American: U-2

American Womens Club of Toronto

APARTMENT 15-A
29 WASHINGTON SQUARE, WEST
NEW YORK 11, N. Y.

January 23, 1947

My dear Mrs. McLean:

I have been surprised to receive protests against my speaking for your club because you are alleged to discriminate against Jewish people in your membership and in your audiences.

Of course, I do not know whether this is true, but if it is your policy, I am afraid that I will not be able to keep my engagement. I am against any form of discrimination.

Very sincerely yours,

Eleanor Roosevelt

9

January 23, 1947

My dear Mrs. McLean:

I have been surprised to receive protests against my speaking for your club because you are alleged to discriminate against Jewish people in your membership and in your audiences.

Of course, I do not know whether this is true, but if it is your policy, I am afraid that I will not be able to keep my engagement. I am against any form of discrimination.

Very sincerely yours,

THE AMERICAN WOMEN'S CLUB
OF TORONTO

pending
April 15th

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I am sorry to have to bother you, but I have just had a telephone call from Mr. Paul Johnson, Manager of Eaton's Auditorium, asking which of the received dates in April we wish to place to use.

you and ask if you will be kind enough to wire us, "collect", indicating your choice of April 15 or 18th. I have of course told him your plans are tentative at this early date.

Could you, however, indicate whether Tuesday the 15th or Friday, the 18th would seem to meet your plans for a Toronto visit. We shall still hold one date pending

As I wrote you previously, I had put a booking on the evenings of Tuesday - April 15th, 1947 - and Friday, April 18th.

Mr. Johnson tells me that the date we release is the only one now available to someone else from January thru May, 1947, and has asked me to Air Mail

your being able to make definite arrangements. It is necessary, however, for us to release the date which you would not accept.

Will you please send a wire to me, collect, as follows:

Mrs. Charles McLean,
President, The American Women's Club of Toronto
c/o Eaton's Auditorium
Eaton's College Street
Toronto, Ont.
Can.

Thanking you for this courtesy I am,

Yours sincerely
Faye Gould McLean

Dec. 4. 1946.

Will be busy with
the Assembly meetings
& April I will have no
free time.
Will try to come to Toronto in
April.

THE AMERICAN WOMEN'S CLUB
OF TORONTO

Dear Mr. Roosevelt:

Your letter of September 20th, 1946, is received, and, although we understand that a visit from you to Toronto may not be anticipated before April, 1947, and that that is, at this time, to be regarded only as a "tentative" hope, we are retaining our reservation on The Auditorium for both April 15th and April 18th.

I have had an invitation from Mrs. LaFell Dickinson, President of the General Federation of Women's Clubs in the United States, to attend a meeting of the Assembly and the Board of Directors, to be held at the Waldorf-Astoria from October 24th to October 26th, 1946.

I am planning to be in New York for these meetings and will arrive on the afternoon of Wednesday, October 23rd. I shall be staying on in New York for a few days following the meeting on October 26th, and I am writing to say that if you feel it would help you later to come to a decision about a visit to Toronto to know something more about us here, I shall be very pleased to have you suggest a time when I could have a short chat with you when I am in New York.

I do not know at this time where I shall be staying, as my reservations were supposed to be made by the Committee of the Federation. But if you would care to suggest an appointment on any day between October 27th and October 29th, I should be happy to arrange to meet your convenience. If this is not appropriate in your busy schedule, I shall understand, of course.

With kind thoughts, I am

Sincerely,

Joyce Gould McLean

(Mrs. Charles McLean,
President.)

October 8, 1946.

Amer. Womens Club

THE AMERICAN WOMEN'S CLUB
OF TORONTO

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I acknowledge with thanks your letter of March 6th from Portland, Oregon. Accordingly, we have inserted the following announcement in the three Toronto papers:

"The American Women's Club of Toronto

regrets to announce
that, owing to the change in date of the meeting of the Human Rights Commission, and her committment to assist in drafting the Bill of Human Rights for the United Nations,

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt

has cancelled her engagement to speak in Toronto on April 15th."

Wishing you success in your endeavors on behalf of the United Nations, I am

Sincerely,

Faye Gould McLean

(Mrs. Charles McLean)
President.

March 14, 1947.
142 Colin Avenue,
Toronto 12, Ontario,
Canada.

