

Nov. 9, 1918

Dear Mr. Reynolds:

I have just been writing Mrs. Wilkes about Miss Nicolay and the F.N.B. Will you please talk the letter over with her and give me your opinion as to how near I am right.

I read Mrs. Becker's letter of Oct. 30th with care. She has of course built up a fine series of relations for getting material, and she has done an enormous amount of work herself. I don't feel, however, like encouraging her in going ahead on these extensive lines that she has laid down.

My idea of what we should do with the foreign news I have given Mrs. Wilkes. It comes down to getting hold of all the material we can get through Mrs. Becker, the foreign embassies, Miss Nicolay and others, filing it under subjects as we have always done; then, out of that, getting a page full of human stuff, very carefully edited, with a view to the appeal to the American town audience.

I don't see how, under the present circumstances, we would be justified in going ahead with the program which Mrs. Becker outlines in her letter. The only thing which I see for us, I have, as I said, laid down in Mrs. Wilkes' letter. How do you feel about this?

Of course this would mean that I would not advise a large salary for Mrs. Becker. If she will continue to collect the news on the modest lines which I have laid down, I should like to see her on the pay roll for something. As we are contemplating using her in another capacity, where she would receive some return, she might be willing to go on with the foreign news, if we would give her enough to cover clerical expense.

I am looking with interest for the first number of the new National Defense.

Very sincerely yours,