

*M. W. ...*

May 21, 1943.

Honorable Sam Rayburn, Speaker,  
House of Representatives,  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sam:

Enclosed herewith you will find a copy of an editorial which appeared in the Star-Telegram Thursday, May 20, regarding the scrolls episode. Inasmuch as this struck me as being such a ridiculous, unfair criticism, I am sending the editorial by mail today personally to the 435 members of the House of Representatives, as we wanted to let all of them know how the people in Texas, or at least the newspaper having the largest circulation in Texas, feels about you and your activities in Washington.

By the way, you recall more than a year ago the telegrams that I sent you, Senator Connally, and Senator Barkley regarding the necessity for definite, positive action on the strike situation and notwithstanding that these unlawful, illegal strikes have continued through the inability of labor leaders to control their own men is a further definite, positive justification for strike legislation that will not permit a man to leave his war work any more than it would permit an enlisted man to leave the Army. It is a distinction without a difference to permit the strikers to discriminate against the armed forces, who are fighting for the freedom of our country, and the old slogan, "Work or Fight", should be enacted into a definite legislation.

Incidentally, having a boy in Germany as a prisoner of War together with hundreds of others similarly situated brings these things closer to me than otherwise. Frankly, if the Administration had enforced a strong, restraining policy at the time of the origination of the sit-down strikes, we would have been relieved of a hazard of this kind. While we are on the subject why is it that the Truman Committee in their investigations of illegal acts, excess prices, etc. have not investigated the labor unions who seem to be immune from the laws that are enacted to regulate everyone else. This kind of an investigation should be productive of beneficial results for all honest labor as well as the citizenship of our country.

Of course if we had a strong, capable, hard-hitting Secretary of Labor with sufficient intestinal fortitude, that in itself would probably help one hundred per cent.

Now, Sam, you know there is no one who has a greater admiration or affection for the President than I have, but why he does not put somebody in Mrs. Perkins' job is something that the public cannot understand and furthermore it is going to react detrimentally to the Administration when the future political battle lines are drawn.

I am running an editorial asking the Truman Committee why they do not investigate the labor unions. Certainly the great America that we boast of and talk about with pride is confronted with a sickening, nauseating spectacle at this time and it looks like in permitting John L. Lewis practically snapping his fingers at the President, the War Labor Board, Congress and everybody else, I have always had the old-fashioned idea that the President should be the biggest man in the United States and that the public would wholeheartedly back him in demanding this position; therefore why in Hades does Congress pussyfoot around and not have sufficient intestinal fortitude to solve a problem of this kind without delay. I can't help what Mr. Nelson, The Navy Department has to say against legislation of this kind claiming it will further retard our production. What the Hell are we fighting for - liberty of our country and its people. In that case why not practice some of it at home.

No one has a higher regard, a greater appreciation of labor and its problems than I have. We have always fought for them when we thought they were right. Frankly, much of the trouble that we are now confronted with should be charged to industry itself, who has failed to give proper consideration to labor in considering it worthy of its hire. It is the old saying that the pendulum usually swings too far and industry itself is responsible for the radical Wagner Act, just as the open saloon was the cause of prohibition.

Here I go as usual. I merely started out to write you a letter regarding editorials and here I am off on other subjects which I did not intend to bring up. Still I presume I am somewhat like King Solomon was when he looked into the harem and stated, "My Lord, there is so

much stuff here that I do not know where to commence."

I have had a letter and two postcards from Amon Jr. who is located in a prison camp in Rotenburg, Germany about 25 miles southeast of Kassel. He is getting along fine and in good spirits and sent a list of things to be sent to him that is as long as some of the speeches they have in Congress, however in most cases more practical.

I notice Mr. Prentiss Brown and Mr. Pike seem to think that there is no reason why they should make any effort to give the oil industry a square deal and I have about made up my mind that the only way we are going to get any relief is through action by Congress. The representative of the dominating major company has just returned from New York where he evidently listened to his master's voice and makes the statement that there is no reason for a general price raise of oil. His New York superiors practically dominate the oil business in Texas and the Majors in my estimation dominate the oil situation in Washington, although I think we are fortunate in having a man like Mr. Ickes as the oil administrator. Unfortunately he cannot do the job alone when all of his assistants are disciples of the major dominated companies. As I understand it the deputy administrator is still drawing \$57,500 salary from the Standard Oil Company as well as \$12,000 from the Government and with all due respect to his honesty and integrity, it is kind of like an old statement I have used many times - it is hard to draw money from the home team and do any constructive pitching for the opposition. G

Goodbye,

W. L. Carey