

National Council of
Jewish Women 1947-52

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January 13, 1947

Mr. Lewis Merrill, President
UOPWA
1860 Broadway
New York, N. Y.

Dear Sir:

We are addressing this letter and the attached material to you on behalf of the National Council of Jewish Women, Inc. The National Council of Jewish Women, Inc. comprising over 55,000 members throughout this country and Canada, was established over 50 years ago and is dedicated to the furtherance of general welfare, peace, freedom and international understanding in both countries. It is deeply devoted to our American democracy and has unequivocally stated its opposition to all forms of totalitarianism.

Its general orientation has been liberal and sympathetic to the legitimate aim of organized labor. With respect to its employed personnel - both professional and clerical - it has maintained contractual relations with Local 19 UOPWA which is the collective bargaining representative of all employees eligible for membership under the terms of the contract.

The organization's good reputation and possibly its very survival are at stake in a current dispute with the local union which concerns the discharge on Monday, January 6th, of a former employee, occasioned by facts which are set forth herein.

We are not concerned here with the political orientation of any member of the UOPWA Chapter, nor are we here interested in the political and ideological sympathies of the UOPWA as such; but what is of profound concern to the National Council, is the ill-concealed and ill-conceived effort of the offending employee in her strategic capacity of field worker to divert the program, policies and activities of the National Council and its Sections along the direction of the Communist Party "line". The evidence of this attempted perversion and usurpation is abundantly supplied by the attached exhibits.

We are uncompromisingly opposed to infiltration and penetration of our organization by any political faith. The fact that such attempts are inspired by pro-communists will certainly not mitigate our opposition.

We entered into a contract with what is presumably a legitimate labor union local. We propose to comply fully with its provisions. We cannot permit the contract, the purpose of which is ostensibly economic, to be used as a shield to protect the ulterior motives of a political faction.

This correspondence is not intended to cast adverse reflection upon our personnel as a whole. We are proud of the intelligence, devotion and high professional standards of our staff members.

We appeal to you in your capacity as elected representative of your organization and as an employer, likewise, in relation to your own employees, to prevail upon the local chapter to refrain from the promotion of sectarian political ideologies by attempting to reimpose the discharge upon our organization.

That this problem is a matter of grave concern to organized labor has been fortunately recognized by the Congress of Industrial Organizations at its recent convention and by yourself personally in a recent public statement. We feel justified in assuming we are no less entitled to your cooperation with respect to a situation which similarly affects this organization.

Because our organization is vested with public responsibility and depends on public support, it is not our intention to contend privately with this issue. We would appreciate therefore, your views concerning the above.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Joseph M. Welt
NATIONAL PRESIDENT

MCW:ee

Enc.



NATIONAL COUNCIL OF JEWISH WOMEN, INC.

1199 BROADWAY, NEW YORK 26, N. Y. • CIRCLE 5677 • CABLE: COJEWNY

Contemporary Jewish Affairs • International Understanding for Peace • Service to Foreign Born • Social Legislation • Social Welfare • Overseas Service

MRS. ELSIE ELFENBEIN
Executive Director

MRS. JOSEPH M. WELT
National President

March 10, 1947.

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt,
29 Washington Square North
New York, N. Y.

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

It was a privilege and a pleasure to meet you and to hear your stirring message last week at the Temple Beth El. As usual you brought inspiration to all of us and the spontaneous applause proved that even the decorum of a religious service could be changed in order to show the admiration of the group.

It was good of you to indicate your willingness to receive information about the present labor dispute in which the National Council of Jewish Women is engaged.

The National Council of Jewish Women has always had and continues to have a democratic, progressive pro-union policy, conforming with its program of furthering the cause of equality, freedom and international understanding.

It is not surprising therefore that the National Council of Jewish Women voluntarily recognized the right of our staff members to be organized in a trade union, and that we have maintained good labor management relations for the last nine years since our staff members were organized. We have not deviated from this attitude at any time, especially in the instance of the present dispute.

