

LINCOLN MOTOR COMPANY
DETROIT, MICHIGAN

HENRY M. LELAND, PRESIDENT
WILFRED C. LELAND, VICE-PRES. & GEN. MGR.
WILLIAM T. NASH, SECY. & TREAS.

September 19th 1919.

Miss Kate Gleason,
Gleason Works,
Rochester, N. Y.

My dear Miss Gleason:

I am so thoroughly solicitous about the outlook for the future that I must speak to some of the loyal men of this country who should be open-eyed to the gathering storm. I am aware that prophets of disaster are lightly regarded during this unprecedented period of plenty, and at the risk of seeming unduly alarmed I want to open my heart to you. Instead of being far-fetched, I believe my fears are conservative and do not begin to comprehend the seriousness of the menace which is threatening everything worth living for in this country.

Not only is property menaced, but all business interests are menaced; and the course we are already traveling will eventually deprive us of all our industry, of all our wealth and of everything that makes civilization desirable. The actual conditions which we are now experiencing are so startling, so inconsistent, and so far-reaching that had any man ten years ago prophesied these conditions for the year 1920 he would have been confined in the asylum. He would be considered an unsafe man to be loose in a civilized community.

A small minority, not to exceed five percent of the people, because they have been thoroughly organized and because they had shrewd, unscrupulous leadership, and because they found the willing ear of those in authority, have so conspired that today we are face to face with unprecedented conditions which are being favorably received by many influential and intellectual men and women. It is the treasonable purpose of this small minority to take over and nationalize our mines, our railroads, our great steel industries and our great packing industry. Do not for a moment think that the plans end when this has been accomplished. The nationalizing of these plants would certainly be followed

by the control of such institutions as the International Harvester, the General Electric, and then your plant and mine, and finally operate the entire industrial system. And when this point has been reached we will find ourselves drifting with the red current to nationalize everything, the minority following the lead of unscrupulous men in high places. We will then have the Soviet form of Government and life will cease to be worth living. If there were no alternative we might as well quit at once.

It is possible to see these things coming before we get hit by them. Read the papers and think! Study Russia and England, and Seattle and Vancouver and Boston. Keep your eye on such conferences as Wilson's approaching labor and capital conference. You cannot possibly help seeing recent history repeating itself.

Strange indeed that at such a time as this so many leaders of our industrial and financial interests and others who ought to be most vitally interested, are wrapped up in their own affairs and appear not to be conscious of the approaching catastrophe, and seem to say "Tomorrow shall be as this day, only much more abundant." Still others are pleasure mad. We have become obsessed by the amusement craze. 12,000,000 people in the United States daily attend the movies, and the rest of us ride without ceasing our various amusement hobbies. All the while the thunders are rumbling. The whole thing reminds one of the burning of Rome while Nero fiddled. After all, Nero had little to lose; but we hold in trust all the accumulated progress of the centuries.

The die has already been cast in Britain. A labor and capital conference was called a few months ago and attended by 400 representatives of industry on the one side of the hall and by 400 representatives of organized labor on the other side. In the center was Lloyd George, a man not unlike in many respects our own great dissembler. While the destinies of Britain, industrially, commercially and nationally, were being settled at that meeting NO man on the side of the 400 men representing business was found to utter one word of protest; and the doom of that nation, for some time to come at least, was sealed amid their cowardly silence. Shall America repeat that history?

A similar conference is called by President Wilson to convene within a few days. Judging by our experiences during the last five years, the scene in London is likely to be repeated in the United States. Among those invited by the President to that conference will there be men with vision enough, with courage

enough, with character enough to stand up and protest against the betrayal of our country and its institutions?

We have attached hereto a Detroit Free Press editorial of September 16th, and we beg you to take the time to read it through. Such editorials are justified by the passing events of each day. The forces which have been developing for the past seven years in accordance with a deep laid scheme, and carried from step to step with much shrewdness, cunning and deception, are rapidly approaching a crisis. They have their many sided programme ready, and unless a crimp is put into their programme it will reach the predetermined conclusion, and this conclusion will be the Russianizing of the United States and the destruction of all our great free and most important institutions.

After the United States Reds have control in several of our large cities and industrial centers, it will cost millions of wealth and great sacrifice of human lives even if we are able to restore the country to its former basis. A mere tithe of this expenditure wisely and judiciously expended before it is too late will save this great loss of life and treasure.

Men of the United States of America, it is time to think. These times demand strong men, courageous men, self-sacrificing men. It is time to lay aside our selfish and narrow views and interests and steel ourselves against the enemies of your business, your home and your country. Take it from me, you will soon enough be called upon for action, and happy the man who has not forgotten the lesson of Preparedness.

HML JMB

Very truly yours,

Henry M. Leland