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DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

ANTITRUST DIVISION
427 First National Bank Building
Denver, Colorado

April 17, 1943

Edward H. Levi, Esquire
Special Assistant to the Attorney General
Department of Justice
Antitrust Division
Washington, D. C.

Dear Ed:

- Re: (a) My Confidential Report—October 9, 1942
regarding interview with E. G. Constam
- (b) My letter to you of December 18, 1942
regarding E. G. Constam

In connection with the subject matter contained in the report and letter mentioned above I have been approached again by Mr. Constam relative to the situation described therein.

Briefly, Mr. Constam's complaint is that the situation I discussed in my December 18th letter to you has become much worse due to the fact that apparently the Engineering Board has been awarding ski equipment contracts to the Roebling firm of Trenton, New Jersey. It may be recalled that Major W. F. Roebling, Field Engineer for the Army Engineering Board, has connections with the New Jersey Roebling firm. That firm's work apparently has been quite unsatisfactory inasmuch as their Army-Navy "E" was taken from them.

Mr. Constam inquired specifically as to whether (1) any members of our Department in Washington could discuss the matter with General Somervell and other top officials in the War Department relative to granting Mr. Constam a hearing in the matter and (2) whether the Department could inaugurate an investigation into the Army's dealings with the Roebling firm.

In reply to the matter discussed in (1) I told Mr. Constam that you and others had already contacted various officials in the War Department based upon the request contained in my December 18 letter and that you had been unable to do any good for him. In reply to the matter discussed in (2) I explained to Mr. Constam that the only action that could be taken by our Department would have to be based upon a formal complaint showing some degree of fraud. My frank opinion is that the Roebling firm



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is guilty only of indulging in a "good old American custom" and not specific fraudulent practices upon which a complaint could be based. In this opinion Mr. Constam agrees.

Summarizing, therefore, I think his only interest is in getting an audience with the top officials in the War Department responsible for granting contracts for ski and mountain warfare equipment. Mr. Constam feels that he and his licensee company have not been given a fair hearing and that favoritism has been displayed for the Roebling firm. He feels that as a result the Army has been furnished with highly unsatisfactory equipment and claims that the Army Engineers at Camp Hale, Colorado, will back him up in this opinion. I am, therefore, taking the liberty of passing this additional information on to you for what it may be worth and would appreciate a reply at your convenience with any suggestions you may have.

Aside from this there is another matter in which Mr. Constam is interested in which we will be able to offer him assistance in the way of passing his name along to the proper official, namely, Elmer Davis of the OWI. Mr. Constam is very much interested in offering his services to the Government in whatever capacity needed. He is particularly interested in work being done by OWI and would be well qualified to fit into a spot requiring German and French translation work. He speaks several languages but is particularly fluent in German and French. He would be glad to accept a position along this line either in this country or overseas. I think I have already covered his background fairly well in my past correspondence with you. He has been of tremendous help to us in connection with our Economic Warfare work and if you deem it advisable I think we would be within our bounds in passing his name along to Mr. Davis for whatever it may be worth. This is not to be construed as a request, but merely a suggestion for your consideration. Mr. Constam is deeply grateful for your past consideration of his troubles and would be equally appreciative of any further action you may see fit to take. It is my understanding that the OWI is in dire need of men with Mr. Constam's abilities and my frank opinion is that we would be doing them a great favor by passing his name along to them.

Sincerely yours,

JAMES McI. HENDERSON
Chief, Mountain States Office

By *E. C. Sadler*

Eving C. Sadler
Special Attorney