We strongly believe in the democratic right of every American citizen to his individual beliefs, and in his right to band together with others of similar belief to further their cause. When an individual attempts to deny us or any organization this right by insisting upon being our spokesman in order to negate our program she is denying us this fundamental democratic right. This would be just as true of any individual or program at variance with ours.

Over a period of time, abundant proof came to our attention that the area secretary in question employed by the National Council of Jewish Women to help the members further our program consistently developed a program contrary to our fundamental principles and to our immediate objectives.

The pattern is probably a familiar one to you. She used her position to further the program and aims of the Communist Party of the United States which extolls the aims of the Soviet Union with no word of criticism, and to belittle the American system with no word in its favor. No book or lecture or organization basically critical of the Soviet Union was ever recommended by her. The literature she suggested on the United States and Great Britain was overwhelmingly weighted, ranging from objective criticism to bitter opposition.

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt

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March 10, 1947.

The National Council of Jewish Women, as I have said before, believes in international understanding and that of course includes understanding of the Soviet Union and attempts to maintain friendly relations with her as well as other nations.

We certainly do not believe that promoting the idea that the Soviet Union is always right and the United States is always wrong furthers either understanding or peace. We do believe that extolling the virtues of the Soviet system at all times over the American system undermines democracy and democratic values not only in the United States but throughout the world.

The area secretary involved knew our philosophy and program. She knew we are non-partisan and non-political. Since she deliberately injected a program of a political party that is fundamentally opposed to the interests of our organization, and did so in the name of our organization, we declared she was guilty of malfeasance and discharged her on January 6, 1947.

I want to assure you that we followed all procedures outlined in our Union contract, and that in fact we more than complied with its requirements. We are now looking forward to arbitration, which we urged from the outset, in the near future. We have retained Mr. Jesse Friedin of the firm of Poletti, Diamond, Rabin, Friedin, McKay for the hearing. Mr. Morris Ernst is our general counsel.

The date of the proceedings is not set. We should be happy to have you attend if your full schedule permits it at all. May we notify you of the date when we have it?

I want again to express to you my appreciation for your interest in this matter and your being willing to receive this information.

Sincerely,

Mildred G. Welt
Mrs. Joseph M. Welt,
National President.

MGW:AS
Enc.

GREENBAUM, WOLFF & ERNST
285 Madison Avenue
New York 17, N. Y.
Telephone CAledonia 5-1582

Lawrence S. Greenbaum
Edward S. Greenbaum
Herbert A. Wolff
Morris L. Ernst
Jonas J. Shapiro
Samuel J. Schur
Alexander Lindey
Jerome Handler
Theodore S. Jaffin
Benjamin Kaplan
Leo Rosen
Harold H. Stern
Harriet F. Pilpel

January 17, 1947

Mr. Murray Baron
c/o Murray Baron & Associates
245 East 23rd Street
New York 10, N. Y.

My dear Murray:

I have gone over the mass of material which you have sent to our office in regard to the rights of the NCJW, Inc., to sever employment relations of Miss I. I am writing to advise you as follows:

1. There is no doubt whatsoever in my opinion that Miss I's behavior has breached not only her contractual rights, but in addition, is of such a nature as to be offensive to right thinking people. I use the phrase "right thinking people" since the courts of this jurisdiction have held, for example, that it was libelous per se to call a person a communist, since the concept was a derogatory one in the minds of "right thinking people."

2. I am not surprised to know that your client is perfectly content to leave all issues involved to arbitration. I take it that this is your position not only because you believe in arbitration in such disputes, but because in this particular case you have nothing to fear as to the final outcome. I may add parenthetically, that the evidence is as shocking as I have ever seen.

