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mess room

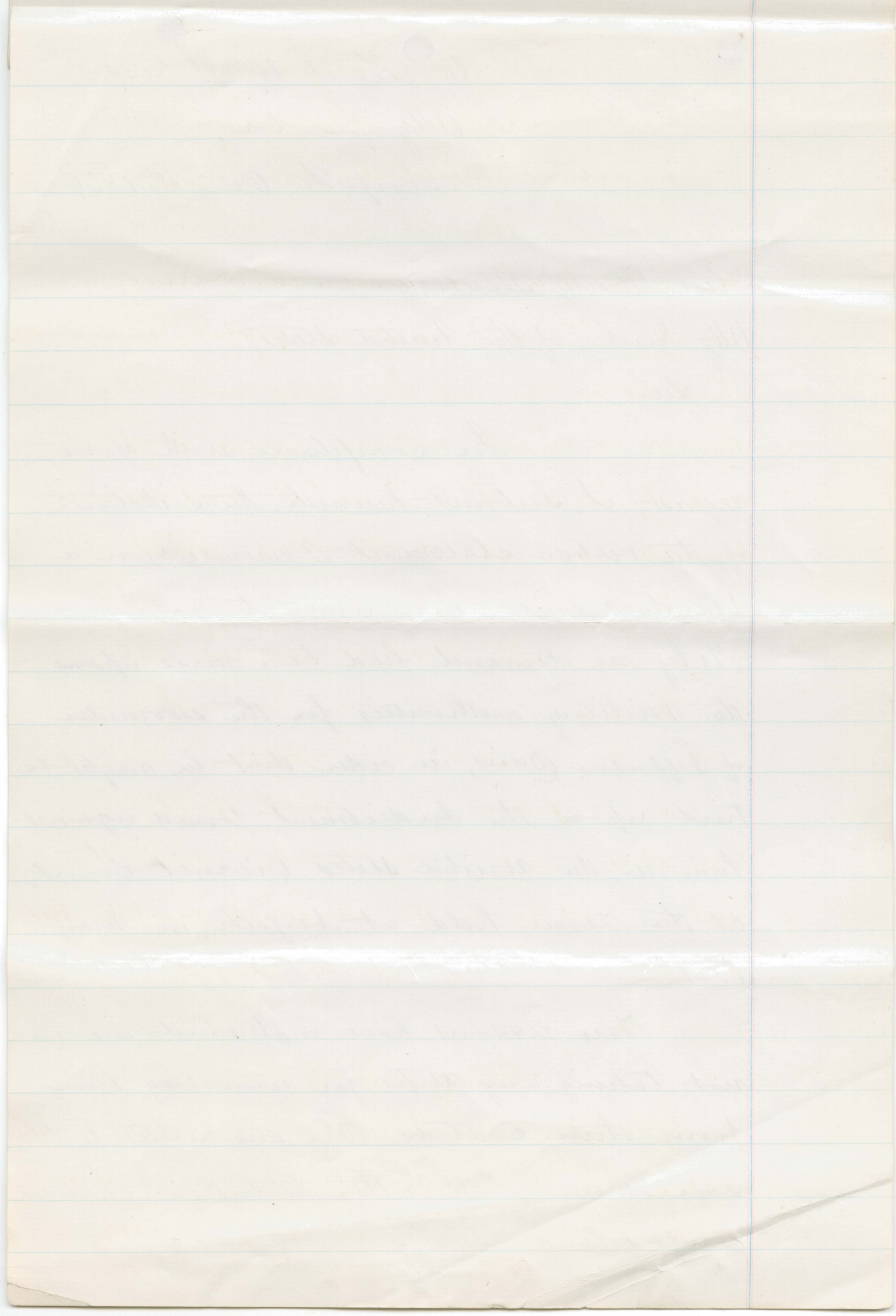
[3]

Office of U. S. Dist.
Atty. for Va.,
Norfolk, Oct. 8th 1866.

