October 27, 1938

Dear Ray Baker:

I had forgotten all about this letter of Mr. Wilson's, but looking through my file find it, as well as a copy of my letter to which he was replying. You will find it enclosed.

I am a little ashamed of its verbosity. The point to which he is replying is in the second paragraph and is repeated in the next to the last paragraph. I had been at the start a sceptic and a scoffer, though I kept it to myself, about the woman's committee, but we did a remarkable job. The Conference to which I refer held at the end of the first year's work and women came from practically every state in the Union, as fine a looking body of women as you ever saw. And practically all of them outside of the professional conference-visiting crowd.

We had an evening meeting at which Dr. Anna Shaw spoke and President Wilson sat in a box, and I remember how gaily he applauded her jibes at men and their doings.

I wrote this letter because I had at that time a plan for continuing the Committee, thought it might be used to carry over the country the work which goes on in Washington's department for general betterment, and which is very slow in spreading. Secretary Lane was interested. That was what I was hinting at in these cryptic pleas for more "general recognition."

Nothing ever came of it. Isn't it extraordinary how the end of a campaign, war or the election of a President, ends the machinery called into existence?

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Of course I shall be pleased if you think the episode is worth referring to, but don't do it unless it comes in naturally for your scheme.

I am so glad that you are rounding up your long work. You have stuck to it with noble patience and have produced something essential for any future study of the war and its aftermath. As I think I have told you I have never ceased to believe that Wilson made a tremendous permanent contribution to this toughest of problems - finding a substitute for war. I think so today with so much of the structure on which he counted falling to pieces.

But I did not mean to air my views.

Much more important is to thank you for the jar of David Grayson honey. It is delicious and I have been breakfasting with you ever since it came. I suppose you have it on the market, if so please send me your circular.

Love to Mrs. Baker

Affectionately yours

Mr. Ray Baker
Amherst, Mass.

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