

ROSE SCHNEIDERMAN

1933 - 1945

January 12, 1938

Dear Rose:

I think the idea of establishing a vacation fund in memory of Maud Swartz is grand and I am sure that she would be pleased. I am glad to send you my check for fifty dollars.

Very sincerely yours,

0

Miss Rose Schneiderman
247 Lexington Avenue
NYC

NEW YORK WOMEN'S TRADE UNION LEAGUE
247 LEXINGTON AVENUE
NEW YORK

ESTABLISHED 1903

TEL. CALEDONIA 8-0884



ROSE SCHNEIDERMAN, PRESIDENT
MARY E. DREIER, VICE-PRESIDENT
PAULINE M. NEWMAN, VICE-PRESIDENT
DOROTHY SCHIFF BACKER, TREASURER
ANYA F. SMITH, SECRETARY

January 10, 1938

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

Dear Eleanor:

Believing that the friends of Maud Swartz will wish to establish a suitable memorial to her, the Executive Board of the Women's Trade Union League has appointed a committee to consider what form such a memorial should take. That committee, comprising Nelle Swartz, Pauline Newman, Frieda Miller and myself believes that in view of her interests and temperament, a permanent vacation fund from the proceeds of which at least one working woman might be assured a carefree holiday each year, would seem to her a happy and useful provision.

The committee, therefore, proposes to raise a sum of \$1500 which we hope will yield fifty dollars per year, to be given to a working woman selected by a committee of Women's Trade Union League members under conditions to be decided by the committee.

Long before vacations ever were thought of in the terms of a trade union agreement, Maud Swartz was getting tremendous satisfaction and stimulation out of the holidays that she so cherished. Other working women, if they had similar opportunity, might be expected to share in the way that she did the stimulus resulting therefrom. In any case, such a vacation would mean new personal well-being and pleasure to those who might be given the opportunity.

If you agree with me that such a plan would meet Maud Swartz's approval and be a suitable memorial to her, will you help to make it possible by sending your check to Pauline M. Newman, Treasurer of the Committee, at 247 Lexington Avenue? It is assumed that at least \$1500 will have to be raised if the proposed plan is to be realized and we therefore bespeak your own help and interest and ask that if you know anyone else who would want to participate, would you please ask them also to send a gift to the committee treasurer?

Sincerely yours, |

Rose Schneiderman
Rose Schneiderman
President

UOPWA 16

*With in letter
with it sent to
the treasurer*

14
January 14 1938
Received from Mr. Franklin D. Roosevelt
Fifty and ⁰⁰/₁₀₀ White House, Washington, D.C.
Contribution to Grand Society Memorial Fund
\$50 ⁰⁰/₁₀₀ Dollars

WOMEN'S TRADE UNION LEAGUE

247 Lexington Avenue

New York

NEW YORK WOMEN'S TRADE UNION LEAGUE
247 LEXINGTON AVENUE
NEW YORK

ESTABLISHED 1903

TEL. CALEDONIA 5-0684



ROSE SCHNEIDERMAN, PRESIDENT
MARY E. DREIER, VICE-PRESIDENT
PAULINE M. NEWMAN, VICE-PRESIDENT
DOROTHY SCHIFF BACKER, TREASURER

January 25, 1938

Handwritten: kll, 10/10/38, 150

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

Dearest Eleanor:

You are a dear to send us such a generous gift to Maud's Memorial Fund. You will be interested to know that the money is coming in very nicely and I hope very much that we raise the full amount of the Fund by the time the anniversary of Maud's death comes around.

We missed you at the concert, darling. It was a very successful evening, although we did not make as much money as last year. Because the sale of boxes and tickets was not going as well as we had expected, we had to spend additional money for circularizing and follow-up work and that, of course, increased the cost of expenses. Our net profit is \$4220.24. Realizing that times are not so good, we feel very fortunate in having cleared the above amount. We expect to have a meeting of the Concert Committee in February to discuss next year's plans. My own reaction is that we should never have another concert in January -- it seems a very bad time.

With deep affection, I am,

Devotedly yours,

Rose Schneiderman
Rose Schneiderman
President

Mrs. Schneider

file

~~no more
admission~~

100

February 14, 1938

Dear Rose:

I am glad that you are coming to Washington and would be very happy to have you and Mary Dreier come to lunch at the White House at one o'clock on Friday, March 4.

Thank you for telling me about "Tomorrow's Bread". I will get it at once.

Affectionately,

Handwritten signature and notes:
Mrs. Schneider
to
order

Miss Rose Schneiderman
247 Lexington Avenue
NYC

NEW YORK WOMEN'S TRADE UNION LEAGUE
247 LEXINGTON AVENUE
NEW YORK

ESTABLISHED 1903

TEL. CALEDONIA 8-0684



ROSE SCHNEIDERMAN, PRESIDENT
MARY E. DREIER, VICE-PRESIDENT
PAULINE M. NEWMAN, VICE-PRESIDENT
DOROTHY SCHIFF BACKER, TREASURER

February 10, 1938

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

Dearest Eleanor:

A special thank you to you, darling, for standing by us again this year. I know what tremendous calls there are upon you and feel especially grateful to you for your generous gift.

I saw Mr. Dubinsky last week and he wondered when you were going to see "Pins and Needles" and if you would please let him know ahead of time so that he can save seats for you. I saw the play, and like it immensely. The Labor Department was considering it for the celebration, but I doubt whether a department of the Government could sponsor it due to the fun they poke at Mussolini, Japan, and even England. I wish so much that the President could see it because he would have a good evening's entertainment.

Mary and I hope to get down for the celebration and if you are in Washington at the time, maybe we could drop in and say "howdy" to you. It's always a joy seeing you.

I wonder whether you have read a book entitled "Tomorrow's Bread". I know the author, Beatrice Bisno, very well. The description of the beginning of the union movement in the needle trades is an excellent one and many of the characters depicted there are familiar to me. The main one, Sam Keransky, I am sure is a portrait of Miss Bisno's own father.

I am going to try to come to your lecture next Tuesday, if I possibly can.

With fondest love, I am,

Devotedly yours,

Rose Schneiderman
Rose Schneiderman
President

*Get into the
1st 4th
March*

*1938
March*

Perhaps you might be in the neighborhood.

REMINDER

1938
Concert Committee meetin. --

Day: Wednesday

Date: February 23rd

Time: 11:30 a.m.

Place: Women's Trade Union League, 247 Lexington Avenue.

ROSE SCHNEIDERMAN
President



THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS

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

April 25, 1938

100
✓

Dear Rose:

I am so sorry that I will not be able to attend your tea. I find upon looking over my calendar that the months of May and June are so crowded with engagements I do not feel I can possibly promise anything more. It was very nice of you to ask me but am sure you will understand why I must decline the invitation.

Affectionately,

Miss Rose Schneiderman
The Secretary of Labor
80 Centre Street
New York, New York

DD

See Cordell Hull

70 4/20/38

40



ROSE SCHNEIDERMAN
SECRETARY

STATE OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY
80 CENTRE ST., NEW YORK CITY

April 14, 1938

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

Dear Rose

Dearest Eleanor:

I have undertaken the Chairmanship of the National Women's Committee to help raise \$100,000. for the establishment of a Leon Blum Colony in Palestine. It is the first time I have undertaken any work in connection with the Jewish cause, parse, first because I never believed in zionism. I am not a Zionist today. I love my adopted land and don't want to live in any other country of the world. But whatever one's philo-
sophy may be, one has to face the stark realities affect-
ing the Jewish people of Europe. Refuge must be given
them wherever possible. Palestine of course affords the
kind of haven, although it doesn't offer complete security,
nevertheless, it is a place where the young men and women
of Jewish faith can reestablish themselves and in coopera-
tion with one another, work out their destinies. Our
committee is part of the Labor Committee connected with
the Jewish National Fund.

We are very anxious to have you as our guest
of honor at an afternoon tea, to be given any time during
the latter part of May or the early part of June. We are
anxious to broaden our scope and no one could give us the
send-off that your presence would give, on this kind of
an occasion.

I feel like a wretch to ask you to do one
additional thing, knowing how full your days and evenings
are, and were not the cause so important and vital, I
assure you I would refrain from approaching you. If you
can see your way of doing it, I shall be everlastingly
grateful to you.

We all applaud most heartily the President's
interest in the persecuted of Europe and we hope something
will be worked out for their benefit.

*Admission
hereto without
engagement*

*Recd.
4-25-38*



ROSE SCHNEIDERMAN
SECRETARY

STATE OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY
80 CENTRE ST., NEW YORK CITY

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt.

-2-

April 14, 1938

With the best kind of Easter greetings to
you and the President, I am,

Devotedly yours,

Rose Schneiderman

Rose Schneiderman.

RS:AG

P.S. The committee saw Senator Rayburn on Tuesday re
E.R. The Senator was greatly pleased and promised
to help. Blessings on your head darling for helping
us so effectively.

Rm



DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

In reply refer to
PR

April 23, 1938.

My dear Mrs. Scheider:

With reference to your memorandum of April 20, 1938, I am returning herewith the letter addressed to Mrs. Roosevelt by the Secretary of Labor of the State of New York.

From a purely personal standpoint, Mrs. Roosevelt is, of course, free to attend teas wherever and whenever she likes. There are certain other considerations, however, which may be of interest. From the point of view of international relations, I do not believe that any particular purpose would be served should she attend a tea of this kind. The President and the Secretary of State are constantly bombarded with requests for their support in behalf of organizations interested in the colonization of Palestine. They have consistently taken the stand, however, that in

view

Mrs. Malvina T. Scheider,
Secretary to Mrs. Roosevelt,
The White House.

view of the troubled situation in Palestine, and since American Jewry itself appears to be divided regarding the advisability of further colonization there, it would be unwise for them to appear to "take sides".

I further note that the specific purpose of the National Women's Committee is to raise a large sum of money to carry out a colonization program. In view of the urgent needs of many of our fellow citizens, would it be advisable for Mrs. Roosevelt to lend public and apparently official encouragement at this time to a movement designed to raise funds for a particular group of citizens in certain foreign countries?

I should like to repeat that Mrs. Roosevelt should, of course, follow her own judgment, but she may wish to consider the suggestions I have made above, since her attendance at the tea would doubtless be interpreted as a gesture of approval for the organization sponsoring the affair.

Sincerely yours,

George J. Tamm
Chief of Protocol.

Enclosure:
Original letter to Mrs.
Roosevelt from the Secretary
of Labor of New York.



File
(enclosed in the mail - 1938)

STATE OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
OFFICE OF
THE INDUSTRIAL COMMISSIONER

80 CENTRE STREET
NEW YORK CITY

APR 27 1938

April 26, 1938

Miss Melvina Scheider
White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Melvina:

About two weeks ago I sent Mrs. Roosevelt a letter, a copy of which I am enclosing. Up to this day, I have not heard from her. Knowing how prompt she is, I have decided that perhaps my letter went astray. If she has not seen it yet, would you be so good as to bring it to her attention and let me know her answer.

The weather is heavenly today, and I can imagine how lovely Washington must be at this time. I hope you are well.

With all kinds of good wishes to you, I am,

Affectionately,

Rose Schneiderman

Rose Schneiderman,
Secretary.

RS:AG
ENC.

C
O
P
Y

April 14, 1938

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

Dearest Eleanor:

I have undertaken the Chairmanship of the National Women's Committee to help raise \$100,000. for the establishment of a Leon Blum Colony in Palestine. It is the first time I have undertaken any work in connection with the Jewish cause, first because I never believed in zionism. I am not a Zionist today. I love my adopted land and don't want to live in any other country of the world. But whatever one's philosophy may be, one has to face the stark realities affecting the Jewish people of Europe. Refuge must be given them wherever possible. Palestine of course affords the kind of haven, although it doesn't offer complete security, nevertheless, it is a place where the young men and women of Jewish faith can reestablish themselves and in cooperation with one another, work out their destinies. Our Committee is part of the Labor Committee connected with the Jewish National Fund.

We are very anxious to have you as our guest of honor at an afternoon tea, to be given any time during the latter part of May or the early part of June. We are anxious to broaden our scope and no one could give us the send-off that your presence would give, on this kind of an occasion.

I feel like a wretch to ask you to do one additional thing, knowing how full your days and evenings are, and were not the cause so important and vital, I assure you I would refrain from approaching you. If you can see your way of doing it, I shall be everlastingly grateful to you.

We all applaud most heartily the President's interest in the persecuted of Europe and we hope something will be worked out for their benefits.

With the best kind of Easter greetings to you and the President,
I am,

Devotedly yours,

Rose Schneiderman

P.S. The committee saw Congressman Rayburn on Tuesday re E.R. He was greatly pleased and promised to help. Blessings on your head darling for helping us so effectively.

Department of State

BUREAU } PR
DIVISION }

ENCLOSURE

TO-

Letter drafted

ADDRESSED TO

Mrs. Scheider
.....

NEW YORK WOMEN'S TRADE UNION LEAGUE

247 LEXINGTON AVENUE
NEW YORK

ESTABLISHED 1903

TEL. CALEDONIA 5-0884

495

ROSE SCHNEIDERMAN, PRESIDENT
MARY E. DREIER, VICE-PRESIDENT
PAULINE M. NEWMAN, VICE-PRESIDENT
DOROTHY SCHIFF BACKER, TREASURER

Jill
May 6, 1938

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

100 For your information.

If you are around town, we'd love to have you drop in.

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

We have left the members of our Concert Committee alone for some time until we had something definite to write. A small group has meanwhile been at work, trying to find an attractive benefit arrangement. It has not been easy, but we feel well satisfied with the final choice, and now want your help on the next plans.

It has been decided to take a performance of the Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo, which is a recent combination of the World Art Ballet, of Leonide Massine, and Colonel W. de Basil's Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo.

Our performance date has been set for Wednesday evening, October 26th, that being close to the final New York appearance of the Ballet. However, that is fairly soon so far as promoting the affair is concerned, so we shall have to do some quick, concentrated work. The Ballet will be given at the Metropolitan Opera, and we are not planning to take the entire house, but the lower tier boxes and blocks of orchestra seats.

We have the additional good news that Mrs. Dorothy Schiff Backer has consented to take the Chairmanship of the Committee, which Mrs. Leach is relinquishing after two years of splendid service.

Now we want a meeting of the full Committee as soon as possible to discuss details as to prices of tickets, publicity and promotion. Only the one meeting will be necessary this spring, I think, so we especially hope it will be well attended.

The only possible time seems to be next Tuesday, May 10th, at 2:30 in the afternoon, and I am calling the meeting for that time here at the League. Will you indicate on the enclosed postal card if you can attend? Please make every effort to be with us.

With deep appreciation of your help in the past, and the hope that you will continue to give us the benefit of your advice and cooperation, I am,

Sincerely yours,

Rose Schneiderman
Rose Schneiderman
President

May 16, 1938

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Dear Rose:

I have not written you about your letter from Mrs. Beck because I wanted to see Mr. Borsodi before I answered it. He and Chauncey Stillman came here for lunch the other day, and after I received your letter I had some inquiries made about Mr. Borsodi. From several sources I was assured that his reputation is one of integrity and honesty and that while he may theorize a good deal, his intentions are good. I liked him and was very much interested in what he had to say. I hope to go and see one of his projects this summer in order to form a more definite opinion of how it is working out.

I am glad you sent me the letter from Mrs. Beck as I am sure it was written in all sincerity.

Affectionately,

Miss Rose Schneiderman
Department of Labor
80 Centre St.,
NYC

S:dn

20 EAST 11TH STREET
NEW YORK CITY

MRS. HELM

As you know all about this, after you have read this letter, will you ask Nathan Straus if he can have someone investigate it or if he knows of anyone who knows anything about it. Mrs. R. would like to know before these two men come to lunch.

M.T.S.

Have told Miss Bonardi that
I have explained about Mrs.
Bonardi. Am returning
correspondence so that you can
write Miss Schneiderman.



STATE OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

OFFICE OF
THE INDUSTRIAL COMMISSIONER

80 CENTRE STREET
NEW YORK CITY

May 5, 1938

Mrs. Malvina Scheider
White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Malvina:

This morning came this letter. Both Frances and Carl Beck are old time friends of mine and I know them to be reliable, so that what Mrs. Beck says should be regarded as authentic.

I thought perhaps that Mrs. Roosevelt might be interested in her slant of the Borsodi experiment. I haven't asked Mrs. Beck whether she would want me to relay this to Mrs. Roosevelt, but I doubt whether she would mind my doing so.

With kindest personal regards to you and Mrs. Roosevelt, I am,

Sincerely yours,

Rose Schneiderman

Rose Schneiderman,
Secretary.

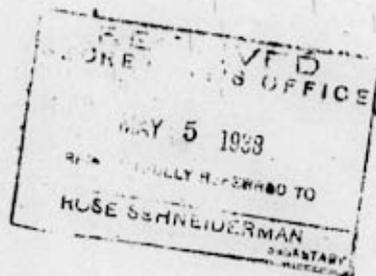
RS:AG
ENC.

*Called
5-16-38*

MAY 5 1938

*I'll send someone to look into
with Latham Shantz of the old Justice of the
sup. to architect of look into
first before the day long
a lunch*

Thank Rose



Birch Lane
Suffern, N.Y.

Dear Rose;-

I am in something of a quandary, and you are the only one I can think of who can help protect Mrs. Roosevelt.

The situation is this;-- I was horrified to see in one of the county papers not long ago, that Mrs Roosevelt had promised to come to Rockland County to inspect a "back-to-the-land project so successfully instituted by Mr. Ralph Borsodi". For twelve years we have been neighbors of theirs, and we know something about it.

You know, of course, that both Carl and I are supporters of both Mr. and Mrs Roosevelt, and it would be too bad if Mrs Roosevelt's splendid interest in all human welfare projects were to be victimized by lack of information of the true workings of the project and its instigators.

It purports to be a type of homestead movement to produce the necessities of life on the land. The sponsors, Mr. and Mrs Borsodi, have never done it themselves, in spite of their numerous printed statements that they have done so. They are expert self-advertisers.

One small example of their reliability is revealing. Both Mrs Borsodi and I have kept bees, and have compared notes as to our success. (I didn't write a book about it!) One winter she called me to ask if I had any surplus honey. I had uncounted pounds of it and said so. She replied that she wanted to send it as Christmas gifts to her friends in the city, as coming from her own hives, to prove the advantages of life in the country. She went on that all her bees had died of infection leaving her with no honey, so she wanted to buy mine to send as coming from her place! It is a small thing in itself, but the same lack of intellectual honesty seems to run through most departments of their enterprise.

We keep seeing in print references to the home weaving, and garments are worn in season and out. But for years I know from personal observation that Mrs Borsodi could not herself weave, and brought into her family a young woman for that purpose.

The housing scheme is original in that the land remains in the possession of the Foundation, on a long-term lease. The house is owned by the 'homesteader'. Each family has a small garden plot, plenty large enough for all the work a commuter can do who has three hours a day to spend going and coming from New York, but absurdly inadequate for anything practical in the way of feeding a family.

From several people who have been engaged in the actual construction of the houses, it is reported that they are put up according to no known law of mechanics. One practical carpenter, who has done thorough work for me in years past, remarked fervently "I hope to God there isn't a big wind this winter, or those roofs are going to come off! I never had to do work like this before!" The roofs have not, I must admit, come off, but their construction shocked a competent carpenter.

What I sincerely hope is this;-- The Foundation is not fully trusted here in the county. Being a Republican stronghold, Mrs Roosevelt's admirers are in a minority. It is more than unfortunate to think of her being exploited by a half-baked and non-accredited homestead development scheme, and take chances of being put in an indefensible, - even ridiculous position here, with most of the intelligent and serious citizens.

Isn't there some way that an independent and wholly unbiased appraisal can be made before she commits herself to an on-the-run survey and endorsement of this one-family sociological experiment?

I am still regretting that we did not find a place for your family near here.

Best of good wishes, always,

Frances E. Beck

May 3, 1938.

Miss Rose Schneidermann,
New York City.

May 19, 1938

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Dear Rose:

Of course I will try very hard to come to the dinner for the Leon Blum Colony if after you set a date I can fit it in with the other things which I have to do in November and December. I could not set a definite time as I have no idea what the demands will be, and even if I were to pick the date myself now, I could not guarantee to keep it. So, if you will select the date which is convenient to all the others concerned, I will do my very best to be with you.

Affectionately,

Miss Rose Schneiderman
Department of Labor
80 Centre St., NYC

S:DD



ROSE SCHNEIDERMAN
SECRETARY

STATE OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY
80 CENTRE ST., NEW YORK CITY

May 18, 1938

Dearest Eleanor:

At the risk of being a nuisance, I want to ask you a great favor, and that is, would you be willing to be one of the speakers at a \$25. plate dinner for the Leon Blum Colony, any time in November or December, to be held at your convenience. The French Ambassador has indicated his willingness to speak on this occasion. We are also expecting Mr. Albert Einstein to speak. If you can see your way of accepting this invitation, which is tendered you with love and devotion, the committee for a Leon Blum Colony in Palestine will be most grateful to you.

The campaign, if successful, will make it possible for at least 10,000 young people to find a refuge, which will enable them to plan their life in security and well being.

I have your letter of May 16th. In forwarding to you Mrs. Carl Beck's letter, I merely wanted you to have it so as to know what the opinion of some of Mr. Borsodi's neighbors are at Suffern. They may be unduly critical and therefore I am glad that you are going to look into the situation yourself and allow for prejudices, which are bound to creep up in situations such as this one.

We are doing our best at the League to get messages to the Senate favoring the relief and public works appropriation bill. It would be tragic, should Congress be so short-sighted as to be unwilling to go along with the President's plan. I dread to think what would happen, should the measure be defeated or be scaled down drastically. Big business seems just as blind as ever, to the problem of confronting millions of working men and women and to the social safety valve which the public works program and W.P.A. has been to us as a nation. I hope every one of them reads today's article in the Times, by Otto D. Tolischus, on what employers in Germany have to contend with; maybe it will make them a little more willing to go along with the President.

*Archival
5-19-38*



ROSE SCHNEIDERMAN
SECRETARY

STATE OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY
80 CENTRE ST. NEW YORK CITY

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt

-2- May 18, 1938-

Hoping to get a favorable reply from you and
with deepest love, I am,

Devotedly yours,

Rose Schneiderman.

RS:AG

June 1, 1938

160

Dear Rose:

I think the opera would be much better and I do hope you can get it next year.

I imagine there will be a much harder fight on the wages and hours bill in the Senate, but it is good to have it through the House.

Life is getting a little less busy but we are still fairly on the move.

Affectionately,

Miss Rose Schneiderman
Department of Labor
80 Centre St., NYC

DD



ROSE SCHNEIDERMAN
SECRETARY

STATE OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY
80 CENTRE ST. NEW YORK CITY

May 25, 1938

Dearest Eleanor:

You are a saint to accept our invitation, even though conditionally. I am grateful to you beyond words for doing this. I will let you know as soon as we set the date, very likely it will be November 9th or 10th, 16th or 17th. It depends which one of these days the French Ambassador prefers. We are getting in touch with him right away.

We have been up against it to get a worth while artist for this year's benefit. Right now we are trying through Mr. Saranoff to get an Opera benefit with Flagstad and Melchior in Tristan Isolde. If we get that opera, we are going to share it with one of the new music schools, of which Mr. Shotzonoff is the head. Barring that, the only other possibility is the benefit with the Ballet Russe, which will be held towards the end of October. We would much prefer the opera with Flagstad, as that would, in a way, sell itself. The Ballet Russe will not be so easy.

We had a luncheon of 100 representatives of mothers' clubs and settlements and labor organizations on Monday, at the Town Hall Club, for the purpose of pushing the relief and public works bill. It was a fine gathering and surprisingly well attended, because Mary Drier only had four days to do it in. We think we got the women excited enough to deluge the Senate with telegrams and letters.

I am delighted with the passage of the wages and hours bill in the House. We all know that there is still an up-hill fight to be made while the bill is in conference. We are all so furious at Leo Wolman's letter in the Times on Monday. It was evidently timed on purpose, with the hope that it



ROSE SCHNEIDERMAN
SECRETARY

STATE OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY
80 CENTRE ST., NEW YORK CITY

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt

-2-

May 25, 1938

would have some adverse effect on the wages and hours bill in the House. Wolman has gone completely reactionary. The opinion is that he has based his statement on National Conference Board figures, which usually are unreliable. I can't believe for one minute that real wages are 40% above the cost of living.

Thank you again darling, for your willingness to speak at the dinner.

With heaps and heaps of love, I am,

Faithfully yours,

Rose Schneiderman,
Secretary.

RS:G

You will be glad to know that Dorothy Baker is taking the showmanship of our benefit this year. R.

June 25, 1938

100

Dear Rose:

I hope that you are most
successful in Albany, but I don't know
what I can do for you!

Thank you very much for
your letter, and I hope the Ballet Russe
will be a grand success.