The essence of the behavior pattern is one which if fully disclosed to the public, will be peculiarly illuminating because it has nothing to do with ideologies or differences of opinion of an economic or political nature. The essence of the difficulty in the situation arises out of a failure of an employee to recognize the simplest terms of loyalty and duty implicit in an employee relationship. This is particularly pertinent since the organization is a non-profit making educational and social agency. I am convinced that there would be public benefit from the complete airing of this situation because it would act as a great piece of education for our naive public,—a piece of education pointing up most clearly the essential evil of a philosophy predicated on the thesis that the end justifies the means. As a natural sequence of such philosophy stealth and conspiracy enter into situations, and the moral fiber of a community as expressed through various organizations is devitalized by people who operate in secret, underworld fashion and are afraid to stand up publicly and avail themselves of the rights contained in the Bill of Rights of this nation.

GREENBAUM, MOLEY & BONIST

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In passing may I say that it is not surprising, in historical dimensions, to find an organization of women having vision and courage to stand firm on a principle rather than act as eavesdroppers.

Let me know if you want our office to pitch further. This case without doubt, if carried on to the arbitration, would become the rallying point for innumerable other organizations which have been timid in the past. In the light of a very clear and rigid education of the American public as evidenced by the increasing concern of public leaders such as Eleanor Roosevelt, Leon Henderson and others, and the obvious horrible burdens placed on Phil Murray's shoulders by similar types of activities, I should doubt very much whether the Union will care to carry this issue further. In passing, I want to say that I am happy to know that within the confines of the two principles involved, you and your client have no inclination to be stubborn or act in a mood of reprisal. The principles involved are no less a statement under any condition of the employee and no conceivable recession from the essence of the charges made.

The women in your organization need not feel that they have any high preferences in our society. Most of the high minded, selfless, socially minded groups in our society have suffered from analogous infiltration and destructive tactics.—Teachers Union, Lawyers Guild and the AVO.—Just to mention a few. All people who resent anonymity and stealth are amenable to the evil effect of secret forces and are increasingly in favor of an open and growing democracy, which of course means the widest possible divergence points of view, provided, however, that such views are openly and frankly expressed.

Yours sincerely,

(signed) M. L. Bonist

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF JEWISH WOMEN
1819 Broadway, New York 23, N. Y.

CONTRACT WITH S.S.E.U., LOCAL 19

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G. Tenure

3. Dismissals

a. for incompetence

A regular employee threatened with dismissal for incompetence based upon cumulative evidence, shall have written notice of the complaints and an opportunity for a hearing through the established grievance machinery. Except when dismissed for malfeasance, the employee shall be given at least one month's notice. If dismissal takes place the employee shall receive a terminal vacation salary.

b. for retrenchment and reorganization

A regular worker in the clerical staff who is to be dismissed due to retrenchment or reorganization shall be given at least one month's notice. A regular professional worker, dock worker or research worker who is to be dismissed due to retrenchment or reorganization shall be given at least two month's notice. Seniority rights within categories are to be observed both in lay-offs and rehiring. Where retraining is possible, employees shall be afforded that opportunity at the discretion of the Employer. Any decision regarding retraining shall not be arbitrable. Employees dismissed due to retrenchment or reorganization shall be entitled to a severance allowance of one week's pay for each year of service, not to exceed ten weeks, and compensation for the then accrued vacation period on a pro rata basis.

c. for malfeasance

Any employee so dismissed shall forfeit the right of notice, terminal vacation pay and severance pay. If after a hearing the employee is reinstated, such reinstatement shall entail no loss of seniority but may be with or without pay in the discretion of the arbitrator.

