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## United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

ROLAND YOUNG, CLERK

August 2, 1942.

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

My dear Jack:

Your two letters written this week have been duly received by your Mother and myself. Taking them chronologically, the one relating to Hickam and statements for Warren was received first, and first I answer it.

The little thought that I have given to the primary out there has convinced me that the fight is not made yet, and won't be made until the primary is held; that the Democratic nominee will be Olson, and the Republican nominee will be Warren. I don't think that we could alter the result by any statement of mine. Of course, if Warren should be beaten for the Republican nomination, his fight is done; but I do not consider that as a possibility, and equally, I have not considered as within the realm of possibility, his winning the Democratic nomination.

Now, I have argued to myself thus: How could I be most effective in a statement for Warren - By jumping in now or by waiting until the fight is set. I could not change the situation in the slightest degree by taking up the cudgels for Warren now. I will confess to you that I don't think I can in any degree affect the ultimate result, but whatever influence a statement in his behalf may have, it will be infinitely more effective after the primary than now. So, I will reach my conclusion to act accordingly.

I was very much surprised to find Hickam absent, and I have heard since he has been absent for quite a while.

Mr. Hiram W. Johnson, Jr. - 2

I have not your letter before me that reached us this morning, but as I understood it, you feel that things are shaping up with you, so that there was a real possibility you might be called into the Judge Advocate's Department. I don't know that I am correct in this, but I rather gathered it from something you said. I don't believe this would be a bad idea at all. The reason that I thus believe is that there is ever before me the possibility that you may be sent abroad, and both your Mother and I would be nearly crazy if this were so. If you are anchored now in the Judge Advocate's office in work wherein you have shown your skill and aptitude, perhaps it would be pretty difficult to dislodge you, and I would a great deal rather see this happen, than an order come out of the clear sky sending you abroad. Perhaps there is a glamour about war and war service. I can't feel it in the degree that I used to. There was a time in my life when I would have looked forward to the great adventure of a war, but my ardor has cooled with the years, and I have had rather borne in upon me the futility of killing your adversary. I can realize that in some instances it may be necessary, and that it is the fashion still to glorify an armed conflict, and out of it make our heroes and brave men; but, if legitimately and honorably I can avoid a conflict and the desire to slay, I would really do so.

We have been having here a great to-do over the saboteurs that the FBI arrested and that were brought to trial secretly by the President. He had not proceeded very far before he feared that he had made a mistake, and that he ought to have the warrant of law clearly defined to justify himself. The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, the story goes here, called upon him, explained what could be done, and how the legality of the proceeding could be arranged without cavil, and between the two of them, they arranged it. I don't care a tinker's dam about these saboteurs, and if they were prepared to do injury to our country, I would mete out to them condign punishment, but I don't like my President and my Supreme Court by star chamber proceeding to arrange the legality of the acts of the former, and then to pull the wool over the eyes of the rest of us in regard to it.

Mr. Hiram W. Johnson, Jr. - 3

Perhaps I ought not to be writing to you in this sort of fashion, and I have refrained thus far, but I recognize as well that honest differences of opinion can be expressed even in this war time.

The President is moving heaven and earth to be re-elected to a fourth term. He is jobbing every way that he can by politics, majore, and dirty little combinations, with just one thought in mind, and that is, his nomination next time.

Tell me if I should refrain from expressing myself to my son, and I will not offend again, but if you like, I will write you as I have herein, the way events strike me and my opinion upon daily happenings.

With my love, in which Mother joins, I am

Affectionately,

*Hiram W. Johnson*

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## United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

ROLAND YOUNG, CLERK

August 9, 1942.

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

My dear Jack:

There is little I can write to you about, save the big events that occur in the news releases. All of these news releases are so much hooey and tripe, and it is only when an event is long passed that we receive an inkling of it through the censor.

The censor and the President after playing with the saboteurs finally grew tired of the sport, and bumped off six of them. I have been unable to see the record of the case, and I cannot judge therefore concerning it. I presume, of course, the record offered plenty of reason for the execution of the rats, but I rebel against trials of the sort that this was, in secret, and the evidence read only by a very few, who swore themselves to secrecy, and the determination passed upon the intent. I don't see how we can legitimately object to Hitler's methods when we copy them; save that he might have been a bit more expeditious, we followed closely his example. Well, the incident is closed now, and six lives, upon the nod one man in our government, have been snuffed out, and while everything may have been regular and deserved, I don't like the method, and I don't like, in this country, to have one man arbiter, and sole arbiter of the lives of others. I could descant upon this statement until I would wear it threadbare, but I will let it alone with the mere statement of it.

I have observed that William Denman has got into a controversy with General DeWitt. I haven't any idea who is right, or who is wrong, but if DeWitt is anything like Denman the controversy ought to be one of long duration and serious trial.

Mr. Hiram W. Johnson, Jr. - 2

I was extremely sorry to note the death of McEnerney. Of late years we became fast friends, and no man can afford to lose his friends, at least in such number as I am losing mine. McEnerney was quite a man, and while I used to rail at his influence with judges, I still grew to like him more and more. His death was a very great shock to me.

I watch as well as I can the commissions accorded bums by the Army, and I resent most of them, although perhaps there are special circumstances, of which I know nothing. How are you getting along ?

This week has been a peculiarly stormy one. It was raining most of the time, and at night the precipitation has been enormous, from our standpoint. I presume last night from 12:30 until 3:30, when the storm was at its height, cellars were flooded, and generally, all the inconveniences that arise from big rainstorms here.

I was particularly glad to note from your last letter to your Mother your compliments to her upon her descriptions of events occurring here. Mother has a real flair for that sort of thing, although she resents my saying anything about it, but I am sure she is very much pleased to read your comments.