Hon. Henry Stanbery,
Atty. Genl. of the United States,
Sir,

In compliance with your request, I submit, herewith, the substance of the verbal statement I made you, a few days since, in answer to your question, "Why no demand had been made upon the Military authorities for the surrender of Jefferson Davis, in order that he might be tried upon the Indictment found against him in the United States Circuit Court, at the Term held at Norfolk, in May last."

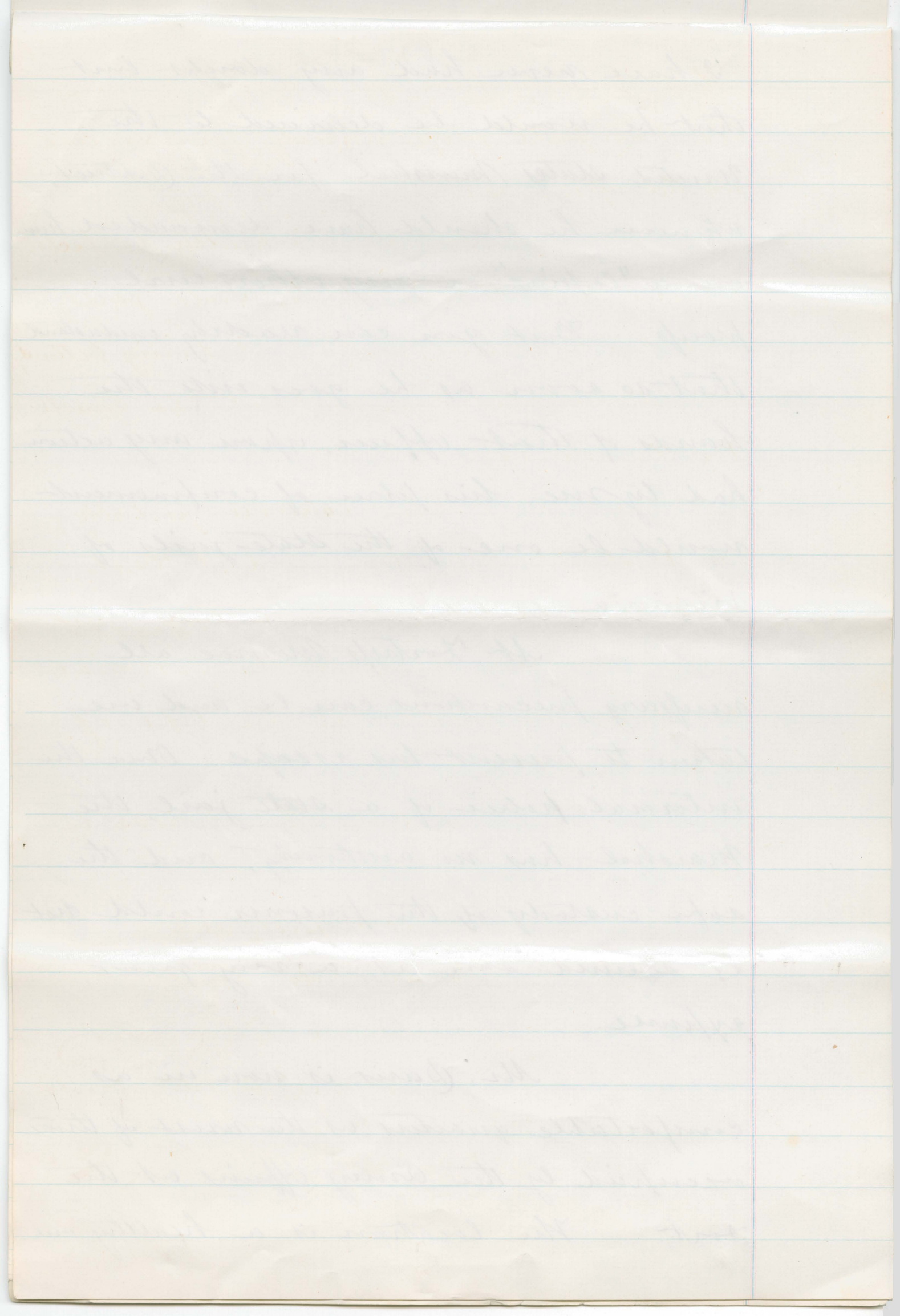
Two reasons have influenced me in not taking any steps for removing him from their custody. The one relates to his safe keeping, the other to his own personal comfort and health.



