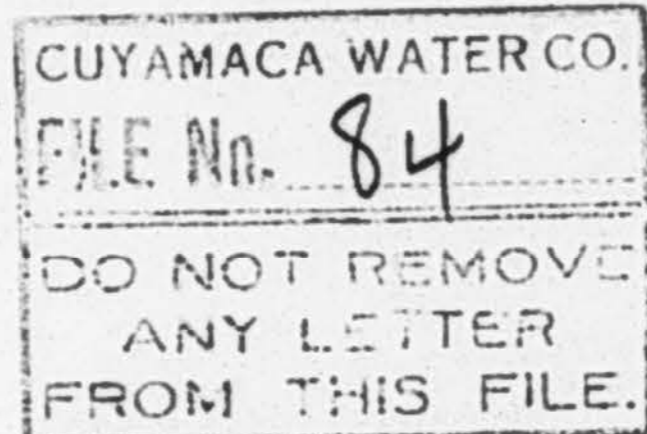


Feb. 29, 1916.

Hon. Wm. Kettner,
c/o Hall of Congress,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Kettner:



You are not familiar with the situation and what is being attempted by the City of San Diego in the matter of this bill that they are trying to put through Congress. It is a game of politics. There is a bunch of them doing everything they can to hamper us. Why, they have three different actions at one time:

- 1st. They are trying to make good the Hamilton Water filing through the Los Angeles Land Office;
- 2nd. They are trying to get you to push a bill thru Congress for the same purpose;
- 3d. And then they bring suit to condemn all of the Cuyamaca Water Company's property,

although we can't get the case to trial, for they have no desire to do so, the main scheme being to block the sale of the Cuyamaca property to the La Mesa, Lemon Grove and Spring Valley Irrigation District - an injustice to the Cuyamaca Water Co.

See that we get a chance to present our case fairly to the Public Lands Committee, before any action is taken.

I would be pleased to hear from you on this subject, for I know that you believe in a square deal.

Very sincerely yours,

F-S

(Copy to Frank A. Salmons)

April 14, 1916.

Hon. William Kettner,
House of Representatives,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Kettner:

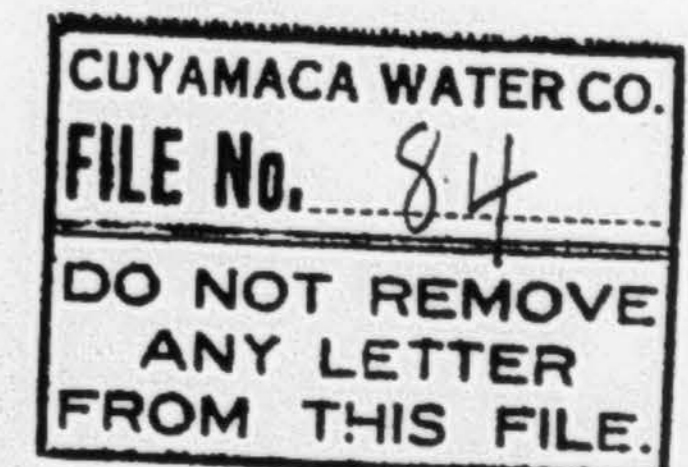
I am in receipt of yours of April 5th, and contents noted.

Don't be offended. I didn't question your word in any way, but had simply forgotten that I had received a letter from you sometime ago, saying that you would notify me when any committee meetings were to be held. There have been all kinds of things printed in the papers here, and it has naturally made me a bit nervous. All I want is a chance to present our case at the proper time.

With kind personal regards,

Yours very truly,

F-S



SIXTY-FOURTH CONGRESS.

SCOTT FERRIS, OKLA., CHAIRMAN.
EDWARD T. TAYLOR, COLO. JAMES V. MCCLINTIC, OKLA.
JOHN E. RAKER, CAL. IRVINE L. LENROOT, WIS.
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HARRY L. GANDY, S. DAK. JAMES WICKERSHAM, ALASKA.

CAM CAMPBELL, CLERK.
JAY KEEGAN, ASSISTANT CLERK.

House of Representatives U. S.
Committee on the Public Lands,
Washington, D. C.

April 17, 1916.

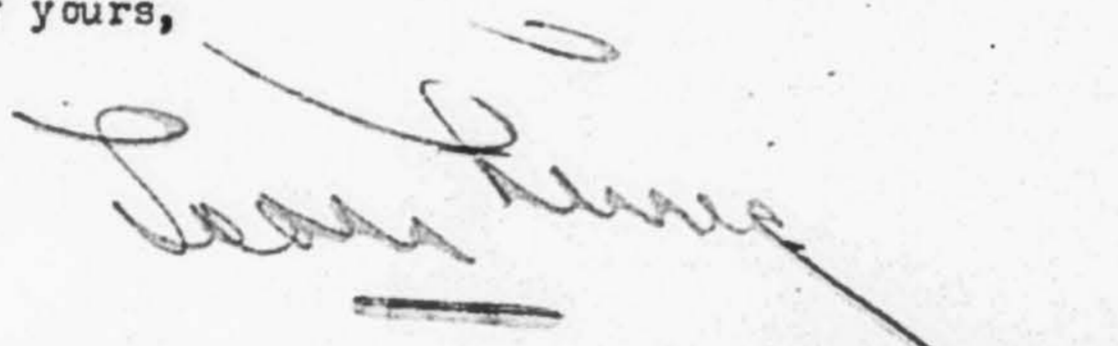
Mr. Ed. Fletcher, Manager,
Cuyamaca Water Company,
San Diego, California.

