

September 6, 1935

The President,
White House,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President:

At the time of my appointment to the Securities and Exchange Commission in 1934, for which signal honor I shall always be grateful, I indicated to you the probability that I could not remain in office much longer than a year. For personal reasons it is now necessary for me to ask you to relieve me by September 23, 1935.

My decision to ask to go at this time is made easier by the realization that the Commission is now strongly established as a going concern and that the lines of policy for the administration of these two great measures, the Securities Act and the Securities Exchange Act, have been firmly laid. There remain a few major problems in this first phase of the work of the Commission, but as to these also general principles have been agreed upon and the Commission is working toward an early announcement of conclusions, with which I am in agreement.

The Public Utility Act of 1935 (which you have just signed) places additional large responsibilities upon the Commission. For quite some time the energies of the Commission in this field will be devoted largely to studies of the various holding company systems. Many of the most vital problems arising out of this legislation will not be imminent for a year and beyond. It seems most important that in working out the policies of the New Act, there should be a continuity of administration. Therefore, the private exigencies which compel me to ask you to relieve me coincide with the Commission's requirements for administrative direction of long duration.

To discontinue my official relations with you is not an easy task. Rather is it one involving genuine regret assuaged only by the privilege of your friendship. As a Chief you have been unfailingly considerate and stimulating. In the pioneer work of the Commission, my colleagues and I have had your whole-hearted and enthusiastic support. Without your backing, our accomplishments for the protection of the investors would not have been possible.

You know how deeply devoted I am to you personally and to the success of your Administration. Because of this devotion after retiring from the post of Chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission I shall still deem myself a part of your Administration.

I suggest this particular date of September 23 because, as you know, Mrs. Kennedy and I plan to go abroad with the children the latter part of the month and it seems wiser for me to terminate my official relations prior to leaving.

Faithfully yours,