

PROCEEDINGS OF
FOURTH BIENNIAL CONVENTION
INTERNATIONAL AUXILIARY ORDER
LADIES AUXILIARIES
to the
BROTHERHOOD OF SLEEPING CAR PORTERS
(An International Union)
Affiliated with the
AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

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Held at
CLEVELAND, OHIO
September 18-20, 1944

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OFFICERS
of the
INTERNATIONAL LADIES' AUXILIARY
TO THE
BROTHERHOOD OF SLEEPING CAR PORTERS
1944

HALENA WILSON	PRESIDENT	CHICAGO, ILLINOIS
KATHERINE LASSITER	FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT	NEW YORK CITY, N. Y.
W. MAE DAILEY	SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT	ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI
FANNIE J. CAVINESS	THIRD VICE-PRESIDENT	SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS
LETITIA MURRAY	FOURTH VICE-PRESIDENT	LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA
ROSINA C. TUCKER	SECRETARY-TREASURER	WASHINGTON, D. C.

- LAY MEMBERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL EXECUTIVE BOARD -

Carrie McWatt	St. Paul, Minnesota
Carrie White	Kansas City, Missouri
Rosa Taylor	Cleveland, Ohio
Ella Johnson	Tampa, Florida
Marion Sappington	Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
Anna Wilson	New York City, New York
Ella McBride	Denver, Colorado

- D E L E G A T E S -

DIVISION	NO. OF DELEGATES	NO. OF VOTES	NAMES OF DELEGATES
Albany, N. Y.	1	1	Ellen Williams
Asheville, N. C.	1	1	Gertrude Epps
Atlanta, Georgia	1	1	Gertrude Ross
Augusta, Georgia	1	1	Serena Lamar
Baltimore, Md.	1	1	Jannie McGathon
Boston, Mass.	1	1	Cecile R. Charles
Buffalo, N. Y.	1	1	Dorothy Garrett
Charleston, S. C.	1	1	Inez Temple
Chicago, Ill.	1	1	Minnie A. Lee
Cincinnati, Ohio	1	1	Lillian Williams
Cleveland, Ohio	1	1	Vivian Comedy
Columbus, Ohio	1	1	Frances Dyer
Dallas, Texas	1	1	Olivia Rawlston
Denver, Colorado	1	1	Nannie M. Wells
Detroit, Michigan	1	1	Marguerite Rouse
Fort Worth, Texas	1	1	Rose D. Lyons
Huston, Texas	1	1	Anna M. Daniels
Indianapolis, Ind.	1	1	Sara Allen
Jacksonville, Fla.	1	1	Elizabeth Austin
Jersey City, N. J.	1	1	Nora Fant
Kansas City, Mo.	1	1	Ethel J. Tribue
Little Rock Local #5	1	1	Mae Dailey
Louisville, Kentucky	1	1	Addie Thomas
Los Angeles, Calif.	1	1	Louis Costons

- DELEGATES -

DIVISION	NO. OF DELEGATES	NO. OF VOTES	NAMES OF DELEGATES
Memphis, Tenn.	1	1	Bessie Patton
Minneapolis, Minn.	1	1	Mattie Owens
Montreal, Quebec	1	1	Velmer Coward
Nashville, Tenn.	1	1	Davie D. Phillips
New Orleans, La.	1	1	Suzanna D. Lester
New York, N. Y.	1	1	Norma Harrison
Norfolk, Va.	1	1	Lou Mattie Deberry
Oaklahoma City, Okla.	1	1	Gora Stewart
Oakland, Calif.	1	1	Ardella Nutall
Omaha, Neb.	1	1	Olivia Kirtley
Parson, Kansas	1	1	Mary L. Davis
Philadelphia, Pa.	1	1	Lillie Kendrick
Pittsburgh, Pa.	1	1	**LaVerne Davis
Portland, Oregon	1	1	Engliss Johns
Richmond, Va.	1	1	Wannie Guy
St. Louis, Mo.	1	1	Lela Lee
St. Louis Train Porters	1	1	*Mae Dailey
St. Paul, Minn.	1	1	Lela Jackson
Salt Lake City, Utah	1	1	Ruth Scott
San Antonio, Texas	1	1	Emma Dixon
San Antonio Local #9	1	1	*Fannie J. Caviness
Seattle, Washington	1	1	Jessie S. Walker
Shreveport, La.	1	1	Estella Wilson
Tampa, Fla.	1	1	Blanche Young

- D E L E G A T E S -

DIVISION	NO. OF DELEGATES	NO. OF VOTES	NAMES OF DELEGATES
Toronto, Ontario CFR	1	1	Garda Chevalier
Toronto, Ontario (Pullman)	1	1	Hilda Carrington
Tucson, Arizona	1	1	Margaret Woods
Winnipeg, Manitoba	1	1	Helen Iola Hudson
Washington, D. C.	1	1	Elizabeth V. Craig
Vancouver, B. C.	1	1	Maude Fields

*By proxy
**Alternate

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The following Auxiliaries were not represented by delegates or proxies:

El Paso, Texas

Salt Lake City, Utah

FOURTH BIENNIAL CONVENTION
of the
LADIES' AUXILIARY
TO THE
BROTHERHOOD OF SLEEPING CAR PORTERS

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REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS
FIRST DAY --- MONDAY MORNING

Cleveland, Ohio
September 18, 1944

The First Session of the International Ladies Auxiliary to the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters was called to order by Sister Nina Sutton, President, Cleveland Ladies Auxiliary, at 10:50 a.m., in the main auditorium of the Cedar Avenue YMCA.

The Assembly sang the "Star Spangled Banner" and Sister Ella McBride, International Executive Board Member, gave the invocation.

Delegate Mae Dailey, 2nd International Vice President, read the Call to the Convention as follows:

"TO ALL AFFILIATED LOCAL DIVISIONS, GREETINGS:

You are hereby notified that, in pursuance of the Constitution and General Laws of the Ladies Auxiliary to the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, that the Fourth Biennial Convention of the Ladies Auxiliary will be held in Cleveland, Ohio, beginning 10:00 a.m., Monday, September 18, 1944, and will continue through Wednesday, September 20, 1944. All delegates are urged to arrive in time to attend the Mass Meeting on Sunday, September 17, 1944.

REPRESENTATION

Article III of the Constitution and General Rules

The International Organization shall consist of the International President, International Secretary-Treasurer, International Counsellor, four (4) International Vice Presidents, the International Executive Board and delegates in proportional representation from each local division upon the basis of one delegate for the first one hundred (100) financial members, or

fraction thereof, and one delegate for each additional one hundred (100) financial members, or fraction thereof, numbering over twenty-five (25).

Organizations, to be entitled to representation, must have obtained, or applied for, a certificate of affiliation (charter), prior to the Convention and no person shall be recognized as a delegate who is not a member in good standing of the local division which she is elected to represent.

After July 15, 1944, dues are not to be accepted until the One Dollar (\$1.00) Convention Tax is paid. Members becoming unfinancial as a result of this tax are subject to all penalties as provided for in the Constitution and General Rules of the Ladies Auxiliary.

DELEGATES SEATED

Delegates are not entitled to seats in the Convention unless the per capita tax and assessments of their organizations have been paid in full not later than August 31, 1944. If there is any question regarding this tax kindly consult the International Secretary-Treasurer or this office.

ELECTION RETURNS

Prior to the June election a special election form was sent to each local division with a request that the election form be filled out and returned to this office as soon after the election as possible. This information is essential to the success of the Convention, therefore, the auxiliaries are being requested to kindly comply with this requirement without further delay. In instances where elections are not held a statement to that effect should be sent this office as soon as possible.

DELEGATES CREDENTIALS

Duplicate credentials were enclosed with the special election return form. The Secretary-Treasurer is required to fill out both credentials and sign as directed. One half of the credentials is to be sent to Sister Rosina C. Tucker now and the other to be presented either by the delegate, or by the auxiliary proxy to the Credential Committee at the opening of the Convention on the morning of September 18th. Delegates as well as the local Secretary-Treasurers are required to comply with these provisions.

In instances where the auxiliary finds it inconvenient to send a delegate it may designate a proxy from a sister auxiliary, or it may designate an International Official. It is customary to extend this courtesy to the Supervisor of the Zone in which the auxiliary is located. The Zone Supervisors are: Mrs. Katherine Lassiter, Eastern Zone; Mrs. Helena Wilson, Middle Western Zone; Mrs. Letitia Murray, Pacific Coast Zone; and Mrs. Mae Dailey and Mrs. Fannie Caviness, the Southwest Zone.

RESOLUTIONS

Officers and members of the local auxiliaries desiring to submit resolutions to the Fourth Biennial Convention of the International Auxiliary Order are instructed to send all resolutions to Sister Rosina C. Tucker, International Secretary-Treasurer, 1128 Seventh Street, N.E., Washington (2), D.C., not later than September 1, 1944.

EULOGIES

The auxiliaries are being informed that special services will be conducted in memory of all the deceased members of the past two years. The delegates are being requested to bring a long stemmed white flower to this particular session and to come prepared to render a brief eulogy. Owing to the number of deceased members the eulogy must of necessity be confined to three minutes or less.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Owing to the difficulty of finding adequate housing facilities all delegates, their families and friends are urged to write for advance reservations. This will prevent unnecessary delay after their arrival in the Convention City.

Delegates should prepare to pay at least a minimum of two dollars (\$2) a day for lodging.

Local auxiliaries are required to defray all expenses of their delegates, including transportation to and from, and maintenance at the Convention.

All delegates are herewith advised to arrange in ample time for their attendance at the Convention. Also, to register with the Housing Committee soon after their arrival. The Chairman of the Housing Committee is Mrs. Vivian Comedy, 3278 East 128th Street, Cleveland, Ohio, Phone LO 8269.

Auxiliaries having failed to make a financial report for a period of six months during the present year and otherwise have failed in the opinion of the International President to meet the legislative requirements as adopted by the previous conventions will be denied the privilege of seating their delegate, unless granted special permission by the 1944 convention delegates.

Additional instructions regarding the Mass Meeting to be held by the Brotherhood and the exact location of the Convention Hall will be communicated in a later circular.

Fraternaly yours,

/s/ Halena Wilson
International President."