Affectionately,

ER:mds

Hon. Rose Schneiderman



ROSE SCHNEIDERMAN
SECRETARY

STATE OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY
80 CENTRE ST. NEW YORK CITY

June 24, 1938

Arch
6/25/38

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt
Hyde Park, N.Y.

Dearest Eleanor:

May I at this time congratulate you and the President most warmly on John's marriage. All newspaper accounts point to what must have been a lovely and delightful wedding. Photographs show John to have been a very handsome and happy bridegroom and Anne a lovely bride. I remember John in the hectic summer days of 1928 during my lovely week's visit with you at Hyde Park. John was ill, not seriously of course. One day during your daily trips to New York to do your daily stint for Al Smith, John wanted his temperature taken, and bringing the thermometer to him, I dropped it and it broke into many pieces--my nursing skill was not much to talk about I'm afraid. May I at this time, wish for John and his wife every happiness.

We are so happy that the Wages and Hours Bill has passed and that it is such a good law. I am sure it will do a great deal of good. It will help hundreds of thousands of men and women.

Next Wednesday, we have a hearing in Albany on an amendment to the Constitution of New York State, introduced by the business and professional women. If made part of the constitution, it would not only do away with all labor laws affecting women now on the statute books, but would make any kind of a general law for labor impossible. We expect a big turnout of working women and hope to discourage the committee of which Mr. Bleakley is Chairman, from reporting it out of committee.

I am sorry that we were unable to get an Opera for our benefit and had to take the Ballet Russe. So far, the returns seem to be very good, but I know that it will



ROSE SCHNEIDERMAN
SECRETARY

STATE OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY
80 CENTRE ST. NEW YORK CITY

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt

-2-

June 24, 1938

be an uphill job to sell boxes, of which there are as many as at Carnegie. However, we will do the best we know how. I am sure that Dorothy Backer, as Chairman, will be most helpful.

Isn't it grand that Marian is a member of the President's commission to study the labor laws of England. I know she will do a good job.

I am distressed that Melvina Scheider had to go through the ordeal of a serious operation. I am so happy that she is getting along nicely. How wonderful it is for her to have your devoted care. I hope that her improvement will be rapid.

It is lovely to know that Anna and the children are with you at Hyde Park. I am sure that I express the sentiments of thousands and thousands of our citizenry, when I say that I rejoice in anything that brings happiness to you and our beloved President.

I hope you will have the nicest kind of a summer.

Please accept my love and devotion

Affectionately yours,

Rose

Rose Schneiderman,
Secretary.

RS:G

STATE OF NEW YORK

No. 438

Int. 411

IN CONVENTION

May 24, 1938

Introduced by Mrs. MOORE—read twice and ordered printed,
and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Industrial
Relations and Workmen's Compensation

PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

To amend article one of the constitution, in relation to equality
of rights between men and women

*The Delegates of the People of the State of New York, in
Convention assembled, do propose as follows:*

- 1 Section 1. Article one of the constitution is hereby amended
- 2 by adding a new section, to be appropriately numbered, to read
- 3 as follows:
- 4 § —. *The enjoyment of opportunities for employment in this*
- 5 *state shall be without discrimination or preference by reason of*
- 6 *sex, and to this end all laws regulating employment shall be based*
- 7 *upon the nature of the work and not upon the sex of the worker.*

EXPLANATION — Matter in italics is new; matter in brackets [] is old
Constitution to be omitted.

100
June 30, 1938

Dear Rose:

I cannot tell you how much joy your flowers gave me and how sweet I think you are to send them. I have them here at the house, and they are adding a great deal to my joy in being home again.

With thanks again for your kind thoughts,

Affectionately,

Miss Rose Schneiderman

Mrs. Rose Schneiderman

gnt
6/28/28

July 11, 1938

100

Dear Rose:

I was so glad to have your report of the hearing in Albany. Congratulations - it must have been a grand job! I am thrilled!

I quite understand Connie's position and hope she will not worry any more.

With every good wish, I am

Affectionately,

Miss Rose Schneiderman
Secretary of Labor
80 Centre St.
NYC

0



ROSE SCHNEIDERMAN
SECRETARY

STATE OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY
80 CENTRE ST., NEW YORK CITY

July 5, 1938

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt
Hyde Park, N.Y.

Dearest Eleanor:

Perhaps you would like to have the real account of our hearing in Albany last week, so here it is.

We had a most wonderful turnout of any that we ever had. We had 135 delegates. 35 of these were from upstate. 48 of them made one minute speeches. It ended up with Pauline making a most marvelous summary of any that I have ever heard Pauline do. She really outdid herself. We certainly confounded the introducer of the bill, Mrs. T. Channing Moore, who is a society woman in Westchester. Her husband used to be a member of the Assembly and then he died. He wasn't much to be counted on while he seved the legislature, as far as labor legislation is concerned.

They had six speakers on the other side. One was a representative of the Women's Party, the other of the New York State Business and Professional Women and two of the others were the old standbys of the Womens Party. Mary Murray and Belle Sherman, who weighs about 250 pounds by now, and Mrs. Maloney of the International Bookbinders Union. They read a prepared speech aside from Mrs. Maloney. The youngest of the group was a Miss Palmer, representing the W.P. The others were all past 60. In contrast to them, our speakers were mostly young girls. They made one minute speeches and it went like clock-work. We were complimented by everybody in the Chamber on the way the hearing was managed and how well the girls did. As we went on, Mrs. Moore became paler and paler. She learned a lot in the 50 minutes that we had.

The seriousness of the hearing was diverted by my introducing a delegate from the Cemetery Workers Union, who told the committee that their job was a seasonal one, and everybody howled. He explained it later, that aside from the

7-11

*Long celebration in Albany
been a grand success. In
thruled. I quite
understood
Praise
EP*



ROSE SCHNEIDERMAN
SECRETARY

STATE OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY
80 CENTRE ST. NEW YORK CITY

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt

-2- July 5, 1938

grave diggers, they have landscaping to do and that was the part that was seasonal. They then depended upon their women folks to help out and they usually were employed in industry and therefore they opposed the amendment because of the hardship that it would bring to them in eliminating the labor laws from New York State. Allan Haywood also spoke. He was very nice. He did not stress the CIO. He said the labor movement was united on this issue, that it fought hard to put these laws on the statute books and it didn't intend to see them removed by constitutional amendment.

George Meany, President of the State Federation of Labor, at the outset asked me to represent the Federation, as well as the League, because he didn't feel that he was prepared to speak on the question. I told him that there are CIO unions as well as A.F. of L. unions and I hoped he wouldn't be embarrassed over it. Allan Haywood CIO regional director, came up with us on the train and came back with us. He was most complimentary to me and told me he never knew of a hearing to be so peppy and dramatic as the hearing we put over. The Times account did not do the hearing justice.

Cara Cook worked terribly hard to marshal the forces. She certainly deserves a lot of credit. Monday night, previous to the hearing, a good many of the delegates came to the League and we had a preliminary hearing so to speak, so that the girls, when they got to Albany, were prepared to a degree for what was coming. The girls were simply thrilled with the whole experience and Pauline is already planning to bring bus loads of them to Washington next winter should there be another hearing. We are quite certain that the Moore bill is killed.

I meant to tell you that we all wore white muslin sashes with red lettering "working women oppose 438", that is the number of the proposal, and we all walked up from the station four by four and the girls sang Solidarity and other labor songs, while they were marching, and believe me, Albany passersby stopped and wanted to know what it was all about.



ROSE SCHNEIDERMAN
SECRETARY

STATE OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY
80 CENTRE ST. NEW YORK CITY

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt

-3-

July 5, 1938

I had a note from Malvina today, and she said she is feeling almost entirely well and I am delighted because I know how much you have need for her, and for Malvina's own sake as well.

I hope you will have a grand summer darling and that you will get some rest.

Affectionately,

Rose Schneiderman,
Secretary.

RS:G

P.S. Connie was just in to see me about Sadie. I am going to see the young lady and do the very best I can for her. Connie is heartbroken over some letter she wrote to you. She is so afraid you will think her disloyal, which is the last thing in the world she would think of doing.

September 4, 1938

file

Dear Rose:

Mrs. Roosevelt says she can go to the Leon Blum Dinner if you have it on December 6. Will you let us know as soon as possible so that Mrs. Roosevelt can make her other plans?

Very sincerely yours,

Miss Rose Schneiderman
Labor Department
80 Center Street
New York
N.Y.

0

September 14, 1938

100

Dear Rose:

Of course we will have the Christmas party as usual and will decide on the date a little later.

If I sent Mr. Ravitch a check and a list of what I want, do you think he could select the toys and have them sent to me?

all my love

Affectionately,

Miss Rose Schneiderman
Department of Labor
Office of The Industrial Commissioner
80 Centre Street
NYC

DD



STATE OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

OFFICE OF
THE INDUSTRIAL COMMISSIONER

80 CENTRE STREET
NEW YORK CITY

*Called
9-14-38*

September 6, 1938

Mrs. Malvina Scheider
White House
Washington, D. C.

*Dear Rose - of course we will
have Christmas party annual.
- we decide date a little
later. If I send Mrs.
Ravitch a check - a cent
of what I want - could be*

Dear Malvina:

It was a great relief to get your letter and
to know that Mrs. Roosevelt can attend the Leon Blum dinner
if it is held on December 6th. I am very happy indeed that
we were able to switch the date and it is now definitely
December 6th, at the Astor Hotel. We will of course communi-
cate with Mrs. Roosevelt before the dinner comes off.

*Relief +
send me
affection
R*

Please convey to her our deep and profound
gratitude for arranging her time so that she can be at the
dinner.

I spoke to the business agent of the Doll
and Toy Workers Union and he said he will be delighted to
take Mrs. Roosevelt to any number of the wholesale houses
where she can buy the toys she needs for the Christmas
parties. If she will let me know when she expects to do
this, I will arrange for Mr. Ravitch to meet her and take
her to these places. I am sure she can save quite a bit
of money in buying her toys this way. I have not heard
as yet whether the League party is again to be held. If
Mrs. Roosevelt wants to discontinue them, I will understand
perfectly. After all, we have had those parties for so
many years and there being such numerous calls upon her,
it is only fair that she goes to those who may be much
more in need. But should she again decide in favor of the
League party, the Doll and Toy Workers Union will supply
the toys.

My, it is good to see your handwriting again.
I hope that you are as good as new again.

With fondest regards, I am,

Affectionately yours,

Rose
Rose Schneiderman.

RS:G

*W. Forman
he'll be. The party
fore this kindness.
Thank for their gift
I'll give it to
a cheer staff
I'll be
his only*

September 29, 1938

100

Dear Rose:

Thank you for your letter. I am sorry
I cannot be in New York on October 1.

How much are the boxes for the ballet?

Do you think I could write Mr. Nelson, or
could you ask him to get me three dozen sweaters
of varying sizes for the Trade Union League
Christmas party?

Also to whom shall I make out a check
for the toys?

Affectionately,

Miss Rose Schneiderman
Secretary of Labor
80 Centre St.
NYC

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

From the desk of—
Mrs. Scheider

Dear Ray -

Thanks you for your
letter. I am sorry I
can't be in NYC on Oct
first.

How much are the
boxes for the ballet?

Do you think I
could write Mr. Nelson?
or could you ask him to

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

From the desk of—
Mrs. Scheider

get me 3 dry treaties
of varying sizes for
the Trade Union League
Christmas party?

Also to whom shall I
make out a check for
the toys, ~~also~~

ES



ROSE SCHNEIDERMAN
SECRETARY

STATE OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY
80 CENTRE ST. NEW YORK CITY

September 23, 1938

SEP 23 1938
ack 9-29
Route 1000
Franklin D. Roosevelt
White House
Washington D.C.
Wm. T. Nelson

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

Dearest Eleanor:

I called Mr. Nelson of the Knitgoods Workers' Union and he will be delighted to take you or anybody else to a wholesale house where the sweaters can be bought wholesale.

I wanted to write to you for a long time. First, when Franklin's baby was born to tell you how delighted I was that there is a Franklin Delano Roosevelt the third. I hope he will take after his wonderful grandfather. Congratulations to you darling. I must write Franklin the first chance I have. Then my thoughts and heart were with you and the President during the trying days of James' operation. I am so glad, my dear, that everything is well with him. I can imagine the agonizing hours that both of you must have had. My heart's best wishes for James speedy recovery.

I must tell you of the time I had with Mrs. Otto Kahn. About once a year, she asks me to have luncheon with her. At times, I dread to go there because of her hostility to the New Deal, and it means I have to do a great deal of arguing with her. The last time I was up, was a week ago. I decided to take the offensive and the first thing I asked Mrs. Kahn was whether she saw the family income report in the Times, where 13% of the families in the United States have an income of less than \$500. "Oh yes" she saw that and she was shocked about it. Then we talked about relief and W.P.A. and I reminded Mrs. Kahn that in the best of times, we had three million unemployed people and with an increase in population of 9,000,000 since 1930 and with technological employment, it was my feeling that we would have a large standing army of unemployed for years to come, especially men and women over 40. "Well what about this depression we are having?" I said "yes, it is pretty bad. Wouldn't it have been worse were it not for home relief and W.B.A. and isn't it wonderful,



ROSE SCHNEIDERMAN
SECRETARY

STATE OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY
80 CENTRE ST. NEW YORK CITY

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt

-2-

September 23, 1938

that even though we have had a major depression, that there were no disturbances anywhere--no men on bread lines, or selling apples." She was sort of taken back and conceded that it was sort of astonishing that there had been no demonstrations of any kind.

Then she wanted to know if the President was going to run for a third term. I told her that I didn't know anything about it, but that it was my impression that if he decided to run, he would be reelected. She wanted to know how could I say that in view of the defeat in the South. I told her that was largely due to the poll tax, that most of the working people who are for the President and his program could not vote. She was astonished to hear that there was a poll tax in the South and she seemed much tamer by the time I got through, and thanked me very much for the arguments. She told me she is always argued with, and will be able to make a comeback. So you see, I am getting somewhere. I sent her Louis Stark's pamphlet issued by the Social Action Committee of the Federation of Churches on the National Labor Relations Board. I thought telling you about this would amuse you a bit.

I am delighted that the League is to have another party and I will tell the office to get to work on it immediately.

The Ballet is coming along pretty well. I am sorry that you wont be able to be there. You will be glad to know that Mrs. James Roosevelt took a lower tier box, so I am glad the family will be represented. We are doing much better on the boxes this year than heretofore and if the criticism of the Ballet is good after it opens, I hope we shall be able to fill the house.

Our annual Autumn conference this year will



ROSE SCHNEIDERMAN
SECRETARY

STATE OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY
80 CENTRE ST., NEW YORK CITY

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt

-3-

September 23, 1938

take place on the first of October. We are discussing Health Insurance and Medical Care. Dr. Falk will present the government program and Mr. Charles C. Pierce of the Department of Justice will speak on monopoly and medical care. Dr. William Foster of the Pollack Foundation, author of "Dollars, Doctors and Disease" and young Bob Wagner will speak on health. It is a very interesting topic and they are good speakers, don't you think?

Should you be in town, I would be delighted if you would come in for a few minutes, providing of course that you have nothing better to do. The meeting will be held at the Russell Sage Foundation.

Much love to you dearest and best of luck to you and the President and your family.

Devotedly yours,

Rose Schneiderman,
Secretary.

RS:G

October 11, 1938

Dear Rose:

I am afraid it is too much to ask you to get the toys and the sweaters so I will go myself when I am in town and will get in touch with you beforehand.

I will be glad to serve as honorary chairman for the Washington performance of "Pins and Needles". What date is it?

I agree with what you say about Europe and we can only hope that it is not just putting off a war.

Affectionately,

Miss Rose Schneideman
Dept. of Labor
80 Centre St., NYC

T:DD



ROSE SCHNEIDERMAN
SECRETARY

STATE OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY
80 CENTRE ST., NEW YORK CITY

September 30, 1938

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

Dearest Eleanor:

If you will send me the list of play-
things you want, I will be glad to go with Mr. Ravitch and
select them. I can do the same in the line of sweaters if
you want to trust to my judgment, but I guess that would
have to wait until we get the age and the sex of the child-
ren from the various groups.

I am so thankful that the President
was instrumental in getting England, France and Italy to
meet with Hitler to reconsider the drastic steps that
Germany was about to take. What a terrible tension poor
Europe must have been under these past two weeks. I know
that after the first Chamberlain report, I was unable to
sleep for many a night, worrying about poor Czechoslovakia,
and the fate that hung over Europe.

The National is going to have the open-
ing night of "Pins and Needles" in Washington during December,
and Elisabeth Christman is already at work getting the com-
mittee and list of patrons for the occasion. I wonder whether
you would be an angel and be willing to serve as honorary
Chairman of the committee. Elisabeth tells me it will make
all the difference in the world to have your name. "Pins
and Needles" has a number of new items and we hope it will
go over in a big way and that the National League will be
able to earn some money that way. May I hear from you as
to whether you are willing to lend your name to this under-
taking?

With fondest love, I am,

Devotedly yours,

Rose
Rose Schneiderman.

RS:G

*Checked
10-11-38*

*For answer
I'll bill to
myself in com.*

*Yes what
Rati?*



ROSE SCHNEIDERMAN
SECRETARY

STATE OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY
80 CENTRE ST. NEW YORK CITY

September 30, 1938

P.S. This letter was dictated yesterday, before the results of the four power conference were made known.

I rejoice with all peace loving people that the war clouds over Europe have passed away for the time being anyhow. I am sure all of us who opposed the final settlement of the World War, because it had arbitrarily transferred peoples from one nationality to the other and I am sure would have no objections to writing the wrong done at the time. I resent with all my heart that this was done at the point of a gun. Also that it sets a very bad example for the entire world, in as much as brutal and cruel force was the winner at the conference held in Munich yesterday.

I am happy that this worry has been taken off the President's mind and rejoice that he was instrumental in bringing about this understanding.

Rose

Rose Schneiderman.



ROSE SCHNEIDERMAN
SECRETARY

STATE OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY
80 CENTRE ST., NEW YORK CITY

October 23, 1938

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

Dearest Eleanor:

It will be no trouble whatever to attend to the Christmas shopping for the League party. I will send you the bills and then you can send the checks. Can you give me an inkling as to what kind of toys I should buy? Shall it be dolls for the girls, and masculine toys for the boys? The sweaters, I will of course choose different colors, both for the boys and the girls. You have not yet told us when the party is to be. However, we sent out the letters without the date and we will notify them the date afterwards.

You are an angel, to be willing to lend your name to the "Pins and Needles" benefit for the National. We appreciate it tremendously.

I know you are off on your lecture trip and I hope you don't get too tired and that everything goes well with you.

With fondest love,

Devotedly yours,

Rose

Rose Schneiderman.

file

100

Handwritten notes and signatures:
- A large diagonal line with "file" written above it.
- "Oct. 23, 1938" written above the date.
- "Mrs. Roosevelt" written vertically.
- "Mr. B. L. ... AS" written vertically.
- "Good afternoon" written at the bottom right.



ROSE SCHNEIDERMAN
SECRETARY

file

STATE OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY
80 CENTRE ST. NEW YORK CITY

100
SCHNEIDERMAN

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt

-2-

Oct. 28, 1938

She is so intelligent and able and understands the needs of the girls so thoroughly that I feel we are very fortunate to finally get someone like her. Cara Cook, our new Secretary, is also a very capable young woman. She is a New Englander, and is very reserved and unemotional, but has an excellent background. She comes from a working class family, has college education and was Secretary at Brookwood College. She also has done organizing work. She knows the labor movement very thoroughly, and is very efficient and understanding.

I have been deluged with requests for information on the Wages and Hours Law. On the whole, everybody is most patient and very nice about everything. Some hope that they are not under the law, as in the case of a contractor who makes sweaters and works for a New York firm. He had an idea because he doesn't sell the goods that he doesn't come under the Wages and Hours Law. So far, I have only had three cases where employers are trying to reduce wages. One, of a little girl who is a date packer. She had been getting \$8. a week. She went to her employer and told him that she knows she is now entitled to \$12. a week, whereupon he promptly discharged her and gave her a check for \$2. and some odd cents for two days work. She wanted to know whether she had any recourse to the law, and I told her there wasn't any.

The other, was a young man, a printer, working in a non-union shop getting at the rate of 39¢ an hour. They asked for an increase in the pay, so that they would earn in 44 hours the same amount they had been earning in 48 and 50 hours a week and the employer was unwilling to give it to them. I told this young man that if they all stick together that maybe the employer would change his mind.

The third, was from a man who works in an Art Gallery. There are 25 employed in the gallery and there is no question of wages. It is a question of hours. It seems most Art Galleries work only 42 hours a week, whereas this firm has been working 48 and longer hours a week. The employer



STATE OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY
80 CENTRE ST. NEW YORK CITY

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt

-3- Oct. 28, 1938

wants them to work 48 and to say that they are only working 44 hours. I told this man that the workers must not lend themselves to such a scheme as they would be held in collusion of violating the law.

I believe that on the whole the reason the Wages and Hours Law has been accepted with comparatively little fuss, is due entirely to the experience that most employers had under the N.R.A. They realize that as long as everyone has to live up to the same conditions, that no one man is at a disadvantage, and as a result, millions of working men and women will enjoy added leisure and we hope ultimately, when the 40 hour week goes into effect, it will also result in more employment opportunities for those who are idle today. Thanks to the President and God bless him.

With fondest love, I am,

Devotedly yours,

Rose Schneiderman,
Secretary.

RS:O
ENC.



RC117 41 DL CQTL

CA NEWYORK NY 11 1213P

MRS FRANKLIN D ROOSEVELT

WHITE HOUSE WASHN DC

DEAREST ELEANOR PLEASE ACCEPT MY VERY BEST WISHES FOR THE HAPPIEST
KIND OF BIRTHDAY. YOUR DEVOTION KEEN AND SYMPATHETIC UNDERSTANDING
OF EVERYDAY FOLK IS AN INSPIRATION TO US ALL. MAY LIFE BRING YOU
ALL THAT IS GOOD AND BEAUTIFUL MUCH LOVE

ROSE SCHNEIDERMAN.

100

file
→

100

November 15, 1938

Dear Rose:

I will be in Wara Springs on Thanksgiving Day and it would not be possible to broadcast from there.

I could not do the transcription, first, because I won't be in New York except for a half day before then, and secondly, I don't want to set a precedent for other organizations.

I can send either a letter or a wire which some one can read. If this is agreeable send me the points you want covered.

Affecti.nately,

Miss Rose Schneiderman
NY Women's Trade Union League
247 Lexington Avenue

FROM

The White House
Washington

TELEGRAM

OFFICIAL BUSINESS—GOVERNMENT RATES

MISS ROSE SCHNEIDERMAN
WOMENS TRADE UNION LEAGUE
247 LEXINGTON AVENUE
NEW YORK CITY

100

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 73763

IN FIFTY YEARS WE HAVE SEEN GREAT CHANGES IN THE CONDITIONS FOR WORKING WOMEN IN THIS COUNTRY. THEY HAVE BECOME A PERMANENT PART OF OUR GREAT INDUSTRIAL SYSTEM AND THROUGH THEIR EFFORTS BETTER WORKING CONDITIONS AND BETTER PAY HAVE BEEN ACHIEVED PARTICULARLY DURING RECENT YEARS. THE WOMENS TRADE UNION LEAGUE HAS DONE A REMARKABLE PIECE OF EDUCATIONAL WORK. I AM NOT MINIMIZING THEIR VALUE FROM AN ORGANIZING STAND POINT BUT THE BASIS OF ALL GOOD ORGANIZING IS EDUCATION AND I THINK THE WOMENS TRADE UNION LEAGUE HAS CONTRIBUTED IN A REMARKABLE WAY TO THE INCREASED KNOWLEDGE OF WORKING WOMEN OF TODAY. I WANT TO CONGRATULATE ALSO STATION W E V D FOR THE PART THEY HAVE PLAYED IN PRESERVING FREE SPEECH AND IN ALLOWING THE VOICE OF LABOR TO BE HEARD. OUR CITIZENS ARE LARGELY PEOPLE WHO WORK AND IT IS ONLY RIGHT THAT THEIR IDEAS AND THEIR CAUSE SHOULD BE HEARD THROUGHOUT THE LAND

ELLEANOR ROOSEVELT

NEW YORK WOMEN'S TRADE UNION LEAGUE
247 LEXINGTON AVENUE
NEW YORK

ESTABLISHED 1903

TEL. CALEDONIA 5-0884

493

ROSE SCHNEIDERMAN, PRESIDENT
MARY E. DREIER, VICE-PRESIDENT
PAULINE M. NEWMAN, VICE-PRESIDENT
HELEN BLANCHARD, VICE-PRESIDENT
DOROTHY SCHIFF BACKER, TREASURER
CARA COOK, SECRETARY

November 18, 1938

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

Dearest Eleanor:

Thank you so much for being willing to send a message for our broadcast on Thanksgiving Day. We will be glad to have a letter if that is convenient for you. Our program will consist chiefly of historical dramatized sketches of the working women to achieve better conditions and the part the League has played in the struggle.

