

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON



OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN

September 17, 1943

AIR MAIL

Justice William O. Douglas  
c/o Mrs. E. M. Riddle  
Le Grande, Oregon

Dear Bill:

Thanks ever so much for your note from the Canterbury in San Francisco. I certainly appreciate your never-failing interest in the Commission's problems and in your willingness to translate that interest into action.

I have discussed your friend, Max Radin, along with certain other suggestions, with various friends and advisers on and off the Hill. Both Bob O'Brien and I felt that he would be just the right sort of man to help us out with the final actions to complete the Section 11 program. He would bring to the Commission a freshness of outlook and a scholarly analysis which would be a lot more than mere helpfulness.

The political boys, however, are adamant in their opinion that this is just about the most dangerous time to suggest to the Congress the appointment of a man of Radin's characteristics and background. I think they have persuaded me that they are right, particularly as they base their plea on the ground that the Administration can't afford at this time to have any more objects of criticism in the Congress.

I think this is the first time in the history of our relationship (which I prize so very highly) that I have failed to agree with a suggestion of yours, particularly when I sought your help, but I think in this instance I must go the other way. I do want you to know though that I appreciate the manner in which you handled matters so that I was left free to take this step without embarrassment as far as Radin is concerned if I felt I should.

Justice Wm. O. Douglas

9/17/43

It's awfully close to time for you to be back and I hope the air mail will get this to you before you leave. My present choice is Joe O'Connell over at the Treasury. I don't know whether you know him but if you do I would be very much interested in your reaction. Bob, Ed, Sumner and I all regard Joe very highly and I am sure he would be a most helpful and faithful worker as well as an able one. I shall look forward to seeing you when you return when I can talk this matter out over a couple of tall ones.

Sincerely,

*Sumner*