

VIOLA ILMA

1933 - 1945

160
I.
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

er-jc

MODERN YOUTH MAGAZINE

THE VOICE OF THE YOUNGER GENERATION

**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

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MODERN YOUTH MAGAZINE
THE VOICE OF THE YOUNGER GENERATION**155 EAST 44TH STREET**
NEW YORK CITY

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt March 25, 1933 (2)

trying to do. Our third issue of the magazine is on the news-stands. 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

100

April 15, 1933

My dear Miss Ilma:

My position is a little different from that of either Mr. Hayes or Senator LaFollette. 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.

S:O

HAYS, ST. JOHN, ABRAMSON & SCHULMAN

ARTHUR GARFIELD HAYS
T. RAYMOND ST. JOHN
WILLIAM ABRAMSON
JOHN SCHULMAN
SIDNEY STRUBLE
JOSEPH CASSIDY

COUNSELORS AT LAW
43 EXCHANGE PLACE
NEW YORK
CABLE ADDRESS "HAYMOR"
TELEPHONE HANOVER 2-2462

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 news 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,

Arthur Garfield Hays

AGH/p

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GRACE LYNCH, CLERK

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON MANUFACTURES

8 April 1933

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,

Robert M. La Follette

RML

D

MODERN YOUTH
MAGAZINE

VIOLA ILMA
Editor

155 East 44th Street
New York City

April 24, 1933

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,

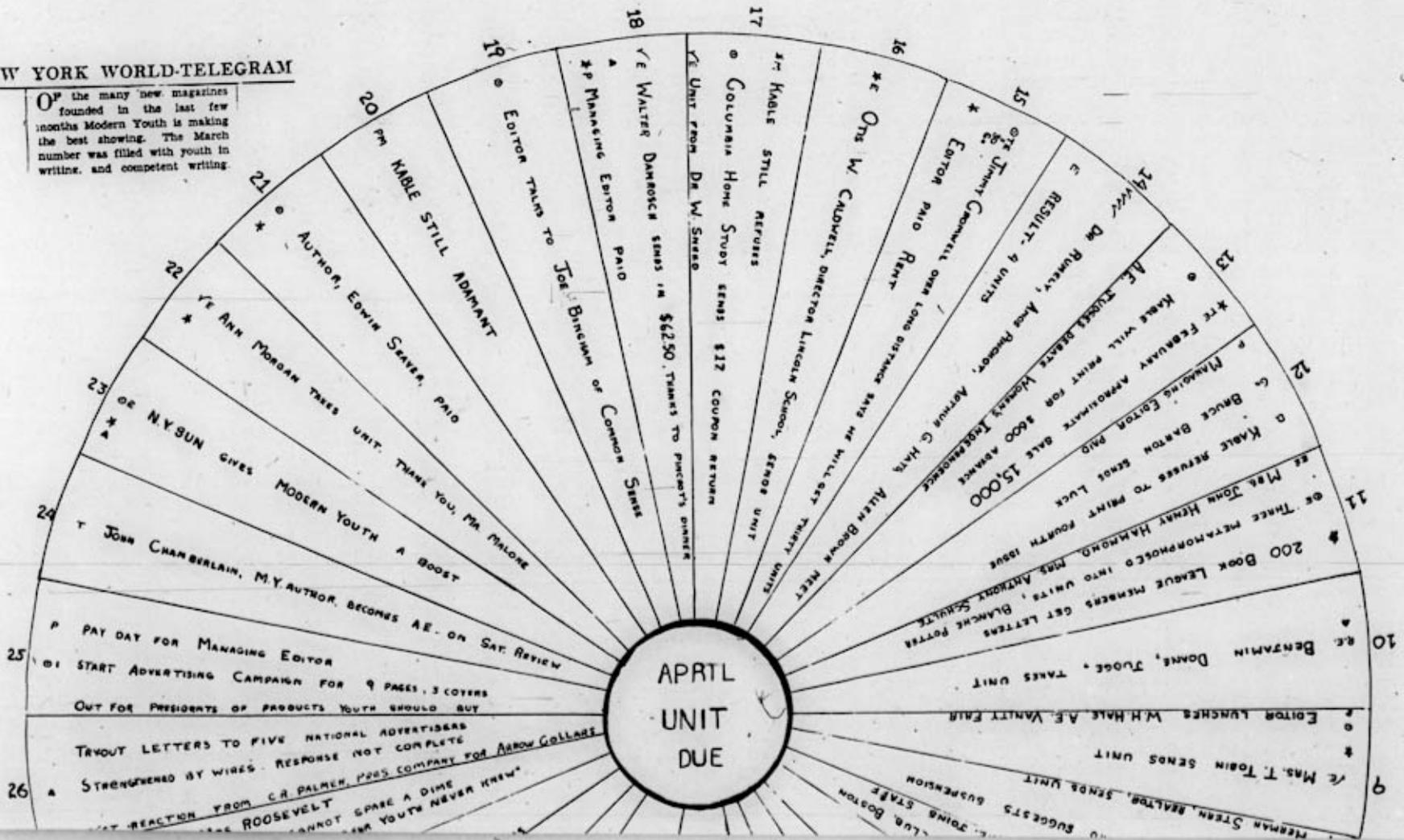
Viola Ilma

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

MODERN YOUTH RIDES THROUGH MARCH

NEW YORK WORLD-TELEGRAM

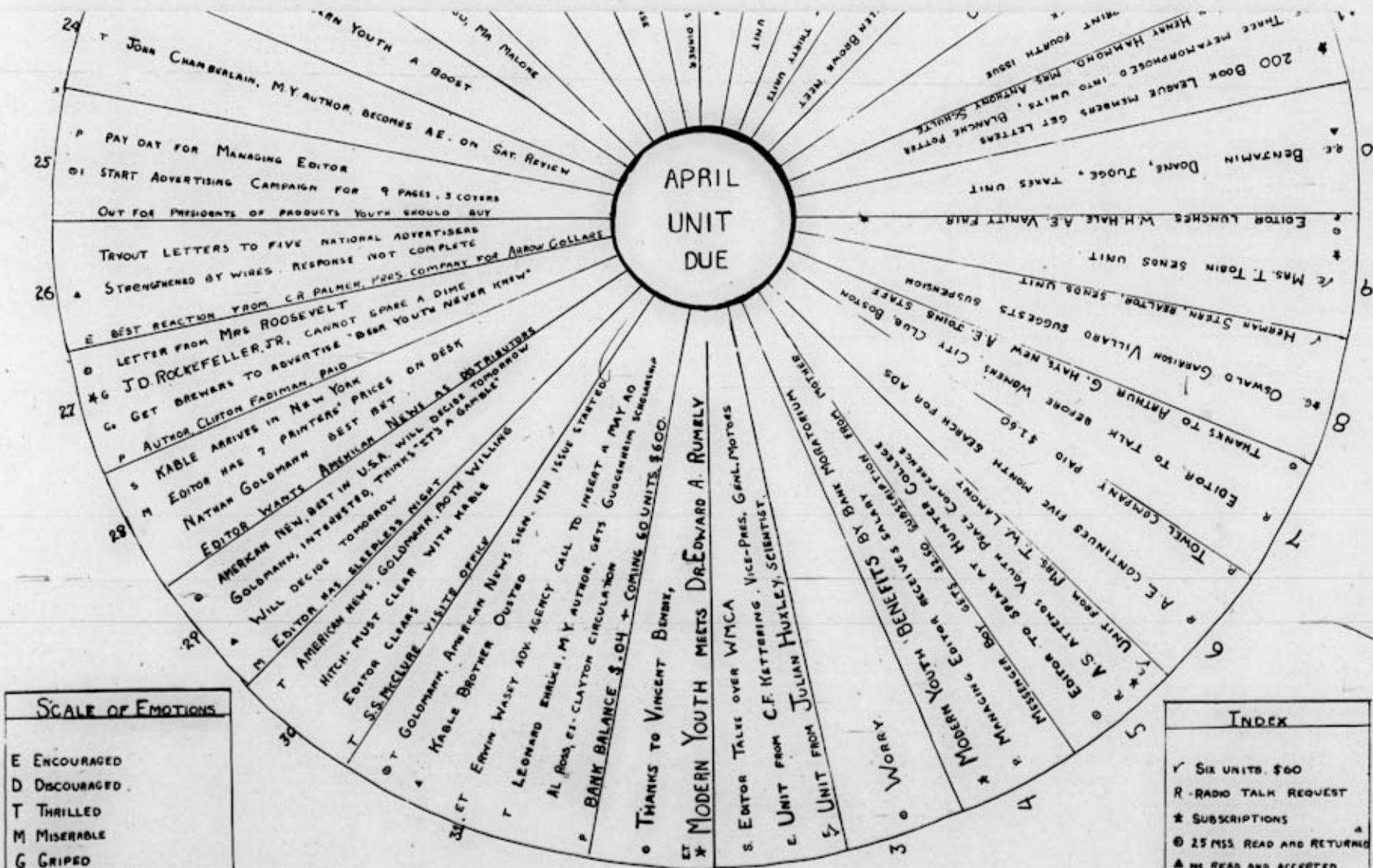
Of the many new magazines founded in the last few months Modern Youth is making the best showing. The March number was filled with youth in writing, and competent writing.



9. Mas. T. Tobin sends unit
 10. Benjamin Donne, Judge, takes unit
 11. Editor lunches W.H. Hale A.E. Vanity Fair
 12. Herman Stern, Realtor, sends unit
 13. E. J. Jones suggests suspension
 14. Lub. Boston
 15. E. J. Jones staff
