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August 4, 1954

The Honorable Herbert Hoover
Waldorf Astoria Towers
301 Park Avenue
New York 22, New York

My dear Mr. Hoover:

I heard on the radio a short time ago that you will be celebrating your eightieth birthday at West Branch, Iowa, and I wish to congratulate you. I am writing from my home in Westport, Connecticut, also a "West Branch," and going back over the years, recall the first time I met you when you had received the medal for the translation that you and Mrs. Hoover did of Agricola. I may say, incidentally, that a photomural from the book covers one wall of my office at Stamford, most happily.

I also recall later on during the war when Edgar Ricard told us of your work, and to testify to the admiration of your fellow engineers, we organized Belgian Kiddies Limited and I think produced over $70,000 for that enterprise.

I am two years ahead of you by the clock but am still interested in useful work and have just received a letter, copy of which I enclose, together with some clippings that are self-explanatory, if you have time to look at them. The right shoulder white line gives me a bit of satisfaction because when I first suggested it to the Commissioner of Highways in Connecticut, it was turned down completely and only tried out, as the clipping indicates, by first writing to the local paper and sending a copy to John Lodge, our governor, which shows the power of the press perhaps.

I am very happy to send you from my wife and myself a book which my wife has produced and which is being published in September by Harpers. It also tells its story but the part not told is that it has been given by her to a very small fund called the Dorr Foundation, with which I am connected. My wife and the Board have a very strong feeling which has been confirmed by people to whom it has been shown in France, Italy, Germany, Holland and London, from which we returned last week; that it should be used to represent A merica in a higher sense to those abroad, who are

mainly familiar with our movies and also have perhaps a peculiar sense of uneasiness about us on account of the recent television conflict in Washington.

I want to express to you in closing my very great admiration for your whole career and what you represent to the American people, in a world where there has been very much to regret, both internally and externally.

Again, with best wishes,

Sincerely,

John V. N. Dorr

Enclosures

JVND/est