

Letter from Margaret Loughrin to Governor Frank Cooney, August 6, 1934

*[Butte, Montana]
August 6, 1934*

Gov. Frank H. Cooney
Helena, Montana

My Dear Governor:

. . . [I] am writing a personal appeal to you, not to be disturbed by anything you may hear from us over here. I have made Butte my home for nearly thirty-six years, been a part of its educational and civic life and a heavy taxpayer for most of the time. I would like to say . . . that in all the years I have spent in Butte, I have never seen such tactics used as are being resorted to in the last two months by the A.C.M. to “Bring the troops to Butte.” . . . They will stop at nothing to discredit the miners. . . .

I have never seen greater evidence of patience, tolerance and suffering self-control that I have witnessed day after day among the workers of Butte. Neither have I ever seen more concerted effort on the part of Corporate interests and their Company-owned press . . . to besmirch or

to destroy the worker than I have seen in this strike. As one of the great middle class . . . I am sure . . . that this same large middle class is in sympathy with [the strikers].

The Company never has played square and they never will. They do not know the meaning of the word fairness. . . . These devils are stopping at nothing to incite the men to trouble. . . . I can't see for the life of me how the strikers have refrained as well as they are doing.

Please do not be drawn into the nefarious maneuvering to involve you and to force you into sending armed men for the protection of their property. The life of one of our striking men is of more consequence a thousand times than the A.C.M. or the Montana Power has ever meant to Butte. . . .

Margaret Loughrin

Source: *Montana Governors Records, 1889–1962. Manuscript Collection 35* [box 72 folder 8]. Montana Historical Society Research Center. Archives. Excerpted in *Not In Precious Metals Alone: A Manuscript History of Montana* (Helena, 1976): 256–57.