

Chicago, Illinois,
June 26, 1920.

Honorable Warren G. Harding,
U. S. Senate,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Warren:-

Since I saw you in Washington I have spent three days with a group of business men at Yama Farms Inn in the Katskills, thirty or forty miles back from the Hudson. There were twenty-eight in the party which included many of the big men of the industrial world. There were several manufacturers, a railroad president, a ship builder, two or three lawyers and a famous surgeon. The majority were employers of labor on a large scale; most of them were Republicans, though there were a few Democrats among them; all to a man were against - - very strongly against - the present administration. The conference was entirely informal - almost spontaneous in character - and dealt with many present day problems including those of a political nature. They all wanted to know about you, your outlook on business, taxation, labor, and so on. I told them all I could as far as I could. They are for your election and ready and anxious to help. There is nothing narrow in their vision. They want the decent, square thing to prevail. With one exception they all told the same story of increasing expense and decreasing production. As wages have gone up, the output of the individual workman has gone down steadily and almost as though the two things were logically connected. Nevertheless, there was no scolding, no bitterness, but only an expression of regret that things were as they were. They are for the open shop, of course, but not hostile to organized labor, though greatly deploring certain of its tendencies. They do not expect or ask that the next administration shall be hostile to organized labor, but only that it shall stand for equality of rights and equality of burden, with the public welfare as the supreme guide.

My own feeling is that wherever and however you deal with this question, special emphasis should be laid upon the rights of the general public, from whose pockets in the last analysis come both dividends and wages and who, while greatly outnumbering both employers and workmen, are unorganized and therefore in danger of being ground between these highly disciplined organizations. I am not sure but that one of the gravest dangers the people as a whole are facing is that of being dominated and exploited by and for the benefit of organized

minorities of various kinds who know exactly what they want. The government while bound within the legitimate scope of its powers to enforce the square deal as between labor and capital, owes a peculiar, if not a paramount duty to the general public – numerically strong, but strategically weak – to see that it is not made the victim of the conscious or unconscious selfishness of both classes. I am afraid that compulsory arbitration is not the remedy. There are inherent and serious difficulties in the way of applying the coercive processes of the law to large groups of men whose offense may often consist of simply failing to recognize and discharge their economic duties to society. But I think at least we should devise some plan by which the claims of either against the other where they cannot be settled by mutual arrangement, may be heard and determined by thoroughly impartial tribunal whose standing and character will be such that its findings will have behind them the sanction of an instructed and determined public opinion.

I do not know of any matter in which the West is distinctively concerned unless it be that of the reclamation of the arid lands. I think a strong and hopeful word might profitably be said on that subject. Some people I am told have deprecated public aid for the irrigation of the arid lands of the West on the ground that they were remote from the great markets of the country. Nothing could be more fallacious in this day of rapid and vast transportation. We have need to encourage and foster the production of food stuffs everywhere and by every means and that is a policy so wise and essential that it cannot be limited by a matter of geography.

I am leaving this afternoon for Salt Lake where I shall remain for some weeks. Your success in the coming election in my judgment is vital, and lies very near my heart, as I need not tell you. Please do not hesitate to command my time or services if it occurs to you any time that they may be helpful in however small a way.

With warm personal regards,

Very sincerely,