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WESTERN UNION

1211

A. N. WILLIAMS
PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

J. C. WILLEVER
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

CHECK
ACCOUNTING INFORMATION
TIME FILED

Send the following telegram, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to

December 20, 1944.

Colonel Thomas D. Drake, G. S. C.,
Organization and Training Division, G-3,
War Department,
Washington, D. C.

Thanks for your letter of the seventeenth. I am wiring Steve Early as follows: Quote Over a period of several weeks, I have received from various sources information as to the treatment of American prisoners in Oflag 64 that makes my blood boil, and undoubtedly would have the same effect on the public, regardless of whether they had relatives involved, as I have. This information checks with intimations and statements previously passed in letters from my son, who is in Oflag 64, as well as from letters received from others who have sons and husbands at this same camp. All of this has convinced me that a very acute situation exists in this camp, and no doubt in all other camps in Germany where American boys are confined, which the Red Cross has not been able to handle and cannot handle under present conditions. I am also convinced that it can be handled only through forceful governmental action.

I know how busy he is and what an imposition it is even to make the request, but the President will be doing a great humanitarian service to more than thirty thousand American prisoners of war in Germany if he will send for Colonel Thomas D. Drake, G. S. C., Organization and Training Division, G 3, War Department, find out what he knows about Oflag 64, after serving there as senior officer in charge of this particular camp for

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fifteen months, and get his ideas as to how this situation can be met. If it can be met, I feel Colonel Drake has the only solution to this problem under present conditions. This is not intended as a reflection on the Red Cross, and irrespective of Basil O'Connor's connection with the Red Cross, it's a job that, in my estimation, can only be done by the President through the War and State Departments. A proper, forceful warning from General Eisenhower over the radio to the Germans will bring results. Colonel Drake could quickly tell the true story to the President. Steve, I will consider this a great personal favor if you will try and do this for me, and I hope the President will see Colonel Drake and hear his story before first taking it up with the Red Cross direct. If the President is unable to see him, I am sure if you would talk to Colonel Drake and tell the President how important the matter is, he might be able to take the time to see Colonel Drake personally. Unquote.

If they call you, please show copies of matter sent me December fifteenth as well as your letter of the seventeenth. Please keep me posted.

Sincerely,

Amon Carter.

Night Letter
Paid - Chg. Star-Telegram.