

Craig Watson

November 12, 2015

U.S. History

What Would You Do With Million Dollars?

Dear Mr. Jon Lanning,

I was astonished to discover your passion to do good for others. I would be honored to fulfill your wish of giving away one million dollars. Through our discussions you have should have the understanding of America that is less prevalent. We talked about child labor, food safety, and women's suffrage. After much that I have come to the decision to give 600,000 dollars to food safety, 300,000 dollars to child labor, and 100,000 dollars to women's suffrage.

I have decided to give 600,000 dollars to food safety, According to Upton Sinclair's book discussing meat packaging. He discussed the horrible disgusting things the packaging plants did to the meat. "There would be meat that had tumbled out on the floor, in the dirt and sawdust, where the workers had tramped and spit..." (Document D). At food packaging plants the workers would let the meat rot and let mice run along the meats. Those rats also defacated on the meats. The workers poisoned bread and put the bread out for the rats to eat and die. After the rats died the workers threw the rats into the meat grinders and grinded the poisoned rats into the meat (Document D).

The next cause that you would give 300,000 dollars to is child labor. Lewis Hine states in the National Child Labor Committee Report, the horrible working conditions children were subjected to at the Lee Breaker Mine in Pennsylvania. "one was badly

burned and the other smothered to death"(Document B). Children at the Lee Breaker Mine were employed as breaker boys. A breaker boys were children who separated coal and slate. Boys at least as young as 15 years old were employed. Dennis Malice a 15 year old boy was killed. He was killed because of the dark, dirty, and dangerous conditions (Document B).

The last thing I would give 100,000 dollars to is women's suffrage. Jane Addams of the Ladies Home Journal states, "She cannot even secure unattained meat for her household... unless the meat has been inspected by city officials..." (Document C). Women were only given the task of keeping up the house during this period. They also were not allowed to vote and had limited rights. Women could not even go to the butcher to buy meat without male assistance. This is degrading and makes the image of women to be lowered (Document C).

Thank you Jon Lanning for trusting me with this enormous task. You have shown me the underside of America I did not know existed. It has made me appreciate all of the social reform efforts that took place during the Progressive Era to make life better for all America. You helped me learn about the efforts of progressive reforms like Jane Addams, John Muir, Lewis Hines, Upton Sinclair, Teddy Roosevelt, William Howard Taft, Woodrow Wilson, and the many more dedicated american citizens like yourself. You have given Food safety, Child labor, and Women's suffrage, and a great gift of hope.

Your loving student, Craig Watson