The Organization's Marching Song, "Hold the Fort" was directed by Sister Rosina C. Tucker, International Secretary-Treasurer.

WELCOME ADDRESS BY CHAIRMAN NINA SUTTON

To the International President, Officers, Delegates, Members and Friends assembled:

There are hours which are outstanding in our lives -- shining hours which are for us rare and memorable. Such a time is this for me. It has brought me the privilege of welcoming you to the Fourth International Biennial Convention of the Ladies' Auxiliary to the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters.

It is with grateful hearts that we assemble for this meeting, thankful that we live in a country where we are privileged to assemble in such a meeting as this. We are here to review the work of the past years, and to build for the future. For many of us it is another reunion of old friends, for others it affords the first opportunity for acquaintance with the governing body of our Ladies' Auxiliary, but for all of us it is a strengthening of interest in our organization. Those of you who have been here before realize the joy of renewed friendships, and show by your faithful attendance your interest.

We appreciate the presence of the large number of officers and extend to them a most cordial welcome. We need your advice and assistance which, by years of experience, you are so well fitted to offer and which you have always so graciously given. We send loving thoughts to those who are absent, and regret that they can not be with us.

I want to express my joy because of the presence of each and every one of you, and trust that your gleanings may be such as are conducive to the best interests of our organization -- that individual differences, prejudices and aspiration, if any, be dissolved as dew before the morning sun, and that peace and harmony may prevail. During the last years all the members in our Cleveland Auxiliary have been looking forward to being hostess to the International Convention. We have had fun in planning for your entertainment as our guest.

We hope your realization will equal our anticipation of this convention. Not only the Ladies of the Auxiliary of Cleveland bid you welcome, but our many friends in greater Cleveland join us in welcoming you to this metropolitan city of ours located on the beautiful shores of Lake Erie.

Again I greet you, and hope you will have a happy and profitable time during your stay in Cleveland. (Applause)

Mrs. Elizabeth Wilson, organist of Cory Methodist Church of Cleveland, gave a piano solo, "The Scarf Dance" by Chaminade.

CHAIRMAN SUTTON: The following letter was received from Mayor Frank J. Lausche of Cleveland:

"This is to acknowledge receipt of wire inviting me to deliver a welcome address to the Fourth Biennial Convention of the Ladies' Auxiliary to the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters at 10:45 a.m., September 18, 1944. I am grateful to you for the invitation, and will be on time.

Because Cleveland is such an outstanding city in the war effort and is the source of many duties for all municipal officials, that this, together with the new stress incident to the political campaign, has prevented the mayor from attending. However, he has sent a representative in the person of Mr. James M. McSweeney of the Law Department. Mr. McSweeney will now address the convention.

MR. JAMES M. MCSWEENEY: I assure you that it was with great regret that the Mayor found himself at the last moment unable to attend this meeting. It is true that the duties of the Mayor are heavy, and the political campaign now make it necessary for him to give attention outside the city to numerous additional duties. Because of the urgency of the general situation on the entire state the political condition is uppermost in his mind just now, and at the present time he feels that he must try to cover as much as possible in a few weeks.

When I reflect on the tremendous amount of work that must be done to successfully manage a city of this size, I feel that it is astonishing that one man can do what he does. One of the police cars brought me over here, and as I came I thought of the manifold duties -- the water situation, the paving, the police problems -- these and many others are tremendous jobs. These thoughts are new to me -- I have not had to put myself in his place and reflect on it, and now I just realize what one man has to do.

I want to assure you that the Mayor would give anything to be here with you today. The people who have traveled here today from all over the country are trying to do a job -- it takes courage to travel today -- real courage. But the result of what you do here is worth the effort, and more. There are so many things for you to consider; your problems of what to do after the war, and how to plan now.

I know that we here in the city in every way possible will be glad to extend to you any service in our power--you have only to ask Mrs. Sutton here, and she will let us know what you want, and we will do it to make your stay here both profitable and pleasant. I thank you. (Applause)

CHAIRMAN SUTTON: The response to the welcome address will be given by Delegate Marion Sappington, member of the International Executive Board.

DELEGATE MARION SAPPINGTON: Madam Chairman, International President, International Officers, Delegates and Friends:

I think I speak for every delegate attending this Fourth Biennial Session when I say that since entering the city of Cleveland, we have felt the wealth of hospitality and good fellowship which seems to effervesce and bubble from your very soul.

For many years I have known of the spirit of hospitality and friendliness pervading here, and I know that when one seeks to improve on the good fellowship one finds in Cleveland, he is attempting to do that impossible thing which the man attempted when he went out one day to garnish the lily and to paint the stars. He was attempting to make more perfect that which is already perfect.

We come to your fine city from many sections of the United States and Canada; we admire your beautiful homes and churches, streets and parks, and especially have we noted the fine relationship existing between white and colored people in this city. It seems that God is teaching brotherhood, something that in this blood-drenched world today men and women should treasure.

We come to give account of our stewardship; to renew our faith in our splendid leadership; to spend some time in solemn and reverential contemplation of those who are gone to meet their Maker; to learn more about the trade union, more about the Brotherhood; and as I have said before, to enjoy your wonderful hospitality.

We have learned much about you, and I think you should know something about us. You are entitled to know something about the character and makeup of the women you are entertaining this week. Who are the Ladies Auxiliary of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, and how does the Association evaluate in the scales of merit and worth?

The primary purpose of the Ladies Auxiliary to the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters is to give moral, intellectual, spiritual, and financial support to our parent body, the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters.

In the early days the Brotherhood saw the need of mobilizing the women in an organization, which would give the men support and inspiration.

The Ladies Auxiliary to the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, as the name implies, is subordinate to the Brotherhood. Without the Brotherhood there would be no auxiliary; therefore, it is the primary purpose of the auxiliary to build the power of the Brotherhood.

Until 1936, the local groups functioned independently. Brother Randolph saw the worth of the organization of a national body, and although he was advised against it, he called together delegates from those local groups to Chicago, Illinois, in September 1936, and there and then the International Ladies Auxiliary to the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters was born.

Mrs. Helena Wilson, that soul of dignity, has been a tower of strength in the organization of the International Ladies Auxiliary. She is our International President; we can not forget the veteran services of our International Secretary-Treasurer, Mrs. Rosina C. Tucker; the four

International Vice Presidents, Mrs. Katherine Lassiter, Mrs. Mae Dailey, Mrs. Fannie Caviness, and Mrs. Letitia Murray, with the lay members of the International Executive Board, have been unselfish in sacrifice and service in perpetuating the Auxiliary.

Under the leadership of these women, we have marched toward victory and achievement. Our faith today is stronger, for without a doubt, we have had honest, intelligent and visual leadership.

We have come thus far, cohesive, united and strong. We have learned the lessons of the mariners. We have learned to set our sails against contrary winds going directly to our objectives.

"Some ships go east and others go west
In the very same wind that blows;
'Tis the set of the sails, and not the gale
That determines where we go.

The International Ladies Auxiliary to the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters is going higher because we have set our sails right in the realm of Right, Use and Service to Humanity.

We plan to have a harmonious weekend here.

(Applause)

Mrs. Emma Robinson, vocalist of Cory Methodist Church of Cleveland, sang "Italian Street Song" and "On My Journey, Now", accompanied by Mrs. Elizabeth Wilson.

Chairman Sutton announced that the reception planned for the members Monday evening would be held at the Cedar Avenue YMCA instead of the Ford House as previously announced.

CHAIRMAN SUTTON: Mrs. Rosa Taylor, International Executive Board Member, will introduce our International President of the Ladies Auxiliary.

DELEGATE ROSA TAYLOR: Madam Chairman, International Officers, Delegates, Visitors, and Cleveland Division.

Cleveland is the most hospitable city -- or one of the most hospital of cities -- and I hope to enjoy every moment's stay.

We are still in a terrible war that has caused destruction throughout the civilized world. At a time like this it is necessary that we look ahead and plan for the world to come.

The one I am going to introduce to you is one of clear sight -- one who has tried to develop the minds of our groups; one who is fearless -- who tries to do what is best -- who does what she believes to be right.

Six years ago when I first met her, she was the same as she is now. I feel that the organization could not have chosen a more sincere or a better repre-

sentative. I hold her in high esteem, and am proud to be under such leadership.

There are many many more things I could say of her -- but she, herself, would be the first to say, as she has said on other occasions, "Fewer words, and more work".

Her life has not been all roses; she has been pricked by many a thorn. And so she has earned her way to leadership. Ladies, I present our International President of the Ladies' Auxiliary to the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, Mrs. Helena Wilson! (Applause. Assembly rises) President Wilson; Sister Sutton, Members of the Cleveland Ladies Auxiliary Sister Delegates, Members of the International Auxiliary and friends.

PRESIDENT'S OPENING ADDRESS TO CONVENTION

It again becomes a pleasing duty this third Monday in September 1944, to convene this, the second war-time convention, of the Ladies Auxiliary to the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, in this great and imposing industrial city of Cleveland, Ohio; where one observes the immense factories and where one hears the purr of the numerous machines, which are purposefully engaged in the grim war-time tasks essential to the preservation of a democratic way of life. In contemplating the wonders and the intricacies of the mechanical inventions of the present day, one is appalled by the manner in which God-given talents, which were meant to succor mankind, are being used by him for his own destruction and yet, in the midst of all this folly one may find consolation in the thought, the contrary notwithstanding, there is a definite and a perceptible trend toward a higher utilization of the time and health saving devices that are now being ruthlessly used to snuff out the lives and to maim the bodies and the minds of the most promising of this generation's manhood.

In putting aside these disturbing thoughts one turns to the more pleasant business at hand, by complimenting the local division upon its many efforts to comfortably house its guest at a time when limited housing facilities and other war-time restrictions have made this a rather difficult undertaking. It is the desire of the International Auxiliary Order at this time to express the deep appreciation of its officials and that of the visiting delegates and members of the various divisions for the generous manner in which all have been received by the officials and members of this first city of the great State of Ohio. The International Ladies Auxiliary is pleased to be a guest in the home division of one of its most loyal and devoted members, in the person of Sister Rosa Taylor, member of the International Executive Board, and who has cooperated to the fullest extent in the development of this great organization. Much credit is also due the local President, Sister Nina Sutton, who has remained steadfast even though she had the great misfortune of losing her husband since the adjournment of the convention in 1942.

