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February 11, 1954

My dear Mr. Fleming:

Our good friend Joe Sharp, for whom I have, as I am sure you know, so much affection and admiration, left with me yesterday during a conversation which we had on various matters, a copy of the press release covering a statement which you made to the Annual Convention of the National Cotton Council of America in Atlanta, Georgia, on February 1. I have read this statement with the greatest interest and your presentation and analysis are so profound and in my opinion so sound, and yet expressed in such simple, straight forward and courageous language, that I confess I read it twice last evening after the first reading.

This is just a word to tell you what a valuable contribution I think your statement is to our thinking these days, and I am hoping that it has been given very ample publicity at home. It is really a statement which I think is so well done and so important that I am hoping that a way will be found to print it in the form of a little pamphlet which may be given very wide distribution in government, industrial, financial and commercial circles in our country. I am very much hoping that someone at home may take the initiative of issuing your statement in the form of a pamphlet for such wide distribution which it should have.

I have asked Joe for a few extra copies to send to some of my friends at home who I know will be very much interested, but I repeat that I think a wider circulation would be really most desirable. I have been wondering whether the National Cotton Council of America, before whom the address was made, would not be the best instrument through which to give distribution to your statement.

I am studying the Randall Report with much interest. It will take a lot of courage on the part of many of our people at home to face up to the facts and it is because I think that your statement is so clear and convincing that such wide distribution will be of great assistance in actually implementing and putting into effect what has to be done.

Believe me, with all good wishes,

Cordially and faithfully yours,

George S. Messersmith

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