

August 15, 1978

Mr. David Gold
Office of Congressman Markey
319 Cannon Office Building
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Gold:

This will follow up on our telephone conversation of this afternoon concerning the possibility of obtaining a private bill for my relief from the provisions of Article 1, Section 9, Clause 8 of the Constitution to permit me to accept the designation of Honorary Consul of the Republic of Honduras in Boston. It is my understanding from Mr. Horace Shamwell of the Office of the Legal Adviser, Department of State (telephone 202-632-0768) that there is ample precedent for this action.

I have been asked by the Government of Honduras to accept the post of Honorary Consul of Honduras, a position which carries no emolument, in order to help strengthen U.S./Honduran educational and cultural ties in the Boston area. The Department of State has informed me that, as a retired Foreign Service Information Officer (I retired August 31, 1977, with the rank of Career Minister), I am subject to Article 1, Section 9, Clause 8 of the Constitution which does not permit me "without the consent of Congress, [to] accept any ... office or title, of any kind whatever, from any ... foreign state."

I would like to accept this designation as Honorary Consul of Honduras in Boston and I believe that by so doing I can contribute to the strengthening of cultural and educational relations between Honduras and the United States. I therefore seek your help in having a private bill introduced to the Congress for my relief from the cited provisions of the Constitution.

My legal residence is 8 Grove Street, Winchester, Massachusetts 01890.

Your assistance in this matter would be most sincerely appreciated.

Yours truly,

HER/cw

Hewson A. Ryan
Morrow Professor of Public Diplomacy