked with strange doctors. Some of them I know, and that relieves me a bit. The man who has general supervision of the hospital, Dr. Ross McIntyre has been for some years very kind to me. You know how little I like going to a place where services are extended without compensation, and even where I can, as with the dentist, I go outside the hospital; but all of the records of mine from 1936 are kept at the hospital, and I must say the new men respond very considerately to me.

I don't like Hogan's progress at all. His great friend, Dr. Fischer, is attending him, and he is fortunate in having him and Mrs. Hogan with him; still he is seeking an infection (he is a great man to discover infections and immediately go at them), and probably until all his teeth are yanked out he will still be seeking it; but I fear in his debilitated condition, lying in bed an indefinite period can aid him little.

Good-bye my boy. You are ever in my thoughts.
Your Mother joins in sending you lots of love.

Affectionately,



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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

June 16, 1942.

ROLAND YOUNG, CLERK

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

My dear Jack:

I sent you a wire this morning that I was unable to send you my customary letter on Sunday and would repair the omission today. This is the reparation and confession and my apology for not writing you as usually I had.

I read your recent letter and I cannot understand why they give you such tremendously long hours of watching or guarding, or whatever else you do during that period. I presume that they play no favorites with this sort of thing, and that others similarly situated with yourself, are compelled to undergo the same fatigue. But whatever the reason, I can see no earthly excuse, with the number of men in the Army at present, why you should be subjected to such long periods. I could quickly sympathize with you when I read that you did not get sleep enough now. I do hope that such strenuous hours will soon be ended for you.

There was a great deal of criticism of the news of the naval battles and of the sinking of the LEXINGTON. I don't feel like growling at it, because it happened a friend of ours has been in command of some of the engagements. He is Admiral Nimitz for whom I have a high regard. I presume because all the news is given out by one source that the head of the game is wholly responsible for it. I can't see the use of it particularly, when we realize that the news is known at once by the enemy, and we have to wait a couple of months for it. It seems to me that the American people are treated like a lot of morons in the dissemination of war news. Perhaps there is some justification for it that I am unable to see. I rather think we under-estimated the lousy Japanese, and probably are still doing so, although we have had enough to understand them pretty well now.

Mr. Hiram W. Johnson, Jr. - 2

My eyes are turned constantly to California, and I think there is food for reflection in the Japanese endeavoring to take the Aleutian Islands or some of them, and I fear that some day we'll awake to the fact that from that base we'll be threatened.

Here I am indulging in prognostications of what may happen. The only justification for it is that I am fearful that the defenses of the Pacific Coast have not received the same meticulous care that has been lavished on the Atlantic Coast.

Well, Mother's birthday has come and gone. We thought at first she would have a small gathering of people at dinner, but we were disappointed in some of those whom she desired, and finally she gave it up. We ate dinner alone. I blew out the candles on the birthday cake, and altogether perhaps we had as good a time as if we had a number of friends at dinner.

I regret to say that your Mother does not improve. She remains about the same, walking with difficulty and suffering a great deal of pain. She has been undergoing some treatments here, but, apparently, they have not been of much value. I was very glad to find all of you recalling her birthday and wiring or writing her. You sent her a very sweet little note that she appreciated beyond words. I suppose you know your Mother's age. Some days that I have observed her, as she came back from the doctor, I have not liked the situation at all. I don't know what we can do. It is needless to say that I would do anything that held out the slightest alleviation or cure.

I was very much interested in your comments on the court-martial. I could imagine you, with your experience, prosecuting, and I felt very sorry indeed for the defendant.

With all my love, in which your Mother joins,
I am

Affectionately,

Had

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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

June 21, 1942.

ROLAND YOUNG, CLERK

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

My dear Jack:

Like a thief in the night summer has stolen upon us. We received its welcome the past few weeks, but its stay with us has been temporary and easily borne. The last few days it has opened wide its arms, and, in consequence, we're all sweating and cursing. I am inclined to think if this weather continues, we'll be providing for some way in which we can get home. This will be of little value to us in the west if the grant of surcease of it is only illusory. To have a vacation of any value to us in the west is to have a definite term, which will give us time for some stay in our homes, and a definite determination of when we must return. If this kind of a vacation is granted, we'll make an effort to come back, if it were only for a couple of weeks; but, to attempt to return when all of the time will be taken up in travel would be perfectly ridiculous, and we would not make the endeavor. I feel that your Mother requires some little vacation, and of course, I can think of no better place than our own home. This is my usual Sunday letter, and when I tell you that she arose this morning almost hysterical with nervousness you'll understand how bothered I am getting. I think, perhaps, it was the heat, but I am not at all sure of this.

