May 12, 1926.

Mr. Horace E. Taft,
The Taft School,
Watertown, Conn.

My dear Mr. Taft:

I fear you will think that I did not appreciate your kindness in answering so promptly my letter enclosing Mr. Aldrich's circulars. You see I have been in Florida for over two months and was just turning northward when I sent the letter. All my mail has been delayed on account of my ramblings.

However, your kind letter finally found me here. It was more than good of you to write so fully about Mr. Aldrich's plan. I at once sent him a copy of what you said, and it will be as much or more satisfaction than a boy signed up. I believe he already has a half a dozen youngsters, and that's enough to make the trip exciting, I'm sure, if not to pay all expenses.

I'm glad you sent me your paper about Congress. It has interested me greatly. I never have studied the body carefully, but it always puts me in a rage when I am at work on Lincoln. There was so much that seems to me out and out malice in their dealings with him Such wanton impedingof his policies, such unwillingness to admit that while he might not be doing the wisest thing in the world there was no proof that they knew anything wiser than what he was undertaking. They're so bumptious and cock sure, so utterly inhuman, at times. I suppose it all comes back to the fact that they wre not willing to admit their own impotency in difficult places.

I am inclined to believe that our slavish devotion to party has more to do with Congressional sins than anything else, and so often the party does not represent anything in particular.

Digital Image, 2011, The Ida M. Tarbell Collection, 1890-1944, Allegheny College Pelletier Library.

We ought to study Congress more carefully than we do, I am sure of that. We might help it to see itself if we did. Atall events, I am sure that such papers as yours are a real contribution, and if the showing is pessimistic, it's not hopeless, after all. That is any more hopeless than most other human activities. I have to pull myself up sharply some times, I confess, not to think all our activities are comparatively hopeless. All that saves me is getting up to Connecticut. I know that it'ssaa good thing, however bad its' politics may be, and I studiously avoid knowing anything about them. I don't want my place of peace spoiled!

I am hoping one of these days that I may have the satisfaction of talking with you. There will be Lincoln and Congress and Connecticut and between them we ought to get a fairly balanced conversational ration.

With all good wishes, believe me, my dear Mr. Taft,

Sincerely yours,

Digital Image, 2011, The Ida M. Tarbell Collection, 1890-1944, Allegheny College Pelletier Library.