I have never had any doubt but that he would be delivered to the United States Marshal, for the District, whenever he should have demanded him on a "habeas", or any other civil process. But you can readily understand that so soon as he goes into the hands of that officer, upon any action had by me, his place of confinement would be one of the State jails of Virginia.

At Fortress Monroe all necessary precautions can be, and are taken to prevent his escape. Over the internal police of a State jail, the Marshal has no authority, and the safe custody of the prisoner could not be secured save at a very great expense.

Mr. Davis is now in as comfortable quarters as the most of those occupied by the Army officers at the Fort. The location is a healthy one.



His family have free access to him.
He has full opportunity for exercise
in the open air.

If his health be feeble,
remove him to one of the State jails,
and his condition, instead of being bettered,
would, in all these respects, be much
for the worse.

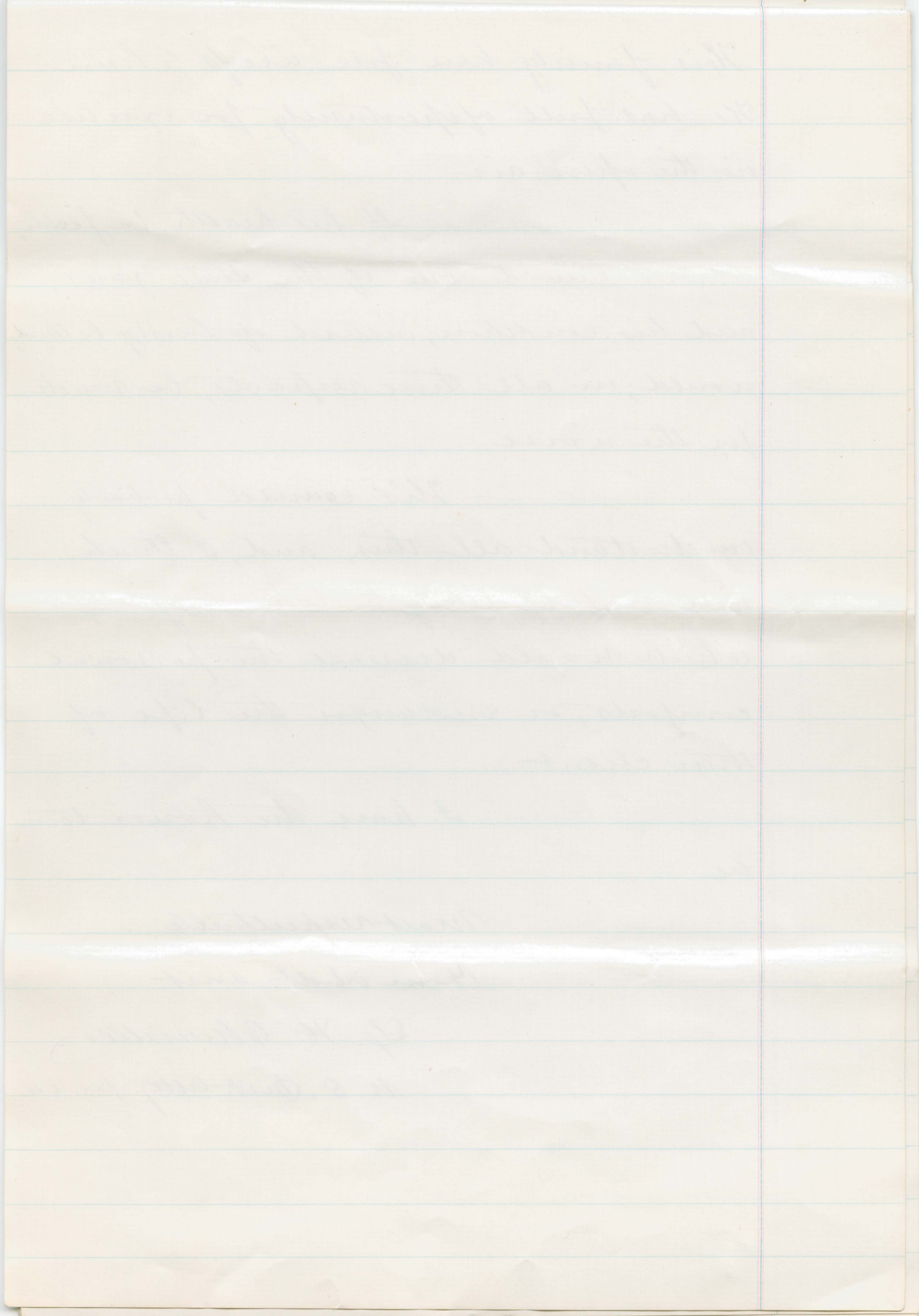
This counsel probably
understand all this, and, I think,
will not be likely to take any steps
which would decrease the personal
comforts, or endanger the life of
their client.