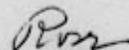
This struggle is still going on and the importance of the role of women in our troubled world today is self evident of course. Your commendation of our work, as you know it, will mean a great deal to us. If you would also be so kind as to say a nice word about W.E.V.D. and congratulate them on the station's new facility and the record of service to the cause of free speech as the voice of labor, it will be greatly appreciated. If you send a letter it will reach us at the Women's Trade Union League, and if a telegram on Thanksgiving Day, it should go to W.E.V.D. 117 E. 46 St. New York.

May I tell you at this time how deeply all of us appreciate the President's statement on the outrages in Germany. He has done a lot to awaken our own people of the nation to an understanding of how dangerous it is to the cause of democracy to allow such cruel and heartless treatment to go unchallenged.

I hope you and the President have a very happy Thanksgiving.

With fondest love,

Affectionately,



Rose Schneiderman,
President.

RS:G

INDUSTRIAL WOMEN MARCH ONE

W.E.V.D. announcer:

File 100
11:11

Introduces the Narrator.

Narrator:

Good evening, friends, and congratulations to labor's radio station W.E.V.D. on its new facilities, and on this series of broadcasts. The New York Women's Trade Union League brings to W.E.V.D. and its listeners greetings from our national organization, and branches in 16 other cities. It is indeed fitting that the century-old struggle of industrial women for recognition and better working conditions has a place in this dedicatory program, and as a 36 year old participant in that struggle the Women's Trade Union League is honored to be represented here.

We shall recall tonight some of the highlights in this long fight. Perhaps by reminding ourselves of the past and the gains which have been made, we can more clearly see the steps ahead for the 11 million women workers in this country.

Like many activities of the Women's Trade Union League, our program this evening is a cooperative effort. It is 100% homemade! With the exception of the remarks we are delighted to include from Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt and Secretary of Labor Frances Perkins, our script is our own product, based on records of the Women's Trade Union League, and presented to you by friends and members of the League -- none of whom claims to be an experienced radio speaker. A group of hosiery workers, members of Branch 8, Hosiery Workers Union, form the chorus which you will hear. We also have with us a millinery worker, a dressmaker, a ----- and a ----- and officers and staff members of the League whom we shall introduce as we go along.

First, we shall have a musical selection from a trio of young women, members of the Committee for the Recognition of Women in the Musical Profession, and the American Federation of Musicians Local #802. Some of these girls came to the League last year, seeking our advice in view of their hardship in finding jobs. These girls are still unemployed. One of them is a student in our classes. Their selection is-----

And now, we are very happy to have a message from Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, one of our most loyal and distinguished friends, -- and a life member of the League.



Narrator:

We certainly thank Mrs. Roosevelt for that flattering message. And now, we take you back 50 years, -- to the days of puffed sleeves, hour-glass waists, hoop skirts, and horse cars, long before there were electric lights, or skyscrapers, or radios,-- in other words, to the "gay nineties". But the "gay nineties" had little gayety

or happiness for thousands of working women who even then were striving to eke out an existence for themselves and their families.

The preceding half century had seen sporadic uprisings of groups of working women all over the country. These included the very first strike of women cotton mill operatives in Dover, New Hampshire, in 1828 against what they termed "exasperating rules"; the Lowell strike of 2,000 women which was signalled by the waving of a poke bonnet; the Paterson strike of 1,500 children from 8 to 18 years of age, who worked 13 hours a day, -- a struggle ending in victory -- and a 12 hour day, 9 hours on Saturday! What a contrast to now -- even though we still have states employing children under 14 years of age!

These years also saw the first organized attempts to correct such abuses. Odd-sounding unions like the "United Tailresses Society" of New York; the "Female Improvement Society of Philadelphia", -- and the "Female Industrial Association" of New York, were formed, the latter to protest against seamstresses making shirts at 4 cents apiece.

These feeble organizations were followed by the beginnings of labor legislation; the "Female Labor Reform Associations" of various New England textile towns; the drives for 10 hour days instead of 14 in Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, New Jersey and Ohio, -- to mention the pioneers in industrial legislation.

We could continue a long story of the efforts of industrial women to change conditions, long before mass production and before the Civil War. We could tell you of the Knights of Labor which preceded the American Federation of Labor.

One of our own League founders -- Leonora O'Reilly -- was the mascot, and Treasurer of the Brooklyn Knights of Labor. As a very young girl she proudly carried the purse with their dues!

In 1886, we learn, there were 8 women delegates to the Knights of Labor Convention -- all in black dresses with bustles! In 1890, the first woman delegate to an American Federation of Labor Convention came from a clerks' union in Ohio. More and more women were coming into the labor movement, but it was a slow advance, due partly to the notion that women were in industry for only a few years and would leave for marriage and the home, where, said some, they belonged!

But we cannot, of course, give a detailed history of the working women's movement. We skip along now to 1903, and the American Federation of Labor Convention in Boston when the National Women's Trade Union League was born. Peeking into historic Faneuil Hall one afternoon in mid-November 1903, we hear --

(sounds of meeting)

Chairman:

(Man's voice) Well, ladies and gentlemen, are we ready to report back to the Convention that the National Women's Trade Union League is actually in existence?

Woman's voice:

Speaking for the bookbinders' unions, I can heartily vote aye.

Chairman:

Thank you, Mary O'Sullivan.

Man's voice:

As fraternal delegates from the British labor movement, Mr. O'Grady and I shall gladly take this good news back to the British workers. We trust the American working women will establish immediate contact with the British women's movement. We have much to learn from each other.

Another voice:

. . . and I will report to the Textile Workers Union.
. . . and I to the Shoe Workers.
. . . and I to the Garment Workers

Female voice:

Mr. Chairman.

Chairman:

Yes; Miss Vida Scudder has the floor.

Miss Scudder:

I move that Mrs. Nellie Parker, who represents the Women's Label League here, present to the Convention, from us, a resolution that the Federation include at least one woman among its organizers for the coming year.

Man's voice:

The American Meat Cutters Union will second that motion.

Chairman:

All in favor say aye.

(Loud aye)

Opposed? The motion is carried, and Mrs. Parker is so instructed. I take it we are agreed that the statement of our objectives shall read as follows: "To assist in the organization of women wage workers into trade unions, and thereby to help them secure conditions necessary for healthful and efficient work and to obtain a just return for such work."

(Chorus of ayes, that's right - yes)

Chairman:

We shall now hear from the nominating committee, the list of officers proposed for the newly-born National Women's Trade Union League:

Woman's voice:

Mr. Chairman, the nominating committee presents the following candidates: Mrs. Mary Morton Kehew, as president; Miss Jane Addams, vice-president; Mrs. Mary Kenney O'Sullivan, secretary; Miss Mary Donovan, treasurer. We also propose that the first executive board include the following representatives: Miss Mary E. McDowell, Miss Lillian D. Wald, Mrs. Mary Freitas (textile worker), Miss Leonora O'Reilly (garment worker), and Miss Ellen Lindstrom (organizer for the garment workers).

Chairman:

Are there additional nominations? Hearing none, I declare that those shall stand as the officers of the League until its first annual meeting.

(Musical bridge)

Narrator:

National Women's Trade Union
And so the League was launched, with the combined help of public-spirited citizens, the trade union men and women, and with the endorsement of the American Federation of Labor. Samuel Gompers later wrote of the League in his autobiography: "When they submitted to me a proposal, I gave it most hearty approval and participated in the necessary conferences. It was a step toward the realization of the economic organization of women.

With the founding of the League, the fun -- and the trouble -- began! Trade unions were all right for men, but not yet accepted for women. Conditions were shocking, wages at the starvation point, fire traps to work in, exhausting hours, -- all these, yes, -- but women organize! Whoever heard of such a thing!

The chief obstacle was unwillingness of the girls to attend meetings, except for an occasional furtive rendezvous in the back room of some beer parlor. The League even had a song about its troubles:

(Song - Tune: Sweet Little Buttercup)

"We pass out our handbills and call girls to meetings
And pray that they only may come.
But no, they are tired and fear to be fired
And so they stay feebly at home". (repeat)

Listen to the Executive Board of the League one evening about 25 years ago:

Rose Schneiderman:

Well, what are we going to do? The girls simply won't come to meetings. It's silly for us to go and talk to rows of empty chairs.

1st Voice:

If they won't come to us, let's go to them. We'll go out on the street.

2nd Voice:

On the street? It isn't done!

Rose Schneiderman:

Salvation Army lassies do; why can't we?

Pauline Newman:

Well, why not?

2nd Voice:

We'd be awfully conspicuous!

Pauline Newman:

Well, there's no harm in trying.

1st Voice:

We'll take a step ladder for a stand.

2nd Voice:

All right, let's do it. I'm game!

Rose Schneiderman:

Well, then; the die is cast. We begin our factory gate meetings next Monday, and you must all be there promptly, so there'll be an audience to start with.

(Musical bridge)

Narrator:

And so the League went "into the streets", as the record says, and took the union message to working women at the factory doors. How often were they told to move on on by the police! How often the employer came out to denounce them and shoo his girls away. And Maud Swartz, our beloved vice-president from 1920 to her death in 1937, never forgave the gentleman who emptied a pail of water over her beautiful now flowered hat one day when she was speaking for suffrage at a street corner. "That man will live to see the day when we women vote", she said, shaking her fist at his window.

In 1908 there was a great Labor Day parade, and the Women's Trade Union League decided to march in it. Parading by women was still an innovation, for this was before the fight for women's suffrage had reached its peak, and though Susan B. Anthony and a few intrepid followers spoke in public for women's suffrage, the great mass of women were apathetic. Again the League Executive Board deliberates:

1st Voice:

But how shall we make them realize there are working women who must be organized, and that we can help?

Rose Schneiderman:

Let's go in the Labor Day parade -- with a band! And banners!

(Shouts of laughter and exclamations of surprise)

2nd Voice:

Why, Rose Schneiderman, that's as bad as speaking on street corners! Women parading in the streets!

Rose Schneiderman:

Well, then we could ride on a float, or in carriages.

1st Voice:

And carry a poster: "American Ladies Will Not Be Slaves".

Pauline Newman:

No, -- that's too genteel; we're not ladies; we're working women! Something like "Working Women, Organize; We Condemn Child Labor; We Want an 8 Hour Day."

3rd Voice:

(exclaiming) 8 hours! What an optimist you are, Pauline Newman! When we can't even get the 10 hour law enforced!

Pauline Newman:

Well, not failure, but low aim is crime, you know!

1st Voice:

And we'll all wear white shirt-waists, and black skirts, and blue and gold arm bands -- the League colors!

2nd Voice:

And let's sing this song -

S O L O - - (Song - Tune: Johnny Comes Marching Home)

"They say that man's superior -- Aha, Aha!
And we stay in our place, a subordinate race, we are, we are!
But here we come on Labor Day
In spite of all that man may say
Sitting on floats in a brazen way -- Aha!

(General laughter - and)

Oh yes, let's sing that -- it's choice. Come on, let's all try it together:

(Chorus -- Repeats above song)

(Musical fadeaway)

Narrator:

And so the League gradually spread the union message to working women. And our organizers plugged away, convincing the workers, arousing public opinion, and eliciting support from prominent women. I wish I could make clear to you the passion and enthusiasm with which young women at that time took up the cause. Out of Vassar College came girls eager to help their working sisters, and the great garment industry was their chief field of service. Women were working under terrible conditions, with seasonal employment, endless hours, excessively low wages and periods of utter destitution, when it was not unusual to see respectable, neatly dressed young women picking food out of garbage cans to feed their children.

From 1909 to 1913 a series of great strikes in these sweated needle trades in Baltimore, Chicago, Philadelphia, Boston and New York compelled major attention, and the League devoted all its resources for a time to the needs of the strikers and the issues at stake.

Piece work and long hours, countless petty grievances, and an average wage for women workers of \$10 a week were among the issues. The League aided on strike relief.

In one of its 4 commissary stations one day in 1910 we hear . . .

1st Voice, counting:

64, 70, 75, 82. There, that checks. 82 pounds of beans today. I should think these strikers would sprout bean leaves, at this rate!

2nd Voice:

Well, I had a run on milk today -- 130 quarts. It beats me how many babies those families are producing all of a sudden.

3rd Voice:

Girls, did you hear how Carola Woerischoffer went down to the court and bailed out the strikers as fast as they brought them in?

Voices:

No, - what, - how?

3rd Voice:

Well, it seems she purchased a house from her mother for the nominal sum of \$1, and every time a striker needed bail, she put up the house as security.

Voices:

Really. Isn't that splendid of her. How grand! Pretty good!

3rd Voice:

And did you hear the song the strikers composed in honor of the cops. Just listen:

(Song - Tune: "Last Rose of Summer") (for 3 or 4 men to sing)

1st Verse

"We're the guardians of law and order
In the City of New York
We're the servants of all the people
But we like just a little pork.
We arrest the girls when striking,
For the boss tells us that's right
We're the guardians of law and order
In the City of New York.

2nd Verse

Treat 'em rough is our motto
And treat them rough, we do
The patrol wagon stands quite ready
To take up all the fighting crew
We must keep our law and order
For the girls lack all respect,
We're the guardians of law and order
In the City of New York."

2nd Voice:

Imagine setting it to the tune of "Last Rose of Summer!" What's the connection?

3rd Voice:

Well, maybe those cops are making a last stand too; their rough stuff hasn't seemed to hurt the strike much.

1st Voice:

How can we make people conscious of what's going on in this great city, and how many unfair arrests are being made?

2nd Voice:

I know -- let's cable to Bernard Shaw and ask his opinion of the judge. Yesterday he told a striker she was not only breaking the law of man, but the law of God when she went on strike!

3rd Voice:

Yes, so I heard! Say, that's a great idea! Bernard Shaw would tell 'em a thing or two!

Narrator:

And next day the papers headlined his reply -- "Oh, these amazing Americans -- on such intimate terms with Lord God Almighty."

Narrator:

Finally the strike was settled. It created nationwide interest, so much so that several offers of marriage for the striking girls came to the headquarters of the Women's Trade Union League. We felt this was a real tribute to the weeks of hard work we had put in, though we weren't in a position to fill the offers.

Our chorus concludes this episode with the song written by Fannia Cohn of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union and dedicated to the waistmakers and their victorious strike: It is entitled "The Uprising of the Twenty Thousands".

"In the bleak of the winter of nineteen nine,
When we froze and bled on the picket line,
We showed the world that women could fight
And we rose and won with women's might.

Chorus:

Hail the waistmakers of nineteen nine,
Making their stand on the picket line,
Breaking the power of those who reign,
Pointing the way, smashing the chain.

And we gave new courage to the men
Who carried on in nineteen ten
And shoulder to shoulder we'll win through,
Led by the I. L. G. W. U.

Narrator:

One of the most bitter opponents in the strike had been a firm on Green Street. Immediately following the strike a fire broke out in that shop. It was then discovered that the doors had been locked, that there was no way of opening them from the inside, and the workers were trapped like rats. 146 girls ^{lost} their lives either by jumping out of the windows 10 stories above the ground, or by being burned to death inside. This was the tragic Triangle Waist Company Fire! It shocked the entire country.

The Women's Trade Union League helped to organize a huge protest meeting at the Metropolitan Opera House at which Bishop Greer presided, and our own Rose Schneiderman spoke. The outcome of the meeting was the State Factory Investigating Commission, and ultimately a series of laws affecting fire hazards and industrial conditions which laid the foundation for the excellent laws New York State now enjoys.

This brings us to the second major League service -- its legislative work. From the beginning, we have advocated laws to guard the health and safety of all workers, and special legislative safeguards for the particular hazards of women workers. We do not believe that the so-called "Equal Rights" amendment which certain groups of professional women and the manufacturers associations would like to write into the federal Constitution would bring equal rights. On the contrary, it would abolish

laws which now to a considerable degree prevent the discrimination and exploitation of women workers.

The list of laws sponsored by the League, which have become part of this state's advanced labor code, is far too long to mention, -- but we take special credit for our part in the 8 hour day legislation, the minimum wage laws, fire protection laws, workmen's compensation, and the drive against homework. We have here an anonymous letter received at the League in 1926. It reads:

(In a different voice)

"Dear Trade League:

I made this verse for those men in Albany who don't seem to understand how we working women feel. I thought this might make them see for sometimes a rhyme can make folks see clearer than the best prose. I don't know if you can use this but anyway I send it.

I am mailing this from another city so I can't be found out. That sounds like a coward but -- I have to work to live and I know how sharp the boss can be. No joke. I won't tell you if I am single or married but I will tell you that I say "God, if I only could work forty-eight instead of fifty four hours!"

A friend is typing this for me. I'm not smart and I don't write good.

Truly yours,

A working woman"

Narrator:

I shan't read the poem; it's pretty bad, though desperately sincere. It is signed: "A working girl who wants more out of life than factory work all day long every day, and on Saturday afternoon cleaning up for Monday, and Sunday so dead beat she don't care." I think the song which will now be sung by our chorus should be sung in her memory. It was first written for a luncheon to honor the late Assemblyman Herbert Shonk of Westchester, as the 48-hour legislation neared passage in New York State under his guidance. I better tip you off that the early composer of this song made the word "menace" rhyme with "case" -- that is "menace".

Chorus:

(Song: Tune: "The Flowers That Bloom in the Spring")

"The flowers that bloom in the spring tra la
Have nothing to do with the case.
You kindly took under your wing tra la
A most unpopular thing tra la
The forty-eight hour menace
The forty-eight hour menace
We thank you dear Sirs and we think while we sing
That forty-eight hours will blossom next spring.
Tra la la la la la, tra la la la la) repeat 2 lines
The forty-eight hours next spring)

The flowers that bloom in the spring tra la
Have nothing to do with the case.
We give you a cheer and a sing tra la
We fear you have broken your wing tra la
The Senate boss making a face
Th' Assembly boss making a face
Dear Sirs we give you our highest esteem
For pledges you did your darn best to redeem
Tra la la la la la, tra la la la la"

Narrator:

From the 8-hour day achieved in 1929 to 1938, when our legislative demands include bills to extend the compensation and minimum wage laws, to limit the hours of domestic workers to 60 a week, to abolish child labor by constitutional amendment and to oppose the so-called equal rights amendment -- gain by gain, day by day, the legislative program of the League marches on.

The years following the world war brought in their wake a new interest in workers education. In 1913 the National Women's Trade Union League passed a resolution, introduced by one of our founders, Mrs. Raymond Robins, to establish "A Training School for Active Workers in the Labor Movement". Aided by the trade unions, classes were started at the League in New York in 1922, and have been held every year since.

We are now going to switch you in on the office of the League's Educational Director, Nora Piore, to get a first-hand idea of what League classes are doing. Two decades have seen many changes in the League's educational program. A dynamic educational policy has been necessary to keep pace with the changing needs of the labor movement. While many courses have been repeated each year, new ones have been constantly added to train student workers for the new responsibilities imposed by changing conditions. Mrs. Nora Piore --

Nora Fiore:

Hello, W.E.V.D. A group of League students have assembled here in my office. They are a cross section of our student body of 250, representing altogether over 40 unions. I'm going to introduce seven of them to tell you in a few sentences why they are attending League classes. And, by the way, these students are not fictional characters; they are here in person, and their stories are all true!

First let me introduce a young woman who has a fine record of union service in the hotel and restaurant industry -- Edith Perrin of the Hotel and Restaurant Workers' Union Local #16. Miss Perrin, will you tell the radio listeners how you came to register for classes at the League, and what your job is like?

Edith Perrin:

I am a waitress. Five years ago I was working in a restaurant with 52 other girls, 12 hours a day, for 19¢ an hour. We worked split shifts. We were charged 50¢ a day for bus boy money. We paid 25¢ if we broke a glass. We were fined for a dozen different things. Sometimes, at the end of the day, when your back ached from carrying trays, and your feet were so sore you could hardly stand on them, you owed the boss money for the day, because your fines added up to more than your pay check. This was right here in New York City. Our conditions were desperate, but we didn't know where to turn for help. Finally we came across an organizer in Local 16. You can guess the rest of the story. We have a strong union now. We work eight hours a day, five days a week. We have a minimum wage of \$10. There are no more deductions for breakage, for bus boys or for uniforms. But our job just began after we got organized. We have a big task ahead of us yet.

I am a student at the League because I want to know everything there is to know about doing that job well. I am going to run for business agent in my union, and I am studying to make good on that job, just as one would study to be a doctor or a lawyer. I think you listeners ought to know what it means to train for union leadership, so I'm going to give you a picture of my weekly schedule. I work 40 hours a week now. I am a member of the executive board of my union, which means two meetings a week. I study at the Women's Trade Union League two nights a week. There are 11 other students sent by my union. I serve on the health committee of my union and do organization work too. So you can see that every union man or woman is needed these days.

Nora Fiore:

From a men's industry comes one of our most active students, Gertrude Sherman of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.

Gertrude Sherman:

Most people think of electrical workers as men in overalls. I can't fix your fuse when it blows out or wire a building, but nevertheless I belong to the electrical industry. Until a year ago, I belong to a very neglected part of it. I am an office

worker, and work in an electrical supply warehouse. We office workers have a lonely time of it. We are not many girls together, as are the milliners or the dressmakers. We are scattered throughout the city, one or two to an office. A year ago we were organized. It wasn't easy. When the first meeting was called, I was the only girl there. You can imagine how I felt at the meeting, with hundreds of men. Now we have hundreds of union women; we have a contract covering the industry in this city. You know the men in our industry have been unionized so long compared to us, that they have all the experience. But now, thanks to the training we are getting at the League school and the help and encouragement the men have given us, we have a woman member on the union board.

Nora Fiore:

Now, here is a young lady who turns out 150 dozen pairs of silk stockings each day. She comes to our classroom from a giant hosiery mill -- Marie Carletti from the American Federation of Hosiery Workers, Branch 8.

Marie Carletti:

I am a hosiery boarder. I started to work before I was 17 years old. I've been working now for five years, and belonged to the union ever since I started to work. But I've been for the union a lot longer than that. I learned about unionism from my father when I was a little girl. I was on a union committee when I was 11 years old. That was during the Sacco-Vanzetti Case. I remember staying up all night making banners, and I remember marching in parades. But most of all, I remember worrying if my father would come home safe from the battles workers had to fight in those days. And even if he came home safe, whether he would still have a job at the end of the week. I learned unionism in Hershey, Pennsylvania, where I was born. Hershey is owned by one man. If anyone disagrees with him, he runs the risk of losing his job, and his house too, because everything in Hershey is owned by the company. You didn't have to read books to learn about the need for unions in that town!

At the League I am studying trade union tactics, union history, and public speaking -- and I'm in the chorus too. That was me you heard singing earlier this evening.

Nora Fiore:

Candy workers in this state have just come under a minimum wage board ruling guaranteeing them 35 ¢ an hour. One of them is here, Jeanette Weinstein of the Candy and Confectionery Workers.

Jeanette Weinstein:

I'm a dipper in a candy factory. I never have a chance to forget my job, because no matter how many baths and scrubblings we take, the smell of chocolate still clings to us. I'm from a newly organized union. We haven't had much experience, in running union business. We have mostly young girls in our union. But we make up in spirit what we lack in experience. Our business agent sent six of us to the League to study trade unionism, so we can serve our union better. We joined the union because we were

earning \$9 a week and the boss wanted to cut us to \$8. When we joined, we didn't have a strike. We negotiated our dispute. We only lost one hour when we held the union meeting. Some of the girls got \$5 increases. Just last week our industry got a wage order under the state minimum wage law. A League representative sat on the wage board. The League organizer helped us during our strike. And our students are studying at the League School. So we are grateful to the League ⁱⁿ more ways than one.

Nora Fiore:

Many milliners have come to League classes ever since they were started. Mary Glazer will speak for them tonight.

Mary Glazer:

I am a member of Local #24, United Hatters, Cap and Millinery Workers' Union. I am studying five nights a week. I take classes in public health and medical care, because I think we need to do something about the health of working people. I am studying English, because I want to learn to express myself. I am studying science, because I think workers need to understand the world they live in. A few years ago I would have turned up my nose if anyone had suggested that I join a union. I am a milliner, working in an exclusive shop. The hats I make sell for as much as \$35. I used to think I was an artist and didn't need a union. The operators and blockers in my shop were 100% union, and I was sore when they refused to work with non-union trimmers. Now that I'm in the union, I'm a free person. I don't have to worry all the time about how many hats I turn out. I do as much as I can without being nervous about it. And I have leisure to study and to relax. Now I am making up for all the time I lost when I was a starving artist instead of a well paid milliner.