 16. E. J. Jones staff
 17. E. J. Jones staff
 18. E. J. Jones staff
 19. E. J. Jones staff
 20. E. J. Jones staff
 21. E. J. Jones staff
 22. E. J. Jones staff
 23. E. J. Jones staff
 24. E. J. Jones staff
 25. E. J. Jones staff
 26. E. J. Jones staff

1. Kable still adamant
 2. Editor talks to Joe Binham of Common Sense
 3. Walter Damrosch sends in \$62.50, thanks to project's dinner
 4. Unit from Dr. W. Sneed
 5. Columbia Home Study sends \$17 coupon return
 6. Kable still refuses
 7. Mrs. Kable still refuses
 8. Mrs. Kable still refuses
 9. Mrs. Kable still refuses
 10. Mrs. Kable still refuses
 11. Mrs. Kable still refuses
 12. Mrs. Kable still refuses
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 24. Mrs. Kable still refuses
 25. Mrs. Kable still refuses
 26. Mrs. Kable still refuses

APRIL
UNIT
DUE



SCALE OF EMOTIONS	
E	ENCOURAGED
D	DISCOURAGED
T	THRILLED
M	MISERABLE
G	GRIPED
I	IMPATIENT
S	SCARED
G	GALVANIZED
P	PAINED

INDEX	
✓	SIX UNITS \$60
R	RADIO TALK REQUEST
*	SUBSCRIPTIONS
⊙	25 PAGES READ AND RETURNED
▲	MS READ AND ACCEPTED
AE	ASSOCIATE EDITORS
MY	MODERN YOUTH

100

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.

155 East 44th Street
New York City
August 1, 1933

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?

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,

Viola Film

Viola Film

VI:ELM

June 26, 1934

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

THE FIRST AMERICAN YOUTH CONGRESS

VIOLA ILMA, Chairman ALBERT E. CHANSON, Program Chairman ELEANOR H. EAYRS, New Plans Chairman S. MINES, Admissions Chairman

June 15, 1934.

Executive Office
70 FIFTH AVENUE
New York City, N. Y.

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
Viola Ilma
Chairman

VI-MB

Sponsored by
Central Bureau for Young America
With the Co-operation of
New York University
ALgonquin 4-2958

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

DD

THE FIRST AMERICAN YOUTH CONGRESS

VIOLA ILMA, Chairman ALBERT E. CHANSON, Program Chairman ELEANOR H. EAYRS, New Plans Chairman S. MINES, Admissions Chairman

Executive Office
70 FIFTH AVENUE
New York City, N. Y.

