



Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Office of the Treasurer
Harrisburg
17120

CATHERINE BAKER KNOLL
TREASURER

January 23, 1990

HAND DELIVER

The Honorable Robert W. O'Donnell
Speaker
Pennsylvania House of Representatives
139 Main Capitol
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120

Dear Bob:

Everyone who knows you, and especially those who have known you for the length of time that my brother John and I have, take such great pride that you have become the Speaker of your House. In a State where the words "public official" have become synonymous with mediocrity or worse, you have always set a standard for honesty, decency, compassion and pursuit of the truth. I have always considered your career and struggle to be one of the few examples of a good and decent individual triumphing over the entrenched morass of politics in Pennsylvania.

I recently read a similarly inspiring story about Coke Stevenson who was speaker of the Texas House in the 1930's and later became Lieutenant Governor and Governor. This story appears within a larger story of Lyndon Johnson in Robert Caro's new book about Johnson which is being excerpted in the New Yorker Magazine. I am enclosing a copy of the article for your reference with the relevant part highlighted as I thought it's guidance might be useful in your new duties. I am also enclosing for your consideration the prop used by Coke Stevenson in presiding over the Texas Legislature.

Bob, I know you will be a great Speaker. Please do not hesitate to ask me for any help that I can offer.

Warmest personal regards,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be "J. M. White", written over a large, light-colored circular scribble or stamp.

JAMES M. WHITE
General Counsel

JMW/dak