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Personal Cleveland, O. April 29, 1910

My dear friend Todd:

Have just learned you are in Washington. How
greatly it would please me to see you again!! But
I cannot leave here now and so I write.

If perfectly convenient to you, I wish you
would kindly get some information for me or at
least ascertain enough of the situation there
to advise me.

The facts briefly are these: I am
very desirous of re entering the Government service
but I do not want to go to Panama or the
Philippines as Mr. Taft himself suggested to me
at the end of 1907 when he was Secretary of War.

I want to live in Washington. So I decided
to ask for a place of less salary and lower
"Category" than a judgeship. I applied for
appointment as Clerk of the new U. S. Court
of Customs Appeals, just organized at Washington.
I was endorsed by Senator Burnham of N. H.
and very many other persons of importance.
I did not get the appointment. I
went to the gentleman who had been
for many years the Private Secretary
of Senator Aldrich. I have no complaint

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to make although I was very much disappointed
This gentleman is an expert in Customs
legislation and I am simply an all around
lawyer with a creditable record in two
important Government places, Atty Gen
of Porto Rico and Judge in Philippines, whose
duties were much more difficult and arduous than
those of Clerk of any Court.

Now our old friend Judge Hunt is a
member of this Customs Court. He wrote me
a courteous letter and possibly voted for me.
But whether he did or not I have not a word
of ~~any~~ criticism. If he believed Mr. Shelton
was better qualified it was his duty to
vote for him and not for me.

Ever long another new Court is to be
created - the U. S. Court of Commerce.
I want to be Clerk of this Court if I can.
But if it is useless to me to apply I
want to know it in advance and not
bother my friends. Will you kindly
Call on Judge Hunt as my friend
and at my request, talk the matter
over with him confidentially and then

over

advise me whether to strive for the
Clerkship of this Commerce Court,
or to quit all idea of any Government
place at Washington?

I don't like to bother all my
friends to write me letters for me
if it is all to no purpose. If
Conditions are such that there is
absolutely no chance for me I want to
know it. If any remark is dropped
that I did not have the endorsement of
Mr. Taft my answer is that I was
advised by my friends and I so
believed that it would be discourteous
and improper for me to request the
President to recommend me for an
appointment which he did not have the
legal power to make. The fact that Mr. Taft
once put me on the bench is endorsement
enough to satisfy any reasonable man that I
am competent to be Clerk of a Court.

At all events I beg you to let me have
a letter from you.

Very sincerely yours

Arthur F. Welles