

CONTINENTAL INVESTMENT CORPORATION

KENNEDY BUILDING

TULSA, OKLAHOMA

February 10, 1939

Senator William E. Borah
and
Senator Joseph C. O'Mahoney
Senate Office Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear Senators:

It has been reported that you are the joint authors of Senate Bill S330 providing for the licensing of corporations engaged in commerce.

I respectfully request that you prescribe limitations to this bill that will restrict its activities to corporations having capital of \$25,000,000.00 and upward, or preferably withdraw the proposed bill.

It is apparent to most people that this bill has been conceived for the purpose of regulating large corporations and to provide governmental authority to investigate and supervise same to prevent scandals, such as recently brought to light in the McKesson and Robbins Corporation, etc., etc.

Too much license has been given to Federal Commissions and Bureaus to harass and annoy business concerns. The major number of corporations, by far, has small capital structures and these are now overburdened and impeded by Federal and State regulations, taxation, and the complicated records and reports imposed by bureaus and commissions that cannot possibly devise procedure that will fit all business without harming too many innocent citizens.

This legislation would no doubt establish another huge department to operate and enforce your proposed licensing program.

Such extravagant costs must not be added to the already overloaded business burdens.

By this time you should know that business men are inherently honest. It is admitted that a few crooks may be heading business concerns, but we have ample laws and courts to punish offenders. The Securities and Exchange Commission has ample policing powers for all corporations having listed and registered securities and this doubtless includes all large corporations.

Please bear in mind that we do not permit the policemen in our city to investigate every citizen and his home to find out if there is a crook in the family before they allow the members of a family to become voters or citizens and earn a living in the city.

It is the right of every American to be considered innocent until he is proven guilty and your bill is just another evidence of purely political oppressive legislation to further "hogtie" the business people of this country and deny them the liberties of a free people, also cause more failures and unemployment.

The threat of this legislation and the implied criticisms of business by the creation and activities of the Monopoly Investigating Committee, also the utterances of high officials against all business, has frightened investors away from providing capital to worthy corporations, and especially small concerns, for necessary expansion and re-employment.

Continued nuisance and persecution forms of legislation badgering business must be stopped.

It would give great and immediate stimulation to the business and prosperity of this nation if our legislators would devote some time to devising measures to encourage business rather than to strangle business.

Many are wondering whether you know how to encourage business. If so, you should please give early evidence and provide that the Department of Commerce institute immediate activities and give more consideration to the needs of corporations of average and modest size, rather than exclusive attention to large corporations that can and do send representatives to Washington, for the distressing necessity is insistent.

Attached hereto please find a photostatic copy of a reported editorial containing the "Canadian View of New Deal."

A currently increasing majority of our thinking and responsible citizens hold similar views, also pray that it is not too late to remedy the damage done and to restore happiness and prosperity to this grand old republic.

It is urged that instead of pressing passage of your bill, you endeavor to remedy the destructive and discouraging features of much late legislation, also cease the unproductive partisan spending of business-killing taxes.

With kind regards, we remain

Very truly yours,

Paul Johnston

PIJ/s
enc.