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May 10th, 1900.

Honorable Thos. B. Turley,  
United States Senate,  
Washington, D.C.

My dear Senator and Friend:-

Yesterday Mrs. McKisick received a letter from her sister Mrs. Farrington, with a document signed by Mr. and Mrs. Farrington relating to the Topp and Vance claim against the United States, which was some time ago allowed by the Court of Claims, to be paid as usual by an appropriation, pursuant to an Act of Congress passed for that purpose. I call your attention to a sentence from Mrs. Farrington's letter as follows, viz: "You will understand that the Washington suit was in the name of George T. Vance and Guy P. Vance, as executors of the estate of W. L. Vance, surviving partner of Topp and Vance, and that if any money is ever paid by the Government, it will be in a check payable to their order."

On behalf of my wife and myself I protest and object to the payment of the share to which the Topp heirs may be entitled, being paid out of the Treasury to the executors of W. L. Vance.

If the bill for the payment of the judgment of the Court of Claims, which as I understand is now before the proper Committee, directs the payment of the whole of the judgment to the executors of Vance, I beg you and Mr. Carmack to have the bill so amended that the shares to which the heirs of Topp and Vance heirs may be entitled, be

#3

paid to them respectively, that is to say to them or to their respective representatives or to their respective attorneys in fact.

You will appreciate the inconvenience and hardship upon the Topp heirs to have their shares paid into the hands of the executors of Vance. The claim has been pending before the Court and before Congress for more than thirty years. The interests of the Topp heirs are as meritorious as are the interests of the Vance heirs, and if Congress shall direct the claim to be paid, Congress ought to provide that the money be paid directly to those entitled, which you know has been done in cases similar to this, where divers parties have been interested in the fund.

If the whole amount of the judgment shall be ordered to be paid, and in fact shall be paid to the executors of Vance, no one can tell when the money will come into the hands of the real owners. There may be lawsuits, there may be deaths, in fact in many ways there may be delays and obstructions, in fact thirty years, or an indefinite number of years may be added to the long delay which has elapsed.

I understand that Colonel Dye of Washington was the Attorney for the Vance executors in the Court of Claims. I do not know upon what terms he was employed, nor by whom. I beg you on behalf of my wife and myself to look into and examine this matter and have the same adjusted upon a basis satisfactory to yourself.

Again, I beg you to ask Mr. Garmack to aid you in having the bill passed through the House and Senate, to the end that those who have survived this long and tedious delay and their descendants, may get their just rights.