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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON

TERRITORIES AND INSULAR AFFAIRS

MISS CORONIE BARBER, CLERK

May 7, 1940.

Mr. David Berenstein,
Attorney at Law,
Boatmen's Bank Building,
St. Louis, Missouri.

My dear Mr. Berenstein:

This is to acknowledge receipt of your letter under date of April 17.

In the outset, may I ask you to overlook my seeming neglect in not having acknowledged receipt of your letter sooner. That delay has been due to the fact that I was in the hospital for about ten days for treatment to an ear, and after having been released from the hospital I went South to deliver some addresses in reference to TVA developments and also an address under the auspices of the American Automobile Association. Having but recently returned to this office this really is the first opportunity I have found in which to dictate much correspondence. Otherwise, I would have written you sooner.

I note in your letter of the afore mentioned date that it occurred to you that the best way to proceed in the matter of arriving at a decision as to who you will support in the present Democratic Primary of the State of Missouri for the nomination of a United States Senator is to ascertain from me as one of Senator Truman's associates what, if any, did Senator Truman contribute to the Senate to merit his renomination, and if certain contributions he really made, are they of the character and substance to have earned further confidence and support of his candidacy.

In answer thereto, I am happy to advise that it has been my pleasure and honor to have served in the Senate of the United States with Senator Truman for approximately six years past. Of course, you know that personally he is a very delightful individual. He has one of the most pleasing personalities I have ever known and, without attempting flattery, I might add that he is considered one of the most popular men in the Senate.

Mr. Berenstein

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May 7, 1940.

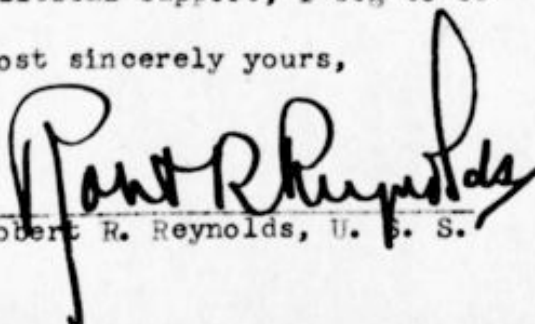
I happen to know pretty much about the activities of our various Congressional representatives, and I can truly state, and do gladly accept the opportunity to state, that I know of no harder-working man here in Washington than Harry Truman. He is on the job morning, noon and night, as the Record will show. He is interested in every subject upon the floor of the Senate and gives his thoroughly undivided attention to his Senatorial duties. At Committee meetings he is most active, and it is needless for me to say that upon questions of interest to the people of his State and to the public at large he votes always without reservation his conscientious convictions, and certainly no constituents, or set of constituents, can ask more of any man.

He is independent in thought and in action. It has been my observation, and I might say a delightful observation, that he fulfils his every Senatorial duty and I do not believe anyone could work more conscientiously than does he.

Of course Senator Truman and I do not always see eye to eye. That is to be expected. I recognize that he is entitled to his opinion and I am entitled to my opinion. I for one thank heaven that in this Democracy of ours we have free speech and a free press, and I hope always that we shall enjoy those blessings. Differences of opinion, debates, and expression of ideas have made for us the greatest nation upon the face of the earth, and so long as we are permitted to enjoy this free speech and free press than so long shall we continue as the greatest nation upon the face of the earth.

With assurances of my highest respect, thanking you for having provided me with the inquiry contained in your letter pertaining to my colleague, hoping that if you are ever here in Washington I shall have the pleasure of meeting you, and assuring you that I personally shall appreciate immensely your providing Senator Truman with your political support, I beg to be

Most sincerely yours,


Robert R. Reynolds, U. S. S.

