

February 12, 1950

Honorable Lyndon Johnson  
4921 30th Place, N. W.  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Lyndon:

It is with apology that I write you a long, tedious letter covering a subject which you might consider minor, and one that you should not be burdened with. It just seems that there are more people in the world that have troubles than one can imagine. Being of a sympathetic nature I cannot decline to try and be of some help, if possible, and hence have to burden my friends who are, no doubt, more bogged down than I am, so here goes.

Jule B. Smith has been in the State Department for about twenty years. Both Mr. and Mrs. Smith are personal friends of mine and Mrs. Carter. Mr. Smith's father was one of the largest grain operators in Texas, building, I think, the first 5,000,000 bushel elevator south of Kansas City. He has long since passed on, and although Jule was thoroughly qualified as a first-class grain man, he chose as a career the State Department.

He started as Assistant Trade Commissioner in the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, assigned to Buenos Aires July 14, 1930, designated as Assistant Trade Commissioner. Was active commercial attache in charge of Economic Section of the Embassy from March 1934 to April 1, 1935, during which time he received no increase in salary or allowances.

He was assigned Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Washington, D. C., August 19, 1935, designated Assistant Trade Commissioner.

Assigned to Prague April 16, 1936, designated Assistant Trade Commissioner. Arrived



in Prague July 19, 1936. Left in charge as active Commercial Attache from September, 1936 to May, 1937. Promoted to Trade Commissioner January, 1937.

Assigned to Warsaw June 1, 1937, designated Trade Commissioner. Became Foreign Service Officer, Class 7, by act of Congress.

Assigned Copenhagen October 24, 1939, designated Trade Commissioner. New designation Second Secretary and Consul. Assigned as Consul December 29, 1939.

Assigned Barcelona 1941, now designated Consul. Was reputedly the first American consul to be invited into Spanish homes as a friend and not as an American official.

Assigned Managua February 3, 1943, designated Second Secretary and Consul. Put in Class 6 in May, 1945. Following that the State Department assigned a Junior Officer to be Commercial Attache and the Ambassador refused to allow him to take the work over from Smith and had him transferred. Smith was Acting Commercial Attache from July, 1944 to May, 1945.

Assigned London June 21, 1945, designated Assistant Commercial Attache. Put in Class 4 November 16, 1946. An auxiliary officer was sent from Washington one month after Smith's arrival in London, Class 2 with a correspondingly higher income, and Smith was asked to show him what had to be done and how. When the Commercial Attache was promoted to Economic Consul the auxiliary officer who had his first Embassy post, was given the Commercial Attache because he had a higher rank and salary.

Home leave was supposed to be obligatory every two years. After three years Smith and his family were given home leave on October 8, 1948, and the Councillor refused to let them go until January 20, 1949, because Smith was urgently needed and was actually the head of the economic set-up in the Legation.

Smith's chief duty in London was to establish, or rather promote liaison between American and British business men. Incidentally,



he handled this job successfully and was told that it was the first time in twenty years that the Americans in the Embassy felt that they had someone interested in American business. When he was passed over, two vice-presidents of large American concerns wanted to send a letter of protest to the American Club, which Smith would not allow.

Later assigned to Budapest April 20, 1949. Designated Second Secretary and, incidentally, was actually the head of the economic set-up in the Legation.

Assigned to Stockholm November 28, 1949, designated Second Secretary. He was in Economic Section under a man of ten years less experience, with no special assignment except to help with the Economic Section in line.

These qualifications, twelve years business experience in handling Mexican grain exports; speaks French, Spanish and German; has been popular with all business men in various countries, thereby able to get information not usually available officially. He is an economic expert, loyal to the point of turning down several extremely well paid positions, the best one being offered when he had been in London three months. He refused on the ground that he was given what seemed to him a very important job to do and he felt he could not leave with it unfinished.

Smith has the reputation of being a diplomatic and conscientious officer. All promotions have been statutory ones. When personnel was tackled in Washington about lack of promotion prior to London, Smith was told he had done such a magnificent job in Managua he would get a double jump and his career at that time looked very bright.

Department has list yearly of all officers' preferences. They are Paris, Madrid, Bern, Rome, Brussels, Barcelona Athens and Bonn. It would seem that the Department should give some consideration to the choice of posts, especially in the present case when the Minister wrote



and asked that they reconsider. The Smith's have a child to educate, not particularly healthy in Scandinavia, as they found in Copenhagen, transferring after seven months to about the furthest point to Switzerland, and also the most expensive for them.

Senator, this is the sum and substance of an outline of Mr. Smith's activities, consisting of about twenty years of service. He is thoroughly honest, intelligent, has a delightful wife who, incidentally, attended college with Mrs. Carter.

In my estimation the Department could not have a more conscientious diplomatic, well-meaning individual than Jule Smith. You can readily understand that diplomatic career, irrespective of capability, at times is subjected to disappointments on account of someone else having a better acquaintanceship with the powers that be.

I am not unmindful that the State Department has a serious problem in finding conscientious, intelligent, well balanced Americans who are willing to follow a career of this kind, which does not always turn out profitable. For example, you will note in the letter that since they have been in London they have had 41 supper parties of over 25, having had a cook for 7. Mrs. Smith has been compelled to do the balance of the work. Their total allowance is \$300.00 per year.

After reading this, if you can concur in my viewpoint and feel that Mr. Smith is entitled to a better break, and feel disposed to lend a helping hand, it will be greatly appreciated. You can rest assured that if both Mrs. Carter and I were not interested to the extent we are, and I did not feel that Smith had not been treated as well as he should have been, I would not presume to ask you to intercede in his behalf. Had General Marshall or Ed Stettinius happened to be in office at this time I would have handled the matter directly with them.



- 5 -

With apologies again for taking up your valuable time, as I know that you are burning the candle at both ends. Having been following this procedure for a long time I can realize what it means.

I am leaving early in the morning - Monday - for New York, returning home next Sunday.

Sincerely,

AGC:mm



Dear Lyndon:

I presume all of us think that we have more troubles than anyone. That is rather human nature. Usually, when someone comes in to me proclaiming their troubles I ask them did they ever hear the story of the man who gave his friend a cigar? The friend replied "This is a damn sorry cigar." And received a reply to the effect: "What are you complaining about? You only have one, and I have a box full left."

This in no way is indicative of our comparative problems. You are in the big league and I am in the minors (which I hope John Lewis will get back to work)!

Sincerely,