VIOLA ILMA

1933 - 1945
March 27, 1933

Dear Miss Ilma:—

I am sorry that it will not be possible for me to see you while I am here this time. I will be back in April and will be glad to see you then.

If you happen to be in Washington, let me know. However, it is very difficult to see people there.

Very sincerely yours,

(Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt)

Miss Viola Ilma
Modern Youth Magazine
155 East 44th Street
New York City
March 25, 1933

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt
49 East 65th Street
New York, New York

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Your article in the April issue of "Cosmopolitan" is on my desk today, and I have heard some of your radio talks on the subject of modern youth. It is on the strength and truth of some of your statements that I take the liberty of writing this letter to you.

You are interested in youth and we are certain that you understand the problems of this harassed young generation. Think for a moment of the boys and girls, who, during the depression, have left high schools, and of the young men and women who have been graduated from our colleges and universities. To them all doors have been closed during these three years.

Useful work—the chance to do something constructive and worth while is the basis of every sound life. It is a sorry world that we have found. Hope and aspiration are not yet dulled within us. We still feel the pulsebeat of a new life!

Frustrated and lonely, we have been left to ourselves in our efforts to get a start in life. Our elders have been preoccupied with their own cares. We have had no place to meet, no national medium where, in print, we could talk to one another from every corner of the land. Out of such discussions might come a common purpose, understanding and plans by which we could help ourselves and the adult world take hold of the problems of life.

The Youth Movement in Germany, Russia, Sweden, and Italy is most vital and alive, and holds the greatest promise of a better future. The youth in America is no less serious in purpose, no less endowed in ability.

If you could sit at my desk and see what the youth of this country feels and thinks, you would realize the tremendous importance of keeping MODERN YOUTH alive. Does it not interest you, an outstanding leader of women, as the wife of the President of this country, to hear the voice of youth?

Mrs. Roosevelt, I would consider it a distinct factor in getting your point of view in reference to the work that we are
Page missing in original
trying to do. Our third issue of the magazine is on the newsstands. The first issue sold approximately 15,000 out of 50,000.

We are Americans with the traditions of our early American forefathers instilled in our minds. We want to handle these problems in a sane, intelligent manner. Your opinion is important. I want to see YOU. I shall be either in Washington or New York when you can give me ten minutes of your time before the thirty-first of this month. There is much that we can learn from our more experienced elders. Our policy is one that deals with the voice of people under the age of thirty. None of our staff exceeds the age of thirty; our authors are under thirty. Our magazine is of youth, by youth.

We are much concerned about the economic position of Our Country. We have a very definite point of view in the matter of the people that run our government for us in Washington. We, MODERN YOUTH, are going to have a lot to say in the next few years. We are going to educate ourselves and others to our beliefs and policies. It is very important that we associated with the intelligent minds that have done so much toward the building of this nation. Opportunities are many that would take us down the wrong road. We have no radical, socialistic, or communistic theories in our future policy. Basically, we are Americans, and want to function as such.

In appreciation for your kind consideration of this matter, we are,

Sincerely yours,

Viola Ilma
Publisher and Editor
MODERN YOUTH MAGAZINE
April 25, 1933

My dear Miss Ilma:

My position is a little different from that of either Mr. Hayes or Senator La Follette. If I favor a movement of any kind it at once draws great attention to it, and if anything is done by anyone connected with that movement which can be criticized it is at once brought back to me. Therefore, interested as I am in what you are doing, I cannot give you a letter for publication, any more than I would give a letter to any other new venture.

I wish you every success and hope you will get on and will accomplish your object.

Very sincerely yours,

Miss Viola Ilma
155 East 44th Street
New York, N.Y.
April 19, 1933

Miss Viola Ilma

c/o Modern Youth

155 East 44th Street

New York City

My dear Miss Ilma:

As I understand it, the purpose of Modern Youth is to establish a medium through which the younger people of America may have an opportunity to express their views. As the world is constituted, public opinion as expressed in the magazines and newspapers is largely that of an older generation. Anything written by a youngster is usually subject to the censorship of those of the different generation. If you are able to develop a magazine or a movement that will present first-hand the viewpoint of youth, the accomplishment will be well worth while. There should be more progress in the world of youth than in the 1933 bankruptcy of old age.

I wish you great success in your undertaking.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

AGH/p
Miss Viola Ilma  
55 East 42nd Street  
New York City  

Dear Miss Ilma:

I am very interested in your venture, Modern Youth. We are confronted by the most complex problems in our history. They are problems which can be solved only by straight thinking. Youth is not afraid to think. It has the courage of its convictions and above all the enthusiasm to overcome defeatism and despair. In my judgment, your decision to make Modern Youth a medium of expression rather than an organ of a movement is sound. I hope you will succeed.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]  
RML
My dear Mrs. Roosevelt,

Your letter was a great disappointment. "Modern Youth" is not merely a magazine, but the nucleus of an intelligent, constructive youth movement which is on its way.

Enclosed are letters from Senator LaFollette and Arthur Garfield Hays. A letter from you of this type, stating more or less what I wrote in the editorial for our May issue is what I intended.

We are struggling against depression and every obstacle and a letter from you would be sufficiently uplifting to make us disregard mentally much that the older generation has destructively handed down to us.

I am enclosing a chart which will give you an idea of the steps we are taking to pull through this very difficult time.

Hoping to hear from you soon, I am,

Faithfully yours,

[Signature]

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt
The White House
Washington, D.C.
August 5, 1933

My dear Miss Ilma:

I am sorry but unfortunately I haven't any capital to put into a magazine. They are very expensive things to run until they have achieved a paying basis and with all the many things that I have to do, I could not possibly even consider it.

Very sincerely yours

Miss Viola Ilma
155 East 44th Street
New York, N.Y.
Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt
Hyde Park, New York

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I am anxious to tell you a few facts about MODERN YOUTH. In every way, MODERN YOUTH has been tremendously successful. It has been hailed by youth as the strong point on their horizon. It has been recognized as the first step towards making the youth a conscious and active body in the United States. I have found thousands of followers, young people who want to make our magazine the success it deserves to be.

Last week I attended the International Congress of Progress in Chicago, where my message for the youth of America to the older generation was accepted whole heartedly.

Two of our short stories have made the O'Henry Short Stories for 1933. This month we are in the READER'S DIGEST. The American News Company informs us that our circulation is increasing — and at this point we find we must suspend. It is surely a pity that just about this time, when the youth of the country is being recognized again and again by leaders in Europe, that the adults of America, in their own troubles, cannot find a way of continuing this first aid to organizing the thoughts of young America through the medium of a magazine of intelligence and liberalism.

We have here and now an organization with a trained staff of faithful workers, and an excellent magazine. We simply lack financial means to carry on the work we have done, despite the depression and every obstacle that a new idea confronts in these hard times. I believe, however, that you have it within your power to start a history making youth movement in the United States. America, I believe, must accustom herself to the knowledge that the future of her country lies in the life and promise of the present youth.

With all we have on hand — enthusiasm, zest and determination, may I offer you our magazine, and let you use my staff and magazine as your only too willing helpers?

155 East 44th Street
New York City
August 1, 1933
At present I am in New York, and should like to come up and see you some afternoon at Hyde Park, for I think we might accomplish a great deal in behalf of the youth of America, who spiritually feel frustrated and lost.

Sincerely yours,

Violent

VI: ELM
June 26, 1935

Personal

My dear Miss Ilma:

As it will be necessary for me to be away a great deal from now on, I am sorry I cannot comply with your wishes, but hope that the Congress will be successful. I am pleased to say that I liked your book very much.

Very sincerely yours,

D. Miss Viola Ilma, Chairman
The First American Youth Congress
70 Fifth avenue
New York City
June 15, 1934.

Mrs. F. D. Roosevelt,
White House,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

With the co-operation of New York University, the Central Bureau for Young America is holding the First American Youth Congress on August 15, 16, and 17 of this year.

This Congress is an earnest attempt to consolidate the best minds of youth leaders everywhere in the country, for the purpose of crystallizing and unifying the now scattered and varied plans and functions of youth organizations.

The need for such a Congress is self-evident. Although the helpless and wretched condition of young people to-day may be blamed on the economic depression, it is true that the depression has served to show us clearly the basic flaws in our management.

The United States Department of Interior estimates that there are sixteen and a half million young people in the country who not only have no jobs, but have no opportunity of getting jobs. Every six months this number is swelled by the outpouring of the schools.

Relief measures have been suggested by authorities who are interested in the problem, but none of them have struck clear through to the fundamental economic needs involved. The program must come from Youth itself, since Youth is most vitally concerned.

Knowing your interest in Youth, I am rather anxious to have your constructive advice concerning what you would like to see a Congress such as ours accomplish. Also, do you know any young men and women who you think ought to attend? If so, will you let us have their names and addresses?

Sincerely yours,

Viola Ilma
Chairman

VI-MB
First American Youth Congress

Sponsored by
Central Bureau for Young America

To be Held

August 15, 16, 17, 1934

With the Co-operation of

NEW YORK UNIVERSITY
New York City
THE CENTRAL BUREAU FOR YOUNG AMERICA has been created to assist and foster sound, intellectual, spiritual and physical development of the youth of America. It is the function of this Bureau to disseminate unbiased and reliable information as to the aims, ideals, programs and physical composition of the various youth organizations and movements in this country as well as the facts concerning unaffiliated youth, their needs and aspirations. The Bureau will operate as a clearing house for the collection and distribution of such information. In this connection, pamphlets and other literature will be prepared and distributed and a publication will be maintained to present the ideas, activities and achievements of youth in the various fields of endeavor.

THE PURPOSE IN CALLING THIS FIRST AMERICAN YOUTH CONGRESS is to secure from recognized leaders of youth a clean-cut expression of youth's point of view regarding the basic needs of youth and how best to meet these needs. As we see it, these involve physical, mental and spiritual factors, as follows:

1. On the physical plane, youth needs employment to provide his own material necessities;
2. On the mental plane, youth needs, first, education adequate to fit him to secure and hold such employment and, second, education in how best to use his leisure in constructive, creative and satisfying ways;
3. On the spiritual plane, youth needs inspiration and leadership toward goals which youth itself believes worthwhile.

THE PERSONNEL OF THE CONGRESS will be drawn from two sources. It will comprise:

(a) The leaders of functioning youth organizations in the United States;
(b) The leaders in new thought among the outstanding young men and women of today.
July 16, 1934

My dear Miss Ilma:

Mrs. Roosevelt is out of the city at the present time and does not expect to be back at the White House until fall. Therefore, I am writing to acknowledge your letter of June 30, and to tell you that I will bring it to her attention as soon as possible after she returns.

Very sincerely yours,

Secretary to Mrs. Roosevelt.

Miss Viola Ilma
The Central Bureau for Young America
70 Fifth Avenue
New York, New York
June 30, 1934.

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt  
The White House  
Washington D.C.

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Enclosed is our latest report showing the progress of the Congress to-date. Knowing your interest, we should very much like to have your comments on it.

Sincerely,

Viola Ilma
August 14, 1934

Dear Miss Ilma:

I am very much interested in the program of the Youth Congress and hope that you will send me a report of the proceedings and any conclusions which you have come to. It all sounds very interesting.

Very sincerely yours,

Miss Viola Ilma  
The Central Bureau for Young America  
70 Fifth Avenue  
New York
October 20th, 1934

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt
The White House
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I am sending you the official report of the First American Youth Congress.

Hoping you will find it interesting, I am

Sincerely yours,

Viola Ilma
Chairman
REPORT
FIRST AMERICAN YOUTH CONGRESS

PUBLISHED BY
CENTRAL BUREAU ... YOUNG AMERICA
REPORT
FIRST AMERICAN YOUTH CONGRESS
It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbled, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena: whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs and comes short again and again; who knows the great enthusiasms, the great devotions, and spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement; and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly; so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who know neither victory nor defeat.

Theodore Roosevelt
INTRODUCTION

This is a brief summary of the results of The First American Youth Congress. Called on August 15, 16 and 17, 1934 at New York University by the Central Bureau for Young America, it marks the first attempt at national unity on the part of American Youth. This account is offered less in the light of producing decisive results than in explaining the beginning of a movement.
HISTORY

If the youth movement in the United States had any definite point of beginning, that point could most accurately be placed at the inception of the magazine MODERN YOUTH. First published in February, 1933, it had a definite purpose—to make youth articulate, to provide a meeting place for young people all over the nation, and to be a mouthpiece for the scattered heirs of the depression.

The magazine had a brilliant, meteoric flight. It lasted four issues, during which two stories were included in the O. Henry collection of Best Short Stories of 1933.

But it served several purposes. It aroused public interest and sentiment with an age limit of 30 for its authors and staff; it stirred up the young people themselves, made them vocal; it created hope and enthusiasm among groups that were stagnated and helpless; it offered a direction into which they could pour their energies, and it produced a steady stream of material and information from young people in all parts of the country.

Long after the magazine had been suspended, the insistent flow of letters and manuscripts continued coming from youth of every state and stratum of life. If it provided a mass of material, no less did it create the absolute necessity of continuing the work it had crystallized.
Almost a year later, Miss Viola Ilma, its editor and publisher, condensed the results of this period into a small volume entitled "And Now Youth!" A paragraph from this book gives in essence the fundamental motives back of the movement.

"We want organization that will be genuinely youthful, truly American—that will not stifle those qualities of American life of proven value nor the young enthusiasm that is in us. Our aims bear little resemblance to the harsh and tyrannical organizations of Europe. We want none of the fanaticism and violence—none of the militarism and uniformed regimentation. We do not want to force all minds into one mould as do even the Communists. We believe wholeheartedly in individual and original thinking. We are a nation of keen and eager individuals, and we intend to keep that eagerness. We must work out our own salvation, and our salvation does not lie in the direction of the red, black, or brown shirts."

Crystallization of the idea for a youth movement was slowly taking place, and in December, 1933, with the files of MODERN YOUTH as a nucleus, the Central Bureau for Young America was established in New York City as a clearing house for youth. It was to be a non-partisan, non-
political (therefore all political) fact-finding organization dedicated to the interests of young people everywhere in America. The original announcement read in part:

"THE CENTRAL BUREAU FOR YOUNG AMERICA has been created to assist and foster sound intellectual, spiritual and physical development of the youth of America. It is the function of this Bureau to disseminate unbiased and reliable information as to the aims, ideals, programs, and physical composition of the various youth organizations and movements in this country, as well as the facts concerning unaffiliated youth, their needs and aspirations."

A Congress As one of its first tasks, the Central Bureau organized the First American Youth Congress, to call together the leaders of youth and obtain from them a clean-cut expression of youth's basic needs, the best methods of fulfilling these needs, together with an inventory of what they had to offer towards this end.

The Bureau, like MODERN YOUTH was administered entirely by young people, with the occasional advice of many prominent older persons. For the Congress, $1572 was raised, some of the contributors being:
PRESTON DAVIE New York Attorney
ANNE MORGAN President American Women's Association
CHRISTOPHER MORLEY Noted Author
MRS. AUGUST BELMONT
ARTHUR GARFIELD HAYS Attorney
ERNEST N. SMITH Vice-president American Automobile Assn.
OGDEN MILLS Former Secretary of the Treasury
CHARLES W. TAUSSIG President American Molasses Co. of N. Y.
MRS. JOHN HENRY HAMMOND

Others who aided with their advice and interest were:

HOWARD P. JONES Editor, National Municipal Review
LOUIS FAULKNER Deputy Chamberlain of New York City
EMILY KNEUBUHL Executive Secretary, National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs
MARION PARKHURST National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs
LOUIS BROWNLOW Public Administration Clearing House
FRANK PRESBREY Presbrey Advertising Agency
DOROTHY CANFIELD FISHER Author
COL. H. EDMUND BULLIS Director, National Committee on Mental Hygiene
GERTRUDE LANE Editor, Woman's Home Companion
OSWALD GARRISON VILLARD Editor, The Nation
WILLIAM J. PLUNKERT Transient Director, Federal Emergency Relief Administration
THEODORE ROOSEVELT National Republican Committee
DR. ISADOR LUBIN Commissioner of Statistics, Dept. of Labor
CHESTER H. McCall Assistant Secretary of Commerce
A. A. BERLE, JR. Chamberlain of New York City
GOVERNOR PAUL V. McNUTT of Indiana
The Congress was scheduled for August 15, 16 and 17, 1934, at New York University. From all available files, the names of youth organizations were taken, and invitations sent to them. Unaffiliated youth who were outstanding likewise were invited, and in every case the individual or organization invited was urged to send to the Bureau the names of any other young people who might be interested. Five hundred credentials cards were issued, the recipients varying all the way from extreme radicals to extreme conservatives, and from social clubs to labor unions.

The Central Bureau made no effort to investigate the individuals or organizations accepting, making a primary assumption that they understood the tremendous opportunity the Congress offered, and that they would come with the decision to co-operate for a common program, since such a program promised the most effective results for youth at large.
Nearly 4000 questionnaires were sent out by the Bureau previous to the Congress, and the returns gave evidence that these young leaders were alert and ready to apply new ideas and new viewpoints. At least they were conscious of the definite, existing needs. Whether it would be possible to take the determination, the energy and enthusiasm of youth, work out a sound platform as a basis, and direct the movement with the motivating power of an emotional appeal was particularly the thing that the Central Bureau wished to discover. Could a common program be evolved from all these diverse elements—a program of compromise perhaps, but one which all youth could support and present to the nation? Such a program might be the savior of democracy—might come closest to fulfilling present inadequacies.

The Congress was opened on the morning of August 15, and the speakers were as follows:

DR. HAROLD O. VOORHIS .................. New York University
HON. FIORELLO H. LA GUARDIA ...... Mayor of the City of New York
HON. ADOLPHE A. BERLE, JR. .......... Chamberlain of the City of New York
HON. ARTHUR GARFIELD HAYS
DR. JAY B. NASH, B.S., M.A., Ph.D. .. New York University
VIOLA ILMA ............ President of the Central Bureau for Young America
On the surface the meeting was orderly, but printed matter was being passed among delegates on the floor, little cliques of individuals were holding hurried consultations, people were changing seats, whispering and breaking up, others were passing in and out. The center of activity revolved about the delegates from the extreme radical groups. It was immediately obvious that a large number of those who had come in as "unaffiliated" delegates were in reality connected with radical organizations. These radicals were engineering a coup.

Scarcely had the speakers finished when the bloc on the floor sprang from several points into immediate and noisy action. People were shouting wildly, demanding the right to elect all officers, change the existing set-up, prepare the agenda, pass on credentials and conduct the Congress.

Superficially, and apart from the lack of time, some of these demands appeared to be not unreasonable. However, the dissenters were in eleven organizations, all but two of which were in the extreme radical class. The other 115 organizations remained neutral. It was obvious, also, that the radicals and the "unaffiliated", who had so suddenly become affiliated, constituted a serious menace to the original idea of the Congress. They had come with no intention
whatever of co-operating; their purpose was to either gain control of the Congress or to break it up.

The Central Bureau consequently was forced to take what they considered an arbitrary attitude in not yielding to the demand, and the meeting was adjourned.

The round table sessions which followed in the afternoon proved the accuracy of this inference. The floor was continually dominated by radical speakers of the soap-box variety. The United Front program of the Communist party (printed and ready days before), was passed around, and a determined effort made to force it through. A split began to appear inevitable. It was plainly a question of principle, and as far as the Bureau could determine, the principle of the other side was communism.

For the evening session, a number of guest speakers had been invited to discuss the various proposed theoretical systems, such as communism, socialism, Farmer-Labor Federation, Social Credit and Technocracy. Dr. Jay B. Nash of New York University was asked to assume the chair as mediator. The session was complicated by the fact that the room assigned was not large enough, and more than 100 persons were refused admittance by the University guards. Upon Dr. Nash's assuming the chair, the same bloc began...
immediate demands that he vacate and allow them to elect their own chairman and officers. Upon the twofold argument that this session had been called to hear the guest speakers only and was to conduct no business, and that since a large number of delegates were outside this was not a representative group entitled to elect, a compromise was reached.

The Split

The agitators promised to conduct no other business but to listen to the speakers if Dr. Nash would vacate the chair and allow them to elect their own chairman. This was done, and they immediately set about electing officers and drawing up rules of procedure in complete disregard of the agreement. Dr. Nash was heckled to such an extent that he could not introduce the guest speakers, and he found it necessary to officially adjourn the meeting. The split was thus forced, and the Central Bureau withdrew its support from this faction and continued the Congress without them.

It is significant that this "democratic control bloc" at once invited Norman Thomas of the Socialist Party and Earl Browder of the Communist Party to address them. The DAILY WORKER, official organ of the Communist Party in America, in reporting this session, said Earl Browder, discussing the present economic condition:
"brought a clear Marxian analysis of the only way out of the crisis, by the path of revolution, to several hundred delegates."

And further:
"Stormy applause greeted Browder's closing remark that 'the Communist Party fights for the broadest possible unity. In this fight all of the youth will be won for the revolution.'"

Meanwhile the original Congress continued with the work of the five round table sessions, which were social and economic rather than political.

