

February 26, 1942

Dearest:

I went to see Jim Rowe at three this afternoon. He was tremendously nice. I told him the story about Henry Schweinhaut as outlined in your letters to Welly and to Jim himself. He said "Tell the Commander his endorsement doesn't mean a thing." I said "But Congressman Johnson is also extremely interested." Jim said, "Well, Congressman Johnson's endorsement is quite important and effective."

Then Jim said that the bill was tied up in the Senate because Tydings wanted it to be changed to make it possible to appoint judges from anywhere. At present only residents of the district are eligible. He said, "Schweinhaut is a damn good lawyer, and he is a member of the District Bar Association. There's only one thing the matter with him. The Attorney General has practically promised a place on that Court to Holtshoff and that would mean two men from our department there. We may or may not be able to get the Senate to approve two men from Justice." I forgot to ask him what job Holtshoff holds in Justice, which I should have, but will ask Welly when I can get him. I have already called Welly at both office and home to report but have not found him yet.

At fourthirty I went on down to see Assistant Secretary of War for Air Lovett. (I assure you I would just as soon have jumped out of a tenth floor window I was so scared.) But he also was very nice and put me at ease. He remembered having met me at the Forrestals. He had all the situation about the Army Air Support Command for Austin on the tip of his tongue and this is approximately what he said: that in addition to the secrecy recently imposed by his own department, the City of Austin had requested him not to let any information leak out about it, since the City had options on the land it was contemplating buying and did not want the report to come out before it had had an opportunity to exercise its options. He indicated, I can't say he precisely said, that the engineers report on the location by the first of next week, it would then (if favorable) be passed on by the Air Staff (that expression is his), and then would come to his office for final approval. He ~~asked~~ ^{told} him why it would be crucially important to you and our office that we be notified

long enough ahead of any others that we could make the announcement, thereby getting the credit, which of course I did not say but more or less indicated. He seemed to understand quite well the unusual importance of the situation and said he would let us know three or four hours ahead of anyone else. He said, "Of course you understand that there may be leaks somewhere along the line. Perhaps the engineers in our district field office might say to the Mayor, 'Well, I got off a good report to Washington today.' But I assure you there will be no leaks in this office. All I can conscientiously engage to do is to let you know three or four hours ahead of anyone else." Which is just exactly what we hope!!! On leaving I told him there was someone in our office from eight-thirty in the morning to seven-thirty in the evening and much of the day Sunday and the moment the decision was reached, it would mean a lot to us if he would let us know.

From the general complexion of the talk I would say it is definitely favorable and that it would happen within the next two weeks. Tomorrow morning I am going to get off an airmail letter to Mayor Miller telling him of our conversation. Malcolm is coming by to read it and delete or make suggestions. I didn't stay a minute longer than I needed and wasn't scared after I got started. (However I certainly don't want to court any more such assignments!) Mr. Lovett is a very courtly polished gentleman. He was beautifully dressed though not in uniform.

I didn't get much else done today. Visitors took up my time. Victor McCrea came by and talked ages about old friends and about the series of difficulties Silliman Evans met in establishing the Chicago Sun. Which last was very interesting if I hadn't wanted to get on with my letters. I wrote rather nice letters to Ben Brigham, Buck Hood, and Mr. E. H. Perry--my little "introductory" letters, you know. Also a Mrs. R. L. Bewley from Austin, who seemed a little strange, came by and took up nearly an hour of my time. Vic asked me to go to tea with him and a host of ladies, but I was much too busy.

Dear, do you mind if Norman borrows your Naval Regulations? I told him he could have it but you'd said you might send for it any time, so I might want it back. He said they were short of copies at the place one procures them momentarily. If you mind I will get it right back.

I took Mrs. George to lunch today, and Altadene Clark a few days ago. Mrs. George was extremely helpful and I wish you'd add her to your list for postcards. I'll tell you the whole course of both these encounters tomorrow. I'm sleepy now, so goodnight, all my love, and I want you to know I can't wait to see what I'm going to get that's red velvet!

