HON. HENRY H. BINGHAM
CHAIRMAN N. C. O. ON P. O. & P. ROADS

DEAR SIR,

I am a member of the Anti-Lottery League of New Orleans where I reside during the winter and have made a study of the means necessary to suppress the lotteries and having read the amendments proposed by your Committee to Sections 3894 -- 3929 -- 4041 of the Postal Law beg leave to say that I take it for granted that you not only desire to prevent the use of the mails for lottery purposes but that you desire to kill the vice if you can do so at the same time and that you fully realize that if these amendments do not have that effect that the people will believe that loopholes were left purposely for the continuance of this curse, I therefore take the liberty of showing you how this co will continue its business in spite of these amendments and how easy it will be to kill the vice while closing the mail.

SECTION 3894 -- AS AMENDED READS AS FOLLOWS

THE PUBLIC HAS BEEN UNDER THE IMPRESSION THAT COMMON CARRIERS WERE PROHIBITED FROM CARRYING MAIL MATTER EXCEPT UNDER CERTAIN CONDITIONS WHICH PRIVILEGE THE POST MASTER-GENERAL COULD SUSPEND WHENEVER THE PUBLIC SERVICE REQUIRED IT TO BE DONE, AND HAVING THIS POWER HE COULD SUSPEND THIS PRIVILEGE ON ALL ROUTES ENTERING NEW ORLEANS AND THUS PREVENT THE LOTTERY CO
FROM SENDING ITS MATTER BY EXPRESS WHICH IT WILL DO AS SOON AS THE AMENDMENT TO SEC 3894 IS ADOPTED BECAUSE IT APPEARS THAT THE POSTAL LAW IS DEFECTIVE IN NOT MENTIONING A REGULAR EXPRESS AMONG THOSE CARRIERS THAT ARE MENTIONED. YOU WILL FIND THAT PRIVATE EXPRESS COS ARE MENTIONED BUT NOT REGULAR EXPRESS COS AND THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE HAS RULED IN A LETTER TO ME THAT "A PRIVATE EXPRESS IS IN NO WISE A REGULAR EXPRESS."

YOU WILL SEE BY THIS THAT THE AMENDED SEC 3894 WILL NOT STOP THE BUSINESS AS THE EXPRESS COS WILL BE USED.

TO COVER THIS DEFECT SECTIONS 3893 3894 3895 MUST BE AMENDED SO AS TO INCLUDE REGULAR EXPRESS COS OR ANY OTHER KIND OF CARRIER.

A VERY EFFECTUAL REMEDY WOULD BE TO AMEND THE INTERSTATE COMMERCE ACT MAKING IT A MISDEMEANOR TO CARRY LOTTERY MATTER FROM A FOREIGN STATE OR ONE OF OUR STATES INTO ANOTHER WITH A HEAVY FINE AND IMPRISONMENT PENALTY.

SEC 3929 AS AMENDED READS AS FOLLOWS:

No letters will be registered under this section. All remittances will be sent in letters not registered as money orders, checks, etc. are made to order and are just as safe as in registered letters. If you will add "OR OTHER" AFTER THE WORD "REGISTERED" AS ABOVE INDICATED YOU WILL PULL THE BUSINESS UP BY THE ROOTS.

If you can stop the delivery of registered letters you can stop ordinary letters.

Do not understand me as condemning these sections, on the contrary they are all good but to kill the vice we must have more and leave no loophole for the go to crawl through. I know that you will realize the importance of making the contemplated legislation effective for if it turns out other-

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WISE THE EFFECT WILL BE VERY BAD.

SECTION 4041 AS AMENDED READS AS FOLLOWS

THIS IS NECESSARY BUT WILL BE OVERCOME BY THE USE OF EXPRESS CO ORDERS CHECKS AND REMITTANCES IN CURRENCY

IN ADDITION ONE MORE IMPORTANT ACT IS NEEDED AND THAT IS AN AMENDMENT TO THE NAT BANK ACT FORFEITING THE CHARTER OF ANY NAT BANK ENGAGING IN THIS BUSINESS AS AGENT OR OTHERWISE OR THAT VIOLATES THE POSTAL LAWS IN ANY MANNER.

LET ME URGE YOU TO HAVE THESE ACTS PASSED DURING THIS SESSION IF POSSIBLE.

RESPECTFULLY

W. VAN BENTHUYSEN

P.S. I HAVE BEEN CONSTANTLY URGING MR. WANNAMAKER FOR OVER A YEAR TO MOVE IN THIS MATTER AND I AM GLAD TO SEE A PROSPECT OF SUPPRESSING THIS VICE.