Nora Fiore:

The next speaker is a young woman of whom, I am sure, you will hear more in the future -- Dorothy Bailey has the makings of a leader among negro workers in this city, and we are proud of her record. Dorothy Bailey of the Laundry Workers' Union --

Dorothy Bailey:

I am studying unionism and legislation at the League, though I have a job and a son 12 years old. But we workers have been denied so many opportunities in the past, that we must study now when we have the chance. I work in a laundry. Do you folks listening to this broadcast know that in this city laundry workers have been working for as low as \$4 a week, and that physical conditions were so bad in our laundries that some of us worked in water up to our knees? That sometimes the nails dropped right off our fingers because of the acid in the tubs? My union is only two years old. It was born out of conditions like this. When we were first asked to join the union, some of us didn't want to because of the things employers told us about unions, and we feared to lose our jobs. Some of us were making good wages while others were working like slaves. I was making pretty good money, but when they asked us to join, I said we owed it to the others who were slaving to join.

Two years ago I never dreamt I could help to change conditions. Now I am appointed by my union as a delegate to the League school. I am studying housing conditions and housing laws. In Harlem, where I live, some people live like queens and others live like animals. There are not enough apartments; rents are unfair and the people are suffering. The only way to change this is for the people to be organized. But it takes a long time to get them interested in their own welfare. Education will help, and I wish more people could have the opportunity to go to trade union schools.

Nora Piore:

A few days ago a group of League students were discussing what workers got out of belonging to a union. I am going to ask Lillian De Stefano to repeat now what she said about this. Lillian is a member of Branch 8, Hosiery Workers' Union.

Lillian De Stefano

I am studying trade union tactics at the League; I come to classes two nights a week. I am not very proud of the story I have to tell, because I never sacrificed anything for the union. I didn't have to. I just came to work in a shop that was union, and got the benefit from what other girls had suffered to make a union there. Two weeks after I started to work, I got a raise of 25%. When you don't have to fight for something, you don't value it so much. I want to say to all the workers who are listening in: If you want to get the most out of your union, get active in it. Unionism can give you more than higher wages and security on the job. It gives you an opportunity to learn; it gives you an opportunity to serve; and it gives you the comradeship that you can only get by working shoulder to shoulder with other workers for a better world to live in.

Nora Piore:

The next student is a member of the Teachers' Union, and a student in the Public Affairs Training Course at the League.

Man's Voice:

Good evening. Yes, I'm a member of the opposite sex, for the League classes are also open to men. I want to speak about our class, the Public Affairs Training Course. I joined this course to learn more about things happening in our public affairs today, and about organized labor's share in the conduct of those affairs. Our course includes lectures about labor and the government, as well as special committee work in housing, public health, labor legislation and civil liberties.

We go outside the classroom for our information, -- to government hearings, to minimum wages and labor boards; to legislative sessions. We visit slums and model housing developments. We are doing our own surveys of rent, wages and the cost of living. We get our facts from the lives of workers in our shops and bring them to the classroom for discussion. We attend conferences and meetings throughout the city. Last week our class went to Washington to attend the annual conference of the Secretary of Labor on labor standards throughout the country.

Ours is a "classroom without walls". Our motto is "Education to serve the labor movement and the community". We think it's great stuff! Why don't some of you join us too?

Nora Piore:

That's right, Mr. _____ . If any of our listeners want to know more about joining one or more of our dozen classes, the supper forum club, literature group or the chorus, come to the League at 247 Lexington Avenue and talk with me about it. Thank you.

Narrator:

Thank you, Mrs. Piore and students. And now, to complete the picture of our current activities, may I introduce our Organizer, Miss Helen Blanchard, who will describe in 2 minutes what is being done to organize hotel workers.

Helen Blanchard:

2 minute talk, concluding,"and that indicates briefly what I am doing. Other organizing help is being given by our assistant organizer, Bessie Engelman. Bessie, what are you up to these days?"

Bessie Engelman:

2 minute talk on beauty parlors, candy and glove industries, concluding with ". . . .the sooner you will get the kind of conditions other union workers enjoy."

Narrator:

Thank you, Bessie Engelman. And so, ladies and gentlemen, we come to the end of our backward glance over the 35 years of League history. These are but a few fragments out of a story crowded with hard work, some fun, many victories and a few defeats. It is a story which, chapter by chapter, grows into a record of better conditions, higher standards, wider horizons, and happier women to carry on the important part they must play in the years ahead - as members of the organized labor movement -- and as intelligent citizens in our democracy. Our historical sketch closes with a familiar song by the chorus. It was written by that great friend of Labor, Charlotte Perkins Gilman, and is called "To Labor".

Closing Song by Chorus. Tune: My Maryland

"Shall you complain who feed the world,
Who clothe the world, who house the world,
Shall you complain who are the world,
Of what the world may do, may do?
As from this hour you use your power,
The world must follow, follow you.
As from this hour your use your power,
The world must follow, follow you.

The world's life hangs on your right hand
Your strong right hand, your skilled right hand,
You hold the whole world in your hand,
See to it what you do, you do.
Or dark or light, or wrong or right,
The world is made, is made by you,
Or dark or light, or wrong or right,
The world is made, is made by you.

Then rise as you ne'er rose before,
Nor hoped before, nor dared before,
And show as ne'er was shown before,
The power that lies, that lies in you.
Stand all as one, till right is done,
Believe and dare, and dare and do;
Stand all as one, till right is done,
Believe and dare, and dare and do!"

W.E.V.D. Announcer:

This concludes the narrative sketch given by the Women's Trade Union League on the history of the organized working women's movement. Brief talks by Secretary of Labor Frances Perkins, and President of the League, Rose Schneiderman, will follow in a moment. Taking part in this sketch were Miss Rose Schneiderman, and the Misses Furline Newman, Mabel Leslie, Nora Piore, Helen Blanchard and Bessie Engelman of the League Executive Board and staff. The script was prepared by Miss Mary E. Dreier, a vice-president of the League, and Miss Cara Cook, its Executive Secretary. The chorus of members from the Hosiery Workers' Union was organized and coached by Mr. Sam Morganstern.

The next item on the program will be a brief talk by Miss Rose Schneiderman, President of the National and New York Women's Trade Union League, and also Secretary of the New York State Department of Labor. -- Miss Schneiderman.

Rose Schneiderman:

5 minute talk, which she concludes by introducing the recorded speech of Secretary of Labor Frances Perkins, prepared especially for this program.

(5 minute speech of Frances Perkins)

Closing selection by the trio of women musicians

* * * * *

New York Women's Trade Union League
247 Lexington Avenue, New York City

Prepared for broadcast over radio station, WEVD, New York City, November 24, 1938, as one in a series of dedicatory programs celebrating the new facilities of WEVD.

December 28, 1938

Dear Rose:

It was dear of you to send me the gloves for Christmas and I deeply appreciate your thinking of me at this time.

I hope you had a happy Christmas and that the New Year will be a good one for you.

Affectionately,

Miss Rose Schneideman
The Secretary of Labor
80 Centre St.
NYC

T:DD



ROSE SCHNEIDERMAN
SECRETARY

STATE OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY
80 CENTRE ST., NEW YORK CITY

December 12, 1938

100
SCHNEIDERMAN

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

Dearest Eleanor:

Please accept the whole-hearted thanks of the Leon Blum Committee and my own personal gratitude on your presence at the dinner last week.

I was terribly sorry that your speech came so late. I realized how tired you must have been by that time, listening to all the other speeches, as well as the music. I begged our committee not to have any entertainment but they were so afraid that the international broadcast might not come through, due to possible weather conditions, that they felt they had to provide some way of taking up the time and of course having once invited the performers, we couldn't possibly send them home without doing their part. You will be glad to know that we cleared about \$23,000. on the dinner and next week, the committee is about to turn over some \$40,000. to the Jewish National Fund to buy the land for the Colony.

Everybody was enchanted with your presence and the remarks you made. We all love you dearly and appreciate tremendously all that you are doing for the many worthwhile causes. I liked very much what you said about Brother Green in your column two days later. It will interest you to know that Brother Green's boys went to Princeton, one of the most conservative of all educational institutions of learning. For that matter, John Lewis' son is there right this minute. Little wonder then that our movement is so conservative, when labor leaders of high standing do their best to prejudice the minds of their children against the movement, which they lead.

I look forward to seeing you next week at the party. With fondest greetings to you, I am,

Affectionately yours,

Rose

*check
amt 1-9-39*

file

NEW YORK WOMEN'S TRADE UNION LEAGUE
247 LEXINGTON AVENUE
NEW YORK

ESTABLISHED 1903

TEL. CALDONIA 5-0684



ROSE SCHNEIDERMAN, PRESIDENT
MARY E. DREIER, VICE-PRESIDENT
PAULINE M. NEWMAN, VICE-PRESIDENT
HELEN BLANCHARD, VICE-PRESIDENT
DOROTHY SCHIFF BACKER, TREASURER
CARA COOK, SECRETARY

100

January 4, 1939

Miss Malvina Thompson
Secretary to Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt
White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Miss Thompson:

Enclosed is a bill for the Children's Christmas Party at the League on December 20th. I do not have bills for all the items as they were bought in small shops which did not issue sales slips. The bill for the tree is attached.

Will you please make the check out to me as part of the money was put out by the League and part by me.

Thank you for your trouble.

Sincerely yours,

Katherine Burke

Katherine Burke
Secretary to
Rose Schneiderman

Bill Attached: \$23.94

uopwa
16

SPENT FOR CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY DECEMBER 20, 1938

WOMEN'S TRADE UNION LEAGUE

Tinsel	\$1.20
Shopping Bags	1.80
Light Outfits	1.00
Blue Bulbs (5¢ each)	.30
Bulbs Colored (2 for 15)	.45
Wrapping Paper	1.00
Cord	.40
Wiring	1.02
Tree Top Decoration	.10
Icicles	.61
Paper Plates, Napkins, Table Cloth	.92
Sweater Boxes	1.79
Carfares	.25
Tissue Paper	.20
Ice Cream	5.85
Cake	1.54
Pinsettias	.41
Tree & stand	5.10
	<hr/>
	\$23.94

Phone: CAledonia 5-4870
6067

ESTABLISHED 1902

Nurseries:
MONTVALE, NEW JERSEY
1

BOSTON FLORIST

N. E. Cor. 34th STREET at LEXINGTON AVE.
NEW YORK, N. Y.

AMOUNT

\$ 5.10

Womens Trade Union League
247 Lexington Avenue
New York City

Kindly detach and mail upper half with your remittance. Cancelled check is a receipt.

Dec. 19-~~X~~mas tree in tub

\$5.10

BOSTON FLORIST

Member of the Florists' Telegraph Delivery

file
National Women's Trade Union League of America,
307-308 Machinists Building, Washington, D. C.
Telephone: National 1358

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 4, 1939

The official texts of the Lima Declaration of Women's Rights and the Resolution on the Inter-American Commission of Women were received in Washington today and described by Mary N. Winslow of the National Women's Trade Union League as "a splendid statement of the aims and purposes of women in the United States as well as in the countries of Latin-America".

In the Declaration of Women's Rights the Lima Conference resolved "that women have the right to political treatment on the basis of equality with men; to the enjoyment of equality as to civil status; to full protection in and opportunities for work; and to the most ample protection as mothers". The Conference further resolved "to urge the Governments of the American Republics which have not already done so, to adopt as soon as possible the necessary legislation to carry out fully the principles contained in this declaration".

"The Declaration is of the utmost importance to all American women", Miss Winslow said, "It states clearly and specifically what we all want for women which is the fullest political and civil equality with men and full opportunity for work, while at the same time it safeguards the special legislation that has been found necessary in all countries to protect women as mothers and to put them on a more nearly equal basis with men in the industrial field". This is a great advance over the originally proposed "Equal Rights" Treaty, Miss Winslow said, because it is specific in its terms and because it definitely recommends the protective legislation for women which any blanket statement such as "Equal Rights" would jeopardize.

The resolution on the Inter-American Commission of Women is especially important to the women of the United States, according to Miss Winslow, because it provides that "the Governments which have not as yet appointed their representatives on the Commission, appoint such representatives as soon as possible. "This means", she said, "that the women of the United States will at last be represented by an officially appointed woman who really represents our interests, instead of by a member of the Commission who was not appointed by our Government".

The resolution on the Inter-American Commission of Women sets up a permanent organization to advise future conferences so that they may promote the most adequate measures to improve the status of women. This will be a tremendous help to all interests of women, Miss Winslow said, "We hope", she continued, "that further controversies on feminist issues at the Conferences of American States will be eliminated by that section of the resolution which incorporates the Women's Commission in the Pan-American Union and provides that it shall report its recommendations to the Union before the conferences. Almost every women's organization in the United States has deplored these controversies and has felt that they have been a real handicap to the advancement of women's interests both in the United States and in Latin-America and we earnestly hope that they are now at an end. The United States delegation to the Conference at Lima has done a splendid job and are very much to be congratulated on their success in promoting a program for women which really has the support of the women of the United States".

C O P Y

THE EIGHTH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
OF AMERICAN STATES

WHEREAS women, representing more than half of the population of America, demand full rights as an act of the most elemental human justices;

WHEREAS women have actively participated, with a high sense of responsibility, in the historical development of all the countries of America;

WHEREAS in the economic order women are a factor of primary importance, not only as producers but also as controllers and directors of the basic economy of the home;

WHEREAS they have amply demonstrated their ability in every phase of culture and human activity; and

WHEREAS their high sense of responsibility as mothers entitles them to the enjoyment of all of their rights; and

WHEREAS the women of America, before demanding their rights have assumed all of their responsibilities in the social order, thus setting the greatest example of conscientious patriotism,

The Eighth International Conference of American States

RESOLVES:

1. To declare that women have the right:
 - a. To political treatment on the basis of equality with men;
 - b. To the enjoyment of equality as to civil status;
 - c. To full protection in and opportunities for work;
 - d. To the most ample protection as mothers.
2. To urge the Governments of the American Republics, which have not already done so, to adopt as soon as possible the necessary legislation to carry out fully the principles contained in this declaration, which shall be known as "The Lima Declaration of Women's Rights".

INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION OF WOMEN

In view of the effective work done by the Inter-American Commission of Women and the desirability of having a permanent organization interested in the social development of American women and in advising future conferences so that they may promote the most adequate measures to improve the status of women,

The Eighth International Conference of American States

RESOLVES:

1. To give a vote of approval and appreciation to the Inter-American Commission of Women for its ten years of work in the compilation of data regarding the civil and political rights of women.
2. That the Inter-American Commission of Women shall continue its work. The Commission charged with the permanent study of all the problems concerning American women and shall act in an advisory capacity. It shall report to the Governing Board of the Pan American Union, before each conference, on the problems concerning women which in its judgment should be considered.
3. That the governments which as yet have not appointed their representatives on the Commission, or whose representatives are not active, appoint such representatives as soon as possible, in order that the twenty-one American Republics may participate in the Commission and, in the future, fill promptly all vacancies which may occur.
4. That the Pan American Union shall designate as chairman of the Commission, one of the members thereof, who shall preside over it until the next International Conference of American States.
5. To entrust the Pan American Union with the study of an organic statute for the Commission, to be submitted to the Ninth International Conference of American States for approval.

(Approved December 22, 1938)



ROSE SCHNEIDERMAN
SECRETARY

STATE OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY
80 CENTRE ST., NEW YORK CITY

January 10, 1939

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

Dearest Eleanor:

It was lovely of you to send me your latest book. I shall cherish it as one of my dearest possessions. A thousand thanks to you darling. Please forgive my lateness in thanking you. I have had a bad cold ever since Christmas and just about rid of it now.

The President's message to Congress was magnificent and went right to the roots of things. It was interesting to get the A.F. of L.'s business letter on Saturday and find them backing the President on the question of the public debt. They hold that the increase in the public and private debt between 1925 and 1929 during the heyday of our prosperity, was 51 billion dollars and that from 1932 to 1937 the total long term debt on investments a year was only three billion two hundred million dollars a total of 20 billion dollars. This debt was incurred by the Government alone. Private industry did nothing in forwarding long term investments. They have a interesting plan. They suggest that planned investment could increase production and in that way make for wider employment of workers. The A.F. of L. is planning to introduce a bill which will propose a National planning Board. This Board to be drawn from industry, labor, agriculture and consumers groups, trade and finance. These representatives are to come directly from production and service industries and from the existing farm and labor organizations brought into cooperation with the work of the National Planning Board. This board to have the authority to gather information and suggest an immediate program to lift industrial production as nearly as practicable to full capacity. This Board is to consider how the funds lying idle in banks can best be invested. A very interesting plan indeed.

Margaret Bondfield tells me that in Great Britain they already have such an agency which advises capital on the type



ROSE SCHNEIDERMAN
SECRETARY

STATE OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY
80 CENTRE ST. NEW YORK CITY

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt

-2-

Jan. 9, 1939

of investments it is to make, so evidently Green is not just thinking in the blue and a long range program of this kind will do a lot to stabilize employment and give opportunities for a large number of our unemployed army.

The appointments of Harry Hopkins, Senator Pope Governor Murphy and Felix Frankfurter are superb. They are four most outstanding men and the citizenship of the United States should be grateful to the President for appointing such high calibre public servants.

I went to Mrs. Catt's luncheon yesterday and it was one of the nicest parties I have been to in a long, long time. Mrs. Catt seemed just as vigorous as ever and gave a most interesting account of the early days of the suffrage movement and the trials and tribulations of those early pioneers. We were all sorry that you were unable to come.

I thought that maybe I could get to the meeting at the White House tomorrow on the Infantile Paralysis, but I am afraid it can not be done.

I was sorry to see in the newspaper that John's wife is in the hospital. I do hope it isn't anything serious.

With hearts best love to you and thanking you again for your lovely gift, I am,

Devotedly yours,

Rose Schneiderman.

RS:G

*So far you liked the glass. I hope
that the sign was right.
R.*

160 5

Miss Rose Schneiderman
Department of Labor
80 Center Street
New York, N.Y.

January 20, 1939

Will be glad to see Pioneer Youth committee for a few minutes
after luncheon

Eleanor Roosevelt

TELEGRAM

The White House
Washington

19WU.RA. 81-D. L. 1:45 p.m.

New York, N. Y., January 20, 1939

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt.

A committee of the Pioneer Youth Organization will be at the Ethical Culture luncheon tomorrow and would very much like to see you for a moment following your address. Pioneer Youth is celebrating its fifteenth anniversary this Spring and the committee wants to see you about speaking on Childrens' Work over a radio broadcast to their members throughout the country and to the general public. I am one of the organization's founders and am serving as Chairman of their anniversary committee.

Rose Schneiderman.

Handwritten note:
I would be glad to see you for your memorial after luncheon.

January 26, 1939

100

Dear Rose:

Herbert's mother
Many thanks for writing me about
Miss Plum. I was interested to know about
her and her mother.

I am glad you liked my talk the
other night. It was so nice to see you again.

Affectionately,

Miss Rose Schneiderman
80 Centre St. NYC

DD



ROSE SCHNEIDERMAN
SECRETARY

STATE OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY
80 CENTRE ST. NEW YORK CITY

January 25, 1939

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

Dearest Eleanor:

May I draw your attention to the fact that Henrietta Bagger Plum who is to sing at the White House tomorrow is a daughter of an old time suffragist. Her mother, Mrs. Bagger Plum was a coworker of Susan B. Anthony and other pioneers of the suffrage movement. I understand Miss Plum has a beautiful voice and I hope you will enjoy listening to her.

It was grand seeing you at the dinner the other night and what you said was splendid. I am sure that you brought it home to everyone of us, our responsibility for making democracy work and also that democracy is the best safeguard for peace.

With best love to you.

Affectionately,

Rose Schneiderman.

RS:G

January 31, 1939

100

Dear Rose:

I think that the pamphlet is very good and I was interested in reading it. However, I cannot write a foreword because it is on matters of legislation and, in any case, I have received so many such requests that I simply must refuse.

I know you will understand and I am returning the manuscript to you.

Affectionately,

Miss Rose Schneideman
247 Lex. Ave., NYC

DD

NEW YORK WOMEN'S TRADE UNION LEAGUE
247 LEXINGTON AVENUE
NEW YORK

ESTABLISHED 1903

TEL. CALEDONIA 5-0884



ROSE SCHNEIDERMAN, PRESIDENT
MARY E. DREIER, VICE-PRESIDENT
PAULINE M. NEWMAN, VICE-PRESIDENT
DOROTHY SCHIFF BACKER, TREASURER

1-31-39

January 27, 1939

*Good pamphlet
Can't wait to see it
E.P.*

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

Dearest Eleanor:

I am enclosing the manuscript of a short pamphlet we are about to issue on the subject of household employment, in support of three bills the League has introduced into the State Legislature: one, bringing household employees under the minimum wage law, the other, is to limit the work rate to 60 hours, the third, is to bring all domestic workers where two or more are employed, under the Compensation Law.

Knowing of your great interest in this whole matter, I wonder whether you would be willing to write a brief foreword three to five hundred words in length to be included in the box on the inside cover. Again I feel like a dog asking you to do this. First, because you or someone will have to read the manuscript through and secondly, because you may not wish to write for it even though it is not in the nature of an endorsement to a pamphlet supporting a definite legislation. If the latter is the case, you just send word that you can not do it and we will understand. Unfortunately, we are very late in getting it out, so we should like to hear from you just as soon as possible.

With fondest greetings,

Affectionately,

Rose Schneiderman

Rose Schneiderman,
President.

RS:G
ENC.

April 14, 1939

100

Dear Rose:

I am more than sorry that I will not be able to attend the dinner for Mr. Backer and had to send my regrets to Mr. Boudin. I cannot fit in even one more thing this spring as my calendar is so crowded.

Many thanks for writing me about this.

Affectionately,

Miss Rose Schneiderman
80 Centre St., NYC

DD



ROSE SCHNEIDERMAN
SECRETARY

STATE OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY
80 CENTRE ST. NEW YORK CITY

*Rec'd
4-14-39*

*See Rose
Ann's letter
ER*

April 10, 1939

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

Dearest Eleanor:

I have been asked to use my good offices in urging you to speak at the dinner to be given for George Backer. I told the folks at the Ort how unnecessary it is for me to do this because you know George Backer very well and that I was sure that if you possibly could spare the time that you would say yes to Mr. Boudin's request.

Personally, I think so highly of George and am so grateful for his outstanding public service, his willingness always to give himself to worthwhile causes. I would do anything to help. The Ort to my way of thinking is one of the most worthwhile organizations of any I know. To teach people how to work so that they may rehabilitate themselves and start all over again, is most fundamental. I am sure you feel that way too. If you possibly can honor George by your presence, I am sure that we all will be most grateful.

I was delighted to read in your column of the new son which has come to dear Anna. How well you timed it, and how happy Anna must have been to have you there. I was just thrilled with the news and congratulate you and the President most heartily on the new grandson.

With fondest greetings, I am,

Affectionately yours,

Rose Schneiderman.

RS:G

April 29, 1939

100

Dear Rose:

Many thanks for your sweet letter.
My brother and I appreciated more than I
can tell you your kind words of sympathy.

Affectionately,

0

Miss Rose Schneiderman
Secretary of Labor
New York NY



ROSE SCHNEIDERMAN
SECRETARY

STATE OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY
80 CENTRE ST. NEW YORK CITY

4-29

See Rose
Mary's check
Sweet letter -
ER

Dearest Eleanor;

My heart has been with you
and your brother in your great sorrow,
Being very close to my own nephews
and loving them dearly I know what
a shock your nephew's untimely death
must have been to you and the heart-
breaking sorrow it brought to his
Father and Mother.

I love you dearly and wish I could
shield you from all sorrow. But
under these circumstances the individual
is helpless. By your bravery and courage
you put all of us to shame and our
hearts are filled with admiration and affection

for your dauntless and unselfish spirit.

Blessings on your head, may you never
know of sorrow again in the wish of
yours

Dedicated friend

Rm S,

April 25, 1936

700
May 8, 1939

Dear Rose:

I cannot tell you how grateful I am to you for the interest you have taken in Bertha Brodsky Mandel. She is a very gallant little person, and I am interested in helping them both.

I will write Mr. McCrady as you suggest. You are always so wonderful in helping me that I cannot tell you how grateful I am.

Affectionately,

SO

Miss Rose Schneiderman
Department of Labor
80 Centre St.
NYC



ROSE SCHNEIDERMAN
SECRETARY

STATE OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY
80 CENTRE ST., NEW YORK CITY

am
5-8

May 5, 1939

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

Dearest Eleanor:

I was most impressed with Bertha Brodsky Handel. She is so pretty and charming that I was captivated by her, as no doubt you were. We both had a grand time singing your praises. She told me all the lovely things you have done for her. Her story was most interesting. She told it so simply and without reservation.

I called the Electrical Workers Union, although I knew before hand what they would say. They have no apprenticeship systems of any kind. Usually, a young man goes in to work for a contractor as sort of an errand boy and gradually, he gets familiar with the tools and so on, and then if he wants to learn the trade, he then attends technical school in the evening. This would mean of course that he would have to give up his present job and work for a very low wage. The other set-back in connection with the Building Trades is that they have so many unemployed people, that they are not taking in any learners and their own members find it hard to get jobs.