Yours,

22 February 1942

Dear Jim:

I understand that there is a likelihood that Congress will create a new Municipal Court of Appeals in the District of Columbia.

I am hopeful that it will be possible for you to be helpful to my friend Henry Schweinhaut who desires to be one of the 3 members of this new court.

Henry is able and has demonstrated real ability in the Department of Justice and has the proper temperament to make an excellent judge.

If you can put in a plug for him, it will make me very happy.

My best to you and Lib. Please see that Lady Bird follows the straight and narrow in my absence.

Sincerely,

/s/ Lyndon

Lyndon B. Johnson

Honorable James H. Rowe
Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

22 February 1942

My dear Welly:

As soon as I got your letter this morning I wrote Lady Bird and asked her to go down and talk to Jim Rowe about Henry Schweinhaut. This is the most effective way I can help.

I have talked to Jim about him a time or two and am writing him again today. My letter will be followed up by a personal talk to Lady Bird.

Love to you, Alice and Kennon.

I hope I will get back before long.

Sincerely,

Lyndon B. Johnson
Lt. Comdr., USNR

Honorable Welly K. Hopkins
United Mine Workers of America
United Mine Workers' Building
Washington, D. C.

United Mine Workers of America

WELLY K. HOPKINS
SENIOR COUNSEL



AFFILIATED
WITH THE C. I. O.

UNITED MINE WORKERS' BUILDING
Washington, D.C.

February 19, 1942.

Lieut. Commander Lyndon Johnson,
Empire Hotel,
San Francisco, California.

Dear Lyndon:

Today I discussed with our mutual friend Henry Schweinhaut the matter of the new Municipal Court of Appeals to be created in the District of Columbia. This is a new appellate court of three members with a ten-year term of office, provided for under the terms of the Departmental sponsored Bill which some time ago passed the House and is now pending in Senate Committee. It will, I understand, be reported favorably within the very next few days and will become operative, I am sure, in the very near future. Henry's previous ambitions I am sure you will recall and he now aspires to be named one of the three members of this new court.

It is our general understanding that the Attorney General will make recommendations almost simultaneously with the signing of the Bill, due to the urgency of the docket in the District. This, therefore, is to bring Henry back to your attention and I do not think it necessary to repeat, or relate to you, his qualifications.

He is not only able both as to ability and past performance, but has the proper temperament for the Bench. He commands the complete confidence and respect of the



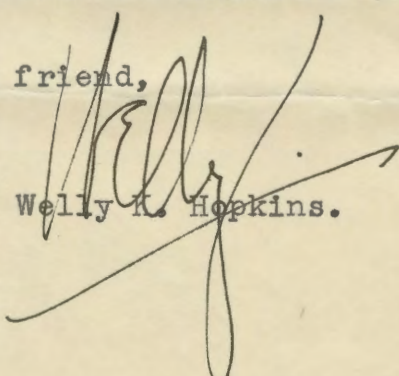
local District of Columbia Bar, which has known him all during his active practice. His experience as Assistant United States Attorney here in Washington and his excellent record in the Department of Justice, I feel peculiarly fit him for this place.

If you feel you can consistently so do, a communication from you to Jim Rowe in Henry's behalf might be very effective indeed. So far as I know, we have no other friends or acquaintances who seek this place. I told Henry that I felt sure that your friendly feeling for him continues to exist and that you would do what you feel could be consistently done in light of your present work. He, of course, asks for nothing more but I do hope that you may be able to help him. For the sake of the record, let me make it clear that this suggestion and endorsement I am making in my individual and personal capacity, solely and alone, and base it only upon my long standing observation and acquaintance with Henry and his general abilities.

I do hope that things are going smoothly for you and John. I had a short visit with Senator a few nights ago. He was returning to Texas by way of Chicago last night.

Alice and Kennon join me in sending our love to you.

Your friend,


Welly K. Hopkins.

WKH:MR