Amer. Women's Club
Eleanor Roosevelt

February 23, 1947

Dear Mrs. McLean:

I am still getting letters of protest about the meeting I am scheduled to attend in Toronto, and in view of the fact that the officers of the Human Rights Commission have been asked to write a Human Rights Bill with the aid of the secretariat and to have ti ready by June 25th, which means holding long and frequent sessions between the time I return from my trip west the latter part of March and the 25th of June, I think I had better cancel my engagement to come to Toronto in April.

Quite frankly any question of discrimination makes me very uncomfortable, I think it would be a much wiser plan for me not to keep this engagement. I am sure you will have plenty of time to find some one to speak in my place.

Very sincerely yours,

The schedule from NYC to Toronto is not too good or rather the schedule back from Toronto.

The trains leave at 6:05 p.m.
8:05 p.m.

Planes

8:25 a.m.

12:45 p.m.

5:14 p.m.

7:55 p.m.

Trains leave 8.10 p.m. 14.05
Return 6.05 or 8.05 leave earlier if going
one. I think 6.05 is best
If I recall a longer. going
to take train 11.45 return
by plane 8.25 a.m.
What time will that get me
to N.Y.?

leaving Trains arrive

NY -Apr.14-8:10PM Toronto-Apr.15-7:50AM
11:45PM 11:35AM

return

leaving

Toronto-Apr.15-6:05PM N.Y.-Apr.16- 7:00AM
8:05PM 9:00AM

Planes - Trans-Canada
PL 3-6141
from Toronto
returning
8:25 A.M.
12:40 P.M.
5:14 P.M.
7:55 P.M.

Feel this woman will only be in Toronto for a day + I am leaving it to Mrs McLaren to arrange the schedule. I have tried her I do not want to do too many things so I do not know what can be fitted in

Send Mrs McLaren

---

are there planes back?
Mrs L cared not leave by 8.05 pm —

THE AMERICAN WOMEN'S CLUB
OF TORONTO

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt,
Apartment 6-A,
29 Washington Square West,
New York 11, N.Y.

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

We were very grateful for your telegram confirming the date of Tuesday, April 15th, for your address at Eaton's Auditorium. I have delayed answering for two reasons; first, because I am reluctant to add even one letter to your already too-busy desk, and secondly, because at the time your telegram was sent my husband, Dr. McLean, was ill, with a heart condition. He is still in hospital, but making progress.

Because it was necessary to discuss your impending visit in connection with other events on our Spring schedule, I informed the Club on Monday, last, that you were planning to be with us in April. I had not mentioned it beyond the confines of our Board of Directors' meetings before Monday. Naturally the information has filtered out and Toronto is all agog!

I realize, of course, that there is plenty of time to put our plans in hand, but I am writing today to put some of our ideas before you so that you can, at your convenience, advise me of your wishes.

First, the Club would like to hold the lecture in the interest of the "Save The Children Fund", and, if this meets with your approval we shall be delighted to turn the entire net proceeds to this Fund. I have had a chat today with Mr. Paul Johnson, at the Eaton Auditorium, and we anticipate that we should be able to turn something over $2500 to the Fund. This would mean that 250 children, under the Fund, could be cared for for a year.

I had occasion a few days ago to talk with the Secretary of the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, and had a call from her yesterday to say that the Lieutenant Governor - Mr. Ray Lawson - and Mrs. Lawson would like very much to give a Reception in your honor while you are in the city, and asked if I would ascertain what would be a suitable date and time. I have also in mind that you might like to visit the Ontario Provincial Parliament, at Queen's Park, Toronto, if the House is in session. I am sure Premier Drew would be anxious to have you do so.

Mr. Johnson, in our chat today, asked if we would have a reception following your address, and I am wondering if it would be permissable for us to arrange for you to receive our special honored guests and the members of The American Women's Club.

May I ask if it would be possible for you to arrive in Toronto on Monday, the 14th, thus allowing time for the Reception at Queen's Park to be given that afternoon, preceded by a visit to the House, if it is in session. This would allow you to have a quieter day on Tuesday, and we are most anxious to protect you against too many calls on your time and energy. You may be assured that we shall accept no engagements for you without your expressed approval; but I am mentioning these items herein so that you may have an opportunity to think about the matter and advise us of your wishes.