However, I have a grand idea for him. The Radio Corporation of America conducts a school where young men can learn the radio trade and even television. This of course is an evening school. The cost of the tuition usually is \$200. but I know that they do give free scholarships to worthy young men. I am sure if you were to write to Edward McGrady, that he could easily get into this school. It would take him two years and he would then have a real trade in hand and a much better future than he would likely have in the Building Industry. Mr. McGrady could be addressed at 30 Rockefeller Plaza. The reason



ROSE SCHNEIDERMAN
SECRETARY

STATE OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY
80 CENTRE ST. NEW YORK CITY

-2-

I thought of this is that she told me he is pretty good in mathematics. It would also absorb his entire attention, which would be very good for him.

I called up the Employment Bureau and made a date for her to see someone there who would help her get a job. She promised to let me know what happened.

It is tragic that her loss of job means that they can not move from the neighborhood where they are now living. She is a radiant young person and I promise you I will help all I can.

With fondest love, I am,

Devotedly yours,

Rose Schneiderman.

RS:G

May 19, 1939

100

Dear Rose:

I am terribly sorry that I will not be able to be with you on the evening of June 5. I wish so much that it were possible, but life is too busy - particularly this year.

I think what you have done as a memorial to Maud is grand.

I am more than grateful to you for what you have done for Bertha Brodsky Handel. I think you will find that anything you do for her will be its own reward and I hope we can get her husband straightened out too.

With much appreciation.

Affectionately yours,

Miss Rose Schneiderman
247 Lexington Ave.
NYC

T:DD

NEW YORK WOMEN'S TRADE UNION LEAGUE
247 LEXINGTON AVENUE
NEW YORK

ESTABLISHED 1903

TEL. CALEDONIA 5-0884

499

ROSE SCHNEIDERMAN, PRESIDENT
MARY E. DREIER, VICE-PRESIDENT
PAULINE M. NEWMAN, VICE-PRESIDENT
HELEN BLANCHARD, VICE-PRESIDENT
DOROTHY SCHIFF BACKER, TREASURER
CARA COOK, SECRETARY

*Added
5-19-39*
May 16, 1939

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

Dearest Eleanor:

May I extend to you a cordial invitation to attend the dedication of the vacation fund in memory of our beloved Maud to be held on Monday evening, June 5th, at 8:45 P.M. at the League House, 247 Lexington Avenue, New York. You will be glad to know that we bought a \$1000. bond which yields \$50. a year and we have \$500. in the bank. We are planning to give two weeks vacation at \$25. a week to one of the girls who knew Maud very well and who has not had a holiday in many years.

You will be glad to know that Bertha Brodsky Handel started work this morning at the Union Health Centre. I sent her a telegram yesterday and she saw Pauline Newman and went to work this morning.

Should you be in New York on the 5th, we will be most happy to have you with us.

It was grand of you to have us to tea on Saturday, with fondest love and a great deal of appreciation, I am,

Devotedly yours,

Rose

Rose Schneiderman,
President.

RS:G

Thank you very much

Sorry I can't do

172
110
May 31, 1939

Dear Rose:

I know that while we had the rest room at 247 Lexington Avenue you were able to get mill ends of material for the girls. I am now deeply interested in a self-help cooperative at Scott's Run, West Virginia, where the people are in desperate circumstances. They are setting up a salvage shop and I thought if you knew of any kind-hearted manufacturer who had mill ends which were of no use to him, he might be willing to send them. If they can be donated, they should go to

→ Mr. Alfred Lee Klaer
304 Willey Street
Morgantown
West Virginia

Affectionately,

Miss Rose Schneiderman
80 Center Street
NYC

June 9, 1939

Dear Rose:

I was so glad to get your letter
and very much interested in all you say.
Many thanks for writing and for all you
have done.

Affectionately,

Miss Rose Schneiderman
The Secretary of Labor
80 Centre Street
NYC

DD



ROSE SCHNEIDERMAN
SECRETARY

*Central
6-9-39*

STATE OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY
80 CENTRE ST. NEW YORK CITY

June 7, 1939

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

Dearest Eleanor:

We had a lovely meeting Monday night when we dedicated the Vacation Fund in memory of Maud Swartz. Miss Louise Grace did a swell painting of her and has given it to the League. She also sent us a lot of beautiful white peonies. We had a friend of Maud's playing some music for us. Nancy was at the meeting. She hadn't come to the meeting for many, many months and we were all happy to see her again.

I have tried to find out from Bessie Engleman how we obtained those mill ends the time we had the rest room for the unemployed girls. Bessie told me we got that through a girl who worked in the factory who is now married and is out of the industry entirely. I wonder if you would consider saying something about this in your daily column. I feel certain that there will be a grand response to such a request.

At our last Board meeting, Elisabeth gave us a very stirring picture of the Huntsville Mill Villages. This was duplicated by your story in your column of the West Virginia mining towns. Can't something be done about all this? I talked to Nathan Straus two weeks ago. Why can't we rescue all these unfortunate people and build places to live for them, as we do for the under-privileged in big cities. It always amazes me that the United Mine Workers have never paid any attention to the housing problem of their members. It would seem to me that that should be problem number one. I have felt for many, many years that home ownership is a burden to the average working class family. The sacrifices are entirely too great in order to maintain the tradition of having a home of one's own. However, I feel that multiple dwellings are entirely possible at low rentals and I do hope that the Housing

5



STATE OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY
80 CENTRE ST. NEW YORK CITY

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt

-3-

June 7, 1939

Authority, one of these days will give their attention to these forgotten families in mill villages and in mining centers.

I talked with Bertha Brodsky Handel yesterday over the phone. I am going to make some inquiries of the vocational guidance people and find out what they have to suggest. Perhaps, it would be much easier for him to become an automobile mechanic than an electrician and I will find out all about it.

I am amazed when you express your gratitude to me, after all that you are doing for folks. I am more than happy to help in any way that I can be of service to you and the people that you want to help. Please don't hesitate to call upon me at any time. I shall consider it an honor and a pleasure to do my bit.

The United States Supreme Court's decision on the Hague case and the child labor amendment is most heartening. With all the anti-democratic trends that there are, it is consoling to find the Supreme Court standing by the bill of rights. I hate to think of what the decision might have been had the same question come up before the infusion of the new blood into the Supreme Court.

I am so sorry dearest, that John's baby was born dead. It must be a heart rending thing to go through such a tragic happening and I loved what you said in your column about their courage and their youth.

With deepest love to you,

Affectionately yours,

Rose Schneiderman.

RS:G

Hyde Park, N.Y.
October 22, 1939.

Dear Rose: *Sch...*

I am enclosing a copy of a wire
which came to me from Maxwell Burket.
I think his advice sounds good.

I do not know what you can do
and all I can do is to pass this along to
you and Mr. Dubinsky.

Affectionately,

October 9, 1939

Dear Rose:

We have had some correspondence from Miss Hortense Dansher, who calls herself the League for Mental Hygiene Reform. She mentions your name and gives you as an identification.

We have checked on this organization and it is not anything which Mrs. Roosevelt could be identified with. I thought you would like to have this information. She writes rather edgy letters.

Affectionately,

Miss Rose Schneiderman
Department of Labor
Albany
New York

0

Telephone
WIS. 7-9130

*copy
10-9*

Secretary
HORTENSE DANAHER

LEAGUE FOR MENTAL HYGIENE REFORM

220 WEST 42nd STREET

NEW YORK, N. Y.

former

*October 5, 1889
explain to Rose as she is
interested about the P.S. report
✓ file this -*

Miss Malvina C. Thompson
Secretary to Mrs. Roosevelt
The White House
Washington, D. C.

My dear Miss Thompson:

Regarding your note of September 27th, I suppose it is wasting time to correspond. Nevertheless, wish to state recognized mental hygiene societies are as afraid to lend even moral support to honest efforts as is apparently Mrs. Roosevelt. Mrs. Roosevelt knows me well through Rose Schneiderman. Mrs. Roosevelt might at least see me and lend moral support if nothing else. When professing concern over backwardness in this branch of social welfare, it would not, however, hurt Mrs. Roosevelt, under the circumstances in lieu of her time, to enclose a check.

As to your specific advice, united effort is impossible until the recognized societies concede the evils. Only in not conceding them do I blame them. The National Committee for Mental Hygiene may have served its purpose a generation ago. It obviously has reached its saturation point now and for a combination of reasons fails in perspective consistent with current conditions. My own effort is the sole effort to establish a social agency to serve this particular type of afflicted. The National Committee never undertook individual aid.

What credentials certain plutocrats want to show interest I am forced to believe are not ones I would care to submit. There is no ulterior motive or sham about me, and no one can reflect in the least on my long record in social work. Summing up, it is a sad commentary on American intelligence when civic leaders boycott knowledge of important legislation. Overseers of state hospitals are worse than murderers, manipulating a weak law to their own advantage. Mrs. Roosevelt presumably would rather cooperate with them because they are recognized.

Yours sincerely,

Hortense Danaher

100

October 31, 1939.

Dear Rose:

Thank you very much for your letter of
October 24 and for the information about Dr. Burket.

I am so glad you have the apartment and
will surely try to visit you.

Affectionately,

0

Miss Rose Schneiderman
Secretary of State
80 Centre St.
NYC



ROSE SCHNEIDERMAN
SECRETARY

STATE OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY
80 CENTRE ST., NEW YORK CITY

October 24, 1939

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt
Hyde Park, New York

Dearest Eleanor:

On receipt of your letter and the enclosed copy of the telegram from Mr. Maxwell Burket, Attorney, I called Mr. Umhey, who is Dubinsky's assistant immediately. He told me that he had received a copy of this telegram and that he wrote you a long letter, explaining the International side.

It seems that Mr. Burket is a sworn enemy of Mayor Maverick and he had used confidential material belonging to the International for revenging himself on the Mayor and because of that the International had terminated his services. I don't know the ins and outs of the situation, but I can gather from the newspapers that it is an awful mess and will hurt Mavericks political future very, very much.

I read with delight the awarding of the medal from the Parents and Teachers Association to you. Congratulations! Some day you have to have a showing of all your medals.

When I am all fixed up in my little apartment, I hope that you will give me the pleasure of coming to see it. Of course it can only be done on a Saturday or Sunday, when I am home and when you are in town. I am on 22nd St. right near 2nd Ave. and traveling wouldn't be very hard. I should love you to see it. I am very comfortable and so near to my job that it is a constant pleasure to me not to have to travel to the Bronx.

With fondest love,

Affectionately,

Rose Schneiderman.

NEW YORK WOMEN'S TRADE UNION LEAGUE
247 LEXINGTON AVENUE
NEW YORK

ESTABLISHED 1903

TEL. CALEDONIA 5-0884



ROSE SCHNEIDERMAN, PRESIDENT
MARY E. DREIER, VICE-PRESIDENT
PAULINE M. NEWMAN, VICE-PRESIDENT
HELEN BLANCHARD, VICE-PRESIDENT
DOROTHY SCHIFF BACKER, TREASURER
CARA COOK, SECRETARY

November 15, 1939

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

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

We want to report the results of the benefit of the Ballet Russe on November 3rd, for the League's educational work, and to thank you again for your cooperation on the Committee.

We cannot break records every year, it seems, and this year the net profits total only \$3,000 as compared with the \$5,000 of last year. There are a number of reasons which can be given to explain this, one being a reduction of nearly a thousand dollars in box office sales, and another the change of ten of last year's box holders to orchestra seats.

However, we shall be able to carry on our educational program through this year, and another year should probably return to the concert type of benefit. Mr. Hurck has already made us a very attractive suggestion, and we are looking forward to a much more satisfactory result next year.

Mrs. George Backer, the Chairman of the Committee, joins me and the other officers of the League in expressing our deepest gratitude to you for your participation on the Committee, and the help you gave to this year's benefit.

Very sincerely yours,

Rose Schneiderman
President

November 15, 1939

Dear Rose:

I would have been glad to see students taking your public affairs course when they made their trip to Washington, but I was away. I am so sorry that, because I was away, your letter did not reach me in time to give you an answer before they came.

Affectionately,

Miss Rose Schneiderman
N.Y. Women's Trade Union League
247 Lexington Avenue
NYC

0

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

November 13.

This was in the basket that came down this morning. It sounds to me as though yesterday was the day they were to come, but possibly it means next week. I showed it to Mrs. Helm who asks that you let her know if you mean this coming Sunday. She has invited people out to the country to lunch and will have to recall the invitations if she is to be back at five o'clock. Will you telegraph Mrs. Helm if this is the case?

R.W.M.

I'm sorry I read it quickly
& thought she said 25th
I see now it was 25 girls
write that Mrs. R was away
& because Mr. R had been away,
didn't receive in time

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

November 13, 1939

Dear Rose:

The girls can come to the White House on Sunday for tea and I will ask Mrs. Helm to be hostess. I am sorry that I will not be there.

Very sincerely yours,

Anonymous letter of 11-1-39, complaining about the working condition at
Merzon's.

L. Kull

November 28, 1939

100

Dear Rose:

Mrs. Roosevelt thinks that this firm, Merzon's, should be investigated. She has received several letters similar to the one enclosed, and she does not want to place any more orders there if conditions are as stated. Could you have this investigation made?

Very sincerely yours,

Secretary to
Mrs. Roosevelt

Miss Rose Schneiderman
235 East 22nd Street
New York, New York

DD

Send Rose Johnson from
her home address - re
her new no. East rd 82

Ask her to have
unregistered stay with
her but other letters
send all cards - money
letters of explain. etc

235-8-22nd St.

December 11, 1939

100

Dear Rose:

Mrs. Roosevelt always can use riding gloves and I think they could be size seven.

Affectionately,

Secretary to
Mrs. Roosevelt

(Miss Rose Schneiderman)
50 Centre Street
New York
New York

X Ruth Merzou

ds



ROSE SCHNEIDERMAN
SECRETARY

STATE OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY
80 CENTRE ST., NEW YORK CITY

Ad/2
12/11/39

December 8, 1939

Miss Malvina Thompson
White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Malvina:

I found your letter on my return from Havana yesterday, where I attended the I.L.O. conference as technical advisor to the labor delegation.

I have called up the union and asked them to go after that shop and I am going to take it over to the Regional Wages and Hours Division here and get them in motion. What an outrageous way to run one's business. That woman is a cheat and ought to be put in jail. Thank you so much for sending word to me.

Now dear Tommie, I would like to get Mrs. Roosevelt a pair of riding gloves or driving gloves, which ever she needs most. Will you let me know what color would be best for her and the size. From year to year, I forget what her size is. I am terribly jealous of Elisabeth Christman that she has a photograph of the President and Mrs. Roosevelt and I have neither. I should like to have a photograph of Mrs. Roosevelt for Christmas if that is at all possible.

I am going out early next week to buy the sweaters for the children at the League Christmas party. Are there any others Mrs. Roosevelt would like me to buy for her? I am going to get them wholesale of course, and will send her the bill. Let me know please, as soon as you can about this.

I hope you are well and not working too hard.
With kindest regards, I am,

Cordially yours,

Rose Schneiderman.

RS:G



10
12/11
1881



235 EAST 22ND STREET

IS

THE NEW HOME ADDRESS

OF

Rose Schneiderman

THE TELEPHONE

Gramercy 3-0548

December 11, 1939

Dear Rose:

I will be at the Women's Trade
Union League house on the 20th between ten
thirty and eleven to help dress the tree,
and again at four for the party.

If you need extra tree ornaments,
please get them and I will pay for them.

Affectionately,

Miss Rose Schneiderman
235 E. 22d Street
New York
New York

d.

Picture autographed and mailed to 235 E. 22nd
NYC - 12-14-39 -DD-

File
Please autograph 100
for (Rae Schindlerman)
send to
address -

100

December 14, 1939

Dear Rose:

I am looking forward to seeing you on the 20th. Thank you so much for getting all those things for the party. It has taken a lot off my shoulders.

I wish that I could have seen you when you were in Washington, but I know you came down for a special purpose, and I was very busy.

I love your story about the episode in Cuba. How rude some of us can be!

Affectionately,

9

Miss Rose Schneiderman
80 Centre St.
NYC



ROSE SCHNEIDERMAN
SECRETARY

STATE OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY
80 CENTRE ST. NEW YORK CITY

December 13, 1939

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

Dearest Eleanor:

I am so glad you will be at the League on the morning of the 20th to dress the tree and of course in the afternoon for the party.

Yesterday, I bought the sweaters and they will be delivered by Friday. I asked the man to send you the bill directly. I think the price is a little more reasonable than last year.

I am going to be in Washington tomorrow, and wish that I could stay over for the press conference Friday. I have an all day Board meeting at the Department on Friday and since I missed so many while I was away I simply can not absent myself from this one. Thank you so much for inviting me to be present. I know that Mary Winslow will do ample credit to the situation. She did herself proud as a government representative and chairman of the committee on women and young persons. The fact that she spoke Spanish went over very big with our Latin American neighbors.

It has been a ^{our} worth while experience for me and I am very grateful to the President for having appointed me. I have decided to take up Spanish so that if I ever attend another conference, I will be able to understand our South American delegates.

Did you read about the incident that took place at a committee meeting on social legislation on which I served? Tom Moore was the Canadian labor

*ack
12-14*

*Received at 11:15 AM
12-14-39
New York*

Thank

7



ROSE SCHNEIDERMAN
SECRETARY

STATE OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY
80 CENTRE ST., NEW YORK CITY

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt

-2-

December 13, 1939

representative. In getting off a bus, the bus started before he had gotten off and he fell and bruised his knee and arm and fingers of his hand. At the meeting of our committee he had put his foot on the back of a chair so as to keep his trousers from rubbing his knee. All of a sudden one of the Cuban delegates got up and held forth with great animation and anger and mentioned Mr. Moore's name. Then when the translation was made, we found that Cuba had the law against anybody putting their feet on the chair, table or desk and this delegate felt that Cuba was being insulted by Mr. Moore. Hearing this, Mr. Moore then got up and told them the reason for having his foot on the chair and apologized profusely for doing so. Then another Cuban delegate got up and said not to mind what the other Cuban had said because when they were in to see Secretary Hull, the Secretary said "come in gentlemen, put your feet on the table and make yourself at home". Whereupon there was great laughter of those present.

However, this rule or law, stems from the fact that when General Leonard Wood was stationed in Cuba, he placed his feet on the table or desk whenever a Cuban delegation came to see him. They felt this was done out of disrespect to Cuba and the desire by General Wood to insult them as a nation. After they had gotten their complete independence, and gotten rid of General Wood, they passed a law that no one in official circles must be allowed to put their feet on tables or chairs. We all had a very good time over this incident, because there were profuse apologies on both sides and the whole thing took a precious half hour out of our committee time.

I feel the work being done by the I.L.O. in trying to jack up the labor standards in the Americas is a very basic and fundamental job, and while it takes time for these principles to be written into the law, as well



ROSE SCHNEIDERMAN
SECRETARY

STATE OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY
80 CENTRE ST., NEW YORK CITY

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt

-3-

December 13, 1939

as having them properly enforced, as we well know **this** is true of our own country, nevertheless, even the inter-American discussions of these questions are very, very important.

Don't worry about the party. Everything will be seen to and attended to.

Faithfully yours,

Rose Schneiderman.

RS:G

Bx. 1525

December 29, 1939

100

Dear Rose:

The gloves are lovely and I shall enjoy wearing them. You are always so sweet to remember me and I love having you think of me at this season.

Many thanks and every good wish for the New Year.

Affectionately,

Miss Rose Schneideman
235 East 22nd St.
NYC

DD



ROSE SCHNEIDERMAN
SECRETARY

STATE OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY
80 CENTRE ST..NEW YORK CITY

Sch. Ser
1

100

January 4, 1940

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

Dearest Eleanor:

I am so glad you liked the gloves. I love the opportunity of sending you a gift once a year. There isn't anything I enjoy more.

I meant to write you on the complaint I got from Malvina in reference to the young lady working for Merzon's. I referred the letter to the regional division of the Wages and Hours. They at first thought that they could not go after the lady, that she was doing intra-state work. Subsequently, I heard from them that they thought they could go ahead on it. I also called the union and asked them to try and organize the shop. I am hoping that something will be done to stop the vicious practices that the employer is indulging in.

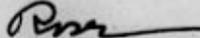
I am so glad that Franklin, Jr. and his wife are getting along. I was horrified to read of their accident. How fortunate that they got off with bruises only. I can well imagine how frightened you must have been when you got the call.

The President's message yesterday was excellent. I was sorry that I had no opportunity of hearing it over the radio.

A thousand thanks to you dearest, for the box of delicious raisins and almonds. You are wonderful to think of me in the midst of all the tremendous calls that are made upon you.

With fondest love to you and all kinds of good wishes for the New Year, I am, Faithfully yours,

RS:G


Rose Schneiderman.

NEW YORK WOMEN'S TRADE UNION LEAGUE
247 LEXINGTON AVENUE
NEW YORK

TEL. CALEDONIA 5-0684



February 2, 1940

file

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

100

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

This will acknowledge your renewed contribution of \$100 for the year 1940, receipt for which is enclosed. We cannot think of any new way to say "thank you," but please believe we appreciate most profoundly and gratefully this expression of your continued confidence in our work.

The opportunities for service to industrial women in the legislative, organizational and educational fields seem endless and urgent, as the problems of 1940 confront us. Again we thank you for helping us to meet these needs.

With all good wishes to you, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

Rose Schneiderman

Rose Schneiderman
President

WOMEN'S TRADE UNION LEAGUE
247 Lexington Avenue
New York

7782

January 26, 1940

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

We acknowledge with thanks receipt of One-hundred and no/100- - Dollars
for Renewal of contribution for 1940

WOMEN'S TRADE UNION LEAGUE

\$ 100.

Treasurer

Sch. Ser

February 9, 1940

100

Dear Rose:

Will you let Mrs. Roosevelt know what you have been able to find out about labor conditions at Ruth Merzon's, 45 West 57th Street? Mrs. Roosevelt does not want to go in the shop again until she knows how things stand.

Affectionately,

Miss Rose Schneiderman
Women's Trade Union League
247 Lexington Avenue
New York, New York

DD

ruth merzon

45 WEST FIFTY-SEVENTH STREET · NEW YORK



ESTABLISHED 1905

corsetiere

TELEPHONE · WICKERSHAM · 5322 - 5323

February 5, 1940.

*Get Pass
before dinner, and
what the Foundry
has to do
with Corsetiere*

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

*Alid.
2-9-40*

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

When Alice Hughes, columnist for "The Washington Post" was in to see us lately, she mentioned she had the privilege of meeting you on the night of the President's Ball. You may recall her as being with Edward G. Robinson and a group of other Cinema Stars.

As a fashion authority, Alice Hughes ranks high. Her comment on your sculptured silhouette, your beautifully moulded diaphragm and handsome appearance of the low-cut chiffon gown was gratifying. In our professional pride as corsetieres, may we harbor a faint suspicion at least, that you were "Merzonized"--figuratively speaking?...

Notwithstanding whatever the weather, looming on the Spring horizon is a silhouette of immeasurable grace and devastating flattery to the feminine figure. The significantly new, long-body line will make a definite mark on fashion. Endowed with just such proportions, you will move with distinction in any gathering, at any hour, delightfully smart, on tip-toe of fashion.

For proper figure moulding however, it is quite important to return for periodic adjustment of one's foundation garments, and we do hope you will avail yourself of our service department. It will take only a few minutes, but you will have the full assurance of the perfect fit of your garments.

Anticipating the delightful privilege of hearing from you real soon and in our keen desire to be of service in filling your figure needs for the oncoming Spring, we are

Most respectfully yours,

RUTH MERZON

Ruth L. Fisk
RUTH L. FISK
MANAGER

BE/RLF



ROSE SCHNEIDERMAN
SECRETARY

STATE OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY
80 CENTRE ST. NEW YORK CITY

Sch. Sec

*Here me
How do
come*

100

February 19, 1940

Miss Malvina Thompson
White House
Washington, D.C.

100

Dear Malvina:

The reason I have not sent you word on the Ruth Merzon case is because I had not heard from the Regional Division of the Wages and Hours Administration.

At first they were in doubt as to whether Mrs. Merzon came under the interstate provisions of the law. Then they decided that she did come under their jurisdiction and they have been working on her books. A letter from the Regional Director, Mr. George B. Kelly, on Saturday, tells me that by the end of this week, the inspection will have been completed and they will let me know immediately as to what the findings are. The lady has it coming to her and I am sure that she will have quite a bit of money to pay to the girls that she treated so outrageously.

I will send you a copy of the findings as soon as I get them. Mrs. Roosevelt is quite right in not going into the shop until we know the results of the investigation.

With fondest regards, I am,

Affectionately yours,

Rose Schneiderman

Rose Schneiderman,
Secretary.