With my love, in which Mother joins, I am

Affectionately, *Your father,*

*Hiram W. Johnson*

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## United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

August 15, 1942.

ROLAND YOUNG, CLERK

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

My dear Jack:

It was delightful for me to hear your voice on the night of your birthday, even though I did not understand the mood you were in. I can only say to you that I'd be glad to be of any help I could.

The President takes time off now from his petty politics to attend, in odd moments, to the war. How we are drifting into a dictatorship is seen in the gift of the President to the Queen of the Netherlands. He sat with her in a beautiful boat, and suddenly turned to her, and said "This is yours". It was just like that! She said, "Thank you", and probably tucked the boat under her arm and carried it down to the Legation from Holland, - that is such as remains in this country. It was a pretty piece of work and was done as one nobleman to another. As a member of the Foreign Relations Committee said to me yesterday - "Where does he get his authority for giving away the property of the United States?", and I answered "The last presidential election, which violated our third term, gave him the right", and, inasmuch as I was speaking to a Democrat, he kept silent afterwards.

The strangest movement is on here to prosecute everybody who has, in the past, voted against the presidential policies, or who has declared himself opposed to war. This is the damdest idea that ever was given birth to in a Republic, but the administration is prosecuting, and I mean trying, to put men in prison for just that sort of thing. The whole matter is the endeavor to destroy any opposition to the administration's policies, and any sort of independence on the part of individuals. I am fearful that the thing is going to succeed in great measure. Fortunately, they have attacked the proprietor

Mr. Hiram W. Johnson, Jr. - 2

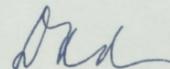
of the Chicago Tribune, and the New York News, and a smaller paper here. The three of them are owned and controlled by the three members of the McCormick family, and I imagine, they thought if they could get this family first, all the rest would come easy. The two male members of the McCormick family fought in the last war, and did their duty fully. They are the descendants of Joseph Medill, the founder of the Chicago paper, and a journalist of note in his day. I am watching the situation with great interest for I see no reason why, if the Attorney General of the United States can succeed in getting the McCormicks indicted, he should not put all the lesser fry in concentration camps, and I believe just this will be done. I don't care for the McCormick papers, but I really believe in a free press and freedom of speech, - two things this administration gives lip service to, but is seeking ever to destroy.

I am trying to get your Mother to go away for a couple of weeks. My trouble is I cannot find a nearby resort which will satisfy her. We can't come to California because the journey takes so long, and so much time is occupied in preparing for it, and in repacking to return. There are innumerable resorts along the shore of the Atlantic Coast, but I don't know them, and I can get little or no information concerning them. Mother needs a vacation of this sort if it lasts only ten days, and I am anxious to take her. I can't indulge in long walks, and I want to be near the sea where I can get in the water.

I would like to bear part of your burden, and I am ready at any time to attempt it.

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

Affectionately your Father,



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## United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

August 23, 1942.

ROLAND YOUNG, CLERK

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

My dear Jack:

We received a severe jolt when we learned recently from Philip that he had had a sudden burst of fever that ran to 104. He explained, however, that the friends he has made up there were very kind to him, and sat with him until the fever abated. As I understood his letter, it went down as suddenly as it came up. I have written him today that I am going to ask the doctors who are attending to me at the Naval Hospital what caused, or what could cause this sudden rise in temperature. It is needless for us to speculate upon it without adequate technical information, but I have ever before me the sudden attack because of an infection, and of course, I wonder what this can be. If you have any later news about it, would you write to me, please.

The war was superceded by politics the past week or two, and Roosevelt devoted himself entirely to that in which he thinks he is pre-eminent - political maneuvering. He had a terrible jolt in the failure of the New York Convention to nominate Mead for Governor, and what galled him worse than anything was Farley's victory. Of course, I understand what may happen in the course of the next year, and I look forward, with no degree of happiness, to his nomination for a fourth term. The papers are full of comment, very mild indeed, that Farley holds in his hands the nomination of a President, but they are all writing in such fashion, and any day may bring forth a reconciliation. We can only hope for the best.

We have had the lousy summer weather of Washington of late. It gets extremely hot, and then we have a thundershower. It will take down the thermometer ten or twenty degrees for the briefest possi-

Mr. Hiram W. Johnson, Jr. - 2

ble moment, and then it rises to other heights.  
It is just hell.

I fervently hope this note finds you  
in good shape.

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

Affectionately,

*H.W.J.*

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## United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

ROLAND YOUNG, CLERK

August 29, 1942.

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

My dear Jack:

During the past week the most interesting thing that has transpired has been the California primary. I think Warren can feel very good over the vote he obtained in both parties, and I feel if he can maintain his position and his strength from now until election day he will very likely be the next Governor of California. I should be very happy to contribute what little I can to the result, and I will feel, not only that I have been for the best man, but that I have done far and away the very best that could be done from our State's standpoint.

Another cause for rejoicing in the primary was that the bitter, malicious, and lying fight made by Rowell and the Chronicle upon the so-called ison-  
alists was a complete flop. The very men they as-  
sailed won both nominations after the dreadful barrage of words flung at them by the Chronicle. I would not have given ten cents for Tom'Rolph's chances, and I wouldn't have given a quarter of a dollar for the rest of those in the Bay districts who were held up to public ridicule and scorn.

Back here there was a remarkable fight for the Governorship of New York before the Convention in New York City. The issue was sharply drawn, and to put it in a word, it was Roosevelt against Farley. That Farley won was the cause for rejoicing by every independent man in the country. A couple of more demonstra-  
tions like this, and they will teach the gentleman who arrogates to himself all the trappings of dictatorship and all its powers, to mind his own affairs.

