October 21, 1947

Dear Foss,

Since, on this significant occasion you won't let us make speeches, we are writing you a letter. We hope you like it better.

We would like to tell you a lot of things which you'd rather we didn't, and so we won't. But we're thinking them anyway and you know what they are. Or maybe you don't.

We are thinking that we are privileged once in our lives to know someone like you. There! We won't belabor it, but it's true.

And we are thinking that it is a great thing to spend one's life pursuing one single aim, And to grasp success so gently and surely and find always something new to reach for. We won't speak of fame! Because you won't let us. And we won't even mention Medals and prizes and degrees and such Because it would embarrass you too much.

We'll simply call to your attention A few little items on which we think it would be nice If you'd take our advice.

We think in this matter of gallantry you ought to relax One gentleman can't carry the trouble, and difficulties of a dozen ladies on his back.

And we think when you are invited to dinner, you ought to say "Thank you" and stay, And not think of a lot of reasons why it would be better for you to say "No" and come another day.

Or that it would be a good idea for you to go home
first and sit with the neighbor's baby or pet and
the cat
Or write a note to somebody explaining something that
they knew anyway. We think it would be fine
anyhow
If, when you come to call, your first remark
could be something else than: "Well, I've
got to go now."
And we must say, we can't see why
When you make a morning visit, you should
find it embarrassing to end up by spending
the day.
In short, we don't think you should be pampered
and petted
Or aided or abetted
In being quite so stubborn about getting your
own way.
Although it's true we think that, when you go
out for a day's work, you ought to get
portal to portal pay.
At the moment we can't think of any more
points to raise for your acceptance or
rejection.
And so we close this somewhat rambling
letter with our deep affection.
We recall, I haven't done it to annoy.
Dear Fess, we love you and we wish
you joy!

Attested by those present:

Dorothy Tillett
Winnie Marshall
William S. Tillett

Shosho MacLeod
Raymond Lemley.
Colin M. Lemley