

July 27, 1950.

Honorable Alben W. Barkley
Vice-President of the United States
205 Senate Office Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Barkley:

It is not too much to say that the whole future of this country rests on decisions to be made by Congress and President Truman in the immediate future. With this in mind I sent the President the following telegram today:

"Dear Mr. President: The prompt, decisive and courageous manner in which you have moved to meet the emergency created by Communist aggression in Korea has been a source of gratification and inspiration to me, as I am confident it has been to the nation as a whole.

"We are blessed in this great country of ours with both the human and the natural resources which are needed to cope with such an emergency, but we also need dynamic leadership if these resources are to be mustered effectively. You have provided this type of leadership and done it in a way that inspires the utmost confidence in your ability.

"It has been distressing to me to see some of your enemies trying to make political hay out of this emergency and at the same time predicting that you would permit political considerations to temper your judgment and actions. Your messages to Congress, particularly your advocacy of immediate increases in taxes, show how utterly wrong your detractors have been.

"It should be obvious to everybody by now that your primary concern is for the welfare of the nation, and this should assure you of the unstinted support of the vast majority of the thinking people of America.

"Such assurance, in turn, should encourage you to take boldly any further steps which appear necessary or desirable for the increase of our military strength and for the protection of our national economy. Without casting reflections on anyone, it can be truthfully said that some grievous mistakes were made in the early stages of our mobilization for both World War I and World War II. It would be tragic indeed if those mistakes were repeated again.

"Congress should give you without delay whatever additional authority you may need to cope with the emergency and to protect the nation from the dangers of inflation. If, after Congress has done its duty, you feel that the situation warrants the reimposition of price controls, let me urge you most earnestly at the same time to freeze both prices and wages. Failure to do this in the previous emergencies produced dire consequences with which I am sure you are familiar. That was one mistake we should not repeat again.

"There is the possibility, of course, that freezing prices and wages will operate to the disadvantage of some individuals or groups, but the temporary disadvantage of the few should not be allowed to block the long-range good of the nation as a whole.

"If wages are frozen along with prices there doubtless will be protests from some shortsighted labor leaders who might be more interested in their own temporary gain than they are in the nation's economic stability. Do not be deterred by this prospect. The thinking leaders of labor, as well as many in the ranks of labor, realize that when the nation's welfare is at stake there should be no favored group or class. They realize too that only by freezing wages can price control be made really effective.

"You need not temporize with this question. Send the engine room the "Full Speed Ahead" signal and rest assured that the people will back you up. With regards and sincere best wishes.
/S/ AMON G. CARTER, Publisher, Fort Worth Star-Telegram."

Page Three

As you well know, of course, Mr. Barkley, the President can do nothing along this line unless and until Congress grants him the necessary authority. There should be no quibbling about the extent of the authority granted. I trust that you will use your great influence to see that Congress does not jeopardize our nation's economic stability by enacting timid, half-way measures.

I am sure the President does not desire and will not permit himself to be coerced into imposing more economic controls on the country than are absolutely necessary. My concern, frankly, is that his inclination will be to not go far enough.

I am also convinced that no system of priorities can work effectively without price control, and price control, in turn, must include wage control.

Our democratic processes are necessarily slow, but this puts us at some disadvantage in dealing with totalitarian governments. Witness the length of time it has taken to enact the bill ending restrictions on the size of our armed forces. Most everyone agreed this was a necessary measure, but it took time to get it through the legislative mill.

In view of this and the danger that the military situation might worsen suddenly, let's give the President full authority on a standby basis and not repeat the mistake of trying to do this job on a piecemeal basis.

With regards and sincere best wishes,

Sincerely,

P u b l i s h e r,
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

AGC:mmm