May I also ask if you will indicate the subject of your address? Closer to the date of April 15th I shall be in touch with you to obtain further information as to details.

I trust that the Christmastide brought you a full measure of joy, and that the New Year may hold many blessings for you and yours.

With kind thoughts, I am

Yours sincerely,

Faye Gould McLean

(Mrs. Charles McLean)

P.S: You may be interested to know that Mrs. William Dick Sporborg, Chairman of the International Relations Committee of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, and a member of the United States Committee to UNESCO is coming to speak to our Club at our Thirtieth Birthday Luncheon on February 17th. I had the pleasure of meeting her when I was in New York in October, and we are pleased to be able to have her with us next month. I believe her subject is to be "UNESCO", although we have given her carte blanche in the scope of her address.

THE AMERICAN WOMEN'S CLUB
OF TORONTO

142 Colin Avenue,
Toronto 12, Ontario, Canada.
February 18th, 1947.

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt,
Apartment 15-A,
29 Washington Square, West,
New York 11, N.Y.

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Mrs. William Dick Sporborg gave a brilliant address to five hundred women - members and guests - of The American Women's Club at our thirtieth Birthday Luncheon yesterday. She is an amazing person, and an inspiration to all. She told me of her tea-time chat with you recently, and shares our joy that you are coming to us shortly.

Mrs. Sporborg told me of your plans to leave at the end of this week on an extensive speaking tour; and so I am writing now to place several matters before you in the hope that you may have a moment to clarify one or two items in respect of your visit.

First, I acknowledge receipt of the letters which you sent along to me, and they will receive my attention as plans are put in hand.

Now for questions:

1. Will you advise me of the time of your arrival in Toronto? Mrs. Sporborg came in on the 7:50 A.M. train, and, if I may suggest it, I think you might find it the most comfortable and convenient train to take from New York. It leaves New York at 8:10 P.M. Monday night, arriving here at 7:50 A.M., April fifteenth.

2. May I have your permission to arrange a press and radio interview for Tuesday morning? They are besieging me!

3. We have heard some suggestion of a possible broadcast of your address. What is your thought on this? Although I have not been approached personally as yet, frankly I am inclined to feel that if such an arrangement were undertaken, the broadcasting firm should be expected to make a contribution to the Save The Children Fund. Is that being too mercenary - or is it even appropriate?

I should not bother you with this detail at all, except for the fact that you have been gracious enough to come to us without fee, thus allowing the proceeds of this evening to be turned to the Save The Children Fund. Will you be kind enough to express your thoughts in this matter of broadcasting?

Do I have your permission to state, on the evening of your lecture, that, through your generosity, the proceeds of the evening will be turned to the Save The Children Fund? (You understand, of course, that all your expenses will be paid by us.)

4. How do you wish your name to appear in publicity for this lecture and in the introduction that evening? Should it be "Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt"?

5. Will you plan to wear a long gown the evening of your lecture? For an evening event, in the Auditorium, it is usually so. We shall, however, be guided by your wishes in the matter.

6. The Lieutenant Governor and Mrs. Lawson have planned to hold a Reception in your honor the afternoon of Tuesday, April 15th. I have confirmed this arrangement with them.

7. Mrs. Arthur C. Frost, wife of the United States Consul General in Toronto, has asked to give a luncheon that day, and I have told her that we should be pleased to confirm this arrangement. It will not be a large luncheon party, and will be given at her home, so it will not tax your energy too much.

8. We should like very much to arrange a Reception following your lecture when special guests and members of The American Women's Club and their husbands could have the opportunity of greeting you, if it is possible to make arrangements for The Round Room - the lovely dining room adjacent to The Auditorium at Eaton's - can be opened for such an occasion. On your part, would it be asking too much for you to undertake this added effort? The Lieutenant Governor's party, the Consul General and Mrs. Frost, and other distinguished guests would be present, and, if you feel equal to it, it would provide a fitting close to your day with us.

I am endeavoring to arrange your day so as to protect your strength as much as possible. With only one day in the city, it will be necessary for us to curtail your activities to the minimum, and so I am only considering what may be termed 'official' events in your honor.

