July 15, 1921

Dear Louis: [Caton]

You and Mr. Kelly were speaking the other night of putting a touch of American history into your programs, and suggested that I might help you.

I know so little of the movie world that I am not at all sure of what is practical. One thing has occurred to me, however, that might be made both interesting and instructive, and that is a film to be called "Our Presidents." There have been twenty-nine of them. My notion would be to feature the significant and dramatic episodes of their administrations and do it in such a way as to give striking contracts, and also to show, without saying so, the progress of the country.

I should picture their inaugurations of perhaps a dozen of the most prominent ones. This in itself would be a most interesting picture of the change in our habits from the simplicity of a Jefferson, riding up to the capitol and tying his horse and going in to be inaugurated, to the flamboyant display of a McKinley or Roosevelt. If you just run through a picture of the hats the Presidents wore, you would have something highly amusing. The big inventions that marked the different administrations could be played up very dramatically, I think. And of course you could run their fine sayings.

And if you want the stir of a fight, you have a series of wars from the Revolution on to the Great War, in which you could show graphically the kind of fighters we have had and what they have fought with. There would be no end of material; but it should be worked so as to make a serial story, with interest accumulating with the passing of the administrations and leaving behind a fine sense of achievement and growth.

I really think there is something in the idea, but, as I say, I know almost nothing about the movie world.

With all good wishes,

Very sincerely yours,