ROSE SCHNEIDERMANN
1933 - 1945
January 12, 1938

Dear Rose:

I think the idea of establishing a vacation fund in memory of Maud Swarts 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,

Miss Rose Schneiderman
247 Lexington Avenue
NYC
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
President
January 11, 1938

Received from Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Fifty and one hundred dollars.

Constitution League.

Women's Trade Union League.

247 Lexington Avenue

New York
January 25, 1938

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
President
February 14, 1933

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,

Miss Rose Schneiderman
247 Lexington Avenue
NYC
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 Bisco, 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 Bisco'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
President
Perhaps you might be in the neighborhood.

**REMEMBER**

Concert Committee meeting.

Day: Wednesday
Date: February 23rd
Time: 11:30 a.m.
Place: Women's Trade Union League, 247 Lexington Avenue.

ROSE SCHNEIDERMAN
President
Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt
White House
Washington, D. C.
April 25, 1938

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
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, 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 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 wrack 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 eternally 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.
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.

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.
My dear Mrs. Scheider:

With reference to your memorandum of April 30, 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 of this interest, they cannot attend.

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,

[Signature]

Chief of Protocol.

Enclosure:
Original letter to Mrs. Roosevelt from the Secretary of Labor of New York.
Miss Melvina Schneider
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,
Secretary.
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, pare, 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 Hayburn on Tuesday re E.R. He was greatly pleased and promised to help. Blessings on your head darling for helping us so effectively.
May 6, 1938

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

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

For your information.

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

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
President
May 16, 1938

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 Centro St.,
NYC
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.

Harr told Miss Roncador that I have explained about this Board. Am returning correspondence so that you can write Miss Scheiderman.
May 5, 1938

Mrs. Malvina Schieider
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,

[Signature]

Rose Schneiderman,
Secretary.

RS:AG
ENC.
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.

May 3, 1938,

Miss Rose Schneidermann,
New York City.

Best of good wishes, always,

[Signature]
May 19, 1936

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
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.
Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt

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

Devotedly yours,

Rose Schneiderman.

RS: AG
June 1, 1938

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
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 worthwhile 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. Shotznoff 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
Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt

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 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

You will be glad to know that Dorothy Becker is taking the chauffeurship of our two girls this year.
June 25, 1938

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,

Hon. Rose Schneiderman
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. Beachley 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
Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt

June 24, 1938

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 Schneiderman, Secretary.
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 by adding a new section, to be appropriately numbered, to read as follows:

4 § — The enjoyment of opportunities for employment in this state shall be without discrimination or preference by reason of sex, and to this end all laws regulating employment shall be based 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.
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
Miss. Rose Schneiderman

6/3/28
July 11, 1938

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
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 up-
state. 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 served the legisla-
ture, 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 Women's 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
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 perky and dramatic as the hearing we put over. The Times account did not do the hearing justice.

Caro Cook worked terribly hard to marshal the forces. The 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 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.
Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt

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,

Mrs.

Rose Schneiderman,
Secretary.

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

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.
September 14, 1938

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?  

Affectionately,

Miss Rose Schneiderman
Department of Labor
Office of The Industrial Commissioner
80 Centre Street
NYC
September 6, 1938

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

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 communicate with Mrs. Roosevelt before the dinner comes off.

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 Schneideman.

ES10
September 29, 1938

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
90 Centre St.
NYC
From the desk of—
Mrs. Scheider

Dear Max—

Thank you for your letter. I am sorry I can't be in NYC on Sat.

How much are the tickets for the ballet?

Do you think I could write the letter?

Would you ask him to...
From the desk of—
Mrs. Scheider

got me 3 dry sheets
of hang mills for
the trade union league
Christmas party?
Also to whom else I
make out a check for
the boys.
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 said 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.P.A. and isn't it wonderful,
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 won't 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
Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt

September 23, 1938

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,

[Signature]

Rose Schneiderman,
Secretary.
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 Schneiderman
Dept. of Labor
60 Centre St., NYC
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 children 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 opening night of "Pins and Needles" in Washington during December, and Elisabeth Christman is already at work getting the committee 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 undertaking?  

With fondest love, I am,  

Devotedly yours,  

Rose Schneiderman.
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 Schneiderman.
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 Schneiderman.
Oct. 28, 1938

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt

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 knew 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
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.
RC117 41 DL CGTL

CA NEW YORK 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 SCHNEIDERMANN.