It should be made plain that in many fundamental principles the American Youth Congress does not disagree with the opposing group. However, their resolutions were all of an "anti" nature—against the Roosevelt program, against the social order—and holding out for the general left wing demands. They condemned practically all present measures for the relief of youth, from the CCC to transient camps and homesteads. They demanded instead, "jobs at regular wages" for all youth as well as unemployment insurance for all youth. They demanded cancellation of debts for farmers, although they advanced no program for the attainment of these ends.
They only denounce and condemn. There is little in their program that is not destructive and impractical. It is easy to condemn. It is much more difficult to suggest a better program than the one condemned.

The resolutions passed by the authorized group under the Central Bureau are neither Union Square nor Park Avenue, but a true cross section of the entire nation.

THE PLATFORM

Education

Beginning with education as the topic of greatest interest, the Congress asks that freedom of discussion be allowed in the classroom, deploiring the practice by school administrations of censoring teachers and instructors. It maintains that both teachers and students should be free to discuss controversial issues, believing that if freedom of expression is not obtained in the classroom, the development of scientific habits of thought by the students is endangered. It affirms the right of teachers to participate actively in civic affairs and to live their private lives unhampered by the fear of losing their jobs.

Although mindful of the need for economy in public expense, it considers the curtailment of educational programs
a false economy and urges the extension of Federal appropriations until such time as local adjustments are made. It requests the establishment of a Federal Vocational Advisory Bureau to keep workers informed regarding continuous fluctuations in vocational opportunities.

It asks that educators unify their curricula from kindergarten upward, and bring all their subjects closer to the actual problems of present day society.

It takes the stand that sex-education is of paramount importance to the health and emotional well-being of youth, and calls for a campaign of popular enlightenment with the abolition of existing prohibitory laws.

Realizing that the question of birth control is a matter of individual conscience and is frequently desirable from a social point of view, it urges the removal of restrictions upon the dissemination of such knowledge by physicians.

It regards the present divorce laws with their accompanying perjury, lying and immorality, as a distinct menace, and asks for a National divorce law containing the provision that divorce by mutual consent should be legal in cases where the rights of children are not involved and where the married couple cannot be reconciled by court.
Youth gatherings on the whole are pacifistic today. The Congress was no exception. It goes on record as strongly opposed to any armed conflict, and wholly in favor of world disarmament. It recommends the further initiation of disarmament conferences. It maintains, however, that for the United States to begin a wholesale scrapping of its military defenses, regardless of the further arming of other countries, is impractical and shortsighted. It condemns any increase in arms, but approves of the minimum defenses maintained to-day.

The existence of Child Labor is a characteristic of the present defective economic order, and many states are beginning to recognize the need for lengthening the period of the child's education and the need for preventing the physical deterioration, mental decline, industrial waste and poverty which results from premature employment. The Congress records, therefore, its opposition to detrimental child labor, and favors the adoption of National Uniform Child Labor Laws, with due regard for conditions peculiarly local. Further it pledges itself to bring to public attention those persons, firms or corporations violating the laws affecting child labor and education. It recognizes that idle youths are a challenge to the community and urges an adequate educational, vocational and recreational program for youth freed from industry.
It favors the adoption of unemployment insurance for all workers administrated by the Federal government through the states, and recommends that the cost be borne jointly by employers and employees in a ratio proportionate to wage scales and determined by the government in its capacity as administrator.

It favors enactment of legislation establishing an adequate old age pension fund, the cost to be met by taxation, and the fund administered by the Federal government through the states.

Recognizing that transiency is but the outer sore of the great inner cancer of unemployment, this problem was attacked from within and without simultaneously. The Congress recommends first, a thorough and practical system of unemployment insurance to protect all workers.

Secondly, a system of National Employment Exchanges to direct shifting regional labor, to make a thorough survey of the distribution of work, the creation of new work and the possibilities of future work.

Thirdly, that the Federal Work Projects in existing transient camps be enlarged so that genuinely constructive work will be made available to the residents, and that adequate compensation be afforded them, together with a protecting accident insurance in case of injury.
Fourthly, that a workable system of apprenticeships be put into effect in all transient camps, together with adequate vocational and scholastic training, so that the residents may receive the necessary preliminary training to ease their re-entry into self-supporting private life.

Fifthly, that camps or other adequate facilities for girls be set up in those states which at present have taken no steps toward caring for girl transients.

And finally, that since a certain element of transiency is due to a desire for travel to see the country, a system of Youth Hostels be established to supply food and shelter at a minimum cost to youthful travelers, to the end that vagrancy on the part of young people may be reduced.

The Congress asks that the Federal government support vocational educational schools, and that a Federal commission composed of representatives from youth, labor, employers and educators, study educational and apprenticeship projects. Also that the Federal Apprenticeship plan, set up under the NRA, be approved with the reservations that the labor market be not flooded with apprentices, that definite rules be set up to prevent exploitation of the apprentice, that the length of apprenticeship be limited according to the various industries, and that young people be urged to remain in school until graduation from high school.
school or until the age of eighteen before applying for apprenticeships.

In connection with Homesteads as a means of immediate relief for the unemployed, the Congress asks that the Federal government assist young people newly married and those wishing to marry, along with others, to face the problem of self-support by building planned communities in localities providing natural resources which will guarantee a decentralized industrial development. It further requests that entry into such projects be voluntary, and it is strongly opposed to any development of such a plan that reduces the standard of living or tends to develop a class of peasantry.

GENERAL RESULTS

Here we have presented a simple, brief picture of the Congress. We believe it is important in two major respects:

It focused public attention upon the essential intellectual differences between the radical left wing and the normal right wing of American Youth. It stimulated youth into its first united and articulate expression on current problems.

We count this only a beginning. Our Central Bureau will continue to be a clearing house for the ideas of all youth.
of whatever political, social or racial affiliation. Regional conferences during the coming year are planned in Syracuse, N. Y., Louisville, Ky., Miami, Fla., Detroit, Mich., St. Louis, Mo., Los Angeles, Cal., Paterson, N. J. In June, 1935, the Second American Youth Congress will be held.

We believe the results of the First Congress, while fragmentary, are significant, and we know that the Second Congress will gain much from the experience of the first.

The continuation group, a regional board of governors elected by the Congress, is as follows:

ALPHONSE ATWAN
ALBERT E. CHANSON
WILLIAM F. DORN
ELAINE EXTON
MALCOLM J. FREEBORN
VIOLA ILMA
JOHN J. KINANE
ERNESTINE LONG
WILLIAM E. PORTER
WARREN S. SAUNDERS

Hawthorne, New Jersey
New Haven, Connecticut
Detroit, Michigan
Santa Barbara, California
Cortland, New York
New York, New York
Syracuse, New York
St. Louis, Missouri
Hopkinsville, Kentucky
Bradenton, Florida

Executive Officers:
Chairman VIOLA ILMA, New York, New York
Vice-Chairman ERNESTINE LONG, St. Louis, Missouri
Executive Secretary SAMUEL MINES, New York, New York
General Secretary WARREN S. SAUNDERS, Bradenton, Florida
Treasurer ALBERT E. CHANSON, New Haven, Connecticut

Advisory Board:
Chairman HARRY McGUIRE, Mt. Morris, Illinois
Headquarters:

AMERICAN YOUTH CONGRESS

70 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y.
November 28, 1934

My dear Miss Ilma,

Mrs. Roosevelt has asked me to send you the enclosed article which has been sent to her by two or three people. She would like to know if you would be so kind as to tell her how much truth there is in it.

Very sincerely yours,

Secretary to Mrs. Roosevelt

Miss Viola Ilma
The Central Bureau for Young America
70 Fifth Avenue
New York
New York
SUGGESTED BY CENTRAL BUREAU FOR YOUNG AMERICA, 70 FIFTH AVE., NEW YORK CITY.

No scientific study has ever been made of the specific problems and discouragements youth faces today. No worthwhile plans have been put into operation. If such plans exist, they have not reached the people with authority to act upon them. No analysis of the forces operating against youth - no presentation of youth's needs, obligations, and rights - has ever been clearly arranged. This is the first text, that of research, that of presenting the case, with the problem clearly stated then stated, consideration of the remedies can begin.

To accomplish the above stated purpose it is suggested that the President should appoint a Commission on Youth Problems. This Commission should be composed of young people who have demonstrated their ability in dealing with distinctive youth problems. It is of paramount importance that the Youth Commission should be just that. This Commission should acquaint itself thoroughly with the problem that young people are facing today and with methods that are being used to combat the problem. It is with this in mind that the following outlined program is suggested:

I. YOUTH CENSUS:
A. What is the problem?
1. Education
2. Unemployment
3. Leisure time
4. Vocational guidance.
B. How is the problem being met in America?
1. Existing civic and governmental agencies
   (a) What are they?
   (b) What are their capacities?
   (c) How does youth reach to these agencies?
2. What youth organizations are set up to combat problem?
   (a) Educational - Youth Conferences, lectures, forums, camps.
   (b) Employment - Youth Labor Exchanges, Self-help projects, etc.
   (c) Leisure time - athletic and social programs that embrace all youth
   (d) Vocational Guidance - is youth aiding youth to find himself.
C. How is the problem being met abroad?

II. YOUTH EDUCATION:
A. Economic - understanding the economic society of which he is a part.
B. Social - community consciousness.
C. Statesmanship - how can youth best be prepared to assume the role of government.

III. YOUTH UTILIZATION:
A. Program for employment.
   1. Youth Census. This is to be taken under the guidance and direction of the Commission which will work through existing youth agencies wherever they can be utilized. Unemployed young people will be used in taking the census.
   2. Subsistence homesteads. This implies the new physical American frontier and successfully answers the problem that is faced by unemployed and ungainfully employed young people who are desirous of marrying.
   3. Employment of youth in the building and maintenance of youth hostels throughout the country.
   4. Research
   5. Youth Labor Exchanges
   6. Applying youth to apprenticeship programs
   Program for youth self-help.
B. Program for activity.
   1. Youth hostels. This division implies a well-directed campaign of putting youth in touch with the needs of all geographic sections of the country by providing the means for youth to travel in an inexpensive way. The hostel will be a center for traveling youths and will conduct forums each evening for its itinerant visitors.
   2. Self-help projects enable and develop youth to a point where they can carry on their own forums, panels, literature and develop community, social and economic consciousness and give youth a courage and a confidence to act constructively in meeting his problem.
NATIONAL MUNICIPAL LEAGUE

Founded in 1894—Incorporated in 1923
Telephone—ASHLAND 4-1510
309 EAST 34 STREET, NEW YORK CITY
December 7, 1934.

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt
The White House
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I wanted the accompanying letter to answer your inquiry of
November 28 directly, but in writing to you I also want to tell
you something of my present activities.

Because I feel that one of the ways youth can be useful is by
practical knowledge and action in public affairs; because I
believe visions and ideas must be made effective through proper
channels, I have recently begun concentrating on the study of
problems of local government and administration. Howard P. Jones,
secretary of the National Municipal League, has kindly given me
desk space in the League office for this purpose. The League,
as you know, has a distinguished record of achievement in the
field of state, county and city government. Most of the improve-
ment in local government in the last few years may be traced
directly to the work of the National Municipal League.

Naturally we were quite discouraged that we could not continue
the service of the Central Bureau for Young America. It is so
necessary that somewhere such a service continue. But our
problems temporarily are solved. Miss Laura Stern, who is, by
the way, one of the members of your Today group, has been
given a stenographic position by the National Municipal League.

For the past three years we have pioneered in the field of youth.
The magazine, Modern Youth, in its make-up, spoke for itself.
I believe my book, And Now Youth, very definitely expressed my
viewpoint on youth movements both here and abroad. The Boy Scouts,
in one of their publications, under the heading "The Big Idea", quoted
verbatim my outline of a possible youth movement. Then we opened the
Central Bureau for Young America. We ran the office, and called the First American Youth Congress, as well as developed the course, "Youth Faces the New World" at New York University, on $1,500. That was accounted for in the report of the Congress which we published. After the Congress, we had no definite income. Furthermore, I was convinced that the problem of youth could not any longer be solved by youth alone, that what we needed most of all was leadership. In fact, quoting Secretary Wallace in his book, "New Frontiers":

"Our young people may wait until we are ready for them to begin, or they may not; but they will not wait forever. During the past four jobless years they have become terribly disillusioned. They are poor in experience, influence, learning, and money. Doubtless they need to know much more about the facts of today. Most of all, they need to have their imaginations aroused to the possibilities of the future."

This is only too true, and I do feel that we have made courageous attempts to arouse our imaginations "to the possibilities of the future". We have expressed that we are not going to be a youth on a dole. Doubtless, I have made many mistakes, but we learn through experience.

I was greatly disappointed to receive a letter from Miss Josephine Brown to the effect that at the present the F. G. R. A. did not have any finances to help a youth project. In fact, this is the problem of all groups that have attempted anything, lack of finances.

However, our enthusiasm has not waned. We have become accustomed to overcoming obstacles.

With best personal regards,

Sincerely yours,

Viola Ilma

VI/ls
Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt  
The White House  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

In response to your letter referring to the article which appeared in the New Massei, all of the inferences and insinuations are entirely false.

Ever since the Youth Congress at which I prevented the Communists from getting control, every attempt has been made by this group to vilify me. Mr. Spivak, who was a perfect stranger to me, asked me where I received my money to go abroad last year. I refused to answer a question which I thought was entirely my own business. He then threatened to publish the charge that I was financed by the Nazis unless I replied. Naturally I became angry, and said he could do as he pleased. Had I answered his question, it would no doubt have led to an attack by Mr. Spivak on other people.

I received my finances for the trip abroad from one of the donors to the Modern Youth magazine. He is a very prominent citizen of New York and believed in the work I was doing and in me. If you wish direct word from him, he will be only too glad to write to you. The New History Society, which I represented at the International Congress of Progress for Women in Chicago, as a result of my work for them in a contest which they held on "How can colleges promote world peace?", gave me credentials to represent them at Geneva. Those letters are on file in Mr. Norman Davis' office there.

There are at least four specific points which of themselves would automatically controvert any charge that I had any connections with the Nazis:

(1) My mother is of Jewish parentage; my entire office staff, five in number, were all Jewish. A large proportion of the delegates at the Youth Congress were Jewish.

(2) Out of a trip of four months, I spent only about eight days in Berlin.

Fortieth Annual Meeting, Pittsburgh, Pa., November 26 and 27, 1934
(3) Most important of all, the fact that I am an enthusiastic and confirmed democrat, as anyone who has read anything I have written or heard me speak must know.

I do want to thank you for your interest and sincerely appreciate the fact that you took the trouble to inquire about this from me.

Sincerely yours,

Viola Ilma

VI/1s
December 10, 1934

my dear Miss Lima:

Mrs. Roosevelt asked me to thank you very much for your letter of explanation.

Very sincerely yours,

Secretary to Mrs. Roosevelt

Miss Viola Lima
National Municipal League
209 East 34th Street
New York
N.Y.

sent with best wishes
December 5, 1935

My dear Miss Ilma:

Mrs. Roosevelt will be interested to see the "Voice of Youth" and I am enclosing one dollar for her subscription.

Please do not give this subscription any publicity.

Very sincerely yours,

Malvina T. Scheider
Secretary to Mrs. Roosevelt

Miss Viola Ilma
103 West 88th Street
New York
N.Y.
Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt
Executive Mansion
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

We sincerely wish your constructive criticism.

We are running this, to start with, on less than a shoe-string. Won't you subscribe?

Sincerely,

VIOLA ILMA
Editor

Our staff thought you would be interested in this new venture.
December 24, 1933

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

After a very rapid trip
to London, Paris, Geneva, Madrid and
Berlin I am back in America. My
magazine "Modern Youth" was forced to
suspend but the outcome of my
year's contact with thousands of young
men and women under twenty has
resulted in the following plan (embodied):

I would so much like to tell you
about one youth's viewpoint of the youth
movement in Germany - I think it

[Signature]
would interest you.

I know you must be very busy but if you have a bit of free time I should like so much to see you.

While in London I met Mr. Eden hard and she was most interested in my first point plan. She wrote to be remembered to you.

Yours truly,

[Signature]
February 26, 1936

Dear Miss Ilma:

Thank you very much for sending me the current issue of "Voice of Youth". I found it very interesting and have written to Mr. Sacher about it.

Very sincerely yours,

Miss Viola Ilma
Voice of Youth
52 Vanderbilt Avenue
New York
Mrs. Franklin Delano Roosevelt  
White House  
Washington, D.C.  

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:  

Here is the fourth issue of VOICE OF YOUTH. We are really quite proud of it because the boys up at the New York City Reformatory did the entire job by themselves.  

If you happen to find the issue interesting I am sure it would be quite thrilling for them to know so from you.  

Very sincerely yours,  

Viola Ilma  
Editor  

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Handwritten note:  

HUBBARD, Paden  
January 14, 1936  

I have just got back from California and the boys have been very interested in your work. I had told about a friend of mine who has been working with the younger boys and has done very well. He has a great deal of enthusiasm and is very interested in the work.
SOCIETY'S CRIME

BY JACQUES

Born to Mr. and Mrs. Average Public, who live on a frugal strata, a son. Being victims of adverse economic circumstances, they cheered, yet regretted the arrival of the little one.

What price happiness? Joe's job hangs precariously, Sue is unable to help. Mental, moral and physical stress greats little Charlie. Fear, and uncertainty is instilled into his subconscious growing mind unconsciously.

The ever-present menace stalks—self-preservation and the pursuit of happiness. Sue and Joe being God fearing folks have taken Charlie into the folds of the Church. Here he is taught the rules of conventional behavior, religious psychology, which he endeavors to practice with the help of the school and his home.

Charlie is aware that his parents constantly worry and discuss his probability of continuing school and getting the bare necessities of life conducive to happiness. Charlie ponders, ignorant of ignorance, why he can't have the clothes, food and toys that his playmates possess.

A longing desire is born for the better things of life which seem to stay constantly out of reach. In time he suggests leaving school to work so that he might help. Which really proves a boon to Sue and Joe. Joe having lost his job is finding it awkward living on relief—with Sue domesticating.

Charlie works for Mr. Acker at seven per which helps immensely. They're able to rid themselves of bills and so forth. Subsistence continues until

(Continued on Page 11)

ONLY SAPS WORK

BY MORRIS SCHWARTZMAN

Youth, growing up in the light of glaring beacons of lewdness and corruption shrugs its shoulders: "Only saps work." "You can't get a job, anyway." "What's your racket kid?" "What's your racket gentleman?"—You who howl for the cutting of school taxes, the reduction of teaching staffs, the shortening of the school year, and the curtailment of every school activity except the right ones?

Organized crime, organized labor, organized business, organized politics and organized exploitation parallel and interlock. When trouble breaks out, the big shot escapes or gets off with a light sentence. The little shots our own Tony, Sam and Joe take the heavy raps, and are distributed to various Prisons via the necessary method.

These are the children, boys and girls, young men and women in the streets, alleys, poolrooms, basement clubs, barrooms and dance halls, on the march to detention homes, jails and reformatories. Onward ever onward, presses the eager adventurous throng, lured by the hope of a gaudy living.

Among them are many mental and emotional misfits who constitute a separate problem. Some of these crippled personalities should be discovered and isolated. But many go about without restraint until they become entangled in the processes of the law.

Our social agencies have made progress in the treatment of mental defectives. But the law has been slow to accept the recommendations of psychiatrists. Indifference, greed, stupi-
Frederick R. Sachar, Says:

It has been truly said, "Youth dominates the World's stage. The youth of the world is out upon a spiritual trek, desiring a better country but without any clear direction." The articles of this issue as they appear uncensored were written by boys within my institution. Their ages range from 16 to 29 years and they have IQ's as low as 60 and as high as 150.

The young people in America are pausing today to listen, to reflect, and to make great decisions. Upon these certainly depends the future of our nation. The atmosphere of the lives of youth today will determine their future. They must think right and act right and be an example to the coming generations.

-Frederick R. Sachar, Superintendent
New York City Reformatory

I'LL TAKE VANILLA

By FRANK FURTER

Imprisonment at anytime, or under any condition whatever, is a serious thing, but to be imprisoned with a pain-racked body, wavering on the brink of madness is a far more serious thing.

The thought of being imprisoned, doubtless has a chilling effect on the average youth. He has heard that prisoners are not nice places to be in, and he has heard correctly too.

One should be concerned with the thought that there may be some good in those poor unfortunate.

It so happens that I am an inmate of one of these prisons.

Before, I was committed to this prison. I was very happily married with one child on the way and an income of $32.00 per week.

My downfall happened about a year ago when on my way home from work I was stopped by one of my friends whom I have known for a good many years. During the conversation he asked me if I would care to buy a typewriter from him, knowing the young man so long as I have I thought there would be no harm in buying it from him, so I made the sale at $7.50. About four months later, I had just arrived home from work and after eating my supper I was visited by two distinguished gentlemen whom I found out were detectives from my precinct, and that they had a warrant for my arrest. (Please remember that at this time my baby was already 4 months on the way).

I was brought to the station house and asked a few questions. I answered truthfully.

