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March 28th, 1941.

The Rt. Hon. Arthur Meighen, K.C.,
Senate of Canada,
O T T A W A, Ontario.

My dear Senator Meighen:-

" I have been reading the articles and editorials in the Winnipeg Free Press about a speech which you recently made, and I must say that I think you are completely and entirely in the right, and that the Winnipeg Free Press has been most unfair in putting words into your mouth that you did not utter.

It seems to me they have a perfect right, if so they please, to comment on your speech as you made it, although for my own part I absolutely and completely agree with your sentiments and I should think most people who live in this country -- which has not yet gone completely Socialist -- too would agree; but the "Free Press" took issue with you, it seems to me, not upon what you actually said, but on an entirely different phrase, which they put in inverted commas, and so into your mouth. Any decent person, I believe, would take exception to that phrase which the "Free Press" said you said, but which obviously you did not express even by inference. What you really said, it seems to me, is a perfectly proper and logical thing to believe - it certainly is what I am helping to fight for - whereas the phrase put by the "Free Press" into your mouth is a very harsh unkind and cruel thought, and one of course in which neither you nor I believe, nor does any other decent person in Canada. "

I thought I would write to you to give you a little encouragement. This brings up an interesting point to my mind. Why do newspapers do these things, and so much of it is done. A man makes a speech, then the newspaper puts a headline on it that means something entirely different. I remember once for instance, I said in a speech, before the Board of Trade at Toronto, when our Western farmers were in great distress "Don't waste idle tears on our Western farmers -- dig down into your pockets and do something for them. Give them assurances you won't foreclose their mortgages and that will be tangible help" -- but the newspapers said that I had merely advised the people of Eastern Canada "not to waste idle tears on Western farmers." And so you can imagine what happened to me when I returned to the West.

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