November 15, 1938

Dear Rose:

I will be in Warm 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 someone can read. If this is agreeable send me the points you want covered.

Affectionately,

Miss Rose Schneiderman
NY Women's Trade Union League
247 Lexington Avenue
NEW YORK WOMEN'S TRADE UNION LEAGUE
247 LEXINGTON AVENUE
NEW YORK
ESTABLISHED 1903
TEL. CALLEDONIA 5-6894

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

November 9, 1938

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

Dear Eleanor:

We had hoped it might be possible for you to spare five minutes on Thanksgiving Day evening, either in Washington or here, to broadcast a few introductory remarks to an hour's radio program which we have that evening at ten, on Station WEVD—one in a series of the dedicatory program on their new station.

However, if you are to be so far south, that will not be possible, and we are wondering if it would be too much trouble for you to have a five minute transcription made which we could use instead. It would be a marvelous addition to our program, which is to be a semi-narrative, semi-dramatized historical sketch of the growth and activities of the League.

It was our thought that you might be willing to open our program with a few comments about the record of achievement made by industrial women in improving their working standards during the past 30 years, a word of commendation for whatever part the League may have played in that struggle, and any observations that you might wish to make on the important role working women are playing today.

If you are to be in New York any time between now and Thanksgiving, and we may know a little in advance, we shall make the arrangements for the recording at your convenience. If it were to be done in Washington, I shall ask Elizabeth Christman to make the arrangements.

We don't want to impose on you, dear Eleanor, and do this only if it is convenient and you want to, but if you can, it will be a splendid addition to our program.

With fondest love, I am

Devotedly yours,

Rose Schneiderman,
President.
TELEGRAM
OFFICIAL BUSINESS—GOVERNMENT RATES

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

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
WEVD FOR THEIR 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.

ELEANOR ROOSEVELT
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.
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 55 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 6, 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 those girls came to the League last year, seeking our advice in view of their hardship in finding jobs. Those 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.

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 16 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 Tailoresses 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. Hellie 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 Keew, 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 these shall stand as the officers of the League until its first annual meeting.

(Musical bridge)

National Women's Trade Union

Narrator:
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

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 by the police! How often the employer came out to denounce them and shoe 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 new 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! Woman 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 enlisting 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 1900 to 1915 a series of great strikes in these sweater 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 Carol, 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 2nd Verse
"We're the guardians of law and order  Treat 'em rough is our motto
In the City of New York  And treat them rough, we do
We're the servants of all the people The patrol wagon stands quite ready
But we like just a little pork. To take up all the fighting crew
We arrest the girls when striking, No must keep our law and order
For the boss tells us that's right For the girls lack all respect,
We're the guardians of law and order We're the guardians of law and order
In the City of New York. 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."

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 Fannie 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 Thousand."

"In the blank of the winter of nineteen nine,
When we froze and bled on the picket line,
We found 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 T. L. U. "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 can’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 40-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
No 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 1918 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 Piore:

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 16¢ 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. 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 Piore:

From a man'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 women member on the union board.

Mora Piores:

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 Secco-Vansotti 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.

Mora Piores:

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 Confectionary 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/more ways than one.

Nora Pioce;

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

Mary Glasser

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 $25. 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 Pioce;

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 dreamed 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 Fiore:

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: 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 Fiore:

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 Piora:

That's right, Mr. __________. If any of our listeners want to know more about joining one or more of our dozen classes, the support 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. Piora 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 you 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, 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!"
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 Pauline Newman, Mabel Leslie, Nora Fiore, 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. Sus 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, 1935

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 Schneiderman
The Secretary of Labor
60 Centre St.
NYC
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,
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
Secretary to
Rose Schneiderman

Bill Attached: $23.94
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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 - Xmas tree in tub $5.10
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 E. Winlow 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 Winlow 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 Winlow 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 Winlow, 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 least 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 Winlow 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."
WHEREAS women, representing more than half of the population of America, demand full rights as an act of the most elemental human justice.

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."
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)
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 1926 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
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.
(Miss Rose Schneiderman)
Department of Labor
80 Center Street
New York, N.Y.
Will be glad to see Pioneer Youth committee for a few minutes after luncheon

Eleanor Roosevelt

January 20, 1939
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 Children's 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.
Dear Rose:

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
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
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 Schneiderman
247 Lex. Ave., NYC
January 27, 1939

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, to limit the work rate to 60 hours, the third, 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,
President.