My dear Mr. Fletcher:

I am in receipt of your valued favor of April 7th with enclosures and note carefully what you say.

Congressman Kettner has this matter well in hand and will I am sure notify you when it comes up for consideration, however, I will take the matter up with him.

Hastily yours,


[KETTNER'S SECRETARY]

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December 13, 1917.

Hon. Win. Kettner,
House of Representatives,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Kettner:

I understand that the Secretary of the Interior is going to make a report to Congress shortly on the El Capitan matter, and I take it for granted that you will see that I have plenty of notice from the Committee when the date for the hearing is set, in this matter. I am looking to you to see that I am given at least two weeks notice, if possible.

With kind regards,

Very sincerely yours,

F-S

June 29, 1918.

Hon. Wm. Kettner,
House of Representatives,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Kettner:

I have received no reply to the two letters I have written you, and I do not think that you have been quite fair and frank with me on this El Capitan matter, although I have showed you every consideration that you had any right to expect, and then some.

It was perfectly proper for you to introduce the city's bill in Congress, but I was certainly hurt to see you take the attitude that you did after hearing our side of the case. It has been a hard fight that I have had, with the prestige of the City of San Diego against me; also our Congressman, our U. S. Senator, Commissioner of Indian Affairs and Secretary of the Interior; but through all this fight I have tried to put myself in your position both politically and otherwise, and have tried to be charitable.

You did not believe me when I said the back country was behind me, and through your friend Scott Ferris my integrity was questioned time and again during the hearing. Before this El Capitan matter is settled, you will know whether Ed Fletcher is going to live up to his word or not.

It was a dirty trick Cosgrove played on me in rail-roading that bill through the Senate, and in all fairness I was entitled to a chance to present my side of the case, and you ought to have seen that I got it, although there was nothing that helped me so much in Washington as Mr. Cosgrove's lack of tact and judgment (to be charitable to him) by trying to put that bill through the Senate Committee without giving me a chance to be heard. You are now aware of the fact that the city council of La Mesa and El Cajon, the Merchants Association of La Mesa, the La Mesa, Lemon Grove and Spring Valley Irrigation District and the El Cajon Farm Bureau, as well as four mass meetings in the four towns mentioned are unanimously behind the Cuyamaca Water Co. in its controversy with the City, and Bencher Scott Ferris has found out that his statement to the committee that the Cities of El Cajon and La Mesa were red hot in favor of the city's El Capitan bill was not true.

You can thank me for not having allowed to be printed in the daily papers of this city a resolution passed by the City Council of La Mesa, which jumped on you strong. I have no desire to make this a personal matter between you

San Diego, Calif.
March 3rd, 1919

Hon. William Kettner,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Kettner:

Thanks kindly for the Congressional Record and for your letter and the statement therein contained in relation to the El Capitan Bill.

On your return to San Diego - within a week from the time you get back here, I want you and Mrs. Kettner to give me a half day in which to show you Murray, Lake Hodges and San Dieguito dams and give you some idea of what we are doing to help develop San Diego County.

Yours very truly,

EF/bm

and me, and not one word have I said derogatory to you, through it all. But I do feel that after supporting you in the past and considering the friendship between you and Salmons and myself that I have not had up to the present time the consideration which is due one man from another, under the circumstances. I believe you have done more for your district than any Congressman we have ever had, and your loyalty to the President in this time of stress, in my opinion, entitles you to the united support of all parties in your candidacy for re-election. I shall certainly do all I can to help elect you, and have no favors to ask of you, but I do think you have given too little consideration to the development of San Diego County that is being made by the interests that I represent.

We shall have the Lake Hodges and San Dieguito dams, together with 18 miles of concrete pipeline, completed by the first of next September. This will irrigate over 15,000 acres of land.

The Cuyamaca system, in my opinion will soon be sold to the La Mesa Irrigation District. The contract is signed by Mr. Henshaw and myself, and will undoubtedly be signed by Mr. Murray. It provides that we shall build at least one major dam on the San Diego River and turn it over together with our present system to the district and take bonds of the district in payment for our present system as well as the new development mentioned above.

On the Volcan system, I have already secured the recommendation of the Fuel Administrator, the Department of Agriculture and the State Engineer for government aid. The electrical development alone on the Warners project means a saving of 200,000 barrels of oil annually.

It may be that part of the Warners water can yet be brought to San Diego, if we can get Government aid, although the district is now being formed between Escondido and Oceanside to take over the whole works.

I may be in Washington within the next thirty days. Kindly consider this information confidential as to our Warners development. If I did not feel friendly to you today, I would not write you as I have, although I feel that I have some kick coming.

Yours very truly,

F-S

Ed Fletcher Papers

1870-1955

MSS.81

Box: 15 Folder: 3

General Correspondence - Kettner, William



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