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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

February 9, 1942.

ROLAND YOUNG, CLERK

Hon. Amon G. Carter,
Ft. Worth Star Telegram,
Ft. Worth, Texas.

Dear Amon:

This will acknowledge your letter of some days ago with respect to Captain Thad A. Thomson, Commandant of the Eighth Naval District, at New Orleans.

Some time ago in the interest of friends and relatives of Captain Thomson, I took up with the Navy Department, the matter of his possible promotion. I was then advised as follows:

" Under specific requirements of law, no promotions to the grade of rear admiral in the line of the Navy can be made except on the recommendation of a selection board composed of nine rear admirals on the active list of the line of the Navy. This board is furnished with the records of all officers eligible for consideration for selection by reason of service in their present grade, and is under oath to perform its duties without prejudice or partiality, and to have in view solely the special fitness of officers and the efficiency of the Naval Service.

" The Department, and I believe the Service at large, believes that no duty in the Naval Service is performed with greater care, greater attention to the relative merits or to the best interests of the Navy than is the matter of selection of those believed to be the best for the Navy as an efficient arm of National Defense.

"The record of Captain Thomson was considered by the boards which convened in November 1940, and in August 1941, but his name was not among those recommended for promotion to rear admiral. He will, therefore, be retired on June 30, 1942; however, he will, in all probability be employed on active duty during the continuance of the national emergency."

Within the last few days I have taken up with the Navy the matter of his continued assignement as Commandant of the Eight Naval District and I am very hopeful that he may be retained. I feel that your letter to Secretary Knox may be of great influence.

Sincerely,

TC/lis

