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PROF. FRANKLYN A. JOHNSON
 DIRECTOR

December 14, 1955

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

Hon. C. Farris Bryant
 Green and Bryant
 Ocala, Florida

Dear Farris:

As promised, I have given deep and lengthy thought to the suggestion advanced on Monday by yourself. You recognize the dilemma in which I have been placed, and which I foresaw some time ago when it appeared likely that you would be a candidate. I did not anticipate, however, that the decision would be forced on me so soon.

Farris, I have come to the conclusion that, until the governor's status is clarified, I cannot actively serve your cause. I recognize that he has, like all of us, made mistakes, and I grant that I do not know him personally. Nevertheless, I cannot escape the conclusion that another term for him would benefit Florida -- and this is said with full realization of your great qualities, and without altering my previously expressed hope that you will some day be our governor. I expect to take the opportunity, if the governor is disqualified, of proving this by plunging in and working like hell for you.

Under existing circumstances, although I feel unable to work for you, I also shall not work against you and for anyone else, including Mr. Collins. Apparently my role in this operation will be that of passive observer -- an uncoincidental and unaccustomed part for me! Second to my own profession, I enjoy most putting my shoulder to the political wheel on behalf of a man and policies I believe in.

I trust that my difficult decision will affect neither our FCCH relationship nor mutual personal friendship and respect.

Cordially, as always,


 Franklyn A. Johnson

pA: mm

cc: Mr. Osburn Wilson
 Mr. Edward J. Giffney