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W. H. Hennessey

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AUG 21 1953

See Sept 4

August 18, 1953

Personal

Dear John:

I was sorry to have your telephone call saying that you and Mrs. Snyder would not arrive here as planned but that you were hoping to get here on Monday, August 31, by American Airlines at about 7:45 a.m. I quite understand that you did not like to put off your trip but at the same time I quite appreciate that you were not able to make it. I do not wish you to feel that it is an embarrassment in any way and the only thing about it is that I regret that you could not make the trip as planned. Everything is so difficult these days, whether it is in business or government or whatever it is, that it is almost impossible to reckon on time elements.

The important thing is that when you do come I hope it will be at a time when you feel that you can do so freely and really relax and enjoy your stay here. So far as the company is concerned we are very anxious for you to see our installations which are readily accessible and I think you will enjoy that, and we will see that it is not tiring. So far as our staff is concerned, all the people whom you would be interested in knowing are concentrated here in Mexico City so that that will be a very simple matter. If you can plan to stay two weeks, as you have, I think it will be a very pleasant change for you and Mrs. Snyder. I am very anxious of course that you should get to know our people here and see our plants, because I think we have good reason to be proud of our organization.

I had put off the rather large supper party which we had planned for your original stay to Tuesday evening, the 25th August. I am not going to put this off again as they are all people whom Marion and I would like to entertain anyway and as soon as I have confirmation from you sometime before the 31st that you can make it on that date, we will arrange for another party of the same kind that will give you an opportunity to see so many of your old friends here.

The Honorable John W. Snyder,
Willys-Overland Corporation,
Toledo, Ohio.

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Mr. Snyder

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For your personal information I should tell you that I am planning to be away all of the month of October if circumstances here in the company permit, which as I now see it is likely. When I was last in New York I had a rather thorough check-up by my doctor and a surgeon and they both think that several small repair jobs should be done of a secondary nature but which would nevertheless keep me in the hospital in New York for about a month. I fixed October as there is nothing urgent or important about these repair jobs, as I reckon that by that time I can be away from here without too great inconvenience. The hospital stay is nothing of any importance and I was really rather flattered that my doctor and the surgeon should think that it is even worth while at my age to have these repair jobs done. I am merely mentioning the foregoing so that in case you should have to delay your trip further I would prefer that it be other than in the month of October, as I think I should get these jobs done while I can.

You should be receiving about the time that you get this letter or within a few days in any event a copy of a long letter which I wrote to Graydon, the resident Vice President in Toronto, for circulation among the members of the Board. Bob Garner and Sommers, the Chief Counsel of the Bank, and Rembert, who is I believe now Chief Engineer, were down here and had conversations with the Mexican authorities and of course with us. Bob Garner handled the matter very well indeed and the result of the visit I am sure will be as helpful to Mexico as to our company. I understand that Bob saw you in Washington immediately after his return from Mexico and must have given you the main outlines of his visit. My letter to Graydon is a very long one and a much longer one than you will wish to read, but there are parts of it which you will wish to read as they give what is on the whole a promising picture of the situation which we hope to tie up in the form of formal agreements in a maximum of two weeks. I doubt whether there will be any hitch in the agreements, for there is so much at stake for Mexico and the government here, as well as for us, but I never count on anything until the documents are signed and sealed.

While the arrangements are not all that they should be, I think it is the best that could be done at this time and there is the definite understanding that the Mexican government is prepared to study with the Bank the long range problem. I think this means a good deal. It is really encouraging to think that after some years of very hard work here it looks as though the position of the private industry is being consolidated.

Marion and I are looking forward to the visit of you and Mrs. Snyder. There are so many things we will have a chance to talk about and I am sure that there will be many things that will interest Mrs. Snyder during her stay. With all good wishes from us both,

Cordially and faithfully yours,

GSM/cbc