

COPY.

Personal.

13th April, 1931.

Dear Mr. French,

With reference to your official letter of the 2nd instant, regarding the intimation which you have received from the Attorneys for the Owners of the s.s. "VESTRIS" that they intend serving subpoenas on Mr. W. H. Runham, Mr. G.R. Richardson and Mr. James Short, the Society's Surveyors who last examined the vessel before her loss, with a view to their giving testimony in a pending law suit, I think it well to say, for your own personal information, that while we are governed in all such cases by the general instructions to the Surveyors as to giving evidence upon receipt of a summons subpoena, in a case of this nature, where the interests of this Society are identical with those of the Owners as regards proving the efficiency of the survey held by the Society's Surveyors, we should be inclined unofficially to give the Owners all reasonable assistance without standing rigidly upon the literal interpretation of the general instructions.

I think that without detriment to any of the interests concerned, you may exercise a wise discretion in the same way in the case of the "VESTRIS".

James French, Esq.,

NEW YORK.

Yours sincerely,



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