The Honorable Harry S. Truman
The President of the United States
The White House

My dear Mr. President:

I deeply appreciate your kind letter of July 3rd last. I take it I should not assume that you signed it personally. For one in your position such a practice would no doubt involve an impossible task.

Permit me to congratulate you sincerely on your apology to the Marines. For a President publicly to acknowledge a mistake is evidence of true greatness. Your doing so in such a graceful manner indicates rare tact and wisdom. I admire your spiritual philosophy. Bennett Fox puts it this way, "Your present problem is your great opportunity."

As I wrote you I am a great admirer of Mr. Acheson and am convinced that his resignation would be a heavy loss to this country and to the world at this critical time. Beset by great trials and tribulations he has conducted himself with rare fortitude and dignity and has continued to think clearly and act wisely. The American people should be profoundly thankful that you apparently have every confidence in him and in his policies. Your letter to me expressing your high esteem for Mr. Acheson was added evidence of your wisdom and courage. For McCarthyism to accomplish his removal is unthinkable.

Bringing Senator Lodge into the picture was an excellent move. I have known him and his grandfather for many years. He ceased to be a dangerous isolationist when he learned
from Dr. Finch of the Bureau of Mines that we were dependent upon many other areas for a large number of strategic materials, essential for our security. Some years ago he was an imperialist, weird evidence of which was the fact that he had a map of the world in his home study, with Canada and many remote areas, including Australia, marked for future acquisition by the United States. At times he straddles and squirms, as in his report on McCarthyism, but is essentially honest intellectually. He is ambitious to be President and if the Republicans ever get back in, which I sometimes doubt, my guess is that he may reach his goal some day. He certainly has plenty of ability and great and increasing influence in his party. You and Mr. Acheson couldn’t have picked a more useful Republican for the United Nations job.

It is my feeling that the present emergency will develop to a high degree your statesmanlike qualities for which the peoples of the world have such critical need.

May the Lord give you strength, courage and wisdom for the task that lies ahead. You have made a grand start.

With kindest regards, best wishes and a deep faith in your ability to carry on to the best advantage as an able and fearless leader of a very troubled world,

Sincerely and respectfully,

A. Barr Comstock

September 12, 1950.
July 3, 1950

Dear Mr. Comstock:

In these troubled times it gives me great satisfaction to receive a letter such as yours of June twenty-eighth, and I am more grateful than I can tell you for this frank expression of your views. I, too, believe Dean Acheson will take his place as one of our great Secretaries of State and, naturally, like to have my judgment verified by your estimate of him. I am glad, also, to have your high opinion of Averell Harriman — another faithful and efficient public servant.

Gratefully and sincerely,

(Sgd) HARRY S. TRUMAN

A. Barr Comstock, Esq.,
Cosmos Club,
Washington 5, D. C.
The President of the
United States
The White House

My dear Mr. President:

For some thirty years I was a die-hard New England Republican, and responsible groups even wanted to run me for the Senate. I then reformed and have been happier ever since. I have been a lay-student of politics all my adult life, although since November 1948 I have felt as humble and ignorant as Mr. Gallup.

Please let me respectfully urge you not to ask for Mr. Acheson's resignation. It is constantly rumored that you will. I feel sure he will not resign unless he thinks you want him to. Character is even more important than brains. Mr. Acheson has both, coupled with invaluable experience. He is one of the best Secretaries of State we have ever had. He is now meeting the people face to face and evidencing the charm of his true personality. He has learned to unbend. He is fighting these low, mean, wholly unjustified attacks of Senator McCarthy, aimed at both you and him, in an effective, sportsmanlike manner and on a high plane. He is a distinct asset to this country, to the world and, incidentally, to the Democratic party, to all of which his premature retirement would be a distinct liability. McCarthyism will surely boomerang on the Republican party and more and more independent voters will gradually come to recognize it for the menace to the American way of life and to our national security which it truly is. I know Mr. Acheson only slightly and, for certain personal reasons, I could be prejudiced.
against him. I am convinced, however, that he is invaluable in his present position, and that he is a great American whose services at this particular time are greatly needed.

Congratulations on your appointment of Mr. Harrisman. He is another very able and valuable man and should be of great help to both you and Mr. Acheson with whom, it would seem, he could work to good advantage.

With kind regards and very best wishes for your personal and official well-being and continued success.

Sincerely and respectfully,

A. Barr Comstock

June 28, 1950