

CONFIDENTIAL

April 27, 1938

Dear Bill:

And now I trouble you again to ask you to be good enough to send me the stenographic minutes of Lamont's examination in the Whitney inquiry? I'll return them shortly.

Frankly, the revelation of Simmons' state of mind regarding the Street's standards of fiduciary obligation, is to me simply appalling. Isolated crookedness like Richard Whitney's is what it is -- isolated. But a prevalent carelessness and a failure to think about things affecting the well being of innumerable people and the general currents of economic enterprises, are of profound significance. For they bear on the whole attitude of mind that men of great responsibility and power bring to the conduct of affairs vital to society as a whole.

I am sure the Commission is alert to its educational responsibility in making clear the significance of these things and in spelling out the meaning of things that seem so casual and so blurred in the minds of some of the leading men in the financial world. Only by such a detailed and impressive exposition will healthy and dependable standards of conduct be gradually established as daily habits. The well being of our whole individualistic society is really at stake. Nothing less than that is the interest to be served by your report. I have no doubt you will issue a document adequate to the importance of the task before you.

Ever yours,