March 26, 1945

Mr. and Mrs. F. S. Thompson 2822 E. 4th Place Tulsa, Oklahoma

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Thompson:

I am just in receipt of your letter of March 22, endorsing the "Merchant Seamen's War Service Act," H. R. 2346. I have secured a copy of this bill and am studying the provisions of the same.

I appreciate the noble service the men of the Merchant Marine are rendering and that they are entitled to fair and equitable protection. However, there are some serious questions arising in connection with any bill seeking to give them the same rights and privileges as are given the soldiers and sailors under the "G. I. Bill of Rights." One of these considerations is that those in the Merchant Marine service are getting a salary much larger than the pay that is given the other men in the service and that the Merchant Marines at least fare much better while the war is on than their brothers in the fighting forces. There are other questions which suggest there should be differences in benefits. I don't know just what will happen but I am frank to tell you that we must consider the overall picture and each measure must stand on its own bottom and receive fair consideration.

I shall endeavor to do what seems to be right and fair to all parties concerned and use my influence in that direction at all times.

Yours very truly,

George B. Schwabe, M. C.

GBS : CMG

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Mours muly,

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