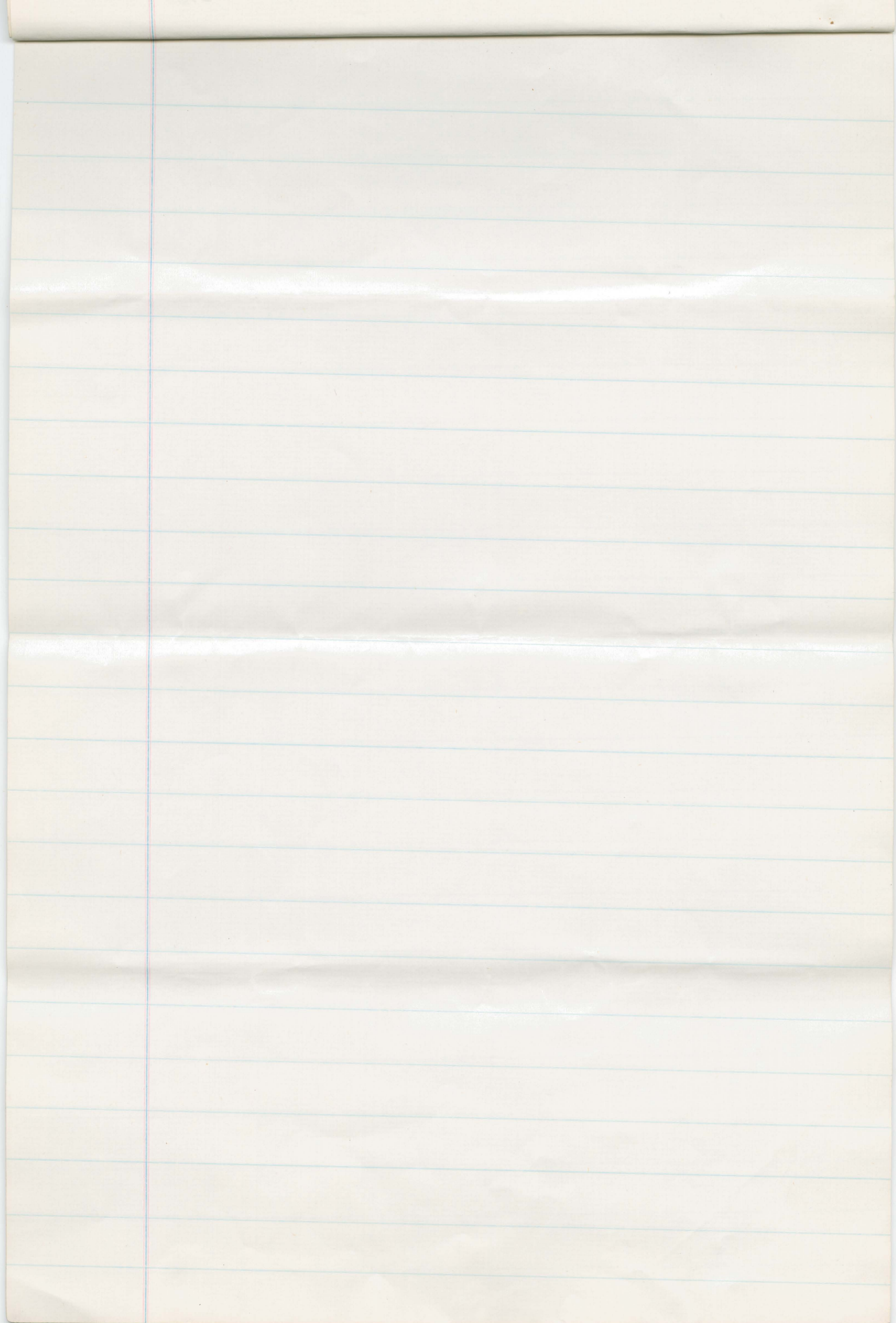
I have the honor to