And, by the way, I have had some letters from Dr. Fischer relating to his desires to be away during the summer in foreign countries. Incidentally, the Doctor has conveyed to me, very gently I assume, that Dr. Hogan is not doing well. The poor little Doctor has been in bed constantly since his arrival back here, and we're beginning to feel a little fearful of his weakened condition. I do hope that he recovers fully, and that his sickness will bring no aftermath. As you know, he is with Dr. Fischer in Cincinnati, and Mrs. Hogan is with him.

Mr. Hiram W. Johnson, Jr. - 2

I read your notes very closely. I find such expressions as "somebody's a foundling" and I am afraid to ask why.

If you care to write me, do so, although, as I wrote you sometime since, you are in the Army now, and they are a damned inhuman brutal set.

The premier of England, - the Honorable Mr. Churchill, is paying us another visit. Where he is, what he says, - and more important still, what he wants has not been told to us. We can be very certain that, as at every time when he has visited us, there's some great disaster, or some petty one, and he calls upon us for help and to rescue him. He is having difficulty now in Lybia, and he's probably over here for us to fix another front so as to divert the attention of our enemies. This is Stalin's idea, and he is all powerful at present. What a shudder I get when I think of the pay-off in this war. I feel perfectly certain of its outcome, but our Allies then will be the people suspicious of us, and looking to us for assistance of every sort. The President by blurting out recently that there would be no back-breaking debts put upon any of our Allies after this war made perfectly plain that all we are giving them now in spite of the Lend-Lease Bill is given them without hope of any return at all.

The Japanese worry me a bit, too. They have displayed a sort of military genius that keeps one questioning what they are going to do next, and I fear that our State will have to bear the brunt of any attack they make. We were trying to figure out the other day how many Jap ships we had sunk, and some optimistic individual made it double the Japanese Navy. This was derived from newspaper accounts, and without confirmation. How they can last long, and how Hitler can last as long as he has is beyond me. Blast them all.

With all my love, in which Mother joins, I am

Affectionately,

Hu

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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

June 28, 1942.

ROLAND YOUNG, CLERK

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

My dear Jack:

Mother received your last letter and permitted me to read it. I am sorry that I mixed up a quotation from your previous letter. Of course, it was done inadvertently and without due consideration. Pardon me, please.

I am at a disadvantage dealing with the military, and cannot understand some of their regulations. If you think I can be of any value in any way, please don't hesitate to write me. I am perfectly willing to do anything, even though it might be against my judgment. Mother's hope is that you will not be disturbed in San Francisco, and so it is mine. This is the great thing with both of us. I cannot write you as I would prefer for obvious reasons. But, however much you may be very critical of me, remember lad, that you are ever present in my thoughts, and that there is nothing I will not do for you.

The war drags its weary bloody length along. We have not as yet felt the full impact of it, except with the Japanese. How I dread placing our line in Europe and in Asia, and I think I can foresee, although Hitler is, in my opinion, close to his end, the terrible casualty lists. Some people here are just awaiting these results, - eagerly awaiting them; and they will never be happy until they can read the results and they are written large in red. It is this that makes me shudder. Perhaps it is old age that causes this sort of feeling, but it is none the less strong. I abhor, as much as our leaders glory in, the shedding of blood, particularly of the killing of the men of our young generation. I pray to the Lord to avert it, although I don't know the possibility of this being done. I am writing you perhaps in a maudlin and sentimental way today, but the utter futility of this struggle, with all that it entails, grows upon me.

Mr. Hiram W. Johnson, Jr. - 2

I believe that we are headed for a horrible holocaust, and my very soul rebels at it. Well, there is no use talking about it, and no use grouching at it, you will pardon, please, this ebullition.

I looked at the photograph of Churchill being exhibited by our Chief of Staff at the greatest maneuvers we have ever had, with old man Stimson with his mouth open looking on, and others crowded about. Churchill looked like a cross between a spider and a hog. It does not require much imagination to see the thoughts moving him, but it requires a great deal of imagination to conjure up the thoughts moving our representatives.

Washington is a mad house these days, with thousands of Englishmen exhibiting themselves, and thousands of Americans paying them court; with a populace devoted to peaceful pursuits being whipped into a frenzy and obeying the slightest nod, and with a national legislature obeying with servile acquiescence, it is impossible to foretell what next will be done. However, when the Japanese treacherously assaulted Pearl Harbor, and Hitler and Mussolini declared war upon us, there was nothing else to do but fight it out. All that goes before, no matter what the blame, counts for naught. However much a few people like myself realize the terrible effects of war and regret the situation, there was no other recourse probably than to fight.

I wish that I could in some way lighten your burden. I don't know how. If you know of any method that I can be of aid, don't hesitate to write me, please.

