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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

April 24, 1940

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

Dear Mr. Berenstein:

Pressure of public business has caused some delay in answering your letter of the 17th in which you inquired about the services rendered here by Senator Truman.

Disclaiming any intention to try to influence the selection of a member of the Senate from the State of Missouri, I feel that I should answer your question. Senator Truman has been a diligent worker during his entire service here. He is energetic and conscientious in the performance of his duties. He has secured the respect and confidence of all of his colleagues. The most effective members of the Senate are not those who constantly occupy the floor of the Senate and try to make headlines in the newspapers, but are the men who work seriously and earnestly and with good judgment to promote the best interest of all the people of our country. Senator Truman has done a great deal of work on our railroad problems and he and Senator Wheeler are looked upon as the best informed men in the Senate on that subject.

I am a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee. Senator Truman is also a member of that committee. It is by far the hardest worked committee of the Senate. Every dollar that goes out of the federal Treasury must be annually passed on by that committee. You probably know that no other committee is authorized to handle any appropriation bill. It is necessary for the Appropriations Committee to examine many thousands of appropriation items covering every activity of the government and every department and agency of every kind.



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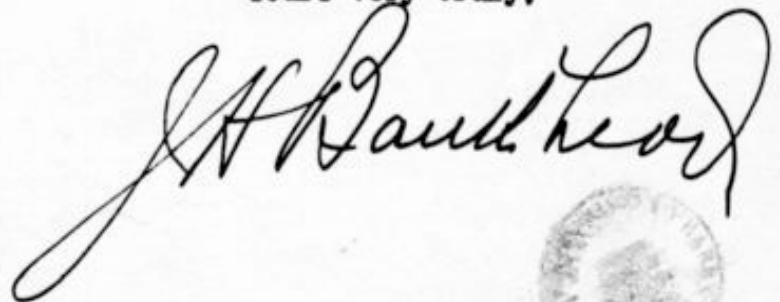
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Mr. David Berenstein
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Senator Truman has been steady in his attendance in the meetings of that committee, including the sub-committees of that committee, of which he is also a member. In my opinion he has exercised unusually good judgment in voting upon the many controversies which arise almost daily.

I want to comment particularly, however, upon Senator Truman's interest in and service to the cause of agriculture. I assume that you know something of my leadership in the field of agricultural legislation. If I have any reputation in the Senate for fidelity to any particular group of our people, that group is the farmers. I found him at all times active, interested and cooperative in the welfare of our mass of agricultural producers. He has fully realized that the farmers in the main constitute the trade area in our western and southern countries and without reasonable purchasing power by farmers our towns and cities cannot progress. All appropriations for agricultural purposes must be acted on by the Appropriations Committee. There has not been a bill before that committee involving the interest of the farmers that has not had the firm sympathetic interest of Senator Truman. The farmers of Missouri could not have a better friend in the Senate judged by his votes on agricultural bills of every sort and character.

Yours very truly,



JHB:m

