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Letter From Francis Mairs Huntington-Wilson to William P. Frye, July 5, 1909

Francis Mairs Huntington-Wilson

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July 5, 1909.

My dear Senator Frye :

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of June 25th, in regard to Mr. Eaton. In reply I can only assure you that his case has, as a matter of course, received the most painstaking consideration of the Department. There is no lack of appreciation of Mr. Eaton's character and capabilities, but in the insistence upon a certain degree of practical efficiency in our highest grade clerkships the recent change was decided upon, among others, which, after weeks of consideration were known to be demanded by the general interests of the Department.

I have had a very long and frank talk with Mr. Eaton and I know that he fully realizes that the grade which he shall occupy in this Department is a question solely of the quality of work which he may turn out. I also explained to him the duty of leaving these matters to the judgment of the Department. As you know, to seek to do otherwise is a pointblank violation of the regulations.

I write thus fully, although you will recall that I seized the opportunity to explain this matter to you when I had the pleasure of meeting you at the White House the other morning. Assuring you of my interest in Mr. Eaton, and with kind regards, I remain, my dear Senator,

Yours sincerely,

The Honorable William P. Frye,
United States Senate.

Walter P. Eaton
Acting Secretary.