

716 - 5th St.
Ames, Iowa
Oct. 26, 1943

Hugh Fulton, Chief Counsel
Senate Truman Committee
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Fulton:

It has been my impression that your committee was a fact finding committee to investigate dishonesty and mismanagement in connection with the War Effort -- and was not created for political purposes.

Dishonesty and fraud is still dishonesty and fraud regardless of how information about it is submitted, and should be of interest to your committee under any circumstances.

The thousands of people now employed, or formerly employed, at the Des Moines Ordnance Plant see and have seen the widespread dishonesty and gross mismanagement practiced by the United States Rubber Company in their operation of the plant.

They, their families, neighbors, relatives and friends know about it and have been and are wondering why your committee has not made an investigation.

Stories have been circulated throughout this part of the country that the DuPont controlled United States Rubber Company can probably get by with this mismanagement and dishonesty because a son of the President is married to a DuPont, or that the President may have stock in DuPont.

Also that DuPont is probably too powerful a company for your committee to tangle with and that your committee will probably refuse to take any action.

I am not so sure but that it would be doing the President a favor to inform him what they are saying and thinking out this way.

Since 1934 I have been associated with and have had the backing of Dr. Walter E. Welch and James W. Wallace. Wallace is a brother of the Vice-pres.

Right now Dr. Welch is working with top drawer men in the Justice Dept. there in Washington in connection with the Government paying excessive prices for vitamins for the men in the Armed Forces because of the German cartel of which I. G. Farbenindustrie is a party.

I have not asked them for any support in connection with the Des Moines Ordnance Plant matter, and I hope it will not be necessary.

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On Oct. 15th I had a conference with Horace Hardy and Ralph Clark of Military Intelligence. Mr. Hardy stated he had personally worked with Senator Truman on the Sunflower Ordnance Plant case, and he stated he felt certain I would hear from Senator Truman and that your committee would also investigate the Des Moines Ordnance Plant.

For some time I have been co-operating with Vernon E. Keigley of Military Intelligence, and have been giving him leads on things to check and the names and addresses of people to check with.

He was making considerable progress but about Sept. 15th he was pulled out of Des Moines and given another assignment. The question arises as to whether or not he was taken off the Des Moines Ordnance case because he was making too much progress.

If I am unable to get any action on the Des Moines Ordnance Plant matter, the American Legion is ready to take whatever action may be advised.

And if your committee considers the case a political matter, as your letter of Oct. 22nd would imply, then I am sure certain newspapers would be glad to give both your committee and the facts considerable publicity.

It would also be very easy to get a large number of the present employees and former employees of the Des Moines Ordnance Plant to sign a petition asking for an investigation.

When I was in the publishing business some years ago we kept an attorney in Washington, D. C. on a salary of \$12,000.00 a year and furnished him with an office and a stenographer.

At one time I appeared with this attorney and another attorney at a hearing before a sub-committee of the House of Representatives. The second attorney is now a United States Representative. His father was at one time Sec. of State and was a Justice of the United States Supreme Court at the time of his death.

So it is easy for me to understand how DuPont could bring considerable pressure to bear to prevent any investigation being made of their activities.

Up to now, your committee has not evidenced any interest in learning what the dishonesty and mismanagement at the Des Moines Ordnance Plant consists of.

In the near future, however, I will send you a list of the things to look for by anyone making an investigation and it will go on record that it has been submitted to you.

It may or may not interest you that I literally carried a torch for Franklin D. Roosevelt in a huge parade reviewed by the late Governor Ritchie when he was in Indianapolis during the campaign of 1932.

Very sincerely yours,

W. LeRoy Apland

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