Fair Employment Practice Committee

In coming to this city at this time there are those who are mindful, perhaps as never before, of the great problems confronting the Negro as the largest minority group in America. At the outset of America's entry into World

War 2 the morale of the race was at a fairly high level. For during the years between World War 1 and World War 2 the race had come to have, at least, an average knowledge of the domestic as well as the foreign issues confronting the country. As a result of this knowledge and following the attack of December 7, 1941, the race's first thought was that America had to be protected at any cost and that Negroes were ready to pay the price regardless of the cost, but it seems that the Negro reasoned without due thought to the vicious elements within a so-called democratic country; and it was not until the race had been rebuffed and humiliated at every turn that it became clear that the thinking of the black man had taken a turn for the better, while the thinking of the white man had not. With this realization came the determination on the part of the Negro to work, fight and die as first class American citizens. It was out of this determination that the great March-On-Washington Movement, which gave black America the F.E.P.C., was born, which guaranteed under a Presidential executive order the privilege which certain Negroes had become determined to secure, or to sacrifice their lives in the attempt. The far-reaching forces set in motion by the M.O.W.; and the great work done by F.E.P.C. through the compelling force of one man more than any other opened the doors of industry, government and the armed forces, at least, temporarily to black America. How long these doors remain ajar, or how tightly they are closed in the post war period, only time will tell. However, our own, A. Philip Randolph and Milton P. Webster have done their utmost to open these doors, keeping them open depends very largely upon the present and future attitude of the great masses of our racial group and in the creation of a Permanent Federal F.E.P.C., which will go a long way toward regulating the opening and closing of the doors of opportunity to Negroes. Therefore, there should be no relaxation with regards to a Permanent F.E.P.C. insofar as the Negro is concerned.

Free Speech in Memphis

In taking a positive stand relative to the many current issues, controversial or otherwise, now confronting the American people, the International Auxiliary Order commends without reservation the officers of the B.S.C.P. for the fearless and relentless stand assumed by them in the now famous Memphis free speech episode. Just as it condemns the members of the race in Memphis who were willing to sacrifice the most sacred principles in the American Bill of Rights, including the manhood of the race for a few personal considerations. The delegates here assembled should take great pride in the knowledge that the Memphis meeting, the M.O.W. Movement, and the President's F.E.P.C., all stem from the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, whose power and prestige behind its impeccable leaders brought hope and courage to millions of otherwise leaderless people.

The A.F. of L. cannot be too highly commended for the forthright manner in which it entered into a controversy, which if ignored, could have in time been brought to play havoc with the federation's own organizational policies. The role played by the Pullman Porter and his women relatives when confronted with this precarious situation, brought a surge of pride and joy to the hearts of those who have given the best years of their lives to the task of educating and preparing this particular group to face such situations in the fine tradition of their great organization.

Poll Tax

One of the most important fights that has been waged in America covering the past several years has been the fight to abolish the poll tax as a requirement of franchise in the 8 states where the poll tax congressmen manage to keep themselves in office years without end by as few as 2 or 3 thousand votes out of a voting population of a hundred thousand or more eligible voters. As it is easier to control 3,000 votes than it is to control 100,000 it can be easily understood why these congressmen employ the many devious methods that are resorted to in an effort to maintain themselves in office. Their unscrupulous use of the filibuster and the failure on the part of Congress to invoke the cloture rule without regard for right or wrong, has done much to arouse the ire of the American public, which when once it understands an issue, can more or less be counted upon to be on the side of right.

This callous disregard on the part of Congress will eventually, in this speaker's opinion, react to such a degree that the condoners of such chicanery will be driven eventually from public life by the force of an aroused and indignant electorate. For a man given to chicanery is an unscrupulous man no matter where he is placed and the sooner such an official is retired to private life, the better.

The entire organization is to be commended for the assistance it has given the National Poll Tax Committee in its attempt to place human rights above so-called State rights, which rights usually are narrow and bigoted, therefore, in need of a broader interpretation.

Non-Partisan Political Conference -- March-On-Washington

A Non-Partisan Political Action Conference of the March-On-Washington Movement, was held in Chicago, Illinois, June 24-25, 1944, at the Pilgrim Baptist and Metropolitan Community Churches, to acquaint the public with the political action contemplated by the Movement and to formulate political policies and organizational approaches for Negroes throughout America. The primary purpose of the conference was to determine how best to utilize the political strength of the Negro race and once the voting strength is mobilize how to direct it into the channels most likely to produce the best results. It was the consensus of opinion that by being committed to neither party that the race would be in a better position to bargain collectively with the candidates of both parties. Since there is evidence, past and present, that the retarded development of the race is due primarily to the race's limited knowledge to the basic problems impeding its progress, the conference agreed that an extensive educational program was of the utmost importance, and as no race can hope to rise above the thinking of the women of the race, your speaker urged that special efforts be made to acquaint Negro women generally, with the vital problems confronting the race so women could, through a more enlighten approach make a more effective contribution to this newest attempt on the part of the Negro to obtain economic and political emancipation for himself and for his posterity.

It was much to the credit of the delegates that this plan of action was adopted both by the committee members and by the conference with a dis-

senting voice.

The speaker also urged a further strengthening of the position of workers in general and the race in particular by the enactment of federal equal pay for equal work legislation since such legislation would prevent unscrupulous employers from using women workers who are doing the same work as men but in a number of instances are being paid much less than men workers. It is felt such a law would safeguard the present as well as protect the future wage structure of the American Labor Movement.

Subsidies

Among the more important economic problems to arise after the war is likely to apply to the part the government will play in the subsidizing of various phases of American industry. This is especially true of the shipping industry where the wages paid the merchant seaman are much higher than those paid seamen of the other countries. American business to be in a position to compete in the foreign markets will either be forced to lower wages as to be on a par with its competitors, or the American government will have to pay the difference between the wages paid American seamen and those paid seamen in other parts of the world. It is reasoned that an industry paying, say 2 dollars per hour to its workers, can hardly hope to compete successfully or gainfully with countries paying a much lower wage. The same, no doubt, will apply to all American firms transacting business on an international scale, since wages and other operating expenses are included in all business deals involving finance.

It was to give the delegates a clearer understanding on a subject likely to be widely discussed at the conclusion of the war that a speaker was invited to discuss subsidies during a session of this convention.

America already has heard much pro and con about subsidies, on agricultural and other commodities also about their effect upon the country's wartime price and wage ceiling, but little has been said to date about the government subsidizing American's exports, which are to be placed upon an impoverish post war world market, therefore, it is rather generally conceded by men with an international viewpoint that if the American standard of living is not to feel the impact of the lower living standards of the world at large, that the American government will be forced to subsidize, or in other words, underwrite much of America's domestic as well as a large part of her foreign business.

Social Security

In a 12 months period of 1935 and 1936, there was a national income of 60 million dollars with a total saving of about 7 million dollars, according to the National Resources Planning Committee. In this period individuals and families with incomes between \$1,400 and 2,000 dollars saved less than 10% of their income, while those with incomes in excess of \$15,000 saved more than 60% of their income, which indicates that the more an individual earns, the more he will save. Under the Wagner-Dingell Bill the average worker's family that is unable to save otherwise, would be saving through social insurance or through a withholding tax, something for the proverbial "rainy day", therefore, the pay roll, wage tax, is

said to represent the worker's way of saving for future emergencies, which arise during periods of unemployment, sickness and old age. The existing social security laws are found to be inadequate, in that they offer no protection to a large segment of workers and non-workers, who need the coverage most. Protection against old age, illness and unemployment is certainly desirable insofar as such protection goes, but it is felt it does not begin to go far enough. This is especially true insofar as medical care is concerned since it is felt that adequate medical care is equally as important since sound bodies are essential to a sound social economy.

The Wagner-Dingell Bill, while said to be lacking in some respect, would if adopted, come closer than any existing plan to provide for the health as well as the economic requirements of the minimum wage earning groups. The amendments contained in the Wagner-Dingell Bill are of such great national import, that the bill is being referred to at this time, even though the bill in no way affects the economic status of the railroad worker, this being due to the fact that the railroad industry is treated as a separate and distinct industry which has special coverage under the Railway Labor Act of 1926 and 1935.

Office of Price Administration

In making comparisons between the cost of living during World War 2 and that of World War 1 various charts lean preponderately in favor of the protective measures that were adopted by this country as a result of the creation of the O.P.A. soon after America's entry into the present world conflict. The ruinous effect of inflated prices and the exorbitant wage increases following World War 1, created a spiral of price and wage increases that brought almost unprecedented suffering to this country. During the years immediately behind us the commodities that were sold many times their value in World War 1 could not even be sold at cost during the Depression, whose scars by the way are so recent that they are still visible. The present rule of equality of purchasing power "not too much for some and too little for others" is a fair and just rule and should have the endorsement and support of all workers, employers, and consumers if the hazards of the post war period are to be kept under control. A case in point, the exorbitant prices now being exacted through the operators of black markets and other sources of illegitimate enterprises. All things considered it would appear to be to the best interest of wage earners to assist in the enforcement of existing price controls by checking and reporting all violations in their respective communities for by so doing the purchasing power of the worker will continue to be protected.

Consumers Co-Operatives and the Labor Movement

Aside from woman and child labor Consumers Co-operatives represent another important phase of the Auxiliary's educational program and since it is more or less widely known that prices always rise in advance of wages thereby nullifying the so-called raise when it is finally received; and since it is estimated that about 85% of all the spending in the country is done by women, it stands to reason that women should evince an interest in any movement designed to equalize prices and wages. The Co-operative Movement after 100 years of trial and error still points the way to a

least a partial solution to the inequality that exists between the high cost of living and the more or less always inadequate increases in wages. As the worker bargains for an increase in pay in the hope of keeping up with a cost of living already far beyond his earnings the housewife can through co-operatives effect savings and obtain higher quality of merchandise seldom equalled in privately owned enterprises. Consumers Co-operatives not only make financial returns to their members in keeping with the volume of each member's purchases, but the Co-op is owned and controlled by the customers themselves. Thus the workers who are the customer-owners are enabled over a period of time to make a wage increase really represent an addition to the family income.