Alway

June 30, 1934.

acted. 7/16/34

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

Viola Ilma

*ack
Mrs. D. Roosevelt
give me for [unclear]*

Sponsored by
Central Bureau for Young America
With the Co-operation of
New York University

ALgonquin 4-2958

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

S:O

AMERICAN YOUTH CONGRESS

Executive Headquarters

70 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK CITY

Letter for Mrs. Roosevelt
1300

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JOHN J. KINANE, SYRACUSE, N. Y.

ERNESTINE LONG, ST. LOUIS, MO.

WILLIAM PORTER, HOPKINSVILLE, KY.

WARREN S. SAUNDERS, BRADENTON, FLA.

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
Viola Ilma
Chairman

VI/lS

REPORT

FIRST AMERICAN

YOUTH

CONGRESS

PUBLISHED BY





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

I N T R O D U C T I O N

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.



H I S T O R Y

A Magazine 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.

A Book

"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."

*An
American
Youth
Movement*

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

GOVERNOR GIFFORD PINCHOT..... of Pennsylvania
GOVERNOR DAVID SCHOLTZ..... of Florida
GOVERNOR JOHN W. TROY..... of Alaska
GOVERNOR JOHN G. WINANT..... of New Hampshire
DR. JAMES E. WEST.... Chief Scout Executive, Boy Scouts of America
J. E. SPROUL..... National Council of Y. M. C. A.
E. A. HUNGERFORD..... Secretary, Public Relations Y. M. C. A.
of New York City

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:

*The
Congress*

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

Morning 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. *Afternoon*

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 *Evening*

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.

Results

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, deploring 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 class room, 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.

War and Peace 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.

Social Insurance 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 administered 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.

Transients

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.

*Appren-
ticeships
and
Homesteads*

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 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:

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AMERICAN

YOUTH

CONGRESS

70 Fifth Avenue, New York, N. Y.

file
November 28, 1934
130

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

ma

File
miscellaneous
ILMA *187*
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 necessities, obligations, and rights - has ever been clearly arranged. This is the first task, that of research, that of presenting the case. With the problem clearly studied then stated, consideration of the remedies can be begun.

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 problems 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 the 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
 7. 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 to youth a courage and a confidence to act constructively in meeting his problems.

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NATIONAL MUNICIPAL LEAGUE

Founded in 1894—Incorporated in 1923

Telephone—ASHLAND 4-1510

309 EAST 34 STREET, NEW YORK CITY

December 7, 1934.

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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 improvement 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 Youth 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



Mrs. Roosevelt

-2-

Dec. 6/34

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 than they do 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. E. 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

Viola Ilma

VI/ls

FOAMPS PRESIDENTS

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Charles J. Bonaparte

William Dudley Foulke
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Frank L. Polk
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Richard S. Childs

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A. Leo. Weil, Pittsburgh

Ilma

December 7, 1934

100

free

Frank L. Polk

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 Masses, 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

Viola Ilma

VI/lb

December 10, 1934

100

my dear Miss Ilma:

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

Very sincerely yours,

Secretary to
Mrs. Roosevelt

S:O

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

Sent to Ruby Black

100
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

SO

Miss Viola Ilma
103 West 88th Street
New York
N.Y.

VOICE OF YOUTH

THE YOUTH NEWS LETTER

103 WEST 88th STREET, NEW YORK CITY

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Managing Editor

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VICTOR INCORVIA

Associate Editors

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ERNEST NEUFELD

LYLE CHUBB

*ack
12/5*
November 21, 1935

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

VIOLA ILMA
Editor

*Our staff thought you would
be interested in this new venture.*

*As per
sub → Jack*

*Will be interested
to receive more
news & if
please do not give
this out
publicly*

HOTEL STRATFORD
25 E STREET NORTHWEST
WASHINGTON, D. C.

I/M 2
File

December 26, 1933

My dear Mrs Roosevelt;

After a very vivid trip
to London, Paris, Geneva, Moscow and
Berlin I am back in America. My
magazine "Modern Youth" was forced to
suspend but the outcome of my
year contact with thousands of young
men and women under thirty has
resulted in the following plan - (enclosed sheet)

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

100

TELEPHONE
NATIONAL 5261

UNION STATION-CAPITOL
PLAZA

HOTEL STRATFORD
25 E STREET NORTHWEST
WASHINGTON, D. C.

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 Mrs. Elmhurst
and she was most interested in my five
pound plan. She wishes to be remembered
to you -

Faithfully,

Viola Ilma.

February 26, 1936

100

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.

Frederick R.
Very sincerely yours,

0

Miss Viola Ilma
Voice of Youth
52 Vanderbilt Avenue
New York

VOICE OF YOUTH

THE YOUTH NEWS LETTER

52 VANDERBILT AVENUE, NEW YORK CITY

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VIOLA ILMA

Managing Editor

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Business Manager

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Murray Hill 2-2754

February 20, 1936

Associate Editors

JACK MURPHY

ALBERT MCCLEERY

ERNEST NEUFELD

LYLE CHUBB

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

VIOLA ILMA
Editor

VI:EB
ENCL.

*highest. I think
I like you I think it's
interesting & worth while -
You & approach of last article about
the new who work. I'll take the will
of the new one as far as I
can. I'll try to help now.*

VOICE OF YOUTH



VOL. 1, NO. 4

MARCH, 1936

\$1.00 PER YEAR

Crime!

VOICE OF YOUTH presents thoughts of American Youth on subjects of vital interest to them. We invited the boys of the New York City Reformatory, New Hampton, New York to be the guest editors of this issue. Their articles appear exactly as they wrote them. The names used, with the exception of one, are fictitious.

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 greets 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 play-mates 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)

AUSTIN H. MacCORMACK

Commissioner of Correction
New York City

Comments on This Issue

The young men at the New York City Reformatory have been permitted and encouraged to contribute to this issue of the "Voice of Youth" because of the fact that we believe that youth everywhere should be allowed to use its voice. Those who have fallen into delinquency and crime especially should be given free expression. We shall never be able to help them until we understand them. We often go far astray when we try to theorize about how they think and how they feel. It is better that we help them to become articulate and let them tell us what is going on in their minds. The articles are uncensored. It has truly been said that "the thoughts of youth are long, long thoughts." This is particularly true of youth in institutions. They have time to think and we do well to encourage them to do so. I hope that the thoughts which they have set down here will be received with understanding and tolerance.

