

February 4, 1936.

Mr. Abe Fortas,
Yale Law School,
New Haven, Connecticut.

Dear Abe:

Have you made arrangements to keep the typewriter and the line-a-time which I rented. I have just received a statement from Remington-Rand, Inc. for rental of the line-a-time for two months from the 10th of January to the 10th of March, at a rental of \$4. I will not pay this until I hear from you to see what arrangements, if any, can be made for pro rating the amount between me and the government, or for having the government take over the contract. As I told you, the line-a-time was routed by me in connection with the writing of the report for Congress.

The housing situation certainly was a mess. I am now sorry that you and Carol did not stay in my house. It looked as if I had a renter for the place unfurnished and would bring my furniture down here, but the whole transaction became so complicated that I cancelled it on Tuesday night and we signed a lease on a furnished house at 3135 Ellicott Street, telephone Cleveland 5657. I expect that it will be practically impossible to rent the house in New Haven furnished. It now stands there fully furnished but cold and lonesome. If at any time you and Carol want to move out of your present apartment and go back, do not hesitate to do so.

Sam Clark left for New York last night to complete the interviews with the New York judges. He plans to return here by Monday morning. By that time the balance of our New York staff, Mr. Langbein, will have checked in here. Levy has been out sick for a couple of days but is back now and expects to finish his work for Judge Healy by the end of this week, at which time he will proceed at once on the problem of voluntary reorganization. I have accomplished practically nothing this week on the report what with attending Commission meetings et cetera, et cetera. I hope you find the classes interesting and entertaining. I feel confident you will. I will probably leave here next Friday noon and see you in New Haven Friday night. I will confirm that later on. If there is anything I can do to help iron out any wrinkles in connection with the Finance course, do not hesitate to call on me.

I wish you would speak to George to see what has happened to the chapter on municipal committees. I expected to have a copy of his draft Monday or Tuesday of this week. I believe I failed to mention to you before I left a tentative plan I had worked out for George. I mentioned it briefly to him and found him interested. My

thought was to use George on other parts of the report. I laid these plans when I thought I was going to be in New Haven continuously. You might consider the matter. It is conceivable that you could use him to advantage in doing some things for you in preparation of the chapters presently assigned to you and chapters which will be assigned as soon as you have finished what you are now doing.

It looks as if I may be able to get Schenker to take on five of our men. I used the word "men" inadvisably since I included in the list of five Doolittle and Kelby. Schenker has told me that Kelby advised him that she does not want to be included since she may get another job at Justice. Accordingly, I think that the five will be Doolittle, Meyers (provided Meyers can get raised to \$2600), Goode, Weisebrodt (who, I guess, already had made arrangements to be transferred) and Brunstrom. This is subject to agreement by the Commission. Lincoln is still surrounded with some uncertainties but it appears that he can go to Registration at \$3200. This would not be agreeable to him. I am exploring the situation to see if I can get him \$4600 on Registration. Wright has gone with Tri-Continental, after having obtained a furlough from the government. Ives, as you probably know, has gone with a corporation in New York. Cottone is, I think, definitely going with Becker. If Meyers does not get \$2600 with Schenker he will also go with Becker, having received a firm offer from Becker. Brunstrom will also go with Becker if not taken care of by Schenker. So you see from the foregoing that things have improved materially for the staff. I have hopes of being able to take care of the balance. The result of these developments has been great improvement in morale and enthusiasm. All are now working assiduously on their various tasks. I am faced with the problem of getting an assistant who can dig out stuff for me and work with me as I write various parts of the report. I have canvassed that problem and have concluded that my best bet Mr. Lincoln. I believe he has completely exhausted himself in the New York Mortgage Commission and can profitably turn to other fields for conquest.

You must come down to see us. We have everything but a radio and if you will give us a firm commitment, we will even get that so we can roll back to the rugs for you. There is only one caveat and that is to enter my room quietly as you may find me asleep on my couch.

Jim has been away all week and will not be back until Monday. Accordingly I have not had any opportunity to ascertain what, if any, assignments will be made to me in connection with the Commission's activity. I think I will be able to work it out so that I have no heavy commitments until the report is finished.

Faithfully yours,