

SCHWABE

Labor Legislation

June 10, 1946

Mrs. Ray T. Roberts
1714 South Florence Street
Tulsa 4, Oklahoma

Dear Friend:

Replying to your letter of the 1st instant, I want to say that I agree with you in the main on your ideas with reference to the labor legislation. Mr. Truman did not live up to the dignity of his office in his attempt to dramatize the terrible situation when he appeared before Congress with reference to the railroad strike. I could tell you a lot about that, for I saw it with my own eyes. It just can't be that the American people are so badly fooled by what I say on that occasion. I am for the ideas that you suggested but this New Deal crowd simply will not vote and pass a law with such provisions in it. I would be glad to do so, but they have been humoring, petting and catering to the labor bosses and racketeers for the past 13 years, and they are still pursuing the appeasement policy.

With reference to the extension of the draft to include the 18 and 19 year old boys, I think you ought to know my position on that by this time. I have never been in favor of drafting these boys in peacetime, nor doing anything else that would tend to make military regimentation in this country. I think nearly everyone knows I have talked to the President, have made speeches in Congress and in every way have opposed this policy. I even introduced bills along this line, and signed discharge petitions, and voted against drafting the teen-agers.

You asked me what I would suggest or advise with reference to your 18 year old boy. I had four sons in the service, and my youngest son was drafted when he was 18, just a few days after finishing the first semester of his college course. I know exactly what your position is there. The trouble is that this New Deal administration is under the influence of our military leaders and organization to such an extent that they seem to take the advice of the heads of this organization, rather than taking into consideration the wishes and the best interests of the people. The American Legion and some of the Veterans of Foreign Wars are insisting upon the draft of the teen-age boys. They have been told that in order to bring home and discharge from the service these boys who are now in the armies of occupation, and who were taken in at a tender age, they must support

June 1, 1946

Dear Mr. Schwabe:

I have your letter of May 23rd and while it is a very interesting letter, it does not answer all my questions. As you say, they are probably hard to answer and the situation is discouraging.

The labor legislation as Truman asked for it in his very dramatic appeal, is silly. You can't draft men into the army because they won't work. In the first place, it isn't democratic. In the second place, it isn't fair to the Army to use it as a club - that is definitely not its function, as Truman should have known, as head of the Army and Navy. If Congress wants to put some real meaning into labor legislation, why don't they make the labor unions into a corporation and make them subject to income tax and also limit the amount of money they can contribute to a political campaign - so that they cannot threaten to spend \$47, 000,000 to get someone defeated - however, necessary that is.

Now the other question which I asked you, you did not touch upon. I realize it puts you on the spot to talk about the draft situation. The trouble is, I and many other parents like me, have a young son who will be 18 in the fall. What are you going to do about the draft so that this young man will know what to do about his plans for the fall. Would you advise that we send him to college in September and hope that he can finish a semester - or what will Congress do about the draft law - except put it off until after election, which is not fair to these young boys. I have always thought if we could fix it so that the politicians and the older men who make the wars were the ones who had to go out and fight and not the young boys, we would be able to work out very satisfactory peace terms in a very short while. I know it isn't all politicians but put some younger men in the State Department and give them a chance to see what they can do with the peace situation. I mean some of the young men who were actually in the service.

Very truly yours,

Mrs Ray T Roberts
Mrs. Ray T. Roberts.

1714 South Florence Street,
Tulsa 4, Oklahoma.