be

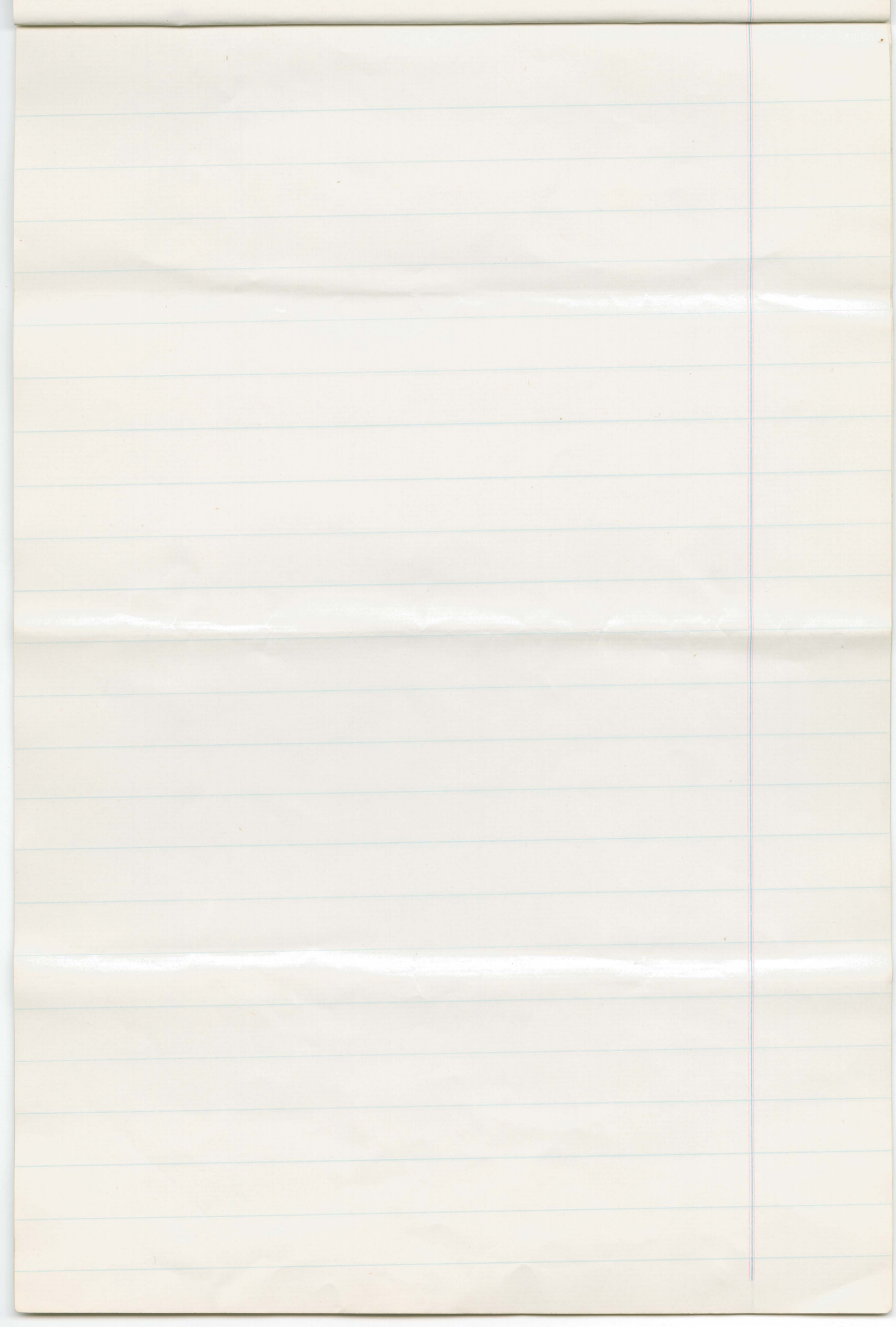
Most respectfully

