

January 5, 1938.

Amos P. Smith,  
Secretary, The Russell Manufacturing Company,  
Middletown, Connecticut.

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I am in receipt of your letter.

We have forwarded you a copy of the bill introduced by Senator O'Mahoney and myself. I trust you will find it has merit.

We are not contending there should not be any amendments or changes in the bill. Naturally, in drafting such a measure, we could not hope to do more than outline what we believe to be a fundamental principle. After many years of study, I have come to the conclusion that the principle of this bill is not only sound, but it is the only way this problem can be successfully dealt with.

The bill undertakes to regulate interstate commerce and the things which are incident to and a part of interstate commerce. We do not seek to invade the internal affairs of the State. But the regulation of interstate commerce belongs to the national government, and that field we wish to occupy effectively.

As it is now, we have corporate charters granted by the states and, under these charters, interstate commerce is now being carried on. It would seem that the instrumentalities by which interstate commerce is carried on ought to come from the national government. And the licensing system, as I see it, is but a step toward Federal incorporation. In other words, the sovereignty, which alone may regulate interstate commerce, should determine the kind and nature of the powers by which interstate commerce is carried on.

I am certainly pleased you are interested in the bill.

Very respectfully,