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Levi Pennington to President Herbert Hoover, March 16, 1930

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En Route, Portland to Chicago,
March 16, 1930.

Herbert Hoover,
President of the United States,
Washington, D.C.

PERSONAL.

Dear Friend:--

I have for some days felt that I wanted to write you a personal letter of encouragement, and if you don't need it now, you can save it, or its effect, for some time when you do.

I do not know how much you are influenced by the comments of others, their attacks, their approval or disapproval. But it was inevitable that any man who took the stand that you have taken in regard to the enforcement of law, especially the prohibition law, and in regard to peace and disarmament, would be subject to attack. War and liquor are two things which a man, no matter who he is, may not touch with impunity.

It is my hope that you may have the constant confidence that those whose good opinion is most worth having are with you in your efforts toward a sober world and a world at peace. We expected much of you when we elected you to the presidency, and we are not being disappointed. It is not often that I have been able to say, "If I could have my choice of all the men in America for president, I would unhesitatingly select this man above all others." I was able to say that before the last election, did say it many times, in public and in private, and have every reason to believe I was right.

And we are sure that you are not to be turned aside from your good purposes, by anything that has come or that may come in the way of opposition or difficulty. If the present London Conference does not do what we have hoped, then when the time is ripe we are sure you will make another move toward peace and disarmament. If difficulties multiply rather than lessen for you in your work for a sober America, the conquering of difficulties has been your specialty on a big scale for so long that you'll do the big thing still.

With best wishes and great confidence I am

Ever your sincere friend,