

SCHWABE

COLL

*Labor Draft*

March 3, 1945

Mr. Scott Harris  
Route 1  
Jay, Oklahoma

Dear Mr. Harris:

I am just in receipt of your letter of the 28th ult enclosing list of farm bulletins and leaflets which you want me to send you. These will go forward soon. I am pleased to send them, and trust they will do you and yours much good.

I am pleased to know that you were one of my supporters and helped me become your Congressman. I trust that you will feel somewhat repaid as time goes on, by my actions here, and at least that I will never be a disappointment to you and my many other friends who supported me.

We are called upon here to make serious and momentous decisions at times. One of these occurred in connection with the so-called May Bill. I am enclosing a copy of my speech on this bill, which I believe agrees with the sentiments expressed in your letter. This Bill is unAmerican and unconstitutional. I am one of those who holds fast to the theory that there is always a regular, proper and legal way to accomplish whatever is needed for the welfare of this country and its citizens. The bill as it was presented to us and as it passed the House, was a labor conscription bill which would do away with free labor and would force the laboring man to work for some corporation to enable that corporation to make profits from his labor. For practically all these defense industries operate on the basis of a cost-plus-fee basis, which means that these war industries cannot lose money; and I cannot believe that the American soldier wants to return to this country and find that we have forced our laboring men to work whenever and wherever some dictatorial power tells them to work in order that their employer may make a profit. There is clearly no shortage of manpower, but there is serious dislocation. It is only a question of either taking the industries to where there is plenty of available labor and manpower, or taking the men to the industries. This has been clearly brought out at the hearings and in the arguments, and is admitted by all.



Jay. Oklahoma

Feb 28th

1945

Mr. George. B. Schwabe

Dear Mr Schwabe

I was partially responsible for your election to the position you now hold & further I am so old fashioned that I still feel that those we elect are our public servants. hired & paid to represent us.

I have him watching this session closely & there is one bill I have him especially interested in. namely the bill to draft both labour & capital to successfully prosecute this war that we are now engaged in in ordinary peace times I would be utterly opposed to such a bill as I feel it is both unconstitutional & unamerican. but. under present conditions I feel that in justice to the Boys who are fighting our battles under the most dreadful conditions that this bill should be made a law at once to be in force and effect only for the duration of the war. I can easily see that this administration has favoured labour unions & capital alike can you conceive of our fighting men going on strike when it was hard roading (as it mostly is) I feel that every resource of our nation should be forced by law (if necessary) contribute all means in their power to win this war & I feel that our law makers should enact this legislation without delay. I am not prejudicial to any class as I

(over)



carried a paid up union card for years in the  
United Mine Workers. I am now 81 years old  
& I feel that the terrible times that are staring us in  
the face perhaps for many years. will not affect  
me personally. but in looking to the future welfare of  
our country I feel that this legislation is vitally needed.  
If we fail these boys now they are a great many of  
them coming back & I feel they will be pretty hard  
boiled if we fail to back them up. I am inclosing  
a list of the farm Buletins I would like.  
I would be pleased to hear from you together with  
your personal views on this bill

Respectfully

Scott Harris  
Jay Oklahoma.  
Rt. 1. Bx 3.