Digital Image, 2009. The Ida M. Tarbell Collection, 1890-1944, Allegheny College Pelletier Library

February 13, 1918.

My dear Mrs. Lamar.

Thank you very much for your letters of February 5th and 7th. I did not reach home until Sunday night, and it has kept me flying to get my mail in anything like order. I find that it is quite impossible to do much more on my speaking trips than the travelling and the engagement, so I brought back with me practically all the mail that had collected during the two weeks.

I think you are right, that our relation with the Food Administration will have to develop. Just how we can best speed up the Food program, I do not know; but I should say that after the meeting of the Home Economic Directors next week we ought to have some clearer ideas. I fear that I cannot get there for all day of the 20th, but will be on as early as possible. I have arranged to spend ten days in Washington, and this will enable me, I hope, to catch up a little with the work.

Will you let me know if Miss Patterson has received the letter from Scapecchi. Two or three artists who have seen the work tell me they think it a very beautiful, and rare thing. I saw the design of the container which they are making yesterday. . It is going to be lovely, a true museum piece, I think.. There will be some expense connected with these containers, $15 or $20 apiece. This of course is simply for material The work, if we were to pay for it, would run up to about $100 apiece , but this is contributed. My little club raised the money for the parchment and gold. Do you not think that we of the Committee ought to raise the $30 or $40 that the containers will cost? I do not feel like asking the Club to do it.

There is another point which you as Minister of Foreign Relations, might settle. It has been suggested that the letters should be exhibited somewhere here before sending. Would that be a proper thing to do? I think Scapecchi would like it, and of course it would be publicity for the Committee. I think nothing better come out about the letters there until everything is ready. Possibly it would be just as well if it were exhibited here, to have the first publicity a nice little article in the New York papers. We could arrange that here. I think there will be a request from more than one of the art magazines to reporduce the letters and probably the containers.

Now about the signatures. The members are scattered, but is has seemed to me that we might use their stamps, and then have the

letters traced in ink by Scapecchi or one of his assistants. What do you think of this? If you agree, please have them applied there. Of course those of us that could be reached should sign direct.

The report of the January meeting is impressive. It makes you feel as if something was doing in the Committee, and I am sure there is. My feeling is that now it is started and the necessity of centralization in all lines of war work is growing more and more on the country, that woman's work is going to center itself very rapidly in our organization. I may be wrong, but that is my impression, rather emphasized by what I saw and heard on this last trip.

Very sincerely yours,

Digital Image, 2009. The Ida M. Tarbell Collection, 1890-1944, Allegheny College Pelletier Library