

Jan 18 1939

Dear Mr Eccles

In Reading an article in the GR Press about a month ago, I saw that you asked our Byrd Virginia senator, to stop calling names and misconstruing matters concerning yourself in regard to the subject of relief work.

I do not happen to know what our Byrd called you nor what else he said about you but wish to say I think there are better ways to settle matters than by becoming abusive.

I have no doubt of
your sincerity in your
belief as to the proper
treatment of people on
relief, but judging
from the way you
speak, I do not believe
you have had the
many opportunities which
I myself have had,
to witness the bold-
ness and absurdity,
exhibited by hundreds
of these relief workers,
nor their thank-
lessness for what
people have done for
them, nor their in-
disposition to really
earn the money they
receive, nor their
unwillingness to

pick up dollars they could earn on their own initiative, instead of depending entirely on relief.

If you had, I think you would change your mind as to the truthfulness, or the untruthfulness, of Byrde's statement that millions of able bodied men, rely on the government for support, and have ceased to exert their efforts for self help to obtain private employment.

I have many many times been eye-witness to the proof that his statement

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is true. I know of
dozens of farmers in
my own neighborhood,
who have laid down
on the job of taking
care of themselves,
or even trying to
help do so, because
they can get more
money on W.P.A.
for less work.

They make a good
living working 7 hrs
a day 4 days a week.
while their neighbor
who has kept off
relief must work
12 hrs a day 6 days
a week while they
take life easy and
he pays the tax
to furnish the money

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To let them do so.

Yes the honest man who relies on his own efforts for his support can do all this or else lay down their pride of being a self supporter.

Lay down their willingness to stand their share of grief as it comes their way just as thousands of our P W A fellows have done, and become one them selves, which gradually they are doing one by one untill the millions that are on relief will increase to millions and who

will be left that will
not be working for
the government?

Who will be left
on whom to impose
the tax to feed the
W P A?

I note you say
empty stomachs do
not build character,

No this is true,
but neither does sto-
machs that are too
easily filled build
character but in many
cases as I have
spoken of before
it builds a disrespect
for self reliance and
a tendency to believe
the world owes me
something and I'll

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get it whether I work
for it or not.

I am not guessing
at what I write
I speak from what
I have seen with
my own eyes.

I have seen young
single men quit good
jobs and go on PWA
because they could
in this way get their
money easier.

I have seen young
boys turn down
good chances to sup-
port them selves and
go to C C Camps
because these camps
look more like
playgrounds than
like honest work

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I have seen men with families move from town to an old vacant house in the country and get their rent for little or nothing while they work on W P A and I have offered them \$2 per day and board if they would plow for me but could not get them, they had an easier job

I am 62 years old, own a farm which I paid for with my own earnings

Am nearly disabled but could make a living if I could get help. There are

Thousands of others
in my same pre-
dicament. We cannot
sell our farms because
people don't want
to farm.

There are people
in the world who
need help, and deserve
it, but there must
be a different system
adopted for getting
it to them than by
taking billions of
dollars from self-
supporting people and
carelessly throwing
it into the hands
of thousands of people
who are just on
relief because they
want to be, or this

country must go
to the dogs

I am truly your
friend and would
be glad to hear
from you

Respt Dan Richard
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