With all my love, in which Mother joins,
I am

Your affectionate Father,

Hiram W. Johnson

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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

July 5, 1942.

ROLAND YOUNG, CLERK

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

My dear Jack:

I came over today, the 5th of July, in the hope that I would find a letter from you. It probably will be received tomorrow, and that would have been the usual time for it; but, as you know, one hopes for news from those for whom he cares, even in advance of the time he knows it should arrive.

Yesterday was our National Holiday. I wonder if at other places it was observed as here. Its celebration was cried down prior to the day, and pretty successfully. Some wag said, we had abolished what had been in the past our greatest Holiday so that there might be no untoward event, and nothing said that would be displeasing to the English; and for that reason, the speaker insisted we should celebrate Guy Fowkes Day, rather than the 4th of July. So, we may see in the future Guy Fowkes substituted for Uncle Sam, and our patriotic tributes paid to the escape of our Parliament from the Guy Fowkes conspiracy.

I am awaiting the receipt of your letter to find out how your last court-martial went. It seems a funny role for you to be filling, although not inappropriate if your superiors wish the job well done. The trouble with me is that I have grown so old that I would not want anything but a heinous offense punished.

Mother apparently does not improve. I can't understand what an arthritis is. Some of the doctors have been at pains to explain, but it seems to me they all become confused in telling of the relation of the nerve centres to the difficulty, and they all wind up by saying it is a horrid thing, causing excruciating pain, and they have not discovered any cure for it. I hate to think that she

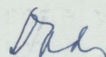
Mr. Hiram W. Johnson, Jr. - 2

must carry this burden the rest of her life, yet this seems to be her fate. She will only go to physicians whom she knows, and our acquaintance with the apt ones is very limited. I am going regularly to the Naval Hospital here, and we receive from them advice; and in addition, Mother is being treated by her doctor, Dr. Hall, who did such a remarkable job on her arm.

The situation becomes complicated because under the rationing of gasoline we'll be cut down to three or four gallons a week. When you consider that from our house to the doctor's office downtown is between three and four miles, and the distance to the Naval Hospital (the newly constructed one) is very much more, I don't know what we are goint to do. We'll work it out some way, I guess, but the theory that we are going to conserve gasoline by putting up our own cars, and riding then in taxicabs is a lot of boloney.

With all my love, in which Mother joins, I am

Affectionately,



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ROLAND YOUNG, CLERK

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

July 12, 1942.

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

My dear Jack:

Your letter arrived as usual on time, and just after I had mailed my last letter to you.

I don't know the best way to approach the problem, but because of the nearness of the visit of Trubee Davison I have done nothing as yet. He and Cal are going to call on me Tuesday, and I hope that he may have something to suggest. I don't expect it, but I feel that relying on the conversation of the gentleman you referred to, who promised you definitely the promotion is like relying on a broken reed. However, on Tuesday I will see what the others suggest, and then probably do what I think is the appropriate thing.

I was fortunate in being able to do a little thing that Cal asked of me. He came to me after the matter had been passed upon by the House, and the chances were very strongly against our being able to alter it in the Senate. In addition, it would apparently hold up the great Army bill and cause it to go to conference and thus suffer some delay. By dint of rather hurried and hard work we succeeded in getting the amendment in the Senate, and the promise of the House people that they would put the bill right through the House, if it came back there. All went well, and I breathed a sigh of relief when it was over. Even though the matter amounted to nothing Cal had made the request of me, and he was utterly at sea. This is what is termed here the "pay-off", which simply means if you ever ask a favor of anybody, you can expect very soon thereafter to be asked to render a favor in return, and if you don't do it, you are a pretty ungrateful fellow, and if you do accomplish it, it would have been accomplished by the asker by his own endeavors.

I got a bump on the head a few days ago, and although it was of no consequence, I have been kept pretty quiet since. I was sitting at a night game during the week, and enjoying myself immensely, when some fellow knocked a

Mr. Hiram W. Johnson, Jr. - 2

foul. I did not see where it was coming, or where it was going, until I felt I was pretty well conked. There was no trouble with it, except the discomfort of having a bump on the head, but the incident is likely to interfere very much with the enjoyment of Mother and myself. These night game, I think, are beautiful spectacles. They formerly began at nine-o'clock with a park splendidly lighted, and the mere fact of being in the open air at that time of night is restful and soothing. The spectacle, to my mind, is very beautiful. If I have to cease baseball I will have to quit the one source of enjoyment that I have. I can't go to the theatre any more, nor even to the movies, and I am unable to go out of an evening unless I park myself close to a lavatory, and this is not always convenient. So I have nothing left but baseball, where I sit in seats of my own selection, just a little way from a lavatory, and enjoy myself immensely. I presume this will be forbidden me in the future.

