

United States Senate,
WASHINGTON, D.C.

Personal.

Marion, Ohio, December 10th, 1920.

Hon. George Sutherland,
Southern Building,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Senator Sutherland:

Recalling some conversations you and I had during our travels last autumn, I am taking the liberty of writing to you about some matters which concern nobody except myself. I think I said to you that I hoped to be able to make a business arrangement that would locate me permanently in Marion. Concerning that I can only say that since election matters have taken such a turn that it is apparent nothing will come of the transaction and therefore I find myself more willing to make other arrangements.

In Washington the other day I got a glimpse of you at Senator Lodge's office but no opportunity to talk with you, which I very much desired. The next day you were reported to be in New York.

Several of my friends suggested to me that it would probably be possible for me to secure an appointment as one of the members of the Federal Trade Commission, for which I think there are now or will be shortly some vacancies. It happens to be one of the Government's instruments in whose work I am very genuinely interested. Senators Cummins and Kenyon have indicated that they will be very glad to do whatever is possible for me, and some of my friends are undertaking to interest the Maryland Senators (I being a citizen of Maryland) in my behalf. Senator Kenyon suggested that nobody would be quite so influential as yourself in suggesting this matter to Senator Harding. I am therefore going to ask you, if it is not inconsistent with your convictions or any commitments, if you will suggest the possibility of such an appointment to

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him. I have some delicacy about going to him about it in my own behalf, and of course do not care to attempt to organize any support unless reasonably sure that my showing would be considered.

I have gathered a pretty definite impression that you are not going to be a member of the Cabinet and that you will be the first appointee to the Supreme Bench. I can say quite honestly that I do not believe anybody in the entire party could have commanded so many enthusiastic expressions of approval in that connection as I have heard in your behalf. All of the elements and factions seem to be able to unite on this particular suggestion. I should say that if Senator Harding succeeds as well in making his other selections, with a view to pleasing everybody, he ought to have quite as successful an administration as he hopes for.

Please be very sure that I do not want to ask anything of you that would be in any way embarrassing and that if you would prefer not to interest yourself in this matter I will quite understand.

I hope the approximate unanimity of the election results was not so overwhelming as to relieve anybody of a proper sense of responsibility for the hereafter. It is a common observation that sometimes majorities are too big and emphatic. In the present case there is certainly no evidence thus far that the new Administration is going to indulge any of the mistakes due to over-confidence.

Permit me to extend my congratulations to both you and the Supreme Court.

Most sincerely yours,

Judson C. Welliver