AUSTIN H. MacCORMACK

ONLY SAPS WORK

By MORRIS SCHWARTZMAN

Youth, growing up in the light of flaring beacons of lawlessness and corruption shrugs its shoulders: "Only saps work." "Youth can't get a job, anyway." "What's your racket kid?" "What's your racket gentlemen?" - 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?

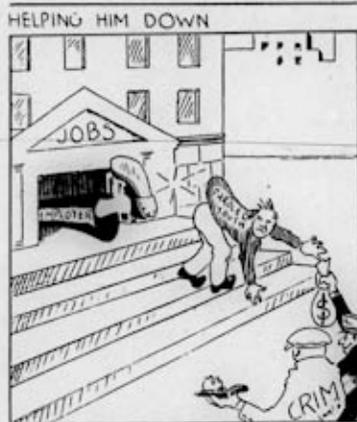
Organized crime, organized labor, organized business, organized politics and organized exploitations parallel and interlock. When trouble breaks out, the big shot escapes or gets off with a light sentence. The little shots our own Tony, Sam and Joe take the heavy raps, and are distributed to various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

(Continued on Page 4)



VOICE OF YOUTH

52 Vanderbilt Avenue New York City

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Carlo Artists Jacques

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Frederick R. Sacher, 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 I.Q.'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. Sacher, 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 prisons 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 unfortunates.

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 I 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 indefinite.

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 a work assignment the committee has a knowledge of the boys' interests and abilities. A dental 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 day-break.

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 one 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 reasonable 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 1:10 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

(Continued on Page 10)



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 past 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 "copping pleas." 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)

dity, 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 situa-

tion 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

(Continued on Page 10)

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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 misdeed, 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 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 sorrows or trials befall
To the others, unfortunate, erring,
In their city—just over the wall.
Just over the wall—it sounds trifling
To the ones who are on the outside,
But—the inside, with atmosphere stifling,
With lost hopes, and ambitions denied,
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 expressions,
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 anguishing call,
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 and His graces
From his children—just over the wall.

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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.

VOICE OF EXPERIENCE

By MATA

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.

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 uplifter thinks 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 out-guess 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 a feat as impossible 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 climaxed 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, gossippy, 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 join up 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. In 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, "sorry 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. ●

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by GLENN L. GARDINER

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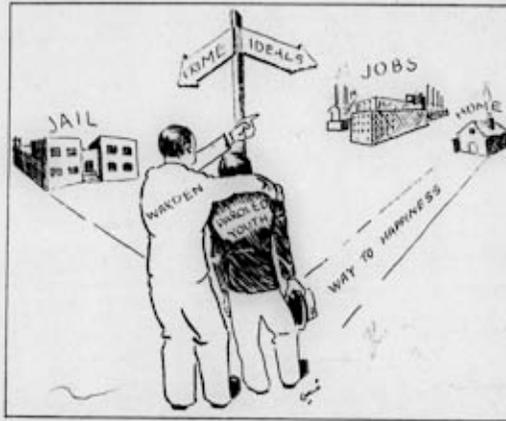
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THE TWO SIDES OF LIFE

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 CUBEL

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 like 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 in-

flate egos and order them "to muss 'em up."

The bewildered youth is dragged before aother "phoney," 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 clap 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.

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

REHABILITATION

(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.

A DAYS ROUTINE AT THE NEW YORK CITY REFROMATORY

(Continued from Page 3)

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."

Mom, Pop - poor Mom and Mary. Human endurance, slowly ends, Charlie is slowly reincarnating. Why must I suffer? Why? Money - great God! Gold! Power! I must get it for my sake and theirs. But how?

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, filth, 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 despairs, 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?

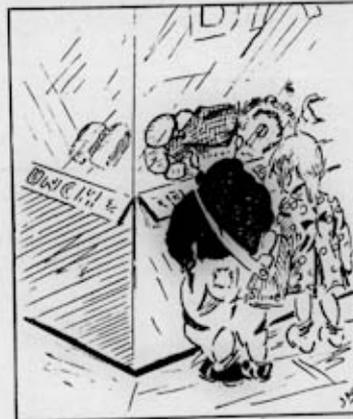
COMMON SENSE OFFERS A CURE

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 morales 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.



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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 prais-



ing 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. DOUBLEDAY, 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

DD

LEXINGTON 2-8449

VIOLA ILMA
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

YOUNG MEN'S VOCATIONAL FOUNDATION, INC.

345 LEXINGTON AVENUE

NEW YORK, N. Y.

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4-14-39
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 getting 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
Viola Ilma

VI:PS
ENC.

*Request
that in letter to the Young Men's Vocational Foundation
+ Home*



"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, 1936, 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 Hampton, 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, 1938, and incorporated on September 7, 1938 as the Young Men's Vocational Foundation, with the following Officers:

GLENN GARDINER	MRS. LIONEL C. PIMERA, Jr.	ARMAR E. ANCHOLD	VIOLA ELMA
President	Vice-Pres. and Secretary	Treasurer	Exec. Director

How the Foundation Functions

Every youth, upon release from a reformatory or correctional institution, needs positive assistance in finding a new focal 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? | 4. What do I say? |
| 2. Where shall I look? | 5. How can I hold it when I get it? |
| 3. How shall I go about 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 16 and 25, and paroled 471.

Of the 471 paroled—approximately—
 292 had no jobs
 105 had no homes
 69 had no parents
 155 violated parole

In 1937, New York State Training School for Boys received 325 young men between the ages of 13 and 18, and paroled 308.

Of the 308 paroled—approximately—
 200 had no jobs
 62 had job prospects
 48 had jobs
 88 violated parole

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 community interested 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 \$869.55, the Commission of Correction estimated. The cost of keeping prisoners in county jails was \$719.25 per person, in penitentiaries \$653.50."
 —New York Times

This means that \$1 spent constructively in vocational guidance and job placement will do the work of \$29 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—\$25, and society benefits incalculably.

