

SUBJECT FILE
OFFICIAL O.F.

155-18-1

February 6, 1953

FEB 7 1953

My dear Senator:

It gave me a great deal of pleasure to have you present at the luncheon last Tuesday, and I am indeed gratified that you found it enjoyable.

Certainly I can appreciate your desire for early and definitive comments respecting the St. Lawrence Seaway. As you say in your letter, the subject was not included in my Message — and frankly, the omission was intentional, not because of any inclination to slight this project, but because I have not yet had full opportunity to analyze thoroughly its complicated and vast ramifications. As you know so well, the Seaway project involves not only our relations with our neighbor, Canada, and large areas of our nation from the economic standpoint, but also the national defense and the fiscal policy of our government with which I am particularly concerned at this time.

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I have requested that all of the interested government agencies report fully to me about this project, and I shall see that these various reports are given the prompt and thorough consideration they warrant. Until then I know you will agree that I should not and must not comment publicly on this matter. I should like, however, to reiterate my comments of last June and July in the campaign, that if the project does proceed, I should regret very much to see the United States excluded.

XOF 103

Thank you very much for writing to me.

Sincerely,

President's sig

Honorable Alexander Wiley
United States Senate
Washington, D. C.

X

bh/rh

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