

MASSACHUSETTS CIVIC LEAGUE

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March 28, 1916.

Alexander Mackendrick, Esq.,
Boston, Mass.

Dear Mr. Mackendrick:-

I can not meet with the committee Friday evening of this week although I should very much like to be there.

I want to offer a suggestion in regard to the taxation amendment which our good senate has finally seen fit to reject. There is obvious the work of certain interests and this and numerous other incidents convince us of subserviency to the interests of certain senators. I believe that a quiet campaign among the members of the League against these men would be of substantial service. The difficulty is to show people that party allegiance under all conditions is a crime rather than an evidence of patriotism. It is an evidence of narrow-mindedness in most cases but we can not tell the people so. In my own case, for example, although I am ordinarily supposed to be a Republican, I do not think the Democrats could put up a man so bad that I would not vote for him against the man who represents me and calls himself a Republican.

Here is the point I am coming to. I believe that we are going to have to swallow our traditional convictions and develop substantial convictions. I interpret this to mean that certain men will have to be shelved. To shelve them by replacing them with a good man is the ideal way. When this can not be done I am in favor of shelving them, let the process or the results be what they may.

In the campaign I think we must also keep in mind that it is better just now to lay the emphasis on the relation between this amendment and the income tax than on anything else. I may not be right in this but this is my impression.

Very sincerely yours,

*Ans. 7
7 apr 1916*