4. Grievance Machinery

It is recognized that a prompt and efficient method of settling grievances is an indispensable feature of sound personnel relations. When an employee feels that he or she has been unfairly treated, or any provision of this agreement has been violated, the following procedure shall be observed.

a. Conference between representatives of Union and Employer. Such conference is to be held within one week of the Union's request for such meeting.

b. If no agreement is reached by the above parties, the dispute shall be referred to the American Arbitration Association for arbitration.

c. No employee covered by this agreement shall have the right to demand arbitration under the provisions hereof, such right of arbitration being limited to Union and Employer. No employee covered hereby shall have the right to institute any action based upon this agreement or because of a breach thereof, such right being also limited to Union and Employer.

d. This agreement is not intended to be, and shall at no time be construed as a contract by the terms of which the Employer has agreed to employ any employee covered hereby for any definite period of time, the intention being that this agreement shall only cover the terms and conditions of employment of the employees of the Employer while actually employed by the Employer.

e. There shall be no individual bargaining. However, a request to the administration by the Supervisor for a salary adjustment based on increase in responsibility or performance of the worker or for change of category or other situation not covered by the existing contract, can be brought to the Union's attention by the Administration just as the Union brings requests to the Administration. The settlements of situations thus arrived at are to be mutually acceptable to both the Administration and the Union.

EXHIBIT "A"

List of Organizations and Reference Books Recommended by the Offending
Employee to the Chairman of the International Relations Committee of A
Midwestern Section.

Brandon Films
British Inf. Service
Council on African Affairs
Inst. of Pacific Relations
National Council of American-Soviet Friendship
Public Affairs Comm.
"The Great Conspiracy Against Russia"
National Committee to Win the Peace
"Open Secret"
Committee for a Democratic Far Eastern Policy
PM
The Protestant
Readers Scope
The Stage for Action
China Aid Council

Books:

In Place of Splendor, La Mora
The Cross and the Arrow, Maltz
The Fall of Paris, Ehrenburg
Sharks Fins and Millet, Suss
Quiet Flows the Don, Sholokhov
Days and Nights, Simonov
Famine, O'Flaherty
The Firing Squad, Weiskopf
Apt. in Athens, Wescott
Report from Red China, Forman
Battle Hymn of China, Smedley
The Six Weeks' War, Draper
Pattern of Soviet Power, Snow
The Soviets, Williams
The Russians, Williams
Survey Graphic on Russia, 1943 or 1944
Soviet Power, Dr. Johnson, Dean of Canterbury
Dilemma in Japan, Roth
Wind in the Olive Trees, Flen
India Without Fable, Mitchell
The People of India, Goshal
Toward Freedom, Nehru
South of the Congo, James
Germany in Our Problem, Morgenthau

My Native Land, Adamio
Argentine Diary, Josephs
Mission to Moscow, Davies
Road to Teheran, Foster Dulles
People on Our Side, Snow
Solution in Asia, Lattimore
Challenge of Red China, Stein

Exhibit "B"

Material Prepared by Offending Employee as a Basis for Consideration of
the Child Welfare Programs of the United States, England, and the Soviet
Union. (Extracts)

PHILOSOPHY

Does the government assume responsibility for the welfare of the children?
What is "private" and what is "public"?

United States

Society assumes responsibility largely at point of crisis, rather than in
field of prevention. Equal opportunity is the goal. It has not been
achieved, for two reasons largely: (1) division between state, county, and
federal roles. (2) Where private interests interfere with welfare of
children, generally private interests prevail, as for instance, saloons
near schools or harmful movies. Despite the assertion of the specialists
that only broad government-coordinated activities will give children the
chance they deserve, the nation as a whole has not accepted this point of
view in practice.

Soviet Union

Believes that society is totally responsible for welfare of its citizens.
That society must be treated and set up as consistent unit. That no indi-
vidual has the right to exploit any other individual for private profit.
That basic causes of maladjustment, social and individual, can be eliminated
only when private profit as main motive is eliminated. Avowed desire is to
eliminate the difference between city and village, as far as opportunities
are concerned, as well as the differences between "hand" and "brain" labor.

GENERAL SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROBLEMS

General Housing Situation?
Incomes?
Employment?
Security?
Mental Health?

