July 1, 1940

My dear Mr. Ludington:

I scarcely know how to write you regarding the pledges which you made quite some years ago. Perhaps I should not write at all. However, we have always known of your genuine interest and realize that your financial program was curtailed during the financial debacle some ten years ago.

You made fairly substantial payments during the 1936-1938 period; but during 1939-40 you sent only a small nominal payment which you requested to be used for the current emergency fund.

You have told me in the past that you were much interested in the airplane industry and I gathered from your remarks when that industry came into its own, your financial situation would be materially improved, and that you would then be able to renew substantial payments on these pledges.

I write to inquire if there is a prospect of improvement, - if your airplane interests are beginning to place you in a better financial position. I sincerely hope that this is the case, because I know that Dr. Stuart was very much enthused over your large participation in Yenching affairs; and I also know that he has made frequent inquiries in regard to your situation, which shows that he has the matter very much on his heart.

Is there a prospect that you will be able again to make substantial payments in the near future? I sincerely hope that such is the case, because I realize how unpleasant it is to you to have an obligation of this kind, voluntarily accepted, hanging over you. I am sure you would gladly discharge same if you are able, and the object of this letter is to ascertain if the prospects are improving.

I hope you will pardon the frankness of this letter. It is one of my responsibilities to take care of these matters. I believe that you will understand my position, and the reason that I am writing you.

Sincerely yours,

Mr. C. T. Ludington
Old Lyme
Connecticut

E. M. McBrier

1286