I was brought forward face to face with the boy who sold the typewriter to me, the detective asked him if he had bought it from him and he said "yes" that I was the buyer.

Then the officer asked me how many other apartment houses have I robbed in the past few months of which I answered none, and it was then that my trouble started.

I was beaten unmercifully and asked if I wanted to confess to the apartment house robberies of which I knew nothing.

During my five hours at the station house I was in a daze, until I woke up the next morning nursing my wounds, and when I say wounds I mean that I was beaten into unconsciousness.

That same morning I was brought before the Magistrate and held on $2,500 bail.

My wife had already secured bond and a lawyer for me.

My bondsman received $55.00 and my lawyer $150.00 to take my case. I couldn't go to work the next morning on account of my experience the night before, but one week later found me back to work again, happy that I was free for the time being.

My trial came up one month later (after my Father's death) and my lawyer had me convinced that all I could get out of my experience, or misfortune was probation, and when I was brought before the Judge at my hearing, I was sentenced to the New York City Reformatory for a period of from one to three years indefinitely.

I was bewildered at first and my lawyer explained to me what it was about, and told me he was sorry.

I was committed to the Tombs Prison on June 14th and believe me I was sick mentally and physically. I remained there for one week and during that week I had a visit from my wife, I thought she would never recover. I shall explain the visit as it is an incident which I will never forget.

My wife was about 3 feet away from me and between us there was a screen so thick with small holes in it which made it almost impossible to recognize who I was speaking to. The torture she was going through was inhuman.

Then I was shipped to this institution where I have been residing for 8 months 10 days.

The first letter I received from my wife told me that I had lost my job and that our furniture was in storage and she and the baby were living with my mother.

How do you think I feel with all my savings gone, for lawyers and bail my home broken up and the little bit of happiness shot to HELL? How do you think I felt when they told me my wife was in the hospital giving birth to my son and me in jail instead of by her bedside. If that is Justice then I'll take vanilla.
A Day's Routine at the New York City Reformatory

By FREDERICK R. SACHER

Each boy has a definite work assignment throughout the institution excepting those who are in Reception Quarantine as new entrants and are held until released by the Resident Physician (usually 3 weeks). During this orientation period they are examined by members of our Assignment Committee, classified and scored so that when they appear for work assignment the committee has a knowledge of the boys' interests and abilities. desert program begins during this period and continues until the boy has received full corrective treatment. All boys, however, whether in quarantine or otherwise must do a certain amount of work each and every day.

All boys do not arise at the same hour. Those working in the kitchen and dining halls are up very early in order to have breakfast ready for the entire group. The boys assigned to the bake shop and dairy are also out before daybreak.

Reveille at 6:30 a.m. awakens the majority of the lads; however, ample time is given for a good morning wash. The various divisions are then marched to the mess hall where a hot breakfast is ready. The officers on the midnight to eight shift continue in charge until after the breakfast hour, assisted by eight additional day officers who report early every week per month on a rotating schedule. After breakfast a brief period of recreation and then shop parade at 7:40 a.m. Work continues throughout the entire forenoon either in the trade shops or on other assignments. The assignments naturally vary with the number of construction jobs in progress, the amount of work on the farm and other seasonal activities.

For the past ten days a large group of boys have been harvesting a bumper crop of ice which has been stored away for summer use. These varied activities seem to be most welcome to the boys. They crave variety and certainly get it in the shifting activities of the year.

At 11:50 a.m. a hungry bunch wend their way back to the recreation yards in order to be there "on time" when the bugle sounds for noon mess. At 12:30 p.m. the dinner has been consumed and the dispensary call is given. The library is open and recreation continues in the yards until 1 p.m.

Many boys who have been working on outside assignments during the morning are given the opportunity of attending school classes in the afternoon while others attend the band and orchestral rehearsals. There is a marked change of assignments from that of the 7:40 a.m. shop parade, however, by 11:10 p.m. each boy is down to business for the afternoon until 3:50 p.m. at which time they return to the recreation yards where a change of officers occurs. For the following one- and one-half hour a supervised program of round-robin tournaments are bitterly contested by many. Supper at 5:30 p.m. is welcomed by everyone after which the outside recreation continues until 7:15 p.m. for some, while others enjoy the library and numerous club activities and school classes. At 7:45 p.m. each boy goes to his own room where reading and letter writing are pursued.

At 9 p.m. taps are sounded and the lights are lowered which ends a program of activities varied to the respective capacities of the individual boys.

The winter months, however, do not allow us to use the recreation yards as often nor as long as in the summer months. Three large recreation halls and an improvised gymnasium afford much recreation in spite of the elements. Spirited basketball games among the various divisions are enjoyed and the varsity team has been playing on an average of two or three games each week, to which the community as well as the boys are spectators. Activities in the auditorium afford all the boys rare opportunities to enjoy musical talent, orchestra and bands, as well as the enjoyment of shows of their own creation and those given by outside talent. The boys participating in these shows have been allowed to go.

You're HIRED!

By DOUG FAIRCHILD

"Good morning, Mr. Smith, I came in answer to your ad in this morning's 'Herald'." "Can you do the work we require?" "I've been trained in that line, yes.

"Any previous experience?" "No sir, but--" "I'm sorry, young man, or young woman, as the case may be, but we require previous experience as one qualification of our employees. May we list your name and address for future reference?"

And so it goes. How are we to gain so important experience if each prospective employer takes this attitude?

Doesn't he realize that we are trained in qualified institutions of learning? Doesn't he realize that the fresh ideas of youth are to be preferred to those of employees who have gotten their experience but, who, in doing so, have become automatons with more or less stagnant minds?

Why be afraid, Mr. Employer, to gamble on the future? Maybe the keen minds of these young people will produce ideas that will revolutionize your business.

Is it just to deny them the opportunity of proving their right to a place in modern industry because of lack of previous experience?
YOUTH GOING TO DOGS
By R. L. F.

Just the mere mention of the seemingly harmless words, "Modern Youth" is likely to evoke an explosive "Bah!" from any member of the older generation.

That "Bah!" born of mingled scorn, contempt, and superiority has silenced many a weak-voiced advocate of youth. But here, safely behind bars, safe from these withering "Bahs!" I shall try to point out why the young people of this country ought not be looked upon as such a great national problem.

We young people, have no doubt of the good intentions of our elders' guidance, nor do we resent their criticism. We admit, that from their viewpoint, we do not seem to be coming up to the standard set by them.

But, are they judging us fairly? Do they consider the obstacles they themselves place in our path? Are they blind to the fact that they are the established professional men, reliable, time-proven doctors, lawyers, teachers, etc. to whom clients turn rather than to intelligent, though inexperienced youth? Can't they see that the jobs they hold, while post retirement age, and although eligible for Old-Age Pensions, could well be given to a younger person?

They were not handicapped by such acute cases of crime-breeding slums nor was there an Eighteenth Amendment to make mockery of the law before their eyes.

In the early part of this century, a position was permanent due to the journeyman system then in vogue, now increased business competition causes hiring and firing with each fluctuation of the Stock Market.

History, shows us that our forebears lived through various depression periods, but were they world-wide? Were they caused by such a titanic upheaval as the World War?

We are not making alibis, offering apologies, or "coining phrases." The cards are stacked against us, but the Youth of America will win out without resort to any foreign policy of radical nature, until we arrive at that stage where we can look upon our sons and say, "Bah!" Youth is going to the dogs!

ONLY SAPS WORK

(Continued from Page 1)

Alacrity, poor education, and the example of corruption and lawlessness in high places - these are the real culprits.

My main and best suggestion reads, that a new attitude toward the problem of youthful delinquency which goes to the root of all our troubles, be taken.

This would require a thorough change in educational methods in the direction indicated by progressive pedagogues, the increased development of constructive habit-forming activities, the teaching of social ethics, rather than merely abstract virtues, the consistent and periodical medical and psychiatric examination of all youth, together with the keeping of behavior records, and the adoption throughout the nation of modern methods in the treatment of juvenile offenders. To carry out such an idea, we should institute a stern and implacable offensive against the false and shortsighted educational activities which have made such disastrous headway during the depression.

meaning of this. Humiliation can transform a timid person into an ogre.

It doesn't seem plausible that a situation so trivial can do so. It is a generally established fact, and well known that a disappointment can quickly induce murderous thoughts. I can cite other facts.

In institutions, certain ones maintain very strict discipline. Strict discipline may have advantages during confinement, but when the youth is paroled, there is a tendency to do that which he was forbidden. This explains the reason for so many violations.

REHABILITATION
By WILLIAM DUDA

There always seems to be some sort of campaign in force for the rehabilitation of wayward youth. Absolutely no consideration is given to the effects of the campaign upon them. Different theories are always being forwarded. Yet they seem to offer no assistance to any but a few types.

It is my opinion, that in order to rehabilitate a youngster, an examination of his mind is essential. I state this, because from personal contact, I have discovered the cause of crime. There are no two cases alike. Usually, there is impressed upon him the idea that he is being punished. This point of view must be eliminated. An impression must be created, that he is not being punished, but an effort is being made to reinstate him among his fellowmen.

This statement reeks with simplicity, yet it is the most difficult handicap confronting the authorities. There is another example. A young man is released from a reformatory. During his incarceration, he was subjected to humiliation and ill treatment. He feels that there was no need for this type of brutality. Few persons realize the

THE YOUTH LEADERSHIP SURVEY

Published by the National Youth Council
Made by 49 youth leaders in 49 cities in the U. S. A.

Feature Articles

THE NATIONAL YOUTH MOVEMENT
A STUDENT'S LOBBY
YOUTH AND THE CITY MANAGER PLAN
THE STORY OF THE NEW CINCINNATUS

By Joseph C. Fennelly
By Kathleen McInerny
By Joseph C. Fennelly
By Ralph Poits

Sold by
POLITY
105 West Monroe Street
Chicago, Illinois
BRANDED CRIMINAL
By T. GRUPER

Crime as we all know is committed by the younger generation. The boy nine times out of ten is induced to commit his first crime. Some are not caught as quickly as others and keep on committing crimes, not realizing what they are really doing.

The person is caught committing a misdemeanor, and arrested. Providing he be of normal intelligence, he, for the first time, realizes the wrong he has done. If this boy were taken care of intelligently and made to realize that crime does not pay, there would not be half the amount of criminals, as we have today.

The system of today does not do much good to a boy committing his first crime. He is sent away branded as a criminal to an institution. Here he is well taken care of and is properly fed. It is the desire of these institutions to reform this boy, but it is a hard task. He is allowed to choose his own associates, and learn's how to be an expert safe cracker from second and third offenders. A hatred for everyone grows within him, for sending him away, for a mistake he has made. He serves his time and is released on parole. His mind is made to go straight and seek’s employment. As soon as the employer finds out he has a criminal record, the boy is told he is not wanted. He is automatically forced to lie, at the next place he seeks employment.

The boy finally obtains employment lying about his character. A week or two later, he is investigated by the parole commission. The next week he receives a notice his help is no longer required. The boy tries to go straight but cannot. The burden is too heavy for him.

He then is forced to associate with criminals, being branded as one. His ambition is repressed and he decides to take a chance and crack a safe, and, being his ambition is repressed he makes a quick decision. The result is, we have a dangerous and habitual criminal.

If the people, the City, and the State gave this boy a chance by making the boy pay back every cent he has stolen, and after the boy makes restitution, every bad mark would be erased from his name, the boy would be able to make a clean start. For he would be made to realize that whatever he stole, he had to pay back, and that there would be no gain. The person to whom damage was done would be paid back from the boy’s earnings. The city would save money.

The youth of today, who are first offenders in crime should be given more of a chance to realize their mistakes by some other method than branding them criminals and sending them away from their homes, people, etc., instead of being thrown into a cage, like we do a bunch of rats.

JUST OVER THE WALL
By C. F. S.

In the heart of a prominent city,
Where the wheels of the industries thrive,
Where half of the folk, more’s the pity,
Does not care if the other’s alive.
And they live in their ego, not caring
What sorrow or trials belong
To the others, unfortunate, erring,
In their city—just over the wall.

Just over the wall—it sounds thrilling
To the ones who are on the outside,
But—the inside, with atmosphere stifling,
There’s a feeling that loved ones are calling.
And you know you can’t answer their call—
Can you realize just how appalling
Is that living—just over the wall?
Just a step from the love and the beauties,
Just a second—and sunshine has fled,
And you pass from the world’s cherished duties
To a future all hopeless and dead,
From the burning and glow to the ashes,
From the sweetness to wormwood and gall,
From the heights to the depths, and it smashes
All your ideals—just over the wall.

To the thinker—what field for expression,
What horrible contrasts abound,
From the apex to hollow depressions?
Where sympathies never are found,
And the world, overlooking our sorrow,
Pays no heed to our anguish, and calls
And forgets, in its rush for the morrow,
Of us living just over the wall.
This barrier, stern, unrelenting,
Inanimate structure of men,
Pays no heed to those truly repenting,
For a chance to return once again,
The it hides us away from loved faces,
With its structure, foreboding and tall,
Yet it cannot keep God’s grace
From his children—just over the wall.


VOICE OF EXPERIENCE

By MARTA

I am not proud of the fact that I am in an institution but I am glad for my sake that I am at last on the verge of rehabilitation. I have had the experience of being in various institutions in three States.

I know from that experience how it feels to be under duress.

All my life I have been handicapped by drinking and unemployment. I have never had the opportunity to be classed as a good citizen. I have been in other words an outcast. The principal things that confront youthful criminals of today are liquors and unemployment.

Liquor more than any other vicious factor causes unemployment, with ensuing want and poverty, which leads to misfortune and crime.

I have never had a good job to keep me going on the straight and narrow path. The only experience I have ever had was what I am now learning in this institution. I am now working in the tractor shop under the instruction of an experienced mechanic.

I hope to keep up my present ambition and when I get out try to place myself in reliable hands. I wish to reaffirm my convictions that crime does not pay and that liquor and unemployment tend to lead one towards a life of crime and disaster.

REFORMERS KNOW IT ALL

By JOHN ROODY

My first question is, "What do I think of politics, politicians and Judges of today, who for simple misdemeanors are sending youth away?"

During the first few years I was born, my parents were very happy and smiling at the world.

My father passed away soon after my fifth year. My mother was then left to attend to two sisters beside myself, at first we managed very nicely, until our finances ran short. My mother was so hard pressed for money, that we (the two sisters and myself) were very seldom given a few cents for children's comforts. So that as it later turned out, I became mixed up in a jam. After a perfunctory investigation, I was sent away to be taught a lesson by society.

Did I get my lesson? Not on your life. While being incarcerated, I mixed with older fellows, and past masters, and learned things of which I never before had an inkling. After being released from one place, I went to still another, as a result of the ideas which I picked up while associating with former companions, of my first incarceration. But, before being sentenced, I always had the disgusting experience of facing people who think they know it all about reforming Youth.

In my opinion, they are the responsible people for Youth's crimes, time and again.

When investigating the conditions of the home, they merely judge by its appearance. If the boy's parents are on relief, without any financial backing, he is invariably sent away.

The uplifters think it would reform the youth, it does not! After mixing with fellows of more experience, they invariably resort to some of the things which they learned while incarcerated. I do not say this because I do not know, but for the simple reason that it's happened to me.

Now in, or during my various incarcerations in some of the institutions, I've had a chance to study the "meek minded" fellows, who attach themselves to crimes, as if it were their only salvation.

Now the other kind are fellows, who, when their financial matters take a flop, take a chance and steal. Not for the glory of it, but with thoughts of the family, or someone else who is dear to them.

Now when I read or hear about some of the people "who are well off" talk about - "How to reform Youth" - are most of them a lot of bunk! In a way when a fellow is sent away, he does learn some things besides "crime." For instance, schooling, academic training, sports of all types, and many other interesting activities. That in a way is very advantageous to Youth but upon release it does not by a long shot turn Youth against Crime.

Sometimes on the outside, I meet previous fellow-inmates, and learn from their appearance, and their own talk, that their first incarceration did not turn their intentions against crime a bit.

In conclusion, I would like soon to hear something very helpful being done for the fellows who go home from jail, instead of a barren world awaiting them, when released.
DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH

By BENJAMIN

The problem of youth and crime has been debated, discussed, and ballyhooed by busybodies and every sort of individual except the ones most concerned. There is much to be said pro and con on this matter, by statisticians and other mean-wells.

A great percent of statisticians obviously adopt as their motto, "If first you don't guess right, guess, guess, guess again." Some of these masters of the know-it-all outguess the others. The general interpretation that youth and crime is fundamentally based on heredity and environment is "de bunk."

One can hardly expect to sit at a desk and study the habits of bees from pictures. That would be as fast as possible as squeezing tooth paste back into the tube. No, the problem cannot be solved and filed away solely on the say-so of inexperienced dreamers.

Coming from fine homes, having the best of environment and enviable educations we become involved in crime. Why? We the youth who come in contact with these conflicting elements do not have to take any circuitous route of calculations and deductions to arrive at the source of the trouble.

It is my belief that this source is imbedded in our present economic system which does not recognize the individuality of youth. Where recognition is not allowed to be realized there is no employment. This results in lack of opportunity which affords us no outlet for our ambitions.

One month in an institution would be ample time to perceive the startling veracity of these statements. There are youths here in great numbers who are in complete dissent with the taken-for-granted facts and false hypotheses.

The reform schools usually house first offenders, who readily realize that a life of crime is everything that's not profitable. Upon leaving they have the best intentions of securing positions to rehabilitate themselves. Are they given a chance? Is any consideration granted them? Decidedly not! It is the same old story several times repeated. It is constantly drilled into their minds by employers, "Once a crook always a crook," by reformers and so-called heredity experts that they are born criminals.

The paroled, who have been fortunate in obtaining employment can be secure in their positions only as long as the bosses are not prejudiced by the knowledge of their mistakes. The situation is climaxxed through the appearance of parole officers at these working places. Your employer ignores the length of time and honest effort with which you served him. His interest lies in protecting his dollar.

He is again idle on the streets because his secret has been made public. Hence, a foundation is laid for a second time loser. Thus the cycle continues. Here again we find the absence of heredity and environment.

The time has come for you youth and crime experts to advocate a more practical theory.

How about it?

SPELL RAZZBERRY

By DOUG FAIRCHILD

Is Modern Youth on the decline? Our elders, bound by the conventions of many years, seem to think so. Why? Too many dances. Too many parties. Setting and maintaining too fast a pace. Nertz! This is a fast age. Is it right to have fast machines but slow minds and bodies that can't cope with fast changes?

Authorities on physical culture claim that dancing is a swell exercise for the body. We're all interested in a healthy body, so - - - "Let's dance!"

And the parties! Most of them are never as bad as they are thought by a lot of suspicious, narrow-minded, gossipy, old fogies.

Should youth in general be judged by the actions of a certain few? I hardly think so. The Youth of today have a much more capable, clean, broadminded outlook on life than our forebears had. We have minds that are free from suspicions, superstitions, minds that are fertile and capable of producing progressive ideas. And, although few of us are Atlas' Samsons, or Adonis' still our health is basically sound.

Are we declining?
OBSTACLES AND HANDICAPS OF MODERN YOUTH
By JAMES ROSS

To my mind over-crowded cities is a serious youth problem. Because of this, city youth find there are no jobs.

This is what I think of the worst obstacles and handicaps that keep modern youth from going onward.

FIRST—To my mind is over-crowded cities. Which in the past has caused them to do things which brought disgrace to themselves, friends, and their family. Unable to look at their future, afraid to remember the past.

They are out of work and turn at last desperate enough, to steal or jump in with some gang that is a disgrace to society.

SECOND—Technocracy which causes youth from overcrowded districts to be out of a job merely because where eight or ten youths did a job in one week, "Technocracy" has made it so the same amount of work that those eight or ten youths did, can be done in two days, thus giving employment only to two or four youths, in that way throwing four or six boys out of a job.

They are put on relief and what not. On the whole average youth have been thrown out of a job by this great machine age of today. Eventually he ends up in an institution of some kind or leaves home because he has lost his job and fears that he will be a burden to his parents.

THIRD—Over-production of man power, where the average man and woman marry and have five or six children when they really can afford only two or three. Then my opinion the average youth grows up under difficult economic conditions, which will not allow him to have the things in life youth should have. What happens? They see other youths dressed better than they are, have a better education than they have, have a better place to live, and have more of an allowance than they have, and are physically healthier than they are.

They ask these questions—Why should they be better than we are? What kind of a world is this we are living in? Why can’t we have the things in life that other youths have? Are they any better than we are?

Then youth goes out to get a job so that they can provide themselves with the things in life they like. But "Technocracy" has caused business depression. The prospective employer says, "nothing today."

Youth says this is a world to get what you can out of and get it for yourself. So the average youth takes desperate chances to get what he wants.

Things would have been different if over-crowding of cities, Technocracy, over-production of man power, were limited and under full governmental control.

Perhaps the jails which now contain so many unfortunates would then contain few if any members of modern youth.

What’s the Secret of Getting a Job?
HOW YOU CAN GET A JOB
by GLENN L. GARDINER

- Why do some fail at it and others succeed?
- Here, at last, is the answer—in a book which gives the exact technique of successful job-hunting.

