

April 6, 1931.

Professor William C. Ripley,
Harvard University,
Cambridge, Mass.

Dear Professor Ripley:

Adolph Berle has spoken to me of some work which you are planning to have done on the charters of certain important public utilities, particularly, The Associated Gas and Electric. In connection with my work with Mr. Berle, we have had occasion to analyze numerous corporate charters both from the legal and economic points of views. He suggested that my experience in this respect might be of considerable assistance to you, and as I am going to have a certain amount of free time this summer, he thought I should write to you. If I can be of any assistance to you in this connection, I should be most pleased.

I am enclosing a reprint of a recent article in the American Economic Review with regard to the increase in concentration of wealth in the hands of a few large corporations. As you will see, it is primarily a statistical treatment of what we all know to be going on. However, by its very great exactness it does give a better basis for thinking on corporate problems.

Very sincerely yours,

Gardner C. Means.

GM/DM
Encl.