Dear B.H.,

First of all I wish to tell you how much I appreciate your writing me so fully and so interestingly under date of November 9 in acknowledgment of my letter of October 18.

First of all, I want you to know that we appreciated and enjoyed very much Lawson’s only too brief visit here. During the two trips I made to London, I learned to have a very high appreciation of Lawson’s capacities and personality, and I think you are very fortunate to have associated with a partner such as he is and whose judgment is so sound. I believe that Lawson enjoyed his stay here, but it was too brief. My wife and I enjoyed having him with us very much. Tell Lawson that I am sending him some pictures of the house in Guernavaca very shortly, and although they are not too good, they do show him at the banana palm and at the cotton plant. I hope that he had a comfortable trip back by air.

I hope that the report which he made you of his trip to Mexico will sharpen your appetite for this trip of Mrs. Binder and yourself. I would have liked very much, if the time available had made it possible, to have him see some of our plants; I do hope that, when you make your plans for Mexico City, you will allow at least two weeks, for I think that is the minimum, if you will really have an appreciation of the Country, and will really enjoy it.

It is kind of you to make the comment concerning my wife’s and my health. I am glad to say that Marion is really ever so much better; I had, for the first
time in our married life, been concerned about her health after our return from the last trip to England. During the last two months, the inconveniences from which she had been suffering, had entirely disappeared, and while she has somewhat slowed down the tempo of her usually too active life, she is really able to carry on normally in every respect. Needless to say, I am a great deal relieved and very happy.

So far as my own health is concerned, I really abide by my doctor's orders for the first time in my life. During the last trip to New York, Toronto and Washington I did not feel fit at all, and felt very much let down. My doctor in New York, just before I returned to Mexico, gave me a little bit of a scare, and on my return here, my doctor in Mexico confirmed what the one in New York had said. There is really nothing fundamentally wrong except that I have been going too hard and it was necessary, at sixty-seven, to take things a little more easily. It is difficult to change the habits of a lifetime, and I am not suffering under any illusion that I can completely change these habits. In one respect, however, I have definitely made a change. For as long as I can remember, it has been my custom to spend Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning dictating more important correspondence. Now that I have bought this house in Cuernavaca, I leave here with Marion about six or seven in the evening on Friday and return early Monday mornings. This gives us three nights and two whole days in the lower altitude of Cuernavaca, and that is doing us both a world of good. My personal secretary usually goes with us to Cuernavaca for the weekend, but so far I have been successful in my efforts to resist any of the impulses to do any work while I am there.

Marysaal left for Belgium yesterday morning and will probably be back here by the end of the year. It is a very much needed holiday. I do not know whether he will be able to spend any time in London while he is away, but I hope that he may have a day or two in London, as I would be very happy if he could have a few hours with you and Leeper. I am sure that he would like to see you both. I feel sure that, if he can arrange it, he will do so, but his time is going to be short, as he desires to get back here as soon as he can.

I have noted with much interest what you tell me concerning your plans for somewhat relaxing your busi-
ness activities, and in view of your plans in this respect, I am happier than ever that you have joined the Board of Mexlight. I can assure you that the burdens of your duties on the Board will not be heavy, but we do look forward to your counsel and we do hope that we can see you at the meetings from time to time in Toronto.

Lawson told me that you were thinking of selling your London house, but I somehow felt that you would not do it, however much you felt like doing it. Marion and I thought that it was one of the most attractive houses we knew in London; it was not too big, but ample and comfortable and had a very attractive atmosphere, which of course you and Mrs. Binder gave to it. I can quite appreciate that it was a wrench to decide to get rid of it. The difficulty about really comfortable houses these days is - it is so difficult to live in them comfortably. Mexico is one of the few places that I know of in the world where one can enjoy fairly amply some of the amenities of nice living.

I hope that you will enjoy your place in the Country and look forward to seeing it the next time Marion and I are able to make a trip to London. I think you are wise in cutting down your activities somewhat, but I am sure that you will find it as difficult as I have found it. But there are some radical steps that some of us have to take.

I am very happy that Leeper is thinking of coming over for the June meeting of the Board in 1951, and that he will arrange to visit us in Mexico City while he is over here. I think that he and his wife will enjoy it, and we do want him to know our installations in this Country. I am sorry that you will not be able to make it for the June meeting next year, but hope that you can come for the October meeting or for one of the other meetings of the Board, and that you will leave ample time for this visit to Mexico. I am sorry that we cannot pay the travel expenses of the wives of directors when they attend directors' meetings; but as I have already told you, we can cover the travel expenses of directors both to Toronto and to Mexico City.

I think in some ways it would be very nice if Leeper comes over for the June meeting of the Board, and you come for one of the later meetings during the year. The June and the October meetings are, as I think I told you in a previous letter, the two most important meetings of the Board during the year, so that if you could arrange for the October meeting to be there, it would be very de-
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London E.C. 2

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Sirable. If, however, your plans are such that it would be more convenient for you to attend a meeting later in the year, we might be able to postpone this coming year's October meeting to such date as would be convenient to you.

So far as Mexico City is concerned and your trip here, it really does not make any difference what time of the year you come. The weather is much the same here throughout the year, and it is always pleasant; so far as the Company's installations are concerned, which you would wish to see, it is just as convenient to see them one month as another. So far as the personal end of the trip is concerned, it is equally unimportant what time you come, for we can make the trips which I have in mind, any time of the year with the same enjoyment and the same convenience. So far as my own plans are concerned, I feel sure I could make them fit yours, both for Toronto and for Mexico City.

Things are developing quite normally here; we have just given out the contract for the building of the Patla tunnel, and we were fortunately able to give it to the lowest bidder, whose bid was around 23 million Pesos. We had quite a time studying the bids, as you will appreciate when I tell you that the highest bid was 53 million Pesos and the lowest, as mentioned, around 23 million. We have made a tremendous effort to keep the program on schedule for all the works, and that is not easy in the times in which we live, when the materials problems become more difficult everywhere.

This is somewhat a disjointed letter, but I wanted to get this out without delay. I have been interrupted about half a dozen times while I was dictating, as with Maryssael away, I have to do a lot of things which ordinarily would not require my attention.

Marion joins me in all good wishes to you and Mrs. Binder.

Cordially and faithfully yours,

George S. Messersmith.