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THE TWO SIDES OF LIFE

By James Dell

Many years I spent enjoying the wonderful things in life such as my work and the greatest of all, my folks and people I admired.

This turned to gloom one day, when I was apprehended, due to an unfortunate happening, and was sentenced to the New York City Reformatory for an indefinite term.

On my arrival there I felt a hurt within me due to my impression about institutions as it was on my mind that everyone here would be hard on an inmate and I would now see the opposite side of life that I had been enjoying.

To my surprise I found conditions very much different as I will relate now. I was assigned to work on the farm side which produces potatoes, onions, and various vegetables, and my task was to help bring in the products, this was something new for me as I had always worked with a pen and pencil on the outside.

My stay on the farm side was short due to the fact the assistant superintendent called me to the office for an interview and then placed me to work in his house.

This too was a new sort of work for me and I can say now that after my interview and my time spent at the house of the Assistant-Superintendent my hurt has vanished, and I will leave the institution with no ill effect but the highest respect for the Superintendent, Assistant-Superintendent and officers, for the wonderful work being accomplished and determination to erase this mark that so unfortunately entered my life.

I have the opportunity to do so as I have a position awaiting me, but so many of the other inmates who are less fortunate must face the task of covering their marks.

MACHINE AGE AND YOUTH

By Cubbel

The advancement of youth has been stopped in the last five or ten years because of bad industrial and economic conditions, which are due to our high powered machine age and a few out of date habits which still exist in our midst.

Civilization and invention has been ruthlessly sharpened till at last they have reached a needle point. Around this point a climax has also been reached.

The fact is that according to an old working custom, of an eight hour day, and considering mechanical devices, there are too many of us. The day is too short for all of us to put in a good day's work.

When our fathers and mothers went to school they knew that an education would offer them a good position later on. Modern youth, much better educated than the youth of any other generation, because of the facilities made for them by the older generations, is unable to demonstrate his abilities because of the mentioned limited possibilities. A great percentage of the youth in reformatories today are just like the youth of any other generation.

All this sums up to this, because of bad economic conditions we have no jobs. Because of machinery we have less jobs than we should have. I believe that working hours should be supervised by the government. From generation to generation there were big industrial changes, these changes must be met by other changes. In the old days six men did the work which two men do today. There are just two things to be done about it, get rid of machines, or cut working hours in about three ways.

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PREJUDICE AND CRIME

By LORENZO

Primarily, human nature is fundamentally good; that we usually react favorably to love, kindness, consideration and respect is obvious, that under abnormal conditions, fostered by social dogmas and strait-laced pedagogues, it is impossible for these innate tendencies to blossom and bloom.

Why then should Negro youth be classified as a special problem? Isn't it manifested clearly that we love and hate—worship and sing—cry and rejoice as our white brethren? Weren't we all born alike? Don't we all go to the bosom of Mother Earth eventually? Why then the awe-stricken faces, lack of respect, police brutality and innumerable other unfortunate circumstances the colored youth must suffer, when he deviates from the safe middle path?

However, let us reflect momentarily on the environment and other influences that embrace his life. His world is on a subsistence level where even his God, the elementary essentials, clothing, food and shelter are mythical. His home is dilapidated, often situated in the midst of teeming commercial districts, red-light districts and other depraved neighborhoods. Usually, the parents are of very low intelligence, which naturally is conducive to large families. Under a vicious monster profit system, the father is made to eke out a meager existence, for his "dear ones." Through the economic pressure of want, the essentials of home life is broken and incompatible for the growth of a happy, wholesome atmosphere. Consequently, the children are born into these strained conditions, stripped of all opportunities and prerequisites of life. Their outlook on society is mean, twisted and stunted, like their ricketed legs, blank facial expressions, oversized heads and inarticulate speech.

Meanwhile, the grist mill of parasitical and egotistical despots is forever grinding, crushing, mangling. The toll is heavy, leaving in its wake a spent, broken, bleeding mass of society made wrecks, commonly named criminals, prostitutes, vagrants, homosexuals and idiots. Naturally, our "crime waves" slums, gambling dens and the like, in order to suppress youth's natural impulses, buccaneers arm stupid ignorant "policemen," throw in a uniform to inflame the egos and order them "to muss 'em up."

The bewildered youth is dragged before another "phony," the judge, where Draco's bloody laws are thrown at him. Jails and other medieval repositories like this are built where more viciousness and ignorance abound. He is "corrected" and "reformed" amid clapt trap theories from the pulpit, boon dogglers, shake downs, venereal diseases and mass psychology. Fear, stark naked, grim reality — civilization stripped of its trimmings — terror stalks abroad constantly. The human guinea pig is another number, a cog in the wheel, while the grist mill of "Sweet Land Of Liberty" grinds away. His world still moves on, while shameful lynchings, for the protection and virtues of white southern womanhood continues, and money mulching wholesale exploitation of youth runs wild, the only fault being he should never have been born.

How can over crowded cities and professions be eliminated? How can unemployment be solved? How can we avert another premeditated blunder like the world war? How can crime be solved?

Society's first step would be equality of opportunity for all by governmental control of commodities, natural resources and industry.

1. Equality or equal distribution of capital goods through livable wages.
2. Education within reach of all, higher education inclusive.
3. The religion stripped of all illusions.
4. Abolition of private monopolies of public utilities and absolute government ownership.
5. A press for the people minus propaganda.
6. A press for the people minus propaganda.
7. Abolition of social dogmas and economic security for all.
8. Disarmament.

Nevertheless, we will never attain these measures until we are as one, not as class against class, black against white, rich against poor, but only in fraternal brotherhood. Our faces turned toward the east, looking upward — faces bright, eager and expectant of the future — for the sun is rising.

Therefore, society, not until youth realizes he is a link in the chain, thread in the fabric and a brick in the wall, will his premeditated dilemma change.

A DAYS ROUTINE AT THE NEW YORK CITY REFROMATORY

(Continued from Page 4)

One idea I believe would be helpful in the elimination of crime, is to put the person under the belief that his trouble is mental. To maintain a rigid routine, lessen discipline, and to suit the person's particular needs. Mental exercises would be of assistance. Also occupy all his leisure hours with sports, etc.

It is known, idleness breeds crime. In order to curb idleness there must be a campaign set in progress, in which the younger generation must be made to realize that they are the ones to carry on the traditions and preserve them. With this object in mind, they feel important. Feeling thus, brings confidence. Once such confidence is established it brings forth ambition and when youth is ambitious there is no time for the thoughts of crime.

One Idea

A New Monotone

(Continued from Page 1)

to a local broadcasting station on several occasions and sing and play over the air much to their delight and that of their parents who eagerly "listen-in." They have also entertained the veterans in a nearby C.C.C. camp and have on one occasion reproduced their show at the State Theatre, Middletown, N.Y., the proceeds of which was placed in the Boys' Welfare Fund.

Realizing the monotony which could occur within an institution the administration tries to arrange a variety of programs and activities which prove both enjoyable and instructive to the boys. Sometimes it is after 10 p.m. before the boys leave the auditorium or gymnasium, much to their delight indeed.

-F. R. Sacher, Supt.
February 6th, 1936

Next Month

PEACE
ISSUE
Watch for it!
SOCIETY'S CRIME
(Continued from Page 1)

Charlie loses his job plunging subsistence into chaos. God, what next? Charlie has fallen in love with Mary. They'd like to marry but there's Mom and Pop to consider. Life without joy. Conflicting emotions - desires, results. Hours, days, weeks, months of heart rending suspense follow.

"Sorry Charlie, nothing doing for skilled or unskilled labor today."


Mr. Acker - borrow - but that would be ridiculous - I know - but I shouldn't think of that. He harbours the thought, it eventually becomes an obsession. Obsession materializes - he fractures one of the seventeen thousand rules of conventional behaviorism. A criminal made. He becomes a victim of police brutality. Results: fear, intense hatred predominates. Stripped of individuality, thrown into prison - given a number - here he mingles, rubs shoulders with hardened ruthless society made wrecks. Another world - grim, forbearing - steeped in sin, delirium, disease. Seething with perversion. An inexplicable inferno which he fails to conceive.

The wheels of justice grind blindly. Charlie finds himself an inmate in an institution for delinquency - for an indefinite period. Again he is subjected to humiliation and indignation. He despair, a crumbling of the ego - inferiority complex born. Life means nothing - only philosophy. Here the youth whose only sin was ignorance and being poor becomes a puppet for experiment - a motive for excessive taxation without adequate representation is stripped completely of his birthright freedom. Failing to understand there is but one alternative, he builds a barrier between himself and the social law that only death can destroy.

Eventually he is released upon society. The immense gates of the institution clang shut behind him. He emerges upon the superficial freedom of society.

Hopes, desires shattered. Society, thy will be done. What now?

COMMON SENSE OFFERS A CURE

1. Give a wholesome environment to build moral, physical stamina.

2. Put them on their merits; instill honesty and fair play.

3. Don't weaken morale by lack of contact with the opposite sex which results in perversion and homosexuality, neither being conducive to health.

4. Grant them an existence when they return to society through opportunity and education, a chance to enjoy life. Not just cannon fodder so that a special clique may wax wealthy.

POVERTY IN THE MIDST OF PLENTY

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STATE
A New Landmark
in the Literature of Freedom

What is the chief ingredient of greatness in a book? To be beautiful,—moving,—exciting? These certainly, but looking back over the great books of the past, one perceives an almost indefinable dimension—height, vision, a feeling for the safety of the liberties of man. So with War and Peace, with Gulliver, with Candide, with A Tale of Two Cities.

This vision—this dynamic strength of idea—was, we feel, present from the very birth of Sinclair Lewis’ It Can’t Happen Here; and it has proved of vital and personal importance to thousands of readers on both sides of the Atlantic.

We recall now the letter, dated October 12th, from Ben Abramson, of the Argus Book Shop, Chicago: “In my opinion It Can’t Happen Here is the most important novel ever written by an American writer, and it will live as long as men have ideals.”

That was before publication, before an overwhelming press had driven home to Americans everywhere the novel’s vital message.

“Should be taken to heart by every man interested in preserving American liberties,” wired Paul Jordan-Smith of the Los Angeles Times. “Not only a work of art but also of conscience,” wrote Paul Horgan. “Sinclair Lewis has written not only his best book but one of the most important books ever produced in this country,” said Clifton Fadiman, in The New Yorker.

But now, as the book continues after three months to arouse more speculation and enliven more conversations than any American novel of the last decade, perhaps we should not let its success blind us to its greatness.

For it is not in the universal praise, nor the sales, but in the fiery spirit and the remarkable diversity of the people praising it that we catch a glimpse of how a work of fiction can move and shake a nation.

“It Can’t Happen Here is a thrilling warning,” said Senator Borah. “A splendid achievement in waking up the public to the possibility of what might happen here,” said Governor Talmadge. From those statements, almost even more than from the ardent words of enthusiastic book reviewers, it became apparent that when the author of Main Street applied his unique power of realism against a not impossible future, a nation paid heed.

It Can’t Happen Here expresses a universal fear that exists in the subconscious mind of any people. A fear made real—for those, as Mr. Fadiman says, who do not like lynching, torturing, shooting, murder. A fear so graphically expressed that the London Daily Herald said frankly, “This is easily the most important book that the Fall publishing season has given us.”

Have you read It Can’t Happen Here? That’s a question you hear, increasingly, throughout the nation today. Here, in terms of our own people and our own lives, is what dictatorship means. Here is the excitement of history in the making—the white heat of protesting genius—the furious story-telling power of a born novelist—the social conscience of a truly liberal American—the angriest, most realistic novel by the author of Babbitt and Arrowsmith.

Sinclair Lewis’
IT CAN’T HAPPEN HERE

Have you read it? But most of all, do you own it? It’s one book you’ll be proud to possess ten years from now! 458 pages, $2.50. D. D. DORAN
April 14, 1939

My dear Miss Ilma:

As I have a lecture engagement on
April 20, I will not be able to attend the
dinner to be given by the Young Men's Vocational
Foundation and, therefore, do not feel that I
can lend my name as patroness.

In the talk which you are to give
before the International Rotary Club in Cleveland,
I think it would be important to stress the idea
that the Club members interest themselves as much
as possible in schools and see that they offer
vocational guidance and training.

Very sincerely yours,

Miss Viola Ilma
Young Men's Vocational Foundation, Inc.
345 Lexington Avenue
New York, New York
April 8, 1939

Mrs. Elinor Roosevelt  
The White House  
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

On April 20th, the Young Men's Vocational Foundation, the purpose of which is placing young men in jobs upon their release from reform schools, is having a benefit dinner. We would be very honored indeed if you would become a patroness.

I would also like to ask you at this time, for some suggestions on the following. I am speaking before the International Rotary Club in Cleveland this coming June on "How Can Rotary Serve Youth?" Recognizing the importance of this business group, I am anxious to present as concrete a program as possible. Knowing your long-range interest in the entire youth problem, I thought you might have some ideas which you would like me to stress. I am also setting in touch with Mr. Cadden of the Youth Congress for I am extremely anxious to contribute some plan which can be followed through by the Rotary Club. It is along this line that any suggestions would be more than welcome.

My work is now most interesting. We have started a course on "How to Get a Job" for boys when they are released from reform schools. We find that these boys do succeed if they have a chance to fill a job for which they have some training and talent.

Hoping to hear from you, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

Viola Ilma

VI:PS  
ENG.
"THE SHADOW"

Reproduced by courtesy of THE AMERICAN LEGION MONTHLY
What Is the Young Men's Vocational Foundation?

A service agency that offers vocational guidance and obtains employment for young men between the ages of sixteen and twenty-five upon their release from reformatories.

It began in March, 1928, as the Vocational Demonstration, sponsored by the Osborne Association in cooperation with the Commissioner of Correction of the City of New York.

It cooperates with the New York City Reformatory, New Hampstead, New York, and the New York State Training School for Boys, Orange County, New York. Young men are recommended to us by institutional heads, social workers, and parole officers on the basis of need and ability.

The Young Men's Vocational Service was formed in June, 1928, and incorporated on September 7, 1938, as the Young Men's Vocational Foundation, with the following Officers:

GLENN GARDNER MRS. LIONEL C. PIFEREA, JR. ARMACE ARCHBOLD VIOLA ELMA
President Vice-President Secretary Treasurer

How the Foundation Functions

Every youth, upon release from a reformatory or correctional institution, needs positive assistance in finding a new social point from which to adjust himself to society. The Young Men's Vocational Foundation believes that in a large measure self-respect, so necessary for every youth seeking re-adjustment to the community, depends upon the stability that comes from regular work and earning capacity. The finding of a job is difficult enough for the average youth. It is doubly difficult for the youth with a record of institutional confinement, as he finds many normal work outlets closed to him (e.g., he cannot get admission to a CCC camp, the Army or Navy, or obtain any position that requires a bond). Special aid is therefore needed by these youths, whose plight is difficult and discouraging, in their struggle for rehabilitation.

In brief, the Young Men's Vocational Foundation aids youths seeking rehabilitation and work to find answers to the following questions:
1. What can I do?
2. Where shall I look?
3. How shall I go about it?
4. What do I earn?
5. How can I hold it when I get it?
6. How can I get a better job or achieve promotion?

How Many Young Men Are Received by and Paroled from New York City Reformatory and New York State Training School for Boys?

In 1937, New York City Reformatory received 416 young men between the ages of 18 and 25, and paroled 471.

Of the 471 paroled—approximately—
50 had no jobs
125 had no homes
306 had no education
155 violated parole

In 1937, New York State Training School for Boys received 225 young men between the ages of 13 and 18, and paroled 203.

Of the 203 paroled—approximately—
220 had no jobs
2 had job prospects
1 had home

How Is This Work Conducted?

Through cooperation with existing social, vocational, and educational organizations, as well as cooperation with industrial relations leaders, labor union leaders and government agencies—in short, all forces of the communityinterested in the problems of juvenile delinquency and youth.

Because of our past success, the list of possible employers and variety of employment grows from day to day.

How Is It Financed? By means of private contributions only.

Thousands of Maladjusted Youths Are Bred in Delinquency Areas Many Land in Reformatories We Strive for This Outcome — A Job

During 1937, the average cost of caring for juvenile delinquents was $996.33, the Commissioner of Correction estimated. The cost of keeping prisoners in county jails was $715.35 per person, in penitentiaries $353.32. —New York Times

This means that $1 spent constructively in vocational guidance and job placement will do the work of $23 spent to temporarily take care of the juvenile delinquent in a reform school. The cost of rehabilitation of one boy by the Young Men's Vocational Foundation—$23, and society benefits immensely.
Commissioner Austin H. MacCormick, of the Department of Correction:

"I am delighted that you are establishing the Young Men's Vocational Service to assist men released from correctional institutions to secure jobs. This is the crux of the whole rehabilitation problem. We cannot expect ex-prisoners, especially younger ones, to straighten out if they cannot secure jobs on which they can earn an honest living and build up self-respect and self-reliance. Today dozens of young men are released from New York City Reformatory with no home, no job and no prospects of a job."

Superintendent Frederick R. Sacher of New York City Reformatory:

"The help you have given our boys in securing employment is to me the most worthwhile accomplishment which I have witnessed since becoming Superintendent of New York City Reformatory. I sincerely hope that this Young Men's Vocational Service will grow and be able to not only help the boys at our institution but tend to reach many other institutions."

B. J. Barnett, Employment Secretary, Young Men's Christian Association, Harlem Branch:

"We feel very grateful to you and your organization for the type of service you are endeavoring to carry on, and especially your attitude toward the colored boys who come to you for help."

A Letter from One of the Boys:

"Starting next Tuesday I receive an increase of $10.00 a week. I had to join the union, and now receive 75c per hour, which makes it $33.00 per week, and now I can save some money, and before long I hope to be able to say "I do" to a preacher. And before I do, I'm going to ask you to meet the sweetest girl in the world."

I enclose a contribution of $._.

Name ____________________________________________________________

Address _________________________________________________________
Benefit Dinner for the YOUNG MEN'S VOCATIONAL FOUNDATION at Ruppert's Brewery
April 20, 1939

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Mme. Alma Clayburgh
Mrs. Richard Storrs Childs
Mrs. S. Winston Childs, Jr.
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Martha Dodd
Mme. Henri Dupont
Mrs. Livingston Goddard
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Mrs. Arnold Hutcherson
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Miss Elinore Loeb
Mrs. Whitman Knapp
Miss Anne Morgan
Mrs. Lionel C. Perera, Jr.
Mrs. William Piel
Evelyn Preston
Mrs. Richard Storrs
Mrs. Lester Weil
Mrs. Gordon Page Williams
Baroness Henkl Goetz von Okocim

co-Chairmen: Mrs. Livingston Goddard; Baroness Henkl Goetz von Okocim
Chairman of Arrangements: Mrs. Lester Weil
Chairman of Hospitality: Mrs. Whitman Knapp
November 9, 1939

My dear Miss Ilma:

Thank you so much for your letter. The work you are doing is very interesting and I wish I had time to visit your headquarters and see it first-hand. However, I fear it will be impossible as I will be so busy for the next several weeks.

Very sincerely yours,

Miss Viola Ilma
Young Men's Vocational Foundation, Inc.
212 West 40th St., NYC
YOUNG MEN'S VOCATIONAL FOUNDATION, INC.
345 Lexington Avenue
New York, N.Y.

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt
The White House
Washington, D.C.

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I was delighted to have a brief chat with you yesterday at the Women's City Club, and thought you would be interested to know a little more of the work I have been doing for the past four years.

In February, 1936, I became director of the Vocational Demonstration at the Osborne Association and placed boys in jobs when they were released from New York City Reformatory. In 1937, they had to let the work go due to lack of funds, and one and one-half years ago I set up the above organization and we now place boys from New York State Training School for Boys and New York City Reformatory. In connection with this work, we run a class on "How to Get a Job", and we have made considerable headway, especially in cooperation with Negro boys, a problem which is so immense that even a dent is sometimes discouraging.

It seems almost unbelievable that a job such as this is being done single-handed in the City of New York, considering how much money is spent in sending boys to reform schools and keeping them there, and when they are released the Army and Navy and CCC Camps cannot accept them.

Since September, we have placed approximately sixteen out of twenty-five boys. Comparing this with the New York State Employment Service, one Junior Division interviewed two thousand boys and placed one hundred and seventy-nine. We sell the employer the idea to place the boy. To this extent, we have been aiming to develop training within the institution that is more in line with jobs that can be found when the boys are released.
I am enclosing a leaflet of our work, and a follow-up sheet which we send to employers. One-half of the boys in the last class are already placed.

This work has been very inspiring and challenging, and at times discouraging because I have been doing this with a secretary and myself. However, I do hope we can pave the way so that finally the State Employment can develop a socially handicapped division where parolees can have an opportunity such as we can only give to two hundred boys a year.

I know how terribly busy you are when you are in New York but I would like awfully much to have a chance to see you and tell you a little bit more of this very interesting and important work in the field of rehabilitation of juvenile delinquents.

