January 28, 1933

My dear Mr. Taylor:

I have just read in the New York Times a report of the hearing that you and Mr. Irwin and Mr. Filbert gave on Thursday to gentlemen from Cleveland petitioning that the decision to close down the Newburg plant be reconsidered. May I add my voice to theirs?

As you know I have recently made a little survey of certain of your communities - Gary - Vandergrift - the Connellsville coal towns. I cam away convinced that the chief, I might say almost the only reason that the Steel Corporation is not having serious labor troubles at these points is due to its consistent policy of building up and supporting through good and bad times these communities. The men have not revolted up to today because they believe in you and are back of you. But if you begin, particularly at this serious junction to close down plants, however justified the closing might be in good times, permit me to say, My dear Mr. Taylor, that you are doing something that will arouse great uneasiness in the body of steel workers which have supported you so loyally.

If Newburg goes they will ask, will Vandergrift go? The question may not be a fair one - all things considered - but it will be raised.

Close down Newburg as the report shows you are planning to do and you not only destroy something that has taken fifty years to build but you add 1600 to that great army of wandering laborers that American industry has allowed to grow up in this country -

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an army which is economically one of the weakest elements in our industrial system and is also one of the great threats to industrial peace and co-operation.

I have no doubt, my dear Mr. Taylor, that from the point of view of economic production you may gain by shutting down Newburg, but there is much more than dollars and cents to a stable industry. Such a move seems to me to threaten, to destroy the dollars and cents. Anything that is socially and ethically unsound is economically unsound in the long run. The whole history of industry in this country proves that.

I am venturing to say all this, my dear Mr. Taylor, because I believe so heartily in so much that the Steel Corporation has done to stabilize and humanize labor conditions. I realize that in the long run it may be necessary to make the consolidation of which you speak, but this is no time to make it. Also, when the time does come to make it, have you any right to do it without consultation with the workers. What is to become of them? Have you the right to destroy a community which has served you for fifty years so faithfully? I don't believe it.

Forgive me for this long letter. I am sure you will not misunderstand it. I have written it rather than to ask you to come down and talk, because I realize how much pressure there is brought upon you for interviews and conferences.

Very sincerely yours

Mr. ~~Melvin~~ Myron C Taylor
United States Steel Corporation
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New York City

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