YOUNG MEN'S VOCATIONAL FOUNDATION, Inc.

345 LEXINGTON AVENUE—LEXINGTON 2-8449—NEW YORK CITY

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. Barnette, 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 swellest girl in the world."

193

Young Men's Vocational Foundation, Inc.
345 Lexington Avenue
New York, N. Y.

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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November 9, 1939

100

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.
~~242 Lexington Ave~~
8 West 40th St., NYC

DD

YOUNG MEN'S VOCATIONAL FOUNDATION, INC.

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VIOLA ILMA
Executive Director

October 24, 1939

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.

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt

-2-

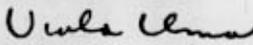
October 24, 1939

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,


Viola Ilma

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

PR. 6-0143

8 West 40th St. ~~325 LEXINGTON AVENUE~~ NEW YORK CITY

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 adapted. 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?

TYPE JOB	Name	Age	Residence	Hgt.	Wt.	Education	Comments
Porter or Messenger	TC	17	Harlem	5'4"	130 lbs.	8B	Lively and pleasing personality. Negro.
Factory	AD	18	NYC	5'11"	153 lbs.	3 term High Sch.	Neat and willing - good appearance. White.
Helper on truck.	JD	20	Brooklyn	5'11 $\frac{1}{2}$ "	143 lbs.	Grammar School	Neat - anxious for a beginning. White.
Plumber's helper, messenger, factory.	AG	16	Bronx	5'10 $\frac{1}{2}$ "	149 lbs.	3 term High Sch.	11 mos. experience as plumber's helper; 1 year of printing. Ambitious, serious, dependable and willing worker. White.
Counterman	LH	19	Harlem	5'9 $\frac{1}{2}$ "	165 lbs.	7B	Neat, well-mannered, good appearance, experienced. Negro.
Laundry	JM	19	Harlem	5'11 $\frac{1}{2}$ "	151 lbs.	8A	Willing worker, experienced - run washers, extractor, tumblers. Negro.
Printer's devil	CR	18	Brooklyn	5'9"	137 lbs.	1 yr. High Sch.	Experience as errand boy in print shop, operates Kelly Press; has studied printing. Anxious to work; willing. White.
Dishwasher, porter	IS	20	Harlem	5'5"	132 lbs.	8th gr.	Experience as dishwasher and delivery boy. Willing, neat appearance. Negro.
Baker	IQ	19	Brooklyn	5'8"	140 lbs.	Grammar School	Experience - buns, bread, pastry. White.
Chef	GD	28	Harlem	5'7 $\frac{1}{2}$ "	153 lbs.	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ yrs. High Sch.	Eight yrs. experience baking, roasting, soups, short orders. Responsible, anxious to get a new start; good appearance. Negro.

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 Dies 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

DD

YOUNG MEN'S VOCATIONAL FOUNDATION, INC.

345 Lexington Avenue

Lexington 2-8449

New York, N. Y.

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VIOLA ILMA
Executive Director

December 6, 1939

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

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 Plavner does.

Very sincerely yours,

Viola Ilma

Viola Ilma

ns

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. Chailaux 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,

ms

Viola Ilma

December 26, 1939

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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 Mandol~~, 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

DD

YOUNG MEN'S VOCATIONAL FOUNDATION, INC.

8 West 40th Street

Pennsylvania 6-9144

New York, N. Y.

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DR. HERBERT D. WILLIAMS

December 30, 1939

VIOLA ILMA
Executive Director

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

DEC 22 1939

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. Rendall 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

VI:PS

*Entered
12-26-39*

Tell Mr. about how far she

*Jan 1940
let - of progress*

YOUNG MEN'S VOCATIONAL FOUNDATION, INC.

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New York, N. Y.

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VIOLA ILMA
Executive Director

100-26
12-26
December 27, 1939

file
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

Viola Ilma
Executive Director

vi/ia

100

January 15, 1940

Dear Miss Ilma:

I am giving this letter of introduction to
4 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,

Miss Viola Ilma
+ Young Men's Vocational Foundation
8 West 40
NYC

0

Jan 15
Dear Mrs Roosevelt,
You 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 Handel 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 enthused about another opportunity and would appreciate an introduction to Miss Alma. Sam is very hopeful that something will present itself and I hope it will utilize the best in him.

Lidney my younger brother was supposed to go back the National Youth

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. J. A. wrote him a
 letter saying that due to unfortunate
 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 hasn'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 -

Bertie Brodsky Handel

February 2, 1940

100

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

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DR. HERBERT D. WILLIAMS

VIOLA ILMA
Executive Director

January 27, 1940

and

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,

Viola Ilma

VIOLA ILMA,
Executive Director

I hope to go to Washington at least

VI:JR

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 CAUSES 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 9a.m. to 4p.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 allotted for this work is from 9a.m. to 11a.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 canvassing 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 20 to 30 dollars per week. The pay then is 10%, 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 thermoses, and delivering lunches. The latter service occupies the time from 11 to 3p.m. The conditions before the strike may be stated thus:

HOURS: 9am. to 4p.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 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ % 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 employees 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 2¢.

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 Senler requested his leave. When 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, Frederic 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 12, 1939, 9a.m. The remaining boys meet 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. R. F. and let them hear our story. We 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 concericion of the employer in this case the discriminatory discharge and refusal to hear the representative and subsequent refusal to reinstate the said employees is unfair labor practise 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 inteded 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 2p.m. to see if we are recognized by the council.

Another member of the youth organization, Mr. M. J. Wallenstein donated \$10. to fund 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 2p.m. He advised us to call on him or Local 677 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. 2:30p.m. Mr. Corbitoff postpones his appointment for the next day.

Tuesday, December 19, 1939. 3:30p.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 28, at 5p.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.
3. Mr. Gerriga, International vice-president.
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. Reinstate 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 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 Murray Sender if he hears from Mr. Horowitz again he and his friends will be fined for making trouble, with him.

Miss Ilma 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 \$1.00 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 Ilma and other shops.

Wednesday, December 29, 1939. The following boys are with us: Frederic Dewey, Herbert Signer, Max Schwartz, Murray 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 hears of our discussion Tuesday night at Miss Ilma'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 Aunt 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 went 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 employees 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.

