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COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE

A. HAND JAMES, CLERK CECIL E. NORMENT, ASST. CLERK

November 22, 1941

Mr. Robert Lee Humber Greenville, North Carolina

Dear Mr. Humber:

Your letter received, in which after the lapse of more than two months you undertake to have me verify your version of a conversation over the telephone. This I cannot do; but since it appears that you desire a record of my attitude on the subject of that conversation, I am willing to make it herein.

Your memorandum is incomplete and defective.

It does not disclose that the subject matter was your project to create an International Super-Government consisting of many nations and to which the United States would be subordinate.

Nor does it disclose that I had given you full opportunity some months ago to discuss this matter with me, and that you had done so without limitation.

Nor do you disclose that my Secretary, Mr. James, had repeatedly informed you while you were here that I was fully employed, attending sessions of the Finance Committee, from 9:30 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. day after day considering a most important tax bill, and could not see you or anyone for an interview. In any record of our conversations, the foregoing facts ought to be set forth as they explain why I could not see you, and other actions.

Without undertaking to correct details, of which I have no recollection, let me say that (1) I did decline to introduce the resolution for the said new International Government; (2) I did decline to see you for a second interview on the same subject; (3) I have no recollection as to your mentioning a letter from Governor Broughton, but assuming that you did so, it is likely that, since I could not see you, I suggested that you mail it. If you had considered its contents important to me you would have mailed it at once. It has not yet arrived. (4) I did decline to call the North Carolina delegation to hear you on your project of an International Super-Government, and waived any matter of alleged precedent right to make such a call, in order that you might try others. It is my

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understanding that any member of the delegation is at liberty to invite his colleagues to meet, and that in this respect neither Mr. Doughton nor myself would assert any special prerogative or duty.

I may add that since you were here, Mr. Doughton, after advising with me, called a meeting of the delegation to confer with Governor Broughton. I was present and neither of them mentioned your project of creating this International Government of many nations over the United States. After the meeting Governor Broughton called on me, . and as I did not recall that you had said you had a letter from him to me, I did not mention the matter. Perhaps he assumed that I had received the letter. At any rate he did not refer to it. Since you were here I have seen him several times and received a number of letters from him, but never a word concerning the letter you had to deliver in person. When and if I get that letter, I shall answer it promptly as is my custom.

I could not lay aside all my duties to hear you a second time, nor could I call a meeting of the delegation when I know that I could not attend it. Moreover, I did not consider your project a proper subject for a meeting of the delegation. Nor was I disposed further to entertain your International Super-Government project.

I do not intend to espouse a resolution or make a commitment now which would prevent absolutely free consideration of plans that may be submitted by the President hereafter; and I do not believe the General Assembly intended that I should do so. When and if action shall be taken it will be in light of the conclusion of the war, of the facts then existing, and of the recommendations of the President.

Since our General Assembly has passed the resolution, I take it that I may comply with its wishes by holding it in abeyance until the general subject matter shall have been brought before the Senate by the President, at which time also I hope the wishes of our Governor may be made known to me. Certainly action under existing conditions upon the resolution is out of the question and to present it would serve no purpose. The subject matter is not before the Senate and may be presented only by the President, as in such matters the Constitution vests in him the initiative. I question, however, whether either he or the Congress has right or power to take steps looking to the erecting of any government in any form over the United States. And I am sure neither he nor the Congress intends to propose or favor anything of the kind. There will be need of a concert of action in due season to give force and substance to the Atlantic Charter, but no one contemplates that any steps will be in the nature or form of

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a new International Government having jurisdiction in any degree of the United States. Our Country is now and must remain an independent Country sovereign and free in its own right and destiny.

The resolutions contemplate the organization of a new Inter-

national Government over this and other nations to be known as the Federation of the World, such Government to be instituted by an International convention. I do not understand how the General Assembly came to adopt such resolutions, but I am informed that they were passed without extended debate and, in fact, were but briefly considered.

