116 WEST 74TH STREET
NEW YORK

May 2 of 1918

Dear Miss Tarbell:

In a recent letter, Gertrude Macdonald has mentioned the fact that you felt doubtful about its being fair to me for her to remain in Washington. While I appreciate the kindly interest that prompted you to make the remark, I would like to assure you that I am glad to have her serving the government just now in any place she seems to be able to fill. Moreover, I do not consider it more unjust to me to spare her from home than it is to any wife to spare her husband to serve the country either in Washington or France;

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no more unfair than it would be for him to give me up for awhile to do medical military duty away from home.

I should hate to have the situation misunderstood by anyone, especially by so close an adviser as you have been to him.

Although I have been somewhat uneasy about her health, I am entirely satisfied to have her serve Uncle Sam in these trying times.

Permit me to express my gratitude to you for all you have done for her.

With kind regards, I am

Sincerely yours

Edmund P. Shelly

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