Murray Sender	Max Schwartz	Herbert Signer
Meyer Schuckman	John Carr	James Netti

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

James Watson-----	Got job in Postal Telegraph	Dec. 8, 1939
Fredric Dewey-----	Joined the C.C.C.	Jan 2nd, 1940
Bill McSherry-----	Discriminatory Discharge	Jan 5th, 1940

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 E. 176th Street Bx.

Monday, January 15, 1940. Bill Mc Sherry 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 Bernado 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 NIGHT AVE., AT 6 P. M.

Mr. Zachay, the Secretary-Organizer of Local 677, opened the meeting. Mr. Sigmund 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
Murway 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 McSherry 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 reinstatement 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 Signer 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 Rausch 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 OPERATION OF AUNT MARTHA'S LUNCHEON 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. Bagers 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 48th 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 6 a.m. in the morning and ends about 10 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 routes 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 about 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 28¢ and 38¢ apiece. Two-thirds of the lunches sold are for 28¢; the other third sold are 38¢ lunches and a la carte sandwiches.

YOUNG MEN'S VOCATIONAL FOUNDATION, INC. *file*

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VIOLA ILMA
Executive Director

100
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FEB 10 1940
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

VI:PS

YOUNG MEN'S VOCATIONAL FOUNDATION, INC.

8 West 40th Street

Pennsylvania 6-9144

New York, N. Y.

440

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VIOLA ILMA
Executive Director

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. Miquel Garrige, 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. Carrige 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 Adie 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 Adie 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.

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt

-2-

February 16, 1940

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. We 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. We refused 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. Garriga turned them over to a union official, Mr. Zachay of Local 677. Subsequently they received advice and aid from Mr. Suprano 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 YMFV is vitally interested in this problem, since it is precisely youngsters in this age category who turn to us for help when 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 read this to all the locals in the food unions and
start for large plans in the field.*

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VIOLA ILMA
Executive Director

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. Corbetoff 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
Viola Ilma

VI:PS

File

100

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. *See*

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 communistic 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,

SO

Miss Viola Ilma
8 West 40
NYC

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

T: DD

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

MAR 23 1940

VIOLA ILMA
Executive Director

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. 2
William L. Standard, 291 Broadway, N.Y.C. /
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel S. Gillmor, 1 Sheridan Sq., NYC /
Benedict Wolf, 254 West 82 St., NYC 2

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 Tunney, 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

VI:PS

100
On the train, en route
Heno, Nev. to Kansas City
April 16, 1940

Dear Miss Ima:

On the dinner list which you and Joe 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 30th, and I will give a dinner on Friday, May 17th at the Cosmopolitan Club.

Very sincerely yours,

100

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

Dear Miss Ilma:

On the dinner list which you and Joe 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 dinners 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 such 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,

YOUNG MEN'S VOCATIONAL FOUNDATION, INC.

8 West 40th Street

Pennsylvania 6-9144

New York, N. Y.

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DR. HERBERT D. WILLIAMS

VIOLA ILMA
Executive Director

APR 17 1940

April 15, 1940

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
Viola Ilma

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

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VIOLA ILMA
Executive Director

APR 3 1940

April 2, 1940

*Missed
file with
Carbon*

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

VI:PS

100

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

100

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

DD

YOUNG MEN'S VOCATIONAL FOUNDATION, INC.

8 West 40th Street

Pennsylvania 6-9144

New York, N. Y.

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MAURICE R. WHITEBOOK
DR. HERBERT D. WILLIAMS

VIOLA ILMA
Executive Director

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

VI:PS
Enc.

I spoke to Ely Hays today - she was most enthusiastic to help us - she says - a good person to have at your dinner party

*Call me for 2000 +
handbook if he wishes
to see*

*Yes, that's right
The list is in the
com. book in the
file of minutes*

*Send the
list to
Sat. Y. Unit
before*

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DR. HERBERT D. WILLIAMS

MAY 14 1940

VIOLA ILMA
Executive Director

May 13, 1940

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

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Randy 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
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 home. 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.

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Pennsylvania 8-9144

New York, N. Y.

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DR. HERBERT D. WILLIAMS

VIOLA ILMA
Executive Director

MAY 20 1940

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. a
- ✓ Elizabeth Hawes, (author of Fashion is Spinach), a
P. M., 26 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. A
- ✓ Miss Dorothy Berry, The New Yorker, 25 West 43 St., NYC R
- ✓ Harold Certher, 33 Charlton Street, NYC -
- ✓ Florence Kelley, Office of the District Attorney, - R
137 Centre Street, NYC
- ✓ Richard Storrs Childs, Publisher, Modern Age Books, Inc., a
432 Fourth Avenue, NYC
- ✓ Ira Hirschmann, Advertising Manager, Bloomingdale Bros., Inc. a
Lexington Avenue & 59 Street, NYC
- ✓ Miss Narcissa Swift, 35 Sutton Place South, NYC a
- ✓ Commissioner Paul M. Herzog, New York State Labor Relations R
Board, 250 West 57 Street, NYC
- ✓ Mr. & Mrs. Alfred Stern, Ridgefield, Conn. a

Sincerely,

Viola Ilma a

P. S. It might be a good idea to suggest that I recommended their names.

Write saying this. I respect you as you

YOUNG MEN'S VOCATIONAL FOUNDATION, Inc.

Benefit Supper-Dance at the Nine O'Clock Club, June 10th.

Chairman: Mrs. J. Randall Creel
Co-Chairman: Mrs. Lionel C. Perera, Jr.

