

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

TRADING AND EXCHANGE DIVISION

September 24, 1935

Honorable Joseph P. Kennedy
S. S. Normandie
Pier 88, North River
West 48th Street
New York, New York

My dear Mr. Chairman:

I had hoped for an opportunity to express a little more fully than was possible yesterday my reactions to your transfer from the home team. Perhaps it was just as well that the opportunity did not present itself, since the mood which pervaded this building yesterday and continues to pervade it today would render appropriate only an obituary.

Yet, despite all the evidence to the contrary, nothing is dead around here. When a great blaze goes out, its coals and embers continue to glow and give heat for a long time. Long after you have left us for other surroundings, that fierce and unrelenting vigor which we have come to recognize as the essence of your personality, will continue to stimulate us. There isn't a person on the staff who has not felt the spur, the prod and the lift of your influence. Contact with you was like nothing in the world so invigorating as a cold shower or a kick in the pants-- its effect was galvanic. That energy which you generated is immortal.

Experiments in the regulation of securities markets are not new. History is studded with such experiments in this country, in Great Britain, in France, in Holland, in Japan and in every other country where the corporate entity has acquired significance. Most of those experiments failed. They failed because the society in which they were attempted was not prepared for such regulation; or because the laws were ineffectively drawn; or because the men who administered the laws were inefficient, cowardly or corrupt.

Honorable Joseph P. Kennedy

Our experiment will not fail. It is being tried in a society which is psychologically attuned to it. The laws are drawn with consummate skill and foresight. Above all, the men who have thus far administered those laws are notable for their ability, their courage and their incorruptibility.

The progress which this Commission has made is generally regarded as phenomenal. Yet it is no greater than might be expected under leadership such as yours.

The Commission will undoubtedly make new advances, and arrive at fresh triumphs. But whatever it achieves, the men and women who have toiled for it during its infancy, who have nourished it and cherished it, will remember that it was Joe Kennedy's strength and courage and herculean labors which really put it over.

You've left your mark on all of us. Perhaps, to some extent, we have left our mark on you. In the long, leisurely days ahead, while you are travelling about the world, you won't be able to avoid thinking occasionally of the galleys from which you managed to escape. During those moments I hope that you will not be altogether free from a touch of nostalgia--a twinge of regret that you are no longer enjoying our slavery with us.

Otherwise I hope you and Mrs. Kennedy have a glorious vacation.

With affectionate regards, I am,

Sincerely yours,

David Saperstein