

November 16, 1937

Dear Mr. Pahlow:

I know you are of a forgiving nature. Perhaps I should tremble to write you after all this time about "Now Follow Through" which you sent me so many days ago. As my secretary wrote you then I was out of town. I got back just before my birthday - November fifth - and I am still a little dazed by what happened to me. All the Pen & Brush and as many more outside took it into their kindly heads to wire and write me congratulations and I have been trying to thank each and every one.

And now as to your article. Dear Mr. Pahlow I have not had a request on the question of war and peace which made me feel so badly since I refused Jane Addams and Henry Ford and Madam Shimer to go on their Peace Ship back in 1915. They all pled with me and the only answer I had was, "I can't see it." How I despised myself in the face of their glowing confidence. I did not foresee any such ending as the peace ~~should~~ have, but I knew that no good would come of the undertaking in the way that they were undertaking it. *feared*

Peace Ship
and

Now there is much more to be said for you in the way you are going at this thing. The first thing that I would challenge in your scheme is turning over this ten million dollars to be saved by not building a steamship to young people to give them a trip to Europe. How could a government do that? The ten million dollars belongs to the tax payers and if it is saved in ships it should go into schools, training for work and for health and for that greatest of all problems which is the secret I think of the matter of peace and war, training in the art of cooperative living, cooperative democracy. That is where that ten million dollars should go.

How are you going to be sure your four thousand youngsters traveling back and forth preaching scrapping off ships will understand the principles of their crusade? They will not understand it any better than the majority of those who did finally go on the Peace Ship

and who just between you and me - I would not want to be quoted on this lest it sound malicious - I am convinced the most of them went in order to get a free trip to Europe. They were not trained for the task. You would train your boys and girls better. Remember they are boys and girls with no particular background of experience.

I do not see any government giving that ten million dollars to the boys and girls and I do not see this vast army of youngsters let loose for the purpose of urging that the ten million dollars saved by not building a ship be turned over to them.

Now that does not mean that I am not profoundly interested in getting at a technique for eventually putting this world on a peace basis. I think it is the most important thing we have to do, but it is one of those durable problems like the better distribution of wealth, not to be mastered by mechanism. It has got to deal with causes, and the causes of war, dear Mr. Pahlow, lie in the nature of man and the fault of his training. He is a fighting animal who is got to be taught and disciplined into cooperation with his fellows, into a belief that consideration for the other man no matter what his color or his country is essential to the foundation of sound economics.

So you see I am one of those people who think that at bottom that this is a moral universe and any economic system which leaves out fundamental ethical consideration is doomed in the long run to failure.

The teachings of a cooperative democracy, the ~~basic principles that are at the bottom of it~~, is what I am for, dear Mr. Pahlow. Building battleships will not end war. You can carry on a good one with sticks and stones. Getting the desire for war out of the minds and the hearts is a great thing for youth to learn. I will have to tell you what I told Mr. Ford and Miss Addams, both of whom I so admired, "I don't see it."

Affectionately yours

Mr. Edwin Paylow
Columbus, Ohio