

FRANK W. BOYKIN  
FIRST DISTRICT  
ALABAMA

ALPHONSE LUCAS  
SECRETARY

HOME ADDRESS:  
MOBILE, ALABAMA

COMMITTEES:  
MERCHANT MARINE AND FISHERIES  
PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS  
PATENTS

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, D. C.**

August 25, 1937

My dear Oclo, Frances, Frank Junior, Bob, Jack and Dick:

Someone once said that it is not what we think, dream about or plan, but what we do that counts. Well, I am going to try now to answer all of the nice letters all of you have been sending me. Mother comes first, because she has been mighty good about writing me. Jack is next. He sends such splendid letters. Frank Junior gave me a beautiful report on what he did this summer, and I believe he did very well. I know it will do him good.

Mother wrote me that Frank Junior had gone to camp; also that Frances had gone to Florida. She failed to give me their addresses, so I cannot write them there.

I have had a terrible time since you all left, fighting this Black bill which I know would have ruined the South. It was a super-human effort, and it took the very souls out of us. We worked on it twenty hours a day, and had to get extra help, as about fourteen of the Southern States made my office their headquarters. Senator Bennett Clark of Missouri and also Congressman Tom Hennings and Congressman Art Anderson were certainly splendid and gave us practically all of their help.

You all remember Mary Ball. Well, she worked so hard she had a nervous breakdown, and had to go to the hospital. I think it will be a long time before she really gets well again. But she certainly did help us. For that matter, everybody did. Poor Lucas--he works harder than everyone, as usual, and does more than anybody. He lost 16 $\frac{1}{2}$  pounds. But it is becoming to him. I didn't lose one darn pound, and I should have. But when I am not on my feet and moving around, taking exercise, it seems like I just get fatter and fatter. I use my head mostly, and every other part I possibly can.

Katherine Shreve is next in line. She worked until she had a few of her crying spells, but snapped out of it the next morning and was here bright and early. We had a great victory and only won by the skin of our teeth. Mother will remember the very tense moments we had when we were earmarking the \$300,000,000 so they would not use it to cut down grass, and so forth, and we did save that money for permanent projects like schools, roads, bridges, sewer systems, and so forth. Well, we had just such a fight on this Black-Connery bill, and

The Family  
Page Two  
August 25

mother will know how close it was when I say that we only beat them by nine votes. I had to do some terribly rough talking to a good many people, but made a lot of friends, and I expect some enemies.

Anyway, we won, and we are going to have a little breathing spell--but not such a very long one, as we will have to return here for a special Session. Lord knows I hope we won't, but if we do we will just have to "take" it. If we don't have a special Session, it will just come up again in January, and we will do our very best again.

We finished up on the Black-Connery bill at nine o'clock at night, at a special caucus. It was the hottest night I have ever experienced, and I was as wet as water. I ran to the airport, and caught the plane for Indianapolis, where I went to help my Young Democratic friends put Pitt Maner of Alabama over for President. I got out to Indianapolis just at day-break the following morning. I couldn't find a room, but went to Pitt Maner's headquarters and found they had one bathtub. So I took a bath, dolled up the best I could, and started to work.

We hit the line like nobody's business, and never took off our clothes for three days and nights--didn't even shave or anything. Not a one of our group took a drink until after the election was all over. It was a terrible battle. Al Johnson from Indiana, Pitt's main opponent, had all his hundreds of thousands of friends in the city there, as well as elsewhere, and all the bands and local clubs, and everyone he could get. But we didn't stop at anything. Every sign we would put up for Pitt would be torn down in a few minutes. Well, to make a long story short--when we finally nominated Pitt, I almost collapsed. I slipped out of the Convention Hall--and it was nearly as big as the one in Philadelphia--and slipped up to the rooms. But the gang followed me and woke me up, and stayed there and talked all night Saturday night, and we did not sleep or go to bed until the plane left Sunday afternoon at about four o'clock. We got back to Washington Sunday night about ten--happy but dead tired.

It really was a great honor to elect a young fellow from that far down South. The last President was from South Dakota. Mother will remember Acey Carraway. He was the Executive Secretary. This is going to be a big thing. They were all good enough to say that had I not been there they could not have elected Pitt. Well, they tried to trade and tried to make us believe that we could never win. I happen to know that you can do anything in this world if you are right and if you try hard enough. And Lord knows we were trying. It was a terrible, terrible fight. A good many Governors were there. Mr. Farley was there. Mrs. Roosevelt was there. Jimmie Roosevelt was there. Charlie Michelson was there. Chip Roberts was there. It was just a great big fight, and everybody took off their hats to us for once. We now have a date with Mr. Farley, as soon as I finish this letter. We are going down and have our pictures made,

and so forth and so on. We all called on the President yesterday. I guess we have had about a million pictures made. They took them when we got on the plane there, and when we arrived in Washington. They took about fifty pictures yesterday at the White House. Then we had them taken with the Attorney General, and now with Mr. Farley.

