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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

July 20, 1933

Honorable James A. Reed Telephone Building Kansas City, Missouri

Dear Senator:

This is my first opportunity to acknowledge receipt of several letters from you which have come in within the last four or five days.

I was sorry that I did not have a chance to see you when I was in Missouri. I had an idea that you were up in Cedar Rapids. When I left here I gave Ed stringent orders that I was going to some place in the Ozarks for a short vacation, and that he nor any one else would know where I was until my return. As a matter of fact, however, when I got home I found the best place to spend a vacation was with my children, so I simply had it put in the papers that I had gone to the Ozarks, took the phone off the hook, and played with the kids in the backyard for three or four days. I am sorry I did not know you were trying to get in touch with me but Ed was in entire ignorance as to where I was.

I have just come back for a few days and hope to get out of here next week. It is very hard, however, to make any progress on cleaning up my business for the reason that

new delegations of visiting firemen are constantly arriving, trying to get something out of the \$3,300,000 grab-bag.

I was very much shocked when I got back here and learned the extent of injury and inconvenience you had suffered as a result of your airplane accident; I had understood that it was only a trifle and was very sorry to find out it would take you several weeks to recover from it. I hope that you have entirely recovered and are again enjoying the best of health; I judge from newspaper accounts to the effect that you have been disporting yourself on the green at the World's Fair that this is the case.

Your remarks about Charlie Young of Plattsburg, who wishes to be Deputy United States Marshal, are noted. This office does not fall vacant for almost two years, and by that time you will, I hope, be back in the Senate yourself to talk about these matters. I am under the impression that Charlie was for Howell but, nevertheless, I will be very glad to have the matter in mind and when the thing comes up, will do the best I can.

With regard to John Schneider, you know how fond I am of John and how well aware I am that he is one of the very best friends either you or I ever had. As far as the post office is concerned, you know that that district has three present Congressmen in it, and under the rules laid down by the Post Office Department these Congressmen are entitled to equal weight in the appointment of the post office. Both Wood and Ruffin live at Springfield; my only voice in the matter lies in the reservation of the right to prevent the confirmation of any one who is objectionable to me. Ruffin has recommended Charley Brown who is one of the very best friends I ever had and one of my most loyal supporters; Wood, at the request of Mr. Pendergast, has recommended C. W.

Greenwade, whom you and I both know well and whose chances of confirmation would be lamentably slim if he should be appointed; Judge Dickinson has so far indicated no preference in the matter, and I have been extremely reluctant to make any suggestions to him, either there or elsewhere in the district, because he is pitted against two strong active young men in his district and he is such a grand old Roman that I hesitate very much to allow his affection for me or mine for him to mislead the judgment of either of us by offering him any suggestions. Confidentially, my guess is that the old Judge will trim them both. In addition to this situation, however, Frank Lee, who now has a district with 18 Republican counties in it, is also threatening to move over to Nevada and run against

all three of the other fellows.

With regard to the place of assistant superintendent of the new hospital at Springfield, I will be very glad indeed to do everything that I possibly can to secure the appointment for John. Unfortunately, however, the place is under the Civil Service and, aside from the strict Civil Service requirements, it is at the disposition of this fellow Sanford Bates, Superintendent of Prisons. Hardly anything that has happened in this Administration has irked me more than the immediate reappointment of this fellow Bates accompanied by the blatant announcement by Homer Cummings that the Government felt itself very fortunate in being able to induce Bates to serve. I blamed Cummings for this until I accidentally learned that it was Roosevelt's own doings; he had long been a fanatical admirer of Bates and had attempted to get him for Superintendent of Prisons for New York during his Governorship.

If John will put in his application for this office, you may rest assured that I will do everything I can possibly do to bring about his appointment.

With regard to the Federal Home Loan office at Springfield, at the request of a lot of friends of mine down there, I tried out on G. C. Vandover, the state manager, old man McCammon, whom I think you know as an old newspaper man in Kansas City and elsewhere, and formerly the managing editor of the Springfield Press, who was very kind to me during my campaign and who had very strong endorsements in Springfield.

Vandover told me that in view of the rulings of the Board here requiring banking or real estate experience, he did not believe a man of McCammon's age without banking or real estate experience could pass by the Board, but that he would submit the matter to the Board and see what action would be taken. I haven't learned the result of that but believe that McCammon is likely to be rejected. I will be glad to endorse John Schneider and do everything that I can for him, but I am fearful that the same objections to McCammon will apply to John. The Home Loan Board is the best of all these new administrations in that former Congressman Stevenson, a fighting South Carolina Democrat, is at its head but they have loaded him up with a Board with which he tells me he has great difficulty in handling inasmuch as one Democrat almost habitually votes with the two Republican members.

As I wired you today upon receipt of your letter of July 14, I immediately went to the

Department of the Interior on the case of your brother-in-law, Mr. Boyer. I did not go to see Ickes because there is always great delay and difficulty in seeing him and, when you do, it has been my experience that he gives you a fishy stare, says he does not know anything about the matter and that you will have to talk to some subordinate in his department. I therefore went to see Harry Slatterly who is his executive assistant, the fellow who apparently runs the personnel. After I stated the case, bore down as hard as I could, Slatterly informed me that the matter had already been called to his attention by Hicklin Yates, that he had the papers in his desk, had discussed the matter with his secretary once or twice and believed that if I gave him time enough to do a little maneuvering that he could handle the situation. Slatterly owes his present appointment wholly and alone to Frank Walsh. He seems, however, to be very fond of you, recalled the fact that he had rendered some assistance to your committee in the Pennsylvania investigation and promised to do everything in his power in the matter. Rest assured I will keep in touch with this matter and apply all possible pressure. My present impression is that Slatterly is our best ally.

If Hook shows up, I will be glad to go to Ickes with him but my guess is that we will get more through Slatterly than through Ickes.

As soon as I get home and visit my family for a day or two, I will be up to see you. The time has come, as the Walrus said, "to talk of many things." I hope that the interview which was credited to you in the Chicago papers as to your intention of running for the Senate is true.

With kindest regards,

Sincerely yours,

BCC:hlm