In Consumers Co-operatives savings are not always noticeable with each purchase, but are returned in one lump sum. A point in favor of Co-operatives may be found in a report by the Welfare and Recreational Association of Public Buildings and Grounds, Inc., which is said to operate 58 government cafeterias. The Association according to its statement served 55 million 253 and 411 persons from 1940 to 1943 and although their purchases were made in carload lots, the cost of food handled by the Association showed an increase of 64.4%. This increase in the cost of living was met by the worker who in keeping with the little Steel Formula received wage increases of only 15%. In Consumers Co-operatives this increase in food would have been returned eventually to the men and women who otherwise spend in privately controlled businesses, but receive little if any of the profits. It is these savings over a period of time that close the gap between the illusory wage increase and the very real increased cost of living. Co-ops are financed by selling shares at so much per share to the Co-op members.

Grade Labelling

Several months ago many of the leading women's organizations throughout the country petitioned Economic Director Fred M. Vincent to require grade labelling of various products now on the market. A sub-committee of the Congress considering the petition charged that labelling merchandise as to its quality would threaten American free enterprise, destroy brand names and have an adverse affect upon advertising generally. This, however, was disproved since a can of pears, for instance, would still bear the name of the producer and could still be advertised whether the can was labelled or not. It was pointed out that one of the important reasons for grade labelling is to prevent manufacturers from substituting inferior grades of merchandise at the price previously obtained for a better quality of merchandise. So, it would seem that the only difference in labelling would be to specify whether the merchandise is sold as first, second and third class merchandise. As it is, the public has been buying for years according to brand names rather than according to grade and at a tremendous loss. Those most strenuously opposed to grade labelling realize that if labelling becomes general and merchandise is bought according to grade instead of by brand names that the less advertised items, because of their lower unit cost, would in time become the favorite and this, no doubt, would make great inroads into the advertising business. The cost of which is passed on to the purchaser along with what is generally found to be a more or less unsatisfactory commodity. It was

because these facts were so evident that the Ladies Auxiliary to the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters joined the other organizations in placing its signature on the petition that was submitted to the Director of Economic Stabilization.

Equal Pay For Equal Work

The greatly increased numbers of women in the labor forces of the country today have introduced many complications hitherto unknown to the labor movement. Most serious of these complications is the male worker's seeming determination not to place the woman worker on an equality with himself, even though she is doing identical work. It would be well for the male worker to remember that women did not enter the industrial world on such an unprecedented scale from a matter of choice but rather as a matter of a great national crisis. Women, whether workers or non-workers, who understand the problems of the working classes and their far-reaching implications realize that the woman's entrance into the industries formerly occupied exclusively by men holds a threat to the stability of the organized labor movement. Women, therefore, are seeking the cooperation and the good offices of the male workers in their fight to establish a federal equal pay for equal work bill. There is every reason to believe that such a bill would prevent large scale post war competition between men and women workers as a result of the employer having created wage standards on the basis of sex rather than on the individual workers' merit, skill and experience. The male worker owes this protection to the woman worker who will be compelled to remain on the job as the head of the family due to the failure on the part of the rightful head of the family to return from this present horrible world conflict. If the male worker persists as a result of his present shortsightedness to encourage such discrimination the time may come after the war is over when he will find himself forced with the unpleasant task of defending his own wage standard against the one his own indifference helped create for the female worker. And, this at a time when there may be a much lower rate of pay than exists today. Because of this possibility workers throughout America should give serious thought to this demand for federal equal pay for equal work legislation.

Child Labor, Past - Present and Future

According to an article by Thomas O'Mallory, Regional Director of the Wage and Hour Division, Department of Labor, Washington, D. C., the employment of the early teen-age child has increased three-fold due to the war time labor shortage. It was further stated that fewer than 1 million boys and girls under 17 years of age were employed in industry in 1940, while the best available figures gave more than 3 million employed children in 1943. One third of this number was said to include children between the ages of 14 and 15 while these figures did not include the thousands of uncounted children under 14 who are being illegally employed. To stress the seriousness of such a situation the article referred to the high number of men, totaling nearly 1 million, who were rejected by the armed forces because of illiteracy and other handicaps. Owing to the widespread publicity given this deplorable situation it has become universally known by this time that the employment of the teen-age child is largely respon-

sible for such a state of affairs. These figures and their tragic results leave no doubt but that there should be a strict adherence to the existing child labor laws since the progress of civilization and the perpetuation of the human race depends upon the ingenuity and the creative ability of the men and women of each subsequent generation. Not only does the child suffer as a result of a lack of early training and because of a lack of proper home environment during his early formative years, but the onward march of civilization suffers also. In view of the mental and physical deterioration found in millions of the young men and women of today, who were the under-nourished and under-privileged children of the depression years, there should arise a wave of determined protest throughout the country against any order or system which places financial gains above human advancement. Therefore, it is due to a spirit of self interest as much as anything else that the auxiliary is interested in seeing conditions improved today amongst the boys and girls who are to be the future men and women of the Negro race. However, before this may become a reality two things are necessary -- higher wages for the head of the family and more intelligent supervision and training of the child's mind and the child's body.

Legislative Committee

In view of the recent congressional trend where labor is concerned, it is felt that the Labor Legislation Committee is one of the most important committees appointed by the International President since the last convention. Opposition in certain quarters to organize labor has increased to such a marked degree during the past two years, that it has become imperative for labor to mobilize all of its real or potential strength in an effort to hold such opposition in check. To this end the Legislation Committee of the International Ladies Auxiliary was brought into existence, for not only has the labor movement been threaten, but an entire race is being placed in jeopardy as a result of the passage of certain anti-labor legislation. For as organized labor fares so fares un-organized labor and since it is an all too well known fact that the Negro race is predominantly a race of working people who are very largely un-organized it does not require very much imagination to visualize the affect that such hostile legislation will have upon the economic wellbeing of the Negro race. It was to familiarize the members of the various divisions with this trend that the Legislation Committee was appointed. The function of this committee is to keep the local divisions informed of all pending legislation affecting the civil, economic and social rights of workers in general and of Negroes in particular. A report of the committee's activities to date will be made during this session by the Chairman of the committee.

Scholarship Fund and Scholarship Committee

Soon after the first of the year, 1943, a general bulletin was issued calling the attention of the local auxiliaries to the annual scholarship entertainments required of each local auxiliary for the purpose of creating a suitable fund to be used to train the members of the Organization, or their children, for greater service to their divisions through their increased knowledge of the labor movement. The response coming from the divisions at first was not as spontaneous as it should

have been. It developed that the lack of enthusiasm was due to a lack of understanding, however, after visiting the various divisions and sending numerous written explanations, the response has become more satisfactory. Shortly after the first of this year a scholarship committee was appointed so as to be in a position to pass on the various applications coming from the members who are desirous of taking advantage of this opportunity. A number of applications were received and it is regretted that the funds on hand were not sufficient to permit the sending of all who applied. But, the International Ladies Auxiliary was indeed pleased that it was able for the first time in making its awards to grant scholarships to five members -- one from Montreal, Canada; one from Detroit, Michigan; from Washington, D. C.; Denver, Colorado; and one from Chicago. The latter award was granted after it was learned that a Labor Seminar was to be held in the city of Chicago with a tuition fee of only \$15. It is hoped later in the convention to have comments from the delegates relative to the benefits received by the members in their respective divisions. As the granting of scholarships is a permanent phase of the Auxiliary's education program, each auxiliary will be required to contribute annually to this fund. To comply with this requirement, all local auxiliaries are being urged to sponsor some form of entertainment, the proceeds to be forwarded annually to the International Secretary-Treasurer, who will place all such monies in the scholarship fund.

Convention Proceedings

It was not for several months after the adjournment of the convention of 1942 that the Proceedings were ready for mailing. The task of compiling the proceedings in the International Office entailed a great deal of work, so much so, that it is hoped a more suitable method may be employed with regards to the proceedings of the present convention. Owing to the acute labor shortage only a very limited number of copies of these proceedings were available. However, every effort was made to supply the convention delegates and each auxiliary that was in existence at that time of the 1942 convention. The International Auxiliary is indebted to the various members of the Chicago Ladies Auxiliary who gave so generously of their time in helping to assemble the completed report thereby making it possible to get the proceedings in the mail much sooner than could have been done otherwise.

Rules and Regulations

Owing to the number of amendments that were adopted by the 1942 convention to the various articles of the Auxiliary's Constitution and General Rules, and in keeping with a resolution adopted by the convention delegates, it became necessary to revise the Rules and Regulations of the Ladies Auxiliary. After the many necessary revisions were made the Constitution as revised was sent to a printer with an order of 2,500 copies of the smaller and more compact edition. In an effort to prevent the International Treasury from being too heavily drawn upon for this purpose it was decided to sell the Regulations for 10¢ per copy, by so doing it was estimated that the original cost soon would be liquidated. To what extent this has been done, no doubt, will be ascertained from the financial statement to be submitted by the International Secretary-Treasurer. Members or auxiliaries desiring

copies of the Constitution may obtain them by sending to the office of the International President, a request with a money order to cover the desired number. The Rules and Regulations were made available so every member may acquaint herself with the rules by which she is to be governed. In this way none need remain uninformed.

Official Visits

Early in the Spring of 1943, letters were sent each Zone Supervisor requesting an approximate estimate of the transportation costs covering the divisions of their respective zones. Upon receiving this information it was found that most of the divisions could be given the stimulating and beneficial affect of a visit from the auxiliary officials.

All of the Texas Zone except the El Paso Division was visited by Sister Caviness. This latter division would have been visited only there was no response from the auxiliary at the time Sister Caviness was ready to start her trip.

Sister Dailey covered all of her zone except Nashville which at that time had recently had a visit from the International President and Vice President of the Brotherhood.

Sister Lassiter visited a number of divisions in the southern part of the Eastern Zone in company with the International President, stopping off in Philadelphia, Baltimore and Washington on her return to New York. Other parts of the Eastern Zone having been visited earlier by the International President who advised the Zone Supervisor of conditions as they existed in those divisions.

