

1176

March 26, 1953

Personal

Dear John:

I am sending you herewith a letter inviting you to become a member of the Board of Mexlight. This may seem a little presumptuous, as I know that you will have many occupations, but ever since you left the Treasury, where you rendered such extraordinary service for our country, it has been my hope and that of other members of the Board that you would be able to join us on the Board. One of the oldest members of the Board passed away very recently, which leaves a vacancy and I can only tell you that those of my colleagues with whom I have discussed this matter have been very much pleased at the suggestion and we all hope very much that you will be able to accept.

The Board meetings are held in Toronto but in many cases it is possible for the members of the Board residing in Toronto or close by to take action on routine matters, but there are several meetings during the year when matters of greater importance are discussed and decided and when as full an attendance as possible is desirable. I think I could assure you therefore that the burdens on you as a member of the Board would not be too heavy.

I have very much in mind that because of your experience and background and because of your broad knowledge of our country and of Mexico, it would be possible for you to render some special service for the company completely aside from serving as a Director of the company, and for which there would of course have to be compensation. I am merely advancing this in a personal way at this time as I would wish to discuss it with you if you find that it is possible to accept membership on the Board. My trips north are less frequent now than in the past, but I am in New York from time to time and I am sure that we could find an opportunity to see each other there in the not distant future when we could have a talk on the affairs of the company.

I have been wanting to write you ever since you left the Treasury but unfortunately I had rather a strange

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

illness immediately after Christmas which they call a hernia of the esophagus and it kept me in bed for some weeks and I am still on a very strict diet. I am glad to say, however, that I am feeling completely fit again. It has, however, together with my rather burdensome occupations here with the company, kept me from doing a number of things I should have liked to do, including some personal correspondence and among this above all a letter to you. I think I need not tell you how much I treasure our friendship and what respect I have for your capacity and what admiration I have for the service which you rendered our country during the many years you served as Secretary of Treasury. I know that many like myself, who have been and may in the future be visiting the Treasury, when they see your portrait there, will have in mind that you shall figure in the history of our government and in that of the Treasury as one of our really great Secretaries of Treasury.

I will not burden this letter with many things which I should like to write you about. I hope that you had a good holiday in the Virgin Islands where I understand you were after your assuming your new duties. I look forward very much to seeing you in the near future when we may be able to arrange to meet conveniently somewhere. I do hope that you will find it possible to accept membership on the Board. This is a very worthwhile company and is one which since 1903 has been doing a great service in the Mexican economy, and if this were not so in spite of my personal desires to have you as a colleague on the Board, I would not think of asking to propose to my colleagues that you join the Board.

Marion joins me in very good wishes to you and Mrs. Snyder.

Cordially and faithfully yours,

George S. Messersmith

GSM/cbc