

March 17, 1940

Miss Helen Kay
Friday, Inc.
114 E. 32nd. St.,
New York City, N.Y.

Dear Miss Kay,

Enclosed is the quote from Norris's speech in the Senate. I don't know how much value, if any, it is to you, but I hope it will do better than nothing. Also included are those parts of the debate dealing with the extent of the appropriation.

It is proper and legal to quote without credit anything from the Congressional Record. It is also legal but, I believe, not quite so proper, to lift stuff from the Congressional Record, add the name of the speaker at the top and pretend that the statement was written exclusively for the use of the publisher. Social Justice, for one, uses this little trick.

I don't know what you intend to do with this FBI story, or whether you intend to follow it up. If you do I may be of some further use to you. Some time ago there were several persons here in Washington from Detroit for the purpose of speaking to Norris and presenting information to him. Before they saw him Gardner Jackson and I spoke to them, and these fellows and I made an arrangement to cooperate. It is my thought that if you want any further information on what happened in Detroit, all sworn to in affidavit form by the persons to whom it happened or by those who saw it happen, I can get it for you. Also, Henry Schweinhaut is going to make a personal, though very quiet, investigation in Detroit, and is perhaps at this moment ~~on~~ on his way to Detroit. If he interviews those who have made complaints, which is, I believe, a fair assumption, they will tell him, substantially, what they have set forth in their sworn statements. Ergo, you will then have what the special investigator assigned by the Attorney General has discovered in his investigation. You will not, of course, have what information he may get from the Federal and local authorities who he will undoubtedly interview. It might be possible, further, to be informed what additional information these complainants present. If you would like to run a story on the nature of what happened in Detroit and lend it some official air you can use this same stuff and say that it was presented to the Congress.

It seems very probable to me that the wire-tapping investigation will be approved, and when it is it will, I am confident, be a fairly decent and honest one. Without a doubt there will be sensational developments. I believe you might well be interested in this and early this week I'm going to try and find out something about it. If you are not interested I won't mind a bit because I am.

Please let me know when your deadline is, so I can be guided in the future.