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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.
May 13, 1954

CHAIRMAN:
COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS

WASHINGTON ADDRESS:
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The President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

May I take this opportunity to thank you for your splendid leadership and active support of the St. Lawrence Seaway project. As a staunch advocate for many years of this undertaking, I am proud to have had a part in the framing of the legislation and in its passage by the House of Representatives. I believe the enactment of this legislation is an outstanding achievement of your Administration, and completion of this project will, for years to come, have tremendous influence in supporting the economy of this country and fortifying its security.

I shall take a continuing interest in the prompt and efficient construction of the waterway. It was with this latter thought in mind that my Committee, in reporting out the Bill, recommended that the St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation be placed under the direction and supervision of the Secretary of the Army, as is the Panama Canal Company. Since all internal navigation works have for 125 years been accomplished under the Army Secretary's direction and the Chief of Engineers' supervision, it was the further expectation of the Committee that the Corporation would utilize the services of the Corps of Engineers for design, construction, maintenance, and operation of the new Seaway facilities.

In 1941 and 1942 the Corps of Engineers made exhaustive surveys and detailed designs of the St. Lawrence Seaway navigation works. Representatives of the Corps have been of great value to me and my committee in advising on all matters connected with the Seaway and have testified that with the detailed plans in their possession they are ready to undertake actual construction work immediately upon funds being made available. It was the thought of the Committee itself that no other agency of the government is

The President
May 13, 1954

better qualified for the actual job accomplishment, and that the Corps of Engineers officers should have a prominent place in the management of the Corporation and on its Advisory Board. I believe that in this way the necessary coordination with the power phase of the project, the maintenance of Great Lakes water levels, and the navigation interests on the Great Lakes -- in all of which the Corps of Engineers has a direct responsibility -- can be best achieved.

KDF3-A-15 | I feel, therefore, that an outstanding officer or former officer of the Corps of Engineers should be selected as the Administrator or Deputy Administrator of the Corporation, and that some officers of the Corps should also be selected to serve on the five-man Advisory Board, inasmuch as it will be concerned largely with engineering and navigation matters. As Chairman of the House Public Works Committee, and having served on this Committee for a number of years, I have personal knowledge of the qualifications of Corps officers and should be very glad to suggest names to you should you so desire. I shall be very pleased to be of service to you in any way in carrying out the objectives of the seaway bill and in any other matters of mutual interest.

With warmest personal regards, Mr. President, I remain

Respectfully yours,



Geo. A. Dondero, M.C.

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