

# DIXIE-HOME STORES

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GREENVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA

Noted by C

6 Sept 50

September 4, 1950.

Gen. Walter Bedell Smith, Commanding General,  
First Army,  
Fort Jay,  
Governors Island, New York.



Dear General:

Perhaps you will recall the luncheon Murray McConnel had in your honor on October 16, 1947, while you were our Ambassador to Moscow. I consider myself fortunate in having been invited and able to be one of the guests at this luncheon and in meeting you. I have known of you for a number of years through our mutual friend, Murray, and have been an admirer of you.

I am frank to say I have an increased admiration for you after having met you and heard your talk. I am delighted that you have accepted the assignment to head the Central Intelligence Agency. This is a tough assignment but one that I feel you are extremely well qualified to fill, and I feel a sense of relief that you with your experience and ability are the head of what in my opinion is a most important department of our Government. I wish I felt as confident about the leadership of some of the other departments of our Government as I do about the Central Intelligence Agency under your leadership, and in this statement I feel that I reflect the feeling of many people.

Sincerely,

J. P. WILLIAMSON

JPW:b

*Handwritten signature/initials*

*Handwritten signature of J. P. Williamson*

8 September 1950

Mr. J. P. Williamson  
Dixie-Home Stores  
Post Office Box 840  
Greenville, South Carolina

Dear Mr. Williamson:

Of course I remember meeting you at Murray McDaniel's luncheon and it was kind of you to write at this time. Your very thoughtful letter commenting so graciously on my appointment is deeply appreciated. I must say that the confidence expressed by notes such as yours is good for my morale at this time.

Although this promises to be as difficult as anything I have yet undertaken, there is some comfort in the knowledge that I am taking over at a time when the nation is keenly aware of the need for an effective intelligence organization, and I can confidently expect support and assistance from every quarter.

With kindest personal regards,

Sincerely,

W. B. SMITH

  
DME