Proposed List of Patrons and Patronesses:

Patrons

Commissioner David C. Adie
• Professor Roy Anderson
• Armar E. Archbold
• Peter Arno
• Jules S. Bache
Joseph Clark Baldwin 3rd
John Barrymore
Bernard Baruch
Vincent Bendix
Col. H. Edmund Bullis
• Arthur Bradley Campbell
Bennett Cerf
Oscar Chapman
• Richard Storrs Childs
C. S. Ching
Richard T. Crane
Paul D. Cravath
• J. Randall Creel
Trubee Davidson
George T. Delacorte, Jr.
Thomas Dewart
Lee Dixon
Anthony Eiddle Duke
• Allen W. Dulles
Sherman M. Fairchild
• Glenn Gardiner
• Robert D. L. Gardiner
John Garfield
Walter Gubelman
• Paul H. Hefzog
Ira A. Hirschmann
Honorable Fiorello H. LaGuardia
Lewis E. Lawes
Honorable Herbert Lehman
Samuel Lewisohn
Alfred Lunt
Fraser McCann
• Austin H. McCormick
Byrnes MacDonald
• Spencer Miller, Jr.
• Honorable Edward P. Mulrooney
Elliott Nugent
Laurence Olivier
Charles D. Osborne
Honorable Charles Poletti
• William Jourdan Rapp
Bill Robinson
Nelson A. Rockefeller
Beardsley Ruml
Clendenin Ryan
Frederick R. Sacher
George H. Sibley
Chauncey Stillman
Ralph Straus
• Robert K. Straus
Ordway Tead
Franchot Tone
Dr. Herbert D. Williams

Patronesses

Henrietta Additon
Mrs. George Backer
Mrs. Grace Allen Bangs
Mrs. Mary Duke Eiddle
Mrs. Jerome Napoleon Bonaparte
Mrs. Sidney K. Borg
Mrs. Helen L. Buttenwieser
• Madame Alma Clayburgh
Mrs. S. Winston Childs, Jr.
• Mrs. Ralph Crews
Mrs. Preston Davis
Martha Dodd
Doris Duke
Lynn Fontanne
Betty Grable
Ruth Grafstrom
• Marian Greenwood
Nancy Hamilton
Elizabeth Hawes
Mrs. Arnold Hutcheson
Barbara Hutton
Mrs. Henry Ittleton
• Mrs. George Washington Kavanaugh
Dr. Alice V. Keliher
• Florence Kelley
Mrs. Whitman Knapp
Judge Anna M. Kross
Mrs. Thomas W. Lamont
Gertrude Lawrence
Vivien Leigh
Irene Lewisohn
Mrs. Ernest K. Lindley
• Elinor Loeb
Aline MacMahon
Anne Morgan
Mrs. William Piel
Evelyn Preston
Mrs. Samuel Rayburn
Lillian D. Rock
Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt
Mrs. Beardsley Ruml
Mrs. Richard Storrs
Narcissa Swift
Tobe
Lenore Ulric
Mrs. Harry Wechsler
• Mrs. Lester Weil
Mrs. Gordon Page Williams
Mrs. Joseph Willens

(Note: *accepted)

*file
via phone*

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.

rlk

Viola Ilma, Am. Youth Congress--Cont. from Mrs. Whitman

17/0
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 24th, at the Biltmore in New York City.

Very sincerely yours,

Secretary to
Mrs. Roosevelt

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

0

YOUNG MEN'S VOCATIONAL FOUNDATION, INC.

345 Lexington Avenue

Lexington 2-8449

New York, N. Y.

New Address: 8 West 40th Street - Telephone: Pennsylvania 6-9143

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DR. HERBERT D. WILLIAMS

VIOLA ILMA
Executive Director

July 19, 1940

11/11/40

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
Viola Ilma

VI:PS
cc: 20 East 11 Street

100

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

0

YOUNG MEN'S VOCATIONAL FOUNDATION, INC.

~~245 Lexington Avenue~~

LEXington 28449

New York, N. Y.

New Address: 8 West 40th Street - Telephone: PENnsylvania 6-9143

JUL 30 1940

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MAURICE R. WHITEBOOK
DR. HERBERT D. WILLIAMS

VIOLA ILMA
Executive Director

Waiting to hear from you!

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. Winchell? I am anxiously waiting to hear from you on this important matter.

I am,

Appreciatively,

Viola Ilma
Viola Ilma

vi-pw

72
SEP 12 1940

September 11, 1940

100

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

100

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

0

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; ARMAR E. ARCHIBOLD, Treasurer; GRACE ALLEN BANGS; SPENCER MILLER, JR.

VIOLA ILMA
Executive Director

September 6, 1940

ROBERT R. HANNUM
Assistant Director

SEP 7 1940

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

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Is there any news?

Sincerely,

Viola Ilma
Viola Ilma

*and
9-12*
*sent to Mrs. Roosevelt
not to be written for
afternoon and evening
of 10/10/40*
VI:PS
Viola Ilma

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Orlway Tead
Walter N. Thayer, 3rd
Mrs. Lester H. Weil
Maurice K. Whitebook
Dr. Herbert D. Williams

September 27, 1940

100

Dear Miss Ilma:

✓
I am sending you the check which
Mr. Schwartz 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

0

#25-

YOUNG MEN'S VOCATIONAL FOUNDATION, INC.

8 WEST 40TH STREET . PENNSYLVANIA 6-9143 . NEW YORK, N. Y.

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VIOLA ILMA
Executive Director

September 20, 1940

ROBERT R. HANNUM
Assistant Director

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

VI:PS
Enc.

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BLOOMINGDALE'S
New York

Executive Offices

September 18, 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.
8 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 secured.

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

August 14, 1940

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 led 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 Bethel, 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 loan 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 Fanny Hurst
Miss Marian Anderson	Mrs. Henry Ittleson
Miss Mary Vail Address	Mrs. Nicholas Kelley
Mrs. Vincent Astor	Mrs. William W. Kennedy
Mrs. Dora Schiff Backer	Mrs. Thomas W. Lsmont
Mrs. Grace Allen Bangs	Mrs. Sam A. Lewisohn
Miss Tallulah Bankhead	Mrs. Ernest K. Lindley
Mrs. Samuel L. Barlow	Mrs. Walter S. Mack
Mrs. August Belmont	Miss Ethel Merman
Mrs. Sidney C. Borg	Commissioner Freida Miller
Miss Irene Burbank	Miss Anne Morgan
Mrs. Helen L. Bittenwieser	Miss Caroline O'Day
Mrs. Richard Storrs Childs	Mrs. Hortense M. Odum
Mrs. S. Winston Childs, Jr.	Mrs. Elliot D. Pratt
Miss Nancy Cook	M s. Emily Rado
Mrs. James H. R. Cromwell	Miss Josephine Roche
Mrs. F. Trabee Davidson	Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt
Mrs. Edward J. Flynn	Mrs. Beardsley Ruml
Mrs. John Henry Hammond	Miss Josephine Shain
Mrs. Edward Hale Harkness	Mrs. Chauncey Stillman
Miss Elizabeth Hawes	Mrs. Raymond Grem Swing
Mrs. Arthur Garfield Hays	Tobé
Miss Helen Hayes	Mrs. Max Wallerstein
Miss Katherine Hepburn	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."

