

Sharp will

Lieut. Col. Robert L. Schulz,
5416 Bradley Boulevard,
Alexandria, Va.

My Dear Colonel:

I wonder if you would be good enough to pass this word along to the boss:

Dear Mr (Please fill in name): Even at the risk of being accused of presumptuousness, which I hope will not be the case, I just can not resist the temptation to say a word or two more on the Ryan matter, which I think has been hollixed up rather severely.

Would this be a solution: To reappoint Ryan and keep Gurney as chairman?

I may not realize the obligations or duties of the national chairman. My ignorance I hope will be forgiven. I have always had the old-fashioned idea that he was not supposed to try to run the entire show. On the contrary, I thought he was supposed to examine appointments from the standpoint of their political effect and acceptability, always keeping in mind the requirements of the President and the importance of co-operating with the members of the party in the various states. Further, I had thought it was his function to try to harmonize the views of the leading members of the President's party; in other words, to look out after party matters and to maintain political fences insofar as these aims do not interfere with good administration of the government.

However, my views must be mixed up. For example, Mr. Ryan is

from Indiana, and I am told that the governor of Indiana, the two United States senators from that state, and all the members of the Indiana delegation in the House, including Congressman Halleck, have all enthusiastically indorsed Mr. Ryan to Mr. Hall, your national chairman. Also included in the list of those indorsing Mr. Ryan are Senator Bridges of New Hampshire and the Secretary of Commerce, who I understand had a responsibility in this appointment. Still Mr. Hall bows his neck and emphatically says "No." Somehow I feel there is, as the old saying has it, a "nigger in the woodpile," who incidentally usually gets smoked out in the long run.

Frankly, this entire procedure reminds me of the story of the stranger who said to a hillbilly farmer in the mountains of Tennessee: "Mister, this is the blankety blank sorriest country I have ever seen." The nester replied: "Yes, mister, you are correct, but I have a surprise for you. It is even worse than it looks."

Mr. Hall seems to think the entire board should be fired. This no doubt would please some of his close friends. In my estimation, the majority of your old board, at least the men of your appointment, will stack up well in the long run--perhaps bettern than Mr. Hall. I phoned one of your strong, capable assistants and pleaded with him to tell Mr. Hall what would probably happen to his chosen appointee, that the Senate might decline to confirm him, although I think he is a good man and no doubt would do a good job. I further suggested why not reappoint the old board and keep Senator Gurney as chairman, as it well might be almost impossible to pick a man who is competent

and who would please everybody. I do consider your three Republican members all honest and competent.

Incidentally, I was delighted to see the Supreme Court on Monday confirm the action of the Republican majority of the Civil Aeronautics Board, which the City of Dallas was fighting, so that it looks as if the board members knew their authority and ruled accordingly.

I again apologize for continuing to bother you about this matter. Still, it might turn out to be more important than it seems on the surface. If Mr. Jones is not confirmed, Ryan will not get the new Canadian job and it will be a case of heroless sacrifice of a good, honest man who has done a good job but failed to bow or cater to the crowd that ^{is} sacrificing him for personal grudges. This he could have avoided if he had been willing to acquiesce in some of their selfish wishes and surrender the principles which he has been fighting for. I admire him for his staunch adherence to his moral obligation to do his duty irrespective of whether it was profitable to him. I have always been for the underdog when I felt he was being mistreated, and that is the reason I have continued my effort in Ryan's behalf. ~~Especially~~ I consider him thoroughly honest and competent, regardless of what his enemies or opponents may have had to say.

Frankly, I would not go through the entire thing again if they gave me all the airlines in the country, because I need my strength more than I need them or money. Still, there is satisfaction in fighting for a just cause and that has prompted me to continue my effort.

Meanwhile, I hope you have not lost patience with me and I hope you do not think I am trying to run your business for you. I know you are doing the best you can, and far better than anyone has done for a long time. I have a surprise for you. I am stopping. Maybe it would have been better if I had not started. Anyway, best regards.

Sincerely,
AMON