United States

Extremes of wealth increasing. Almost two-thirds children in 1937 lived in families where income was less than minimum needed for maintenance. In 1945, one million children lived on Aid to Dependent Children. Average amount per child is \$10 per month. 700,000 more children need Aid to Dependent Children and are not getting it. Average family today gets one third less than needed for maintenance. One third of homes in need of major repairs or complete replacement. Inadequate system of social insurance, periodic depressions. Prostitution, insanity, crime, divorces, and alcoholism increasing. Stuart Chase estimates half of total industrial effort wasted because of planlessness.

Soviet Union

General standard of living is low, but has tripled in the last 25 years. Slums as such, (sic) do not exist but in general, housing is poor. Extremes of income smaller than in either of other two countries. Complete system of insurance, including health, old age, disability, and maternal. No unemployment or depressions. Observers pretty well agree that prostitution does not exist. Mental illness of all kinds have shown marked decline. Large proportion of budget given over to social services and culture.

CHILDREN'S HEALTH

- Statistical trends in children's illnesses?
- Maternal mortality?
- Provisions for treatment?
- Health education?

United States

Infant mortality increased by half since 1917. 365,000 crippled children. A half million abnormal mentally. Almost no treatment for the 1 1/2 million that have asthma and epilepsy. Three-quarters of American children in need of dental care. 1 1/2 have bad hearing, and most are untreated. Infant mortality twice as great among Negroes as among whites. 25% children having illnesses lasting more than 7 days, had no doctor or hospital care. One-sixth of small towns have no school nurse, half of them have no doctor. One-third of our counties have no public nurse. Only one state helps diabetic children. Minimum preventive work done only in 2/5 of counties. Almost no mental health facilities exist. Need to spend fifty million dollars more annually. Medical knowledge has far outstripped facilities and the use that has been made of that knowledge. Medical treatment much more dependent on income than in other two countries.

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Soviet Union

All medical care free. Eleven billion rubles for health in 1941. One-third was for children. Every factory of more than 250 workers has to have a clinic for mothers and children. In addition, neighborhood clinics. Seven-fold increase in maternal beds in the last 25 years. Visiting nurse system recently inaugurated. Infant mortality decreased by more than 50%. Network of medical research institutes coordinates work. One million four hundred thousand beds at camps and sanatoriums for children. Hospitalization compulsory for infectious diseases. 16,500 pediatricians, 6,000 children's medical consultation centers. In general key note is prevention rather than cure. All children's illnesses have shown spectacular decline. No epidemic of children's diseases during the war.

EDUCATION

How much offered without cost?
How much compulsory?
Use of progressive education methods?

United States

Three million children aged 10-15 not in school. Expenditures on education 60 times as much in some schools as in others. The best schools are in the best neighborhoods - where they are least needed. 50% children are in classes that cost less than the minimum needed for acceptable education. Wide extremes exist within states as well as between states. 70% Negro children in schools that are totally inadequate. Little progress has been made in this area. "Schools may become the instrument for creating those very inequalities they were devised to prevent." Only 4% of national income given over to all kinds of education. Nearly all children of upper income group go through high school. 60% of middle class group, and 30% of lower class group. 20% of children needing special education are getting it. At the very top, education is magnificent. More spent on war in one year than in all of America's history, on education. Nursery movement quite small.

Soviet Union

Nurseries are from age of one month to three years. Kindergarten is from 3 to 7 years. Two million cots in nurseries, plus six million in seasonal nurseries. Most nurseries are built by trade unions as part of the factory. There is still a great shortage. Fee is in proportion to income. Mothers are allowed time off from work to nurse their children (when they work at factories) since in U.S.S.R. great stress is placed on health value of mother nursing her children. Children enter school at 7. Seven years compulsory. War interrupted the ten-year plan. In 1940, 6,700 new schools built. Teachers have responsibility for children outside of class. Much emphasis on linking school work to practical work. Much emphasis is placed in schools on children's obligations to society. Children made unusual contributions to war. Training for teachers has been spotty, but is improving. Toys are specially designed so that they stress necessity of cooperation. Boys and girls now separated in elementary schools, but this may change. Education and culture now receive 2 1/2 times the pre-war budget allotment.