The Pacific Coast Zone was visited by Sister Murray who submitted a very detailed report of her activities while in her respective divisions.

Due to Sister Tucker's nearness to the Norfolk and Richmond Auxiliaries she was requested to pay those divisions a visit in the hope of giving some needed assistance. The reaction has been very favorable. Sister Tucker visited the Asheville Auxiliary also and made a very favorable report. This visit was made around the time Sister Lassiter was visiting in another section of her zone.

The subsequent report of these visits revealed the existence of a number of difficulties and a lack of understanding, which had somewhat affected the morale of the members and in some instances that of the officers as well.

In May 1943, the International President visited the Indianapolis, Cincinnati and Columbus Auxiliaries where she had the pleasure of installing the newly elected officers in the latter division. From Columbus she visited the Pittsburgh, Cleveland and Detroit Auxiliaries. In the month of October 1943, the Buffalo, Albany, Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore and Washington Divisions were visited also. While in Buffalo the following members were appointed to the following offices: Sisters Elizabeth Meadows, Secretary-Treasurer; Maggie Avery, 1st Vice President; and Sarah Mosley, Chaplain; Sisters Sarah Jordan,

Elizabeth Meadows, Maggie Avery, U. Rainey and Sarah Mosley, Members of the Buffalo Auxiliary Executive Board. In the Baltimore Division, Sisters Janie McGathon was appointed President; Mary Mobley, Vice President.

It was found during these visits that a number of auxiliaries were feeling the effects brought about by the war and also the effects of the members' wide participation in a number of other activities. During the months of April and May 1944, the International President and the International 1st Vice President visited a section of the Southern part of the Eastern Zone. The divisions visited were the Montgomery, Jacksonville, Tampa, Atlanta and Nashville Auxiliaries. The International 1st Vice President visited on her return trip, the Washington, Baltimore and Philadelphia Auxiliaries. An additional visit was made in May by the International President to the St. Paul Division as guest speaker at the auxiliary's annual banquet. The joint meetings requested of the St. Paul and Minneapolis Auxiliaries during this visit were well attended and proved highly gratifying. July 26-27, a visit was made to the Kansas City Auxiliary in an effort to help adjust some local difficulties pertaining to the June election.

The hospitality and the many considerations extended by the members in each of these divisions beggar description. Above all, the officials were happy to have had the privilege of giving the information that was required for the general development of the auxiliary's activities.

Little Rock Ladies Auxiliary

In compliance with the decision of the 1942 convention, the Ladies Auxiliary to the Little Rock Division, Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, was re-organized during the month of January 1943. Letters of explanation were sent the entire membership after which Sister Mae Dailey, Supervisor of the Zone, was requested to go to Little Rock for the purpose of re-organizing the auxiliary. It was disclosed upon her arrival that the President and Secretary-Treasurer had resigned and that conditions there were in a rather confused state. Sister Dailey, no doubt, will go into particulars when submitting a report of her official acts and visits to the auxiliaries in her zone.

The Richmond, Albany, Buffalo, El Paso and Baltimore auxiliaries have been re-visited, re-activated or re-organized since the 1942 convention. Some of these divisions appear to have been helped as a result of the personal or written contacts while others appear not to have been helped quite as much. There are a number of reasons for this, chief among them appears a lack of familiarity with the auxiliary's program and perhaps a disinclination on the part of some of the local divisions to become better acquainted with the subject matter of the auxiliary's program. It is felt that the members of these divisions are not unconcerned or indifferent to the Organization as such, but that they probably fail to comprehend the extent of the auxiliary's efforts to shape the thinking of its members and its desire to prepare them for the significant role that women must play in the economic emancipation of the Negro. Since present activities indicate that the race is becoming of age, the thinking of the women of the race must become of age also, hence, the type of program presented by the International Ladies Auxiliary. In an effort to insure a greater compliance on the part of the local divisions corrective legislation will be presented to this body for its earnest consideration.

New Auxiliaries

In November 1942, Winnipeg, Montreal and the Toronto divisions were organized as the result of visits by the International President and 2nd International Vice President of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, who were in Canada for the purpose of holding an election and negotiating a contract for the Canadian Pacific Sleeping Car Porters. In January 1943 an auxiliary was organized in Vancouver. Contacts were made with the Calgary Division but without success, however, it is believed that an auxiliary to this division will be organized in the near future. Auxiliaries to the Train Porters locals in the following divisions have been organized also: Parsons, Kansas; San Antonio, Texas; Little Rock, Arkansas; Memphis, Tennessee; Augusta, Georgia and Tucson, Arizona. Additional comments relative to these auxiliaries will be made by the International Zone Supervisors. In the Spring of 1944 a Brotherhood auxiliary to the Charleston-Savannah and Augusta, Georgia divisions were organized. Up to the time of the arrangement of this report the response coming from a number of these latter divisions was not entirely satisfactory, which is due in part to the auxiliary's hesitancy in requesting needed information and to a slowness in replying to communications sent by the International Office. It is hoped, now that the urgency in preparing for the Biennial Meeting is over that a great deal of time can be devoted to these auxiliaries so a closer contact will be established between the International and these local divisions.

Financial Arrangements for Canadian Auxiliaries

Owing to the very drastic war time monetary control in the Province of Canada the Canadian Ladies Auxiliaries were instructed during the latter part of 1942, to deposit all tax and assessments in a bank in their respective cities. The deposits are required to be placed to the credit of the International Ladies Auxiliary BSCP with monthly statements to the International President and International Secretary-Treasurer as to the amount of tax and assessments so deposited. These auxiliaries are to be congratulated upon the clarity and the conciseness of their reports and upon the splendid cooperation which has helped to simplify what otherwise would have become a rather difficult situation. These auxiliaries while not subject to the laws and customs of the United States Government are nevertheless making use of the more or less universal program arranged by the International Auxiliary for the guidance of the local auxiliaries regardless of their geographical location.

Elections

This year, perhaps more than ever before, the local elections in a number of divisions were held amidst much confusion despite the detailed instructions contained in the Election bulletin. The many differences arose primarily because of the auxiliary's desire to make special rules to fit existing conditions in their own divisions instead of being governed by the rules adopted by the convention delegates. Because of this tendency nominations had to be set aside, elections required to be re-held and installations deferred pending adjustment. In

instances where unforeseen situations arise it is understood that the auxiliary may upon a majority vote make special arrangements to meet the emergency, but the basic requirement governing nominations and elections must not be abridged without the approval of the International President of the Ladies Auxiliary. According to the various reasons advanced as being responsible for much of the confusion, one is compelled to conclude that a lack of good faith was much in evidence, also that personal likes and dislikes and a sudden desire to hold office whether qualified or not, or whether the desire was to the best interest of the division or not, had their disruptive influences. The holding of elections is a democratic process which provides for full participation on the part of the entire membership. Therefore, such a privilege is not without responsibility since each member is charged with the obligation to work to the very best interest of the entire organization, under all circumstances and at all times. Because of this it is hoped from today on that the rank and file members who do the electing will be strong and impersonal enough to place the welfare of the auxiliary above and beyond the personal ambitions, even of their dearly beloved friends. (Applause)

Spokane Auxiliary

For a year or more a number of attempts have been made to bring the Spokane Auxiliary into conformity with the requirements of the International Ladies Auxiliary. Detailed instructions and information was sent the auxiliary's officials, appeals were made to the Brotherhood officials, also the division's local counselor, in the hope of bringing about an adjustment. In view of conditions found to exist in the auxiliary it was decided after waiting a reasonable time following the recent June elections to instruct the auxiliary to surrender its charter until such time as the auxiliary indicates a willingness to conform to the Constitution and General Rules of the Ladies Auxiliary. This action was taken with the approval of Sister Murray, the Zone Supervisor, and the International Counselor of the Ladies Auxiliary. It was further disclosed that the funds in the local treasury were given to the local Brotherhood, following the period of the auxiliary's inactivity. This being contrary to the rule governing such a situation and upon receiving this information the auxiliary officials were instructed by the International President to make a report of all monies that were in the treasury at the time of Sister Murray's visit in the Spring of 1943, since all funds in the local treasury are required to be forwarded to the International Secretary-Treasurer upon surrendering the local charter.

Delinquency in Local Divisions

The accomplishments of the Ladies Auxiliary since its reorganization in 1938 have been satisfactory to a very marked degree. The careful and considered adoption of rules and regulations, the basic and worthwhile program arranged by the International Auxiliary for the local divisions, all have met with the highest commendation on the part of persons or organizations interested in advancing the cause of humanity

as a whole. The uniformity of action and the solidarity and compactness of organizational functions have established the soundness of the relationship that exist between the labor movement and its Ladies Auxiliary. It is to improve and to deepen these organizational ties to strengthen the prestige and affectiveness of the Ladies Auxiliary that the following observations and recommendations are being made. It is as a person who has been in a position to observe each division at first hand to know the weak and the strong points of each; how each or both affect the well being of the entire organization that the observations contained herein are being made.

Therefore, I should like to comment upon the tendency in some divisions to remain more or less dormant for a year, or a year and a half, then to bestir themselves just enough to elect a delegate to represent the auxiliary at the biennial convention. In such divisions there has been little or no compliance with any of the rules and regulations, the constitutional provisions or the special or permanent programs that have come out of the subsequent conventions, or with those emanating from the office of the International President. Years of observation have proven that such a situation does not work to the best interest of the local division or to that of the International Organization. In some of these divisions scarcely more than half a dozen persons fill all the offices in the local setup. This means, after filling the office of the President, 1st Vice President, Secretary-Treasurer and, of course, electing a delegate, that the rest of the offices remain more or less un-occupied. This does not necessarily mean incompetence on the part of the officers, but rather indifference on the part of the membership.