9. (a) Will you please indicate the title of your address?
(b) May I receive from your secretary some biographical notes to be used in my introduction?
(c) Will you have a copy of your address, or will you speak extemporaneously? Press is asking about this!

10. Will your Secretary come to Toronto with you? If so, we shall wish to make arrangements for her comfort at the hotel, with you.

11. I am a bit concerned for you with reference to your return to New York, on Wednesday. Train service between Toronto and New York is not the best, and trains leaving Toronto on the morning of Wednesday, April 16th, are coach trains only, with a change to chair car at Buffalo - on the Canadian Pacific from Toronto. Evening trains are through sleepers, with no inconvenience of change at Buffalo. For your information, I append the schedules:

<u>Canadian Pacific Railway</u>

Wednesday - April 16th:
Leave Toronto - 8:20 A.M. (coach train - change to chair at Buffalo) Arr. N.Y. 8:40 P.M.
" " 8:05 P.M. (through sleeper - no change) " " 7:50 A.M. (Thursday)

<u>Canadian National Railway</u> - morning train - coach only, no chair accommodation; evening train similar schedule to C.P.R.

I shall leave the reservation of transportation for you to make in New York, as you will know what you wish to do. If you think it would be easier for you to spend Wednesday in Toronto and take an evening sleeper, rather than a day coach Wednesday morning, we shall, of course, be pleased to make your day comfortable, with no undue strain upon you. Will you be kind enough to advise me?

I apologise for this lengthy epistle; but if you will clarify the matters herein set forth, I shall not have to bother you with details later. I trust that you will have a pleasant trip to the West coast, and that you will be refreshed, rather than enervated, by your engagements and your contacts with the people whom you shall meet. With kind thoughts, I am

Yours very sincerely,
Faye Gould McLean
(Mrs. Charles McLean, President).

February
Fourteenth
1947

Send this to the lady I spoke the Rabbi Feinberg about in my letter. Please I cannot write under this circumstances

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt
29 Washington Square West
Apartment 15-A
New York City, N. Y.

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I am enclosing herewith copy of letter which I have just received from Rabbi Abraham L. Feinberg of Toronto. The information contained therein may be an addition to that which I sent you with regard to your visit to Toronto.

Cordially yours,

Florence Schulkind

Florence Schulkind

FS:cl
enc

Room 310
41 East 42nd Street
New York 17, N. Y.

HOLY BLOSSOM TEMPLE
TORONTO

The Rabbi's Study

February 11, 1947

Miss Florence Schulkind
Room 310
41 East 42nd Street
New York 17, N. Y.

Dear Miss Schulkind:

Many thanks for your letter of February 6th and enclosure. I deeply appreciate the effort and time you have put into this problem of Mrs. Roosevelt's engagement to speak at the local American Women's Club.

We are confronted here with a rather shocking situation, namely that the representatives of the American Women's Club are not too careful about the facts. I have looked into the Club's policy with the utmost caution. The assurances given to Mrs. Roosevelt are absolutely false. First, no Jewish women belong to the American Women's Club in Toronto, for the very simple reason that they were not wanted. I have definite proof that non-Jewish members who wanted to sponsor the applications of Jewish friends were definitely discouraged from doing so, because the Club is a "social organization and has the right to restrict its membership." The fact that the Club, which has been in existence for a number of years, does not have any Jewish women on its roster surely is not an accident. There are many Jewesses in Toronto with American citizenship who would have been delighted to join such a group if they had been acceptable. It became very clear, however, long ago, that the Club wished to confine its roster to Gentiles. After all, a woman is not going to humiliate herself by asking for admission into a group which does not want her.

Second, the Club is not offering tickets to any group or individuals who wish to buy them, despite the definite assurance to that effect given Mrs. Roosevelt by the president. The seats in the Eaton Auditorium for the Roosevelt lecture have been allocated as follows: two each for every member of the American Women's Club, which numbers between three and four hundred.(In addition, there is no doubt that some members will receive more than their quota.) The seating capacity of Eaton Auditorium is 1200. That leaves approximately 400 for the entire public. My latest information is that these are to be sold to applicants for tickets in their chronological order. According to the young lady who handles the distribution of tickets for the Eaton Auditorium, hundreds have already applied. By April 15th, that list of frustrated applicants will be lengthened perhaps into the thousands. (Greater Toronto has a population of 850,000). A maximum of 400 tickets for a city of 850,000! By no stretch of the imagination can anyone claim that tickets are being offered to groups or individuals who wish to buy them. In fact, the secretary at the Eaton Auditorium herself suggested to an inquirer from my own study a few days ago, in my hearing, that the American Women's Club has deliberately obtained such a small Auditorium in order to give it the nature of a "posh" party for themselves.

