

August 6, 1951

Dear Shay:

I enjoyed your letter of the 3rd, and from it I know that you are “up and at ‘em.”

Old Ty Cobb certainly was well received at the ball park and before the Congressional Committee. His ‘heads up’ play on the diamond will never be forgotten by us old-timers, and the present-day sports writers do a very good job in keeping him at the top. I do not know what Congress will do in regard to the legislation before it affecting baseball. It would seem to me that they have gone afield in attempting to run the game from the committee room. Happy is in town and is appearing today.

The Look article was a repetition of the New Republic article written by this chap last year. I read it, but I never knew before that I was a “lazy old man.” There seems to be about three angles at which he leveled his blast: (1) I was inclined to think he didn’t like Truman’s appointees; (2) I was inclined to think that he differed with the philosophy of 7/9ths of the Court; and (3) I had a notion that he was anticipating something that will not happen.

I saw the President for a minute at the dinner given for George Schoeneman, and he told me it made him hot under the collar and that he felt like “writing a letter” to this chap. Then he laughed and said that he finally decided maybe he had written too many letters. After that he said seriously that this attack was made because he had appointed four of us to the Court. There is one thing about it – the Court will not be pressured in this manner from doing what they believe to be right under law.

You know, Shay, that chap may not have liked some of our decisions. Upon reflection, I am inclined to think that he didn’t

It was nice of you to write me this note with your views about many different angels, and it was mighty fine of you to make that long trek in the hot weather to that little town in Kentucky, where I first saw the light of day, when they threw that party for me. It will be hard for anything to take away the memories of that occasion, and it was awfully nice of you to join me.

Roberta is not at all well, but she joins me in wishing for you and Mrs. Minton and your whole gang all the happiness that can come your way.

Your friend,

(Signed) Fred

Honorable Sherman Minton,  
Associate Justice of the Supreme Court,  
New Albany, Indiana.