LESSON PLAN SUPPORT MATERIALS

Speeches of Robert M. La Follette
See a lesson plan related to this material on the Wisconsin Historical Society website.

Letter La Follette Requesting Information on Wisconsin Primary Election Law and Railroad Rates

George Wallace to Robert M. La Follette, November 1900.
E.K. Spoonheim to Robert M. La Follette.  
Wisconsin Historical Society.

De Hoy B. Ellis  
City Attorney  
Suite 20 V. E. C. A. Bldg.

EXECUTIVE CHAMBER, RECEIVED  
NOV 23 1904  
Answered ELGIN ILL. Nov. 21, 04.  
MADISON, WIS.

Hon. R. M. La Follette,  
Madison Wisc.

Dear Sir:—I have noticed with considerable interest the fight you have been making with the railroads for just rates. I have been looking up the rates on coal and other freight from Chicago to Elgin and believe we are paying a much higher rate than other cities the same and greater distances from Chicago. I also believe there are several of the large concerns here who have a secret rate which is much less than the regular rate charged.

I desire if possible to get these matters looked into by the proper authorities, and knowing you must have been all over this ground in your State, I take the liberty of asking you to inform me the proper steps to take, and the proper committee or Board to place the matter before, and also the best mode of procedure in so doing.

Thanking you in advance for this favor I am,

DctD. B. E.  
Respectfully,

[Signature]
Hon. Robert La Follette,

Madison, Wis.

Dear Sir:—Having under preparation a primary election for this state that I am going to introduce in the senate this coming winter, I should be greatly indebted to you if you would furnish me with a copy of your primary law that was ratified by the people of your state at the last election. I wish to congratulate you on your victory.

In a small way in the 5th legislative district of this state I won out for senator on the democratic ticket on similar issues that you fought for. The two U. S. senators putting up a big fight on me.

(ex. 00000mm)

This is the strongest republican district in the state and winning out in spite of the land slide, is an indication that the people in this state are also waking up. I am the only democratic senator elected.

I wish to say that I got a great deal of inspiration from you. And in my speeches referred to your fight and in a large measure I call my success to you. I trust this will not inconvenience you to much.

Yours truly,

E.K. Spoonheim

In reply please refer to the Institute below.

Interstate Commerce Commission, Division of Statistics, Washington.

Nov. 24, 1904.

My dear Governor:

I don’t know that I have succeeded in saying what I started out to say, but these are some things which have been going through my mind a long time and which may interest without interest to you. Some of my fundamental ideas regarding railway control are definitely formulated ten years ago after I had completed the first thorough study of the American system. What some of these ideas are is as far as they relate to the commission system I have attempted to tell you in this letter.

I need not tell you that even though my conclusions and yours may not agree at every point, that I am in sympathy with the movement for which you stand. At the last election the Meyer family gave you eight votes—all they could cast.

With many good wishes for a most happy and successful administration, remain,

Very cordially yours,

B. H. Meyer

Governor R. M. La Follette, Madison, Wis.