The second observation arises from the lack of financial support coming from such divisions. In the early days of the re-organization and even up to the present time, reasonable concessions were given and will continued to be given in an effort to assist the auxiliaries in their educational efforts, but to be entitled to such consideration the auxiliary should be compelled to indicate a willingness to comply with the rules, regulations and general policies that are adopted for the guidance of all. Some of the auxiliaries being referred to submitted financial statements very infrequently, ranging from periods of six months to almost a year, while a number failed entirely to submit duplicate statements to the office of the International President as is required by the general rules of the Ladies Auxiliaries. After making a number of attempts to impress upon the auxiliaries the seriousness of these omissions it is being recommended to this convention that beginning with this month that any auxiliary failing to make a financial report for a period of six months during any part of the two year period preceding the convention, or that has remained dormant, or failed to fill the offices necessary to function properly, that such auxiliaries be denied the privilege of seating their delegate in the biennial convention, and that in extreme cases that the International President be authorized to life the charter, restoring the same only when there is conclusive evidence that the division is in a position to discharge the duties ascribed to it by the Constitution and General Rules. This action is not only thought to be essential from an organization point of view, but it is thought to be unfair to allow such auxiliaries the same privilege as those meeting their full obligations regularly from year to year. (Applause)

National Affiliation of the International Auxiliary

A resolution adopted by the 1942 Convention instructing the International Auxiliary to take membership in the National Women's Trade Union League has been complied with while the resolution to take membership in the National Council of Negro Women's Clubs was deferred pending receipt of necessary information concerning the Council's attitude with regards to the unskill and non-professional groups within the race. Owing to the rather large joining fee and due to the extensive travelling done by the International officers during the two year period just ended this expenditure was deferred as long as possible. However, the International Secretary-Treasurer has been instructed to apply for admission at the beginning of the Council's fiscal year, which begins in the month of October. Whether or not the Auxiliary's membership will be renewed after the first year will depend largely upon the Council's program for the lower income groups.

Resignations

Since the election of June 1942 a number of officers have either resigned or become inactive in their local auxiliaries for one reason or another. In most instances such resignations may be compared to the growing pains of a lusty infant who is just beginning to find its way about. First, there is an outcry as a result of a fall, a protest over discipline, a lack of understanding of organizational procedure, a thwarting of personal ambition, unfamiliarity with the type and scope of the Auxiliary's program, but the most serious of all, is the too frequent and ill-advised custom of changing the local officers. A number of thriving auxiliaries have been needlessly disrupted due to a lack of farsightedness on the part of such auxiliaries.

If a child is placed in a chair the first time it starts to walk and is never again permitted to stand on its feet, the result is that he may never learn to walk. If an organization cripples itself by removing members from office just when they are beginning to be of service to the organization, just when they are becoming better acquainted with the requirements of their office, it stands to reason that the division can hardly expect to grow or to prosper. Experience is an invaluable asset to an individual or to an organization and should be recognized as such by the members. Time will develop many efficient women in all the divisions, but until that time does come the members are doing the organization a disservice by removing women from office for no other reason than to give some one else a chance to, perhaps, all but destroy the auxiliary, not because of any wrong intent on their part, but because of a lack of experience or adaptability. Therefore, the women of sounder judgment in the local divisions should not sit by and permit such a situation to exist since the practice is definitely harmful at this stage of the Auxiliary's development. (Applause)

War Bonds

In considering the amount of dues paid per member by the local auxiliary membership and the amount of per capita tax received by the International Auxiliary from these auxiliaries out of which secretarial salaries, postage,

rentals, transportation and other expenditures are deducted it is felt that the International Auxiliary has purchased its full quota of war bonds while the Organization as a whole, considering the bonds purchased by its members through the pay roll plan and through individual savings, has made a more than creditable contribution to its country during the time of its greatest need. Good citizens of a country, good members of an organization, or good neighbors of a community are measured by the support and service they give to the movements or causes thrust upon, or sponsored by their community, or their country. Therefore, the individual members of the Ladies Auxiliary are urged to invest as heavily and as regularly as possible in the future of America, by subscribing for bonds and more bonds, for there is not a safer investment guaranteeing, a more liberal return in freedom and security than the bonds being issued by the United States of America. The fact that segregation and discrimination permeates almost the whole of America in one form or another is no justification for permitting emotion to stifle reason. The Negro youths of America are giving their lives on the battle fields of the world that justice might come to prevail in a democratic society. Those of the race on the home front cannot do less than buttress such sacrifices by helping to hasten the end of the war. The battle of life is not given always to the strong, but to those who hold out to a seemingly endless end. The fight for freedom throughout the entire world appears to be just getting its first wind in preparation for the conflict and the confusion that lies ahead, however, America is the home of the American Negro and since America's fate, its follies and its virtues affect black and white alike, whatever retards the progress of either one should be intelligently opposed by the Negro as is done under similar circumstances by other racial groups who are also a part of this country.

Membership and Finance

It is with deep regret that I must report a sharp decline in the membership of all but a few divisions since the 1942 Convention. That the war has contributed much to this situation there can be no doubt. In most divisions visited during the past two years as well as in my own division it was found that a large percentage of the members were working hours that prevented them attending the auxiliary meetings as regularly as in the past. As a result of such absences numbers of staunch members have permitted themselves to become unfinancial while not really meaning to do so. This naturally has caused the local auxiliary to suffer in accordance with the support that has been withheld, therefore, the huge task in all divisions during the next several months will be to recapture the interest and to bring about a more regular attendance on the part of these members who it is felt are loyal to the organization, but who are more or less inclined after their hours of work, both in and out of the home, to neglect a number of their former obligations. Other elements to be considered are the almost innumerable war activities that are claiming a great deal of the time of the non-employed members, thus depriving the auxiliary of the greater part of their support also. It is to prevent such inroads into its membership that the auxiliary will have to devise some means of coping with this unfortunate situation. It is difficult to criticize such members since what they are doing is necessary to the winning of the war. But, institutions or movements that are striving to protect the future well being of their members in

particular and humanity in general must not be permitted to decline, especially at a time when certain hostile forces are at work, bolstering their opposition, war or no war. It has been rightly said that the price of freedom and security is eternal vigilance. So long as the officers and members of the Brotherhood and Auxiliary remember this -- just so long will they be safe from the encroachment of others.

Late Nannie M. Curby

"I use to hasten past grave yards,
Afraid of the dusk and the darkness falling
But now I linger and stay my steps
For my friends are there and they might be calling."

So it was first with the passing of Sister Venzie P. Witt, who passed shortly after the 1940 Convention, and now the late Sister Nannie M. Curby, who passed only a few short months ago. In the passing of these two pioneer members of the Ladies Auxiliary, the Organization, both locally and internationally, lost members who needed concede nothing to anyone insofar as their loyalty to their organization and its leaders were concerned. Sister Curby was the first president of the St. Louis Ladies Auxiliary and always evinced a keen interest in the welfare of that division, even when the staunchest of men and women hesitated to reveal their affiliation. Sister Nannie Curby, with others, was attending a zone conference in Chicago when the long awaited contract between the Brotherhood and The Pullman Company was signed. She was in Chicago when the Ladies Auxiliary was reorganized and although her long years of service were not recognized at that time she was later appointed to serve as a member of the International Executive Board, in which position she ran true to form. Her one great desire being to do above all else that which she felt was to the best interest of the entire organization and that which she thought was to the best interest to the greatest number of members connected with the organization.

"There are friends we meet as we journey along
Who like ships that pass in the night
We meet one day and they drift away,
silently out of sight.
There are other friends whom we chance to meet
Who prove loyal and staunch and true,
who tug at our hearts from the very start,
Just such a friend, dear Nannie were you."

Deaths in the Local Auxiliaries Since 1942

Since the Convention of 1942, the grim reaper, death, has invaded a number of the local auxiliaries. Many of the dearly departed, labored earnestly and well in their chosen fields -- and left a better community, a better church, better organizations and better families as a result of their sojourn in their small corner of this great universe. In their lives, as in the lives of all who pass this way, no doubt, were many disappointments and heart aches, nevertheless, according to some of the glowing comments received by the International President,

one would conclude that our departed sisters profited by the lessons learned during their sojourn in this vale of tears and that the departed were mellowed for service and disciplined for duty as a result of their earthly experiences. The International Ladies Auxiliary mourns the loss of these devoted members and sincerely condoles with their close friends and associates and with the members of their beloved families.

International Executive Board Vacancy

This year the delegates will be faced with the important task of selecting the type and calibre of member they desire to elevate to the International Executive Board of the International Ladies Auxiliary. This task is important since the future of the Ladies Auxiliary depends largely upon the officers who are charged with the responsibility of charting the course to be followed by the officers and members of the future. The wrong person today in the wrong place can do much to retard the progress of an organization, which it is felt is destined to play an outstanding role in the general education of Negro women. That is why the selection to be made today as well as in the days to come means so much to an organization that has a real lesson to teach and a real duty to perform. The passing of Sister Curby marks the second such loss to the International Executive Board. The first being that of Sister Venzie P. Witt whose place was filled in between conventions due to her having passed so soon after the adjournment of the 1940 Convention. While Sister Curby having passed so close to this convention it was decided after consulting the International Counselor to place this important responsibility upon the delegates here assembled with the feeling that they would make the best possible choice in filling the vacancy.

Summary

I should like in closing to re-emphasize the far-reaching and significant trend that is menacing the minority groups here in our own native America. The attack upon labor, the pitting of race against race, class against class, creed against creed, is no mere accident, but a very cleverly conceived plan emanating from such associations as the National Gentile Cooperative Association; the America First Movement; the "We-the-Mothers" and other cleverly disguised movements. Negroes must not be taken in by these "holier than thou" movements. A group that is capable of attacking one race or one cause is capable of attacking another. The Negro has accomplished and has learned much in the past 20 or 25 years because of which he will feel less inclined to take a drubbing when the present war is terminated than he was at the end of World War 1. Whether he will measure up to the challenge that is bound to be thrown his way, whether or not he will be willing to fight for his rightful place in America will depend to a great extent upon the attitude of Negro women who most likely will have an opportunity in the immediate future to prove themselves either as stumbling blocks or as stepping stones in the progress of their racial group. World War 2 has set a pattern for all women for centuries to come and there probably never have been braver women than those of Soviet Russia who fought in the

underground movements, in the thick of battle, and who to shield and to protect their men, used their own bodies as shields behind which the men might advance until their women's bodies were riddled with bullets. Russia in her crisis proved herself great because she had great and fearless women. Love of country may or may not inspire such a sacrifice insofar as the present day Negro is concerned, but the love of Negro women for Negro men, the love of Negro mothers for Negro children, the love of Negro wives for Negro homes, all must be strong enough to cause each to bare her breast to the same dangers as those faced by the women of the invaded countries of Europe. The Negro women of today must be willing to emulate those sacrifices if future generations of Negroes are to have justice and if they are to enjoy freedom of opportunity. Many, no doubt, will ask, "How is this to be accomplished?" -- "How are such tremendous things to be done?" The answer is by teaching unity, solidarity and self-respect, by learning the value of civic and labor organizations, by embracing and protecting the principles of racial cooperation. Mothers can instill these principles, wives can help enforce them. And so, with these thoughts uppermost, I bid Negro women Forward, Onward, and Upward. (Applause)

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Delegate Inez Temple, of Charleston, offered a motion that the body go on record as giving the International President a rising vote of thanks for the excellence of her report. This motion was seconded by Delegate Katherine Lassiter, First International Vice President; it was unanimously carried and the members rose to the call. A cheer leader began a cheer and was joined by the body.