Very sincerely yours,

[Signature]

Viola Ilma

VI:PS
Enc.
The purpose of the Young Men's Vocational Foundation is to place young men in jobs upon their release from New York State Training School for Boys and the New York City Reformatory, believing that their rehabilitation depends upon work for which they are best fitted. The boys who come to us for training in vocational adjustment and for our assistance in placement are carefully selected for need and ability. We earnestly solicit your cooperation, either in placement or by suggesting possible placement sources.

**HAVE YOU AN OPENING FOR ANY OF THESE BOYS?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TYPE JOB</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Residence</th>
<th>Hgt.</th>
<th>Wt.</th>
<th>Education</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Porter or Messenger</td>
<td>TC 17</td>
<td>Harlem</td>
<td>5'4&quot;</td>
<td>130 lbs.</td>
<td>8B</td>
<td>Lively and pleasing personality. Negro.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Factory</td>
<td>AD 16</td>
<td>NYC</td>
<td>5'11&quot;</td>
<td>155 lbs.</td>
<td>3 term</td>
<td>High Sch.</td>
<td>Next and willing - good appearance. White.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Helper on truck</td>
<td>JD 20</td>
<td>Brooklyn</td>
<td>5'11½</td>
<td>143 lbs.</td>
<td>Grammar School</td>
<td>Next - anxious for a beginning. White.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plumber's Helper</td>
<td>AG 16</td>
<td>Bronx</td>
<td>5'10½</td>
<td>149 lbs.</td>
<td>3 term</td>
<td>High Sch.</td>
<td>11 mos. experience as plumber's helper; 1 year of printing. Ambitious, serious, dependable and willing worker. White.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Counterman</td>
<td>LM 19</td>
<td>Harlem</td>
<td>5'9½&quot;</td>
<td>165 lbs.</td>
<td>7B</td>
<td>Neat, well-mannered, good appearance, experienced. Negro.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laundry</td>
<td>JM 19</td>
<td>Harlem</td>
<td>5'11½</td>
<td>151 lbs.</td>
<td>8A</td>
<td>Willing worker, experienced - run washers, extractor, tumblers. Negro.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clerk</td>
<td>CR 18</td>
<td>Brooklyn</td>
<td>5'9&quot;</td>
<td>137 lbs.</td>
<td>1 yr.</td>
<td>High Sch.</td>
<td>Experience as errand boy in print shop, operates Kelly Press; has studied printing. Anxious to work; willing. White.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dishwasher, Porter</td>
<td>IS 20</td>
<td>Harlem</td>
<td>5'6&quot;</td>
<td>132 lbs.</td>
<td>8th gr.</td>
<td>Experience as dishwasher and delivery boy, willing, neat appearance. Negro.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chef</td>
<td>OD 28</td>
<td>Harlem</td>
<td>5'7½&quot;</td>
<td>153 lbs.</td>
<td>2½ yrs.</td>
<td>High Sch.</td>
<td>Eight yrs. experience baking, roasting, soups, short orders. Responsible, anxious to get a new start; good appearance. Negro.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Your interest and cooperation makes the Young Men's Vocational Foundation effective.

Will you have any openings within the next few weeks that you can foresee so that we may know what type experience you need?
December 11, 1939

My dear Miss Ilma:

I am so glad that you sent the letter to the Disc Committee and appreciate your letting me see the copy.

Very sincerely yours,

Miss Viola Ilma
Young Men’s Vocational Foundation, Inc.
345 Lexington Avenue
NYC
Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

It would be difficult to express my deep appreciation for your courageous interest in the American Youth Congress. Many of us recognize what a hopeful need the Youth Congress fills in the interest of the young people of America.

I am enclosing a letter that I have sent to the members of the Dies Committee believing that as organizer and founder of the American Youth Congress, I have a thorough knowledge of its beginnings and its development.

I am firmly convinced through serious study of the Youth Congress that the major break in 1934 was due to my undemocratic procedure as chairman and that the majority of youth feared undemocratic procedure much more than they feared the few Communists present. Certainly the people who backed the first Youth Congress were representative including Mr. Adolph A. Berle, Charles Taussig, Ogden Mills, Mrs. August Belmont and Arthur Garfield Hayes.

In short I thought that you would like to know that I have written this letter and that I am anxious to testify if Murray Flavner does.

Very sincerely yours,

Viola Ilma
December 6, 1939

Representative Martin M. Dies
House Office Building
Washington, D.C.

Dear Representative Dies:

I have heard that Mr. Murray Flavner has been requested to appear before your Committee to testify on the American Youth Congress by Mr. Chailloux of the American Legion.

As organizer and founder of the first American Youth Congress I should like to testify at the same time as to my knowledge of the history of the Youth Congress and its beginnings for which I was solely responsible.

Sincerely yours,

Viola Ilma
December 26, 1939

Dear Miss Ilma:

Thank you for your letter. I am very much interested to know what you have been able to do. Each boy you help is a help to all of us and I am very appreciative.

I am concerned about a young man, Sam Mandel, and have asked him if he would like to go to see you to talk over his problem. He was paroled from Elmira Reformatory and was working in a leather goods factory. He has very little formal education, was a victim of his environment, and is now out of a job. He is married to a fine young girl whom I have known for several years and who believes in him.

I shall be most grateful if you can help him.

Very sincerely yours,

Miss Viola Ilma
Young Men's Vocational Foundation, Inc.
8 West 40th St.
NYC
December 20, 1939

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt
The White House
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

In behalf of our organization, I want to thank you for the check of $10.00 which you sent us. Needless to say, it represents a good deal to us.

You might be interested in the case of George Dornblut, whose mother wrote you this summer in the hope that you could help her with her problem.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Dornblut are deaf mutes, and their son, George, was at Coxsackie Reform School, and according to the rules and regulations of that institution, the boy was unable to be paroled without a job. (This is a regulation in a good many institutions that makes parole for most prisoners very difficult. It is hard enough to get a job when you are on the outside, no less have an employer hire you when you are in an institution.) Because the parents were deaf mutes, it was quite impossible for them to seek a job for their boy, and for this reason they wrote to you.

You referred the letter to Dr. Mary Hayes of the Youth Administration, and Dr. Hayes wrote to us. In August, we got in touch with Mrs. Dornblut and with the institution, and began to investigate the boy's case history. All during the month of September we were in touch with Mrs. Dornblut, and also with the boy's parole officer, Mr. Joseph Pinto. Finally, after reviewing the case, Mr. Pinto was willing to permit the boy to be paroled depending upon our ability to place him.

In December, George Dornblut came to our office, and we had a series of interviews with the boy, and he obtained the happy Christmas gift of landing a job. His mother then requested us to contact his church so that the boy might make some social connections, and also asked me whether we could get George a coat.

Mr. Randall Creel, Chairman of our Board, who is Assistant United States District Attorney, Southern District of New York, who always comes through with our endless requests, sent us a coat for George which he will collect shortly. This simple case represents five months work and yet the outcome is a successful one. Our usual procedure, however, is to work only with the boys released from New York City Reformatory and New York State Training School for Boys.

I thought this case would be of interest to you.

Sincerely yours,

Viola Ilma

Viola Ilma
December 27, 1939

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt
The White House
Washington, D.C.

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

We shall try to do what we can for Mr. Sam Handel when he comes to our office, and shall let you know the results, if there are any.

Sincerely yours,

Viola Ilma
Executive Director

vi/s
January 15, 1940

Dear Miss Ilma:

I am giving this letter of introduction to Sam Handel, the young man about whom I wrote you. If you can do anything for him I shall be deeply grateful.

Very sincerely yours,

[Signature]

Miss Viola Ilma
Young Men's Vocational Foundation
8 West 40
NYC
January 3, 1911

Dear Mr. Roosevelt,

I know how hard it is for me to express myself and it would be impossible for me to tell you how much pleasure your gifts brought to the household. We were so depressed with financial matters and when we received the packages from you it seemed as if the Christmas spirit spread through the house.

Sam is again enthusiastic about another opportunity and would appreciate an introduction to Miss Atlee. Sam is very hopeful that something will present itself and I hope it will utilize the best in him.

Today my younger brother was supposed to go back to The National Fact
Administration, Moody Village Project
in East Port Maine. He was taking
an aeronautical course and he was
supposed to have one more year of
training. The N.F. A. wrote him a
letter saying that due to unforeseen
circumstances they won't be able
to take him back. It seems a pity
because he is neither here nor there.
What I mean is that he couldn't get
a job as a machinist because he hadn't
enough training and he has become
so absorbed in aeronautics that he
only looks for that kind of a job.

Well, thanks again and a
very Happy Happy New Year-from me
to you-

Bertha Brodsky Bankel
February 2, 1940

Dear Miss Ilma:

Thank you for sending me the minutes of the strike.

I hope the boys will be able to come to the Youth Congress, or at least to send one to represent them.

Very sincerely yours,

Miss Viola Ilma
Young Men's Vocational Foundation
8 West 40th Street
NYC
January 27, 1940

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt
The White House
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I know you must be terribly busy, but I could not resist sending you the minutes of the strike. It was written by one of the lunch box boys, Max Schwartz, age 16.

This coming Tuesday they are having another meeting at the Labor Relations Board, bringing forth more charges.

At present the lunch box boys are planning to attend the Youth Congress in Washington, on February 9th to the 12th. That is, if they can raise sufficient funds to get down there. I shall probably be able to help them. It will be their first contact with the Youth Congress and their first trip to Washington, D. C. If you will have a few minutes to meet these boys, I am certain that their refreshing youthfulness would underline your firm certainty of what strength and courage there is in the young people of America.

I've already spoken to Joe Cadden about funds for the Youth Congress. We are now getting a list of people to invite, which we shall send you shortly.

I am hopeful that Mr. Gardiner will help us place Sam Handel. As soon as we land a good job for him, which will enable him to move, I shall let you know.

Very sincerely yours,

[Signature]

VIOLA ILMA
Executive Director
MINUTES OF THE LUNCHEON SERVICE ASSOCIATION
Period of December 8th to January 23rd, 1940

1. CONTENTS:
   1. The Causes of the Strike.
   2. The Events of the Strike.
   3. The Significance of the Strike.
      (a) To Us.
      (b) To Similar Shops.

1. THE CAUSE OF THE STRIKE.

The causes of the strike may be summarized into one word, 'Injustice'.
The realization that only by united action can injustice be eliminated was
the motivating force behind all the events in this strike.

The business is conducted under the name and style of Aunt Martha's
Luncheon Combination Service. The business consists of the preparation
and delivery of lunch boxes.

There are 15 employees. 12 delivery boys and 3 kitchen help. The
employer works in the kitchen and answers the telephones.

The hours are from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., for delivery boys. They place their
number on the bulletin board in the morning. Menus are given (from 100 to 200)
with which the boys use in canvassing their given groups of buildings or route.
The time allowed for this work is from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. This canvassing consists
of distributing the menus thru the buildings daily which constitute a part of
each boy's route. As can be seen some routes, either thru more continuous can-
vassing or more established customers return a good deal more or less than
others. The practice of the employer is to divide the routes as follows:
(a) Newcomers are given the established routes.
(b) Present employees are given the lowest routes on the grounds that
they will build them up. Thus forcing them to leave and not complain
of the unfair change and subsequent lowering of pay. In this manner
the newcomers after a while receive the same treatment and room is
made for newer employees. However, no matter how well a route is it
still returns very little.

The pay is entirely on a percentage basis. Each boy receives 10% of the
total amount his route brings in each week. At the present time the average
route returns from $30 to $40 dollars per week. The pay then is $3.00, from
$2.00 to $3.00 per week. If in spite of hard canvassing a route does not
come in, the boy is blamed and discharged for negligence.

The employer paying the boy the commission on his route also obligates
him to work past his time on the route, while not assuming the responsibility
of hiring him past that time. He obtains services gratis such as folding
boxes, printing and folding menus, collecting them-ases, and delivering
lunches. The latter service occupies the time from 11 to 3 p.m. The conditions
before the strike may be stated thus:

HOURS: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
WAGES: Commission and tips—$3. to $4. per week. Hiring and discharging
at employer's discrimination.

No collective bargaining.
Being exceedingly underpaid and unfairly treated for our work the natural reaction would be to complain or to quit. The latter course being of no advantage, it was abandoned. The alternative course could win only with the majority of the employees behind us. The other delivery boys deciding to fight it out for fair wages and better working conditions, discussed the matter during the week of December 5, 1939. By December 8, 1939 they had reached an agreement on what to do. Of the 12 boys in the shop 8 agreed to choose a spokesman to represent them for the purposes of collective bargaining. The rest did not or were not asked for fear they would disclose the organization. The eight boys being Frederic Dewey, Herbert Signer, Max Schwartz, Murray Sender, Mayer Schuckman, James Watson, and John Carr. The program which was to be presented was as follows:

1. Two cents for every lunch box delivered costing 28¢, or 71/2¢ of the total amount of lunches delivered daily.

2. Recognition of a union of employees within the shop.
   (a) No person to be hired unless he join the union.
   (b) A justifiable reason for discharge of any employee.
   (c) All complaints made by the employer to the employee or vice-versa must be made thru a recognized union representative.

3. Re-arrangement of the routes, services, food, etc., to be discussed with the employer as under 24.

These demands we considered reasonable to both parties and we felt that we must present them in the right manner.

The spokesman chosen for the group was one, Frederic Dewey, an employee. We decided to meet Monday December 11, 1939 morning at 9a.m. in front of any shop and from there proceed to the employer as a group and discuss the demands. This organization meeting took place on Friday, December 8, 1939 after working hours.

2. THE EVENTS OF THE STRIKE.

Monday, December 11, 1939, 9a.m. All the boys met in front of place, stopped into luncheonette to eat breakfast and talk over with spokesman on the business at hand. Meanwhile some of the boys not in our group tells Mr. Corbitoff that the rest of the boys are going to demand a raise or go out on strike. The employer comes down in the luncheonette and asks the group why they are not out working. Desiring, not to discuss matters in an improper place and manner the boys did not answer. The employer returns to his business. The group then, after a few minutes last preparation go up to the shop. Just as the spokesman, Dewey is about to address the employer, he immediately cries out "If you don't like the job get the hell out of here, all of you". At this point the employer turns his back to us disregarding the spokesman. The group returns to the street and declare a strike against Mr. Corbitoff. They decide to go to their particular customers to request them not to buy from Aunt Martha, until the strike is over. Before they could start, however, three policemen arrive with a squad car and go up to the shop. They then came down and requested that one person go up and see Mr. Corbitoff for a settlement. Murray Sender volunteers and goes up in the custody of the officer to Mr. Corbitoff. Mr. Corbitoff still refuses to give the raise, recognize the group or consider any demands on the grounds that the boys quit and he did not fire them. Sender tried to explain the situation but the employer resorted to
profane language after which Senator requested his leave. Then the officer returned, the group asked him if they could ask their customers not to buy from Mr. Corbitoff. He replied that we can do that as long as we do not molest the other boys delivering lunches to other customers. The boys start to solicit customers not to buy. Most of the customers promised not to buy until the strike is over and were in sympathy with our demands. One of the customers on a boy's route is connected with a youth organization. One of the boys, Frederick Dewey was sent over by her to work in Aunt Martha's on the request of Mr. Corbitoff. Hearing of the strike and the stand we took, Miss ILMA suggested that we go to local 302, Cafeteria Union, A.F. of L. to see if they could help us win the strike. Our spokesman went in to see Mr. Taylor to obtain aid. He sent us to local 667 which has jurisdiction over our type of work. Mr. Zachay of Local 667, an organizer, said that we cannot unionize as delivery boys but he would do everything he can to help us.

Tuesday, December 18, 1939, 9 a.m. The remaining boys went to continue the picketing of customers. We went to Miss ILMA to see if she had any word from Local 667. She suggest us to go to the N.Y.S. L.I.F. and let them hear our story. She go to them and meet Mr. Silvers of the Legal Staff. After hearing our story he asks us to go back to Mr. Corbitoff and ask him to reinstate us, recognize the group and if he fired us or if we quit. Two boys go back to Mr. Corbitoff, Dewey and Schwartz. The employer does not want us back and is not interested in any group. The purpose of this visit was to determine what charge the employer can be pressed with. It turned out that he "locked us out" and we had a right to organize the employees for the purposes of collective bargaining without the concurrence of the employer in this case the discriminatory discharge and refusal to hear the representative and subsequent refusal to reinstate the said employee is unfair labor practice that is within the meaning of Section 704 of the N.Y.S. Labor Relations Act passed in May, 1937. Either thru ignorance of the law, fear of collective bargaining or deliberate disregard for the rights of his employees to protest on an equal basis with him, Mr. Corbitoff was violating the law by acting in that manner and we were acting in the very manner that the Board intended us to do within the New York State Labor Relations Act.

Mr. Silvers sent us to Mr. Garriga, International Vice-President of the various hotel, restaurants, etc., unions of the A.F. of L. to see what can be done to obtain further union aid. Mr. Garriga advised us to continue the strike while he submits the case to the Executive Council. He said we were to return the next day at 2 p.m. to see if we are recognized by the council.

Another member of the youth organization, Mr. M. J. Wellenstein donated $10 to found the Luncheon Service Association and to pay our immediate expenses of the strike.

Wednesday, December 13, 1939. We went up to Mr. Silvers to follow the Board's instructions. Dewey made a statement of what happened Monday, Dec. 11, 1939. Being authorized to act for us so as to save time he signed it and the charge was filed. He said he would notify us when the case comes up.

We went to Mr. Garriga at 2 p.m. He advised us to call on him or Local 667 whenever we needed aid in obtaining pamphlets etc. However he was very interested in the situation and is following it closely.
Thursday, December 15, 1939. We receive a letter that an informal
conference will be held at the Board’s office, December 18, 1939, at 2:30
p.m. to obtain a preliminary statement from both parties.

We go to our headquarters and decide to meet at Miss Ilma’s home for
a discussion of the hearing.

December 18, 1939. Monday. 2:30 p.m. Mr. Corbitoff postpones his
appointment for the next day.

Tuesday, December 19, 1939. 3:30 p.m. Mr. Corbitoff comes to the
conference with his attorney, Mr. Horowitz is the examiner in charge. At first
Mr. Corbitoff refuses to take us back, then he agrees to reinstate us at
the old conditions, he will not recognize the group. His claims of what he
thought happened, conflict with the statement of what actually happened.

He promises us $2. back pay for the time we were out. (two weeks)
All the boys who took our places Monday are to be fined. He agrees to
fire the scabs, pay us $2. back pay and to consider us as employees. We
agree and shake hands, Tuesday December 26, 1939.

Thursday, December 21, 1939. The boys visit Mr. Corbitoff to see
about the boys he is supposed to fine. He now says that he is not going
to fine any boys but, to put us on plus the other boys. This is a direct
violation of what he agreed to. We called Mr. Horowitz up and he is going
to investigate.

Miss Ilma invited Mr. Gluck of Local 677 down to our headquarters
here to show us how to unionize the shop when we get back. We are to have
a meeting of our employees, December 26, at 5 p.m. to determine our course
of action. At present the interested parties in this case are:

1. The New York State Labor Relations Board – Case No. S. U. 4668
2. Miss M. V. Ilma, of the Young Men’s Vocational Foundation, Inc.
   Mr. M. J. Wallenstein, another member.
4. The employees.
5. The employer, Mr. Corbitoff
6. Union Organizer 677, Mr. Gluck
7. The Public.

Tuesday, December 26, 1939. Mr. Corbitoff agreed at the conference to:
1. Reinstatet those “locked out.”
2. Discharge those who had taken our place and return our old routes.

Today Mr. Corbitoff did the following:
1. Reinstated the boys (5)
2. Did not discharge all the scabs.
   (1 was fined) (2 quit) (2 remain)
3. Did not give us all of our old routes back.
   (2 have old routes) (2 have new routes)

Mr. Horowitz and Miss Ilma were informed of this underhanded policy.
Mr. Horowitz reminded Mr. Corbitoff of his agreement. Mr. Corbitoff
claimed he lived up to his promise as he understood it. He was to make
five vacancies and put the boys on them. Mr. Horowitz let the matter drop for the while. Mr. Corbitoff, however, warned Lurray Sender if he hears from Mr. Horowitz again he and his friends will be fined for making trouble, with him.

Miss Iima invited the boys up to her house to discuss the situation. She suggested we do nothing now but wait until our meeting Thursday with Mr. Gluck of Local 677.

Wednesday, December 27, 1939. The boys went to Mr. Gluck at 5 o'clock. The first issue was what Mr. Corbitoff could pay us. Mr. Gluck and the boys agreed on the minimum wage scale of $.1100 a day eliminating the commission scale altogether and limiting the number of boys. He advised us to remain on the job and try and recruit other boys, from the shop, on our side. He outlined the program to follow.

1. Secure the majority of the worker's support to let the union represent them for the purpose of collective bargaining.

2. This majority then forces Mr. Corbitoff to appear at a conference at the Labor Board for the purpose of negotiation. The demands are presented, and if Mr. Corbitoff does agree to recognize them, our representative offers him a six month's contract imposing union regulations in the shop. In these regulations are the wages, hours, systems of living, etc. Mr. Corbitoff must negotiate. He may or may not sign the contract. If not, the next step is to call a strike of the employees. Circulars, pamphlets, etc., will be distributed and all the lawful means to harm Mr. Corbitoff will be used. However, Mr. Corbitoff, knowing that he would face a union strike would very probably resort to negotiations rather than lose his business. Mr. Gluck and ourselves hope Mr. Corbitoff will negotiate for the interests of both employer, employees, the union, Miss Iima and other shops.

