Sioux Falls, South Dakota.
November 28, 1934.

Miss Ida M. Tarbell,
Bethel, Connecticut.
My dear Miss Tarbell:

Someone spoke to me about the talk which you recently gave over radio in regard to a large fund which was available to students for furthering their education. They understood that it was The American Student Foundation, with a fund of thirty million dollars a year.

I feel that a mistake in the name of the organization must have been made by them, for I wrote to the Foundation - a copy of my letter enclosed to you - and received a reply from the president, a copy of which is also enclosed. I am sure that you must have spoken of a different organization, as the twenty scholarships she mentions could not possibly have exhausted such a fund, nor even the interest upon that amount; too, it was understood that the fund was for the benefit of the entire country and not a local benefit.

I should very much appreciate it if you would let me know the name of the right organization for which your address was given. From the copy of the letter which I enclose, and the program of the last concert given by nephew, you will understand my sincere desire to help him on in his education. I feel that it is almost an imposition to trouble you in the matter, but - will you favor me?

Most sincerely,

Ivy Ash
711 West 8th Street.

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Sioux Falls, South Dakota.
November 17, 1934.

The American Student Foundation,
R.K.O.Building,
New York City.
Gentlemen:

Recently a talk was given over the air by Miss Ida M. Tarbell (I am told) in regard to the American Student Foundation and the wonderful work it is doing, but unfortunately I did not hear it personally and therefore do not have details or needed information.

I should greatly appreciate it if I might have from you full information as to who is eligible for aid from this Foundation, and the requirements. I am interested in behalf of my nephew, who is exceptionally gifted musically, and - what does not always go with that talent - a dependable, earnest worker.

He is specializing in organ, will also take conducting, and should take composition, for he has, from the time he was able to get up on the piano bench, improvised beautifully; is one of the comparative few who have the gift of absolute pitch.

From the age of fourteen to the time he graduated from high school he held the post of organist at his own church, also doing more or less theatre work (organ), and then went to Chicago wherehe went into theatre work for the purpose of establishing a fund for further financing his education. I might say that he has taken care of his own expenses since he was fourteen.

Due to loss through investments and the depression he found himself unable to continue his studies, and upon a second offer from the local radio station he took over the work of production manager and organist and did fine work in building up the programs of the station and in furthering the interests of music in South Dakota; was radio chairman of the S.D.Federation of Music Clubs, and, as one

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music lover here said to me - "he has done more for music in Sioux Falls than anyone who has ever been here. He was also organist at the First Congregational Church, and from the auditorium of that church gave his weekly Sunday broadcast - Cathedral Echoes - of the finest in music. I might add that his sponsored half-hour morning programs and the "Seranade" Sunday night from 11 to 12, brought him a most of radio friends all over the country as well as Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Cuba, etc., etc.

He continued here for four years, but business conditions resulted in salary cuts and the prospect of going on with his education seemed remote; however, last September he determined to start in at Eastman School of Music and go as far as his funds would permit. He has made fine contacts in the short time he has been there and has been fortunate in being placed on the staff of the 50,000 watt station there for a weekly organ broadcast on the order of his "Seranade" in Sioux Falls. While this is a help financially of course, his funds on hand are only sufficient to carry him through the first semester with perhaps a small balance to help on the second semester, and the question of financing the remainder of his work is somewhat serious, as his parents are not in position to be of financial aid to him, nor, to my regret, am I.

I am wondering if the Foundation scholarships cover a case of this kind - my reason for going into detail to the above extent. It is not partiality on my part when I say that he is exceptionally gifted, but I can give you as references as to his unusual ability and talent those high in the music world, and I feel that he has something to give to the world which will be a loss, indeed, if he is noy able to continue with the work he has chosen - or which seems to have chosen him. I feel that he has shown exceptional initiative and determination in the face of rather heavy odds in making it possible to go as far as he has. If he is eligible for assiatance from this Student Foundation, I should so greatly appreciate it if you would let me hear from you. I know that his time is crowded and for that reason am taking the liberty of writing you myself instead of calling this to his attention in the first instance.

Respectfully yours,

(Miss) Ivy Ash
711 West 8th Street.
Sioux Falls, S.D.

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