Mr. Frederick A.O. Schwarz, Jr.
8 East 93rd Street

Dear Mr. Schwarz:

I have your letter of January 14th in which you advise me that you are writing your honors thesis on the political career of John W. Davis.

I would ordinarily be very glad indeed to make an appointment to see you. Unfortunately, however, I am planning to leave within a few days for an extended trip to the West and I do not expect to be back until some time in March. Under the circumstances I am sure you will understand why I cannot see you during the time you will be in New York.

I am glad, however, to make such reply as I can to your questions.

1. As I recall, Mr. John W. Davis wielded virtually no control over party affairs during the years 1924 to 1928, when he was titular head of the Party.

2. I do not believe that Mr. Davis had any substantial influence over the Party between 1928 and 1932. He was never really close to either the Democratic political leaders or to the rank and file of the Party membership. I do not recall that he was active on the Fundraising Committee in 1932. It is quite possible however that he was, but the Committee probably included a substantial number of other men and women.
Unfortunately, I am not able to reply to this question. I, of course, do not know what was in his mind when he associated himself with and became active in the Liberty League. I think that he and the other leaders of the Liberty League movement were motivated largely by their strong opposition to President Roosevelt and his policies. I do not know, however, whether there were in addition any personal reasons for his association with the League beyond his opposition to President Roosevelt.

May I say again that I am sorry I cannot meet you and that I am not able to give you any more authoritative information.

Yours very sincerely,