

HAROLD L. ICKES
3624 PROSPECT AVENUE, N.W.
WASHINGTON 7, D. C.

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DUPONT 2281

February 7, 1950

Dear Bill:

The last time that I saw Hugo Black, he told me that he would be going shortly to hunt you up in Phoenix and try to persuade you not to attempt to return, as you had planned, about the 1st of February. Apparently he has succeeded, and I think that you are wise in giving yourself a chance to become good and well before coming back here. I saw your picture riding a horse in one or two of the papers and to me you looked quite well and husky, notwithstanding which, you are better off where you are, especially until the weather here improves. We have had quite a mild winter here, with the coldest day so far a week or ten days ago.

I called Bob Jackson last Friday to congratulate him on the opinion that he wrote in the Knauff case. I just cannot imagine what we are coming to in this country so far as our supposed freedoms are concerned when a man like Minton can produce such an opinion as he did. But, of course, he had the support of the Chief Justice and of two others of the Associates. Even if you had sat on this case, it would not have affected the result. That Minton should have been one of a majority in this case really shakes me. The only satisfaction that I got out of it was the way in which Bob Jackson laid on the lash right to the face of the Chinless Wonder.

With my best regards,

Sincerely yours,

Harold L. Ickes.

Honorable Justice William O. Douglas,
Box 5158,
Tucson, Arizona.