Wednesday, December 29, 1939. The following boys are with us:
Frederic Dewey, Herbert Signer, Max Schwartz, Lurray Sender, Mayer Schuckman and Bill McSherry.

Mr. Corbitoff asked a few of us what we decided to do and where did he stand in the matter. He heard of our discussion Tuesday night at Miss Iima's house and was concerned about us. No remarks from him on quitting but he suggested we keep our routes up or he would let us go.

Tuesday, Jan 2, 1940. Today there were 11 boys working, 6 boys from the Association and 5 boys, independent or with the employer. The members of the Association constituted a majority of the workers. The number of employees needed to handle the business now, would not exceed those working today and could possibly be lessened by one or two. This establishes a permanent majority of 6, of the total amount of delivery boys actually needed. Frederic Dewey, our spokesman is to leave tomorrow for a C.C.C. job.

Wednesday, Jan 3, 1940. John Carr came to work today, taking Dewey's place. An investigator for the P.A.L. placement bureau came to hunt Martha's on a complaint. He said that he had heard of trouble here and that some of the boys were from the P.A.L. Murray Sender, a member of the P.A.L. and of our association was questioned by the investigator. Sender admitted his participation in the strike and his standing now. The P.A.L. agent informed Sender that he would be personally responsible for the loss of employment of his fellow members of the P.A.L. agency. This policy tends to lower, not raise the standard of this type of job. It is one of employment at any price. This investigator evidently believes that if no law provides for a fair wage on this job, no law will, nor is it worth fight-
ing to get one passed. It contradicts itself by putting boys on this job for a start, when a start at slave wages is no start at all.

Sender and Schwartz, another member of the association want to Miss Ilma to discuss the P.A.L. inquiry. While waiting in the library they met Mr. Gluck of Local 677. Mr. Gluck told Sender that he contacted Mr. Horowitz on the matter of having the union represent the Association in collective bargaining. He told us to wait for a call from Mr. Horowitz to Mr. Corbitoff on the matter of a conference, also to meet him tomorrow at 4:30 p.m.

Miss Ilma advised Sender to disregard the P.A.L. investigators warning. She attempted to contact the investigator and adjust the matter, but was unable.

Mr. Corbitoff hired 3 new boys today who may be approached on the matter of joining our Association and supporting the Union.

Our name will be changed from Luncheon Service Ass'n to Luncheon Service Workers as the latter is more characteristic of an employee's organization. The officers of the L.S.W. are as follows.

President---William McSherry
Secretary---Max Schwartz
Treasurer---James Netti.
Advisory Council---Viola Ilma
Mr. Gluck

Thursday, January 4, 1940. Nothing important occurred in the shop today. Sender and Schwartz went to see Mr. Gluck at 4:30 p.m. He said that Mr. Horowitz had not contacted Mr. Corbitoff. A letter from Mr. Horowitz would ask Mr. Corbitoff to a conference of the representative of a majority of the employees and the employer. Mr. Gluck is our representative. Murray Sender was asked to represent the boys in the shop at this conference.

Friday January 5, 1940. One of the new boys hired this Tuesday has joined our union. His name is James Netti. Unfortunately another member of our union, Bill McSherry was fired today. The reason given was that his route did not come in as well as the others. His discharge is unfair in view of the fact that other routes were as low as his and those boys were not fired too.

We have the following members in the union.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Murray Sender</th>
<th>Max Schwartz</th>
<th>Herbert Signer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mayer Schuckman</td>
<td>John Carr</td>
<td>James Netti</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Members below have left for the following reasons, at the date given.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>James Watson</th>
<th>Got job in Postal Telegraph</th>
<th>Dec. 8, 1939</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fredric Dewey</td>
<td>Joined the C.C.C.</td>
<td>Jan 2nd, 1940</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bill McSherry</td>
<td>Discriminatory Discharge</td>
<td>Jan 5th, 1940</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Monday January 8, 1940. Sender and Schwartz went to Miss Ilma to talk over the situation. She said that Mr. Gluck will see Mr. Corbitoff at Aunt Martha's tomorrow after he contacts Mr. Horowitz. Mr. Gluck will ask Mr. Corbitoff to come to terms on the negotiation of a contract establishing a union shop. If Mr. Corbitoff complies with our representatives demands the matter will be closed without aid from the outside.

If Mr. Corbitoff refuses to negotiate, the N. Y. State Labor Relations Board will ask Mr. Corbitoff to appear at a conference and negotiate with our representatives under formal conditions.
Wednesday, January 10, 1940. Mr. John Zachay, Secretary-Organizer of Local 677, went to see Miss Ilma at 2 p.m. today. She was not in and he saw Max Schwartz of Aunt Martha's Luncheon Combination Service there. Mr. Zachay suggested these steps toward organizing the shop:

1. Establish an auxiliary branch of Local 677 for the purpose of giving us status in the union. This will be a semi-autonomous organization.
2. Recruit new members from Aunt Martha's.
3. Start collective bargaining with Mr. Corbitoff.

Mr. Zachay said he will present the suggestion of securing an auxiliary branch to the Labor Board, Friday, January 12, 1940.

Miss Ilma tried to contact Mr. Zachay at his office but was unable.

The following boys have joined us: Michael Bernardo, 1120 Wheeler Ave. Bx.
                      Jack Sterman, 494 S. 176th Street Bx.

Monday, January 15, 1940. Bill McSherry went to see Mr. Zachay at Local 677, this morning. After telling Mr. Zachay all the facts of his discharge from Aunt Martha's, Mr. Zachay told Bill to meet the union lawyer, Mr. Cohen at 11 West 42nd Street at 2:30 p.m. today to prepare a statement.

One of the scabs who worked while we were on strike from December 11th to our re-instatement is reported coming back to work for Mr. Corbitoff again. This scab will probably take Bill McSherry's place since it has been open until now. Besides working while the boys were on strike, this scab acted as an agent for Mr. Corbitoff before, during and now will probably continue to work in the same capacity after the strike. We have two witnesses, Max Schwartz and John Carr, who heard the scab say on January 14, 1940 at Grand Central Terminal at 3 p.m. that he telephoned Mr. Corbitoff the day before the boys were on strike, notifying Mr. Corbitoff of the intention of the employees to organize and present their demands thru the process of collective bargaining, therefore, we feel that in order to protect our union and organization of employees, that this scab should not be allowed to return to a job where there is to be established a union shop. It is plainly an anti-union activity and unfair labor practice which should be dealt with accordingly.

Tomorrow morning Murray Sender will call Mr. Zachay up to get advise on this scab situation. We will also see how Bill McSherry is progressing. Miss Ilma advised us to wait and hear what Mr. Zachay has to say.

Michael Bernardo notified Mr. Corbitoff that he would not be in today. He said he will come in as usual on Tuesday, January 16th.

Mr. Corbitoff said this morning that he was going to fire all the boys who were reinstated by the N.Y.S.L.R.B. He claimed the boys do not bring in enough money from their routes.
Two of our boys, Herbert Signer and John Carr, were fired this afternoon by Mr. Corbitoff. There were two or three routes which brought in less than those of Carr and Signer. This is another attempt of Mr. Corbitoff to prevent the Union from organizing the employees.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF LOCAL 677, AUXILIARY BRANCH,
ON JANUARY 17, 1940, AT 711 EIGHTH AVE. ; AT 6 P. M.

Mr. Zachay, the Secretary-Organizer of Local 677, opened the meeting.
Mr. Simon Fox, a representative of the legal staff of this union, was present. Eight boys of our union were present; two were unable to attend. The business of the day was as follows:

1. The boys agreed that the basis for collective bargaining would include—
   (a) Provision for a minimum wage.
   (b) Provision for a commission on the route.
   (c) Provision for a minimum week of five days.

2. Mr. Fox said he was drafting the following:
   (a) An unfair labor practice charge against Mr. Corbitoff.
   (b) A petition for union representation of the majority of the workers.

Mr. Zachay said that in his negotiation with Mr. Corbitoff he would represent the whole shop. Therefore if Mr. Corbitoff would sign the delivery boys to a contract, Mr. Zachay would not negotiate for the kitchen help. Mr. Corbitoff would be faced with the possibility of either signing the boys which would be far cheaper for him, or signing a more expensive contract for the kitchen help.

A committee was elected to represent the boys at union meetings, etc. They consist of the following boys:
Chairman--Max Schwartz
Murray Sender
Meyer Schuckman
Bill McSherry

Applications for membership in the union were given to the chairman to distribute among the boys. These are to be returned to Mr. Fox's office.

The boys were to see Mr. Fox tomorrow and make statements and affidavits.

Mr. Zachay said he would see Mr. Corbitoff tomorrow for an informal discussion on the matter of negotiating a contract.

Our immediate job is to get as many boys as we can to make out the application for membership in the union.

The meeting was adjourned by Mr. Zachay.
Thursday January 18, 1940. Mr. Zachay was unable to see Mr. Corbitoff today due to a slight illness. The chairman at the committee tried to contact Mr. Zachay in the evening but was unable.

The boys filled in the application blanks for membership in the union and returned them to Bill McShea who was put in charge of this department. Bill also made 2 extra copies of the entire minutes, one for Mr. Fox and the other for the committee. Mr. Zachay and Miss Ilma are also supplied with the complete minutes.

Mr. Fox saw the boys at his office to obtain statements for the support of the unfair labor charge he will file at the Labor Board. All the statements cover from the time of reinstatements to the present. Mr. Fox said he will call Miss Ilma's office when he needs the boys to sign the affidavits. The chairman of the committee is to see Miss Ilma so as to notify the boys that Mr. Fox is ready for their signature. Mr. Fox also asked the chairman to make a report of how much each boy's route comes in each day, especially those days before and up to when Carr and Singer were fired.

Due to Mr. Zachay's illness Mr. Fox has not filed the unfair labor practice charge and the petition for union representation of the majority of the employees. When Mr. Zachay is able he will probably see Mr. Corbitoff at his shop.

At present we are to get as many members as we can to join the union.

Friday, January 19, 1940. The usual activity prevailed in the shop today. One boy not in our union was fired.

In the afternoon Sender and Schwartz went over to Miss Ilma's to see if she had heard from Mr. Zachay yet. She said Mr. Zachay's secretary broke an appointment with her because Mr. Zachay was too ill to make it. Miss Ilma also told us of Mr. Zachay's plan to travel by auto to the American Youth Congress in Washington, D. C. this February. She suggested a few of the boys try to go with Mr. Zachay also.

The boys went to see Mr. Fox, the union lawyer on business. Mr. Fox sent a letter from his office using Mr. Zachay's name to Mr. Corbitoff protesting against the discharge of four of our union members. Mr. Fox also asked Mr. Corbitoff to come to an informal conference for the purpose of collective bargaining. At the same time, the petition and complaint against Mr. Corbitoff were mailed to the N. Y. S. L. R. B. The Labor Board will then ask Mr. Corbitoff to a conference which he must attend. If, however, the conference is not successful, the case will be brought to a formal hearing before the Board. The time between the filing of the charges and the informal conference or, and the hearing is up to the Board. If during the meantime Mr. Corbitoff reinstates the boys and negotiates with the union, the charges may be dropped.

The chairman will contact Mr. Zachay as soon as he is back in Local 677 again.
Monday, January 22, 1940. Mr. Zachay approached Mr. Corbitoff today at 4 p.m. in the shop. They discussed the possibilities of settling with the union. Nothing definite was arrived at. Another conference was agreed upon for Wednesday, January 24, 1940, at 4 p.m. The executive committee was elected January 17, 1940 and is to be available for this conference.

After Mr. Zachay left Mr. Corbitoff told Sender and Schwartz that if they did not bring their routes up they would be fired tomorrow. Mr. Corbitoff threatened the rest of the boys too.

Tuesday January 23, 1940. The normal shop activities prevailed. Mr. Corbitoff spoke to Meyer Schuckman and Max Schwartz asking them what he would tell Mr. Zachay tomorrow. The boys told Mr. Corbitoff to speak to the proper union representative to discuss the matter.

Two more boys, Erwin Hausch and John Priestly, have joined our union and have made out their application blanks. There is a total of 14 delivery boys working in the shop at present. There are 4 boys who have been discharged because of union activities. This means there is a total of 18 boys altogether regardless of whether or not they are working at the present time for Mr. Corbitoff. We have 12 boys supporting the union altogether (8 working at present and the 4 boys who were discharged). There are 6 delivery boys against the union. This gives us a majority consisting of 2/3 of the total number of boys including the 4 boys who were discharged and excluding the 4 colored people who work in the kitchen and who do not deliver lunches.
SYSTEM OF OPERATIONS OF AUNT MARTHA'S LUNCH ON COMBINATION SERVICE

This establishment is conducted under the name and style of Aunt Martha's Luncheon Combination Service, at 126 East 44th Street, New York City, two flights up. It is owned and operated by Mr. Charles J. Corbitoff of New York City for the past two years. The previous owner, Mr. Rogers sold the business to Mr. Corbitoff for $4800 after he had established this luncheon service six years before selling it.

THE GENERAL OPERATION OF THE BUSINESS IS AS FOLLOWS:

The area covered is 100 square blocks. This district is from 34th street to 54th Street, bounded by Second and Sixth Avenues. All customers calling within this area for regular orders receive deliveries. Most of the business, however, is within 50 sq. blocks of the establishment, from 38th Street up to 43rd Street bounded by 5th and 6th Avenues.

Certain Groups of buildings within this area are allotted to a boy as his route. The route usually consists of ten buildings, two or three tall ones, and a majority of shops and stores.

The establishment itself occupies the entire 2nd floor measuring approximately 40 feet long by 10 feet wide. The lunches are prepared in the morning by the three kitchen help and Mr. Corbitoff. Then the lunches are put on a shelf in the kitchen for delivery. The preparation of the lunches starts at 5 a.m. in the morning and ends about 9 a.m.

The delivery boys come in at 9 a.m. and put their number on the board. They then take their menus (100) and proceed to canvass their routes. They work from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. on their routes. They come back to Aunt Martha's and wait their turn for delivering. From 11 a.m. to about 2:30 p.m. the boys deliver lunches in the area mentioned. They do not always deliver lunches to customers on their own route; but most of the time deliver lunches to customers on other boys' routes. The boys carry the money collected with them until they finish delivering. They then check in their money and wait for lunch. The lunch consists of two or three sandwiches and coffee or some other beverage. After they finish eating, they then collect thermos bottles from various customers. This usually takes from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. After the thermos bottles are collected, they are finished for the day.

The menus for distribution are folded by the boys and the boxes (250) are also folded by them.

The boys receive 10% of what their route brings in at the end of the day. This usually amounts to from 30¢ to 40¢. The tips made on deliveries amount to the same.

The three kitchen help earn $15 apiece. They work from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. The total amount of all routes amounts to from $60 to $70 a day. Mr. Corbitoff collects this at a 100% gross profit and 50¢ net.

The lunches sell for 25¢ and 30¢ apiece. Two-thirds of the lunches sold are for 25¢; the other third sold are 30¢ lunches and a la carte sandwiches.
February 8, 1940

AIR MAIL

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt
The White House
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Thank you for your note of February 2nd.

Five of the "lunch box boys" are driving down to Washington in a station wagon which I got for them so they are all set—cameras and all—to see the great Capital and to attend the Youth Congress.

Sincerely yours,

Viola Ilma

Viola Ilma
February 16, 1940

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt
The White House
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

The lunch box boys were thrilled with their trip to Washington. As one put it this morning, "what with the Youth Congress, sightseeing, and actually putting foot in the White House and meeting the First Lady - just unbelievable." It was a great experience for them.

Upon their return, they had an election at the Labor Board and won, and now have a Union shop. The problem that now lies before them is that the Union cannot give them too much time. Those of us who are anxious to see them make gains must keep after the Union to develop realistic cooperation. Mr. Miguel Garriga, President of the Hotel and Restaurant Employees Union at 11 West 42 Street, is the man who can help us fight, not only for these young people but for the entire industry. If it would not be asking too much, I feel that a brief note from you to Mr. Garriga concerning your interest in the lunch box boys might be an addition to keeping enthusiasm to help this group along.

I am anxious to gain the cooperation of various Unions in placing young people in jobs. It is a responsibility which they recognize but they have not taken it up realistically as yet, and it is this issue in which the Young Men's Vocational Foundation wishes to make a dent. We hope through the lunch box service situation to, at least, gain the interest of the food groups. Once that is done, we have a pattern to follow with other Unions, and that is why I am so anxious to have the Union recognize the importance of bringing young people into their ranks so that they will have better wages and hours, and make conditions better in the industry rather than be left on the outside to work under very bad conditions, undermining the young people and the community in turn.

I think the Youth Congress meeting was magnificent. I was deeply moved to know that young people are so practically concerned with their immediate problems. I am sorry to see that so many people want to believe that the Congress is "Communistic." I have asked the lunch box boys what
February 16, 1940

They thought and they said it was "silly." They met many young people and they exchanged problems and interests. This is why I believe the Youth sessions are so very vital. If the press could only know what the trip means to most young people. Take our lunch box boys. Their parents came to our office to be sure they would be safe. The boys wondered if they should take long drawers. To them, the Youth Congress was the biggest occasion in their young lives. As one boy put it, "I was speechless standing in front of the Lincoln Memorial." They found the various speeches stimulating, and recognized that there were all shades of opinion, but the unity of the young people was the thing that impressed them most. That they fight for the American Youth Act is healthy; that they do not want to go to war is natural; and that they want jobs is their right. I, too, had a chance to talk to a good many young people and had the same reactions from them.

Historically speaking, your faith and belief in the youth of the country will be significant when the years have passed. As organizer of the initial Youth Congress, I felt this young group had developed far beyond my dreams. Their accomplishments are a brave and encouraging sign that the younger generation is now playing a representative role in American life.

I hope the Youth Congress will be able to get sufficient funds to bring in young people throughout the country who have not had an opportunity to attend the meetings. Also, I hope in the near future we can call a dinner to raise the money they need for a year's program.

For some time I have been rather interested and anxious to start a girls' division, the same as we are now carrying on for young men upon their release from reform schools. It would cost about $10,000 a year. Do you think that a group of women in New York might be interested to start such a program? Commissioner Adine is anxious for us to cooperate in placing the girls released from the Hudson State Training School for Girls. The job is there to be done. It is just a suggestion, but it is serious and important to consider.

At present, we are anxiously awaiting to hear whether or not we will receive funds from the supplementary funds of the State Department of Social Welfare, and Commissioner Adine is keeping me in close touch with this department. It would be a great relief for me to be able to concentrate on our work instead of spending so much time running after money.
Again, my hearty thanks for your giving the lunch box boys some of your time.

Most sincerely yours,

Viola Ilma

Viola Ilma

VI:PS
YOUNG MEN'S VOCATIONAL FOUNDATION, Inc.

MEMO: Luncheon Service Workers
February 15, 1940

1) Sometime in November, 1939, one of the former reform-school boys whom the Young Men's Vocational Foundation serves by guiding them to job opportunities, reported to our office and declared that he was weary of the fruitless job-hunt and asked that we recommend his readmission to an institution. He prevailed upon him to make a further attempt, and provided him with a lead for a temporary job with Aunt Martha's Luncheonette Service.

2) On December 11, 1939, the proprietor of the service telephoned to us requesting that we send him six boys immediately, despite his request on grounds of policy, and suspected labor trouble. Presently our former client came to us with five other employees of the lunch-box service, saying that they had gone on strike and wanted advice. The boys ranged in age from 16 to 18. They belonged to no union, and their strike was purely spontaneous. It appeared that they worked five days a week, from 9 AM to 4 PM, earning between $2.00 and $4.00 a week on a commission arrangement. They distributed advertising circulars to offices during the morning, delivered the lunch-boxes between 12 and 2 PM, then picked up empty thermos bottles, and spent the rest of the day preparing the next day's lunch boxes. They wanted more pay per delivery.

3) They were referred to the National Labor Relations Board, and presently a hearing was held, during which it was determined that the employer had locked them out following the walk-out. The boys were ordered re-instated at former wages and conditions.

4) On advice they turned to the Cafeteria Workers Union for guidance, and after hearing their case, Mr. Garraza turned them over to a union official, Mr. Zachary of Local 677. Subsequently they received advice and aid from Mr. Supran of the union, and Mr. Fox, an attorney. They began activity for union organization of their fellow employees, and those most active were fired by their employer.

5) A further labor board hearing resulted in the re-instatement of those who were fired, on February 8, 1940, and a date was set for an election of all employees on union representation for collective bargaining. In the meanwhile, six of the boys attended the American Youth Congress hearings in Washington, because of their interest in protective labor legislation, minimum wage laws, and the need for job opportunities for youth. On their return, on February 14th, they held their election, winning a majority vote for union representation.

