

Jan. 22, 1918

Mr. Sen. J. Salmon,  
222 Guardian Trust Bldg.,  
Denver, Colorado.

Dear Mr. Salmon:-

Thank you very much indeed for yours of Jan. 16th. I think this is a case of mutual misunderstanding. We do not advise conscientious objectors what to do if they have a definite plan of their own to follow. When they are in doubt, we advise them to obey the law up to the limit of their conscience, and to comply with all of the more or less technical provisions. There are three points conceivably in which a conscientious objector may logically resist, one- He may refuse to register altogether, and accept the consequences, - second, he may refuse to entrain when called for service after having failed to secure exemption, or third, he may refuse to undertake any service under military authority after he gets in camp.

You have drawn the line at a point that hardly seems to me effective. You registered, and yet declined to give me further information involved in filling out the questionnaire. But we do not sit as judges of other men's consciences, and for that reason we are glad to be

of help to a man wherever he stands the law.

Let me say at this point that the number of men who refuse to take any service whatever under either civil or military authority is very small, and that while personally I admire the stand of the absolutist and believe it the only logical one to take, the Bureau has to serve mostly men who don't go to that extreme.

I am mighty glad you have two such able lawyers. I don't see that there is anything we can do except to give your attorneys some help in the way of references and the like. You are doubtless aware that the civil courts have set the trial late, so that if the military authorities do call you for trial meanwhile, you will be taken out of their hands and turned over to a court-martial. Of course, there is a very likely possibility that you won't be called at all at this period.

I hope this makes our position clear, and that if you think you can be of any service you will call on us.

Best of good wishes,

Yours,