RECREATION

Is it considered a necessity or luxury?
What kinds are available?
To how many?
What is the place of commercial recreation?

United States

Commercial recreation taking greater hold than non-commercial. Much of this is at adult level and not in keeping with children's interests and needs. Camping well developed but services only small group. Planned children's recreation as such, available for tiny minority, due in great part to the fact that recreation is considered "a means of keeping children off the street" or "preventing delinquency", instead of as a medium of expressing oneself creatively, developing wholesome relationships and evolving emotional attitudes.

Soviet Union

Network of children's theaters given over to the performance of children's plays. Many "palaces of culture", parks for children, and recreation facilities in apartment houses, schools and factories. Hundreds of technical places where children can develop scientific interests, 44 children's newspapers, hundreds of "houses of art and education". Total absence of movies, books, radio programs which are considered harmful for children. Goal is after-school care for every child but this has not been reached.

WORK

At what age do children begin work?
What protection is provided for them?
Vocational training?

United States

Only two states have 16 as the minimum working age. One-third 14-17 work part time or full time. Thousands under 14 working illegally. Violations of child labor laws increasing. Wide variations of laws, most of which are inadequate.

Soviet Union

14 is the minimum working age. From 14 to 16, child can work maximum two hours daily. Strict laws regarding hours and types of work. Great stress placed on educational training, concurrently with working. From 16 to 18 child may work four hours daily. All work must be at adult compensation. Most factories operate schools of their own.

INTERCULTURAL

What are the chief minority groups?
How are they treated?

United States

More than one-third of the American children belong to minority groups. Negro, Jewish, Mexican, foreign born, etc. "nearly all these children live under severe handicaps. They are set apart socially and are often snubbed by other children." Tension in this area increasing.

Soviet Union

Less than 50% are Russian, rest are Ukrainians, Usbeks, Finnish, etc. "Russia has probably gone further than any other nation in the world in practicing ethnic democracy." (Henry Wallace). All overt evidence of prejudice punished with fines and jail sentences. Anti-semitism eliminated. Government subsidizes development of national culture. Great emphasis placed in and out of educational system on equality of peoples. U.S.S.R. has probably done its outstanding work in this field.

DELINQUENCY

What are the trends?
What provision is made for treatment?
What is being done by way of prevention?

United States

Delinquency increasing rapidly. Percentage of increase during the war greater among whites than among Negroes. "Recorded delinquency cases are never more than an unknown fraction of the maladjustment that exists at any given time in the children's population." Some improvements in method of treatment, but thousands still held in adult jails, and many counties still have no children's worker. Many institutions still see repression and hard work as methods of reform.

Soviet Union

Delinquency decreasing because basic causes are being eliminated. Treatment, where necessary, is not as good as it is in the U.S. at its best, but total average level higher in U.S.S.R.

SPECIAL AND MISCELLANEOUS SERVICES

What special institutions or movements exist for children, apart from those already listed?

United States

Certain child welfare agencies have done excellent work in integrating medicine, psychology, and other fields of treatment of the maladjusted child. This is available though to infinitesimal number of children. The same is

true of other specialised organisations, like the Big Brother movement, child guidance centers, group work agencies, etc., where the level is very high but a tiny proportion of children can use them.

Soviet Union

Cultural institutions and semi-political recreation groups are widespread. There are many more physical facilities for children alone than in other two countries. In general, the Soviet child receives better training for adult life than in other two countries. No stigma attached to illegitimate child. Decrease in illegitimate children. Emphasis on adoption, rather than institutionalisation. More than $\frac{1}{2}$ million orphans adopted during and after war.

MATERNAL CARE

What special attention given mothers medically?
Financially?
Socially?
Industrially?

United States

Pre-natal clinics in $\frac{1}{2}$ rural counties. $\frac{2}{3}$ births take place in hospitals. Maternal death rate twice as large for Negroes as for whites. Maternal death rates vary from 7 to 53 in different states, but on the whole, has been decreasing. Stigma of charity is attached to most public health work. Standards vary greatly between states, and between town and rural area. No special care given pregnant women and mothers in any way.

