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December 30, 1931

Mr. M. A. Brown,
 Attorney-at-Law,
 Chamberlain, South Dakota.

Dear Mr. Brown:

Your letter of the 22nd instant came just as we were in the midst of moving from the committee rooms of the Expenditures Committee, which were taken over by the new Chairman of that committee, to an office on the fourth floor of the building. We had expected to give up the committee rooms immediately on confirmation of the new Democratic chairmen but, with changes in all the committees, we were simply compelled to await our turn. We joked James and George considerably when they were over at Christmas about what the Democrats had done to us. It happened that our exodus took place on the day before Christmas and everything down here was very much torn up when the boys were at the house.

It is certainly too bad that you and Mrs. Brown were not able to attend the judiciary reception on the 17th. These receptions are always very colorful and I am sure you would greatly have enjoyed it. The President and Mrs. Hoover have the happy faculty of putting a personal touch to all their gatherings which relieves them of what might otherwise be political boredom. While one is expected to send regrets if unable to attend, this is a matter which is often overlooked by a considerable number of those on the invitation list and I am sure your oversight has not been checked up against you. I trust that next year another invitation will be forthcoming and that you will be able to accept.

I think James and George are planning on coming over for the New Year's reception. Besides the President's reception, the officers of the Congressional Club and many others in official life will be at home on that day.

I was sorry to learn that Helen's vacation must be spent in the hospital recuperating from an operation. James said she was very philosophical about the whole matter and I am happy to note by the paper that she is getting along fine. All of us extend best wishes to her.

LaVerne has had an opportunity to meet many of her old friends and is enjoying her vacation to the utmost. She leaves for Vermillion on Saturday.

Yours truly, *C. L. Dice* Secy.