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The Chair called for the report of the Credential Committee.

DELEGATE NORA FANT: We, the Committee on Credentials herewith submit the following report:

Your Committee on Credentials has examined the credentials of fifty-three delegates representing the local divisions of the Auxiliary and sixteen International officials making a total of sixty-nine and we recommend that the following be seated:

CREDENTIAL COMMITTEE REPORT

Albany, New York	Ellen Williams	1 vote
Asheville, North Carolina	Gertrude Epps	1 vote
Atlanta, Georgia	Gertrude Ross	1 vote
Augusta, Georgia	Serena Lamar	1 vote
Baltimore, Maryland	Jannie McGathon	1 vote
Boston, Massachusetts	Cecile R. Charles	1 vote
Buffalo, New York	Dorothy Garrett	1 vote
Charleston, South Carolina	Inez Temple	1 vote
Chicago, Illinois	Minnie A. Lee	1 vote
Cincinnati, Ohio	Lillian Williams	1 vote
Cleveland, Ohio	Vivian Comedy	1 vote
Columbus, Ohio	Frances Dyer	1 vote
Dallas, Texas	Olivia Rawlston	1 vote
Denver, Colorado	Nannie M. Wells	1 vote
Detroit, Michigan	Marguerite Rouse	1 vote
Fort Worth, Texas	Rose D. Lyons	1 vote
Houston, Texas	Anna M. Daniels	1 vote
Indianapolis, Indiana	Sara Allen	1 vote
Jacksonville, Florida	Elizabeth Austin	1 vote
Jersey City, New Jersey	Nora Fant	1 vote
Kansas City, Missouri	Ethel J. Tribue	1 vote
Little Rock Local #5	*Mae Dailey	1 vote
Louisville, Kentucky	Addie Thomas	1 vote
Los Angeles, California	Louise Costons	1 vote
Memphis, Tennessee	Bessie Patton	1 vote

Minneapolis, Minnesota	Mattie Owens	1 vote
Montreal, Quebec	Velmer Coward	1 vote
Nashville, Tennessee	Davie D. Phillips	1 vote
New Orleans, Louisiana	Susanna D. Lester	1 vote
New York, New York	Norma Harrison	1 vote
Norfolk, Virginia	Lou Mattie Deberry	1 vote
Oakland, California	Ardella Nutall	1 vote
Omaha, Nebraska	Olivia Kirtley	1 vote
Parsons, Kansas	Mary L. Davis	1 vote
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	Lillie Kendrick	1 vote
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania	**LaVerne Davis	1 vote
Portland, Oregon	Engliss Johns	1 vote
Richmond, Virginia	Nannie Guy	1 vote
St. Louis, Missouri	Lela Lee	1 vote
St. Louis Train Porters	*Mae Dailey	1 vote
St. Paul, Minnesota	Lela Jackson	1 vote
Salt Lake City, Utah	Ruth Scott	1 vote
San Antonio, Texas	Emma Dixon	1 vote
San Antonio Local #9	*Fannie J. Caviness	1 vote
Seattle, Washington	Jessie S. Walker	1 vote
Shreveport, Louisiana	Estella Wilson	1 vote
Tampa, Florida	Blanche Young	1 vote
Toronto, Ontario CFR	Garda Chevalier	1 vote
Toronto, Ontario (Pullman)	Hilda Carrington	1 vote
Tucson, Arizona	Margaret Woods	1 vote
Winnipeg, Manitoba	Helen Iola Hudson	1 vote
Washington, D. C.	Elizabeth V. Craig	1 vote
Vancouver, B. C.	Maude Fields	1 vote

*By proxy
**Alternate

Delegate Rosina Tucker announced that she had arranged to have a secretary stationed in the hall so that information on the proper procedures in the preparation of reports could be disseminated to all who wished to make an appointment, and to those who had brought their records for this purpose.

The President, to whom the Chairman had yielded the Chair, announced that a motion for adjournment was in order.

Delegate Marion Sappington offered a motion to adjourn for one hour; seconded by Delegate Carrie B. McWatt. Carried, and meeting recessed at 1:35 p.m. Members left the meeting room to gather before the building for a group picture for the Gazette and the Press.

FIRST DAY - MONDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

Cleveland, Ohio
Monday, September 18, 1944

President Wilson called the second session of the Convention to order at 2:45 p.m.

After group singing of "America", led by Delegate Rosina C. Tucker, Delegate Fannie J. Caviness led "The Lord's Prayer".

The Chair called for the report from the Credential Committee.

DELEGATE NORA FANT: We, the Committee on Credentials herewith submit the following partial report: The following International officials having proxy certificates will vote as follows: Delegate Mae Dailey - proxy for Little Rock Train Porters and St. Louis Train Porters - 2 votes. Delegate Fannie J. Caviness - proxy for San Antonio Train Porters - 1 vote. The Committee has a report of 53 delegates and 15 International officers which makes a total of 68 votes.

PRESIDENT WILSON: You have heard the report coming from the Credential Committee. What is the pleasure of the Convention?

It was moved and seconded that the partial report be accepted and the committee continued.

The Roll Call indicated no absentees.

PRESIDENT WILSON: At this time we have to alter our program somewhat. We were to have a Mrs. Edith L. Christenson from Washington, D. C., as our speaker this afternoon but due to the war seemingly coming to an end the Government apparently is reducing its expenditures on transportation. Therefore, we are to have a substitute speaker instead. The speaker, I have been informed, is addressing the Brotherhood's convention at this time so we shall have to change our program somewhat pending his arrival.

You will notice the Chicago Auxiliary has a delegate and an alternate delegate on the program. I should like to explain to you why this was done. The International President has the very difficult task and responsibility of arranging the Convention Program, and since

the Chicago Auxiliary is actually engaged in the activities of a buying club and since the delegate and the alternate are active in that club it was thought by placing the two on the program that they could piece together the story of what takes place in a Cooperative Buying Club, also, by bringing to you a speaker to give other information which it is felt you should have at this time.

DELEGATE LETITIA MURRAY: Madam Chairman, International Officials, Delegates, Members and Friends, it is our pleasure to again present a discussion on the Consumers Cooperative Movement.

The Consumers Cooperative was started as an emergency measure, in an attempt to alleviate the suffering of the underprivileged. Since, in the United States, it developed in depressed or war periods and since we are now in the midst of the cruelest and most devastating war of all ages, it is very essential that a discussion of this kind be included in the program of this Convention, that the knowledge of this movement might spread and become an instrument for fulfilling our needs in the Post-War days.

At this time we shall have the pleasure and privilege of hearing the views and experiences of our own delegates and members on a subject that is attracting wide attention.

The first speaker is Sister Minnie A. Lee of Chicago. She is the first Bookkeeper and the present Secretary-Treasurer of the Chicago Brotherhood Cooperative Buying Club.

DELEGATE MINNIE A. LEE: Madam President, Delegates and Friends of this convention.

The Consumers Cooperative Movement is the joining of neighbors with each other to buy the food, the clothes and other things they need and use. It is not a new fangled idea or a scheme of Utopian dreamers. It was born one hundred years ago out of human needs, and has grown steadily and surely ever since. It had its beginning in 1844 at Rochdale, England, when a group of weavers found themselves hard-pressed to make both ends meet. They decided to try and help themselves by organizing a Cooperative. They collected a small sum of money and opened a store to supply their needs. This first store was owned by 27 men and one woman. The principles on which it was established still forms the basis of Cooperative Societies all over the world, and the living watch-words of Cooperative Economic action, after a century of business. The influence of this small shop, started by working people, touches the lives of millions the world around.

The principles are, 1) open membership; 2) one person, one vote, regardless of the amount of money he may invest; 3) limited interest on capital; 4) distribution of savings according to patronage; 5) cash trading at market prices;

6) neutrality in religious and political creeds; 7) constant education; 8) continuous expansion. Gradually, Cooperatives have expanded and pushed into other lines until many are general merchandise stores, handling almost everything that enters into living. It can be said without exaggeration, that some group of people, somewhere, has set a Cooperative for every consumer need imaginable. They produce, as well as distribute; they own oil wells, pipe lines and refineries, flour and feed mills, canneries and factories of many sorts. That is the real Consumers Cooperative Movement, people, just common ordinary folks, working together to supply themselves with their daily needs. People that want to do for themselves, rather than have some one else do for them.

Most businesses are owned by one group of people and used by another. A Cooperative store is owned by the group that uses it. It is the unique basis of this plan that makes the Consumers Cooperative Movement different from any other movement in the world today. It has been tested and proved. We are all consumers; it is the one thing we have in common and the one basis on which we can unite. Naturally, we seek to provide ourselves with the best goods at the lowest cost. A cooperative grocery is conducted on a non-profit basis. Periodically, an accounting of the business discloses the volume of sales, the cost of goods and the cost of selling the goods. Anything that remains after costs have been met becomes savings to be paid back to the customer-owner.

For years, housewives have fretted because labels on foods told so little about what is inside the can. Co-op labels carry all essential facts obtainable about the contents. Co-ops led the fight in Congress for universal grade labelling of products, where grades are available. Behind every Co-op item lies constant vigilance in consumer control of quality. With foods, trained home economists check constantly for uniformity, flavor, maturity and nutritional value.