Soviet Union

Birth control information offered freely in medical centers. Abortions not permitted except where medically advised. Pregnant women must stop work five weeks before birth and may not return until four weeks after baby is born. Full salary continues during that period. Layette allowance given. Special allowances given for children in larger families, though allowances stop when child is five. 95% reduction in syphilis in cities and 77% in villages. Divorces declining. Effort made to reduce amount of individual cooking, laundry, and other household work, and have it done communally. Women do not have to work, but a greater proportion do than in the other two countries. The official point of view is that women should do more than housework, otherwise they stagnate personally, besides depriving society of their own contributions.

Additional evidence includes the following:

1. Employee's urgent recommendation to educational chairmen that the groups subscribe to "In Fact," despite specific prohibition of such solicitation by a national Vice-President.
2. Employee's recommendation, in material prepared for official organizational use, of "In Fact" and "The Great Conspiracy Against Russia," by Sayers and Kahn, as objective sources of information relating to international affairs and the nature of the American press.
3. Employee's attempt to effect an unauthorized purchase of an exhibit sponsored by the National Council of Soviet-American Friendship, for official use by the organization.

3

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF JEWISH WOMEN INC.

1819 BROADWAY NEW YORK 23 · N Y ·

PRESS RELEASE

FROM
National Offices
1819 Broadway
New York 23, New York
Circle 6-3175

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 14, 1947

The text of an appeal to Lewis Merrill, President of the United Office and Professional Workers of America, to prevail upon the union's Local 19 to refrain from the promotion of sectarian political ideologies by attempting to reimpose a discharged employee on the National Council of Jewish Women, was disclosed today by Mrs. Joseph M. Welt, of Detroit, Council President.

The National Council of Jewish Women, acting within the framework of its current contract with Local 19, dismissed the former employee on January 6. Since that date, it has cited to the union instances where in the dischargee attempted to "divert the program, policies, and activities of the National Council of Jewish Women and its sections along the direction of the Communist Party 'line;'"

In her letter to Mr. Merrill, a copy of which was sent to C.I.O. President Philip Murray, Mrs. Welt made it clear that her appeal "is not intended to cast adverse reflection upon our personnel as a whole. We are proud of the intelligence, devotion, and high professional standards of our staff members."

Traditionally liberal and sympathetic to the legitimate aims of organized labor, the National Council of Jewish Women recognizes Local 19 as the sole bargaining agent of its employees, and has always respected the terms of its contract with the union.

The National Council of Jewish Women furnished evidence of the discharged employee's activities to officials of Local 19 at a meeting which was held^{yesterday} at the union's request. At the conclusion of the meeting, union officials would not indicate when or if they desired a further meeting. The text of Mrs. Welt's letter

(more)

follows:

"We are addressing this letter and the attached material to you on behalf of the National Council of Jewish Women, Inc. The National Council of Jewish Women, Inc. comprising over 55,000 members throughout this country, was established over 50 years ago and is dedicated to the furtherance of general welfare, peace, freedom and international understanding in our country. It is deeply devoted to our American democracy and has unequivocally stated its opposition to all forms of totalitarianism.

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"The organization's good reputation and possibly its very survival are at stake in a current dispute with the local union which concerns the discharge on Monday, January 6th, of a former employee, occasioned by the facts which are set forth herein.

"We are not concerned here with the political orientation of any member of the UOPWA Chapter, nor are we here interested in the political and ideological sympathies of the UOPWA as such; but what is of profound concern to the National Council is the ill-concealed and ill-conceived effort of the offending employee in her strategic capacity of field worker to divert the program, policies and activities of the National Council and its sections along the direction of the Communist Party 'line.' The evidence of this attempted perversion and usurpation is abundantly supplied by the attached exhibits.

