

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

OSWALD RYAN
5511 Chevy Chase Parkway
Washington, D.C.

28 April (1955)

Dear Amon:

I enclose the letter which you suggested.

After my years in Harvard College and the Harvard Law School I was admitted to the Indiana Bar and practiced there until on the recommendation of President Hoover I was called to Washington to be the General Counsel of the Power Commission. Several key men on the F. P. C. Staff today were formerly on my staff at the Commission. Thus, for example, the General Counsel and the and the Chief of the Natural Gas division were formerly under me in the legal department. I have other personal friends on the staff and some remain on the Commission itself. Incidentally, the Commission is still guided by some of my basic legal opinions issued when I was General Counsel. It followed my opinion interpreting the natural gas act until last June when the high court established a different interpretation.

In addition to acting as the Commission's legal counsel and adviser, I appeared for it in important cases in the U. S. District Courts, the various courts of Appeal and in the Supreme Court. Among the most important of these court cases were the Appalachian Power case; the Metropolitan Edison case in which I delivered the argument, for the Government in the Supreme Court; the widely advertised prudent investment rate case in which I undertook to persuade the high court that the prudent investment base was constitutional; and the Santee-Cooper case in which at the request of the late Senator Maybank, an old friend, I defended the State of South Carolina against the attack upon the constitutional right of the State. Newton D. Baker was my opposing counsel in the Appalachian and the Santee-Cooper cases in both of which we were successful.

I told Chas. Halleck the Republican House leader about my conversation with you about the gas possibilities and he said to tell you that you could use his name in support of any good word you might want to say about me and that he would back you up. Halleck has been a leader in the gas fight on the side of State Control. He thinks the outcome of the present effort to restore state control over production and gathering is doubtful at this stage.

I appreciate your willingness to help in this matter and will value your advice.

Sincerely,

/S/ Oswald