We all hope that your matter may be cleared up this week, and with my love, in which Mother joins, I am

Affectionately,

Don.

TOM CONNALLY, TEX., CHAIRMAN

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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

July 19, 1942.

ROLAND YOUNG, CLERK

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

My dear Jack:

Your letter of July 17 duly reached me. Of course, the fact that it was written in pencil did not occur to me at all. I am just as glad to have it as if it had been stenciled in ink. Don't ever think of suggesting that I excuse pencil in your letters.

I thank you very much indeed for your remarks upon being hit by a ball. The blow did not do a thing to me, and I suffered no ill effects from it. May I always be as fortunate !

I was very much in doubt what to do in the matter of the Colonel, who made the promise to you, and being so much in doubt I did nothing. I talked at length about it with Cal and saw that he was strongly of the opinion that I ought not to approach the Colonel on such a theme. In my meeting with Trubee Davison, who was not the man I was thinking of, and whom I found I did not know as I had expected, I tentatively took the matter up with him, but Davison was not very receptive. I may have been wrong in my judgment, but I never had in mind, what you seem to realize fully, the danger of obtaining the right recommendations. Most of those with whom I have talked, and I think this includes Davison, have warned me promotion should be initiated locally. And, while I do not wholly agree with this, I feel like I would be offering an excuse for a denial by taking it up here. However, I will be guided by circumstances.

The last couple of weeks have been hell here, - climatically. It has been so hot that we hasten to get into our air-cooled quarters.

Mr. Hiram W. Johnson, Jr. - 2

I was glad to note that you finished up with your court-martial cases. I should imagine one would have been sufficient for you.

Of course you have a better knowledge of the possibilities of the bombing of San Francisco than I have, but it would be the most natural thing for the Japanese in their imitation of others to do. They can sit back, and say, in response to the bombing of Tokyo they had bombed San Francisco and done great damage. I expect any time to hear that they have, at least, attempted it. And if the defense of San Francisco is no better than when I made some inquiry into it after Pearl Harbor, and if we have continued sending our planes all over the world, and have left ourselves naked and defenseless, we can look for something of a catastrophe at home.

I was not complaining about the "pay-off" with Cal because I very gladly did it, and I hope, with the same alacrity and the same enthusiasm with which he has ever been ready to aid us. I should not have mentioned the matter at all, because on looking back now, I realize what the effect would be of this. I did not wish it thus to appear, but was merely incidentally mentioning what always occurs here. I don't object to the "pay-off" when something has been done for me, and particularly so with Cal, who has been kindness itself, and stands guard for us in the matter in which we are all interested.

With my love, in which Mother shares, I am

Affectionately your Father,

Hiram W. Johnson

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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

July 26, 1942.

ROLAND YOUNG, CLERK

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

My dear Jack:

Yesterday we received your letter of July 24. I am of forty eleven different minds what to do with Hickam, but I find the first thing I must do is to ascertain where he is. We'll start on this task tomorrow, but before I do anything at all with him I shall write you, so you'll hear from me again tomorrow or next day.

Of course, I was interested in your views regarding the Japs and their taking the Aleutian Islands. I have held the same sort of view, and I felt it was but a prelude to some sort of Jap strategy in getting at us and the west coast. You know this is the view held by the Alaskan Delegate, who does not dare express himself as he really feels.

There has been running here in the Times-Herald a series of articles on various lice, who constitute our most blatant mouth-pieces, and who are described in the articles as "Having a Wonderful Times boys". The articles include McLeish, who has received great prominence from various appointments by the President, Ickes, the proprietress of the New York Evening Post, and Walter Winchell, and perhaps one or two others. If you would be interested in these articles I will send them to you. The paper containing them is owned by Cissy Patterson. It is a sad commentary on our press generally (there are specific exceptions) that they neither apparently sympathize with the expressed views, nor dare touch the articles. However, such is life now.

Mr. Hiram W. Johnson, Jr.

I have received numerous letters suggesting I take part in the Governor's fight in California, and come out for Warren. Of course I would do this if I thought it would be at all valuable, but I am very much in doubt as to whether a statement from Washington for the primary would be effective for him. Naturally I am for him, and would like to see him successful. At this distance, however, I have not the remotest idea what his chances are, and I don't want to make a faux pas, especially since I have remained quiet for so long. It seems to me I could be of very much more value after the primaries than before. I expect to see Olson the Democratic nominee, and Warren the Republican nominee.

With all my love, in which Mother joins,
I am

Affectionately your Father,

Hiram W. Johnson