

1096
UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce

December 16, 1938.

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

Honorable George S. Messersmith,
Assistant Secretary of State,
Department of State,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Messersmith:

The announcement in the press of the resignation of Secretary Roper of Commerce Department, to whom I owed my first allegiance in official matters, now places a different aspect upon the propriety of my personal activities. As Mr. Roper appointed me into the service you, of course, understand that my first loyalty was to him.

After my conversation with you I am convinced that it is to the best interest of the government and the personnel of our Bureau that we be consolidated with the State Department under the terms and conditions outlined by you. I dare say it is the desire of the President to get a bill to this effect passed without undue delay. I believe that I can contribute toward this desired result. In order, however, that there may be complete accord in the activities of both departments in this respect, I would be pleased to have you send me a copy of the draft of such bill as has been prepared or is in preparation at your early convenience. I naturally will desire to discuss this proposed bill with some of my influential associates in our foreign service.

Wishing you and yours every happiness in the coming holidays, I am,

Sincerely,

H. M. BANKHEAD.