"We are uncompromisingly opposed to infiltration and penetration of our organization by any political faith. The fact that such attempts are inspired by pre-communists will certainly not mitigate our opposition.

"This correspondence is not intended to cast adverse reflection upon our personnel as a whole. We are proud of the intelligence, devotion and high professional standards of our staff members.

"We appeal to you in your capacity as elected representative of your organization and as an employer, likewise, in relation to your own employees, to prevail upon the local chapter to refrain from the promotion of sectarian political ideologies by attempting to reimpose the discharge upon our organization.

"That this problem is a matter of grave concern to organized labor has been fortunately recognized by the Congress of Industrial Organization at its recent convention and by yourself personally in a recent public statement. We feel justified in assuming we are no less entitled to your cooperation with respect to a situation which similarly affects this organization.

"Because our organization is vested with public responsibility and depends on public support, it is not our intention to contend privately with this issue. We would appreciate therefore, your views concerning the above."

A summary of evidence cited against the discharged employee included a recommended list of organizations and reference books of pre-Communist character, which was furnished a Council Section; an attempt to effect the purchase of an

(over)

NEWARK SECTION—NATIONAL COUNCIL OF JEWISH WOMEN

BUREAU OF SERVICE TO THE FOREIGN BORN

682 HIGH STREET • NEWARK 2, N. J.

MArket 3-2750

MRS. JOSEPH BERGER
President

MRS. WILLIAM WEISER
Chairman

MISS ROSE REISBERG
Executive Director

April 11, 1947

W

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt
29 Washington Square West
New York 11, N. Y.

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I have your letter of April 1st, returning our check.

Please be advised that we are happy to send our check in the sum of \$100 to the Wiltwyck School, indicating that they should acknowledge this contribution to you.

Many thanks again, for your kindnesses.

Sincerely yours,

W. Weiser

(Mrs. William Weiser)

Sincerely yours,

W. Weiser

Chairman

LW:DAB
Enc

Check sent to Wiltwyck

Thank & return. I do not
wish to accept any honorarium
but if you wish to make a
contribution direct to the
Wellingch School (give
address) I shall be grateful.
This school tries to keep
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Thank you
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Wellingch

NEWARK SECTION—NATIONAL COUNCIL OF JEWISH WOMEN

BUREAU OF SERVICE TO THE FOREIGN BORN

682 HIGH STREET • NEWARK 2, N. J.

MAKES 3-2720

April 11, 1947

MRS. JOSEPH BERGER
President

MRS. WILLIAM WEISER
Chairman

MISS ROSE REISBERG
Director

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NEWARK SECTION—NATIONAL COUNCIL OF JEWISH WOMEN
BUREAU OF SERVICE TO THE FOREIGN BORN
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MRS. JOSEPH BERGER
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NEWARK SECTION—NATIONAL COUNCIL OF JEWISH WOMEN

BUREAU OF SERVICE TO THE FOREIGN BORN

682 HIGH STREET • NEWARK 2, N. J.

MArket 3-2750

MRS. JOSEPH BERGER
President

MRS. WILLIAM WEISER
Chairman

MISS ROSE REISBERG
Executive Director

March 27, 1947

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt
29 Washington Square West
New York 11, N. Y.

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

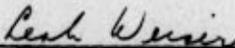
On behalf of Council and our guests, may I express to you our sincere appreciation for your stimulating address of last evening. We know that you have greatly enhanced the cause for which we are working so arduously. Your presence and the message which you gave, made this occasion a truly memorable one for the entire community.

I am terribly sorry that I was not able to see you before you left the reception, to thank you in person, and to tell you how much we appreciated your graciousness in coming to Newark, to our meeting. It seems that I became swallowed up in the reception and apparently spent more time greeting so many guests than I had anticipated. I trust you will forgive this seeming rudeness on my part.

We hope that we may be again privileged to have you address us at some future time.

We enclose herewith our check for \$100.00.

Sincerely yours,


Mrs. William Weiser
Chairman

LW:DAB
Enc