RS: G
EXC.
April 14, 1939

Dear Rose:

I am more than sorry that I will not be able to attend the dinner for Mr. Becker 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
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.
April 29, 1939

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,

Miss Rose Schneiderman
Secretary of Labor
New York NY
Dearest Eleanor,

My heart has been with you and your brother in your great sorrow. Being very close to my own nephews and living through such a time, I know what a shock your nephews' 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 effort.
Blessings on your head—may you never
Know of sorrow again in the winter of
your
Nestor's friend—
Rm. S.

April 25, 1936
May 8, 1939

Dear Rose:

I cannot tell you how grateful I am to you for the interest you have taken in Bertha Brodsky Handel. 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,

Miss Rose Schneiderman
Department of Labor
80 Centre St.
NYC
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
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

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
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 Brodey 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 Schneiderman,
President.
May 31, 1939

Dear Rose:

I know that while we had the rest room at 247 Lexington Avenue, you were able to get still 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 still 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 Schneider
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
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 Mand Swarts. 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 Mand'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 Beassie Engleman how we obtained those mill ends the time we had the rest room for the unemployed girls. Beassie 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, Elizabeth 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 Strum two weeks ago. Why can't we rescue all these unfortunate people and build places to live for them, as we do for the underprivileged 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
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.
Hyde Park, N.Y.
October 22, 1939.

Dear Rose:

I am enclosing a copy of a wire which came to me from Maxwell Burkett. 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 Danaher, 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
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,

[Signature]

October 5, 1920
October 31, 1939.

Dear Rose:

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

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

Affectionately,

Miss Rose Schneiderman
Secretary of State
80 Centre St.
NYC
Ootober 24, 1939

Kra. Elea nor Rooeevelt
Hyde P a r k, 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.
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. Hurok 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
227 Lexington Avenue
NYC
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.H.

I'm sorry I read it quickly and thought she said "yest." Please note it was not guilty.

Write that Mrs. R. was away because she had been away. She then received her nurse.
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,
Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt
White House
Washington, D. C.

Dearest Eleanor:

On Saturday morning, 25 of our students taking the public affairs course will make a week-end pilgrimage to Washington. While there, they are going to confer with Paul V. McNutt, Administrator of the Social Security Board, Dr. William Leiserson, of the National Labor Relations Board, Mr. Altmeier of the Social Security Board, John Adelman and Katherine Bauer on Housing in the Interior Building, and Mary Anderson of the Women's Bureau. Then they plan to visit Green Belt, as they did last year. Monday morning and afternoon, they are to sit in at the legislative conference called by Frances Perkins.

We made this experiment last year, and the girls came back elated with the knowledge and experience they had in Washington, and we hope that this year they will have just as good a time.

The program would be complete, if by any chance you were able to receive them on Sunday afternoon at the White House; provided of course, that you are to be in Washington over the week-end. The students would be delighted if you could see them, but if your program is too full, we will understand perfectly.

I will be very grateful if you would let me hear from you and if the answer could come to my home address, 235 East 22nd Street, New York. The office here will be closed on Saturday.

I hope you are not too tired after your two weeks trip through the middle west and that you will get some time to rest.

How grand that the repeal of the Embargo Act passed so handsomely.

With fondest love,

Affectionately yours,

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

November 28, 1939

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
Ser. Ross Johnson, please give me his home address. I need new mo. East 92d st.

Ask her to have unregistered stay. We have held other letters and envoys. My letter I explain, she.

235 E. 82nd st.
December 11, 1939

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

[Signature: Ruth Merz]
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, whichever 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 Elizabeth Christian 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
235 East 22nd Street

is

the new home address

of

Rose Schumacher

the telephone

Greenway 3-0548

March 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
225 E. 22d Street
New York
New York
Picture autographed and mailed to 235 E. 22nd
NYC - 12-14-39 -DD

[Signature]

Please autograph 100
for [Name]

[Address]
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,

Miss Rose Schneiderman
80 Centre St.
NYC
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 worthwhile 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
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
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.
December 29, 1939

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 Schneidemane
235 East 22nd St.
NYC
Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt  
White House  
Washington, D. C.  

Dear 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 Merzons. 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.
February 2, 1940

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

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  
President

Rose Schneiderman  
President
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
February 9, 1940

Dear Rose:

Will you let Mrs. Roosevelt know what you have been able to find out about labor conditions at Ruth Marzon'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 Schneidman
Women's Trade Union League
647 Lexington Avenue
New York, New York
February 5, 1940.

