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Box 11; Folder = Correspondence: Glass, Carter, 1935

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

February 21, 1935.

Dear Senator Glass:-

In response to your telephonic inquiry, I am very glad to repeat what I told you and several members of your Committee last week.

Every action of the Administration during the past two years has been directed, first, to the objective of raising wage scales which, from the point of view of public interest, were set at unconscionably low levels; and, secondly, we have constantly followed the objective of preventing reductions in ~~the~~ existing wage scales.

So much for that except that I might add that both of these objectives are constantly before us and will continue so to be.

As you are aware, the practical operation of the principle of collective bargaining, plus the operation of the National Industrial Recovery Act, have, in the overwhelming majority of cases of organized and unorganized labor, either raised wages or prevented any reduction in wages.

I object to and deny any assertion that the payment of wages to workers now on the relief rolls at less than the prevailing rate of wages may, under some ~~wild~~ theory, result in a lowering of wages paid by private employers. I say this because it is an obvious fact - first, that the Federal Government and every State Government will act to prevent reductions, and, secondly, because public opinion throughout the country will not sustain reductions.

I have enough faith in the country to believe that practically one hundred per cent of employers are patriotic enough to prevent the lowering of wages. In this thought ~~they~~ will have the full support of the Government.

Very sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Franklin Roosevelt". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed closing of the letter.

Honorable Carter Glass,
United States Senate,
Washington, D. C.