Mr. Hiram W. Johnson, Jr. - 2

Now, for the great event of the past week. This consists of photographs of thirteen officers, one of whom I scarcely recognized, but whom I hope to become better acquainted with, with the passing of time. I think the photographs were singularly good. We had them framed, and they are just back of me as I sit at my desk today. I can't quite figure why you took thirteen of them, unless you were demonstrating your indifference to a mere superstitious number. Well, whether you were demonstrating your indifference to an old, well-grounded superstition or not, you had very excellent photographs taken.

Well, if I live until next Wednesday I will have reached a ripe old age. It is too old for an active life, as I am beginning to realize now. These doctors can patch one together pretty well, although they are not always successful in their patching, but when one has reached an age like mine, Lord knows there is need of repair.

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

Affectionately your Father,

*Hiram W. Johnson*

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## United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

September 5, 1942.

ROLAND YOUNG, CLERK

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

My dear Jack:

Well, the great event has come and gone. I am 76 years old now, and I look forward to a long life and many years of happiness ( Bah! Bah! ).

Mother gave me a very fine dinner, as she always does, and we had a few friends in as our guests, - Senator Taft, Senator Clark and his wife, Senator Danaher and wife, Senator Brooks and wife, and Mrs. West. I enjoyed the night very much, and I rather think the most of those present did, too.

It turned out, after a rather wet and stormy day, to be a very beautiful night, and we could sit in the yard after dinner. This made it doubly pleasant. I should hate to give up this house, which we have had now for nearly fifteen years, but there is an occasional indication that the Government may take it, and they are going to make it rather difficult to live in it during the winter. When we acquired the property we had a Timken oil burner put in, and a great big furnace, that warms the house very quickly and well. The people are now directed to change their method of heating to coal burners, and then they refuse to let us have the necessary grates. We're in the position, therefore, of being required to burn coal, and the means of burning coal we are denied. If this continues, I am thinking of leaving here at the first sign of cold weather and going to Florida. It is the only way that I can prevent your Mother and myself from getting horrible colds and possibly being sick. It's a damned outrage that this is so, especially when nearly all the hotels in Miami have been taken over by the Government, and they have rescued many Jews from bankruptcy. However, everything is done in the name of war, and anybody that opposes anything is giving aid and comfort to the enemy, and is a Nazi, and a Fascist, and generally, a traitor. So I am not

Mr. Hiram W. Johnson, Jr. -2

looking forward to a pleasant winter by any means.

The move has been made here to amend the Selective Service Act by reducing the ages to 18, 19, and 20. I feel bitterly opposed to this, and no argument seems to me to justify it. Do you think that opposition from me to this proposed law will have its repercussions in San Francisco? As I wrote you once before, the fear is ever present with me that suddenly the call will come for you, and Hiram, and those situated as you are, to get ready and leave immediately for the Libyan desert, or some other outlandish place. I don't know what I should do under those circumstances, and certainly, I don't want to do anything that might hasten, or justify in the minds of a lot of dumbbells a decision of that sort.

You wrote me a very sweet note on my birthday and the boys did likewise. I can't realize I am as old as the record shows. I am one of the oldest characters that infest the Senate. There are several that are older than I am, like Carter Glass, who attends no sessions at all and does nothing; George W. Norris, who attends all the sessions, and constantly talks, although he is not very intelligible now. There are a few more, who, like those I have mentioned all show their age, and have not grown old gracefully, that I would never want to be like. My head is pretty good yet - although you'll observe I said "pretty good", and I have been conserving my energies. To tell you the truth though, Jack, I have reached a pretty good old age, when anything may happen.

How are you getting on? You are reaching a pretty good old age, and if the Lord spares you, you won't know when you have reached it.

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

Affectionately yours,

*H.W.J.*

TOM CONNALLY, TEX., CHAIRMAN.  
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ROLAND YOUNG, CLERK

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## United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

September 13, 1942.

Major Hiram W. Johnson, Jr., A.C.,  
C/o Mr. Philip B. Johnson,  
P.O. Box 81,  
TWAIN-HARTE (Sonora)  
Tuolumne County, California

My dear Jack:

I am writing this on the date that I have understood you were to arrive in Twain-Harte, and have the pleasure of seeing Philip. I can scarcely wait for your report on his condition, although I believe that it will be an all-wise favorable one.

I am sitting at home dictating this very brief note, and at the same time watching the birds. I've had a disagreeable week with a slight cold, and I was in bed most of the time. While I was in bed I had the opportunity to read more thoroughly the war news than I had before, and I find it perfectly ridiculous. Different papers in this community carry big headlines that the Reds were standing off the Germans and literally whipping them; and then, in the next edition of the same paper would be a story, to which the same headlines were not given, that the Germans had the Russians surrounded. Why in the world our masters can't tell us the truth I don't understand; but perhaps I ought, when I realize that our masters regard us as so many morons down whose gullets any sort of information may be crammed. There is bad news from the Solomon Islands, too. You can't tell exactly what it is, and the Japanese have returned. I hope that McArthur makes no mistake there, because our masters are very keen that he should, and then wave him away as of no value.

I hope you find the youngster in excellent shape.

Mother joins in much love to you both.

Affectionately,  
*dad*

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## United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

September 20, 1942.

ROLAND YOUNG, CLERK

Major Hiram W. Johnson, Jr., A.C.,  
973 Green Street,  
San Francisco, California

My dear Jack:

We have just received your letter dated September 18, and we read it with the utmost interest, and finally, with the greatest enthusiasm.