This really means a lot. We have about four million members now, but are going to work it up to ten million. I believe if we get that many of these smart, clean-cut, young folks, we can put over anything that is right in this country. I believe we could even lick Mr. John L. Lewis and his C.I.O. It is really, in my judgment, the hope of this country, and I thought it was the most important thing I could possibly do for our people. You can never tell, but I believe it is going to work.

You all will remember Mr. H. O. Schundler. Well, he and his son, who is a splendid young Harvard graduate, were with us all the time. I have been staying with Mr. Schundler and he has been splendid. Both he and his son are coming down home as soon as I get there, or at least after I have been home about a month.

Governor Graves was out there for a few minutes--just to make a little speech, and then he came on back. Mrs. Graves was not with him. I spent a couple of hours with them yesterday morning, and then put them on the plane to return to Alabama. The Governor said he had received telegrams and letters from twenty some odd states in my behalf, and that it was a very beautiful file. So I asked him if we could have the file, so we would know of all the people who helped us. There have been hundreds of copies of telegrams and letters sent the Governor coming in here. Matt asked me to send them down to him, which I did, and I asked him to show the telegrams to you all. If he hasn't, please have him do it. Then when we come home we will bring the others.

Mr. Deane called me up yesterday from New York and wanted me to come up and spend the week-end with him. I told him I couldn't do this, as I had to now, since we were finished, try and make some money. I have had a deal on, as you know, with Mr. Mickles in Montreal, Canada for some time, to sell him 500,000 acres of coal land. I believe I am going to do it. He has just sold out his business for nine million dollars. I was supposed to go there a couple of weeks ago, and have kept putting it off until I could leave here.

I have been working on another bill, which I haven't told you all about, but which we succeeded in killing in Committee. I won't write about it, as I killed it in Committee, and I don't want many people to know about it yet. It was just about as bad as the Black-Connery bill, but I will tell you about it when I get home.

I expect to leave tomorrow for Montreal, Canada. I will be with the F. P. Weaver Coal Company, with Mr. Lovell Mickles. I don't know how long I will be there, but long enough to try and make

The Family  
Page Four  
August 25

the trade. I will let you all hear from me up there. You will remember Mr. and Mrs. Mickles came out to see me when I was sick last Christmas, for a few minutes. They came down to visit us, and uncle Matt and uncle Charlie took them up to the club, and I think they killed one or two turkeys. Well, these are the people I am going to see, and try and make this trade. I have got to make some money, because it is just all going out and none is coming in, and you all might want me to stay in this job. Well, if you do, I think you will all have to go to work, because I can make more money in one or two months down home than I could ever make up here. However, it might be we could "cut our sails" a little bit, and arrange it where we won't have to spend so much.

They charged me for the rest of the month out at 2101, but that was all. I got a cancellation. She said the house was in very beautiful shape when she found it, and so forth and so on. It hasn't cost me a cent since, because Mr. Schundler has a big place down there, and is mighty glad to have me with him. He and his son have been staying up here, helping us work. He really is a very fine man, and his people left Germany on account of the country going Bolshevik. He is only too glad to help us here, and try and keep this country from going Bolshevik--which we are going to do.

I know it is a great honor to be in Congress, but the trouble is that I can't keep from working 'most too hard. When you think that you are one of 435 making the laws that will govern 126,000,000 people, it certainly makes you think of responsibility. I haven't been in anything that I didn't always want to do my part, and even if I didn't have but 5% interest in a company, I always worked just like the whole thing belonged to me. Well, that is the way I have been trying to do the job here. I am trying to handle my part of it just like I owned all of it. That is the way you have to do in anything in which you are interested. If you can't do it that way, I think you ought to get out.

Mother wrote me about the Wagars. I forgot to tell you all, because I have hardly written a letter, that they went up to Michigan, and have not yet returned. They left here a few days after you all did. I got a chance to have one meal with them, and went down early in the morning to see them off. I have had several nice letters and telegrams from them since they have been up there. I imagine I won't get to see them before I leave. I wrote them and suggested that they not come to the Rodeo, on account of it being too hot, and on account of my not being there to help you all entertain them. They agreed with me.

