

Friday, September 2

Dear Bill,

I ought before this to have written you about several matters, and have delayed only because I keep thinking one or more will fall into place. None has, so let me give you an amorphous interim uncertain report.

1. As to the ceiling bill, I simply can't state odds at this moment. We were all, even our greatest pessimists, feeling extremely sanguine yesterday, because as of yesterday noon Mr. Carver (whose nomination as a member of the Power Commission went to the Hill the day before) had had his 25th conversation within the last week with Chairman Aspinall on this subject. The result: that the Chairman reported he had told his Acting Chairman (Aspinall being on his way as of now back home to Colo., there to stay rather steadily through the elections) that such Acting Chairman had a "free hand" on the ceiling bill. The Acting Chairman is Leo O'Brien, who has been a great and generous friend of ours for many years. Because this was the step we were all waiting, Marty took his cue and ~~now~~ went off to the Hill to buttonhole more members. Almost all of the many he has seen expressed support, but always contingent upon what the Chairman wanted to do. I sought immediately an appointment with O'Brien, but he'd already left town for the long weekend. I plan to see him on Tuesday next. It really did look as though we'd manage to pull it off.

Then this morning we received the attached dreadful letter from the Chairman. He clearly wrote it before his last conversation with John Carver, and we take from this such comfort as we can. But we are appalled at his misreading of the press release and of the whole basis for your current taut ship. We prepared the reply, also attached, and planned to have it carried to him by messenger before his reported departure for Colorado tonight. As the messenger was about to take off, we decided to check and only then learned that the Chairman left this morning.

We will thus rework the reply (which sounds much less smooth than it seemed to do in draft) and check it out with Messrs. Anderson and Carver, and probably send it forward next Tuesday or Wednesday. I hope we have not overstated the virtues of your situation, but on the basis of all I know, and all Geo and Marty know, we have not.

In the meantime, we do think we have the votes, IF the bill is put to the Committee. I needn't tell you that we're working our hardest to do that.

Also in the meantime, we've of course sent to the Budget Bureau a supplemental request for the full amount, \$14,508,000, contingent on House passage of the Senate bill. Sid Larson is fairly pessimistic about our getting it all. I'd been inclining the other way, because the Budget people have been so marvelously helpful of late. But Sid's guess is far better than mine on this.

2. Marty's appointment has, as he may have written you (he's gone home now and I failed to check the point before he left), got itself on a slower boat. From what I earlier wrote, and from our last phone conversation on this subject, you know it was the expectation of all hands that the Secretary would make an announcement of the appointment, and we would then proceed to do the necessary paper work. This would avoid what has in some cases been a delay of several weeks or even a few months in obtaining all the necessary clearances. Last week I learned that we'd been asked to put together the standard appointment papers, and

I thereupon checked (specifically with Orren Beaty) to learn whether there's been a switch in signals. He told me yes, that John Macy somehow learned of the ~~sum~~ proposed appointment, and the Secretary had thus decided we'd have to do it "the right way". Again, let me assure you that we're seeking to expedite, but there's not an awful lot we can do to speed things up. I have no reason to suppose, and Marty tells me he has none either, that there's any substantive problem, and Orren told me the same thing. But there will be a delay.

3. In the meantime, we've turned to discussing our Office of Territories situation subsequent to Marty's departure. We are not doing more than talk, having learned that presuming upon anything beyond the sun rising tomorrow is unwise. Whatever, it would be helpful to me if you could let me have your reaction to the question whether we would here be wise to hire John de Young. I am inclined to think it would be, because of his encyclopedic knowledge which ought not to be lost. At the same time, I'm aware that he has many detractors (most of whom I'm inclined to discredit, but it does cause one to pause). Will you let me know whether you think it would be good for either the Trust Territory or the Office of Terr. or both if we added him to our little organization here?

4. I cannot fathom why the Peace Corps agreement has not yet been signed by ~~Mr~~ Jack Vaughan. I've called just about daily for two weeks (you can imagine the state of my popularity over there now!) to prod via Kevin Delaney or his sec. or Ross P. or his, and absolutely nothing happens. I am each time assured that there's no substantive problem. Mr. Vaughan is simply loaded with paper and hasn't been able to get to it. Yet Ross told me today, I thought in too ho hum a way but on this my judgment is not trustworthy, that "Jack knows he has it in his papers but hasn't been able to get to it", or some such. In the meantime, I'll keep at it. We've had no word from Ross about his TT trip, so I today invited him over next week to meet with Harry Anderson, me, et al, to give us a run down.

In the meantime, it occurred to me that at least relevant to your problem, if not determinative, on TT-Peace Corps relationships might be a memo ~~xxxxxxxx~~ addressed to me from Ross, dated about July 14, which accompanied a draft of the agreement. I've been trying to lay hands on it since and everyone assures me he hasn't got it. Could you have carried it back? It's a memo which begins by saying that, because what he (Ross) says one day seems to be misconstrued the next (by me, but he didn't so state), he wanted to set down some thoughts on PC operations. Anyway, I'd be glad to know if you have it (and glad to have a copy), because it seemed to me that that might help in some small way to resolve any questions that may have arisen. I'll keep ~~xxxx~~ searching for it until I hear from you.

On any or all of the above, I'll try to keep you totally informed. Bon chance, so to speak.