This is the first knowledge that we have had that did not emanate from Philip himself. We thought that it evinced a remarkable advance by him, and I could follow, oh, so closely, the little touches he'd make upon your arm in accomplishing things. I really believe the boy's improvement is due wholly to himself, and that he, himself, has brought about the marvelous change. If we could have a diagnostician, or dietician, finally insist upon the proper diet for thyroid, he would probably increase in weight at once, but I would hate to be the individual who suggested this to him, and insist it is the duty of his father. Joking aside, could we get some of those doctors that he has had, particularly Ebright, who has a metabolic and parabolic young lady for just this sort of purpose, who would explain to him the relation of diet, and the necessity for an increase in weight? Well, the upshot of your visit was fine, - fine for you, and for him, and for the rest of us.

This week, we begin fighting on the contest on inflation. There is nobody who knows anything about it, whether or not it will come, and how it shall be met. A lot of crack pots surround the President, and he will experiment until, doubtless, he finds some palliative.

Major Hiram W. Johnson, Jr., A.C. - 2

We had a collection of scrap in this city today, which the papers said would not be like in San Francisco. Joe and Fong found quite a bit of old scrap, and put it out early this morning for the junk man to take. It is a singular thing that the junk people are the only ones who are permitted to have anything to do with the old scrap that is yielded up for the purpose of making guns, bullets, etc. I was a little indignant when Joe and Fong picked up what they could, large pictures appeared in the newspapers here of the President giving a newly launched ship to the Princess Martha of Norway. How little regard a man has for his responsibilities who will urge, as he has been urging through every newspaper that is published within a radius of a thousand miles of here, that it is the patriotic duty of every American to yield the smallest bit of scrap that he has, and that he can only show his patriotism by doing so, and then the day before the collection of the scrap, we see him giving a newly launched ship to royalty abroad, and this was not the first one. He began his bad practice with Queen Wilhemina, and this is the second offense. Who cares! There has not been a single peep of this gross impropriety by any newspaper that I have seen, or by any commentator.

I have written you before how inconvenient it is to call at the Naval Hospital, now. Instead of being within the city limits and very readily accessible, it has been moved to Bethesda, some fifteen or twenty miles from here, and to ride the required forty miles going and coming eats up your quota of gasoline very quickly.

I can't tell you how delighted I was to have your report on Philip. I hope you get back well, and improved by reason of your little visit. I would liked to have seen you and Philip do the cooking. I won't say more on this subject.

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

Affectionately your Father,

*Hiram W. Johnson*

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## United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

September 27, 1942.

ROLAND YOUNG, CLERK

Major Hiram W. Johnson, Jr., A.C.,  
973 Green Street,  
San Francisco, California

My dear Jack:

The event of the week to your Mother and myself was the receipt of your photograph. We both examined it long and earnestly. Mother said she observed you were tired, and she was correspondingly sympathetic toward you. I thought you looked tired, too, but I felt you were looking well, and at any rate, I ardently hope it is so.

I am fearful that one of these days you will be suddenly called out and told where your duty exists, and will be expected immediately to respond. This is the horrible thought that ever hangs over me. And, the worst of it is, I don't see how anything can be done.

We have been all week on the celebrated bill of the President designed to prevent inflation. The only part upon which a fight has been made is the part the farmers chose to contest; and, inasmuch as this contest of theirs appeared to me to be right, and it appeared also that they sought to include in the costs of their product, labor, and knowing the tenderness of the President for labor, even to the detriment of everything else on earth, I took my stand early in the week for the farmers. It is another instance - "Truth forever on the scaffold  
Wrong forever on the throne "  
and it makes the timid stand up. Of course, the majority of them won't stand up, and the result will be that the President will win ultimately the contest. So few men in position here, or in politics at all, exhibit any degree of "guts" when put to the test, and it is no surprise to me, with my long experience, to see decent men fall down and grovel. The whole

Major Hiram W. Johnson, Jr., A.C. - 2

contest will be ended, I presume by the time this reaches you. Because I have been pretty well engaged in it, although only as a hewer of wood and ~~the~~ drawer of water, I think I will take a vacation when it is all over. The vacation will consist of a trip to New York that Mother longs for, oh, so ardently, and that I will combine with an endeavor to see the World Championship Series.

I spoke to Bob LaFollette the other day and said that his brother had called upon you. He said he was familiar with it, and was very glad it was so, but in answer to my question as to where he had been sent, he told me he was utterly unable to say. I think this is a deuce of a thing, but like the gent on the flying trapeze, they know nothing at all of their ultimate destination, and it is carefully concealed from them.

I will give out, when Warren says he wishes it, a statement in his behalf. I doubt that it will be of any value to him, but, apparently, he desires it, and I am very glad to do as he wishes.

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

Affectionately your Father,

*Hiram W. Johnson*

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## United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

October 11, 1942.

ROLAND YOUNG, CLERK

Major Hiram W. Johnson, Jr., A.C.  
973 Green Street,  
San Francisco, California

My dear Jack:

Your telegram was received by me at the Ritz, and it was very, very welcome. I attempted to reply when I returned home, and I sent you a wire but there was nothing in it.

