

January 26, 1943.

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

Dear Sam:

Ever since I arrived home on December 30th, I have been knee deep in unanswered correspondence, bills, etc - hence my delay in writing to thank you for all the trouble I caused you during the last few months.

I had a very interesting trip on which I am trying to prepare some stories - if I can ever get squared around long enough.

I know you think I was probably rather insistent about the turkeys. It seemed somewhat presumptuous to be worrying you about turkeys to ship others when I didn't send you one. As a matter of fact, I did not send out a single turkey to anyone except those to England. By the way and for your confidential information, they finally arrived and by boat and if the recipients knew how much trouble they had caused you and others of our friends they would probably make them last as long as possible and appreciate them a little more.

Enclosed, you will find a copy of a letter that I wrote the President which "kind of" covers in a general way some of my contacts in England. When you have finished reading the copy of the President's letter, please return it to me. I contributed about \$500.00 to the British Seamen's Fund as I felt I did not want to be a public charge or in any way unnecessarily impose on either the American or British governments. Personally, I feel my trip was beneficial for all concerned.

Incidentally, Amon Junior is now on the front in North Africa. He is very enthusiastic and in his last letter told me that I would owe him some money immediately and to go ahead and put it in the bank. This was with reference to my previous telegram to him that I would

give him \$100.00 for each damn German, \$100.00 for each dirty Jap and \$10.00 for each Italian and an extra bonus of \$500.00 for twenty.

I certainly hope they get the political situation in North Africa straightened out and we do not become involved in a political brawl of that nature so that we cannot devote all of our efforts and time to exterminating the enemy.

Incidentally, I read Mr. Jeffer's statement in the paper this morning about the over-lapping authorities and meddling and even though he has been reprimanded for not asking someone what he could say, his statement might be beneficial in the long run. It is refreshing to have someone who knows what he is talking about have the courage to say it.

The oil business is so bad that I have quit worrying about it. All I am trying to do now is to keep the bank from taking the property away from me. It is impossible to make any money or operate under the present restrictions. If they keep messing it up we will wind up with the major companies owning all of the independent oil companies and the public paying \$3.00 a barrel for oil within a few years. Most every new ruling that is made tends to eliminate the independent producer and enables the major companies to get by with the things they have always tried to do but could never get away with and now they can do all these things under the guise of National Defense, Emergency Acts, etc.

Rationing oil in a state that has more oil than Nevada has water makes it difficult to understand the logic. For example, I have 100 oil wells which could produce 20,000 barrels of oil a day. With the restrictions, I am producing about 2,000 barrels a day and have an "A" rationing card which does not give me enough gasoline to make six round trips from my home to the office and back. Still, you will find the highways and byways loaded down with government cars checking up the checkers.

Now, please do not consider that I am belly-aching or complaining. I am just giving vent regarding a lot of impractical, unnecessary things that we are confronted with. Still, we are so damn much better off than they are in Europe that I came home with the idea

of being more tolerant. In fact, as stated in my letter to the President, everything looked so good over here that I even had no resentment in having to pass through Dallas by train to arrive home (as the result of bad weather and flying conditions).

This should be enough for one "sitting", meanwhile I am sending you a box of cigars. Even though you don't smoke, you can pass them out to your friends. (I don't mind confessing to you confidentially that someone sent them to me for Christmas and not having smoked a cigar since June 15th, I want to get rid of them before they tempt me too much into falling off the wagon. And, while we are on the subject, I have not had but one drink since that time and it was with Amn Junior in Buckingham Palace Thanksgiving Day.

Sometime within the next few weeks, if I thought I could find a place to hang my hat in Washington, I would like to come by and visit with you.

Again, my thanks and appreciation.

Sincerely,

AGC.KD