



## Collection Information:

**Item:** Watson, James Eli, Washington, D.C. to Edward E. Smith, Minneapolis, Indiana [i.e., Minnesota], January 27, 1920. LS.

**Series:** Original Documents.

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## United States Senate,

COMMITTEE ON INTERSTATE COMMERCE

January 27, 1920.

Hon. Edward E. Smith,  
625 New York Life Building,  
Minneapolis, Indiana.

My dear Ed:

I have been compelled to cancel my engagement at Minneapolis February twelfth. On account of the pressure of work here it has been necessary for me to decline all invitations to speak during the session of Congress.

Since agreeing to come to Minneapolis, Senator Penrose became ill and left here, dumping off on my shoulders all the tariff bills before the Finance Committee. I am compelled to carry them through the Committee and help in carrying them through the Senate, and this is work enough for any one man.

Since that time also, I have been made a member of the Sub-Committee that will investigate the Federal Trade Commission, a work that will take us three months and that will almost completely occupy my time when I am not in the Senate.

In addition to that I have been made Chairman of a Sub-Committee to conduct the Newberry-Ford fight, at this time to superintend the recount of the 450,000 ballots cast and otherwise look after the details of the contest.

This is enough work for three men and absolutely prevents me from accepting invitations.

I greatly regret these circumstances but have no way of helping them.

Sincerely yours

James E. Watson