TO THE PRESIDENT OR CHAIRMAN OF THE FACULTY.

Dear Sir:

The postal amendment, with its clumsy "zone" scheme, affecting second class mail matter—jammed through Congress as a "rider" to the War Revenue Act of 1917, without hearings and after its rejection by the Senate—increasing postal rates on periodicals and newspapers from 50 to 200 per cent, if introduced, as it should have been, as a properly considered postal amendment, would have had its effects clearly expressed by the title "A BILL TO FOSTER SECTIONALISM, ENCOURAGE IGNORANCE, FAVOR LONELINESS AND PROMOTE INSANITY."

The thought dominating the sponsors of this amendment logically and inevitably leads to the conclusion that Rural Free Delivery must be abandoned—Parcel Post rates increased—letter postage regulated by "zones" and charges graded according to the distance between sender and addressee. In fact, any Post Office service that does not show a satisfactory cash profit must be either abolished or suffer an increased postage sufficient to insure financial gain to the Post Office Department.

The Postmaster General pridefully remits to the United States Treasury nine million dollars, part of the surplus from last year's operations of his Department. What fatuous idea is it that conceives the Post Office to be a money-making concern! In the pursuit of revenue must we scrap all governmental social-service agencies, abolish free schools and endowed institutions of learning?

Appreciation is utterly absent from the thought of the proponents of this new method of indirect taxation, of the traditional function of the Post Office, that it is primarily a public carrier—that in this capacity it offers its heartiest cooperation in delivering reading matter of cultural and economic value to the door of even the farthest settler.

This law should be repealed before its insidious effects have utterly destroyed our national periodical press—the most popular medium for the dissemination of information, instruction and inspiration—messengers to our widespread nation of the world's best thought.

I most earnestly recommend that you bring this matter to the attention of your local organizations and that you urge them to petition Congress by resolutions, either adopted at meetings or signed by their officers, to repeal this iniquitous amendment at the present session. May I further request that when such resolutions are adopted copies be sent to the Congressional representatives, in addition to one sent to me for wider circulation.

Very cordially yours,

Charles Johnson Post
Director.
Chicago, March 8, 1918

Dear Sir:

Yours of the 25th of February is received.
I do not approve of the legislation to which you call my attention, but don't think it advisable to ask our faculty to take action on such subjects. It is not our custom to do that. It is rather a matter for individual opinion.

Very truly yours,

H.P.J. - L.

Mr. C. J. Post
Publishers' Advisory Board
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