RS:G

100
March 22, 1940

Dear Rose:

I have just looked at my engagement book and find that I have three engagements in Washington on May 6, so that it will not be possible for me to be in New York for the Ort dinner. I am so sorry, because I always like to do anything you want me to do.

Affectionately,

Miss Rose Schneiderman
80 Center St.
NYC

0



ROSE SCHNEIDERMAN
SECRETARY

STATE OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY
80 CENTRE ST. NEW YORK CITY

March 25, 1940

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

Dearest Eleanor:

Thank you so much for your note telling me that other engagements will make it impossible for you to speak at the Ort Convention. You are a saint to be so patient with me and the numerous requests I make upon you.

I do hope that the President is feeling better and will soon be up and about.

With warmest love, I am,

Faithfully yours,

Rm

Rose Schneiderman,
~~Secretary~~

RS:G

100

March 25, 1940

Dear Rose:

I am so sorry that you had to be in bed for two days and hope that you are entirely well.

In the meantime I wrote you that I could not possibly be with you on May 6 and I am very sorry.

A small continuing committee was named for the NYA and Charlotte Carr is at the head of it. I know that Betty Lindley is still working on this.

Affectionately,

Miss Rose Schneiderman
80 Center St.
NYC

SO

15

*any
3/23/40*



ROSE SCHNEIDERMAN
SECRETARY

STATE OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY
80 CENTRE ST. NEW YORK CITY

March 23, 1940

*Small room named
Pineapple Pass at end -
to carry*

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

Dearest Eleanor:

I am sorry but a cold kept me in bed for two days so I had no chance to write you re the National convention of the Ort. The opening is to take place at the Hotel Astor on Monday evening, May 8th and if you can possibly squeeze it in amongst all your other engagements, we would be everlastingly grateful.

The Ort at this time is one of the most vital and necessary agencies that the Jewish people in war stricken Europe have.

It is always exhilarating to listen to you my dear. I wish you could gather all the heads of these organizations together and make them adopt a unified program affecting youth.

What has happened to the continuing committee that you and Mr. Aubrey Williams was supposed to appoint? The reason I suggested that the committee be made at least a committee of 25 is a hope that perhaps such a committee could work along the lines you spoke of the other day at the dinner. We need a crusade to put young people to work and I know that women could do a swell job if they were challenged.

You must be very pleased that the boys who were out on strike settled their grievances with the employer through the medium of the Mediation Board. I am certain however had you not taken up the cudgels for them they very likely would have lost out.

More power to you and all kinds of blessings on your head. With warmest love, I am,

Devotedly yours,

Rose
Rose Schneiderman.

RS:G

NEW YORK WOMEN'S TRADE UNION LEAGUE

247 LEXINGTON AVENUE
NEW YORK

ESTABLISHED 1903

TEL CALEDONIA 8-0884



ROSE SCHNEIDERMAN, PRESIDENT
MARY E. DREIER, VICE-PRESIDENT
PAULINE M. NEWMAN, VICE-PRESIDENT
HELEN BLANCHARD, VICE-PRESIDENT
GRODOTHY SCHIFF BACKER, TREASURER
CARA COOK, SECRETARY
NORA FIORE, EDUCATIONAL DIRECTOR

TO THE MEMBERS AND CONTRIBUTORS of the
WOMEN'S TRADE UNION LEAGUE:

2-23-40

Dear Friends:-

This is an SOS for your help on a matter which vitally affects the working men and women in this State. Budget appropriations for social services in New York are threatened with reductions that would seriously jeopardize living standards in our State.

When the Governor's proposed budget was introduced to the Legislature, Abbot Low Moffat, Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, made a statement to the effect that the proposed budget was already as low as is commensurate with the maintenance of essential social services.

Nevertheless, the attacks on appropriations for social services have continued with increasing intensity since the public hearing in Albany on February 12th. The citizens' economy block, the taxpayer, real estate and industrial groups are exerting telling pressure. There is danger that they may succeed in paring appropriations below the meagre standards in the Governor's proposed budget, unless immediate support can be rallied for protection of social services.

The situation in regard to the Department of Labor appropriation is especially serious. The Governor's budget recommended an additional appropriation of \$75,000 to meet the needs of the Department of Labor for enforcement of the Minimum Wage Law, an amount already below the Department's own estimate of funds necessary for adequate enforcement. IF THIS AMOUNT IS FURTHER CUT, IMPORTANT WORK OF THE MINIMUM WAGE DIVISION WILL BE VIRTUALLY PARALYZED AND IMMEASURABLE HARDSHIP WILL BE WORKED ON TENS OF THOUSANDS OF INDUSTRIAL WORKERS IN THIS STATE. Enforcement of the recommendations of the restaurant Minimum Wage Board which has just completed its findings could not even be begun; 50,000 women and male minors in the restaurants of this State would have to shelve their hopes for desperately needed minimum wage protection.

I cannot impress upon you too strongly that the economy block is waging a most desperate fight; nor can we underestimate the seriousness of this attack on the social services of the State. The legislative achievements, for which the League has invested painful years of effort, are threatened as never before. The time for mobilizing support is very short. We appeal to you as strongly as we can to help save the social services which are so seriously jeopardized. We ask that you wire immediately to ASSEMBLYMAN ABBOT LOW MOFFAT, CHAIRMAN, WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE, ASSEMBLY CHAMBER, ALBANY, NEW YORK --

URGING IMMEDIATE APPROVAL OF THE INCREASED APPROPRIATION FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR FOR THE ENFORCEMENT OF THE MINIMUM WAGE LAW AS RECOMMENDED IN THE GOVERNOR'S PROPOSED BUDGET.

We would appreciate it if you would mail us a copy of the telegram you send.

Sincerely yours,
Rose Schneiderman
Rose Schneiderman, President

March 25, 1940

100

Dear Rose:

I am sending you the final decision of the Civil Service Commission concerning Eleanor Mighman and am also sending a copy to Mary Dreier. I am terribly sorry about it and have spoken to the President, but he does not feel that he can do anything.

Many thanks for sending me Mr. Lang's book. I shall write the Union about it.

Affectionately,

Miss Rose Schneiderman
Dept. of Labor
80 Centre St.
NYC

DD



STATE OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY
80 CENTRE ST., NEW YORK CITY

March 9, 1940

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

Dearest Eleanor:

Mary Dreier wrote you in detail in behalf of Eleanor Mishnun and her plight with the U. S. Civil Service Commission. I want to supplement Mary's letter by saying to you that Eleanor Mishnun is an outstanding person. She is highly intelligent and an extremely worthwhile public servant. The fact that she has been able to carry this trouble that she is having, so objectively shows how well she really is.

While with the League she worked terribly hard. That Autumn she was working in two strikes which ended disastrously. One was the strike of the canvass glove workers and the other was the ill considered and untimely strike of the hotel workers called by the union without any preparation of any kind. Eleanor worked day and night and we were not surprised when the breakdown came. It would be most unfair to make it impossible for her to ever hold a position with the government. Her immediate superior, Regional Director, George B. Kelly, wrote to the Civil Service Commission most glowingly about her work and recommended her without any kind of reservation.

The loads that the investigators carry in the Wages and Hours Administration are pretty heavy. Nevertheless, she has carried her responsibility for the last year and a half amazingly well. She is willing to give up her rights to retirement pension and I do hope that the President may see his way of exempting her from that provision, so that she can be appointed as Junior Inspector of the Wages and Hours Administration.



ROSE SCHNEIDERMAN
SECRETARY

STATE OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY
80 CENTRE ST. NEW YORK CITY

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt

-2-

March 9, 1940

It was grand listening to you the other night and seeing how well you looked. Your vacation, though brief, certainly has done you a world of good. I wish you could have stayed on for at least a month or six weeks.

At the request of the Undergarment Workers' Union, Local 62, I am sending you under separate cover, a biography of the union. I did the initial organization work for this union and plugged away for four years until we were ready for a general strike. The style of the writer is a sensational one, which I do not approve. I hope you will disregard the flattering references to my own person. I am afraid the author's inclination to build up personalities rather than the heroic struggles of the rank and file, can only be excused by his desire to make the book interesting reading to the average member of the union.

I thought of you and the President on March 4th with warmth and thanksgiving. Both of you have served the nation unselfishly and devotedly and my hope is that you will both serve for the next four years to come.

Lovingly yours,

Rose

Rose Schneiderman.

Handwritten note:
Thank you for the book
I have the book for the union

RH:G

Handwritten note:
Thank you for the book
I have the book for the union

7



MARY E. DREIER
29 EAST 37 STREET
NEW YORK

APR 11 1940

Dear Eleanor:-

As I fear this may be a long letter to you which I feel impelled to write because of a very dear friend of mine I am typing it myself and hope you will forgive any mistakes. She is Eleanor Lishnun whom you may remember as an effective organizer and devoted worker in the New York Women's Trade Union League. For over a year she has been working as inspector in the New York office of the Wage and Hour Division of the Department of Labor on a provisional appointment. Although she has passed the required examinations successfully, her eligibility has been cancelled because of her "physical condition". She understands that this action was taken because she had a serious nervous breakdown a few years ago. This I am afraid was precipitated by her intense work in the Women's Trade Union League for about three years.

However she has been perfectly well again for almost two years and as you can see by the copy of the enclosed letter from her chief, George B. Kelly, the NY Regional Director she has been able to carry a heavy load during the past year successfully. I can supplement Mr Kelly's letter by saying that I have been told by others in the Division that Eleanor Lishnun's experience in the Women's Trade Union League makes her extremely valuable to the government in her present work in a way that cannot easily be duplicated since there are comparatively few women available who have her specialized training and background. In spite of this the Civil Service Commission has set aside her eligibility because they take the attitude that anyone who has had such an illness as she has had is a risk which they do not wish to accept probably because of the benefits of the Retirement Fund.

Eleanor Lishnun is appealing from the decision of the Civil Service Commission on the ground that she is now in excellent health and has been assured by her physician that there is no reason why her present state of health should not continue. I am enclosing copies of the letters from two physicians which she is submitting with her appeal to the Civil Service Commission; one from Dr. Liebowitz the head physician of

MARY E. DREIER
29 EAST 37 STREET
NEW YORK

the San torium in which she was a patient and the other from Dr Choenfeld an eminent psychiatrist who examined her recently. She is also appealing on the further ground that if necessary she is willing to waive the benefits of the Retirement Fund. This would give the government the benefit of her services and absolve them from any responsibility. Unfortunately there is a Civil Service regulation which forbids the acceptance of such waivers but does provide for exceptions by presidential decree which have been made on occasion.

If you felt you could help me in this I would be deeply grateful. I am devoted to Eleanor Lishman who is a fine and able young woman with vision and ideals of service and it would mean a great deal to her if she could continue her work.

The probational appointments are to be made very shortly and it is important that her name be put on the register as soon as possible. I can't tell you how much this would mean to me too.

If you feel that the person to whom you may refer this letter needs further details or documents, Bertha Faret now Mrs Thomas Emerson, 3610 Idaho Ave Washington, (tel: Emerson 8867, office National 8472, extension 423) would be very happy to be of service. You doubtless remember Bertha Faret Emerson as our glorious secretary of the NY Women's Trade Union League. If there is any other information you would like from me I would be glad to come to Washington or get it for you or bring Eleanor Lishman down. In any event I shall be deeply grateful to you for whatever you feel you can do.

With love and admiration

Always
Mary Dreier

C O P Y

February 9, 1940

Major A. L. Fletcher
Assistant Administrator
Wage and Hour Division
U. S. Department of Labor
Washington, D. C.

Dear Major:

It has come to my attention that one of our provisionally appointed inspectors, Miss Eleanor Mishnun has received a notice from the Civil Service Commission that she is declared ineligible for a probational appointment as inspector in this office, because of failure to pass her physical examination.

In the interest of securing from the Civil Service register people who have demonstrated unusual ability for the work of inspector, I sincerely hope that something can be done about Miss Mishnun's case.

She was originally given a rating of 86.1%, which mark was increased slightly as a result of her oral examination so that under ordinary conditions, she should be within reach for appointment as inspector.

While I do not know the nature of any physical impairment, I can attest to the fact that during the entire year since I have been in charge of this office, Miss Mishnun, as Inspector, has handled cases requiring a maximum of mental and physical efficiency with greatest satisfaction to this Division. She has demonstrated that she is capable of intensive concentration and drive involving application of her faculties during the most trying and experimental period in the development of this Regional Office. Among the first appointees to this office, her work necessitated overtime night after night over long periods and certainly to the satisfaction of her supervisors, thus demonstrating her fitness for the arduous nature of the work.

As Regional Director, I consider that it would be a loss to the field staff if we were not able to avail ourselves of Miss Mishnun's services.

I cannot speak too highly of the quality and effectiveness of her work with this office during the past year. I sincerely hope that in the interest of the service, something may be done in her behalf.

Sincerely yours,

George B. Kelly
Regional Director

GBK:mh

COPY

BLYTHEWOOD
Greenwich,
Connecticut

Harry M. Tiebout, M.D.
P.R.Vessie, M.D.
A.C.Wiley, Pres. and Treas.
William H. Wiley, Vice Pres.

New York Office:
555 Park Avenue
Tel. Regent 4-0984

Board of Appeals,
United States Civil Service Commission,
Washington, D. C.

Gentlemen:

At the request of Miss Eleanor Mishmun, at present a provisional appointee in the Wage and Hour Division, I am submitting this supplementary statement which I trust will clarify my opinion about her health. I have talked to her recently and find her in good health, free of any symptoms of a mental ailment.

The nature of her condition while under my care led me to believe that it arose from the strenuous type of position occupied by Miss Mishmun for the years preceding her break, a position as labor organizer, which involved extraordinary physical and nervous strain. I am convinced, moreover, that hers was a type of condition which not only can be completely cured, but also need never recur, as she is a very intelligent woman who has learned a great deal about the nature and care of her former illness.

Very truly yours,

BLYTHEWOOD

HMT/MVS

(signed) Harry M. Tiebout, M.D.

COPY

DUDLEY D. SHOENFELD, M.D.
116 West 59th Street
New York, N.Y.

February 16, 1940

Civil Service Commission
of the U.S.A.
Washington, D.C.

Gentlemen:

This is to certify that I
today examined Miss Eleanor Mishnun,
and I find that she is free from any
signs or symptoms indicative of any
mental ailment.

Very truly yours,

(signed) DUDLEY D. SHOENFELD, M.D.

May 13, 1940

100

Dear Rose:

Will you let Mrs. Roosevelt know if you
have had any answer on the investigation you re-
quested on the Ruth Merson firm at 45 West 57th Street?

Affectionately,

Miss Rose Schneiderman
Department of Labor
80 Centre Street
New York, New York

DD

45 West 57 St., N.Y.

Ruth Mergon

Wickersham 2-5322

CORSETTE
ESTABLISHED 1905

May 10, 1940.

*Called
5-13-40*



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

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

In rhythm with the heart beats of every son's mother, we know your gallant heart and mind are filled with serious far-reaching thoughts these days! This and your purposeful daily activities leave you precious little margin of time for such things as clothes and fittings.



Here's where we can be helpful in a tiny measure by reminding you that this is the season of the year when one's foundation garments are due for readjustments. If you will kindly forward us your corsets and bathing suits accompanied with your instructions, or send along an old garment for us to go by, we will put them into work immediately and return them to you post-haste, for your immediate needs. We are also holding a brassiere for you! What is your pleasure about that?

Appreciating the great privilege and pleasure in serving you, we are



BH/RLF

Respectfully yours,

RUTH MERGON
RUTH L. FISK
MANAGER

*Rose Schneiderman
Have you ever
had any aus on this
firm*

All with the
Built-in Bras



May 13, 1940

100

Dear Rose:

I am more than sorry that your letter of April 22 was held up in the office and somehow it did not come to my attention until a few days ago. It was too late then for Mrs. Roosevelt to send the greetings to the Pioneer Women's Organization and I know she will be disappointed that she did not have an opportunity to do this. I hope if you have a chance you will explain to the members what happened and assure them that they have Mrs. Roosevelt's good wishes.

Affectionately,

Miss Rose Schneiderman
Department of Labor
80 Centre Street
New York, New York

DD

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ROSE SCHNEIDERMAN
SECRETARY

STATE OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR *APP 22 1940*
OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY
80 CENTRE ST., NEW YORK CITY

April 22, 1940

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

Dearest Eleanor:

If you can possibly see your way of sending greetings to the Pioneer Women's Organization on their 15th Anniversary luncheon to be held on May 5th, I shall be very grateful.

A week ago last Friday night, Howard Cullman invited a group of us to see the "Medicine Show". I can't begin to tell you how gripping a play this is and if it could be financed to tour the country, it would do more to make clear the President's health program than anything else I know. I do hope you can see it when you get to New York.

With fondest love, I am,

Faithfully yours,

Rose

Rose Schneiderman.

RS:G

*Book up
Mint
Filed
5-13-41*

deduct I send?



WE FINISHED BUILDING THE HEDERA CHILDREN'S HOME

The First children's nursery and kindergarten permanent building in a colony was completed by the Pioneer Women's Organization as its special project, during the summer of 1938 and 1939, in Hedera which is one of the oldest Jewish colonies in Palestine and one of the most important centers for Jewish workers. In the Hedera Children's Home, 70 children between the ages of 2 and 6 will have an opportunity for growth and education amidst pleasant surroundings while their mothers are employed!

JOIN THE PIONEER WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION!

THE PIONEER WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION gives its members an opportunity of sharing in the great work of building our Homeland. It helps give the Halutza, Refugee and Working Woman an opportunity for fulfilling her historic task in Palestine.

THE PIONEER WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION has sent to the Moatzath Hapoaloth, since 1927, over a half million dollars thus sharing the great responsibility of training and guiding the women and children in Palestine.

THE PIONEER WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION sponsors the Totzeret Haaretz Consumer's League for the spread of Palestine products thus helping increase employment.

JOIN THE PIONEER WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION! Help safeguard the Jewish positions and defend our right to live and build in Palestine. EVERY THINKING JEWISH WOMAN WILL FIND A PLACE FOR HER ENERGY, SPIRITUAL GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE PIONEER WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION.



WOMEN

LEARN
WORK
STUDY

TRAIN THE YOUNG
CREATE A NEW LIFE
IN PALESTINE TODAY

•
JOIN THE

PIONEER WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION

•
National Office

275 SEVENTH AVENUE, NEW YORK CITY

In 1925 there was founded the Pioneer Women's Organization, a Labor Zionist Organization, dedicated to the upbuilding of Palestine along cooperative lines, participating actively in all phases of Jewish life. It strives through systematic cultural and propaganda work to educate the American Jewish woman to a more conscious role as co-worker in the establishment of a better and more just society in America and throughout the world.

The primary concern of the Pioneer Women's Organization is the training and adjustment of women and girls in Palestine and social services to mothers and children. The destiny of these 90,000 women and children is guided by the Moatzath Hapoaloth, the Working Women's Council in Palestine. The Pioneer Women's Organization considers it a great privilege to be the sister organization of the Moatzath Hapoaloth and its American Agency.

What Does the Moatzath Hapoaloth Do?

It concerns itself with the life of the woman from the moment she sets foot in Palestine. The Working Women's Council guides, directs, and assists the women of all ages, be they the young *refugee girls* from the German speaking countries, or the Halutzoth from Poland and other European centers imbued with the pioneering spirit, or the Palestinian-born whether of European or Oriental Jewish parentage.

FUTURE FARMERS

Women help build the land by preparing for a life on the soil. 700 girls are now in training in 9 agricultural training farms, including a training school in Jerusalem for young girls 17 years and older. These training farms offer two year courses in: Citrus culture, Tree Nursery, Vegetable Growing, Bee Raising, Care of Poultry and Cows, Kitchen, Domestic Management and Cooperative living.

TRAINING FOR INDUSTRY

Women help create new industries by preparing for work in factories, shops and offices. They are trained for the Building industry, Road making, Clerical work, Cigarette making, Weaving, Candy making, Box manufacturing, etc. Close to 2000 girls have been trained in cities and colonies in the past few years.



EMPLOYMENT BUREAUS

Employment bureaus are maintained in cities and colonies to aid women in securing employment. Special training classes are arranged for unemployed women in cooking, sewing, orange packing, etc.

WOMEN'S COOPERATIVES

Women join together in the creation of cooperatives sharing together the work. They have created Restaurant, Dress Making, Weaving, Laundry, Wicker Furniture Cooperatives.



WORKING MOTHERS AND CHILDREN

For employed working mothers, the Working Women's Council has established 6 all day Kindergartens and opened 29 more during the Orange Picking season.

SERVICES FOR CHILDREN

With the assistance of over 30 groups of the "Association of Working Mothers", there are maintained the following services:

- (1) 15 After-School Clubs with a main meal and supervised study and play. These are located in Tel-Aviv, Haifa and Jerusalem and Colonies.
- (2) Summer play camps for children.
- (3) Vacation in Labor Settlements for children of the unemployed city workers.

CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

For the newcomer in the land as well as for all women workers a cultural program is available: Study Classes, Lectures in Factories and villages, seminars, study circles, monthly publication—Dvar Hapoelet.

NEW SERVICES UNDERTAKEN BY MOATZATH HAPALOTH

- (1) Training Farms in Petach Tikvah and Nachlat Yehuda for 150 adolescent girls from German speaking countries.
- (2) Work training cooperatives for Women Refugees.
- (3) Training institutions for women workers in Towns and Colonies.
- (4) Training courses for women workers of communal groups and colonies.
- (5) Vocational school for adolescent girls.
- (6) Care, training, and guidance for children of Refugees.

May 14, 1940

100

Dear Rose:

See
I have written to Lily Fons, though
I do not know how much good it will do.

Thank you for the kind things you
say about my speeches.

Affectionately,

Miss Rose Schneiderman
80 Centre St.
NYC

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5



ROSE SCHNEIDERMAN
SECRETARY

STATE OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY
80 CENTRE ST. NEW YORK CITY

May 7, 1940

Write Lily Pons ER
Donald R. A.

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

Dearest Eleanor:

We have been negotiating with the management of Lily Pons and Andre Kostelanetz for a joint appearance at Madison Square Garden next November, for our annual benefit. Miss Pons' manager tells us that she would like to do this benefit, but because she is in the throes of a Hollywood contract, she is reluctant to do anything about it at this particular time. We of course are anxious to settle the matter so that we can go ahead in our usual way of getting the patronesses and selling our boxes.

There seems to be very little else that we can have this year. The outstanding artists are unwilling to perform for benefits and this suggestion seemed to us at first an overpowering one, because filling the Garden is far from an easy task. However, both of them performed at the Stadium last year and there was an attendance of 22,000, and many more thousands were turned away. They had tremendous success in Chicago. 30,000 came to hear them at the Stadium and while we would have to do a great deal of advertising because it is to be a sort of mass thing. We feel that we can put it over and make a tidy sum if we were to sell out completely, we could make a net profit of about \$15,000. and surely we ought to make at least 10 or 12 thousand. Miss Pons' manager is willing to handle the publicity for us.

Now then, I know that Madame Pons has a very high regard for you and that a word from you urging her to consummate the contract at this time



ROSE SCHNEIDERMAN
SECRETARY

STATE OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY
80 CENTRE ST., NEW YORK CITY

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt -2-

May 7, 1940

would go a long way toward affecting her decision. Madame Pons can be reached at 322 East 57 St. New York City. I hope it would not be too much of an imposition on you to ask you to be an angel and do this for us.

I heard you three times last week,--the Nation dinner, which I enjoyed as I haven't enjoyed a dinner for many many years, and the League of Women Voters and Saturday night at the auditorium in Washington. You were superb at all three and I enthusiastically applaud every word you said.

I was sorry that I did not get to Washington in time to attend most of the meetings, but what I saw of the conference seemed to be most worthwhile. I think for all those women to come and pay their own expenses and show interest and enthusiasm is a great compliment to the administration and to Mrs. McAllister and Mrs. Evans.

Analysing this great outpouring of the democratic women, I feel it is because for the first time the accomplishments of their party are so noteworthy, and far reaching that their genuine interest and devotion has been aroused. To have cabinet members willing to discuss the particular problems, pays tribute to the highest form of the democratic process.

With fondest love,

Affectionately,

Rose Schneiderman.

RS:G

Sch. Sic

May 20, 1940

100

Dear Rose:

Many thanks for your report on the
Merzon case. We just won't go there any more.

Affectionately,

Miss Rose Schneiderman
80 Centre St., NYC

7
DD



ROSE SCHNEIDERMAN
SECRETARY

STATE OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY
80 CENTRE ST. NEW YORK CITY

May 17, 1940

Miss Malvins Thompson
White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Malvina:

I have been after the Wages and Hours Division here for some time to get definite word on the Merzon case. It seems that the matter is in the hands of the Law Division. However, this morning, I have been told the following:

That Mrs. Merzon is now under the Wages and Hours Law. She owes the girls who worked for her about \$2000. in back pay. She is pleading poverty, which to me is a lot of silly nonsense, because the rates that she asks for her foundations and the very poor wages that she has paid must net her a very good living, also her husband is in the insurance business. Her advertisement in the Vogue now has it that she is going into the making of slacks and the cheapest ready made slacks are \$18. and those made to order are \$35. so you can imagine the type of establishment she has.

