

P.S. Who is Mr. Charles Stark - just for the books?

214 Gibson Street
Lowell, Mass.
18 August 1947

Mr. H. C. Cornuelle
Foundation for Economic Education
Irvington on Hudson
New York

Dear Mr. Cornuelle:

I meant to answer your letter of the 11th. earlier, but somehow - ~~the~~ mad muddle of moving my quintette to the Bay State has been a time-and-a-half job.

I note that you wanted my comments on Mr. Stark's criticism - before you replied to it in Mr. Read's absence. I'm sure you could handle this alone, but here are my comments for what they are worth.

In many ways, I agree with the man, - mostly on the grounds that the article is almost entirely general and in that way "timeless", (which is an asset) except for this one sentence - which sort of dates it to a particular period. At the time I wrote the article, I not only knew a veteran who was living with his wife and family in his parents' home - simply because he could not evict the occupants in the house he owned, - but if you remember - Fulton Lewis Jr. was highlighting a similar and spectacular case in Philadelphia, where a veteran was going in debt trying to maintain an apartment, because he could neither evict nor raise the rent in the house he owned - which was occupied by the OPA director in that area!!!

Mr. Stark says he never knew of any such cases - and that may well be. It may not have been a general situation, and because of that - I agree with him that the article would be improved by its omission. What I really was trying to point out was that - this whole business of rent control was "class legislation", intended to protect one segment of our society, namely the tenants, against another segment of our society, namely the landlords, - and like all such legislation, it caused gross injustice, since all tenants are not necessarily poor - nor all landlords rich, any more than all of either are good or bad.

I have no idea what the future plans for "Show Me" are. I remember that Mr. Read wanted to run off an edition for some businessman who objected to the word "masses" and wanted it changed to people. (I agreed with him too!) If such an edition is being considered, I would suggest with Mr. Stark - that the sentence on veterans be omitted at the same time. So far - I consider the two criticisms that have come to my attention not only constructive - but justified.

Do let me know what the present status of "Show Me" is, as I am very interested in keeping up to date on the general response. Selma Fuller did tell me recently that you all were very pleased with its reception - for which I am naturally glad. Also - are you being notified or getting copies of Editorial reprints in various newspapers?

Cordially yours,

- Betty Knowles Heard -

August 19, 1947

Mrs. Betty Knowles Hunt
214 Gibson Street
Lowell, Massachusetts

Dear Mrs. Hunt:

Thanks very much for your letter of August 18th regarding Mr. Stark's criticism. I think it clears up his question. Incidentally, Mr. Stark is the manager of the Klamath County Chamber of Commerce in Klamath Falls, Oregon.

A third printing of "Show Me Any Other Country..." went to press this morning. As you suggested, I deleted the sentence about veterans' evictions from the issue. The word "people" has been substituted for "masses" in this edition as well as in the second printing.

I apologize for not keeping you in closer touch with the reception of "Show Me Any Other Country..." It is gaining a wide audience and gathering momentum from day to day. We are increasing our efforts to promote the sale of the piece and have high hopes for its continued success.

Several newspapers have reprinted "Show Me" in part or in full, and we are keeping a file of tear sheets and clippings. As soon as we get it into better shape I will send it to you.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,

H. C. Cornuelle
Assistant to the President