Your Mother and I took a notion to go down to see the games. We did this, first, because it was not difficult to obtain our tickets through Clark Griffith, and secondly, The St. Louis team had made such a tremendous final dash and were all so variously described that we had a sort of sneaking regard for them even before we had seen them. None of us had any doubt of the result, and all of us looked upon the New York Giants as sure winners, and we felt the same way as we saw the other team. They were a team of boys, who looked like they had their uniforms made at home, and generally were striking the attitude of Jack the Giant Killer; but when these teams began to play, the youngsters were full of nerve, and it was not long before they had the sympathy of the seventy thousand crowd. They could outrun, outhit, showed more daring on the bases than the great champion team. They deserved to win the pennant. I could talk a long time about the games, three of which we saw, and these were the only ones played in New York; but, suffice it to say, that the youngsters were a continuous surprise, and I never witnessed ball games which I enjoyed more. Mother has become something of a ball crank, only mildly so, but during the games she stood up and cheered vociferously and yelled her head off at the different antics of the St. Louis team. I had as much pleasure watching her as I did in watching the players. So, the three days we had a beautiful vacation. We got mixed up the first day, and drove out to the park without making any arrangements about returning. We were literally stranded after the game, but for a man, Jules Glaenzer, having mercy on us and playing the Good Samaritan in offering to drive us into town, I don't know what we would have done. But

Major Hiram W. Johnson, Jr., A.C.-2

for the other two games I had learned my lesson, and I made arrangements in advance with a taxicab to take us out, and to await our departure. This was pretty costly, but it was worth it in the matter of comfort.

Well, I returned here to get enmeshed in the horrible tax bill, and from the day of my return until last night, we were extremely busy. Nobody knows what this tax bill contains. We have generally an idea of it, and the provisions that are plain we understand, but the hidden provisions, - and there are many, nobody, not even the Secretary of the Treasury, understands them. We'll go along now with our taxes, and suddenly we'll go "phut", and then we'll try to gather up the pieces of our ruined economy without success.

It is amazing to watch certain members of the Senate strut around the hall, look at the gallery, as much as to say, "This is the great Senator Sorghum", but I imagine these peacocks in our ranks, and there are many of them, are not going to last very long. They will be making excuses soon, and nobody will believe them. So, within the next year, you can watch the excuses of the Congress, and the buck passing from the President to the Senate and the House, and the debates, most of them unreal, as to who is to blame.

Perhaps you have chosen the wiser course. If it were not that there hangs over me the constant fear of your being ordered someplace in consonance with your deserts, I certainly would congratulate you, but this fear ~~is~~ ever present with me.

There is a tremendous howl going up from California on the order closing the gold mines. I can't see the slightest use in it, but the excuse given is the paltry and crooked one. I united with those Senators whose states are affected in an appeal to the President last night, but I have no hope of this.

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

Affectionately your Father,

*Hiram W. Johnson*

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## United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

October 27, 1942.

ROLAND YOUNG, CLERK

Major Hiram W. Johnson, Jr., A.C.,  
973 Green Street,  
San Francisco, California

My dear Jack:

I have received your various communications the past week, and responded once by telegram, so that you would have some word from us.

I have been very busy during the last week upon the drafting of 18-19 year old boys, and I made a few remarks on the subject in the Senate. This was the opening gun of the fight. We carried the O'Daniel amendment much to the surprise and chagrin of the Administration and the Military. All of the papers, in order to censor effectively what I had to say, would not publish it, nor would they even publish the fact that I had talked upon the subject.

Since I talked last Friday morning I have received hundreds of letters and telegrams from all over the Union. I can't understand where they came from because the newspapers in general utterly ignored both speech and speaker. I am told they resulted through the medium of the radio. I have not seen the California papers yet, but, undoubtedly, will tomorrow morning. The men in charge of them insist that they carried a fair story. However, the question of carrying the story is unimportant. We fought the matter out in fair fight in the Senate and we won by 39 to 31. The other side were so outraged by our success that late Saturday night, while we were in session and just before adjournment, they had the representative of the Bosses (Kelly-Nash) of Chicago, a clever young fellow named Lucas, present another amendment which would have destroyed effectively the original, and they called to their assistance, Vice-President Wallace, who outrageously ruled the Lucas amendment in order, and compelled a roll call upon it. We won by one vote. I could write a volume upon the conspiracy to defeat the O'Daniel amendment, but suffice it to say that it remains the voice of the Senate and will go to the House for conference. The conferees appointed give us no chance. They are all the

Major Hiram W. Johnson, Jr. A.C. - 2

other way. So that the upshot of the fight will be to leave us defeated, but to have made a glorious fight !! This is one of the beauties of our Senate rules.

This is the first contest that I've been in for a long time, and I was very glad to have invited it, and to have seen it through. Miss Connor tells me she sent you and Philip copy of the record.

I wrote you what I thought would be the effect of my efforts in behalf of the 18 year olds, but I do not suppose that those in command will be small enough to vent their anger upon you. Let me know if you hear anything to the contrary and I will endeavor to express myself concerning them.

I don't know what is the matter with me, but I tried out my physical condition in this little matter. I was beastly tired afterwards, and the three nights that I attended the sessions to the last minute left me very ragged. I am going out to the Naval Hospital. They wish me there for some days to go very thoroughly over me, but Mother, on the q.t. I am sure, has arranged it so that I will be there from early morning<sup>to</sup> evening, and home at night. This puts us at a disadvantage, but it is all right. I can't tell you how grateful and tender I felt toward your Mother for the way she watches over me at present. I go nowhere but what she accompanies me, even in going to the office she goes with me until I arrive there, and to the sessions, she accompanies me always. I don't know that there is any necessity for this, and I hope I can dispel her fears by my short stay at the hospital. I am conscious, of course, of having run down hill pretty rapidly for a time, but now I feel very much better than I did, but poor Mother scarcely believes it, although she has no reason to believe otherwise.

I thought that I would come to California just before Christmas, but I am afraid it will be impossible. Philip writes also that he could not come down, and because of the snow I would be unable, he thinks, to come up to him, so we'll let the matter rest temporarily.

Because of what I have written you I don't want you to get any erroneous impression about my physical condition. I am infinitely better than I was awhile back, and I feel

Major Hiram W. Johnson, Jr., A.C.-3

able to do my work, and do it fairly well.

