1934 MOBILIZATION FOR HUMAN NEEDS

1810 GRAYBAR BUILDING
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OCTOBER 21 TO NOVEMBER 11

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MRS. FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT, Chairman
National Women's Committee

ALLEN T. BURNS, Executive Director

August 1,1934

Miss Ida M. Tarbell,
120 East 19th Street,
New York,N.Y.

My dear Miss Tarbell:

Enclosed is copy of letter we received today from Mr. Baker, together with our reply, your original draft and our revised draft. Won't you please let us have your frank reaction, as we are asking Mr. Baker's? I don't notice the "feminine" especially, unless he fears to recognize that wash women have babies, but I have hopes that we have taken the "personal" out sufficiently to make the article pass Mr. Baker's high standard of honesty. The next move is his, of course, but if you are satisfied if he is, please let us know.

Hope you are having a good time in the country this nice weather.

Very truly yours,

Allen T. Burns

Executive Director

ATB/vd

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July 31,1934

COPY

Mr. Allen T. Burns,
1810 Graybar Building,
420 Lexington Avenue,
New York City

Dear Allen:

I doubt whether I have ever been more puzzled than I am by the situation presented by Miss Tarbell's paper. It is an excellent job but, of course, it is entirely feminine (thank God for that) and thoroughly personal. Indeed it evinces an interest in her wash woman which I suppose I ought to have in mine, but the fact is I simply accept clean clothes without knowing how they get clean. At other places you will note how Miss Tarbell talks of her personal experiences and uses the personal pronoun "I" and refers to the writer, so that on the whole my titular joint authorship of this paper could not mean much more to a reader than that I had adopted the child after it was fairly well grown. This I am more than anxious to do but I am puzzled as to how to do it.

I think it would be a pity to spoil this fine thing by doing it over again and taking the personal quality out of it. On the other hand, since you have offered the Saturday Evening Post a joint article, I suppose they would hesitate to take Miss Tarbell without me. If I am wrong about this, please get them to print this as Miss Tarbell's. If I am right, however, that I have got to figure in it somehow to make good with the Saturday Evening Post, what would you think of putting in small letters at the head of this article the words "Miss Tarbell", and then add to it at the end under the words "Mr. Baker" what I have written on the enclosed sheet.

Cordially yours,

(signed) Newton D. Baker

NDB/C

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Copy for Miss Tarbell

August 1,1934

Mr. Newton D. Baker,
Union Trust Building,
Cleveland,Ohio.

My dear Mr. Baker:

We feel it terribly important to have the article appear as a unit. The material you sent is much more effective as an integral ending of Miss Tarbell's draft. Also she thought that in writing what she did about the spiritual values of giving and neighborliness that she had taken your thought from your letter of July 18th. She also brought in the Women's Committee of the National Council of Defense because she considered it part of your history,and so appropriate. Doesn't this make you co-author sufficiently to let the article appear under your co-authorship?

I realise,and so did Miss Tarbell,that her draft was personal - not so particularly "feminine". We assumed you would take it for granted that this element would be eliminated. We have tried to do it and we hope successfully. I am sure Miss Tarbell would insist on her original idea of ghost writing for you rather than not have you join in the authorship of the entire article.

I am sending the revised article to Miss Tarbell, together with copy of your letter and copy of this letter. I am sure she will feel as I do about it or want to do whatever will make the article more acceptable to you. The Post is counting absolutely on joint authorship and I fear we would have trouble in doing anything else, besides being less effective. Can't you let us trouble you to read this latest revision to see whether in view of all the above the article cannot come within the scruples of your considerate honesty?

Very truly yours,

ATB/vd

Executive Director

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