Yesterday, her forewoman came in to see me on the pretense of wanting to do war work and would I tell her just as soon as any women's division is established, etc. but the real purpose I think, was to offer me a bribe. She asked me to visit the plant and get measured for a foundation, which Mrs. Merzon would like me to have. I told her that she was barking up the wrong tree; that I accepted no gifts from employers, so altogether I think they are a rotten outfit. I wish Mrs. Roosevelt were able to transfer her patronage to someone else and teach them a good lesson.



ROSE SCHNEIDERMAN
SECRETARY

STATE OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY
80 CENTRE ST., NEW YORK CITY

Miss Malvina Thompson -2-

May 17, 1940

I am very sorry that my letter to Mrs. Roosevelt, in connection with the Pioneer's Women organization was mislaid. Should I meet any of them, I will explain what happened.

I am very grateful to Mrs. Roosevelt for writing to Lily Pons. I expect the contract to be signed any day now.

Lovingly yours,

Rose Schneiderman.

RS:G

May 20, 1940

Dear Rose:

I am so glad that I have been able
to rearrange my engagements so I will be able
to attend the World's Fair meeting of the
International Ladies' Garment Workers Union.

Affectionately,

Miss Rose Schneiderman
80 Centre Street, NYC

DD

Hand

TELEGRAM

61POC 62 D.L. 5:55pm

The White House
Washington

CA NEW YORK, N.Y., May 16, 1940.

MRS. FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT.

We are all elated with the possibility of your speaking at the World's Fair meeting of the International Ladies' Garment Workers meeting. May I add my fervent prayer that the one hundred and fifty thousand women gathered from all over the country and Canada may have the privilege and inspiration of welcoming their beloved first lady and receive her message. Much love.

ROSE SCHNEIDERMAN.

*See letter to
be also to manage
other conf. S. S.
see 20 -
2P*

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100

May 27, 1940

Dear Miss Schneiderman:

Mrs. Roosevelt asked me to acknowledge receipt of your letter of May 22nd, and to tell you that she will mention the minimum wage law in connection with the restaurant industry in her column.

Very sincerely yours,

mds

Secretary to
Mrs. Roosevelt

Honorable Rose Schneiderman
Secretary of Labor
80 Centre Street
New York, N. Y.



ROSE SCHNEIDERMAN
SECRETARY

STATE OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY
80 CENTRE ST. NEW YORK CITY

OK
5/27/40

May 22, 1940

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

Dearest Eleanor:

I am enclosing a little pamphlet just off the press, of the Women in Industry and Minimum Wage Division of the Labor Department. I am sure that you will find it interesting.

On the third of June an order to bring the women and minors employed in restaurants, cafeterias, lunch rooms, etc. will go into effect. Right now, the Restaurant Association is threatening to appeal the order which will stay the order from going into effect. They do this supposedly on the basis that since the hotel minimum wage is not yet established, that this will be unfair competition for them. As a matter of fact, women waitresses working in hotels are about 19% of the total of the 40,000 hotel workers who would be eligible for minimum wage. In New York, most of these hotels are under union agreement so that there would be no competition there. Also the hotel minimum wage board is already in session and the most it will take is four months for the order on hotels to be effective. We suspect that the restaurateurs association is and has been opposed to minimum wage laws for their industry and they take this opportunity to defer the operation of minimum wage.

h. c. c. c.

I wonder if after reading the pamphlet you would feel like saying something in your column to the effect that it is comforting to know that the 50,000 women and minors in the restaurant industry are about to come under minimum wage. An account of the recommendations



STATE OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY
80 CENTRE ST. NEW YORK CITY

Mrs. Roosevelt

-2- May 22, 1940

made by the restaurant minimum wage board is on Page 6, should you want to glance over it very hastily.

You are a darling to say that you will no longer patronize the Merzon place. In this connection, may I tell you a story going around. A very famous lady who does a great deal of traveling bought her foundation in a very swanky shop. Shortly afterwards, letters came from employees telling of the miserable wages paid to them. This famous lady immediately had the matter brought to the attention of the Hours and Wages Administration and an investigator visited this particular shop to find whether the interstate commerce law applied. A young Irishman in the plant in discovering what the trouble was said to the investigator, "sure, everything that lady wears is interstate commerce". I think it is a swell story.

I have heard the glad news that you are to speak for the I.L.G. delegates at the Fair and we are all delighted.

I heard you on the air Monday night and you were swell.

Best love,

Affectionately yours,

Rose Schneiderman.

RS:G

100
May 28, 1940

Dear Rose:

I am sending you the reply I received from Lily Pons about the annual benefit of the Women's Trade Union League.

Affectionately,

Miss Rose Schneiderman
80 Centre Street
New York
New York

ds

100
June 24, 1940

Dear Rose:

I think the idea for a "phantom" benefit is fine. How much do you want me to contribute?

I would love to have you come up to Hyde Park any weekend for lunch. It would be grand to see you.

Affectionately,

Miss Rose Schneiderman
NY Trade Women's League
247 Lex. Ave., NYC

mds

NEW YORK WOMEN'S TRADE UNION LEAGUE
247 LEXINGTON AVENUE
NEW YORK

ESTABLISHED 1903

TEL CALEDONIA 9-0684



ROSE SCHNEIDERMAN, PRESIDENT
MARY E. DREIER, VICE-PRESIDENT
PAULINE M. NEWMAN, VICE-PRESIDENT
HELEN BLANCHARD, VICE-PRESIDENT
DOROTHY SCHIFF BACKER, TREASURER
CARA COOK, SECRETARY
NORA PIONE, EDUCATIONAL DIRECTOR

June 19, 1940

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

Dearest Eleanor:

It is with deep regret that I must write you of the action taken by our Benefit Committee this week. We decided we would have to abandon our plans for the most attractive program of Miss Pons and Andre Kostelanetz.

In discussing the matter, we came to the conclusion that in these distressing days the responsibility of such an undertaking was something we dared not venture into.

The Benefit Committee decided instead to have a "phantom" benefit. That means asking all the friends who have patronized our benefits for the past several years to contribute the amount of their box or tickets outright to the educational work the League is doing. Mrs. Harold Lehman has kindly consented to be chairman of this campaign. She is a sweet and lovely human being, and I am sure will do whatever she can to make the undertaking successful.

I feel terribly that we have had to give up such an attractive affair, especially since we troubled you to write Miss Pons and urge her to accept the engagement, but I know you will understand our situation. It would have involved an outlay of at least \$15,000, and in view of recent developments, we simply could not be sure of the usual response. The thought of it was a night-mare to me, as it would have meant our going into debt -- something I could not bear. Therefore, I am glad of the Committee's decision.

I have written Miss Pons telling her how disappointed we all are in having to take this course. I hope she will understand and forgive us.

I would so much like to see you when you finally get to New York, to discuss some question with you. I could come up to Hyde Park if you should like me to.

With deep appreciation for your help which is ever constant, and with fondest love to you, I am,

Faithfully yours,

Rose Schneiderman
President

Handwritten notes:
Miss How
Thank you
Come up
end for

ack
6/24/40

*needs
mk*

6/25/40

100

MISS ROSE SCHNEIDERMAN
NEW YORK WOMENS TRADE UNION LEAGUE
247 LEXINGTON AVENUE
NEW YORK N Y

I WILL BE VERY GLAD TO SERVE AS HONORARY CHAIRMAN FOR THE
PHANTOM BENEFIT

ELEANOR ROOSEVELT

E

TELEGRAM

2400 61 N.L. 6:52am

The White House
Washington

Ans
6/25/40

MF NEW YORK, N.Y., June 24, 1940.

MRS. FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT.

Our benefit committee members are now ready to send out personal appeals for contributions to a phantom benefit in place of the Pons Kostelanetz concert. They ask if you will again serve as honorary chairman. Mrs. Harold Lehman will be chairman this year. May we count on you again. You know how much it means to us. Affectionately,

Rose Schneiderman.

Yes

File

100

Hyde Park, N.Y.
July 2, 1940

Dear Rose:

I am enclosing my check for the
"phantom benefit".

I am terribly sorry that I will
not be here on Saturday the 6th. Could
you come on Sunday the 7th, to the Big
House, for, if the President is still here,
I will be over there? I shall, of course,
expect Miss Cook too.

Affectionately,

0

Miss Rose Schneiderman
80 Centre Street
NYC

7050, 00
level
initialed
10/5



ROSE SCHNEIDERMAN
SECRETARY

STATE OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY
80 CENTRE ST. NEW YORK CITY

June 28, 1940

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt
Hyde Park, N. Y.

Dearest Eleanor:

Many, many thanks to you for your note, as well as for your willingness to serve as honorary chairman for our "Phantom Benefit".

The committee has decided to ask former box holders if they will give the amount of the box less 25% which goes into overhead when a benefit is held. In the past two years, you shared a box with Mrs. James Roosevelt, and therefore you would only need to give your share for half of the box. The boxes for the past two years were \$60. each and whatever you will give will be trebly appreciated.

You are awfully good to ask me to come to lunch at Hyde Park and I appreciate it very much. Cara Cook, our Secretary and I are going up to Hudson Shore Labor School for the week end of July 4th and if that is convenient for you Cara has a car and can drive me over in time for luncheon next Saturday. It is sweet and darling of you to ask me. It will be grand to have an opportunity of talking to you. May I hear from you as to whether Saturday the 6th is alright with you?

With deep devotion, I am,

Affectionately yours,

RS

Rose Schneiderman.

Regret write be late to

RS:G

*Could they come Sunday 7th to big house as will be late
and then they could go to 10 home*

bid & pay ^{for}

women's Trade Union

League for their

benefit?

↑

Mallie

Yes

attached

cont.

all

100

July 2, 1940

Dear Rose:

Mrs. Roosevelt asks if you would please have some one investigate this case at once. The woman sounds rather desperate and if she is all right and someone will help her get a job, Mrs. Roosevelt will tide her over until she can go to work.

Affectionately,

Miss Rose Schneiderman
Department of Labor
80 Centre Street
New York
N.Y.

0

1 Mrs. Marie D. Sarkar
143-49 Franklin Avenue
Flushing, L.I.

50 yrs old - "always a contributor to society, but now thrown on the scrap heap".
Much is being done for refugees and relief is no solution to her problem.
Thinks it would be logical to have "guns turned on such people" as herself
in order to make room for refugees.

100

July 12, 1940

Dear Rose:

Thank you for sending the report from
Mrs. Sylvander on the case of Mrs. Maria Sarkar.
I am sure that this will be a help, and Mrs.
Roosevelt appreciates what you have done.

Affectionately,

Miss Rose Schneiderman
Department of Labor
80 Centre Street
New York, N.Y.



ROSE SCHNEIDERMAN
SECRETARY

STATE OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY
80 CENTRE ST. NEW YORK CITY

*Thank -
for this most help -*

July 10th, 1940.

Miss Malvina C. Thompson,
Hyde Park,
New York.

Dear Malvina:

Upon receipt of your letter Monday
re letter of Mrs. Sarkar, I immediately called up the
New York Department of Welfare and got in touch with the
supervisor in Long Island City and enclosed is a report
from Mrs. Sylvander which came this morning.

If there is anything further that
Mrs. Roosevelt would want me to do about this, I would
be more than happy to do it.

Affectionately,

Rose
Rose Schneiderman

RS:RD
Enc.



CITY OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF WELFARE

21-21 41 Avenue
Long Island City
New York

IN REPLY PLEASE
REFER TO

July 8, 1940

Re: Sarkar, Marie
143-49 Franklin Av.
Flushing, NY

Miss Rose Schneideman
Office of the Secretary
Department of Labor
New York City

Dear Miss Schneideman:

This is in reply to your telephone inquiry about Mrs. Sarkar, about whom you had received an inquiry from Mrs. Roosevelt.

Mrs. Sarkar applied to us in March, 1940, and the case was not accepted in April because upon investigation Mrs. Sarkar advised us that she was not in need of home relief but had applied to us in order to receive her WPA job back again. She had been employed on various forms of work relief from 1931 to July 25, 1939, when she was dismissed from WPA because of the eighteen months' ruling. She had obtained some part time private employment at translating but stated she did not know the name nor address of the person who had given her this work.

We are today sending a letter to Mrs. Sarkar indicating that if she is in need of home relief at this time and wishes us to make an investigation, that she may apply to our Division at once.

Very truly yours,

Mary Sylvander
Mary Sylvander
Administrator

MS:mcc

File

X
July 17

100

July 13, 1940

Dear Rose:

I understood perfectly about the delay
in the mail and was only sorry not to see you.

Couldn't you come up next ^{*Friday*} Saturday, the
19th? We are having the Hudson Shore Labor School
girls here for a picnic and I think you might enjoy
being here at the same time.

Affectionately,

0

Miss Rose Schneiderman
247 Lexington Ave.
NYC

WOMEN'S TRADE UNION LEAGUE
247 Lexington Avenue
New York

11120

July 8, 1940

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

111 101440

We acknowledge with thanks receipt of Fifty and no/100- - - Dollars

for Contribution towards "Phantom Benefit" 1940

WOMEN'S TRADE UNION LEAGUE

\$ 50.00

Treasurer

NEW YORK WOMEN'S TRADE UNION LEAGUE
247 LEXINGTON AVENUE
NEW YORK

ESTABLISHED 1903

TEL. CALEDONIA 5-0884



July 8, 1940

ROSE SCHNEIDERMAN, PRESIDENT
MARY E. DREIER, VICE-PRESIDENT
PAULINE M. NEWMAN, VICE-PRESIDENT
HELEN BLANCHARD, VICE-PRESIDENT
MRS. MONROE GOLDWATER, TREASURER
CARA COOK, SECRETARY
NORA PIORE, EDUCATIONAL DIRECTOR

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

Dearest Eleanor:

I was terribly distressed to find on my return to the office this morning your kind invitation to Miss Cara Cook and myself to have dinner at Hyde Park yesterday. Careful instructions were left in my office, while I was away for the holiday, about notifying me, and as far as I can determine, it was simply a delay in the mails that brought this about.

You realize, I know, how badly we both feel about it, especially as we were right across the river, and should so have enjoyed coming over. I know you will forgive it.

I'll be happy, of course, to come out to Hyde Park any Saturday or Sunday this month, if you can set another convenient time. It might be safer to send word to the League office than to the Department.

I want also, my dear, to thank you for the generous and welcome contribution to our phantom benefit which came this morning. You are very prompt and very kind to send it. Two or three other friends have also responded, and we feel encouraged, for our treasury was certainly feeling the summer slump, and we must get our fall educational plans under way very soon.

Again, with our deepest thanks for your never-failing help,

Affectionately,

Rose
Thank the committee secretary
when Hilda Blau & ...
for ...

August 9, 1940

(10)

Dear Rose:

Mrs. Roosevelt asks me to tell you
that a Saturday night will be satisfactory for the
dinner and that she would rather have it after
the inauguration.

Affectionately,

Miss Rose Schneiderman
New York Women's Trade Union League
247 Lexington Avenue
New York, N.Y.

ack
8-9

NEW YORK WOMEN'S TRADE UNION LEAGUE
247 LEXINGTON AVENUE
NEW YORK

ESTABLISHED 1903

TEL. CALEDONIA 5-0884



ROSE SCHNEIDERMAN, PRESIDENT
MARY E. DREIER, VICE-PRESIDENT
PAULINE M. NEWMAN, VICE-PRESIDENT
HELEN BLANCHARD, VICE-PRESIDENT
DOROTHY SCHIFF BACKER, TREASURER
CARA COOK, SECRETARY
NORA FIORE, EDUCATIONAL DIRECTOR

August 2, 1940

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt
Hyde Park
New York

Dearest Eleanor:

Before leaving for my vacation, I felt I had to write you and tell you how deeply I appreciate your willingness to have the League give you a dinner next January. You know that we are all devoted to you and that we love you deeply; it will mean a tremendous lot to us to have the opportunity of feasting you.

I wonder whether a Saturday night would be all right with you? I know it would be very good for the labor folks. Which would be better for you -- before or after Inauguration? We will have to make a reservation at one of the hotels, (very likely the Commodore) and if it's all right with you, we would prefer a Saturday to a Monday evening.

*Yes - 9/6/40
Inauguration*

May I also at this belated time thank you for the letter you sent to the Democratic Platform Committee on "Equal Rights." It helped tremendously. The plank on women's work in the Democratic Platform is an excellent one. It gives the business and professional women what they want, and at the same time does not hurt the industrial women.

With profound appreciation, and all kinds of good wishes to you and our beloved President in the coming campaign, I am,

Devotedly yours,

Rose

Rose Schneiderman
President

NEW YORK WOMEN'S TRADE UNION LEAGUE
247 LEXINGTON AVENUE
NEW YORK

TEL. CALEDONIA 5-0684

204

AUG 13 1940

August 12, 1940

Miss Malvina Thompson
Secretary to Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt
White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Miss Thompson:

Miss Schneiderman is vacationing, and your letter of August 9th has been opened by me.

I am sure Miss Schneiderman will be very pleased to hear that a Saturday night will be satisfactory to Mrs. Roosevelt.

As soon as Miss Schneiderman returns, your note will be brought to her attention, for she will then want to reserve a date, after inauguration, at one of the hotels.

Sincerely yours,

Katherine Burke

Katherine Burke
Secretary to Rose Schneiderman

uopwa
16

Bx 1576

100

September 10, 1940

My dear Miss Schneiderman:

Thank you for your letter of the
4th and the letter from Miss Sylvander
concerning Mrs. Marie Sarkar.

Very sincerely yours,

Secretary to
Mrs. Roosevelt

Miss Rose Schneiderman
Department of Labor
Albany
New York

d.

NEW YORK
80 Centre St.

ALBANY
State Office Bldg.

BUFFALO
State Office Bldg.

ROCHESTER
70 Exchange St.

SYRACUSE
214 So. Warren St.

UTICA
106 Foster Bldg.

BINGHAMTON
502 Press Bldg.

STATE OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

OFFICE OF THE INDUSTRIAL COMMISSIONER



Thompson
Ans.
9-10-40

September 4, 1940

Miss Malvina Thompson
White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Malvina:

I have just returned from a month's vacation and found the enclosed letter from Miss Sylvander. I thought Mrs. Roosevelt would be interested in its contents.

With fondest regards, I am,

Faithfully yours,

Rose Schneiderman

Rose Schneiderman,
Secretary

RS:G
ENC.



RECEIVED
SECRETARY'S OFFICE

AUG 8 1940

CITY OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF WELFARE

21-21 41 Avenue
Long Island City
New York

IN REPLY PLEASE REFER TO

ROSE SCHNEIDERMAN

August 5, 1940

Re: Sarkar, Marie
143-49 Franklin Ave.
Flushing, N Y

Miss Rose Schneiderman
Office of the Secretary
Department of Labor
New York City

Dear Miss Schneiderman:

As requested by you, we got in touch with Mrs. Sarkar and told her if she found herself in need of assistance we would be glad to reconsider her case if she cared to reapply. She did come to our intake department. However, in the interview we had with her she indicated that she was not willing to give us the information which we explained to her we would need to have in order to determine whether or not she was eligible for public assistance. As a matter of fact, during the interview she indicated to us that she had other income although she refused to disclose how much this amounted to.

I am sorry we are unable to help Mrs. Sarkar at this time. She understands, however, if she is in need in the future she may reapply to us and at such time as she is willing to give us sufficient information to establish her eligibility we will be glad to give her relief.

Very truly yours,

Mary Sylvander
Administrator

MS:moc

100

September 27, 1940

Dear Rose:

See
I have written to Mr. Broach saying that I cannot speak for the group of striking employees, but that I hope an equitable settlement will soon be effected.

I would be glad to see a group of the Leviton girls at my apartment if it would help, but not for publicity. I think I understand the situation.

Affectionately,

Miss Rose Schneiderman
247 Lexington Avenue
NYC

0



Local Union No. 3
International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers
OF GREATER NEW YORK AND VICINITY

OFFICE AND HEADQUARTERS

130 East 25th Street, New York, N. Y.

Telephone GRamercy 5-3260-1-2

AFFILIATED WITH
AMERICAN FEDERATION
OF LABOR
CENTRAL TRADES AND
LABOR COUNCIL
NEW YORK
BUILDING & CONSTRUCTION
TRADES COUNCIL
AND ALL STATE AND
CENTRAL BODIES

September 24th, 1940
*Report of your letter
burroughs*

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

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Seventeen hundred factory workers are on strike in Brooklyn, New York. Over one thousand of these are girls and women.

These workers are struggling to compel the Leviton Manufacturing Company to comply with the National Labor Relations Act, the Wage and Hour Law, the Factory Laws, Sanitation Laws - and for living wages and decent conditions. Many of these workers have been receiving only \$11.00 and \$12.00 a week for 42 hours. Many men with families to feed have gone home at the end of the week with only \$13.00 and \$14.00. The enclosed clippings convey some of the shocking conditions under which these people labor.

The striking employees - and the officers of this Union - have empowered me to urge upon you to address them at one of their meetings, held every Monday, Wednesday and Friday morning at 9:30 o'clock at the New National Hall, Driggs and Eckford Streets, Brooklyn.

If you could possibly come, you would find a most humble and grateful audience - and we are convinced that if you could only realize the great service you could render these poor people, then we know you would come without delay.

Surely you will do your best to accept. May we not also ask that you please advise us as soon as possible?

Gratefully yours,

H. H. Broach

H. H. Broach

Director of Education (In charge of Leviton Strike)

HHB;MM



VISIT THE NEW YORK WORLD'S FAIR ELECTRIFIED ON A 6 HOUR DAY — 30 HOUR WEEK

6 HOUR DAY

Leviton Manufacturing Co.... Case History of a Labor Dispute

At Factory in Brooklyn, 1700 Strike for a Decent Life

By LEO HUBERMAN



Every night on the picket line the strikers carry an illuminated sign that reads:

"Lincoln Freed the Slaves
Leviton Never Heard of Lincoln."

Today the strike of the 1700 employees of the Leviton Manufacturing Co., 238 Greenpoint Ave., Brooklyn, enters its third week. At 5:30 a.m., Aug. 28, in a driving rain about 600 Leviton workers began picketing. By Thursday at 4 p.m. the walk-out was almost complete. Friday morning the management told some 30 odd workers still in the plant that there would be no more work. Except for part of the office staff and a few men in the bakelite department, there is no more work.

Strike headquarters have been set up about a block from the plant, at 175 Greenpoint Ave. Local 3, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, AFL, the union that organized the workers, maintains a 24-hour strike kitchen across the street.

The union paid out more than \$10,000 in strike benefits last Wednesday. Today some 1400 strikers will again line up to receive their \$7 a week. A few strikers feel they don't need the money, some have found other jobs, for many the \$7 weekly benefit is half of what they formerly received for a week's work.

A \$2,000,000 Firm

The Leviton company manufactures, distributes, and sells electrical appliances. Among its chief customers are Woolworth's, Sears Roebuck and Montgomery Ward. It is a \$2,000,000 corporation, one of the leaders in its field. The Greenpoint plant is four stories high and covers an area of almost two square blocks.

Why did the workers walk out?

My answer to that question is, of necessity, the workers' answer. I have spent several days interviewing them, visiting those in their homes, watching them. The story they tell is shocking. It is hard to believe that the conditions they describe could exist in Brooklyn in 1940. But I have a file of affidavits in support of their charges. And PM photographers took pictures that bear out the story as much as pictures can.

I tried to get the employer's side of the story. I went to the plant and asked to see Mr. Leviton. I was shown into an office where William L. Schwartz, lawyer for the firm, greeted me. No one else was in the room.

Not in Wagner Act

Mr. Schwartz held my card in his hand. Nevertheless, he asked to see my credentials. I showed him my police card. That satisfied him—for a moment. I told him that I had spent some time with the workers and now I wanted to hear the employer's version of the dispute.

"Is it true, Mr. Schwartz, as the workers charge, that there are not enough toilets in the plant?"

"I don't know anything about that. This building has been up 15 years. Anyway, the number of toilets is not part of a labor dispute. There's nothing in the Wagner Act about the number of toilets."

"It's true, Mr. Schwartz," I replied, "that there is nothing in the Wagner Act about toilets. But it is not true that the number

LABOR



Margie got an eyelet in her thumb.
Photo by Martin Harris, PM Staff



Jane lost a finger in a power press.
Photo by Mary Morris, PM Staff

of toilets is not part of a labor dispute. It is, in fact, part of this labor dispute."

"I don't know anything about that."