I was very glad to learn that your immediate superior officer you thought a great deal of. I hope you keep on the best of terms with him. You are ever present, my boy, in what I do, and I am very doubtful about wading in as I used to. Please say nothing to your Mother about what I have written to you.

The war drags its weary length along, and we are kept nervously strung up because we don't know what is occurring. The election is a week from today. I finally found time to write a brief statement in favor of Warren, and I am waiting to hear from it. I hope he wins. I never was a great believer in the efficacy of written statements in behalf of certain candidates, but perhaps what I have written will reach two or three. I would be quite content if it did. I observe today George Creel gave out quite a strong statement for Warren, and it made me feel happy, because I know him so well that I believe he never would have dared give out a statement unless he felt sure of Warren's success.

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

*Hiram W. Johnson*

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## United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

November 5, 1942.

ROLAND YOUNG, CLERK

Major Hiram W. Johnson, Jr., A.C.,  
973 Green Street,  
San Francisco,  
California.

My dear Jack:

Your letter of November 1 was received and I read it, as I do all of your letters, with great interest.

You begin by telling of your alert air raid and your period of waiting, wearing tin hats, gas masks, side arms, spears, double-barrel shot guns, and other lethal weapons. I could imagine you in all this paraphernalia, but I have a sneaking idea some day it will be required. The Japs, in my opinion, will sneak up and stealthily attack San Francisco Bay, and then you all will be needed.

The hospital idea, as you write, never attracted you even remotely. It does not come within shot gun distance of attracting me, but the doctors tell me it is necessary to go and be looked over, and, therefore, I shall do it. Mother has changed the time again of my going, and now it is Monday next, and I rather think, because of her insistence, that the doctors have said I would come several days in succession, and in this way, avoid staying all night. I do not care about this matter one way or the other, but Mother is alarmed if she cannot be in touch with me each day and night, and of course, I shall yield to her wishes.

I disagree with you in your stating that the speech on the 18-19 year old draft was a fine speech. It is anything but this. Some few facts that I had I put before the Senate, and inasmuch as it was the first word that had been offered in behalf of the "teeny-weenys" it attracted more or less attention. I can't for the life of me see why it must be either 18 year olds or married men with children, and I do not believe a fair administration of the law would make this a necessity. However, necessity or not,

Major Hiram W. Johnson, Jr. - 2

the military will "bull" it through unless the recent election has taught them some degree of caution.

I can't understand at all, as you could not, the haphazard publicity given to my statement on Warren. I thought I would be smart, and I finally issued it and sent copy to Theodore and Al McCabe with instructions Sunday two weeks ago. They were prevailed upon by Whitaker and Steinhart, who, apparently were in command of Warren's campaign, to let the publicity go until the last minute. I don't care to growl or grouse about the matter now, inasmuch as the election is over. Warren had a victory, which I think he deserved, and which, I hope will put an end to the ambitions of Mr. Olson.

Like you, I want to come out to California. Frere writes me, however, that he probably could not come down, and apparently, he is not anxious for us to come. One thing would interfere with our coming, and that is, transportation. The trains are in a horrible fix.

I observe that you had two court-martials which took a lot of time, and that soon you must go to Camp Stoneman to try an officer there. I don't know but what you might just as well be engaged in this work as any other. You know best, of course. While you are engaged in this sort of work, you cannot very well be given some other infinitely worse, and it is that of which I constantly think.

The closing idea of your letter is an expression of your hope that the hospital business will turn out satisfactorily. I have no fear of it at all. I am in the hands of a couple of men, both of whom I regard highly, but each, I think, will be controlled in the main by my wishes.

Just a line about the elections. I have before me now the tabloid of the Washington Daily News of this afternoon. It states the Republicans gained 41 seats and will have at least 206 in the new House which meets the first week in January. The Democrats



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## United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

ROLAND YOUNG, CLERK

November 15, 1942.

Major Hiram W. Johnson, Jr., A.C.  
973 Green Street,  
San Francisco, California

My dear Jack:

I note from some remarks you have dropped in your letters that you were rather anxious about my visit to the hospital. I spent all of one day this week there, and went through the regular course. I am happy to report to you I came through in excellent shape, and barring the sphincter muscle, which apparently is growing worse and leaves me horribly embarrassed at times, and that precludes me generally from shows or attendance at entertainments, and an incipient hernia, and half dozen other beastly and lousy things, I am all right. So, there is no need to spend a single moment worrying about my condition. I will live my allotted span, unless I have already exhausted it, and will remain to plague certain people. Wipe off the slate, therefore, my trips to the hospital. I have to go again this week, but I don't imagine it will be anything of consequence.

It was a great victory that was won by the Republican Party, and we all feel very happy over it, here. You are quite right in the attitude of the Republican Party. This attitude seems to be dictated by two men, - Martin and McNary, and it is a question of treating the other side with unwonted kindness and consideration. For a long time now I have known that the Senate is run by Barkley and McNary in conference. How long they will go now I cannot determine. They are both so peculiar.

I don't think we'll come out for Christmas. First, it will be a rather difficult time; next, the cost will be great, and next, which makes the other reasons fade into insignificance, your Mother does not want to.

I wrote Philip the trouble I had with my statement. I thought I was so smart when I sent a copy to Al., and a copy to Theodore; and then I found out that when a man is three thousand miles away, his orders often go for naught. Mr. Steinhardt and Mr. Whitaker took our

Major Hiram W. Johnson, Jr., A.C.-2

boys to town and strong-armed them all over the lot. I have learned a lesson which cost me a great deal of worry, and I fear that I will never have the chance again. It is just as well, not to mention to Theodore or Al. the situation, although they succeeded in pulling up the distribution of the statement, and yet, they affect the belief that they did just the right thing. So, let's forget it.