6) At present, their wages remain as before, but they now have union representation and guidance and feel that ultimately they will be able to increase their wages.

This case illustrates the plight of many thousands of youngsters of similar age, who are working for pitifully low wages because of the intense competition for jobs of any sort by the huge army of youths. Unprotected by legislation for the most part, they work at sub-union standards for lack of union protection. The YMVF is vitally interested in this problem, since it is precisely youngsters in this age category who turn to us for help then released from reform schools. We realize that low wage levels are to the interest of neither the civic body nor labor unions, and we appeal to you for your suggestions as to methods of meeting this problem on a realistic basis. Our work has distinct bearing on a problem that cries out for a solution, requiring the cooperation of unions, social agencies, and civic minded persons. Won't you send us your suggestions?

Viola Ilma,
Executive Director

I send this to all the boys in the food union a note for larger play in the field.
March 23, 1940

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt
The White House
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Thank you so much for the check of $25.00 that you sent to the lunch box boys which will go into their club. What can one say? I think one of the boys describing his meeting with you expresses what many of us feel, "Gee, I am sort of scared when I think she is the First Lady, but when you talk with her, she is just like your mother." I must say this morning I was deeply moved by your contribution, knowing how many interests you have and how many people call on you. I have informed the boys that this contribution is not to be made public, and I think they will now cease publicity and really be themselves and go to work to organize the industry.

This morning the boys are meeting at the Union with Mr. Corbettoff to sign their contract—the first Union contract for lunch box boys in the City of New York. For them, and in turn for the hundreds of youths in the same field, it will be an initial victory which will spur the entire movement along.

Last night I saw Abe Lincoln in Illinois and I must truthfully say, I thought of you.

Very sincerely yours,

Viola Ilma

Executive Director
March 26, 1940

Dear Miss Ilma:

I have put down all the names that I can think of and I had a final talk with Mr. Edward J. Flynn. He wants to give a dinner of 35 people and ask some people whom he knows are antagonistic but thinks should be educated.

I would like to have you and Joe Cadden and Frances Williams and Jack McMichael at the dinner. I will spread you around the table and you will be subjected to questions, but I have made it a point that on this occasion the general discussion is to be about the work which the Youth Congress is trying to do, and not whether you happen to be under communist influence or not.

This will be frankly a money-raising dinner and understood to be such. As long as Mr. Flynn wishes to do this, I feel it is something we should accept, and then I can do something more afterwards if it is necessary.

Very sincerely yours,

Miss Viola Ilma
8 West 40
NYC
March 13, 1940

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt
The White House
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Enclosed is a list on which Joe Cadden and I have worked. The only person I have spoken to is Oscar Chapman who mentioned that he thought he could bring someone in who would contribute $1000. There must be others in Washington who feel the same way although I did not have the time to get around and talk. A date during April, I think, would be the best.

I do hope you will be able to attend the Board meeting of the Young Men's Vocational Foundation on Wednesday, March 20th at 5 o'clock at the home of Mrs. Lionel C. Perera, Jr., 912 Fifth Avenue.

I am still endlessly happy because of the grant from the Hayden Foundation. We are adding Mr. Robert Hannun, formerly of Children's Village, to our staff. We are going to take Federal cases who will be placed on probation rather than sentenced to Chillicothe. This is indeed a new angle for us which saves the State and Federal government a considerable amount of money, not to mention what a difference non-institutionalization will make on the young men. They will not have a record but a job.

Sincerely yours,

Viola Ilma

Viola Ilma

YOUNG MEN'S VOCATIONAL FOUNDATION, INC.
8 West 40th Street
Pennsylvania 6-9144
New York, N.Y.

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MRS. LESTER H. WEIL

MAURICE R. WHITEBOOK

DR. HERBERT D. WILLIAMS

VI:PS
March 25, 1940

My dear Miss Ilma:

I could have the dinner you wish on Wednesday, May 8. Unfortunately, that is the first free date I have in New York.

Could it be at the Cosmopolitan Club as that would be the easiest place for me?

I think the invitations should go out from a committee of which I am just a member. Otherwise, people might feel compelled to come and I never do that sort of thing.

What would you think of asking Mrs. Dana Backus, Miss Marian Paschal, and Mrs. George Backer to serve on the committee with me, or are there any other people you think better?

Very sincerely yours,

Miss Viola Ilma
Young Men’s Vocational Foundation, Inc.
8 W. 40th St., NYC
March 22nd 1940

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt
The White House
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Joe Cadden has asked me to add the following people to the list for the dinner:

Ben Golden, 140 Riverside Drive, N.Y.C.
William L. Standard, 291 Broadway, N.Y.C.
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel S. Gillmor, 1 Sheridan Sq., NYC
Benedict Wolf, 254 West 52 St., NYC

I am very grateful to you for the help you have given the lunch box boys and I think their victory will encourage many youngsters in the field to organize and make their conditions better. I still feel that if a man can only stay in business by exploiting himself and his workers, he is better off out of business.

By the way, Randall Creel, Chairman of our Board, who has a circle of wealthy friends some of whom have been helping Murray Flavner through Gene Tunny, has expressed to me his desire to be of help to the Youth Congress. I have put Joe Cadden on to him and hope that we might be able to switch some of these people away from Flavner. I understand that Murray Flavner got $10,000 from a small group of people at a dinner the other night. This, we must unravel somehow. Mrs. Lionel C. Perera, Jr., also on our Board, is going to help us with the unraveling through some of her connections. I do so hope we will have some success financially as a result of the planned dinner so that the Youth Congress can move forward and do its most important work for youth throughout the country.

With great admiration for you, I am,

Sincerely yours,

Viola Ilma

Viola Ilma
Dear Miss Ilma:

On the dinner list which you and Joe Cudden drew up, there is no question but what there are a great many people who would not be sympathetic and who would not give you cooperation in any money raising. I think it is going to take several dinner to really raise much money.

Mr. Flynn has agreed to give this dinner at his own home and not in a public place, and he has certain people he wants to ask. I will tell him that you feel that with certain people who are antagonistic there will be no chance to raise much money, and I will suggest that while it should be clearly understood that that is the purpose of the dinner, I would be quite willing to have people added who are antagonistic and who come for information, and I shall quite understand if they do not care to give any money.

If you want me to get Mrs. Bacaus, Miss Paschal and Mrs. Baker to join with me in giving a dinner for the list you sent me, I will be glad to do this, taking only a few of the people off your list to have it the dinner which Mr. Flynn is giving. I think as long as Mr. Flynn is interested in doing this, we should let him go ahead and plan a buffet dinner for Wednesday, May 8th, and I will give a dinner on Friday, May 17th at the Cosmopolitan Club.

Very sincerely yours,
On the train, en route  
Reno, Nev. to Kansas City  
April 10, 1940

Dear Miss Ilma:

On the dinner list which you and Mr. Cadden drew up, there is no question but what there are a great many people who would not be sympathetic and who would not give you cooperation in any money raising. I think it is going to take several dinner to really raise much money.

Mr. Flynn has agreed to give this dinner at his own home and not in a public place, and he has certain people he wants to ask. I will tell him that you feel that with certain people who are antagonistic there will be no chance to raise much money, and I will suggest that while it should be clearly understood that that is the purpose of the dinner, I would be quite willing to have people asked who are antagonistic and who come for information, and I shall quite understand if they do not care to give any money.

If you want me to get Mrs. Backus, Miss Paschal and Mrs. Baker to join with me in giving a dinner for the list you sent me, I will be glad to do this, taking only a few of the people off your list to have at the dinner which Mr. Flynn is giving. I think as long as Mr. Flynn is interested in doing this, we should let him go ahead and plan a buffet dinner for Wednesday, May 6th, and I will give a dinner on Friday, May 17th at the Cosmopolitan Club.

Very sincerely yours,
My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

The plans are fine. As they stand, Mr. Flynn will have a buffet dinner on Wednesday, May 8th, and then we shall plan your dinner for Friday, May 17th at the Cosmopolitan Club.

It would be splendid if you will get Mrs. Backus, Miss Paschal and Mrs. Baker to join with you on the Committee for the dinner. Do let me know if there are details you would like me to follow up. I should be glad to do so.

Very sincerely yours,

Viola Ilma

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt
The White House
Washington, D. C.
April 2, 1940

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt
The White House
Washington, D.C.

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I have talked over the money-raising dinner plan with Joe Cadden. I think that the suggestion that Mr. Ed Flynn come to the dinner and have a few of the youth leaders present is the best one, but I don't think we can count on raising much money from a group of people whom we know are antagonistic because education takes more than one dinner but I think we should at least have it and see what we can accomplish. If we can raise money, all the better but I don't think we can count too much on it. I think that the original dinner plan with the list we drew up would be the best.

May 8th would be a fine date, and the Cosmopolitan Club, I am certain, would be most convenient.

I feel sure that Mrs. Dana Backus, Miss Marian Paschal and Mrs. George Backer would be delighted to serve on the Committee with you.

Hoping to hear from you on these plans, I am,

Most sincerely yours,

Viola Ilma

Viola Ilma
May 15, 1940

Dear Miss Ilma:

Mrs. Roosevelt thinks she gave Mr. Creel a definite date for luncheon for your organization, but she did not put it down in her book and cannot remember. It may be that she simply told him that she would look up a date. Will you let me know what was decided, so we can get the record straight?

Very sincerely yours,

Secretary to
Mrs. Roosevelt

Miss Viola Ilma
345 Lexington Avenue
New York
N.Y.
May 20, 1940

My dear Miss Ilma:

Your list of patrons and patronesses for June 10 are entirely agreeable to me. Unfortunately, I cannot attend the Supper-Dance.

I will be delighted to have you join us for dinner at the Cosmopolitan Club on May 30. I enclose the list of those invited and form of invitation.

I have no free evenings for some time and I would find it easier if Mr. Creel would have a tea, to which I could go on June 1 at about 4:30 or 5:00 o'clock.

I have written Mrs. Von Gerbig about raising money for the American Youth Congress but haven't heard from her.

Very sincerely yours,

(Miss Viola Ilma)
Young Men's Vocational Foundation, Inc.
8 West 40th St., NYC
May 16, 1940

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt
The White House
Washington, D.C.

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

On June 10th, the Young Men's Vocational Foundation is having its Annual benefit Supper-Dance. Enclosed is a list of Patrons and Patronesses, most of whom I think will accept. Will you?

By the way, Joe Cadden informs me that you are having your dinner for the American Youth Congress at the Cosmopolitan Club on the 30th. Is this so, and are you inviting some of the list we have in mind? I should like to know so that I can cover some of the people on that list that I know personally, plus a few others.

I am most enthusiastic about the plans that were developed at Mr. Flynn's home and hope that they can be carried through.

Lastly, Mr. Creel is anxious to know what date you can put aside for the dinner he plans to give at his home.

Very sincerely yours,

Viola Ilma

Viola Ilma
May 13, 1940

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt
The White House
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Randall Creel has just told me that you will be guest of honor at a dinner which Mrs. Creel will have at her home in behalf of the Young Men's Vocational Foundation. At the dinner we will have mostly people who will contribute to our work, a selective list, I am sure.

Mrs. Creel has asked me to find out what date will be convenient to you.

Hoping to hear from you on this so that Mrs. Creel may arrange her plans accordingly.

Thank you so much.

Sincerely yours,

Viola Ilma

P. S. I do hope the financial plans for the American Youth Congress develop according to the results of the dinner at Mr. Flynn's house. I think it is quite possible we can get one hundred people each to be responsible to get ten people to give $10 each, but it must be put in the hands of someone who can organize the entire committee and get it done. I should think that the person who takes on the job, should be able to accomplish this in eight weeks time. It is always best to set a goal and accomplish it. Not only is this plan constructive for the Youth Congress, but it will build a base that cannot bring too many disappointments, for there will be many contributors and the chain can be developed.
May 20, 1940

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt
The White House
Washington, D.C.

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Here are a few people who would be interested in the Youth Congress that I think we can count on:

- Robert K. Straus, Councilman, 570 Lexington Ave., N.Y.C.
- Elizabeth Hawes, (author of Fashion is Spinach), 45 Sixth Avenue, Brooklyn, New York.
- Miss Elinor Loeb, 37 East 64 Street, N.Y.C.
- Jay Rubin, President, and John Sullivan, Secretary, Hotel Trades Council, 226 West 47 Street, N.Y.C.
- Miss Aline MacMahon, 1 West 64 Street, N.Y.C.
- Miss Dorothy Berry, The New Yorker, 25 West 43 St., N.Y.C.
- Harold Oerther, 33 Charlton Street, N.Y.C.
- Florence Kelley, Office of the District Attorney, 137 Centre Street, N.Y.C.
- Richard Storrs Childs, Publisher, Modern Age Books, Inc., 432 Fourth Avenue, N.Y.C.
- Ira Hirschmann, Advertising Manager, Bloomingdale Bros., Inc., 59 Lexington Avenue & 59 Street, N.Y.C.
- Miss Narcissa Swift, 35 Sutton Place South, N.Y.C.
- Commissioner Paul N. Herzog, New York State Labor Relations Board, 250 West 67 Street, N.Y.C.
- Mr. & Mrs. Alfred Stern, Ridgefield, Conn.

Sincerely,

Viola Ilma

P.S. It might be a good idea to suggest that I recommended their names.
PROPOSED LIST OF PATRONS AND PATRONASSES:

**Patrons**
- Commissioner David C. Adie
- Professor Roy Anderson
- Armbr Z. Archbold
- Peter Arno
- Julius S. Bach
- Joseph Clark Baldwin Jr.
- John Barrymore
- Bernard Baruch
- Vincent Bendix
- Col. H. Edmund Bullis
- Arthur Bradley Campbell
- Bennett Cerf
- George Chapman
- Richard Storrs Childs
- C. S. Ching
- Richard T. Cranes
- Paul D. Cravath
- J. Randall Creel
- Truax Davidson
- George T. Delacorte, Jr.
- Thomas Dewar
- Lee Dixon
- Anthony Eiddle Duke
- Allen W. Dulles
- Sherman D. Fairchild
- Glenn Gardiner
- Robert D. L. Gardner
- John Garfield
- Walter Gubelman
- Paul H. Hofgag
- Ira A. Hirshman
- Honorable Fiorello H. LaGuardia
- Lewis E. Lawes
- Honorable Herbert Lehman
- Samuel Lewisohn
- Alfred Lunt
- Fraser McCann
- Austin H. MacCormick
- Byrons McDonald
- Spencer Miller, Jr.
- Honorable Edward P. Moloney
- Elliott Nugent
- Lawrence Olivier
- Charles D. Osborne
- Honorable Charles Poletti
- William Jourdan Rapp
- Bill Robinson
- Nelson A. Rockefeller
- Beasley Rum
- Clendenen Ryan
- Frederick R. Sacher
- George W. Sibley
- Chauncey Stillman
- Ralph Straus
- Robert K. Strauss
- Ormey Tead
- Franchot Tone
- Dr. Herbert D. Williams

**Patronesses**
- Henrietta Additon
- Mrs. George Backer
- Mrs. Grace Allen Bangs
- Mrs. Lacy Duke Diddle
- Mrs. Jerome Napoleon Bonaparte
- Mrs. Sidney K. Borg
- Mrs. Helen L. Butternesser
- Madame Alma Clayburgh
- Mrs. S. Winston Childs, Jr.
- Mrs. Ralph Crews
- Mrs. Preston Davie
- Martha Dood
- Doris Duke
- Lynn Fontanne
- Betty Grable
- Ruth Graffstrom
- Marian Greenwood
- Nancy Hamilton
- Elizabeth Hawes
- Mrs. Arnold Hutcherson
- Barbara Hutton
- Mrs. Henry Ittleson
- Mrs. George Washington Kavanaugh
- Dr. Alice V. Keliber
- Florence Kelley
- Mrs. Whitman Knap
- Judge Anna H. Kross
- Mrs. Thomas W. Lemont
- Gertrude Lawrence
- Vivien Leigh
- Irene Lewisohn
- Mrs. Ernest X. Lindley
- Elinor Loeb
- Alina Mackay
- Anne Morgan
- Mrs. William Piel
- Evelyn Preston
- Mrs. Samuel Hayburn
- Lillian D. Rock
- Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt
- Mrs. Beardsley Run
- Mrs. Richard Storrs
- Narcissa Swift
- Tope
- Lenore Urie
- Mrs. Harry Welchel
- Mrs. Lester Yall
- Mrs. Gordon Page Williams
- Mrs. Joseph Willens

(Note: accepted)
June 10, 1940

My dear Miss Ilma:

I am writing to acknowledge your letter of June 6, regarding the contribution from Mrs. Charles Whitman, 502 Park Ave., New York, N. Y. I think it would be well for you to write direct to her.

Very sincerely yours,

Secretary to
Mrs. Roosevelt

Miss Viola Ilma
American Youth Congress
8 W. 40th St.
New York, N. Y.

Viola Ilma, Am. Youth Congress—Cont. from Mrs. Whitman
July 22, 1940

Dear Miss Ilma:

Mrs. Roosevelt received your note and asked me to say she can see you at 12:30 p.m. on Wednesday, the 26th, at the Biltmore in New York City.

Very sincerely yours,

Secretary to
Mrs. Roosevelt

Miss Viola Ilma
345 Lexington Avenue
New York, N.Y.
July 19, 1940

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt
The White House
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I am very anxious to have a few minutes with you to discuss a personal matter which is very important and on which I would appreciate your advice.

Sincerely yours,

Viola Ilma

vi:ps
cc: 20 East 11 Street
Hyde Park, New York
July 31, 1940

Dear Miss Ilma:

I received your letter of July 29 and have not seen Mr. Winchell yet, as I am waiting to hear from the F.B.I.

Very sincerely yours,

Miss Viola Ilma
Young Men's Vocational Foundation
8 West 40, NYC
July 29
1940

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt
The White House
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Thank you so much for the check you sent to the Young Men's Vocational Foundation. I need not try to express what your interest in our organization means.

Have you been able to get in touch with Mr. Winthrop? I am anxiously waiting to hear from you on this important matter.

I am,

Appreciatively,

Viola Ilma
September 11, 1940

Mr. Philip A. Goold
Committee on National Defence of the
Employment and Vocational Guidance
Section of the Welfare Council
23rd Street Y.M.C.A
23rd Street & 7th Avenue
New York, N. Y.

My dear Mr. Goold:

Our organization would be interested to have any information you might pass on in relation to the opportunities for young men between the ages of 16 and 21 to train for the National Defence Program.

We have received numerous inquiries but have not gotten any information we could pass along.

Hoping to hear from you, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

Viola Ilma

VI:PS
cc: Mrs. F. D. Roosevelt
    J. Randall Creel
September 12, 1940

Dear Miss Ilma:

I am enclosing the letter I received from the F.B.I., but Walter Winchell has answered neither of my letters. What else do you think I could do?

Sincerely yours,

Miss Viola Ilma
Young Men's Vocational Foundation
NYC

Mr. Hoover's letter: Files contain no information indicating that charges have been preferred or that any investigation has been made.
YOUNG MEN'S VOCATIONAL FOUNDATION, INC.
8 WEST 40TH STREET • PENNSYLVANIA 6-9143 • NEW YORK, N.Y.

Board of Directors: J. Randall Creel, Chairman of the Board; Glenn Gardiner, President; Mrs. Lionel C. Perera, Jr., Vice-President, and Secretary; Armak E. Archbold, Treasurer; Grace Allen Bangs; Spencer Miller, Jr.

Viola Ilma
Executive Director

September 6, 1940

Robert R. Hannum
Assistant Director

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt
The White House
Washington, D.C.

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Is there any news?

Sincerely,

Viola Ilma

ADVISORY BOARD

Mrs. Lillian Alexander
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Harold B. Bergen
Helen Blanchard
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Col. H. Edmund Bullis
Dr. Emily T. Burr
Joseph Cadden
Elia Casterly
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R. T. Crane
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Mme. Henry Dupont
H. V. Gooderson
Ira A. Hirschhorn
E. Melané Hunt
Dr. William Lloyd Imes
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Sam Keeley
Dr. Alice V. Keliber

Florence Kelley
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Mrs. Whitman Knapp
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Magistrate Anna M. Kross
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A. Willard May
Mrs. William J. Piel, Jr.
Honorable Charles Poletti
William Jordan Rapp

Lillian D. Rock
Victor Rouslin
Frederick R. Sacher
Mrs. Leopold K. Simon
Robert K. Strauss
Orlway Tread
Walter N. Thayer, 3rd
Mrs. Lester H. Weil
Maurice E. Whitebook
Dr. Herbert D. Williams
September 27, 1940

Dear Miss Ilma:

I am sending you the check which Mr. Schwarts sent me.

I am so glad to hear of all the plans you have ahead and hope everything works out well. I think it is grand that you have been able to place 200 boys this year.

Very sincerely yours,

Miss Viola Ilma
Young Men's Vocational Foundation
8 West 40, NYC
September 20, 1940

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt
The White House
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Thank you so very much for the letter you sent me from Mr. Hoover. Enclosed is a letter from Ira Hirschmann, Vice President of Bloomingdale's, and I rather agree with him that the best thing to do at the moment is to drop the matter.