I am so glad that our darling daughter Frances has decided to take a little secretarial course. I think that is the finest thing in the world. Her background should be very helpful to her now, with all she is supposed to know. And if she were here today she could take a position at \$125 a month. So when we come back she can

The Family  
Page Five  
August 25

come right along up here, and could be right on the same floor with us. She could be in Congressman Hennings' office right this minute if she were here, as he has not had any help for some time, as his secretary has been sick, as I told you.

I don't know how broke you all have been, but I imagine Frances needs a little extra money. Don't forget that I did not forget your birthday on August the 10th. I thought of you many times that day, but this was a mad-house and we were in the midst of a mad fight. I intended to wire you and send you some things, too. You should feel complimented, young lady, because yours is the only birthday in the world I can remember. I can't even remember my own, my father's, my mother's or anybody else's in the world. Anyway, I am enclosing you some checks, dated each week, beginning on the 10th of the month, for six weeks--five dollars each week. This will help out a little bit on some of your expenses. I mean this to be for your personal use, and not on the course you are taking, which I will pay for when I get home.

I hope to leave Montreal, Canada about a week after I get there, but as above stated, will let you know.

We had Senator Hugo Black beaten and beaten forever. I sent out over 300,000 pieces of literature. I understand they went to the President and showed him all the letters, the editorials and articles against him at home, and so forth, and the President had to give him that job. Well, he is a smart fellow or he would never have gotten where he was, and he used his head, even if he used it just for himself. Anyway, I am glad now that he is on the Supreme bench. Lord knows, I don't think he is qualified to hold the job. Anyway, he is there, and at least Alabama is almost rid of him. We now only own 1/48 of him, and the remainder of the 48 States own the balance. He deserves a lot of credit. He has gone a long way, and is a self-made man, and has a lovely wife. I think mother should write her a good long letter--one of mother's sweet letters--congratulating her and wishing her well, and so forth. I think she should do the same thing for Mrs. Bibb Graves.

We had a very pleasant surprise about a week ago. Some Boykins came in from New York, who had formerly lived in Texas, but who had been in Europe for the last ten or fifteen years, educating the girls. Their father was a Walter Boykin, who was educated in Alabama but who moved out to Texas. They have done awfully well, and the mother, who is an artist, came down to paint my picture. But I told her I couldn't sit still long enough to have my picture painted, but would do it at some later day. I went out and had dinner with them. She had her son-in-law there, who is a great lawyer in New York and a partner of the well known lawyer in New York named Seabury, and her daughter, whose name is Charlotte and who sings in opera, and who had a lovely little daughter. Charlotte is crippled--she had some sort of an accident a good many years ago--but is a great opera singer, and has made a great deal of money out of it, and still does

The Family  
Page Six  
August 25

when her husband will let her sing. She sang under the name of Charlotte Stuart. There is another daughter, whom I have not met, but who is a very brilliant writer and who has made a fortune. Her name is Elizabeth McRae Boykin, and has a syndicated column in the papers all over the country. I looked it up and found it in the Washington Post. I will tell you more about it when I get home. They have a very beautiful home in Scarsdale, New York, one of the most fashionable places there, and it is very near the Deanes' place, although their section is considered much better than where the Deanes are. They also have beautiful homes in California and Florida. They are very, very anxious to have mother, Frances, the boys and myself visit them. I never saw anybody so crazy about the Boykins as Mrs. Boykin is. Wait until she tells you all about some of your kinsmen, and about Burwell Bay and Sir Arthur Burwell, and so forth and so on.

Anyway, she has made a study of the Boykin family. They are great, wonderful people and I did want you to know about them. When we get back, we certainly want to see them. I want to have them down here, or go up there, or both. They are the most aristocratic people I have ever met or have ever known, and the people they met here fell in love with them. I got to see them at dinner and one day at lunch, but was so busy I couldn't give them the attention I wanted to. Young Charlotte Boykin's husband gets down here pretty regularly. I have just received a letter from him, which I am enclosing to you, asking us to visit them in New York.

Well, I know it is going to be a mad-house when I get home. My business needs my attention very badly. Uncle Rob has been wonderful, and so has uncle Matt. If anything ever happens to your old daddy, uncle Rob, uncle Matt and Mr. Lucas will certainly look after you. Lucas has looked after everything in every detail, and so have Rob and Matt, for the past twenty years. How I would get along without them I don't know. Lucas is going to Maine for a couple of weeks' rest. I want him to stay a month, but he thinks now he will drive up there for two weeks and then when he gets back down to Mobile and gets everything straightened out, he might make a trip down to Mexico City for a couple of weeks. He needs a rest and needs it very badly.

