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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

March 3, 1945

Mr. G. Albert Fordham
Greenville, Utah

Dear Bert:

I have read with the greatest interest yours of February 21st. I have always valued very highly your genuine friendship, and because of this, your letters and visits are always very welcome.

During our last personal visit at my home last summer, I told you that I would appoint your boy to the first vacancy at Annapolis occurring after his graduation from high school. I was not fooling you when I told you that, and I consider that I am bound to do this unless your son, for some reason, makes up his mind that he doesn't want the appointment.

I am forwarding to him all the literature we have concerning Annapolis. He should familiarize himself with it at the earliest possible date so that he will realize fully what the mental requirements are and how he squares with these requirements. He will know better than you, I or anyone else his chances of passing the mental examinations.

I think I told you during our visit that nothing would please me more than to have some good boy from Beaver County qualify for appointment at one of our country's Service Academies. I am just as much interested in the boys from Greenville as from any other section of my County. To me, they are all on an equality.

Most applicants for either Annapolis or West Point feel that they should have at least a year's training in addition to high school. As I told you last summer, there are numerous preparatory schools giving special courses for both of the Service Academies. From your letter, I assume that you are not in a position to undertake the extra burden which would be incurred by sending your son to some special preparatory school. The next best preparation, of course, would be for him to attend some institution of higher learning in our own State, stressing, mathematics, English, literature and history. By reading the literature we are sending, he will get complete information as to which subjects are most essential to passing the examinations.

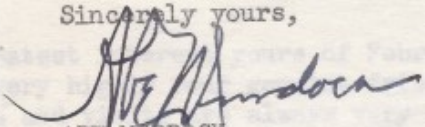
United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON THE ARMY

March 7, 1945

May I request that you convey my kindest regards to our mutual friends in Greenville. I also send best wishes and kindest personal regards to you and your fine family. Our friend, John P. Barton, who is here in the office with me, desires that he be remembered to you.

Sincerely yours,


ABE MURDOCK

Enclosure
AM/n

I have read with the greatest interest your letter of the 2nd inst. and because of this, your letter, I am glad that I would appoint your boy to the first vacancy at West Point occurring after his graduation from high school. I am not sending you now I told you that, and I remember that I am bound to do this unless your son, Jay, does not, which is his duty that he doesn't want the appointment.

I am referring to the literature we have on file in the office possible that he will realize fully what the mental requirements are and how he squares with these requirements. He will know better than you, I or anyone else his chances of passing the mental examinations.

I think I told you during our visit that nothing would please me more than to have some good boy from Decker County qualify for appointment at one of our country's Service Academies. I am just as much interested in the boys from Greenville as from any other section of my County. To me, they are all on an equality.

Most applicants for either Annapolis or West Point feel that they should have at least a year's training in addition to high school. As I told you last summer, there are numerous preparatory schools giving special courses for both of the Service Academies. From your letter, I assume that you are not in a position to underwrite the extra burden which would be incurred by sending your son to some special preparatory school. The next best preparation, of course, would be for him to attend some combination of higher learning in our own State, stressing, mathematics, English, literature and history. By reading the literature we are sending, he will get complete information as to which subjects are most essential to passing the examinations.

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