HOLY BLOSSOM TEMPLE
TORONTO

The Rabbi's Study

I am giving you these rather startling facts because I want you to know that I am not acting without full knowledge of the circumstances.

Nevertheless, for Mrs. Roosevelt's sake, I hope that she will not permit herself to be beguiled. Her appearance here under the circumstances I have just outlined would not be conducive to the promotion of good will in the community and might very well create an ugly situation. Furthermore, I am convinced that many hundreds of women who feel themselves entitled to hear one of the most beloved women in the world will resent the "exclusive" atmosphere which undoubtedly will prevail. It is even possible that this thing might explode into the public press.

Again thanking you deeply for your interest, I am

Sincerely yours

/s/ Abraham L. Feinberg

Rabbi Abraham L. Feinberg.

COPY

cl-2/13/47

tentative April 15th

Amer Women's Club of Toronto

September 20, 1946

My dear Mrs. McLean:

I could not promise to speak to your group before April 15th and that date is so far away. I could make only a very tentative promise. I would not want you to count upon it.

With best wishes.

Very sincerely yours.

capitalize on the engagement.

I am not in a position at this writing to suggest a particular charity. The Cancer Fund for research and prevention has been suggested; and I understand that the hope has been expressed that a Botanical Garden might be provided for the large new military hospital in Toronto - "Sunnybrook Hospital", where patients would not only have the pleasure of its beauty, but could utilize it as an educational medium as well. This might be another cause we could support. In any event, the net proceeds could be used for charitable or philanthropic purposes.

Last Spring five Toronto women's clubs - the Quota, Soroptimist, Zonta, Business and Professional Women, and the American Women's Clubs joined to sponsor a large Fashion Revue when we raised approximately $2500. This sum was turned to Sunnybrook Hospital to furnish completely the Main Lounge for patients there.

I have called The Auditorium to ascertain any open evening dates which they may have, and find that heavy booking leaves December 16, 17th, and 18th, 1946, or April 15th or 18th, 1947. Another large auditorium in the city could of course be engaged if these dates were not suitable to you. We should be happy to meet your convenience as to date.

With all these factors befom you, do you feel that you may now be free to accept our invitation to come to Toronto? Canadian women, like ourselves, are looking to you for leadership, and the good which would accrue from your visit cannot be approximated. I have had the sincere assurance of other Club presidents that their organizations would be prepared to give our sponsorship every assistance.

I trust that you have now fully recovered from your recent motor accident, and that we may hear from you at your early convenience.

With kind thoughts, I am

Sincerely yours,

Faye Gould McLean

(Mrs. Charles McLean)
President.

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt,
Apartment 15-A,
29 Washington Square, West,
New York City, 11, N.Y.

September fourteenth
Nineteen hundred forty-six.

April 15 - I'd better go - expensive age

14 Colin Ave
Toronto 12, Ontario
Canada

THE AMERICAN WOMEN'S CLUB
OF TORONTO

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

In June of last year I wrote to you with reference to speaking in Toronto, under the sponsorship of The American Women's Club. You advised us at that time that you would be unable to accept our invitation as you were then making no speaking engagements.

During the past year our Club has been approached many times by Canadian women's organizations and by individuals who have urged us to renew our invitation as they, with us, are most desirous of having the privilege of hearing you speak. Thus, I am again writing to lay the matter before you.

Our Club, as I explained in my previous letter, comprises some three hundred members, all of whom were born in the United States. About thirty-two states are represented in our membership. Because of these native ties, we should consider it a particular honor to be able to present you to our Canadian friends. Our own strong interest, however, is reflected again and again in the minds of Canadian women, and it is their repeated expression of this interest which prompts us again to approach you.

The President of the Local Council of Women, in Toronto, representing some forty-nine clubs and groups, with a membership of approximately 25,000, has spoken to me and assured me that they are most anxious to have the opportunity to share a visit from you. The President of the Women's Canadian Club, which has a membership, I believe, of some two thousand women, has told me that they, too, are looking forward to the time when they may share such a privilege.

