SMITH COLLEGE
NORTHAMPTON, MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT OF FRENCH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

February 7 - 1923.

Dear Madam. — You must allow me to thank you for your letter. Indeed if many were animated with the same spirit of fair play, and the same insight in the intricacy of the whole situation, we might hope for an early solution. I appreciated very much your taking so much of your time to explain your position.

As you say, the complexity of it all is what renders the formation of public opinion so hard. But after all, what the people must see, (the people of America who make public opinion, which is the great force in the world to-day) — what the people can see is how shocking it is to see the German plutocrats getting enormously rich at the expense of the other classes, the masses, in Germany, and at the expense of the French victims of the war. And then to see also how absurd when now German (and also even French) socialists & communists side with German capitalists & profiteers in general. Unless it be that these socialists & communists, with to force the German capitalists to call for aid of the Soviets — and then, the Soviets coming in, to overthrow the whole present society in Europe. Then would follow, of course, a dragging into the abyss of the present German profiteers. But then, in this case, how can we believe that the German capitalists and the German government do not see what they are going to.[2] They do know it probably, but want to try the game; — as they will have to fall any way, this seems to have a faint advantage. I feel confident that they will go the same way the Kaiser did when he decided to resort to the gambling of war. But if only public opinion could bring about their fall as soon as at all possible. If the German people were given to realize that the American people

(over)

Digital Images, 2010. The Ida M. Tarbell Collection, 1890-1944, Allegheny College Pelletier Library.

do not side with the German leaders (plutocrats & govern-t)
they would soon stop to support these; and the game would be up.
After all what I should like to see would be just a little
displacement of the centre of gravity: We, in America, laying less
stress on the risk of the French move (although I personally
believe in it, I see there is risk), and more, always more, on the
unworthy lot of German capitalists, who by paying the working
classes wages for resistance, delays the hour of sound discussion.
The guilty must be exposed, and they are in Germany.

With apologies for this new long letter. I did not mean
to - honestly I did not -

Let me remain, Madam, very sincerely & - for your
courtesy in this correspondence - gratefully yours

Albert Jehing.

Digital Images, 2010. The Ida M. Tarbell Collection, 1890-1944, Allegheny College Pelletier Library.