We will keep the office open here, and Katherine is going to stay here for a while, and then she is going to take her vacation. There is just so much to be done, I guess we will have to keep both offices open. That is what we are supposed to do, anyhow, but so few people do it.

We had a beautiful letter, and also a telephone message, from T. S. Stoneman, who also sent a wonderful telegram to the Governor asking him to appoint me to the Senate, saying that the moment I get home--or at least after I have been there about a week and have rested up--he wants to take us out, the whole family, for a two or three days' fishing trip. I certainly want to do this. We will all load up and go out, and I think we will stay a week. I am as near exhausted as I have ever been in my life. We had five big fights, and

The Family  
Page Seven  
August 25

one came right after another. But we won on all of them. You can't keep up a pace like this, however, without a little rest.

Colonel Tom Stevens was up last week for two days. He said he told Mr. Bugg, who intends running against me, that he had no more chance than a snow-ball in Hades, and that he was going all the way for me, and everyone else he knew was going to do likewise. I am so worried about Colonel Dick Taylor. I am getting all the votes I can for him. Captain Nicolson of the Waterman Steamship Corporation is working as hard as he can, and everybody else is doing the same. I will be there to help as soon as I can get there. I would rather he would win than anything else in the world.

I succeeded in getting a school project for Clarke County the other day, and also one for Chatom. We are to have the report tomorrow on the Dauphin Island Bridge--at least McIntyre told me this morning that he would talk to the President about it again in the morning. I had quite a nice talk with the President day before yesterday, but there was such a big crowd there I couldn't get to really talk to him. I may get a chance again tomorrow before I leave for Montreal.

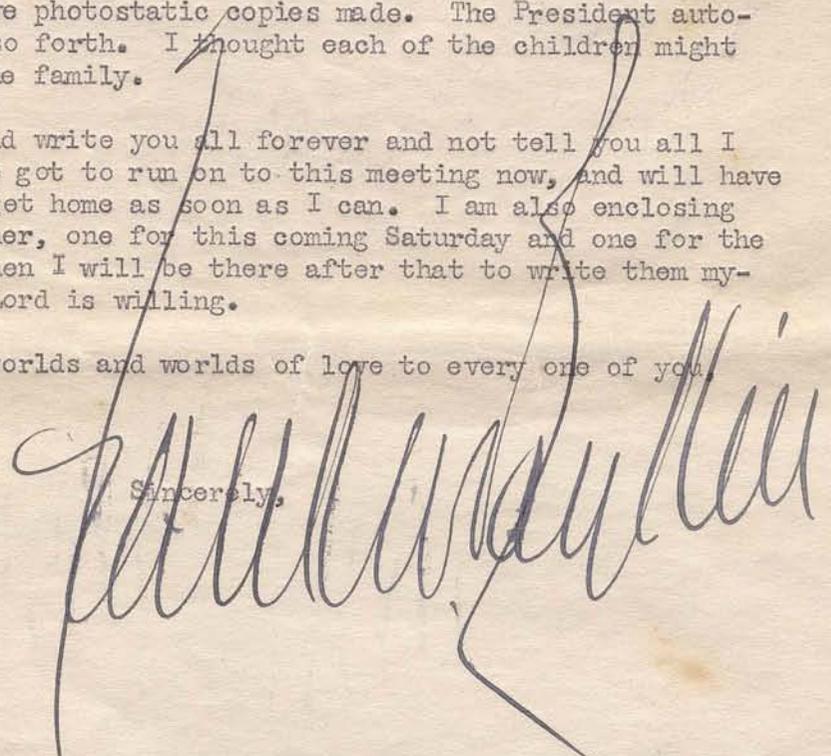
By the way, I had some very nice pictures made with the President at Jefferson Island, where we spent a day. I sent them to Matt, who is to have photostatic copies made. The President autographed them, and so forth. I thought each of the children might want a copy, and the family.

I could write you all forever and not tell you all I want to, but I have got to run on to this meeting now, and will have to close. I will get home as soon as I can. I am also enclosing two checks for mother, one for this coming Saturday and one for the other Saturday. Then I will be there after that to write them myself, if the good Lord is willing.

With worlds and worlds of love to every one of you.

I am

Sincerely,



FWB:KS  
Encls.  
(8 checks)  
(clipping)  
(letter)

P.S. I happened to cut out one of the Elizabeth McRae Boykin articles, and thought you might like to have it, Mrs. Boykin.

K.S.