When we first approached you last year, it was with the thought that we would present you at a meeting of our Club, and ask our Canadian friends as guests. The unprecedented interest and urgings which have come to us during the past year, however, now prompt us to suggest an open evening meeting which women of all Toronto Canadian organizations could attend. I am sure our husbands would also like to be present.

When you answered my former letter, you stated with respect to the matter of a fee, that there would be no fee as you did not make a charge for such engagements. Does this condition still hold, or do you have an established fee for speaking engagements?

In order that you may have a better idea of what we should like to plan, may I give you a brief outline of our suggestions:

First, we should like to present your lecture in an attractive and suitable setting, and have in mind the large Auditorium of the Eaton's-College Street store.

Second, if you came to us without fee (with all travelling and other expenses borne by us) would it be permissable for us to sell tickets for the lecture? If so, it has been suggested that, after deducting expenses, the balance might be turned to some charitable enterprise in the city, as the organizations themselves do not wish to

Charge to the account of

Amer Women's Club

WESTERN UNION

Send the following telegram, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to:

MRS. CHARLES MCLEAN
142 COLIN AVENUE
TORONTO, ONTARIO
CANADA

I HAVE JUST BEEN INFORMED THAT YOUR CLUB DISCRIMINATES AGAINST JEWISH PEOPLE BOTH IN MEMBERSHIP AND IN AUDIENCES AND WHILE I HAVE NO RIGHT TO QUESTION YOUR POLICIES I CAN NOT GO BACK ON MY OWN PRINCIPLES SO REGRET WILL NOT BE ABLE TO KEEP APRIL ENGAGEMENT

ELEANOR ROOSEVELT

Amer. Women's Club of Toronto

Portland, Oregon
March 6, 1947

My dear Mrs. McLean:

I am sorry I can not reconsider my decision. You need not give the reasons I gave for cancelling this engagement. I am willing, however, to have you use all that I said, but if you prefer you may say that the change in the date of the meeting of the Human Rights Commission, and the drafting of the Bill of Human Rights, make it impossible for me to keep the engagement for April 15th.

Very sincerely yours,

The following is an exact copy of a letter which I received following our thirtieth birthday luncheon, when Mrs. William Dick Sperborg was the speaker. It is from Mrs. Pearcy, President of the Local Council of Jewish Women who was a head table guest on that occasion.

"6 Avoca Ave.
Toronto

"My dear Mrs. McLean -

Will you extend my thanks to the Officers and Executive of The American Women's Club for their kindness in having had me as a guest at that memorable 30th Anniversary Luncheon.

I would like to offer my good wishes to the organization and to say that I feel sure that, after hearing the theme of friendship, co-operation and good will which permeated the entire meeting, the American Women's Club has indeed started out on its new decade in a spirit of international understanding.

May I compliment you on doing an excellent job as a presiding officer? And may I commend Mrs. Watson for the sincerity of her prayer? Last, but not least, Mrs. Hall should be lauded for the democratic implications expressed in her sppech.

Naturally I listened to Mrs. Sperborg with a feeling of pride in the realization that a past-president of my own organization, i.e., our parent organization, had achieved so much success in the work she has done with the various women's organizations on this continent.

Thank you again, so much, not only for permitting me the pleasure of attending your meeting, but for having afforded me so cordial a welcome.

Sincerely,

Feb. 18, 1947. (Signed) Adeline J. Pearcy."

Would you kindly give the enclosed letter to Mrs. Sperborg

THE AMERICAN WOMEN'S CLUB
OF TORONTO

February 27, 1947.

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt,
Apartment 15-A,
29 Washington Square, West,
New York 11, N.Y.

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Your letter of February 23rd reached me today as I was about to open the monthly meeting of the Board of Directors. Because of the far-reaching implications which could result from an open discussion of your telegram received previously, I had discussed the matter at that time only with my first Vice-President. After my telephone conversation with you, we thought it wise to say nothing publicly about the matter; today, however, I felt the Board should be taken into our confidence, and, with twelve of our fourteen members present, it was decided that the President should write to you in the hope that we might still clarify this issue and ask you, once again, to re-consider your decision. Indeed, it was felt that since the letters of protest which have come to you are not founded on fact, it is only fair that we should lay our side of the question clearly before you.