With my love, in which Mother joins, I am

Affectionately your Father,

*Hiram W. Johnson*

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## United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

November 29, 1942.

ROLAND YOUNG, CLERK

Major Hiram W. Johnson, Jr., A.C.,  
973 Green Street,  
San Francisco, California

My dear Jack:

I presume that you have been as interested as I have been in watching the daily events in the desert, and seeing how our forces can push General Rommel around. It looks to me to be like the beginning of the break, and that Hitler, like all conquerors, has made one too many grasps, and of course, has to pay the penalty of it. But what a price it is when that penalty has to be paid in human beings! We'll be hearing less and less of Hitler, I think, in the next few months, and perhaps more and more of the Jap. It seems to me that Hitler is now a badly beaten man, while the peculiar Jap, with his tenacity and lack of fear of death clings on. We'll have to stamp him out finally. I am dreading the casualty lists that will come from the desert, and although I have a sneaking idea that they are minimized, and that we won't learn much of them for some weeks, yet I fear they will show a great number of our boys killed or wounded. Yesterday, it was stated here that the first contingent arrived at the Walter Reed Hospital in this City, and that they consisted of seven officers and one hundred and eight men. This is the preface.

We are getting a taste of winter here. The thermometer day before yesterday registered 26 and with an overcast sky kept us all disagreeably cold. We don't have very much cold weather in Washington, but this year it seems as if we are going to have a harsh winter, and with the whole world cockeyed, it will bear down on us pretty severely. Then, the rationing of everything, of all that we eat, and all that we utilize, is the damnest performance that a government such as ours ever attempted. You must be utterly mistaken in your statement of California, and the amount of oil stored in the ground which would give to the world ample if used. The whole rationing scheme is a satanic measure for the purpose of making the ordinary people roar and rant. If it were not so vile I would send you a limerick which aptly describes the infernal thing. We have not had any trouble yet in the licensing of

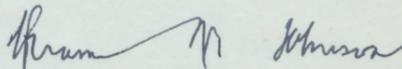
Major Hiram W. Johnson, Jr., A.C. - 2

our gasoline, but we have been very careful and have not gone any place with the car, save downtown and to the hospital.

I was quite in earnest in writing you saying that the Hospital showed I was all right, although I have not concluded my visits there yet. The fact is, I have been more busy the past month or so than any time this session, and because I have an ambition to do more work I have tried very hard to play the game. To realize one's age, however, and to know that you cannot do the things you used to do leaves one feeling a lack of pep required. However, we can only look at this sort of thing philosophically. I have had a good example of it lately in observing George Norris. He long ago fell down and did everything that power wished of him, and yet persisted in running again. He is 81 years old. The President did for him what he did before, and went into his district - something seldom done - and made speeches for Norris. When the votes were counted, he was a badly beaten man. He actually cried all over the Capitol, said he could not understand it, that he had always played the game on the square, and been simply for the people, and did not get votes enough to count. He could not understand it, and was incapable of analyzing himself. But, as I observed him I made up my mind the people here would have no other example and would hear nothing from me if I chose to run again and was beaten. Norris disgusted everybody, and we could only ascribe it to his decadence mentally. I think we were right in this.

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

Affectionately your Father,



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## United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

December 6, 1942.

ROLAND YOUNG, CLERK

Major Hiram W. Johnson, Jr., A.C.,  
973 Green Street,  
San Francisco, California

My dear Jack:

We woke up this morning to find snow had fallen during the night. It was not a great storm, but it was one that I had been quite anxious to see. Last week, we had a fore-runner of it in a very high wind and a precipitation of sleet. Neither lasted any great time, and I was compelled to be satisfied with the rather anemic snowstorm during last night that left its imprint on the landscape. Maybe we'll have a real good robust storm soon, although I don't look forward to it.

I sent you a box of books recently. They are the best that have been published, but I think they are far from the best that have been written. I have two or three others that I intend to send you, because they are different, and while I would not recommend them highly, yet I find portions of them sticking with me, and the book that can do this I have found in the past has some merit.

Philip has notified me that he laid in a stock of twenty great big red-bodied hens, and the next morning he had, I won't say, how many eggs, but he was on the high road to make a vast fortune I think. There is fun in this, and there is profit in it, too. If he sticks to it I look to see him make a real profit out of this venture, and even if he does not, the pleasure of the thing will be worth all that he undertakes. If you have any influence with him encourage him in this direction. I shall do so, unless you see some reason why I should not. He may arouse an interest in these twenty chicks that would be at once pleasureable and profitable.

Major Hiram W. Johnson, Jr., A.C.-2

I suppose like most of the rest of us you looked at the newspaper this morning and saw the description of the havoc that was wrought at Pearl Harbor. This should be an unforgettable event with us. Our President and our Secretary of State fooled away until the very last moment, and until indeed, the outrage had occurred; and then tried very hard to find somebody to whom it could be ascribed. I feel no matter what the antecedent events may be that a country can no more forget a crime like Pearl Harbor to be committed than an individual can. Neither nation nor individual should permit such an indecency to go unpunished. I have only looked at one paper this morning, - the Washington Post, and I saw that it gave an ironical slant to their article on Pearl Harbor. They say something like the Truth May Now Be Told, and then add one word "almost". I can't blame the newspapers for failing to publish the news, knowing as I do, orders have been given out they shall not do so. This whole week we have been waiting for the battle of the desert. It appears to have been in full force, and reading between the lines, apparently we have the worst of it. It is a pitiable thing to me that the boys so numerous in Washington, and throughout the country, have been sent to meet seasoned troops of Hitler, and if the casualty lists finally demonstrate that this has been the case, I hope there will be a general howl. I was resting easy a week ago thinking that Hitler had struck his last blow, that he was about to be cornered with no prospect of escape. I have been dumbfounded the last couple of days to read the account of the fighting.

