

*Law School of Harvard University,
Cambridge, Mass.*

October 18, 1928.

Professor A. A. Berle,
Columbia Law School,
New York, New York.

Dear Mr. Berle:

I am chairman this year of the round table on Business Associations of the Association of American Law Schools. I am very anxious to obtain for the round table a paper on some topic of current interest connected with corporation finance. As law teachers, the members of the round table are of course interested not only in recent developments in the law of corporation finance but also in recent developments in the teaching of that subject. The latter or pedagogical aspect of the matter seems to me of especially live interest at the present time, when several of the leading law schools have introduced the subject of corporation finance into their curricula. You have yourself been among the first, if not the first, to make the experiment, and you have in addition what most of us law teachers do not have, a wide practical experience with regard to the subject. I can therefore think of no one who would be so well qualified as yourself to discuss before the round table the question of how corporate finance should be taught and what the relation of a course therein should be to the general course on corporations, if indeed such general course should continue to exist. I was last year a member of the University of Chicago law faculty, and I know that the members of that faculty were greatly interested in the necessarily meager reports that Professor Marshall gave us of your work at Columbia. Your own report of your experience would have been of far greater interest.

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-2-

I understand that in addition to your teaching you are actively engaged in practice and I should therefore hesitate to urge you to address a meeting as far away as Chicago were it not for the fact that I have talked the matter over with Professor Beale, who is in hearty accord with my opinion that the round table would be most fortunate if it could have a paper from you and encourages me to believe that you might be induced to accept such an invitation.

It is of course quite possible that you might prefer to discuss some aspect of the law of corporate finance rather than the problem of teaching that subject. If such be the case, I should be delighted to have a paper of that sort from you. As you are far more familiar with the whole subject than I am, any suggestion from me as to the particular topic would seem scarcely worth while. I know that your views on a number of current problems connected with corporate finance have already been presented in your recent law review articles, but I have no doubt that there are other phases of the problem on which you could have something to say to us which would be no less interesting to teachers of corporation law than those articles have been.

Will you kindly let me know as soon as possible whether there is any chance of our having the pleasure of hearing from you at Chicago, as it is necessary that the program for that meeting be arranged within a very short time.

Very truly yours,

E. MERRICK DODD JR.