

October 5, 1935

My dear Mr. Swope:

In answer to the first question  
in your letter of October first let me say -

1. I believe that private social work is far and away the most important element in any sound welfare program in these United States. I believe this is so today and that it will be so in the future. My reasons for this are that it is only through the good neighbor that the real needs of men and women in difficulties can be discovered and met with understanding. I believe that the recognition by individuals of their responsibility to be a good neighbor is one of the great civilizing and humanizing influences in our society. That if we as individuals are to have the advantage of this humanizing influence we must recognize our responsibilities towards those less fortunate than ourselves and give as freely as it is possible of our time and of our money.

2. It has always been recognized that there were welfare needs which must be taken care of by tax moneys. We have always taxed ourselves for institutions to take care of the waifs of society. We must continue to do so but in my judgment private, local, state and federal efforts should all be turned to ~~the~~ effort to decreasing the number of waifs while admitting our responsibility to tax for those that exist. In this effort to decrease the number of waifs private social work is I believe the most powerful of existing agencies and this work can be <sup>agencies</sup> ~~agencies~~ <sup>by existing agencies and this work can be</sup> ~~agencies~~ <sup>agencies</sup> ~~the family - the community - the organized~~ <sup>the family - the community - the organized</sup> industry - social agencies of all description - the church - the school. It is through these agencies that we have so largely cut down the waif. The great task of society is to continue this work.

If there is anything in these, not  
too clear answers I fear, which you wish to  
quote you are of course free to do so.

Very sincerely yours

Mr. Gerard Swope  
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