

Grand Canyon, Arizona, March 4th. 1918.

Hon. Carl Hayden:

Washington, D. C.

My Dear Mr. Hayden:- Your kind favor of the 27th. ult. is at hand. There is no doubt but that a change to a National Park Service would be much better than the kind we are now having. But before we make that permanent change it would be well to consider how, and by whom it will be controlled. No other National Park, already created, will serve as a criterion for the administration of this one. As I understand the present policy of the Park Service, the concessions are auctioned off to the highest bidder, as was the case in the Yosemite. How would that work here? The Santa Fe controls the water situation completely, and would also be the concessioner. The custom prevailing at present is to select the Superintendent from the Forest Service, as was the case at the Rocky Mountain Park. The Secretary of the Interior is in supreme control. Now let us see how that works here. He is at the head of the Red Cross, and Mr. and Mrs. Brant who manage the El Tovar Hotel are counted among his especial friends. The way they have exploited that branch of the war service, has almost caused a common revolt among the Harvey and Santa Fe employees here. Evidence is not lacking as to the effect it has with Mr. Secretary, when those large contributions for the Cross are received in the name of the Brants. I may refer to this later in another connection. Are you aware of the actual conditions right here at the El Tovar? Cameron has been successful in his suit to regain possession of the 42 Mining Claims here that the Rail Road claims to have purchased, and now it remains for him to oust them out. They paid Sanford Rowe nine hundred dollars to do assessments for 1917. on these claims, so it looks as if they intended to hold them. The Public Roads across the Station grounds have never been determined, and our Supervisors have been bluffed out completely by threats of tedious law suits if any attempt is made to declare them as such. The County Trail is also another source of contention. The Forest Officers prohibited anyone

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but the Harvey people from conducting Tourists down Bright Angel, and I was told that my permits would be canceled if I attempted to take parties down. The County Officers tell me to go ahead and they will see me through in any difficulty I may have. I could continue in this way to show you several other matter for consideration, even though a Park Manager were to undertake to harmonize the difficulties here. You can imagine who would have the best argument, so long as the Rail Road would not be included in the reserve, and with such good inducements to offer. It is an old saying that the road to the heart is through the stomach, and I have known it to work here many a time in the past. National Parks should not be used to exploit visitors, and before you attempt to pass any bill it would add greatly to your fame if you could remedy it, in some provisions, in the structure of the measure. That is why I have advocated a State Park, or Town Site, at some other point. There is no place in the known world where a College for vacation students would have the advantages here offered, and I have found numbers of ^{the} wealthy who are ready to help endow one, if a suitable place can be secured. Water can be secured at a very nominal outlay, and Auto roads built to make it as accessible as at any other point. The State could dispose of lots for any who wanted to build summer residences, and in this way funds would be available for improvements. Our mineral resources should be well considered, and free to the Prospector and Investor, the same as on any other mineral land. This should not be left to any Secretary to decide, but should be a provision of the act creating the Park. The ever changing political complexion of our great system precludes any permanency to warrant investments to any extent. I am constantly in receipt of inquiries about Asbestos in the Canyon, and in the past ten days have had three different parties here to see me about my claims in the Canyon, but when I have to tell them how we are tied up with federal restriction they immediately lose all interest. It has always been a question of doubt in many minds as to the legality of the Roosevelt order prohibiting additional mining locations in the National Monument. -----

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He tried hard to get a national Park as soon as he and Paul Morton made the Rough Rider trip here, ~~as soon as~~ ^{after} he took McKinleys place, and his first message to Congress recommended it, as did his second, but no action was taken. The Monument Bill was one of Mortons submarines, and I have letters from some of the members of that congress to say that if they had known the Canyon was to be included they would have opposed it. Next comes Hayess effort, and the Carnage bill, both Santa Fe productions. Then Ripley and Jerry Black took a hand in the News Papers and Magazines, but no definite results. Now comes the Forest Department with a scheme to tie up the whole country from the east end, above the Little Colorado, to the Hualapai reservation on the west, so as to be sure no other enterprise could be started without their drastic methods of robbery. All this talk about spending Ten Thousand Dollars to construct Rim Roads and thus eventually open up the entire scenic portions of their proposed Park, is all moonshine. The Santa Fe claims \$85,000 as the outlay for that road we rode over when you were here, and at that rate it would be like some of our war appropriations, when completed, in the aggregate. ~~ore~~

It is at least 100 miles to Bass Camp if we follow all the ins and outs, of the border. Now my dear Mr. Hayden, do you really think it necessary to tie up this entire Canyon in this manner? The great mineral zone lies west of the Kaibab Fault, and much of it west of the Powells Plateau. Asbestos was discovered in 1869 when Powell went down the River, and I have traced it from my locations on the east side right through under the mass, and for a long distance down the River. The three little claims I have don't amount to anything compared with what I believe can be developed, if we can have free access to prospect and develop it. But no one will attempt it, as was my understanding when I saw Houston the last time I was in Washington, under a royalty to the Government. I would as quickly shoulder a shot gun to defend a boarding house. But I am fitting out now for a trip down the River to this locality and will take chances on its being opened later on. But as I have before stated in previous letters, there is all the scenery lying east of the 112th. Meridian that will ever be developed by the Government under ordinary

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conditions, but the Lord only knows when that will be. National Parks and Rim Roads are of minor consideration now, and men and money to prosecute the war is first consideration. But I leave it with you to determine where to place the boundaries and what to include. One thing is clear in my mind; Thousands of Arizonians are in favor of a small segregation that they can improve and enjoy without federal restrictions and you will come to the realization of that fact some day, if not now. I do wish you would have a talk with George Otis Smith and J. S. Diller, about this Asbestos on the west of the Plateau, and see what they have to say about it.

I have consumed a lot of your valuable time and I trust I have made plain my understanding of the situation here. Any National Park bill that will accord equal privileges to all and special privileges to none is all I think necessary to consider, and I know you will use your best judgment in whatever is done, and that is all could be expected. Thanking you for your kind consideration in this matter and wishing you all possible success,

I am, as ever, Sincerely and cordially yours,

W. W. Bass