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TOPEKA, KANSAS

908 National Bank of Topeka Bldg.

October 22, 1932.

Justice Willis Vandevanter,
2101 Connecticut Avenue,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Vandevanter:

On my return home I had occasion to visit Judge Pollock in Kansas City, for the purpose of securing the setting of a case which will now be heard by him on the tenth day of November at Wichita. This is the case about which I spoke to you.

I found him in very excellent spirits and while thinner than he used to be, I think in better physical condition. Confidentially, he has been afflicted with a falling dizziness, I think for some time. You may have known of this. He fell at the Islands and badly bruised and skinned one of his legs. He also fell on the steps of the hotel at Wichita and recently had a very severe fainting spell in his bed at Wichita in which, while he was undertaking to rise, he fell and severely bruised himself and bled very freely during the night.

He has been dispatching a good deal of business as a judge of the Circuit Court of Appeals for this circuit, to the great satisfaction of the other judges and of the members of the bar. His mind is clear and active and it is a real joy to talk to him on questions of law. I thought you would like to know this.

I do not think he is using as much spirits fermenti as he used to. His dizziness and falling were not caused by this, at least on the two last occasions. I took the liberty of closely questioning him about it and he positively negated the assumption. I am sure he told me the truth, as I know he would be frank enough to admit the fault if it were due to liquor and I am sure he has largely abstained in the last two or three years.

I frankly state this bit of information as I am sure you want to know about it. I take the liberty to rehearse this bit of gossip because of our conversation about the incident mentioned by you at your home.

As to politics; I am very much disturbed about the possible results of the coming election. I fear that Roosevelt will defeat Hoover by an overwhelming majority. While I think that Hoover's talks have gained him many friends among the conservative body of our people, I fear he will be wholly unable to break a flood of sentiment for a change and a storm of wild ideas that is sweeping the country.

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In our own state, we have a democratic governor who is promising all sorts of reforms, reduction of taxes, baiting of corporations, reduction of gas rates and utility rates generally. We have a quack doctor by the name of John R. Brinkley, the "noted gland specialist", running as an independent candidate for governor. He promises many things that are to be free, such as state lakes, school books, etc., etc. Both these candidates have, in my judgment, decided that the people should have everything without cost, all things are to be free, and I have no doubt that both the Democrat, Woodring, and Brinkley, the physician, will donate their services to the state, free; but they so far have said nothing about this.

What an unhappy state we have in this country today. Men going about preaching to the people that government can create wealth and prosperity and can relieve improvident and indigent individuals from their own follies and financial defalcations. No one seems to have the courage to tell them the truth, namely: that we have been living too fast, spending too much money, we did not have, and creating debts that never can be paid. I very much fear that the government of the United States has done this very thing, and yet people are in such an unhappy state of mind that they swallow this stuff and seem to believe part of it. I think their belief is founded solely on their desires; they know better but want to take a gambler's chance as the only way out.

Pardon me for indulging this lugubrious homily, but, to confess the truth, I am quite disturbed about the future outlook and I am sure that you and I think alike about the present conditions. However, we can only hope that things may turn out better than we expect.

With very kindest regards,

Sincerely yours,

Thomas F. Doran

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