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

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
Manager
February 19, 1940

Miss Malvina Thompson
White House
Washington, D.C.

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,

[Signature]

Rose Schneiderman,
Secretary.
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
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,

Rose Schneiderman,
Secretary.
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
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 6th 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 26 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 Schneiderman.
NEW YORK WOMEN'S TRADE UNION LEAGUE
247 LEXINGTON AVENUE
NEW YORK

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

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 meager 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, President
March 25, 1940

Dear Rose:

I am sending you the final decision of the Civil Service Commission concerning Eleanor Mischum 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. Long's book. I shall write the Union about it.

Affectionately,

Miss Rose Schneiderman
Dept. of Labor
60 Centre St.
NYC
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 canvas 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 E. 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.

March 9, 1940
Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt

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 Schneiderman.
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 Lishun 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 Lishun'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 Lishun 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 shall 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. Tisch who is the head physician of
the sanatorium 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 importnt 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 8667, office National C472, extension 423) would be very happy to be of service. You doubtless remember Bertha Faret Emerson as our affable secretary of the National Union of 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 to New. In any event I shall be deeply grateful to you for whatever you feel you can do.

With love and admiration

Mary Dreier
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 Mishnum 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 Mishnum'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 Mishnum, 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 Mishnum'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
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 there 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

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

Dear Rose:

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

Affectionately,

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

Respectfully yours,

Ruth Morgan
Manager

All with the—
Built-in Bras

[Signature]

May 10, 1940.
May 13, 1940

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
60 Centre Street
New York, New York
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 Schneiderman.

RS:G
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 Halutz, Refugee and Working Woman an opportunity for fulfilling her historic task in Palestine.

THE PIONEER WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION has sent to the Moatzath Hapaloaloth, 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 Totschtet 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, the Labor Zionist Organization, dedicated to the upbuilding of Palestine along cooperative lines, participating actively in all phases of Jewish life. It strives through systematic 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 Hapaloaloth, 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 Hapaloaloth and its American Agency.

What Does the Moatzath Hapaloaloth 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 Halutzot 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 Hapoelot.

NEW SERVICES UNDERTAKEN BY MOATZATH HAPAOALOTH
(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

Dear Rose:

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
May 7, 1949

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
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
Dear Rose:

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

Affectionately.

Miss Rose Schneiderman
60 Central St., NYC
Miss Malvina 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 Herzon 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. Herzon 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. Herzon 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.
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.
May 20, 1940

Dear Rose:

I am so glad that I have been able to arrange 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
TELEGRAM

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.
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,

Secretary to
Mrs. Roosevelt

Honorable Rose Schneiderman
Secretary of Labor
80 Centre Street
New York, N. Y.
May 28, 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 15% 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.

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...
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.
May 29, 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
60 Centre Street
New York
New York
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
NYTrade Women's League
247 Lex. Ave., NYC
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 nightmare 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 Schneideman  
President

June 16, 1940
MISS ROSE SCHNEIDERMANN
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
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 Fons 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.
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,

Miss Rose Schneiderman
80 Centre Street
NYC

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end
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 $50 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 8th is alright with you?

With deep devotion, I am,

Affectionately yours,

Rose Schneiderman.
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.

Mrs. Maria 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.
July 12, 1940

Dear Rose:

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

Affectionately,

Miss Rose Schneiderman
Department of Labor
60 Centre Street
New York, N.Y.
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 Schmeiderman
July 8, 1940

Re: Sarkar, Marie  
145-49 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  
Administrator
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 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,

Miss Rose Schneiderman
247 Lexington Ave.
NYC
July 8, 1940

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

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
July 8, 1940

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,

[Signature]
August 9, 1940

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.
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.

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 Schneiderman
President

Rose Schneiderman
President

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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,

[Signature]

Katherine Burke
Secretary to Rose Schneiderman
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
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,  

[Signature]

Rose Schneiderman, Secretary

RS:G  
ENC.
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:mo
September 27, 1940

Dear Rose:

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
September 25, 1940

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

Dear Eleanor:

The enclosed material and letter from Mr. Broach is self-explanatory. May I add just a personal word that we feel this is an important case deserving of support, and I know how grateful Local #3 would be if you could either send them a message or speak to the workers. I'm sure they could arrange a time more convenient if 9:30 is too early! Pauline Newman is going to speak to them next Monday morning.

