

May 16, 1925

Mr. Newton B. Baker,
Union Trust Company,
Cleveland, Ohio.

My dear Mr. Baker:

Your friend, Mr. F. A. Scott, with whom I had a long talk yesterday, tells me that before leaving Cleveland he told you that he expected to see me and that you were good enough to send your regards. Please believe me, there are few people whose regard I hold higher than yours.

Mr. Scott told you, too, I believe, that I am trying to fix the attitude of Judge Gary of the Steel Corporation towards price fixing at the beginning of the war. Of course this means finding out what really happened. Mr. Scott told me that in May, or not later than the first of June, he thinks, he wrote a letter to the Secretaries of the War and Navy Departments, suggesting, as I understand it, that a committee be formed to consider price fixing. This letter was signed by him, and at his request by Mr. Baruch, Chairman of the Raw Materials Committee.

Mr. Scott suggested that it might be possible that you have in your files this letter and would be willing to give me a copy or, if you have not the letter, that you might suggest how I could go to work to get it from Washington.

While price fixing was in the air from the start, Mr. Scott tells me that the only person with whom he talked in Washington when he arrived there, who was out-spokenly in favor of it, was Secretary Daniels, and that at the end of a fortnight he believed that it was necessary and that if satisfactory cooperation of Government and industries could be effected, that the industries would accept it. My first problem of course is to trace the steps which led up to the various conferences of the summer and fall of 1917, in which price fixing was adopted, and to get documentary proof of how closely Judge Gary kept step with the movement. If you can help me to the letter in question as Mr. Scott suggested, you will render me a substantial service, and believe I shall be most grateful for it.

Will you not remember me most kindly to Mrs. Baker, and believe me