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January 19, 1920.

Miss Ida M. Tarbell,
132 East 19th St.,
New York City.

My dear Miss Tarbell:

I have your telegram about the Rock Island matter. Two or three days ago I wrote to Secretary Baker about the plan in general and mentioned a misgiving I had in regard to their having allowed Captain Beyer to go. In writing I made the best argument I could for this plan but don't see what else I can do just at this time. A most unfortunate feature in the situation is that General Rice is a strong man with sometimes reactionary tendencies and of independent means. As a matter of fact he knows almost nothing about the labor movement and I can't see that he has any special incentives for finding out about it.

I wish there was some way of having the President make an inquiry about the matter. Sometimes just a line from the White House quoting a sentence from someone's letter makes it possible for a Secretary to send an inquiry down along the line which puts everybody on notice. If you don't feel like starting this particular line of inquiry yourself perhaps you could get Raymond Fosdick on the 'phone and get him to do it. I understand he is in New York and can be reached through the Rockefeller Foundation. There are one or two other lines of inquiry I can start and will let you hear from me if anything special develops.

Yours very sincerely,

Morris L. Cooke

Morris L. Cooke/M