Efforts are also being made quietly to talk with Mr. Leviton, and we all hope a settlement may be worked out soon. Meanwhile, Local #3 is waging a real fight, under experienced and competent leadership, and will be very grateful for any expression of interest you feel able to give.

If you preferred, I could arrange to have a group of the Leviton girls come to see you the next time you are in the city to tell you about the situation. However, I think the details are pretty much as given in the enclosed clippings.

Affectionately yours,

Rose Schneiderman
President
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

Director of Education (In charge of Leviton Strike)
Leviton Manufacturing Co.,... Case History of a Labor Dispute

Levittau for seven yeacs. He averages $15 to $20 a week.

Jane's friend, Helen Goets, also worked on the power press at Levittau'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 workmen's 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 the bachelor 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 Levittau workers.

Less serious but even more common are swollen fingers, which indicate that a metal eylet-one-eighth of an inch in diameter and one-quarter of an inch long was once embedded there. The brass or copper eylet is supposed to go into a socket to hold the contact in place. Sometimes it goes into the finder of the operator.

Margie's Thumb

Margie DelEva's left thumb still has a bump where an eylet went into it a year ago. The company doctor pulled out the eylet. Margie then went back to work on another eylet 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. Her rent is $18 a month. Her father owns a cafe business but is now unemployed. Her brother works as a helper in a bakery.

I asked 16-year-old Elsie Andrews, whose first job was on the eylet machine at Levittau's, how much she made. She answered, "I make good on it to $17 a week."

Elsie had an eylet in her finger that the nurse couldn't get out. She said:

"I got compensation from the State Insurance Fund for $44.50."

I asked if she was still working at the plant. "No. At the time of the accident, Leoness, the superintendent, promised me a job in the assembly room. A month and a half later when I applied for it the job was filled. They 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 half years old who was born crippled. Her husband, Gus, has been working at Levittau for three years. He is in dispatch business with the Association, but will do

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

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

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

"I have no idea of what to make of this position. He said. "I don't want to say any more."

Threaten Suit

The next day I phoned Mr. Levittau. He told me I had been a victim of a strike and I was to expect a letter from his attorney. He said he had no further comment to make.

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

"We're watching TV very closely. You showed a few lines and you will have a few more lines. I'm warning you."

What follows, is the story of the conditions in the Levittau plant. It is told to me by the strikers. I have been checked on the story. Some data was available from other sources. That is all you need.

Jane Waidle was hit by a cut and a knot on the side of her right hand while working on a power press at Levittau. The accident occurred at 4:10 p.m., Oct. 27, 1940. Jane was 25, married-and has a girl five and half years old who was born crippled. Her husband, Gus, has been working at

Striking Painters Break Off Negotiations

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

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

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

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A $2,000,000 Firm

The Levittau company manufactures, its trusses, and sells electrical appliances. Among its chief customers are Washingh, Sears Roebuck and Montgomery Ward. It is a $2,000,000 organization, one of the leaders in its field. The Greenspoint 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 lies in the details.

There is no question that the conditions of work were unsatisfactory. There is no question that the company was making a profit. But there is also no question that the conditions of work were unsatisfactory. And there is no question that the company was making a profit.

I tried to get the employer's side of the story. I went to the plant and asked to see Mr. Levittau. I was shown into an office where William J. 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. Naturally he suggested that I write down any credit which he might have had for the employer's version of the dispute.

"It is 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 built up. But I can't say anything about the number of toilets."

"It's true, Mr. Schwartz, I replied, that there is nothing in the Wagner Act about the number of toilets."

But it is not true that the number

PM, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 1940 • NEWS OF LABOR AND UNEMPLOYED

Levittau Manufacturing Co.,... Case History of a Labor Dispute

coil it is a part of a labor dispute. In fact, part of this labor dispute.

"I don't know anything about that."

"It is true, Mr. Schwartz, that girls who have been hurt in the plant have been put back on the same machine, or have not been given jobs at all."

"I'm working today, Mr. Hobbs."

With that Mr. Schwartz went to the phone, called F.M., and asked Mr. Hobbs about the job.

"Mr. Schwartz, we want a call on the phone, called F.M., and asked Mr. Hobbs about the job."

"I was told to go."

Threaten Suit

The next day I phoned Mr. Levittau. He told me I was a victim of a strike. He said he had no further comment to make.

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"We're watching TV very closely. You showed a few lines and you will have a few more lines. I'm warning you."

