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October 28, 1964

Mr. Edward Boykin
P. O. Box 3063
Charlottesville, Virginia

Dear Ed:

An old friend of mine was stricken last night up the country -- Ellis Jordan. We have come along together and I remember when I sold him 30,000 acres of land, which kind of saved my life, and I sold it to him for \$2.50 an acre. However, I made a good profit, as I had paid \$1.65 an acre for it when I bought it from the people in London, who owned the bonds on this land. This was a long time ago, and Ellis gave me a check on the Merchants Bank, but it bounced. I didn't say a word to him; I had already used the funds and paid up the debts that I owed. So, the bank couldn't say anything either, and I begged the bank to just wait - that there would be no trouble - he would work it out. About four months later, he came walking in with the money, plus eight-percent interest. I told him we didn't want eight percent interest - that six percent was all. Nothing else was said. Later - and this was two or three years ago - he got in a tight spot and came to see me again. He told me he needed five thousand dollars at once. I kept talking to him and found that he really needed twenty-five thousand. I gave him a check for \$25,000.00 in the Admiral Semmes Hotel, where you have stayed so often. I told him he had better look over things and come back and see me. He didn't even give me a note for the \$25,000.00, but in the next two days he came along and said he thought he would need five hundred thousand, as he owed the bank and they were pressing him.

Well, to make a long story short - when he figured up on everything, he found that he needed \$666,000.00, which I loaned him at five percent - not six percent, which I had to pay when I had to borrow money - and we all have to do that all the time, especially if we have a lot of big transactions. Ellis Jordan borrowed this money for five years. He paid it up in one year. He is a remarkable man. He has eighteen oil wells adjoining some property that I bought when I was a boy, but they haven't gotten down to mine yet. This property is on the mouth of the Coosa-Alabama River and the Tennessee-Tombigbee. They are going to hit some big wells, I believe, when they go deep enough. Jack Boykin is now in the process of leasing 65,000 acres of our land, and I believe the deal will be closed this week or next.

A half-dozen companies are after it, because this oil business is going to mean an awful lot. We will close this deal this week, at a price that will bring us \$65,000.00 a year every year for ten years, if they keep the lease - and they have got to keep it all, and cannot drop any of it. However, I believe that before that time is up, these same leases will be bringing ten dollars an acre. You never can tell - and this is enough anyway, since we only paid \$1.65 an acre for this land, and we have cut timber off of it, we have had oil leases on it and everything. So, land is good and land is great, and I know of nothing that is better than land - not even a Government bond.

Anyway, I went out to see my friend, Ellis Jordan, last night. There he was -- he is 77 years old and fighting, fighting, fighting. He has had a terrible time with his wife and his children - so different from mine. My wife and children have given me no trouble in all of their long days, but just joy and pleasure - every day and every night.

So, I went to see my old friend, and he says he will soon be up, but I don't believe he will. There he was - but I'll tell you what he has done - he has been very successful in his business - and he has a hundred thousand acres of land. I figure he is worth about 15-million dollars, but he has missed so much; he has missed the love of a wife and the love of his children, but we all respect him. He and I have been friends forever. He told them yesterday, as we sat there and talked until after the sun set there over those beautiful hills of Washington County, that he and I had been friends forever. Just think -- I remember when this boy was working for a dollar a day. So, that shows you what a man can do in this country.

Well, I intended to write you fully about several things, but I will do that today. On my return home last night, Oclo gave me the wonderful write-up in the McCall's Magazine - the writeup on your new book about the letters of the great, wonderful and fabulous Thomas Jefferson. I read every one of them, and they are priceless. I wish everybody could read them. Truly, I think he was the greatest of them all - and what a friendly face and a smiling eye, with so much love in them. Think about what he went through with, as he says, about the hate and malice in Washington, D. C. Well, I have had that experience, and I didn't have any trouble about it at all, but some fellows came along and wanted to 'topple' me. Well, they did by getting my confidence. There was a young fellow by the name of Tom McGregor, whom I helped to make President of the Alabama State Society. So, he organized this thing, because I wouldn't give him any money.

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Some day I will tell you that story, as it is very, very interesting. However, I served 28 long years in the Congress of the United States, and I know I did good. I know that we developed our dead country. We had 66,000 people in Mobile when I went to the Congress; and now, by getting new plants and with the help of all of these fine folks, like Austill Pharr and many, many others, we have over 200,000. Little Prichard out there, which had about 4,000 people, is now the fifth largest city in Alabama. If it were in Mobile (and it joins us; you can't tell where Mobile stops and Prichard begins), we would have 300,000 people.

So, God has been awfully good to this part of the country, but we haven't started to develop it yet, but we are going to. This oil business is going to be great. We did succeed in getting four new plants from far-away Switzerland just last week at McIntosh. Well, it's good and it's great, and I will write you about some other things in just a few minutes, after I write Ellis Jordan and a few more business letters that I have got to get off this morning, without fail.

I will be so glad and so thankful when this bitter election between President Lyndon Johnson and Senator Goldwater is over. It is causing so much feeling and so much strife, and so many people are taking it personally and at heart. Well, God and the people will give us what is best for us, and all we can do is just keep on keeping on doing our dead level best, and asking the Great Good One to help us.

I am so glad Sam is coming to see you. He is a great man; he is a good man; and I guess I know him almost as well as you do, because he was right there with me in the Capitol of the United States for so many long years, and when we needed somebody, after the man in charge of the bank there in the Capitol had absconded with the money, Speaker Sam Rayburn, who had been Speaker longer than any other man, asked me who we could get, and I told him Sam Boykin. Well, he said: If he is a Boykin, he is bound to be all right. Well, Sam went in and straightened it all up, and he stayed there, running the bank there in the Capitol - on the House side of the Capitol of the United States - as long as he wanted to. Then he went over to another bank there in the great city of Washington, where he was Vice-President and made good. Then he yearned to come home - down to our beloved Southland - and I was hoping he would come to Mobile, where the great Austill Pharr had offered to take him on in his bank; then, where the great Ed Ball had offered to take him on in Jacksonville, Florida. Ed has between 35 and 40 banks, but Sam went on his own, and I didn't get to help him at all, because I don't even know the name of the bank that he is in down there; but whatever bank it is, I know he will do a good job. So,

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if I can ever help him, you or he just let us know.

I love to you and Virginia, now and always, from Ocello and all of
the Boykins - and we meet pretty regularly and talk about you.

Devotedly,

Frank A. Boykin

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