

October 3, 1939

Mr. Raymond Moley, Editor
News Week,
Rockefeller Center,
New York City, New York.

Dear Mr. Moley:

I visited South America in February and March of this year and among other impressions gained is one that President Roosevelt was captivated by the social legislation in several of the South American countries and set to work to put them into operation very shortly after his return. I have been gathering data in regard to social legislation in South America and not being proficient in Spanish, have been forced to have many of the laws translated.

I have felt that the most dangerous man in connection with the present administration was Rexford Tugwell who insidiously set to work to secure control of land and credits in the United States and I think that very few persons realize the extent of his success. I am now wondering whether Tugwell left the councils of the administration because of the adoption of these South American ideas on social legislation. It may be that he thought they were incompatible with the deep-laid plans he had made for making a socialistic nation out of the United States, or it may be that he was simply piqued because of Roosevelt's swing to something that Tugwell had not suggested. It seems to me that with my understanding of Roosevelt's character, that he probably said little about where he got his ideas, wishing to make his advisors believe that they had sprung from his versatile brain.

I knew of no one who could advise me more wisely as to the date of Tugwell's retirement from his position at Washington and whether that date and the President's return from South America in anyway coincided.

There is so little definite data in the United States that is available in regard to South America that it is hard to dig this matter out, but it is certain that if new deal legislation