<u>NAME</u>	<u>IN WHAT OUTSIDE ACTIVITIES DID YOU ENGAGE WHILE IN SCHOOL?</u>	<u>WHY DID YOU CHOOSE THESE ACTIVITIES</u>
C, Elizabeth	None	
D, Anne	YWCA - swimming, dancing, singing.	Enjoyed the most.
D, Maria	Reading, sewing Church activities, singing.	Because interested.
E, Helen	I belonged to the G.O.; also the Police Athletic League. Liked children and that enabled me to be with them.	
F, Hannah	-	
F, Mary	All athletics, especially basketball, swimming, tennis.	Something to occupy my time; way of making friends.
H, Elizabeth	Girl Scouts; basketball.	The majority of my friends were interested in things that seemed silly and I wanted to be different.
L, Frances	YWCA, swimming.	Because I wanted my Life Saving badge.
McH, Jennie	None.	
M, Marguerite	The Okay Club for Girls.	Liked to do little things for poor people and children.
O, Mabel	Basketball, swimming, volleyball, baseball.	Love games.
P, Ruth	Skating, handball	
S, Anne	Baseball, hiking and picnics.	Because I like the outdoors.
S, Alberta	Baseball, basketball.	
W, Constance	-	
W, Sylvia	Swimming, dancing, roller skating, Girl Scouts, 4-H Club.	Like to be moving all the time.

<u>NAME</u>	<u>SCHOOL GRADE</u>	<u>WHY LEFT</u>	<u>FAVORITE SUBJ.</u>	<u>SUBJ. LEAST INTERESTED IN</u>
C, Elizabeth	Elementary	Wanted to go North	English	Hygiene.
D, Anne	8th grade	Had to support mother.	English Sewing Arithmetic	Geography History
D, Maria	Elementary	-	Music, cooking, English	Arithmetic Geography History
E, Helen	1st term H.S.	Had to go to work.	Painting printing History	Geography Sewing
F, Helen	-			
F, Mary	3rd year H.S.	Eye trouble and loneliness.	Science, Mathematics	History Geography
H, Elizabeth	Elementary	Had to help family.	History, music athletics.	Hygiene, art geometry
L, Frances	3 years H. S.	Wasn't interested.	Designing, Typing.	Latin, Algebra.
McH, Jennie	3 yrs.H.S.	Personal difficulties at home.	English Business course	Physical Ed. History Mathematics.
M, Marguerite	4th year H.S.	To be married.	Typing, Shorthand	Arithmetic, Algebra
O, Mabel	1st year HS	To be married.	Typing, Shorthand.	History.
P, Ruth	-			
S, Anne	Grammar Sch.	Wanted to work.	English, Literature Art	History Geography Arithmetic
S, Alberta	1st year HS	Illness	English, Arithmetic	Geography
W, Constance	3rd term HS	To get a job.	Prose, Poetry.	History, English
W, Sylvia	3 years HS	To get married	French, English	History Chemistry.

<u>NAME</u>	<u>LAST JOB</u>	<u>TYPE JOB NOW LOOKING FOR</u>
C, Elizabeth	Cook, general house- work.	Personal maid.
D, Anne	Factory - electric broilers.	Factory, power sewing.
D, Maria	Chamber maid in hotel.	Laundry
E, Helen	Waitress	Beauty culture or associated work.
F, Hannah	-	Laundry work.
F, Mary	Housework	Nurses training.
H, Elizabeth	Laundry	Elevator operator.
L, Frances	Decorator	Factory work, - decorator.
McH, Jennie	Domestic	Secretary.
M, Marguerite	Factory	Nurses aide.
O, Mabel	Housework	Nurses aide.
P, Ruth	Housework	Nurses aide.
S, Anne	Waitress	Secretary
S, Alberta	Never worked	Laundry work.
W, Constance	Child care.	Child care
W, Sylvia	Waitress	Waitress

OCT 3 - 1940

YOUNG MEN'S VOCATIONAL FOUNDATION, INC.

8 WEST 40TH STREET • PENNSYLVANIA 6-9143 • NEW YORK, N. Y.

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VIOLA ILMA
Executive Director

ROBERT R. HANNUM
Assistant Director

October 2, 1940

100

2500
noted with

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
Viola Ilma

VI:PS

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Mrs. Lester H. Weil
Maurice R. Whitebook
Dr. Herbert D. Williams

October 11, 1940

100

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

DD

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VIOLA ILMA
Executive Director

ROBERT R. HANNUM
Assistant Director

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 Boland will come on the committee along with many others. Would you join the sponsoring committee? *V.S.*

Sincerely,

Viola Ilma
Viola Ilma P.W.

P.S. I am enclosing a letter from Mr. Gardiner who has been

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Dr. Herbert D. Williams

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt - 2

October 4, 1940

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.

FORSTMANN WOOLEN CO.
Passaic, New Jersey

October 3, 1940

Miss Viola Ilma
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 acknowledgement and appreciation 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 Labeling 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.

GLG:MJ

100

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,

0

Miss Viola Ilma
Young Men's Vocational Foundation
8 West 40
NYC

100
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

YOUNG MEN'S VOCATIONAL FOUNDATION, INC.

8 WEST 40TH STREET . PENNSYLVANIA 6-9143 . NEW YORK, N. Y.

am
9/26

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VIOLA ILMA
Executive Director

ROBERT R. HANNUM
Assistant Director

October 23rd, 1940

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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VIOLA ILMA
Executive Director

- 2 -

ROBERT R. HANNUM
Assistant Director

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/mi

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