This is quite a large order and I must say at the outset that I do not intend to support or countenance any resolution that will in any degree surrender or compromise the independence of the United States of America or the sovereignty of the State of North Carolina within the rights reserved to the States and the people. I notice that in the preamble it is stated that, "Governments, limited in their jurisdiction to local geographical areas, can no longer satisfy the needs or fulfill the obligations of the human race." It must, therefore, be intended by the resolutions to institute some sort of International Government and Federation which would exercise

powers of a Super-Government over the United States.

The Resolution says, "It is better for the world to be ruled by an international sovereignty of reason, social justice and peace than by diverse national sovereignties organically incapable of preventing their own dissolution by conquest."

I look upon this proposition with the utmost misgiving and horror, and I do not believe the Legislature of North Carolina intended to be committed to a new Government over the Government of the United States and over the Government of the State of North Carolina. At any rate I am not for this proposition. I am for maintaining the independence and the sovereignty of the United States and its people. I am unwilling to put any Government over my Government. I would not commit the American people to a Government beyond their control and made up of other nations. The independence of the United States was won in a hard fought revolution and I believe it is my duty, according to my oath to support, maintain, and defend the Constitution against enemies domestic and foreign, to maintain this independence. I supported President Wilson in his efforts to establish the League of Nations, but this was a league not to impose a Government upon our Government or any other Government, only a league to maintain peace. I hope we may bring about a situation in which peace may be made secure but I do not believe peace would be made secure for us or others by any undertaking to establish a Super-Government over this and other Governments.

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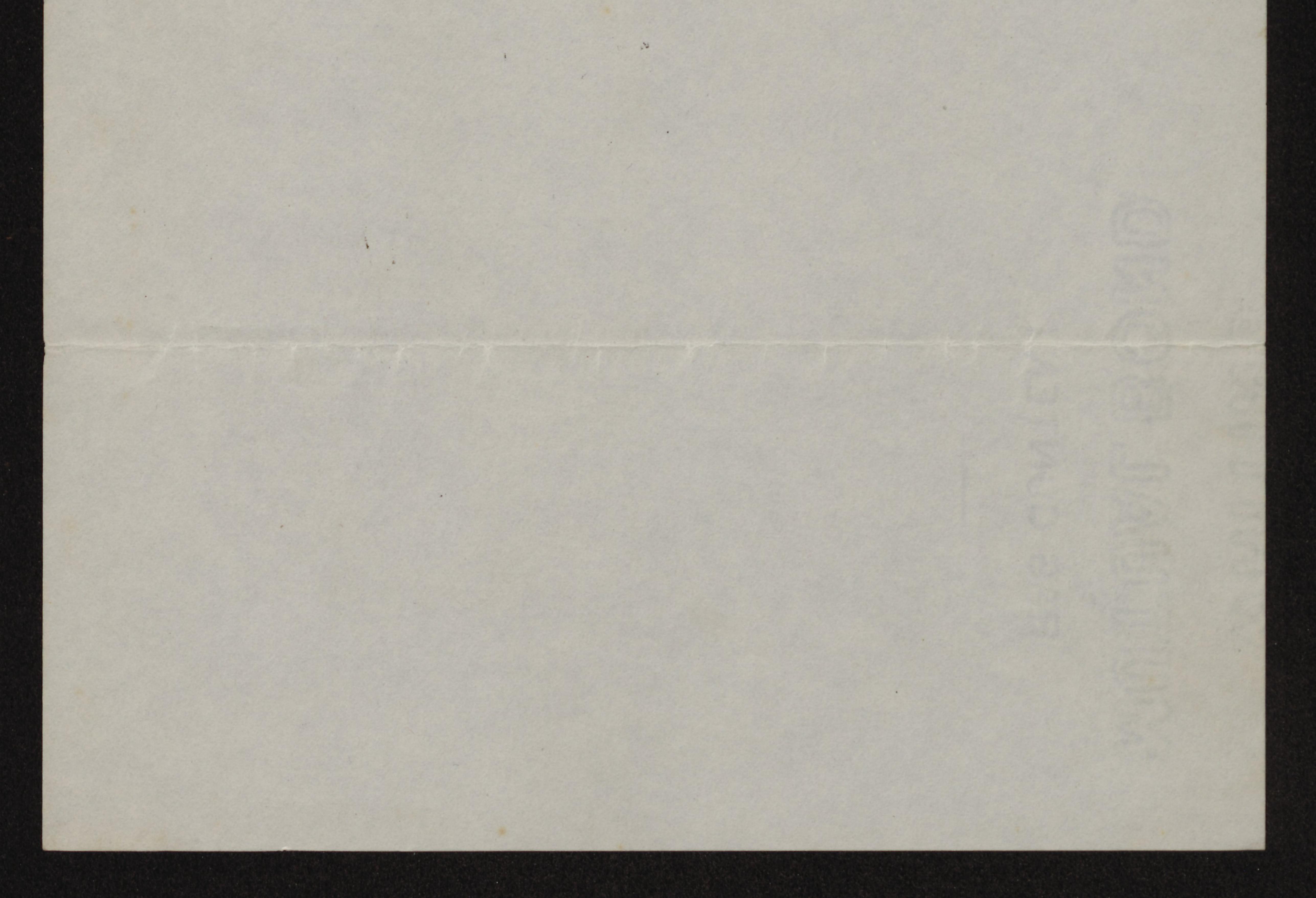
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I am taking this position well knowing that the resolution was approved by our General Assembly and I am perfectly willing to give account to the General Assembly for my action; and on behalf of the General Assembly, I wish to make record that I do not believe that for one moment it intended to commit itself to your plan of an International Government with sovereignty in any respect whatsoever over the Government of the United States or the Government of the State of North Carolina. There are no circumstances under which I will alter my position herein taken. I shall not introduce the resolution, and if they shall ever be presented I shall oppose them.

