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Ottawa, April 26, 1916.

Mr. Robert Erskine Ely,
Director, The League for Political Education,
147 West 48th Street,
New York.

Dear Dr. Ely:

I need scarcely say that I very much appreciate the invitation, contained in your letter of the 19th instant, to address the League for Political Education at one of its Saturday morning meetings of next season.

Perhaps you are well aware that in my agreement with the Rockefeller Foundation I have reserved the privilege of remaining in active politics in Canada, and, whenever the time of a general election comes on, contesting a seat for Parliament and serving later in Parliament if elected. With the political situation in Canada as uncertain as it will continue to be throughout the present year, I do not feel that I would be justified in making any engagements for a time so long ahead. Indeed, I dislike very much having long standing engagements, as experience has taught me so often how embarrassing it usually is to be bound in any way. Everything considered I feel I should not think of making any appointment, at least until the fall of the present year. If then it should happen that at

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