

May 19, 1934

Dear Mr. Robertson:

Indisputable

Thank you for sending me the copy of your speech before the Annual Meeting of the United States Chamber of Commerce. It is a good speech. I entirely agree with you that business could never have done what it has done in this country, and it is a remarkable showing, if it had not been for its basic integrity. But I do think that your case would have been even stronger if you had told the Chamber squarely that integrity as business understands it is not enough. It has further responsibility to do things to keep men employed, that is I mean men that can and want to work, and a most important responsibility to see that the fruits of labor are divided according to the contribution that each from high to low make. That isn't so now, is it dear Mr. Robertson? A fortune which yields an income of a million or more is a good test as I look at it. Business organization has done an immense thing, put the whole world under obligation and in my judgment has served as a laboratory for this planned society that we talk about but it has been lacking in a sense of social responsibility which brought up as we have been is not at all astonishing.

You see what I am getting at is that I believe your case for the integrity of business would be still stronger if you could admit that it must take on these new obligations as I believe myself you do admit. Am I not right?

We are going to have our second Allegheny tea on June First at the Pen & Brush Club, 16 East 10th Street. I am hoping very much that you can be there.

Just now I am counting on Commencement in Meadville and praying that none of the interferences that jump in my path sometimes at the last moment will show their heads.

Thanking you again for sending me a copy
of your fine address and hoping that you will not mind
my frank suggestion, believe me

Faithfully yours

Mr. A. W. Robertson
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Pittsburgh, Pa.