

November 1, 1971

Mr. William C. Harrop, Chairman,
Board of Directors,
American Foreign Service Association,
2101 E Street Northwest,
Washington, D.C. 20037.

Dear Mr. Harrop:

Your courteous and understanding letter of August 23 is much appreciated. Delay in acknowledgment has been due to my absence from Dallas. I have just returned from a two months' trip to Mexico.

The attitude of the Journal has truly shocked me. Although I came up through the Foreign Commerce Service, having joined it when Herbert Hoover was Secretary of Commerce, I early formed an intense loyalty to many of the mission chiefs under whom I served. George T. Summerlin, Norman Armour, Hoffman Philip, A. Henry Norweb, Spruille Braden, and George Messersmith to name a few. I felt the same way towards Sumner Welles, Jack Brhardt, Larry Duggan, Philip Bonsal, Eddie Miller and, not among the least, Dean Acheson himself. To this day, unfairness towards anyone of them, tempts me to saddle up rosinante and take out hell bent for leather after their detractors. Yet the Journal showed no interest, much less indignation, when historical inaccuracies affecting the reputation of two distinguished former members of the Foreign Service were called to its attention. What has happened? Has the generation gap grown so wide that there is no pride left in the Old Guard? Or has the self-proclaimed voice of the amorphous "Foreign Affairs Community" forgotten that it once represented a proud and elite Foreign Service, a Service that for all its faults was the equal of any of its contemporaries?

I regret that the Department was not consulted since I am confident that the Historical Office would have confirmed my findings as reported in my letter of August 27, 1970.

Again my thanks to you and Mr. Elliot.

Sincerely yours,

Merwin A. Bohan.