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Memorandum: The Plan

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THE PLAN

I went to the dinner last night with an idea in mind which had been floating around all day, a curious question: - Isn't it possible that the economic independence of women is one of the wedges, a bottom wedge, which in the end may destroy the freedom, not only of individuals but of the mind? My thesis as I see it now is that the safety of the democratic plan lies in the responsibility, that is the training of the individual to understanding and responsibility to carry it out.

That is, you must give this training must begin in you, that is, we must give to you, the child, what both the Soviet and the corporate State of Italy is trying to give to their youths. Faith in the scheme to begin with, the necessity of self-control, taking on responsibilities, labor, if their sense is justified, have results. Talk about the shine in the eye of the Italian - the same thing in the Soviet youth. Children all tell you what the great idea is. The point is they have a great idea, at least to them.

Now at the start the wise ones among the makers of the plan had the same consciousness, that if democracy was to carry on it must come primarily from the upbuilding of the youth - give them a notion of what it was all about and enthusiasm and belief in it, then train them.
The failure was passed, unquestionably to even the child of the days after the Constitution was adopted. It reached Abraham Lincoln, seems to have reached him through the books he read but undoubtedly, too, through the exhortations of the orators he heard. School books came with propaganda. The question is whether we are not let down on this in the family. You might look up what the Boy Scouts are doing to keep alive. Possibly the responsibility to correct, to face. (Mr. Young's lecture might come in here). Can a democracy face all the facts?

I tried out the idea a little at the Dorr dinner on two fine young women, both of whom married, two of them with children. 'Children are not getting the discipline, the sense of responsibility, the meaning of the thing. Had to come from the bottom in the family. We are too much interested in freedom of expression. As a matter of fact no freedom (except freedom of expression) except through discipline, accepting the responsibility of doing the thing, working it out.' One of the young women, very interesting, seemed to doubt this. Claimed that they gave reason at every stage, left it up to the child. That can happen unquestionably where you have such a mother as she is, thoughtful, educated. Think I might make a paragraph on the way the Youngs handle or seem to me to handle their children, no apparent restriction, somehow a wholesome awe of what might be considered displeasure. I am not sure about this. Would like to
get a chance to talk with Mrs. Young. At all events the
little glimpse of these women gives me a feeling that there
is a class of young college women coming on that might be
would aroused to this need. I see the point in much of the
irresponsibility of shirking the responsibility in the scheme
of economic independence. The question of how and why they
marry.

The bond salesman recalls the questionnaire at
Columbia and Yale—one question:—Would you rather have a million
dollars or a perfect love affair? And there was a hundred per-
cent for the million dollars. I suggest possibly that it was a
sense of humor in the young men that certain contempt possibly
for the questionnaire itself that may have caused the hundred per-
cent. At all events a million dollars is a sure thing in your
hands—a perfect love affair, well there is more or less skepticism
about it, by the time a young man reaches college in these days.
Another question:—Was whether you would rather be an unhappy
rich man or a happy slave. Three percent was for the unhappy
slave—I have forgotten the proportion.