

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Philadelphia

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN

June 16, 1943

Dear Bill:

I am very sorry that I missed seeing you before you got away, especially as I understand from a talk with Miss Waters this morning that you will probably not be back before the fall. I meant to get over and see you last Saturday, if possible, but I put it off on the erroneous theory that you would be here through this week.

While I had several things I wanted to discuss with you, one in particular was the course of the House Committee hearings on our proxy rules. You may have heard something about them. In a word -- they were very tough and a fair presentation of the Commission's case was just not permitted. The questioning was so protracted and so repeated as to subject matter and so finely drawn that I wasn't permitted to put in a continuous statement and the record probably looks a good deal like the City of Dusseldorf from the air after a good healthy thousand-bomber raid.

I am not really bothered from the point of view of the Committee having been successful in demonstrating difficulties and improprieties in our rules. I am pretty confident we are all right there. I am a little bit troubled though, in addition to the state of the record, over the fact that the Minority Members of the Committee conducted an extended inquisition as to the "practical experience" which I and other members of the Commission staff have had. Such things can be made to look pretty sad in the present atmosphere and I should hate to have it reflect on the Commission and its statutes.

Leo Crowley was in last evening and discussed some features of the hearings with me. He made one suggestion which it seemed to me was a dandy. (He did not realize that you had left town as yet either). He thought that in bidding the Boss good bye for the summer you might have occasion to mention the fact that I (representing the Commission) was doing a "bang-up" job in handling the Congressional attack on the proxy rules and in addition describe briefly the underlying philosophy and purpose of those rules. Leo felt that that would insulate the Chief against anybody who might get his ear and buzz in it about the "sorry situation" at the Commission.

Leo's idea seemed so good to me that I thought I would pass it on to you in this note just in case, if you agreed that it was a good idea, you might have some way of communicating the thought in writing. Should it not ring a responsive cord, my feelings will in no way be hurt if you consign it to the dust bin.

If, as Miss Waters indicated, there is a small possibility you should return to Washington before going West, I would like a whole lot to have a little time with you if you are not too busy. In any event, accept the Purcell family's wishes for a good rest and a good summer for you and Mildred and the children.

Sincerely,

Ganson

P.S. At Miss Waters' suggestion, I am forwarding this to be included with a batch of mail she is sending out to you.