October 12, 1942

Mr. L. I. Mc Dougle
Association of American Railroads
Transportation Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Mc Dougle:

This letter will confirm the conversations which Mr. Jack Delano
and I have been having with your office concerning his proposed
trip to do a story on transportation in the West.

We would like to emphasize at this time the part the railroads
are playing in the war effort of this country. Mr. Delano's
itinerary, as we have worked it out, will give first consideration
to the moving of materials. He will want to start the job in
Chicago. This seems to us the logical place to get the feeling
of the multiplicity of railroad facilities. After he had worked
here for a couple of weeks, he would then like to take a freight
train to the West Coast, probably over a northern route, getting
something of the drama and flavor of the "freight train" ; a more
leisurely trip along down the Pacific Coast; and a series of short
trips by freight or passenger from the West Coast back to Chicago.
On the jump from the coast back again, we hope he will have an
opportunity to change trains and pick up all the types of things
that are loaded onto cars — materials, people, etc.; also to get
something of the feeling of the little towns and the larger cities
through which the train runs. Mr. Delano is preparing a written
detailed outline of the proposed itinerary which we have worked out.

I know this is a pretty broad assignment, and as usual, we will
probably fall somewhat behind accomplishing all that we now have
in mind. We would appreciate no end any assistance which the
Association of American Railroads can give us in arranging these
schedules, getting clearance for us with the railroads who can
best fit into such a schedule. We will, of course, get the approval
of the Army and the Federal Bureau of Investigation on this venture.

We wish to thank you for all the courtesies which you have extended
to us.

Sincerely yours,

RES;bw

Roy E. Stryker, Chief
Division of Photography
Bureau of Publications and Graphics