Service Bureau for Women’s Organizations
1946-52
October 14, 1947

Dear Miss Harrison:

I have been thinking over your letter and as the Herald-Tribune Conference finished the evening of the 22nd, I could ask the group if they cared to meet again on the evening of the 23rd.

My own feeling, however, is that they would prefer to take the initiative next time and therefore if you do not feel that it is up to me to call them together again immediately, I suggest we wait to see what they do among themselves.

I heard today that the General Federation of Women's Clubs with one or two other women's groups are meeting this week in Washington for the same purpose and it might be wise to see what comes out of their discussions.

Very sincerely yours,
My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I hope that you were encouraged by the very excellent attendance we had the other night and the opportunity it offered to challenge the leadership of the groups not to be so easily satisfied with the methods now used. I hope that some, if not all, are ready to take the next step. Miss Greer and I talked it over coming to Hartford yesterday, and we feel that if you were inclined to follow up the suggestion made by Mrs. Auerbach of another meeting of the group, perhaps at the time of the Herald Tribune Forum, we would be willing to work on some definite suggestions to be put before them at that time.

I am sure that it is not possible for anyone of these organizations to ask the others to join with them. They are very jealous of their prerogatives as leaders, but I believe they would respond to your suggestions if you were willing to be the neutral element. The next time we might be able to get some kind of steering committee which would take over some definite responsibility. While they would probably feel helpless without your interest and sympathy, it is of course impossible for you to carry any more such continuing responsibility. In a sense I am a neutral person, but with my job I could not do it, and unless some kind of machinery is set up, I do not believe we are going to arrive at the kind of results we would like.

Miss Greer and I are getting together at West Point at the National Planning Association Conference for a few hours Friday, and we may be able to jot something down which we will turn over to you. I wonder if Miss Thompson would be good enough to send me a list of those present the other evening. From my point of view, I am sure that the meeting will be very helpful as it is going to mean a much better understanding on the part of the national heads of the organizations with whom I am working of what their state affiliations are doing. To judge from their comments to me at the end of the meeting, I think they are interested and friendly to our experiment.
It was a very pleasant evening for me, and I appreciate the opportunity you offered of having dinner with you and the chance of discussing these organizational problems.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

(Miss) Florence L. Harrison
Director