

May 11, 1936

Dear Mr. McClure:

Mr. Phillips sent me over your manuscript as I understand you asked him to do, and as I promised you I gave my spare time over the week end to reading it.

You have a great theme. I realized that when I heard you talk at the birthday lunch, but of course talking a great theme and getting the same thing onto paper are different matters as I have been finding all the days of my life. Your manuscript as it stands does not give me the same clear cut idea as your talk did.

It seems to me what is needed to make the thing "jell" as you say in your note to Mr. Phillips is first to arrange the chapters in their logical sequence - make them tell your story. Second, put all the material on a point under its proper chapter. Third, rewrite it all in your own language.

Here is the way I see it -

First - human freedom, the chapter in which you show that it is an essential condition for healthy human achievement.

Second - how human freedom was achieved. This chapter and the one on the making of the United States Constitution should be combined - one story told chronologically omitting all not directly on the subject. For instance the discussion on capitalism seems to me quite out of place here. What you want is the story of man's effort to create a condition of freedom in which to operate.

Third - The World at the Dawn of Human Freedom. Material on this point is scattered through other chapters to the confusion of the reader. Put it all together.