March 7, 1950

Dear Harley:

Matt handed me a copy of your letter of March 6th to Pat Macozza on 9-2311.
I read it with a lot of interest, and I am certainly most happy that you wrote it.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

Hon. Harley M. Kilgore
United States Senate
Washington, D.C.
March 6, 1950

Honorable Pat McCarran
United States Senate
Washington, D. C.

Dear Senator:

On studying, over the weekend, the final committee
draft of S.2911 that was before the Judiciary Committee
on Saturday afternoon, I am obliged to conclude that it
remains subject to the central vice that has always made
it a dangerous proposal. It is fundamentally a sedition
bill, and, in the hands of a prejudiced prosecutor or
national administration, can be used against organized
labor and in fact against other organizations, whether
churches, farm, business or any of the multitude of legiti-
mate American organizations against which a hostile
prosecutor or administration might want to use it. Samuel
Connors, then head of the American Federation of Labor,
and confronted with more than 70 kinds of sedition bills
pending in Congress, made this fact clear for good and all.
He said that no matter how a sedition bill may be drafted,
it can and sometimes will be used against organized labor.
He said that the language of sedition bills usually looks fair
and desirable, but, used in periods of hysteria, such bills
would enslave labor and should be called slave bills. He
recognised that the bills proposed in his time were directed
against the bitterest enemies of the AFL, such as the IWW's,
the Communists, and the Socialists of the time, but he saw
that, used first against the enemies of conservative labor,
a sedition law, no matter how phrased, would in time be
turned against labor also. I hope to send a fuller memorandum
of my views on the current bill shortly.

With kind regards, I am

Most sincerely yours,

Herb. M. Kilgore

S.2911 A Bill to protect the U.S. against
certain un-American subversive activities, for
other purposes.