As to your writing something in your column, there is no particular reason at present. Perhaps at a later date when there is something to say of more importance than just myself, it would, I know, be helpful. At any rate, I do wish to express my gratitude for your willingness to hear my story, for it meant a good deal to me at the time.

Several interesting plans are afoot which mean a good deal to our agency. One, a possible merger, which I shall write you about when it finally goes through. It would mean that we would be more secure financially, and would also make it possible for us to start a 'Girls' Division. As a matter of fact, I am enclosing the initial plans resulting from my stay at Westfield State Farm, as well as a letter from Miss Additon on the first girl that we shall try to place.

Max Schwartz of the Lunch Box Boys has asked me to forward to you the enclosed check for $25.00. I was rather disappointed that the Lunch Box Boys were not able to build a union of their own. Which reminds me that shortly we shall develop plans for a Labor Conference to secure the cooperation of the unions in helping us place boys in jobs.

Mr. Gardiner and I are having luncheon today with Mrs. Wilkins, and shall let you know what comes of it. I want to thank you for suggesting our agency to her.

We have just completed our first "Job Seekers Training Course" for the fall with a group of boys. You will be interested to know that our total placements this year will come to approximately 200 in comparison with 83 last year.

Very sincerely yours,

Viola Ilma

Viola Ilma

Mrs. Lilian Alexander
B. J. Barrette
Harold R. Bergen
Helen Blanchard
Richard R. Brown
Col. H. Edmund Bellis
Dr. Emily T. Burr
Joseph Cadden
Elia Castendyck
Mrs. Richard Storer Childs
Mrs. S. Winston Childs, Jr.

Mme. Alma Clayburgh
R. T. Crane
Commissioner H. E. Delany
Mme. Henry Dupont
H. V. Goodeson
Ira A. Hirschmann
F. Melman Hunt
Dr. William Lloyd Innes
Mrs. W. Jackson
Sam Kee
Dr. Alice V. Keliber

Florence Kelley
Rockwell Kent
Mrs. Whitman Knapp
Judge John C. Knox
Magistrate Anna M. Kross
Ellen G. Loeb
Byron MacDonald
A. Wilfred May
Mrs. William J. Piel, Jr.
Honorable Charles Poleni
William Jourdan Rapp

Lillian D. Rock
Victor Roodin
Frederick R. Sacher
Mrs. Leopold K. Simon
Robert K. Strauss
Oswald Tend
Walter N. Thayer, Jr.
Mrs. Lester H. Weil
Maurice R. Whitebrook
Dr. Herbert D. Williams
September 19, 1940

Miss Viola Ilma
Young Men's Vocational Foundation, Inc.
8 West 40 Street
New York, N. Y.

Dear Viola:

I am sorry I have been late in getting in touch with you, but I have been swamped.

My impression is still to drop the matter regarding Winchell. It seems fantastic that he would not answer Mrs. Roosevelt's letter.

Of course, if Mrs. Roosevelt would say something affirmative in her column about you it would certainly help to offset anything else that was said before, but all publicity should be on the positive side with no reference to the allegations.

Hope to see you soon. With best wishes,

Cordially yours,

Ira A. Hirschmann

IAH; ret
State of New York
Department of Correction
Westfield State Farm
Bedford Hills, New York

September 18, 1940

Miss Viola Ilma, Executive Director
Young Men's Vocational Foundation, Inc.
6 West 40 Street
New York City

Dear Miss Ilma:

At the meeting of the Parole Board on Monday, September 16th, it was decided that Elizabeth Carter would be ready for Parole on October 21st.

She told the Board of her hope that you were going to get her a position as a personal maid, and all the members of the Board were of the opinion that she would prove most satisfactory if such a position could be assured.

Would you let me know if you have been able to make any definite plan for Elizabeth.

With all good wishes.

Sincerely yours,

Henrietta Additon
Superintendent
Memorandum

To: Miss Henrietta Additon, Superintendent, Westfield State Farm.
From: Viola Ilma, Executive Director, Young Men's Vocational Foundation.

Re: Interest of the Young Men's Vocational Foundation in a Placement Bureau for Girls.

Purpose of the Young Men's Vocational Foundation.

Placing young men in jobs upon their release from reform schools. At present, we cooperate with the New York State Training School for Boys, New York City Reformatory, and probation cases from the U.S. District Court, as well as the Court of General Sessions. This experiment has proved successful, and very often we have been questioned as to why we do not place girls. This has lead to our interest in developing a girls' division.

Is there a need for a placement bureau for girls?

Miss Ilma, executive director of the Young Men's Vocational Foundation discussed this problem with Miss Henrietta Additon, Superintendent of the Westfield State Farm. It was agreed upon that a placement bureau was extremely important to round out the program at the school.

Beginnings

Upon the suggestion of Miss Ilma, a job training course was conducted under the sponsorship of the Young Men's Vocational Foundation in cooperation with Westfield State Farm.

Procedure

Approach to the Girls:
The girls were presented with tentative plans for a job-seeker's training course and a placement bureau on June 24. Miss Ilma presented the plans to the girls by visiting each cottage, and unanimously the girls felt that such a service would be of vital importance to them in giving them an opportunity in channels otherwise not open to them - a chance to make an honest living, if they so wished.

Sixteen girls were chosen to attend the course on "How to Get a Job", which was conducted by Miss Ilma, covering the following ten steps:
1. How should I plan my job-getting campaign?
2. What work am I best qualified to do?
3. How can I discover job opportunities?
4. Who can help me to get a job?
5. What preparation should I make for the employment interview?
6. How should I carry out my side of the employment interview?
7. How can I overcome common difficulties in the interview?
8. How should I follow up my job prospects?
9. When and how can I make effective use of letters?
10. How should I use my spare time during the job-getting period?

The text used was "How You Can Get a Job", by Glenn Gardiner.

Approach to the Faculty:
Miss Bernice Byfield, Director of Education, called a staff meeting.

Staff members present:
Miss Bothel, Head Teacher
Miss Ryder, Commercial Teacher
Miss Bowman, Sewing Teacher
Miss Lang, Arts and Crafts Teacher
Miss Synnott, Home Nursing Teacher
Mrs. Relyea, Sewing Teacher
Mrs. Pickett, Sewing Teacher at Prison
Mrs. Fish, Director of Recreation
Mrs. Harris, Beauty Culture Instructor
Miss Smith, Nursery
Mrs. Robinson, Supervisor of Homemaking
Mrs. Valien, Social Studies Teacher
Miss Miller, Classification Worker at Prison
Mr. Russell, Laundry Instructor
Mrs. McAdoo, Music Teacher

It was agreed upon that a job-seeker's training course and placement bureau would be an impetus to the training already set up in the institution. Faculty members were interested in securing specific information and material on new developments in training so that this information could be directed more closely to job possibilities upon the girls' release. There was unanimous approval of the plan suggested.
Approach to Official and Cooperating Agencies:

A conference was held, and the following people were contacted:

Howard Briggs, Division of Education, Department of Correction, New York State. (Education)

Dr. Emily T. Burr, Director, Vocational Adjustment Bureau for Girls.

Bernice Byfield, Director of Education, Westfield State Farm.

E. Mebane Hunt, Executive Secretary, Women's Prison Association. (Housing)

Viola Ilma, Executive Director, Young Men's Vocational Foundation. (Placement)

Mrs. Lionel C. Perera, Jr., Vice-President, Young Men's Vocational Foundation.

Mrs. Helen Valien, Teacher of Social Studies, Westfield State Farm.

Miss Ilma presented an outline of the job-seeker's training course at the school, together with plans for a placement bureau to be operated by the Young Men's Vocational Foundation in cooperation with the Westfield State Farm. This was approved by the group above-mentioned.

The problems of procedure and guidance were discussed. To this end, Dr. Emily Burr volunteered the services of her organization.

The problem of housing, a most serious question, was discussed. Miss Mebane Hunt of the Women's Prison Association felt that her Board would be willing to cooperate in the initial housing of the girls, giving them the necessary protection upon their immediate release.

Miss Byfield expressed her interest in developing training in the institution. It was suggested by Miss Ilma that lecturers in the personnel field and labor unions speak at the courses so as to give the program a realistic direction.

Miss Valien suggested that two courses be given to coordinate more closely with classification, making classification more meaningful at the outset. This was met with the approval of the group.

The group presented these plans to Miss Additon at Luncheon.
PROBLEM OF FINANCE

The Young Men's Vocational Foundation estimates that this placement service could be run initially on a budget of $6,000 a year, handling a qualitative case load rather than a quantitative one. These initial funds should not be too difficult to obtain.

Suggestions for Committee to Raise Funds:

- Mrs. Winthrop W. Aldrich
- Miss Marian Anderson
- Miss Mary Vail Andress
- Mrs. Vincent Astor
- Mrs. Dora Schiff Backer
- Mrs. Grace Allen Bangs
- Miss Tellulah Bankhead
- Mrs. Samuel L. Barlow
- Mrs. August Belmont
- Mrs. Sidney C. Borg
- Miss Irene Burbank
- Mrs. Helen L. Buttenwieser
- Mrs. Richard Storr Childs
- Mrs. S. Winston Childs, Jr.
- Miss Nancy Cock
- Mrs. James H. R. Cromwell
- Mrs. F. Trubee Davidson
- Mrs. Edward J. Flynn
- Mrs. John Henry Hammond
- Mrs. Edward Hale Harkness
- Miss Elizabeth Hawes
- Mrs. Arthur Garfield Hays
- Miss Helen Hayes
- Miss Katherine Hepburn
- Miss Fanny Hurst
- Mrs. Henry Ittleston
- Mrs. Nicholas Kelley
- Mrs. William W. Kennedy
- Mrs. Thomas W. Lamont
- Mrs. Sam A. Lewisohn
- Mrs. Ernest K. Lindley
- Mrs. Walter S. Mack
- Miss Ethel Merman
- Commissioner Freida Miller
- Miss Anne Morgan
- Miss Caroline O'Day
- Mrs. Hortense M. Calum
- Mrs. Elliot D. Pratt
- Mrs. Emily Rade
- Miss Josephine Roche
- Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt
- Mrs. Beardsley Ruml
- Miss Josephine Shain
- Mrs. Chauncey Stillman
- Mrs. Raymond Grem Swing
- Tobe
- Mrs. Max Wallerstein
- Mrs. Joseph Willen

CONCLUSION

The ground work has been set. A meeting should be called in early September to interest a small group of women in financing the project. There are many people we can interest in this work who have a good deal to offer toward developing a placement bureau for underprivileged girls.
INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM THE GIRLS ON THE JOB-SEEKERS TRAINING COURSE.

Reason for Choosing Their Last Jobs

Only two out of the sixteen girls gave as their reason for choosing their last job the fact that they liked the work and felt there was opportunity.

The others expressed themselves in the following way:

"Needed a job badly."
"Could not get any other job."
"Had no other choice."
"Job was picked for them."

In short, the majority of the girls were in work for which they had no interest whatsoever.

Features Disliked About the Jobs

The majority of the girls felt the hours too long and the wages too small.

Personal difficulties with employers.

One girl expressed that her job was monotonous; another, no outlet for her imagination. Two girls had no complaints whatsoever -- the same two girls who liked their jobs.

In answer to the question, "If you had an absolutely free choice, would you have chosen that work?", the unanimous answer was NO.

Why They Had no Success in Their Jobs

The majority of girls gave the following reasons:

"No experience."
"No references"
"Not enough funds to pay an agency fee"

Reasons Given for Leaving Last Job

"Too much work expected for too little pay."
"Temporary"
"Slack business."
"Personal reasons."
"Committed to Bedford."
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>IN WHAT OUTSIDE ACTIVITIES DID YOU ENGAGE WHILE IN SCHOOL?</th>
<th>WHY DID YOU CHOOSE THESE ACTIVITIES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>C, Elizabeth</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Enjoyed the most.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D, Anne</td>
<td>YWCA - swimming, dancing, singing.</td>
<td>Because interested.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D, Maria</td>
<td>Reading, sewing Church activities, singing.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E, Helen</td>
<td>I belonged to the G.O.; also the Police Athletic League. Liked children and that enabled me to be with them.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F, Hannah</td>
<td>All athletics, especially basketball, swimming, tennis.</td>
<td>Something to occupy my time; way of making friends.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F, Mary</td>
<td>Girl Scouts; basketball.</td>
<td>The majority of my friends were interested in things that seemed silly and I wanted to be different.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H, Elizabeth</td>
<td>YWCA, swimming.</td>
<td>Because I wanted my Life Saving badge.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L, Frances</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Liked to do little things for poor people and children.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MCH, Jennie</td>
<td>The Okay Club for Girls.</td>
<td>Love games.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M, Marguerite</td>
<td>Basketball, swimming, volleyball, baseball.</td>
<td>Because I like the outdoors.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O, Mabel</td>
<td>Skating, handball</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P, Ruth</td>
<td>Baseball, hiking and picnics.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S, Anne</td>
<td>Baseball, basketball.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S, Alberta</td>
<td>Swimming, dancing, roller skating, Girl Scouts, 4-H Club.</td>
<td>Like to be moving all the time.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W, Constance</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W, Sylvia</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name</td>
<td>School Grade</td>
<td>Why Left</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------</td>
<td>--------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C, Elizabeth</td>
<td>Elementary</td>
<td>Wanted to go North</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D, Anne</td>
<td>8th grade</td>
<td>Had to support mother.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D, Maria</td>
<td>Elementary</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E, Helen</td>
<td>1st term H.S.</td>
<td>Had to go to work.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F, Helen</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F, Mary</td>
<td>3rd year H.S.</td>
<td>Eye trouble and loneliness.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H, Elizabeth</td>
<td>Elementary</td>
<td>Had to help family.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L, Frances</td>
<td>3 years H.S.</td>
<td>Wasn't interested.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mck, Jennie</td>
<td>3 yrs H.S.</td>
<td>Personal difficulties at home.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M, Marguerite</td>
<td>4th year H.S.</td>
<td>To be married.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O, Mabel</td>
<td>1st year H.S.</td>
<td>To be married.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P, Ruth</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S, Anne</td>
<td>Grammar Sch.</td>
<td>Wanted to work.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S, Alberta</td>
<td>1st year H.S.</td>
<td>Illness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W, Constance</td>
<td>3rd term H.S.</td>
<td>To get a job.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W, Sylvia</td>
<td>3 years H.S.</td>
<td>To get married</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The table lists the names, school grades, reasons for leaving, favorite subjects, and the least interested subjects for each individual.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Last Job</th>
<th>Type Job Now Looking For</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>C, Elizabeth</td>
<td>Cook, general housework</td>
<td>Personal maid.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D, Anne</td>
<td>Factory - electric broilers</td>
<td>Factory, power sewing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D, Maria</td>
<td>Chamber maid in hotel</td>
<td>Laundry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E, Helen</td>
<td>Waitress</td>
<td>Beauty culture or associated work.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F, Hannah</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Laundry work.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F, Mary</td>
<td>Housework</td>
<td>Nurses training.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H, Elizabeth</td>
<td>Laundry</td>
<td>Elevator operator.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L, Frances</td>
<td>Decorator</td>
<td>Factory work, - decorator.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M, Jennie</td>
<td>Domestic</td>
<td>Secretary.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M, Marguerite</td>
<td>Factory</td>
<td>Nurses aide.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O, Mabel</td>
<td>Housework</td>
<td>Nurses aide.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P, Ruth</td>
<td>Housework</td>
<td>Nurses aide.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S, Anne</td>
<td>Waitress</td>
<td>Secretary.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S, Alberta</td>
<td>Never worked</td>
<td>Laundry work.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W, Constance</td>
<td>Child care</td>
<td>Child care</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W, Sylvia</td>
<td>Waitress</td>
<td>Waitress</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
October 2, 1940

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt
The White House
Washington, D.C.

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Thank you for your cheering words and
also for sending the check to us.

Sincerely yours,

Viola Ilma
My dear Miss Ilma:

Mrs. Roosevelt says she will join the sponsoring committee if you hold a conference of labor unions under the sponsorship of your organization. She is asking Sidney Hillman whether the Amalgamated Clothing Workers would cooperate and will let you know what she hears.

Mrs. Roosevelt is pleased to know that the Wool Labeling Act has gone through Congress and she thanks you for letting her see Mr. Gardiner's letter.

Very sincerely yours,

Secretary to Mrs. Roosevelt

Miss Viola Ilma
Young Men's Vocational Foundation, Inc.
8 West 40th Street
New York, New York
October 4
1940

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

At the moment I do not recall having thanked you for the check that you sent to us, so I want to be certain and express my gratitude again. At present there are two issues in which I should like to have your interest:

One, I have already approached Mrs. Betty Hawley Donnelly of the Board of Education, hoping that it may be possible to place a number of our young men in training school for the Emergency National Defense Program.

Two, it is more and more difficult to place young men in jobs unless we have the co-operation of the unions. To this end, I am planning to hold a conference of labor unions under the sponsorship of our organization. Do you think that the Amalgamated Clothing Workers would co-operate? Shortly I will send you a list of the labor leaders I have been able to interest. I also want to form a special committee of sponsors and believe that Frieda Miller and Father Roland will come on the committee along with many others. Would you join the sponsoring committee?

Sincerely,

Viola Ilma

P.S. I am enclosing a letter from Mr. Gardiner who has been
interested in honest wool labeling. Personally, I feel that correct labeling is very necessary and so obvious that I am amazed it is not done. Hence the enclosed letter which I want to bring to your attention, mainly because I think it is the right of all consumers to have protection on the material they buy.

vi-pw
enc.
October 3, 1940

Miss Viola Ilme
Young Men's Vocational Foundation
8 West 40th Street
New York, N. Y.

Dear Viola:

I am sending you a copy of the letter which I have just
mailed to John D. Rockefeller III, in appreciation and appre-
ciation for his contribution to the Young Men's Vocational
Foundation. His interest and participation is just one more
justification for the sincere interest our group has had in this
work.

Incidentally, I know that you have been deeply interested
for some time in the progress of the Wool |abeling Act which has
been before Congress. Yesterday afternoon it cleared the last
legislative hurdle and the Senate has approved the Conference Report
and the Bill is being sent to the White House. We have no doubt
but that Mr. Roosevelt will sign the Bill because it is so obviously
a Bill in the interest of the great consuming public and is
typical of the kind of protective legislation which has always had
his endorsement.

Sincerely,

SIGNED: Glenn Gardiner
Assistant to the President.
October 8, 1940

Dear Miss Ilma:

Your letter to Mrs. Donnelly is grand. I am writing to her to say I hope she can help your group.

Very sincerely yours,

Miss Viola Ilma
Young Men's Vocational Foundation
8 West 40
NYC
October 26, 1940

Dear Miss Ilma:

As a matter of fact, at the conference between the three colored leaders and the President, the Secretary of War, and the Secretary of the Navy, some real advances were made in breaking down segregation, and I think everything will go on very much better than before.

In the press release Mr. Early feels that he was misinterpreted, and he is trying to clear up the misunderstanding. It is true they cannot completely break up segregation over night, but they agreed upon steps which I think were very important.

The important thing is to clear these three fine leaders from the accusation of having for one moment countenanced segregation in their conversation. I have an idea that the Negro press has been bought by the Republicans and that much of the misrepresentation was willfully done.

The White House, needless to say, is anxious to do all it can and is not anxious to make life any harder for this group of young people.

Very sincerely yours,

Miss Viola Ilma
8 West 40th St. NYC
My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I was seriously shocked to read of the position that the government has taken in segregating Negroes and whites in the army.

From our small vantage point we have in the past four years worked very hard in trying to break segregation, both at New York City Reformatory and now at Bedford Reformatory for girls.

This summer, when I gave a job training course at Bedford Reformatory, I was quite surprised to discover that they did segregate the girls and I insisted that my class be mixed. This, for the first time in the history of the institution.

In placing our young boys in jobs, both Negro and white, we constantly work on employers and labor unions to give the Negro a fair chance, not a better chance than the white boy but at least the same consideration. Hence you can imagine how discouraging it is for us to have read that the government is setting the example of segregating the Negro and white.

It is very serious in the sense of democracy. I was frankly amazed at Walter White, to learn that he was connected with the approval of this measure and I called him up to find that the releases from the White House were incorrect.

I was present at the dinner at which you spoke, the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters and know clearly how deeply you feel about helping with the Negro problem. Certainly this error which strikes at the heart of progress for all people must be corrected.

Those of us who work closely with young Negro boys and girls know too well their daily struggles. We know, in placing them in jobs, that there are no jobs which can ride above the term "menial". Only recently, thru Mr. Collier of the Urban League, I went so far as to introduce him to Beardsley Ruml, the treasurer of Macy's, to interest him in placing a few colored people in good jobs in department stores to break the tradition.

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October 23rd, 1940

This is now under consideration but all these efforts are in vain due to the serious decisions that were taken by the White House. Why?

This is a letter of serious protest and I hope, for the interest of all the people of America, that the Negroes will be given opportunity throughout the entire defense program.

Sincerely yours,

Viola Ilma
Executive Director

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt
The White House
Washington, D. C.

VI/11

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