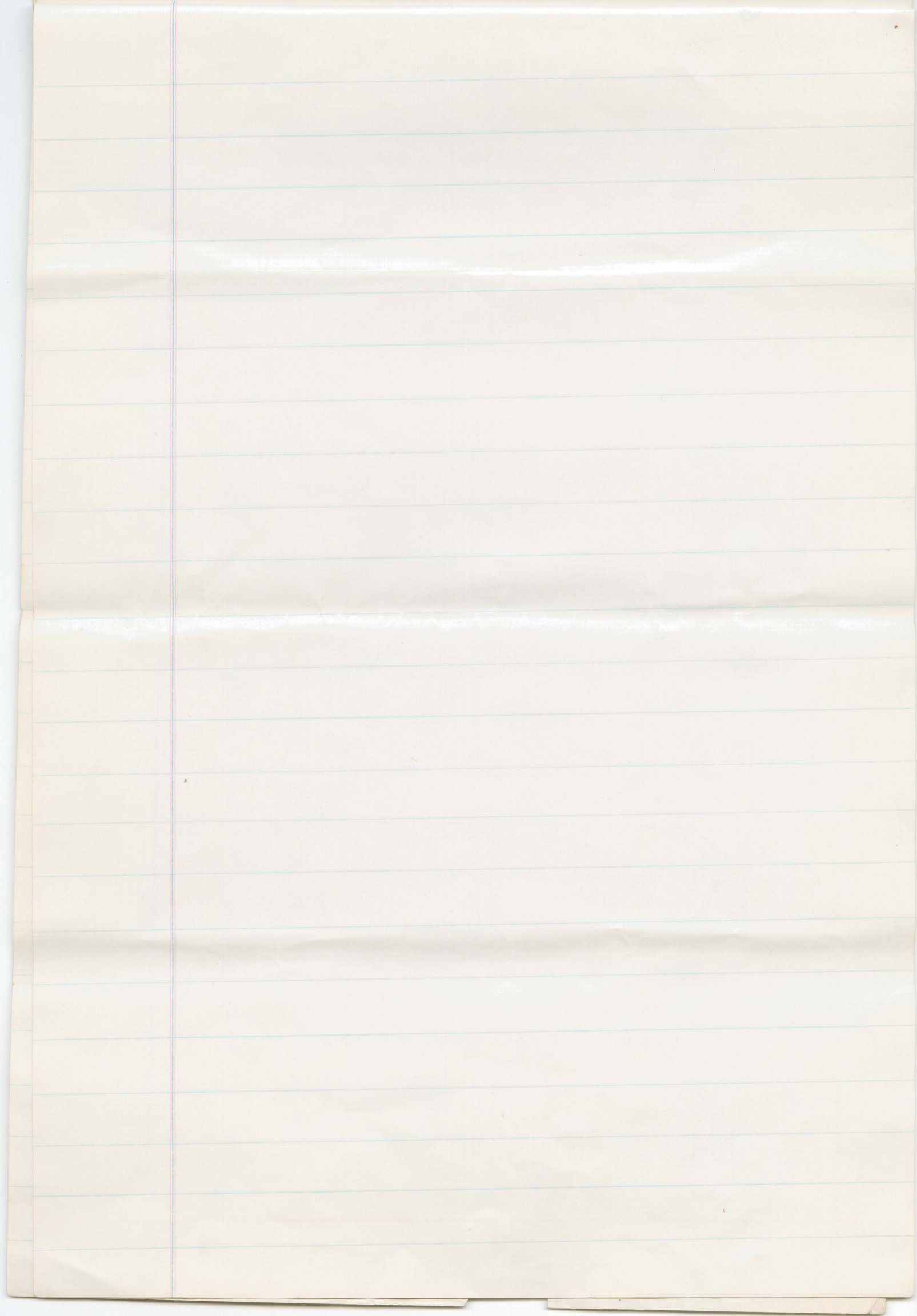
Your obedt. servt.

