

~~Toward Plan~~
~~SCHWABE~~ - COL

old age assistance

October 19, 1945

Mr. R. M. Hamilton
1160 North Main Street
Tulsa, Oklahoma

Dear Friend:

I have your letter of the 14th instant and have read it with more than passing interest.

In the first place, I might say that coincidentally with the receipt of your letter, two gentlemen called at my office just before I read your letter, both of the Legislative Bureau here. Furthermore, I received two of the postal cards you referred to in your letter, one signed by Mary Alice Kelley and one by Mr. J. W. Kelley, both of 834 North St. Louis Street, Tulsa. Hence, your letter was most timely, and enabled me to know what I had already suspected as soon as I saw the postal cards.

I am one of those men in Congress who are not influenced appreciably by pressure groups. In fact, I am inclined to resent the activities of pressure groups and do not hesitate to say so on all proper occasions. This card is certainly a pressure group activity for it states that the signer has a certain number of votes in his family "that will help elect a Congressman in the First Congressional District in 1946 who will support this bill or a similar one for a National Old Age Pension."

You may rest assured that I do not appreciate the attitude of the Committee to which the bill has been referred in the House of Representatives. I think they should have the fortitude to consider it fairly and promptly, to take evidence, hear testimony and arguments pro and con, and then make their recommendations to the House. I think the same about a great many other bills that have been chloroformed in the committees here. That is the old gag method. But you know that I do not believe this New Deal crowd, which has a majority in both Houses and therefore can put over or prevent the passage of any bill it wants to, has the intestinal fortitude to handle it this way. It is their responsibility, and I do not hesitate to put the responsibility where it logically and actually belongs; and I am going to insist upon their carrying that load.

I am becoming fed up on the idea that the President and the Majority leaders in both the Senate and House telling the people that they are for such-and-such measures, and at the same time using methods to circumvent and interfere with their passing. It is time the people knew the facts; and when they know them, I am inclined to believe their eyes will be open and they will no longer follow blindly a false leadership.

I think you have a very clear conception of just what is happening here, particularly in what we may now term the Truman Administration; and I hope as the days and weeks pass that the public will be able to sense the situation as clearly as you have, and as clearly as it appears to us here now.

I wish to thank you for your clear and able discussion of the subjects embodied in your letter.

With kindest personal regards and best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

George B. Schwabe, M.C.

GS:LW

Tulsa, Okla., Oct. 14, 1945.

Rep. George Schwabe, First Cong. Dist. of Oklahoma,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Friend, George;-

As I have already had my "day in court" with you in regard to enactment of the T.P. into law I have nothing further to say along that line. H.R. 2229 is the embodiment of what we hope to see made law. You will get all of the evidence that experts can give if the word of Doughton is carried out. Half of the Representatives of Oklahoma will support this measure, I feel fairly sure. It is our earnest wish that you will swell that number by your vote.

But here is the main reason why I am writing this letter: You will receive a card from perhaps quite a number of people here who purport to be Townsend Plan supporters. I herewith disavow that card with all of the sense of right that I have. I think it is an insult. Why anybody should think of sending such a worded thing is beyond me. Its author, a woman who was on the payroll of Curtis Greer in the last election, and we believe likewise on the payroll of Edmer Thomas, wrote the card. I fought it on a motion in the Club and was beaten by a vote of 9 to 11. She is what we used to call a ward heeler and not at all what she pretends to stand for.

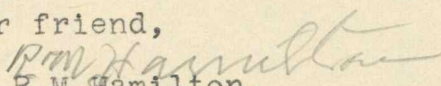
I believe the above mentioned bill offers the best and only way so far to stop depressions and put this country away from the fear and possibility of more depressions. I only ask that you will carefully study the evidence given. You will find plenty of able men and women supporting the idea.

Above all I am a true American. In all your responsibility I hope you will be guided by the highest motives in your service to us and by the principles of the Savior whom you follow. We may not see somethings alike but we can always give due respect to the judgments of our peers.

I never wanted to see the Republican party rise again to the heights of that greatest of all American leaders past and present, Abraham Lincoln, who was president of the lowliest as well as of the highest.

It is my very sober judgment that the Republican Party will have the responsibility of electing the next president of the United States. Mr. Truman has done some fine things and we shall give him due credit. But the job is going to prove too big for him. He will gradually veer over to the game of politics and this will swamp him. Let's let no class hold us from a course of Independence that is strictly in accord with our Declaration, our Federal Constitution, and the Golden Rule. The greatest opportunity and the greatest responsibility come to us hand in hand. I hope your record in Congress will set you high in the list of those who will make good history.

Sincerely your friend,


R.M. Hamilton.

1160 No. Main St., Tulsa, Okla