



OPPOSITE  
HISTORIC MORMON TEMPLE  
CENTER OF  
SALT LAKE'S SCENIC WONDERS



## HOTEL TEMPLE SQUARE

Saturday Nite

Dear friend Harry:

Please pardon me, in my TYPING, and approaching you as I am but I am close to you as I know you, in my humble way.

Harry, in this letter, I could say many things to you and maybe correct you, as I think. I will not do that but allow me to pass this on to you.

Now I will skip over the "Equal Rights Bill" as you and I are Southerners and we should appease our thoughts and let the South be the South as you and I know. It is Mexico I wish to convey a message.

In Tampico, Mexico there is an American who is one of the few successful investors in the whole Country of Mexice. I know him well and you should know him and really know JUST how we are getting along with our Mexican Policy.


Harry, please contact Mr. I. B. Sutton of Tampico, Mexico. He will give you more about Mexico than all the information you have in hand. He is one man that is not a politician but he knows Mexico and can be helpful to you, yes, give you more definite information than all our Representatives who we have sent down there. I mean this Harry but maybe I have not expressed myself too clearly.

He comes to Denver each year and, at the present time, is at the Colburn Hotel, 980 Grant Street Denver, Colorado.

Friend Harry, I would not guide you wrong about Mr. Sutton. Contact Mr. Sutton, forget about our "Equal Rights Bill" appease the South and allow me to continue to be your silent pardner.

Oh Harry, you are a fine man but you are a poor salesman so listen to me --





OPPOSITE  
HISTORIC MORMON TEMPLE  
CENTER OF  
SALT LAKE'S SCENIC WONDERS

## HOTEL TEMPLE SQUARE

You can win the South with out the " Equal Rights Bill" but you cannot win the South--with it. Just why?? well You, Bess and Margaret, and shall I say, myself, are all Southerners and we have been raised with the Negroes and we know the term " Equal Rights". Harry. let us let the South take care of the Niggers, which they have done, and if the Niggers do not like the Southern treatment, let them come to Mrs. Roosevelt.

Harry, you are a Southerner and a D--- good one so listen to me. I can see, you do not talk domestic problems over with Bess. ?????? You put equal rights in Independence and Bess will not live with you, will you Bess.

Well Harry, I have said my piece and I am only a boy who travels, helping you, but you are making it hard on me.

Anyway, PLEASE contact Mr. I. B. Sutton NOW . He has no idea I have written this letter so please do not convey.



Most Sincerely,

  
Ernest W. Roberts



August 18, 1948

Dear Ernie:

I appreciated very much your letter of last Saturday night from Hotel Temple Square in the Mormon Capital.

I am going to send you a copy of the report of my Commission on Civil Rights and then if you still have that antibellum proslavery outlook, I'll be thoroughly disappointed in you.

The main difficulty with the South is that they are living eighty years behind the times and the sooner they come out of it the better it will be for the country and themselves. I am not asking for social equality, because no such thing exists, but I am asking for equality of opportunity for all human beings and, as long as I stay here, I am going to continue that fight. When the mob gangs can take four people out and shoot them in the back, and everybody in the country is acquainted with who did the shooting and nothing is done about it, that country is in pretty bad fix from a law enforcement standpoint.

When a Mayor and a City Marshal can take a negro Sergeant off a bus in South Carolina, beat him up and put out one of his eyes, and nothing is done about it by the State authorities, something is radically wrong with the system.

On the Louisiana and Arkansas Railway when coal burning locomotives were used the negro firemen were the thing because it was a backbreaking job and a dirty one. As soon as they turned to oil as a fuel it became customary for people to take shots at the negro firemen and a number were murdered because it was thought that this was now a white-collar job and should go to a white man. I can't approve of such goings on and I shall never approve it, as long as I am here, as I told you before. I am going to try to remedy it and if that ends up in my failure to be reelected that failure will be in a good cause.

I know you haven't thought this thing through and that you do not know the facts. I am happy, however, that you wrote me because it gives me a chance to tell you what the facts are.

Sincerely yours,

**HARRY S. TRUMAN**

Mr. M. W. Roberts  
c/o Faultless Starch Company  
Kansas City, Missouri

Note in longhand --

This is a personal & confidential communication and I hope you'll regard it that way - at least until I've made a public statement on the subject - as I expect to do in the South.

HST

(Envelope marked - Personal and Confidential)

Report enclosed - "To Secure These Rights" --  
"The Report Of The President's Committee  
On Civil Rights"