C O P Y.

My dear Colonel House:

I want you to know that I thoroughly appreciate your attitude towards my refusal to go on the Tariff Commission. It is a real consolation to have you say that in my situation the decision is a wise one. The more I think of it, the more confident I am that I was right.

I am hoping that I may still be of some service indirectly in writing or talking. President Wilson was good enough to write me a cordial letter, and in answering him I have said that I thought it was possible that I might do a little in helping to educate the public to what such a commission means, what the public should expect from it, and should back it up in trying to do. I fear very much that people will look on this as another peripatetic commission that holds hearings, piles up reports, and gets nowhere in particular, that they will expect speedy returns. Possibly I may be of some help here.

Thank you heartily, my dear Colonel House, for saying that you would like to have another talk with me about the things in which ae are so deeply interested. It would give me the greatest satisfaction. I leave in about three weeks for my Lyceum work, and I shall be gone six or eight. When I return I shall certainly let you know, and I hope that it will be so that you can give me the pleasure of seeing you. I ~~have~~ am thanking God for the President's peace message, in which of of course I know that you must have had an important hand.

(Over)

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I am greatly interested in the reception that it is getting from what I regard as much of the best English opinion. The article the World quotes this morning from "The Nation" is just and understanding. I really believe that it is the entering wedge. I feal a little as Mr. Lincoln expressed it after issuing the emancipation proclamation, "We are like whalers who have been long on a chase , etc. (See p. 126)

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