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Personal

Please return to me
Hamlin Nelson

THE WHITE HOUSE,
WASHINGTON.

Oyster Bay, N.Y.,
July 21, 1906.

My dear Senator Nelson:

I have your letter of the 18th instant, with enclosures, which I return herewith. My memory of that matter is just the same as yours. I was in close touch with you throughout the time when the bill establishing the Department of Commerce and Labor was before the two houses. We both agreed that the House provision which created the Bureau of Corporations was too limited and did not give the Commissioner sufficient power. As a matter of fact you were the man upon whom I especially relied for securing the necessary increase of power, and if it had not been for your action the Bureau of Corporations would have been a very ineffective bureau indeed. At your suggestion I asked Attorney General Knox to prepare the amendment in proper form. He did so, and either by my direction handed it to you, or else handed it to me and I handed it to you. In any case, you introduced the amendment, which had been prepared at my request by Attorney General Knox. My memory is the same as yours, namely, that Senator Hanna was opposed to the amendment, he being one of the conferees; while Senator Clay supported it, as did Congressmen Hepburn and Mann, who were ~~the~~ conferees on the part of the House. No one of us had

the slightest reason for supposing that under it such a decision as that of Judge Humphrey was possible. Attorney General Knox has told me, as he has told you, that he did not regard Judge Humphrey's decision as good law. If we can secure the passage by Congress of a law allowing the Government the right of appeal in such cases, I am very confident that the action of the courts in the future will be the reverse of what Judge Humphrey had decided. As I understand it, Congress has already, by a declaratory statute, made its purpose plain. But our recent experience in ^a ~~the~~ District Court of New York, which decided against us in our suit against certain big corporation men *(including a case against labor men for conspiracy)* for conspiracy, although we believe that the precedents are absolutely in our favor, shows that there is urgent necessity for giving us (that is the Government) the right of appeal.

I wish in the most emphatic way to bear testimony to the fact that your action in connection with ^{creating} ~~the~~ Bureau of Corporations was consistently in the direction of strengthening the hands of the Government in dealing with these corporations, and ~~of~~ making effective the power of the bureau; and you are entitled to all possible credit for the leading part you took in securing the adoption of one of the most important pieces of constructive legislation among all the important constructive legislation of the last few years.

Sincerely yours,

Theodore Roosevelt

Hon. Knute Nelson, U.S.S.,
Alexandria, Minnesota.

Enclosures

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President Roosevelt

in the Henderson

Chicago

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legislation of the last few years.

Sincerely yours,

Hon. Knute Nelson, U.S.S.,
Alexandria, Minnesota.

Enclosure