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THE WHITE HOUSE

United States Senate

Mar 19 9 21 AM '53

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

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March 17, 1953

Personal and Confidential

Honorable Sherman Adams  
Assistant to the President  
The White House  
Washington, D. C.

My dear Governor:

I want to thank you for your call this afternoon.

I should like to confirm a few of the points I made, and also to present a few additional observations. They are rather extended, but I hope your massive work-load will not prevent you from reading them personally.

As I see it, the situation is as follows:

1. Nothing short of an all-out fight by the Chief Executive personally, and by every agency of his Administration, can assure victory for the Seaway in the 83rd Congress. The Seaway bill must become a "must", not a priority "E" affair.

Any temporizing statement to the effect that "it would be nice to join with Canada, but that there are some obstacles or problems" -- any such statement would practically automatically assure the defeat of the Seaway.

2. As you know, we either join with Canada in the next few months or we close the door forever. Speed is essential, therefore, in a White House decision coordinating the battle and directing every agency to back the Seaway to the hilt, rather than to permit any pussy-footing.

3. Frankly, I cannot agree with any contention for one moment that merely because two or three of the Republican Leaders on Capitol Hill are not for the Seaway -- that such a fact should constitute an obstacle to the Eisenhower Administration's stand.

In the first place, the splendid position of our Senate Majority Leader, Bob Taft, is a factor of the greatest magnitude.

Per St.  
Read by Shanley  
(No reply)