

August 26, 1948

Honorable Robert A. Taft
Station M - R.R. No. 1
Cincinnati, Ohio

Dear Senator Taft:

I hear it said that you intend to make your chairmanship of the Joint Committee on the Economic Report of the President head the list of your Congressional activities in the forthcoming session of the Congress. I am much gratified to hear this, for I believe that the Employment Act of 1946 has great potentialities of usefulness within our frame of democratic government.

For two years and a half, you as chairman of the Joint Committee and I as chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers, have had an opportunity to explore the problem of how this act is most effectively to be implemented on its legislative side and on its executive side respectively. I am by no means satisfied with what the Council has accomplished, with the way in which it has performed, or the way in which it has been used. You, on your part, intimated pretty clearly when we met with the Joint Committee in May that your experience had revealed formidable difficulties in the path of the Joint Committee before it can really accomplish its high mission as leader in the shaping of sound and well integrated economic policies for the Congress.

In case there should be a change in Administration in January, some situations not specifically covered in the Act will arise. I have been giving them considerable thought, and I daresay that you have also. Even if there should be no change in Administration, there are important questions about the future functioning of the Joint Committee and the Council on which two years and a half of experience should shed some light. I am therefore wondering whether some time during the coming weeks an opportunity could be found when I could sit down with you and exchange views on these matters or others which you may have raised in your own mind but that have not occurred to me. Such a discussion might be most fruitful at a time of relative leisure when you are not involved in the heavy pressures of a Congressional session.

To bring this general suggestion down to specifics, I shall be returning to Washington from Chicago about the 20th of September and would be very glad to stop off in Cincinnati for a day if that would make it possible to sit down and talk these matters over with you. If that date is not convenient and you would like to see me at some other time, I would gladly come to Cincinnati for the purpose. Or perhaps at a somewhat later time in the fall, you will be

planning to be in Washington and that might be a more convenient arrangement for you. I shall try to shape my plans to any date that you suggest.

Sincerely yours,

Chairman