

116 WEST 74TH STREET  
NEW YORK

May 2 of 1918

Dear Miss Tarbell:

In a recent letter, Gertrude 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;

no more unfair than it would  
be for her 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 her.

Although I have been somewhat  
nervous about her health, I am  
entirely satisfied to have her over  
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.