

February 9, 1912.

Confidential

Honorable George Sutherland,  
United States Senator,  
Washington, D. C.

My dear Senator:

I called on the President last Saturday morning and had a short talk with him concerning a few of the subjects that I had up with you, but as usual it was a very busy morning and I did not feel that I ought to take up any part of his time unnecessarily, and again, I rather hesitate to go into a discussion of the situation unless I understand that it is desired. There are so many attempts being made to break in that I do not care to take a chance of being classed in the crowd that is trying to break in with unsolicited advice. I referred to several matters very briefly and let it go at that.

I took particular pains during the interview to have the President understand beyond question that your work with the Commission had brought you the full confidence and esteem of the heads of the railroad organizations and I tried to impress him with the belief that it was not because of your having given the organizations any undue advantage but because of your absolute fairness in protecting both the interests of the employers and the employees, and which, by the way, is absolutely true.

I trust that if the time comes when you feel that these organizations can be of any service to you that you will not hesitate to advise them direct or else advise me and I will take great pleasure in doing anything I can to have them further your interests and I know they will be very glad indeed to respond in any substantial way that offers.

I can not let this opportunity go by without again expressing to you my most earnest thanks for your kindness and courtesy to me and the people I represented during all of the conferences of the Commission. As I have tried to tell you, I appreciate your friendship and interest much more than I have been able to express and I trust that an opportunity may be given at some time to show in a more substantial way how much I value the careful consideration that was given to our interests during the entire work of the Commission, and I do not hesitate to say that had it not been for you that the benefits of the bill would not have been agreed upon so readily, if at all.

I have made sure that the representatives of the Engineers, Conductors and Trainmen are fully aware of the very important part you had in arranging the benefits under the law and have given you sole credit for the construction of the law.

Before leaving Washington I had two subjects brought to me that I think should have been brought to the attention of the Commission itself. We acknowledged our thanks for the assistance given the Commission by Mr. Dempsey in preparing the statistical tables, and I wondered if it would have been out of place to have thanked the Secretary of the Commission for his work with the Commission. The question of extra salary was brought to my attention. I believe both questions should have been brought before the Commission before it separated; still anything that the members of the Commission now in Washington decide to do, if anything is decided, will meet with my hearty approval.

I am very anxious to know about when the bill will go to Congress. I want to use as much of your personal report in the March issue of our publication as is possible. I am now having it set and will hold it until it is released, because we can not take a chance of having it published and then because of some unforeseen happening not be able to use it. Will it be asking too much if you will advise me by wire as soon as the bill goes to Congress from the President?

Mr. Lee advises me of the very pleasant visit he had with you the other day and I was glad you had the time to see him. I have taken up the question of advising you concerning all complaints made by members of the organizations and am sure that they will be very glad to comply with my request and these complaints will be forwarded to you.

If the supply of advance reports is not exhausted I would appreciate it very much if you would send me one or two extra copies. Thanking you in advance for the favor requested, and with my best regards to you, I remain

Very truly yours,  
D. L. Cease