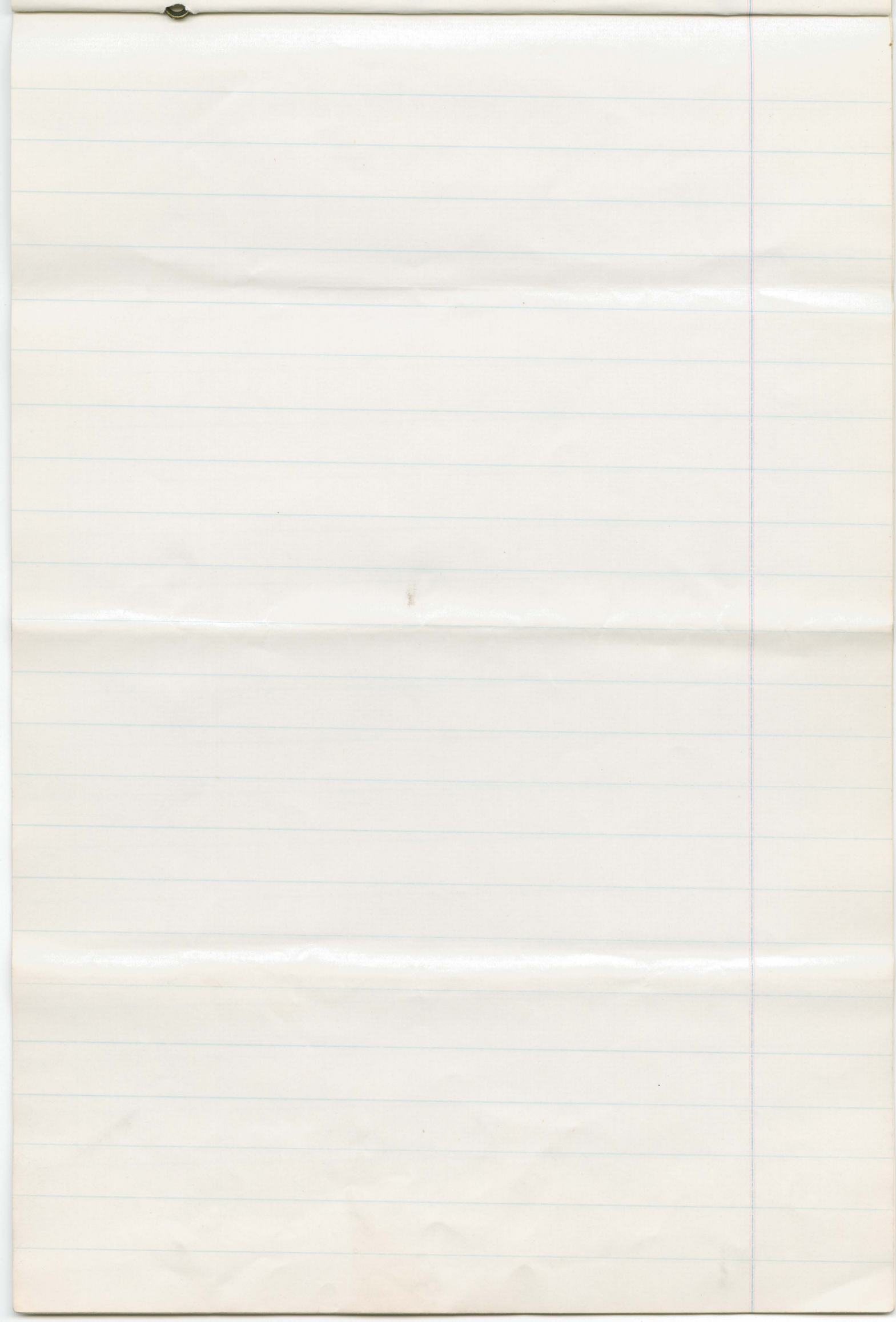
Lp. W. Chandler
U. S. Dist. Atty. for Va.

