



11-1972

Exchange with journalist Jeffrey St. John

Lewis F. Powell Jr.

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**JEFFROY
ST. JOHN**

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November 14, 1972

The Honorable Lewis Powell
Associate Justice
The U.S. Supreme Court
Washington, D.C.

My dear Mr. Justice:

The memo that you wrote for the U.S. Chamber back in August 1971 was, in my judgement, brilliant. I was particularly grateful that you had taken the time to read and later quote in that memo my Wall Street Journal piece, "Memo to GM: Why Not Fight Back?" The gift and power of analysis you brought to the problem confronting businessmen has no peer. What I found most rewarding was the emphasis you gave that any battle businessmen wage must contain philosophical and intellectual properties. At the same time, I don't think that the U.S. Chamber is the place or organization to wage the necessary battle on behalf of businessmen.

In this regard, I thought you might care to have a copy of a talk I will be giving before the Florida Chamber of Commerce on November 16 in Ft. Lauderdale. I quote your memo while at the same time trying to place the problem in context outside the U.S. Chamber.

I know that you have much reading, but would appreciate your own observations of what you think might be done outside the U.S. Chamber. As a native Virginian, familiar with the philosophical properties of the American Revolution, I think you might find the idea of the formation of a "Founders Society" (much like the Committees of Correspondence that sprang up during the Revolution) one way to wage an effective campaign on behalf of the business civilization, emphasizing especially those philosophical and ethical values which have sustained it and, in turn, transformed this nation from a wilderness to a world power within 200 years.

I travel to Washington occasionally for conferences with major associations for which I do consulting work. I have a meeting in the afternoon of November 29. If your court calendar is not so crowded, I would greatly enjoy visiting with you for a brief few minutes and obtaining

**JEFFROY
ST. JOHN**

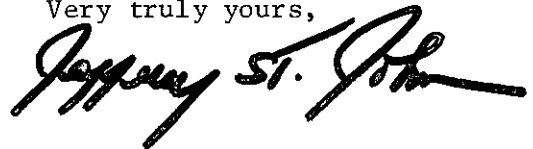
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your counsel about this problem.

In the event a brief visit is not possible, I should greatly appreciate hearing from you.

Once again, your memo and the precision of mind which you provided in defining the problem has both my admiration and gratitude.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Jeffroy St. John", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

JStJ:kb
enc.

J

November 20, 1972

Dear Mr. St. John:

Thank you for your warm and gracious letter of November 14.

I have read your interesting address to the Florida State Chamber of Commerce with interest and am sending it on to Eugene Sydnor, Chairman of the Education Committee of the U. S. Chamber of Commerce.

While I would be happy to meet you sometime if you are here at the Court, I have followed the policy of not discussing my memorandum to Mr. Sydnor. Now that I am on the Court, I no longer feel free even to advise or consult old friends as to issues which may be deemed controversial.

Sincerely,

Mr. Jeffrey St. John
Mountain Road
Irvington-on-Hudson, New York 10533

lfp/ss

cc: Mr. Eugene B. Sydnor, Jr.