

January 28, 1942.

Honorable Sam Rayburn,
Speaker of the House,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sam:

Enclosed, herewith, you will find a copy of a letter I am writing to Secretary Frank Knox regarding Captain Thad A. Thomson, the Commandant of the Eighth Naval District of which Texas is a part.

Sam, all the information I have about Captain Thomson is that he is a capable, efficient, hard-boiled officer, tough as a boot, has been in the Navy thirty-nine years and is still only fifty-four years old. He is a Texan by birth and owns a ranch near San Angelo.

It would seem from all the information I have that he may have incurred enmity of some of the high Navy officials on account of his hard-boiled attitude in keeping his command whether on land or sea on its toes and ready to shoot first if necessary. We certainly could not have too many men of this kind and, as stated in my letter to Secretary Knox, it is a shame we did not have some Captain Thomsons in Pearl Harbor.

I am interested in seeing that Captain Thomson gets a square deal and that he is not discriminated against through politics, or for any other reason. I do not personally know Captain Thomson, but I am rather familiar with the situation as it exists.

Incidentally and CONFIDENTIALLY I am writing Senator Connally, as per the enclosed copy, and if the opportunity presents itself wherein you can discuss this matter personally with the Secretary and you feel it advisable, under the circumstances, I would appreciate having you do so. In other words, I have written the Secretary a personal letter and asked Senator Connally to see him and I do not want to try to stampede him in any way, but I do want to

familiarize you with the facts and you could say to the Secretary, if you would permit me to make a suggestion, that I discussed this matter with you and that you are interested in seeing that everybody gets a square deal and especially a Texan. So, use your own judgment (as I know you are going to anyway).

This is no time for interpolitics or petty jealousies to interfere with Uncle Sam having the best and most capable officers available.

Thanks very much!

Sincerely,

AGC.KD