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United States Senate,

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE.

ROBERT W. FARRAR, CLERK.

August 1, 1923

Hon. Ed Smith,
New York Life Building,
Minneapolis, Minn.

Dear Ed:

What hit you? Tell me about it,
giving me a cold-blooded analysis. I want you
to write me and give me the following facts
definitely:

The vote of Harding and Prius and Cox
and the Democratic candidate for governor in 1920.
The total vote cast in '22 for Prius and Johnson
and whoever else ran for governor, and the vote
cast this time for the three candidates who ran on
the special election. I have the general result
but what I want is the actual figure each received
each time. These figures will constitute the basis
for intelligent comment.

Tell me how much wet and dry entered into
the result there. Give me your opinion as to how much
the League of Nations or the World Court or both
contributed to Johnson's success. Tell me confidentially
what you think the effect upon the situation was of
Prius's attack on the tariff and his general apologetic
attitude toward the Republican Party. I am very anxious
to have full comments on the situation and I wish that
you would write me completely covering the subject,
addressing your letter to me at the Severin Hotel,
Indianapolis.

I have not taken the thing to heart so much
as some of my brethern and I am sure that I could make
an analysis for a public statement that will be helpful
when I have all these facts before me.

With best wishes,

Sincerely yours,

James E. Watson