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February 20, 1936.

Honorable Josephus Daniels,
Ambassador to Mexico,
Mexico City, D. F.

My dear Mr. Daniels:

It was a pleasure to meet you and your good wife again at the opening of the Exposition and San Diego was proud and happy that you could be with us. I am sending the avocados as promised and hope you and Mrs. Daniels will enjoy them. Whenever you are ready for California avocados drop me a line and the avocados will be forthcoming.

By the way, I have just heard that the Mexican government is soon to decree that the duty on fish will be raised very materially and that whatever the rate is in California it will be only one-half of that at Ensenada. This is wholly unjust discrimination. The rumor is that the price is going to be as high as \$10.00 per ton. If this is so it is going to invite bootlegging, violation of Mexican law that will demand many patrol boats to protect Mexican laws and may cause international complications.

Then, again, the larger boats will go as far as Ecuador to fish and Mexico will lose in any event. Such a condition will completely upset local conditions in San Diego and San Pedro causing endless strife and loss.

It was only a month or six weeks ago that a ruling was made by the Mexican government whereby the duty on fish is \$5.00 per ton (American money) at San Diego and San Pedro, while if payable at Ensenada only 10 pesos (Mexican money) or approximately \$2.80 per ton. This, heavens knows, is enough discrimination without making it worse, but for the love of heaven try and get the Mexican government to leave the situation as it is today, optional for those who care to go into Ensenada and pay the \$2.80 or come direct to



EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Mexico, February 26, 1936.

My dear Mr. Fletcher:

I have received your letter of February 20, 1936, concerning the new Mexican decree to be issued shortly raising the cost of licenses for fishing in Mexican waters.

I have had several conferences with the interested Mexican officials and, from their explanations of the proposed new decree, believe that there is a misunderstanding as to the purpose and provisions of the proposed decree. I am assured that the new decree, although it raises the tariff from ten pesos to twenty-five pesos, also provides that payment may be made at the fixed Government rate of exchange of 3.60 instead of 2 as heretofore. The tariff now in effect is ten pesos at a fixed rate of exchange of 2 to 1, which makes it \$5.00; whereas the new tariff will be twenty-five pesos at a rate of exchange of 3.60, which will make it \$7.00. This is very different from the amount which the Fishermen's Coöperative Association believes will be the new tariff which they telegraphed me as \$12.50.

The Mexican officials assert that whereas the new tariff will be increased from \$5.00 to \$7.00, it will contain provisions eliminating the services of intermediaries and, therefore, the fees now paid to them as well as other incidental expenses now connected with the obtaining of licenses, and that, because of these provisions, the fees under the new decree will actually be less for the fishermen themselves. Whereas the new tariff for San Pedro will be twenty-five pesos, or approximately \$7.00, the tariff at Ensenada will be eighteen pesos, a difference of seven pesos, or about \$2.00.

Very sincerely yours,

Josephus Daniels
American Ambassador.

The Honorable
Ed Fletcher,
San Diego,
California.

AIR MAIL

February 28, 1936

Embassador Josephus Daniels
Mexico City, Mexico

My dear Mr. Daniels:

I thank you for the information which you wired Senator McAdoo and which the Senator forwarded to me. I appreciate your promptness in the matter.

Enclosed find copy of letter that I have sent to President Cardenas for your information. They are just simply bawling things up and I do hope the President will refuse to sign the new proposed decree and will let things remain statu quo for a while until a thorough investigation of the situation is made. Anything you can do to hold the situation statu quo, will be appreciated by all.

Recently the Mayors of San Diego and Los Angeles, the City Councils of both cities, the Chamber of Commerce of both cities, including the fishing industry of San Diego and San Pedro, have protested against any change in present conditions as to taxation. Also the closing of the San Diego and San Pedro offices by the Mexican Government.

With kindest regards,

Sincerely yours,

EF/jv

Enclosure

CC-Senator McAdoo



THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

AMERICAN EMBASSY

México, March 3, 1936.

My dear Mr. Fletcher:

I am in receipt of your favor of February 28th. We have taken this matter up several times with the Department of Fisheries and will do everything we can in line with your letter to President Cárdenas, a copy of which you were good enough to send me.

With kind regards and best wishes, believe me,

Sincerely yours,

Josephus Daniels

Hon. Ed Fletcher,
State Capitol,
Sacramento, California.

March 4, 1956.

Honorable Josephus Daniels,
Ambassador to Mexico,
Mexico, D. F.

My dear Mr. Daniels:

Thanks for your letter of February 26th.

I am enclosing copy of letter from Mr. Schellin,
President of the American Fishermen's Tuna-boat Association, which
is explanatory. I hope and do think that this letter should be
put before the Mexican authorities before any final decree is
signed. We would like to see things remain in statu quo, and
I would appreciate your doing everything you can to get the
Mexican authorities to give consideration to the American
Fishermen's Tuna-boat Association.

Yours sincerely,

EF M

AIR MAIL

March 5, 1956

His Excellency, Josephus Daniels
American Ambassador,
U.S. Embassy
Mexico City, Mexico

My dear Mr. Daniels:

Enclosed find copy of article published in
the paper that is explanatory. I am asking you particularly
to read Mr. Fred Schellin's statement, and would you kindly
secure the necessary information, sending this clipping to
the Mexican authorities and asking their reaction in rela-
tion thereto. It will be gratefully appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

EF/jv

Enclosure



EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Mexico, March 7, 1936

*Copy Lindley Botta 3/17
Villasenor "*

The Honorable
Ed Fletcher,
1020 Ninth Avenue,
San Diego, California.

My dear Mr. Fletcher:

I have received your air mail letter of March 5, 1936, enclosing a copy of a newspaper article relative to the Mexican fishery tariff, which you request me to bring to the attention of the Mexican authorities.

As I have written you, the question has been discussed at considerable length with the interested Mexican officials who advise me that the proposed increase in tariff has been under consideration for several months and that they are quite familiar with the viewpoint as set forth in the article enclosed with your letter. Under the circumstances, it is believed advisable to await the representative of the Fishermen's Coöperative Association, who is due to arrive tomorrow, and to let him place the viewpoint of the Association before the appropriate Mexican officials.

Sincerely yours,

Joseph W. Daniels

American Ambassador.

Ed Fletcher Papers

1870-1955

MSS.81

Box: 6 Folder: 12

General Correspondence - Daniels, Josephus



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