

August 8, 1934

My dear Lena Kennan:

I have only just come back from the country where I went to get over the last heat spell here in New York and I find your letter of July 29th. I am pleased at your confidence in writing me so fully. I wish I could do something but at the present time I am put to it to meet my obligations and not succeeded very well.

Now as to the mortgage. I think you are wrong in saying that it is too small to bother with. Certainly not, if it will save you your home. The government agency gives a long time credit and small interest and it is probably that before the term was up things would be sufficiently recovered in Medina for you to sell, if you wish to, at something nearer to the value of the property - that is I would not sacrifice the property now if it could possibly be helped. Moreover with the recovery your banks will probably open and you will get something.

I am glad you are willing I should write to Dr. Prichett. I saw the Prichetts here a year and half ago and they spoke most affectionately of you. What I want is that you should hold on that house, hold on to its precious contents as far as possible until times are better. You know I did see it a few years ago, you in it and it gave me such a sense of the rich and rarity of yours and Mr. Kennan's life. I cannot bear the idea of your having to give it up. Do see if your banker or friends there cannot take advantage of the government home mortgage offer.

When I hear from Mr. Prichett, I do not know where he is, I shall be sure to write you promptly.

Affectionately,