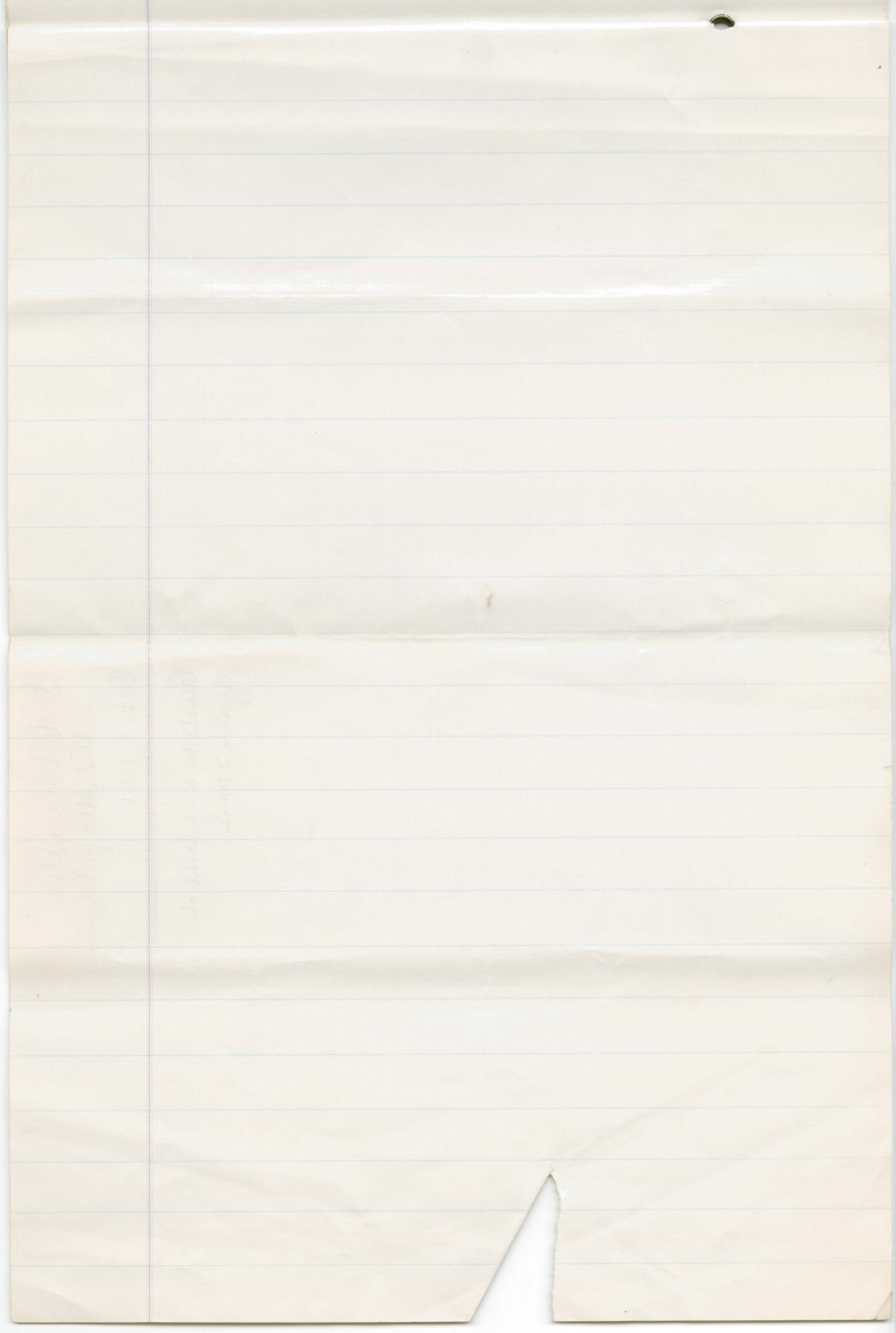












S. H. Chandler
U. S. Atty for Virginia.
Oct. 8, 1866.

Exhibit and trial of
Jefferson Davis.