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"The union is no longer prepared to do business with the Association, but will do
In 1939, the Leviton Manufacturing Co., Inc., added sockets, plugs and electrical wiring devices to its line. 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.

Mariner is the trademark on the socket manufactured at Leviton's and sold in Woolworth stores.

The new Leviton plant at 259 Greenpoint Ave., Brooklyn, has a floor space of about 2,000,000 square feet. There 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 Wocalski 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 percent loss of use of right index finger, $442.50." Jane was promised a job in another department, didn't get it.  

Photos by Martin Harris, Pat Def
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 an 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, Pit Bull
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 Isaiah 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-wielding 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 Norman Derry, PM Staff
$7 a Week Is Better Than Losing a Finger

This scene photographed on Wednesday morning when the union again paid out $7.50 to workers. Some strikers didn't believe it could happen until the $7 was in their hands.

Free sandwiches and coffee, $7 in their pockets and spirits high—no more was obviously in order. A good deal on your shoes makes picketing easier. Good shoes make it easier—but plenty at Leviton don't have them.

Diagonally across the street from strike headquarters, at 17th Greenpoint Ave., the union runs a strike cafeteria. Expenses are paid by Local 17. 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.

Photo by Alan Fisher, U.I.W 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 house 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.

Caption: Photo by Wide 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, AFL.

By Leon Hirschman

The news from Leviton yesterday was that a small strike was developing because of the policy of speed-up, which the workers claimed was being enforced by the company's management.

In the claims department, the workers say, the foremen were being tough. They believed the operators. When a worker complained that his time was being cut, he was told to increase his speed or else.

Edward Weber, who has been working at Leviton for more than two years, said that he had been given a new assignment that required him to work faster.

"It's terrible," he said. "One day they gave me a new job and I told them I couldn't do it. The next day I was fired."

However, other workers said that they were not being treated as harshly.

"I have been working here for three years," said one worker. "I have never been fired, and I don't think I deserve it."

Privacy Invaded

The workers said that the company has invaded their privacy.

"They come into our rooms at any time and check our work," said one worker. "They even check our clothes and personal belongings."

The workers also complained about the company's policy of speed-up.

"They don't give us enough time to do our work," said one worker. "They want us to work faster, but they don't give us the tools or the equipment we need."

Evelyn Rier and her mother are active strikers. After seven years in the Leviton plant, Evelyn's wages have risen from $9.50 to $15. Her mother's wages have risen from $15 to $18.

No Security

That there is no security on the job is a common complaint among the workers. Several workers said they had been injured on the job and had not received any compensation.

"I was injured on the job last week," said one worker. "I broke my arm and the company said I was not entitled to any compensation."

You Still Can Move

A week's grace is in the threatened strike of the Teamsters Union. A demand was made by Mayor LaGuardia yesterday at a conference with union officials and employers representatives in Washington.

The union has threatened to strike if the demand is not met. The company has said that it will not meet the demands unless the union agrees to a 25 percent wage cut.

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Labor

Here Are Some
Striking Leviton Workers...

Edith Ward worked for Leviton 18 years, is one of the first five women for firm employed. Starting pay: $30; present pay: $18. She asked many times for a raise. No go.

Each week when Leviton Manufacturing Co. employees drew 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 Martinook won the National Guard welterweight championship in 1930, his father was hit by a car. Doctors cost money.

Oldest of 12 children is Bernice Kozalewicz, 21. She and her sister support their family. Service operates a foot press in the socket department, earns $12 to $15 a week. To increase her earnings slightly she had to work during lunch hour. Doesn't mind striking. "There's no foreman to bully you."

For seven years John Pilut (married, two children) worked for Leviton. He was one of the highly paid workers. Wage: $30.25 a week.

May Belley: "Can't buy a pair of stockings for myself."

William Canavan worked for Leviton six years, first to 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.

Elisabeth Collon gets $10 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."

Nancy Kowal, 27, never belonged to a union; now she heads the picket committee. She won't permit pickets to loo loose as he enters factory.

Officials of Local 5 dropped everything to rush Leonard Suave, seven, to Greenpoint Hospital, where he became ill. The boy's mother, a fact press operator, now works in the strike kitchen. The union now is its members' Salvation Army, Health Department and relief office—all in one.

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.

Two days before the strike started, Vera Lakin went to work for Leviton as a checker. Although she had less to complain about, she struck.
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.

Note in the neighborhood raid shelter when Nazis pounced on the Lenz suburb where she lived, this woman lost only a chicken—and her ho