

April 13, 1943

Dear Morse:

I have read your letter of April 1 and the abridged version of Educational Opinion in Wartime.

I am powerfully allergic to spoon feeding; I get desperately annoyed when Government agencies take pity on our ignorance to tell us things. A candid policy vis-a-vis the newspapers and the radio commentators plus a stimulation of public discussion, particularly upon the part of those who have no connection, official or unofficial, with the Government, will, in my opinion, achieve much more than any Government activity.

Propaganda carries its own corrective, for its marks are painfully evident and its fruits are sour. It is based upon contempt for human understanding, and that is the bitter core of the pill, even when it is sugar coated. My own feeling is that the Office of War Information can make its greatest contribution if it does not work too hard to educate but bends its energies to seeing that we have a right to educate ourselves. More damage has been done to the war effort by the exclusion of *refusers* people from the food conference than can be repaired by tons of propaganda.

The sense that we are participants in the war and the coming peace and not digits in a vast, complex total war will do more for morale than any other one thing.

With kind regards,

Sincerely yours,

Henry M. Wriston

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