October 18, 1935

Dear Mr. Curtiss:

Here are the suggestions I promised you at the conference on Wednesday.

In explanation let me say that it is my judgment that your thirty nine Lincoln talks or scenes should be considered in Sub-divisions - each to cover one of the half dozen (?) essential periods in the development of the Lincoln drama. The first of these Sub-divisions should deal with the Boy and the birth in his mind of what the country he had been born into was working for - then his sense of responsibility to do his part in the undertaking - then his determination to fit himself for this part.

It is most important as I see it that the series start on a high note of Democratic faith. What seems to be the trouble with us now is a doubt of what this country has been trying to do is worth what it has cost. We want something easier. Our willingness to sacrifice the ideal of liberty if somebody will guarantee our upkeep. Lincoln's idea was when you let somebody keep you for the sake of security you sacrificed liberty. He saw that the black man was secure as far as board and shelter was concerned, but at the price of liberty.

At all events as I promised I submit suggestions for this first Sub-division and if they are acceptable to you and your colleagues we will talk business.

Very sincerely yours

Curtiss, Markey & Davis
247 Park Avenue
New York City

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