May I state first, therefore, that the matter of discrimination of Jewish women, or any other group, has never been an issue in our Club; neither has the matter, to the knowledge of any of us present today, been a matter of public issue or discussion as related to us. We are therefore at a complete loss to understand why, at this time, the matter of discrimination should be brought to you. Our Club, like many similar organizations, does reserve the right to accept or reject any application, but to our knowledge no application has been denied by our club on racial or religious principles.

It is true, as I told you on the telephone, that we happen not to have any Jewish women in our Club. This, however, is probably due to the fact that new members are sponsored by two members of the Club, and our social activities are different. I doubt if any member of our Club has ever been invited to join Hadassah or the Jewish Council of Women - again because we do not share a common social interest. It would not occur to us, however, to suggest that because we are not members of their societies they are discriminating against us. We all belong to the Local Council of Women and work together through that agency. Thus, we are at a loss to understand what appears to be an organized effort to sabotage your visit to Toronto.

If our attitude in the community is the subject of the protests which have reached you, perhaps Mrs. William Dick Sperberg, who has recently honored us by spending two days with us, might give you a more unbiased appraisal of the place our Club holds in community activities, in national endeavors, and in international service, as well as of the esteem and real friendliness with which our Club is considered by other women's organizations in the city.

Our thought in asking you to come to Toronto was in the interests of international good-will, and we feel certain that if it were publicly known that you have declined our invitation, at this date, because of the letters which have reached you, far more harm to the good-will in this community, and internationally (and I use the word "internationally" in its broadest sense)

would be done than could possibly result if you came to Toronto under our auspices. Indeed, the cancellation of your visit on the basis of these few protests would serve to CREATE an issue and a controversy which never in the thirty years of our history has ever been present amongst our members or in the community.

Because of the unprecedented interest which has been manifest, our Club decided to limit reservations for the lecture to two tickets to each member, on pre-sale, thus allowing the majority of the tickets to be sold at the box office of The Auditorium, so that all citizens of Toronto, with no discrimination, might be able to share this evening.

As requested by you on the telephone, I personally told the Presidents of Jewish societies in Toronto that seats would be available to all who wished to purchase them, and assured them that we would be happy to have their members share this evening. And I might add here that there has never been any intimation or thought of discrimination as to who may attend ANY open meeting which is sponsored by our Club.

In addition to the great disappointment which will result in the community if your lecture is cancelled, the consequent loss to the Save The Children Fund is very much in our minds. The lecture, as we had planned it, would allow a contribution of some $2500 to be made to the Fund. If you do not come, we should not be able to make this contribution. This evening was planned to honor you, and because the Club did not wish to capitalize on your visit, we planned to hold the lecture in the interest of the children; so it would not be a matter of securing some one to speak in your place. The whole matter would have to be put aside.

The following is an excerpt from a letter just received from the Canadian Committee of the Fund:

"Dear Mrs. McLean:

On behalf of the Executive Committee of the Canadian Save The Children Fund, I wish to express our sincere appreciation of the fine spirit of generosity shown by the American Women's Club in their desire to help needy children all over the world by donating the proceeds of your April meeting to our work."

It was not until after I had talked to you on the telephone that we advised the Fund of our desire to present the lecture on its behalf. We feel that if we should now have to tell them we could not present you, it would cause a great deal of embarrassment both to our Club and to you. The Lieutenant Governor, the Mayor, and the Consul General and Mrs. Frost have all signified their deep appreciation of your visit and, as I wrote to you last, have asked to honor you on that occasion.

Surely the great good which you might do for the world's children and for international relations in general by speaking to the enthusiastic audience which you would find here would far over-balance any adverse effect which might result from your visit.

I leave the matter to your good judgment and sympathetic understanding.

Sincerely yours,

Faye Gould McLean

(Mrs. Charles McLean)

President.

142 Colin Ave
Toronto 12, Ontario, Canada

P.S. The enclosed copy of a letter received from Mrs. Pearcy, President of the Local Council of Jewish Women (in Toronto) should in itself serve to substantiate what I have tried to say in this letter. I have thought that you might be interested in seeing it.