March 23, 1935

My dear Colonel Walker:

Your kind letter of February twenty eighth reached me three weeks ago just as I was leaving New York for Meadville. I was shocked by the sad news of the death of your son Lewis, Jr. I had not known of it or I certainly should have written you and Mrs. Walker of my sympathy in your great sorrow. I never knew your son well but remember with interest and pleasure my visit with him in Meadville when I looked over your plant. Please believe, dear Colonel Walker, that I do grieve that you should suffer this sorrow.

I was kept so busy at the College in the short time that I had there and at the same time was compelled to leave earlier than I had expected so that I did not get up to the factory as I had planned. My time was not entirely my own.

I quite understand your position in regard to old-age pensions as stated in your letter. Indeed, I do not see how it could be otherwise under the present circumstances. All industries which have had unemployment and old age pension plans under consideration have naturally laid them on the table until after the action of Government in the matter is settled.

So far as my information goes older companies, such as Goodrich, Armco, United States Steel, which have had provision for employees beyond the working age for a good many years, are carrying on. What changes they may feel it necessary to make in case there is a national law passed is impossible to say. I should think it probable they might have to revise their schemes. But all that is a matter of the future; the important thing is that the obligation to look after the old who for any reason have not been able adequately to provide for themselves in their last years should be admitted and taken care of.

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I hope you and Mrs. Walker are having a restful time in California and that you will come back in better health and with comforted hearts.

Very sincerely yours

Colonel Lewis Walker
Hotel Miramar
Santa Barbara, California

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