"Is it true, Mr. Schwartz, that girls who have been hurt in the plant have been put back on the same machines, or have not been given jobs at all?"

"You're wasting my time, Mr. Huberman."

With that Mr. Schwartz went to the phone, called PM, and asked for Mr. Huberman. Evidently he was told that I was out, because he said:

"Not in? Thank you."

I didn't know what to make of this performance. When he said, "I don't want to say any more," I left.

Threaten Suit

The next day I phoned Mr. Leviton. I told him I planned to do a series of articles on the strike, and wanted to give him another opportunity to tell his side of the story.

He replied that he didn't want to talk to me.

"We're watching PM very closely. You print a few lies and you will have a few libel suits, I'm warning you."

What follows, then, is the story of the conditions in the Leviton plant, chiefly as told to me by the strikers. I have checked on the story. Some data was available from other sources. That is also included.

Jane Wocleski lost a joint and a half of the second finger of her right hand while working on a power press at Leviton's. The accident occurred at 4:10 p.m., Oct. 27, 1939.

Last Wednesday afternoon Jane said, she

complained that her machine repeated (came down twice instead of once). She declared she was told to stay home Thursday while the mechanic fixed it. Friday she started work and found that the machine was still repeating, she said, and told the mechanic. He answered, "You're imagining things." Nevertheless he did some work on it and the repeating stopped, according to her story. At 3:45 it started again. She declared she told him and he said, "Go ahead, work, but take it easy. The day's almost over."

Finger Smashed

Twenty-five minutes later her finger was smashed.

"They took me upstairs. I had to wait an hour before the doctor came. Dr. Gobel, the company doctor, took me to the Wyckoff Heights Hospital, then left. At 10 p.m. he returned, took me to the operating room, and performed the operation. The finger is not healed yet. It still pains me."

"I got compensation from the State Insurance Fund—\$442.50."

I asked if she was still working at the plant.

"No. At the time of the accident, Leavenworth, the superintendent, promised me a job in the assembly room. A month and a half later when I applied to him for a job he said, 'You're just like a new girl. No job. If you want to work on the power press again, O.K.'"

Jane is 25, married and has a girl five and a half years old who was born crippled. Her husband, Gus, has been working at

Striking Painters Break Off Negotiations

Striking painters in Manhattan, Richmond and the Bronx last night broke off negotiations with the Master Painters Association and set out to break the Association.

Louis Weinstein, secretary-treasurer of District Council 9 of the Painters Union, said:

"The union is no longer prepared to do business with the Association, but will de-

live to any contractor, builder or real estate operator as many men as are needed to paint up New York for moving day—if individual union contracts are signed."

Weinstein also said that the 140 independent contractors who had already signed with the union, but had been restrained from doing work ordinarily done by Association members, were now invited to "dive in and pick up whatever business they can."

Here's What 'Piece-Work' and Speed-Up' Mean in Human Terms

Leviton's for seven years. He averages \$18 to \$20 a week.

Jane's friend, Helen Coetz, also worked on a power press at Leviton's. When she started there four years ago the second finger on her right hand was injured. Friday, July 19, 1940, the tip of the same finger was again injured. The guard was not down far enough, she claims.

She was out five weeks. Her compensation from the insurance fund, she says, has been \$24 to date.

Helen got her job back the week before the strike broke, on a smaller but more dangerous power press with no guard on it at all. I asked her if she had applied for a place in another department. She said:

"No, what was the use? Jane tried and couldn't get one."

I saw other girls whose fingers lacked a joint or two. They're not hard to find among Leviton workers.

Less serious but even more common are swollen fingers, which indicate that a metal eyelet one-eighth of an inch in diameter and one-quarter to one-half inch long was once embedded there. The brass or copper eyelet is supposed to go into a socket to hold the contact in place. Sometimes it goes into the finger of the operator.

Margie's Thumb

Margie Dell'Era's left thumb still has a bump where an eyelet went into it a year ago. The company doctor pulled the eyelet out. Margie went back to work on another eyelet machine. She had averaged \$12.60 to \$14 a week but after the accident she earned only \$12.

Margie lives with her parents and a brother in a four-room flat in Bedford Heights. The rent is \$18 a month. Her father once owned an ice business but is now unemployed. Her brother works as a helper on a truck for \$12 a week.

I asked 18-year-old Elinor Andrews, whose first job was on the eyelet machine at Leviton's, how much she made. She answered, "I make good—\$16 to \$17 a week." Elinor had an eyelet in her finger that the nurse couldn't get out. A foreman pulled it out with a pair of pliers.

Faster Work

According to the strikers, eyelet machines have no guards. But the foot-presses have them. The guards are not in place, the workers charge, because they slow up production. And the foremen in many departments, according to the strikers, are after them every minute to produce faster.

"Why didn't you have the guard in place?" I asked those who were injured. The unflinching reply was that with the guard in place, they couldn't "make out"—which means they could not produce the required amount of piece work.

On the foot presses, I was told, the practice is never to have the guard down unless the inspector is coming. Twice a year the inspector arrives. The girls always know he's coming because, about an hour before, the mechanics go around and put the guards down. When the inspector is gone the signal is given and the guards go up again, employer charge.

(This is the first of a series of articles.)

TURN THE PAGE

LABOR

Why Leviton Workers Strike

In 1939, the Leviton Manufacturing Co., Inc., sold more sockets, plugs and electrical wiring devices than in 1935. Its profits were greater, too. For the first two months of 1940, volume and earnings were even greater than in 1939.

But the balance sheet for the workers was not so sweet. Their wages remained low as before, they were subject to the same abuses from foremen; the hated speed-up continued in force; girls' fingers were smashed.

To better their conditions hundreds of workers joined Local 3, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. On Aug. 28, they went out on strike.



Meteur is the trademark on the socket manufactured at Leviton's and sold in Woolworth stores.



The new Leviton plant at 236 Greenpoint Ave., Brooklyn, has a floor space of about 2,000,000 square feet. Three branch warehouses and sales offices are in Chicago, Los Angeles and San Francisco.



Helen Goetz lost the tip of her right index finger on a power press at Leviton.

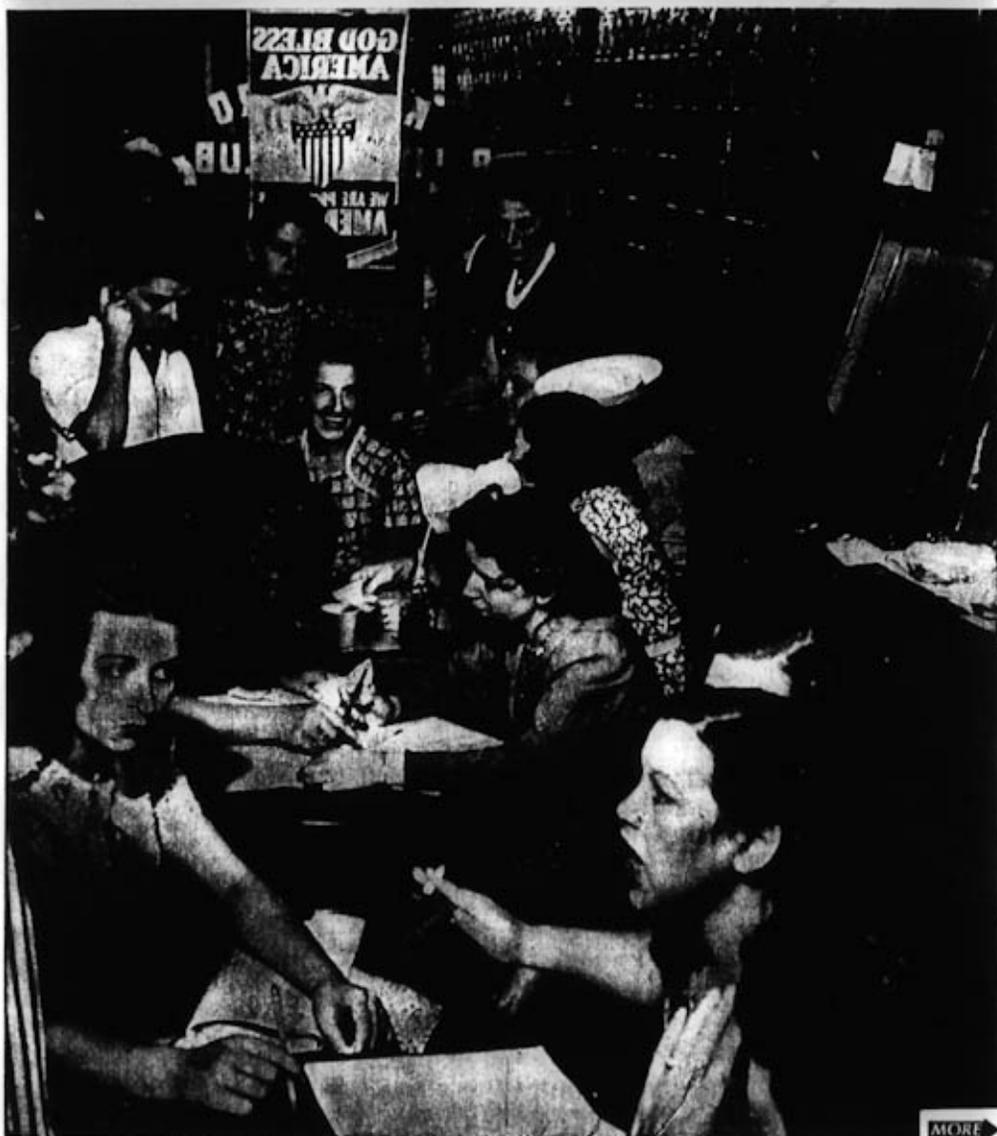


On the power press operated by Jane Wocalswski there was a safety guard designed to push the operator's hand out of danger. Twenty minutes before quitting time on the afternoon of Oct. 27, 1939, the guard didn't work. The

story of Jane's injury is in the State Department of Labor files. "For 100 per cent loss of use of right index finger, \$442.50." Jane was promised a job in another department, didn't get it.

Photos by Martin Hara, PH Staff

1700 Employees Seek Better Conditions



MORE

Workers report for strike duty at union headquarters, 173 Greenpoint Ave., and are assigned to various jobs—picketing, serving in the strike kitchen, running errands, cheering up the downhearted. Organizing the organized

on a strike is no easy task. At strike meetings each morning all the workers listen to latest strike news and get advice from leaders. At headquarters general instructions are made specific. Photo by Martin Harris, PM Staff

LEVITON STRIKE
CONTINUED

Parades and Police Are Part of Strikes



At 5:30 a.m. on Aug. 28, Leviton workers established their first picket line. It was in a driving rain; many were bare-headed and without raincoats; but the pickets kept parading, and they're still marching today. The picket

line, classic symbol of labor struggle, has been called "the poor man's newspaper"; often it serves another purpose—to keep non-strikers away from work. The big sign is a gibe at Isidore Leviton's well known philanthropies.



Leviton strikers started off with a mass picket line, but it didn't last long. It wasn't the rain that stopped it. Police broke it up—none too gently.



This regiment of nightstick-swinging policemen stopped mass picketing, but neither they nor the rain dampened the strikers' ardor. At Leviton, as often elsewhere, striking workers feel that police represent the boss rather than the public.

Photos by Steven Derry, FM Staff

\$7 a Week Is Better Than Losing a Finger



This scene, photographed a year ago, was repeated this morning when Local 3 again paid out more than \$10,000 in strike benefits. Some strikers didn't believe it could happen until the \$7 was in their hands.



Free sandwiches and coffee, \$7 in his pocket, and spirits high—a shino was obviously in order. A good polish on your shoes makes picketing easy. Good shoes make it easier—but plenty at Leviton don't have them.



Diagonally across the street from strike headquarters, at 176 Greenpoint Ave., the union runs a strike canteen. Expenses are paid by Local 3. The food is prepared by a strikers' committee and given free to the strikers. Menu

yesterday: sandwiches and coffee. Very good. Exceptionally hard-hit families get, in addition, more food, money and clothes. The going isn't easy—but few complain.

Photos by Alan Fisher, PM Staff

FOREIGN

Berlin and London Trade Blow for Blow in Air War

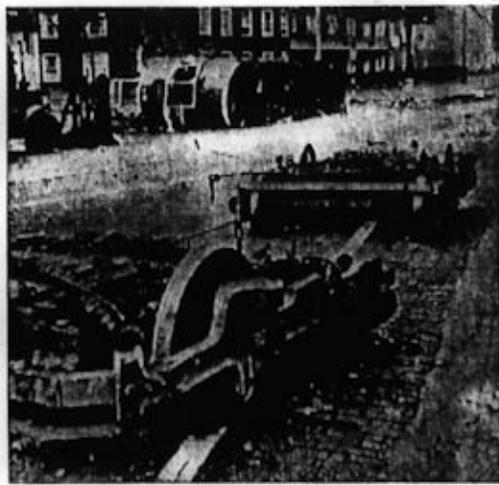


ABOVE: A nurse carries a baby from a London hospital damaged by bombs during a German raid on the British capital early yesterday.

LEFT: In Berlin, a suburban housewife salvages bedding from a home blasted by British bombs as the RAF struck back at the Nazi capital.

BELOW: Nazi raiders, in a return engagement, ripped the body from these street car trucks and hurled it, virtually intact, to the opposite curb.

Cabled Photos by Wire World



Why the Strike at Leviton? Read What the Workers Say

Employees Complain of Speed-Up . . . Bullying . . . Low Wages

This is the second of a series of articles entitled *The Case History of a Labor Dispute*, concerning the current strike of 1700 employees of Leviton Manufacturing Co., Brooklyn, makers of electrical appliances. The striking union is Local 3 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, A.F.L.

By LEO HUBERMAN

The speed-up takes many forms at the Leviton Manufacturing Co. in Greenpoint, Brooklyn. One, described in this series yesterday, sometimes results in injuries to operators' fingers because the safety guard that slows up production is left up.

In the chain department, the workers say, the foreman uses other tactics. He bullies the operators. When Gus Sammut doesn't think the men cutting the bead chains are working fast enough, he curses them, then he pinches, punches, and pokes them. Edward Weber, who has been working at Leviton's for two years for \$16.65 a week found this treatment more than he could bear.

'He's Terrible'

"One day," he said, "Gus had been picking on me all day. Then finally he grabbed me by the throat and started shaking me viciously. I couldn't stand it anymore so I punched him."

"Then I went down to Leavenworth, the superintendent, to have my department changed. Gus came after me and begged me not to. But he's terrible. He won't even give us waste or rags to wipe our hands after work. The boys have to bring their own rags to wipe their hands clean of grease and oil."

Edward, who is 19, lives with his mother in a ground floor flat in the Ridgewood section of Brooklyn. His mother does the janitor work, for which there is a deduction in their rent. They pay \$28 a month. His father died last April.

He was graduated from P. S. 81 in February, 1936, went to Crown Cleveland High School for one year, then to Brooklyn Boys Vocational School for two years. Leviton's was his first job. He enjoyed school and would have liked to continue his studies, "but there wasn't enough money coming in."

Privacy Invaded

The men are cursed, the women have their privacy invaded. Affidavits in my possession assert that a supervisory employe has several times marched into the ladies' room without knocking on the door. In one such intrusion he found a girl smoking there and reported the fact to the foreman. She was sent home for the day.

Another affidavit completes the picture. "A foreman has for years been fooling around with girls working in the plant. He follows them into the ladies' room, and did that to me. I have seen him physically handling the girls while they were at work, squeezing them and making lascivious remarks. He constantly uses filthy language to the girls. He openly makes intimate remarks in front of the girls."

This same man, according to another affidavit, makes it a practice of borrowing money from the girls working in his department. They are forced loans. The girls are

LABOR

threatened with trouble, even firing, if they don't lend him the money.

Once four years ago the foreman insisted that a woman lend him \$50 entrusted to her by several girls saving together in a vacation-club fund. Another employe had the money on deposit in her name. The foreman attempted for this other employe to leave her work so she could go to the bank to draw out the money.

For eight months, the woman tried to collect the money without success. She offered to take \$2 a week if only he would pay back the loan. Nothing doing. A week before Christmas, the foreman received a handsome bonus from the firm and one dollar apiece from the 150 girls as a Xmas gift. For many of them it was pay up-or else. When the woman threatened to go to the superintendent if he didn't pay back the money, the foreman threw the \$50 at her and said:

"Now I know what you are. I'm a pretty hard nut to crack. From now on you're going to find it pretty hard to get along here."

Fortunately for her, Mr. Leavenworth, to whom she told the story, put another foreman in his place after three weeks. Unfortunately, the revenge that might have

Yesterday I telephoned Iddon Leviton, president of the Leviton manufacturing Company. I asked—for the third time—for a chance to interview him. Twice before he had refused an appointment. This time he said if I called him Friday he'd see me. When I learn from Mr. Leviton his side of the story of the strike, PM will print it.

—LEO HUBERMAN

been visited, on her fell on her daughter, whose department was then headed by the foreman. He made life miserable for the daughter, gave her more difficult operations so she couldn't earn much. Whenever she complained, his customary retort was: "Shut up, don't think you're my mother."

It's No Secret

This type of treatment is not a secret. Almost everyone in the plant is aware of it. The heads of the firm cannot plead ignorance of these conditions.

The workers are bitter about the practice, which they say is prevalent, of putting them on a time basis whenever their machines get out of order. Ordinarily on piece work, their wages drop while they sit around, sometimes for hours, waiting for their machines to be adjusted by the mechanics.

"I am paid piece work. When steadily employed for a full week, I get about \$16. At other times I make only \$10. This is due to the fact that when the machine is out of order I am put on a time basis."

This loss of wages is a sore subject with Leviton workers. So is the alleged absence, in some departments, of adequate toilet accommodations. The company claims there are plenty of accommodations, but here is what the girls say about it:

In the eyalet department only two bowls are provided for some 55 girls. For six months one of the bowls has been out of order.

In three departments on the third floor of the old building, where more than 250 girls are employed, there are only five

From \$13 to \$18...and \$18 to \$13



Evelyn Bier and her mother are active strikers. After seven years in the Leviton plant, Evelyn's wages have risen from \$13 to \$18. Her mother's have fallen from \$15 to \$13.

Photo by Martin Harris, PM Staff

toilet bowls, one of which is always out of order.

For 300 girls on the fourth floor of the new building, there are six bowls, some of which are almost always out of use.

I asked the girl who gave me the last figure what was wrong with the unusable bowls. Her answer was: "They're so flooded you'd need a canoe to get to them."

No Security

That there is no security on the job is to be expected. There seldom is in non-union plants. But what might be expected would be the transfer of an employe injured on the job to another department where he could earn a week's wages.

That's all that William Casavan, a Leviton employe for six years, asked. He didn't get it.

In the bakelite department, where Casavan worked for one year, powder is first compressed into pill form, then the molders put the pills into molds for triple outlets and other appliances. Casavan says he averaged \$25 a week for 36 hours in the winter, \$20 in summer.

"On the 9th of July my left eye felt like there was something in it. I couldn't keep it open. The next day both eyes were bad, red, blotched, itchy, full of pus. I was sent to Dr. Gobel, the company physician. I asked him if it was rain rash."

(Rain rash is fairly common among the workers in this department. It breaks out on the arms and legs. Casavan knows at least ten workers in his department who have had it.)

"The doctor replied, 'It might be.' Then

You Still Can Move

A week's grace in the threatened strike of the Teamsters Union was obtained by Mayor LaGuardia yesterday at a conference with union officials and employe representatives in Washington. Next Thursday owners and drivers will meet again, to discuss the arbitration machinery upon which they have been unable to agree.

Dan Tobin, international president of the union, warned that a "stoppage of work" would "undoubtedly obtain" if no agreement was reached on the contract now up for renewal between the truckers' associations and Local 807 of the Teamsters.

he gave me some pills to battle my eyes. It didn't bother me again until the 25th. I worked between the 9th and 25th. Then on the 25th both eyes closed again.

"I was sent to Dr. Edelstein who told me to quit that job. I asked him to give me a letter to Leavenworth, the superintendent, to place me in another department. He said, 'I'll do better, I'll speak to him.' He did."

"But Leavenworth would not give me another job. I argued with him. I said if it's money that's keeping you from giving me a job, I'll take last upstairs. I'll take anything to get back to work. But he wouldn't give me another job."

Casavan is 27, married, has one child. His wife, who works in the cool-act department at Leviton's, averages \$15 to \$10 a week. He lost three children. "I fell back about seven or eight months in rent. That's why my kid sister-in-law came to live with us. She earns about \$12 a week in the test press department."

Casavan's experience at Leviton's has made him an ardent trade unionist.

Bleeding Hands

May Reilly, too, is another staunch believer in unions. She is 58, married. Three months after her marriage 40 years ago, her husband, who was an officer in a plant in Queens County, had his sleeve caught in a machine and lost his arm. He has since tried to get a job everywhere. No luck. His wife supports him.

She has worked at Leviton's fourteen years. She earns about \$13.50 a week in the shell and cap department inserting linings. It's hard work.

"Our hands are blistered, bleeding. We have to soak them in spoon salts every night. If we put gloves on we can't get the work out, they hinder you. My back aches and my stomach hurts. This is a slavery job."

For two years she asked the superintendent to transfer her to another department where the work wouldn't be so hard. The answer was:

"No, I don't know where to put you." Finally her friend Margaret interceded in her behalf. The foreman advised Margaret:

"Don't go to the superintendent or she'll be fired. At this point, May paused in the recital of her difficulties to say:

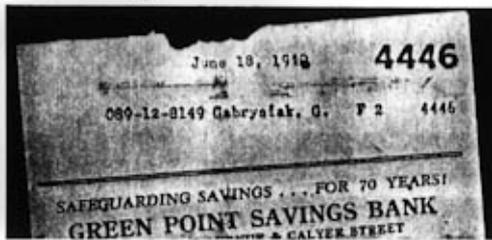
"Thank God for unions."

TURN THE PAGE

LABOR Here Are Some Striking Leviton Workers...



Edith Ward worked for Leviton 18 years; is one of the first five women the firm employed. Starting pay: \$10, present pay: \$18. She asked many times for a raise. No go.



Each week when Leviton Manufacturing Co. employees draw their pay, they were reminded that thrift is a nice idea. They found, however, that you can't save much on \$12 and \$13 a week. Leviton workers, now in their third week on the picket line, hope their union, Local 3, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, will help them really save.



While Gertrude Gabryszak, 19, was operating an electric screw driver, her hair caught in the machine. Someone turned it off in time. Left: her pay envelope.



The night Larry Marinucci won the National Guard welterweight championship in 1930, his father was hit by a car. Doctors cost money.



Oldest of 12 children is Bernice Kuszelewicz, 21. She and her sister support their family. Bernice operates a foot press in the socket department, earns \$12 to \$13 a week. To increase her earnings slightly she had to work during lunch hour. She doesn't mind striking—"There's no foreman to bully you."



For seven years John Pilosi (married, two children) worked for Leviton. He was one of the highly paid workers. Wages: \$20.25 a week.



May Reilly: "Can't buy a pair of stockings for myself." Fourteen years in the plant. Wages, \$13.50.



William Canavan worked for Leviton six years, first in the stockroom, then in the bakelite department. Resin rash, which usually hits the arms and legs, got him in the eyes. Forced to quit to save his sight.



Edward Weber cuts chains you pull to turn on the light. Supports his mother, gets \$2 a week to spend.

...The Short and Simple Annals of the Poor



Margaret Stewart has been a packer at Leviton for nine years. She took a six-month leave of absence to have her fourth child, David, now six months old, and resumed her job six weeks ago. Although she must care for the infant, she joined the strike without hesitation.



Officials of Local 3 dropped everything to rush Leonard Sauve, seven, to Greenpoint Hospital, when he became ill. The boy's mother, a foot press operator, now works in the strike kitchen. The union now is its members' Salvation Army, Health Department and relief office—all in one.



Elizabeth Cullen gets \$16 to \$19 a week. Her husband hasn't worked for seven weeks. "Children need lunch money now that school has started. Don't know what I'll do."



Last winter James Childress came up from Virginia to see the Fair. He married Helen, a Greenpoint girl, took her back home. No work. They returned to Greenpoint; both got jobs the day the strike broke. Both walked out next day.

Photos by Hugh Broderick, Martin Harris and Mary Morris, PM Staff



A widow with one son, Clara Richmond, press operator, got by on \$14 a week. Like most of her fellow-workers, she knew nothing about unions. She's learning.



Nancy Kowal, 27, never belonged to a union, now she heads the picket committee. She won't permit pickets to boo boss as he enters factory.



Two days before the strike started, Vera Lelin went to work for Leviton as a checker. Although she had less to complain about, she struck.

The Battle of Britain Bombed



Still wearing their helmets, lest the Stukas return, repairmen mend a London power line after a raid in which bombs hit the building at the left.



Safe in the neighborhood raid shelter when Nazis pounced on the Lewisham suburb where she lived, this woman lost only a chicken—and her home.