

SCHWABE

COLL

Legis

Labor

June 18, 1946

Mr. G. C. Spillers, Attorney
711 Ritz Building
Tulsa, Oklahoma

Dear Friend:

I have your letter of the 12th instant relative to cases filed by individuals against the du Pont Company in connection with their operation of the Oklahoma Ordnance Works at Pryor, Oklahoma, and telling me of a memorandum brief filed by the Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division of the U. S. Department of Labor in a case pending in the Northern District of Illinois, Eastern Division. You state that it appears that the Department of Labor is fighting the Government for the reason that, ultimately, if these litigants prevail, the Government will have to pay the bill.

Personally, I don't know very much about this litigation. Last spring, Mr. Earnest Brown, an attorney at Pryor, Oklahoma, wrote me wanting certain information with reference to the Oklahoma Ordnance Works. Among other things, he wanted me to obtain and furnish him a copy of the contract and supplemental contracts between the Government and the du Pont Company, governing the operation of the Chouteau Plant. I prevailed upon the proper authority here to let me have copies of these contracts, but they stated that if anyone contemplated suing the government they would decline to furnish the copies. Consequently, I did not send them to Brown and have not shown them to anyone. In fact, I have not made much of a study of them, for I do not know the issues in detail, and all the information I have on the subject is that contained in Judge Brown's letter and yours.

Your letter throws a different light on the situation in mentioning a situation where one department of government is apparently working at counterpurposes with another. This would be very unfortunate. You suggested that if I desire further information as to the activities of the Labor Department in attempting to saddle the government with these judgments, as you expressed it, you would be glad to cooperate and furnish me all the information you have. I certainly would appreciate your furnishing me this information. If a situation like this is developing, I think the Congress should know about it; and I do appreciate your giving me the advance information, and shall appreciate your furnishing me all the information you have, with the assurance that it will be my pleasure to expose any irregularities that appear to be in the making.

SPILLERS & SPILLERS

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

711 RITZ BUILDING

TULSA, OKLAHOMA

G. C. SPILLERS

G. C. SPILLERS, JR.

TELEPHONE 2-2269

June 12, 1946

Honorable George B. Schwabe,
Congressman from Oklahoma,
Washington, D. C.

Dear George:

There have been filed a large number of cases by individuals seeking to recover alleged overtime, penalties, attorneys' fees and interest for work, labor and services performed in connection with the operation of war plants. We are advised that the amount involved aggregates more than three hundred millions. A large number of these cases involves the Oklahoma Ordnance Works near Pryor. We represent the du Pont Company, along with Mr. Collins of Wilmington, Delaware. We are just in receipt of a memorandum brief filed by the Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division of the United States Department of Labor in a case pending in the Northern District of Illinois, Eastern Division. It thus appears that the Department of Labor is fighting the Government, because ultimately if these litigants prevail, the Government will have to pay the bills.

We believe that something should be done through the Department of Justice to stop this foolishness of having any branch of the Government fight to procure a judgment against the Government itself. This does not make sense. If you desire further information as to the activities of the Department of Labor in attempting to saddle the Government with these judgments, then we shall be glad to cooperate and furnish you all the information we have.

With personal regards, we are

Yours very truly,

SPILLERS & SPILLERS,

by:

G. C. Spillers

GCS:mh

With all good wishes, I beg to remain

Sincerely yours,

George B. Schwabe, M.C.

GS: LW