

February 4, 1936.

Joseph P. Kennedy, Esq.,
30 Rockefeller Plaza,
New York, New York.

Dear Joe:

It was very kind of you to write me your extremely generous letter of January 28th and to send your felicitations on my appointment to the Securities and Exchange Commission.

There is one nice thing about the whole matter which transcends all others in importance, and that is the appointment was for the balance of the term of one Joseph P. Kennedy. You set such a high standard of performance down here that I realize there is tough sledding ahead for me. I fear the shoes are much too large. All I can say is that I will be in there trying all the time to live up to the high standard of performance set by you.

It is always gratifying to me to think that you are not completely out of the picture. It was most reassuring to know of your continuing interest.

I hope you will forgive me if you find me leaning on you heavily in the months that lie ahead. You see, I have suspected for some weeks that you were the one responsible for my appointment.

I hope when you are in Washington next that we can get together. The housing problem is terrific but whether it is a tent or a castle, you are invited.

Yours faithfully,

William O. Douglas,
Commissioner.