

BRITISH EMBASSY

WASHINGTON, D. C.,

November 14th, 1941.

Dear Sir Frank,

Since my arrival here I have indeed had a busy time from early morning until late at night and met with the most overwhelming kindness - to such an extent that I am quite unable to fulfill all the engagements which are suggested.

I am now spending a few days in Washington and have already, at the request of the Department of Labour here, spent a morning with the Women's Bureau, discussing our work and training and registration, in which everyone is taking the greatest possible interest. Later this morning, Miss Perkins has asked me to address the National Conference of Labour Legislators. Yesterday I had the great pleasure of lunching with Mrs. Roosevelt at the White House.

While here, I have been working with Miss McGeachy who, as you will know, is the Public Relations Officer for the Ministry of Economic Warfare attached to the Embassy, and has many useful contacts in this country. Yesterday she took me to meet Mr. Hayter of the Embassy in connection with an offer which has come from undergraduates at Harvard University, and from a group of Social Workers, to give their services to Great Britain during the war. I understand that Mr. Cribbet of the R. A. F. Delegation took home a statement about these proposals at the end of September and that Mr. Markham of our Ministry of Labour is examining these proposals. There appear to be two suggestions as to where their services might be used:

- a) The creation of a non-skilled section of the Civilian Technical Corps of people who would be prepared to do semi-skilled work, such as dock construction.
- b) To work in Civilian Defence.

In connection with the latter, I have sent a note to Mr. Herbert Morrison.

If it was felt by our Ministry that they could be useful in doing any form of semi-skilled labour, I think the Embassy would like to have word as soon as possible regarding this.

Miss McGeachy, who has travelled a good deal throughout the country has herself had numbers of offers from trained people to help in this way but has felt obliged to damp down these suggestions because there seemed to be no scheme into which they could be fitted. It is desirable that some scheme should be evolved as quickly as possible, even if the number of people who might offer is at first quite small. In particular, Miss McGeachy advises me that we should accept offers of services from social workers as they have in general been inclined to be pacifist. Possibly our own Welfare Department might think of some scheme to use a limited number of social workers in connection with the married women who are now entering into industry.

I have sent a cablegram to Miss Fraser asking her to see that the Department of Labour here receives all our regular literature and any statements which we are able to send them on the progress of women's work in the industrial war effort.

I am hoping to visit some of the big aircraft factories while I am here and see some of the work American women are doing in their defence program.

Yours ever,

^B
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