I do not expect you to answer this letter, or to comment upon the battle now being fought. I reserve until during the week when I shall get the time to detail to you how the censor works now. I have come across some very interesting matters of late in that regard.

Major Hiram W. Johnson, Jr., A.C.-3

I tried to make another speech on the so-called Panama Treaty that was before us, and which was about the damndest outrage we have seen in many a day. My effort was a failure, and the less said about it the better, but it seems fairly clear from this one, in conjunction with another recently spoken that my days of speaking are over, although I shall not give it up as yet and will strive until I die.

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

Affectionately your Father,

*Hiram W. Johnson*

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## United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

December 13, 1942.

ROLAND YOUNG, CLERK

Major Hiram W. Johnson, Jr., A.C.,  
973 Green Street,  
San Francisco, California

My dear Jack:

We were awfully sorry to learn that you had been laid up with a cold, and happy that it was no worse. This is the season for colds, and you'll have to look out. The weather here has been very cold, for a week or two, the temperature being below 28. I think that we'll clear the scene of activity so that we may depart on Thursday, December 17. I will wire you of course if we do so. I await, although I imagine the chances are slim, a wire from you that you will join us. We'll probably not have a very good time this year because Miami is shut off at night and completely dark. This doesn't appeal to us as it would to many people because we don't expect to wander around ~~at~~ all anyway. I am going there because it is probably the last time I think I will ride on the bosom of the waves, and I am not so very clear that I will ride even now, but I will try it out.

I don't know how long we can stay, but I expect to be gone at least a month. The doctors wish this, and while I don't give a tinker's dam for their opinions I will probably utilize them when I require them.

How I wish you could come down with us! You have been seven months now hard at it, and I should think you would have earned a vacation.

We were sorry to hear of Woogie's sickness. I don't know what Philip will do if anything happens to that dog. It is a pity to have to fight like fury for the dog after expending such extraordinary efforts and met with such marvelous success in his own behalf. One of two people I know have told me that dogs of Woogie's kind are very short-lived.

Major Hiram W. Johnson, Jr., A.C. - 2

I am watching very closely the battle of the desert and I hope that out of it will come such overwhelming success that the rest of the war, with the exception of the Japanese, will be perfunctory.

Keep well, and if you can come to us at any time, wire me and I will do the rest.

With my love, in which Mother joins, I am

Affectionately,

*H.W.J.*

TOM CONNALLY, TEX., CHAIRMAN

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## United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

December 17, 1942.

ROLAND YOUNG, CLERK

Major Hiram W. Johnson, Jr., A.C.  
973 Green Street,  
San Francisco, California

My dear Jack:

Yours of December 13 reached me yesterday morning. I am sorry that you are disappointed in our decision to go to Miami. There are many things that entered into this decision with us, one or two of which I mention to you. The shorter distance in travel, and travel is no joke nowadays. Jack Neylan arrived here yesterday. I did not see him but from what he told your Mother they must have had a horrible time on the train. This, of course, of itself would not be sufficient, but the adjournment is taken until January 6. Tonight is the earliest possible time that we could get away, and that makes from the 17th of December until the 6th of January. Of course, I won't limit myself to those twenty days from tomorrow, but it is impossible to tell what may suddenly arise here to call me back. Everybody tells me domestic help is impossible to obtain in San Francisco, and your experience with Miss Schow apparently makes this plain. The short time that we would have in San Francisco - Mother would not fly here - would make it next to impossible to take the trip, and so we have decided, with all its inconveniences, to go to Miami. I may add as a contributing factor to this that the doctors at the Naval Hospital insist your Mother should have some sun, and I confess I do not like the weather we have struck here - the thermometer has been very low of late. On the whole, I believe it is better for Mother, and perhaps better for myself, to do as we have decided. We both want to see you very much, and it is only necessity that requires the shorter trip.

I don't know how we are going to be situated in Miami because all the hotels there have been taken over by the military. We are going to a new place, but which is highly recommended to us.

Major Hiram W. Johnson, Jr., A.C.-2

So forgive us not coming out this time. I will make the effort during the year if I am able to come to San Francisco, and we'll have our reunion then.

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

Your affectionate Father,

*Hiram W. Johnson*

31 Dec 42 7

The Day before New Years 1913.

My dear son and my dear grandsons:

Lord knows when this note will reach you, but I thought I'll attempt to break you the wishes of the season and beyond that to wish you Mother and my everything you could wish for yourself. At the commencement of this note I wanted to tell you how poorly I write and, and that a peculiar muscular movement often leaves my words jumbled until a Philadelphia lawyer could not unscramble them. You'll forgive all this and think alone of the endeavor I'm making to tell you how my heart is stored with love for all of you and the season's wishes don't equal mine.

A New Year opens for you. May you and Annie succeed in your chosen undertaking, and may Philip be himself again - Oh how ardently wish I, that the end of the year may see us united again.

You'll have laughed the night we left Washington. Our tickets read for 7:30 pm. We left the city at 1:23 am. in a beastly cold snow storm from which there was no escape - the R.R. train not being open. We arrived here at 2:30 am next day and were mightily glad to get here.

as all

The weather here has been rather  
nice the last few days of yesterday and today -  
and today is nothing to brag about

Well I started to write you ever  
last night. I'll do that and quit.

We miss you & the your health & mine, and wish  
it you our love. We think of you all the  
time, and wish we were with you. So my love

I'll tell you something of myself - the years  
have taken their toll

With all the love of you mother and  
myself  
Affectionately,  
Dad