Yours very truly,

Jusin W Brien

JWB:1

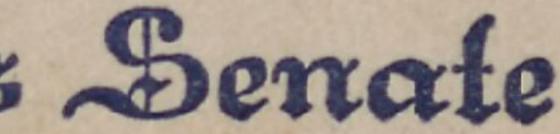


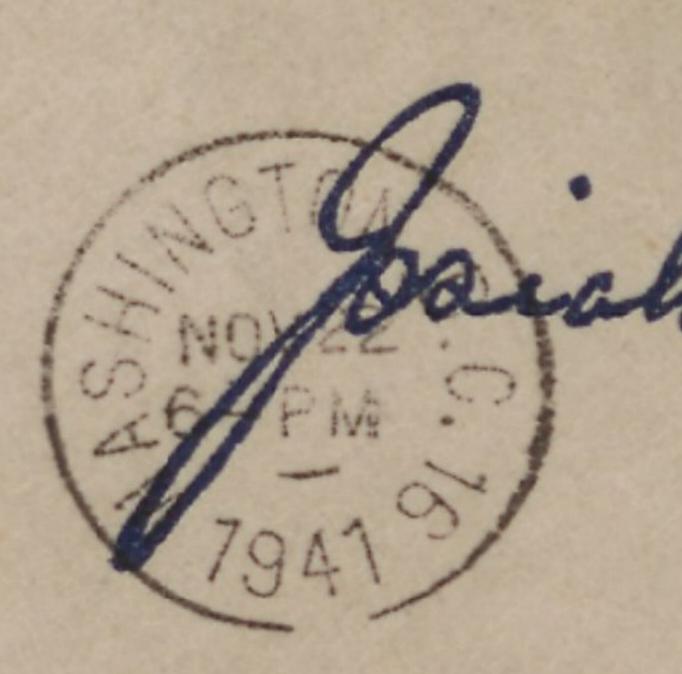
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COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE

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Mr. Robert Lee Humber Greenville, North Carolina

