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At the time there was a great deal of social unrest, and Mr. Eastman became interested in the open forum as a sort of social safety valve for the views of discontented persons. He also became interested in the City Manager Plan, and considered it even better than the forum as a scheme to give all groups representation in government, particularly when the system of proportional representation was used. Mr. Snyder gave him literature on the subject of the City Manager Plan and proportional representation. Mr. Eastman wanted the City Council elected, under Rochester's new charter, by proportional representation, but his legal advisers considered this was not constitutional. (Recently, in the case of New York City, the New York State Court of Appeals ruled it constitutional by a vote of 8 to 1.) Mr. Eastman liked proportional representation because it avoided partisan label for candidates and he disliked partisanship (Proportional representation prevents wasted votes, and Mr. Eastman's hatred of waste may have been one reason he favored "P.R.").

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Mr. Eastman tried to avoid financial commitments that would bias his judgment or diminish his freedom of action. He told Mr. Snyder he owned no stock in public utilities, at least the local ones, as this might affect his judgment on public affairs, such as those of the Bureau of Municipal Research. He was opposed to inflated values, even of Kodak stock, on the exchange. In 1928, when the stock market was boiling and almost every day reached a "new high" Mr. Snyder dropped in at Mr. Eastman’s on his way home and found him reading the afternoon newspaper. Mr. Snyder commented "Mr. Eastman, you have probably seen that Eastman Kodak reached a new high today." Mr. Eastman’s reply was "Oh, I’m sorry."

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Mr. Solbert:

The enclosed was in Mr. Snyder's desk here at the office. I assume it should go to you, although it is considerably beyond the "few weeks" you suggested in your letter.

[Signature]

Secretary

FEB 29 1944
February 1, 1940

Mr. Leroy E. Snyder
Gannett Newspapers, Inc.
Rochester, N. Y.

Dear Leroy,

I am attaching hereto the writeup of your interview with Mr. Nicholson. I wonder if you would go over it for corrections and revision.

Would you also keep it for a few weeks and whenever you think of something concerning Mr. Eastman, not already in the record, jot it down in your own hand at the end of the writeup, as all the interviews will be retyped. This may be returned at your convenience.

It is impossible at one brief sitting to remember all the incidents and stories about Mr. Eastman. But as they come back to your memory, will you set them down.

Yours very truly,

[Signature]

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1/22/40

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