Through Cooperatives, the standard of living is raised, quality is made certain, depressions are checked, security increased and economic democracy is established. Today, the Consumers Cooperative Movement stands as the largest non-political economic movement in the world. It is a peoples' movement that brings economic security and permanent peace. It offers hope for a world that is torn and sickened by strife. It is with these things in mind, the Chicago Ladies Auxiliary to the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, started their Consumers Cooperative Buying Club. The progress of which you will hear and of which we are justly proud. (Applause)

DELEGATE LETITIA MURRAY: We will continue with the history of the Consumers Movement by Sister Ola Roberts, Chairman of the Auditing Committee of the Chicago Consumer Cooperative Buying Club.

ALTERNATE OLA ROBERTS: The interest of the Ladies Auxiliary to the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, in Consumers Cooperatives, dates back about eight years. However, the first real meeting on Cooperative was held in January 1942. At that time a study group was formed. In this group we studied the principles of co-operation. Realizing the most important thing in the whole Co-operative Movement is the beginning we wanted to start right, to build upon sound principles. A study group is merely a group of people who bring their economic problems to a meeting, talk them over and seek to find principles which will guide them in the solution of these problems. Principles are not something to just learn but they are things which must be put into operation, what is learned is put into action. While studying, we organized into an operating group, taking in members and selling shares.

After eight months of study our group started our Buying Club. We operated for seven months in a basement, with a full line of canned goods and the most needed commodities. We were open one day a week, Saturdays. Our joining fee is \$1.00, our shares - \$10.00. Since June 1944 we have operated in the Brotherhood headquarters. We were ably assisted by the staff of Central States Cooperative in our study. Feeling we would soon be operating a store, we took up the Bookkeeping and the Co-operative instructor has aided us in setting up a fine set of books.

We have now a full organization with President, Chairman of Education, Executive Board of nine members and an Auditing Committee. Our Education Chairman has brought to us from time to time speakers of interest from the Co-op family, as well as moving pictures showing the progress of the Cooperatives everywhere.

Our educational program keeps the members awake to the ways in which we can save. We have learned more about saving money since we have been in the cooperative than ever before. We have built on the foundation of efficiency and feel we are making a success of it. With only eleven months of operation, we have a membership of 105. Have invested over \$700 in our stock and have taken in receipts of over \$1000. We are now open three days a week. The members volunteer to work each day thereby learning the business from actual experience. We sell at market price for cash and we do get more for our money.

Since we own the store there is no reason why we should want to cheat or deceive ourselves. Membership in this movement and participation in the advantages of shopping in our cooperative store is open to all. The money put in is not a contribution but an investment because we will pay interest upon our shares.

We are happy that you gave us this opportunity to tell you about this worthy cause, a successful idea, an important step forward in social action, a growing economic enterprise.

(Applause)

DELEGATE LETITIA MURRAY: The next speaker on this Consumer's Program is Sister Elizabeth V. Craig of Washington, D. C. Sister Craig has attended a series of consumer classes at Howard University and she comes well prepared to bring you information on this subject.

DELEGATE ELIZABETH CRAIG: We hear a great deal about Consumers' Co-operatives nowadays. We are giving some views and experiences of cooperatives' possibilities.

We are all workers and we must consume so we can join together and form consumers' cooperatives by organizing and helping raise the standard of living. Just as wages increase, co-ops tend to insure reasonable prices for the things we buy with our wages, food, clothing, housing, medical care, insurance, gas, and oil. They also tend to raise the quality of these goods and services.

The cooperative movement helps to build a better world for the common man towards which all progressive forces are striking, gives the man a chance of self expression and opportunity to control his own business.

Cooperatives have their business enterprises owned by the people, served by the consumers. These enterprises, grocery stores, gas stations, insurance agencies, etc., in turn own larger organizations which supply them their needs, and these in turn own many of their sources of supply.

As a result the consumers can by this means, own and control every business unit, all the way back to the producing plant or the source of raw material. All along this route, quality will be under the control of the consumers since they are the owners. Also all the profits made anywhere in the chain will be passed on down for the benefit of the consumers and not outside the group. This profit sharing lowers the prices; quality control keeps the quality high.

The Cooperative Movement is democratic control and membership is open to all. Each member has one vote regardless of number of shares owned. The Rochdale cooperatives help to establish a true economic democracy where people, not wealth will control, and where any individual, regardless of his race, religion, or political views will have an opportunity to participate to the extent of his ability.

The consumer receives the bulk of the profits of the enterprise in proportion to the purchases which he has made from the store. This means a proportionate lowering of the cost of the goods which they have bought. It also means that there is in the co-op movement very little chance of accumulation of profits by the idle rich.

A consumers' cooperative is started with a few people getting together to study cooperation to train the members in co-operative methods. After a period of study, a buying club with members pooling their money to purchase goods in large quantities to obtain lower or wholesale prices, is formed. When there is a sufficient profit in the treasury, a store or other business may be opened.

The Cooperative Movement, as I see it, can if it wants to, take the lead toward an economic system which will provide an abundance of goods for all people, an abundance fairly shared, an abundance where no man need want, and no man wants more than he needs, an abundance where security of the individual will rest in the security of the group. Not that we have to take the whole burden on our shoulders, we don't have to do that, but organized labor can do much to solve their own economic problems in Consumers' Cooperatives.

In our study at Howard University, we had many experiences in the co-op movement. The course centered around six major topics and a different discussion leader for each topic who had wide experience in the movement. The topics were "The Cooperative Movement - Its Philosophy, and Contributions to our Society"; "The Present Scope of the Cooperative Movement and the History of its Development"; "Birds-Eye View of Structure of a Cooperative Enterprise"; and "How to Get a Cooperative Started"; "Day-to-Day Business Operations"; and "Techniques for Conducting Educational Work".

We had a class co-op, each member purchased shares at 25¢ each. Soap, soap powder, and dry bannanas were the products sold. The profit was about \$2.37 which was turned into the class treasury. At the end of the class, a Howard Co-op Institute was organized to keep the members together and to encourage others in the cooperative movement.

We not only studied in class, but went on tours of co-op stores, taking inventory at the Rochdale Store and checking goods that carried co-ops labels which is essential in all co-op stores, getting facts about the contents. You already know that cooperatives led the fight in the last session of Congress for universal grade labelling of products where grades are available.

I found in attending the class that co-op entertainment and recreation are closely connected with the movement. Some nights were used for recreation on the lawn.

I attended the sixth annual co-op fall conference, October 1943, at the American University, Washington, D. C. There we had for the first time Maryland Cooperatives, both farmer and consumer groups, and the D. C. Cooperative Leagues united.

One of the features was a banquet in the dining hall of the University. It was not a formal affair, we had cafeteria service and cleared our own tables when finished. The speeches followed from Farm Cooperative, Labor Union, and Consumers' Cooperative representatives:

each with the view to develop better understanding and good-will and how all these groups can combine in combating the economic evils threatening them all alike and in sharing the benefits of savings that can be gotten by working together. At the close of the speeches, a cooperative recreational program was conducted consisting of singing, folk dancing, and games.

Since co-ops have an international organization which makes it possible to apply its principles between people of different nations an International Cooperative Reconstruction Conference, was held in January 1944, sponsored by the Cooperative League, Inc. Delegates from all over the world attended bringing reports of the Cooperative Enterprises and discussing problems. The theme was Co-op plan for the Post-War World.

Brotherly love is also demonstrated by one co-op enterprise towards another. Because co-op want their movement to expand, every co-op is happy when another group wants to get started, and will lend all the help and encouragement possible. This is cooperation as distinguished from competition. This type of cooperation was demonstrated at the opening of the Frederick Douglass Cooperative on July 25, 1944 at which time representatives from the Greenbelt, Maryland, Rochdale, and Potomac Co-op were present and participated on the program. These stores also aided the members in getting started.

The experience of getting people to catch the vision and be interested in the movement is no easy job, but don't give up, continue your education with few until the spirit has moved others that will believe in the movement; then study and start your buying club. You learn by doing. (Applause)

PRESIDENT WILSON: We see that our speaker has arrived. We will proceed with the program. After the address the delegates are free to ask any questions they may desire.

DELEGATE MURRAY: First, I should like to read to you a telegram from Mrs. Edith L. Christianson of O.P.A..

"MRS. HELENA WILSON

Pres. Women's Auxiliary, Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters
Cedar YMCA 7615 Cedar Avenue Cleveland

SHORTAGE OF TRAVEL FUNDS MEANS THAT WE ARE ASKING JOHN HARGROVE TO TAKE MY PLACE AND ADDRESS THE MEMBERS OF THE FOURTH BIENNIAL CONVENTION OF THE LADIES AUXILIARY TO THE BROTHERHOOD OF SLEEPING CAR PORTERS MONDAY AFTERNOON SEPT 18 AT TWO O'CLOCK. I AM PERSONALLY VERY SORRY TO MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY TO BE A PART OF THIS CONVENTION AND TO MEET THE FINE WOMEN WHO WILL BE THERE. I KNOW THAT MR. HARGROVE

WILL DO A FINE JOB FOR YOU. WE WILL BE LOOKING FORWARD TO RECEIVING YOUR CONVENTION REPORT. BEST WISHES FOR A SUCCESSFUL MEETING.

/s/ EDITH L. CHRISTIANSON
O.P.A. LABOR OFFICE
OFFICE OF PRICE ADMINISTRATION."

DELEGATE MURRAY: Today, we have one of the finest young men with us. I had the pleasure of meeting Mr. John Hargrove in Los Angeles and it is a very pleasant surprise to learn he is in Washington. It gives me great pleasure to introduce Mr. Hargrove to you.

MR. JOHN E. HARGROVE: Madam Chairman, President Wilson, International Officials, Delegates, of the Fourth Biennial Convention to the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, Ladies and Gentlemen, if there are any gentlemen present, and visiting friends. It affords me an unlimited degree of pleasure to have an opportunity to meet with you and to participate with you in your convention. I bring you greetings and salutations from O.P.A. in Washington, D. C.

Before going to Washington, D. C., as Mrs. Letitia Murray stated, I was in Los Angeles. I worked with the Dining Car Porters and since working with organized labor we are naturally interested in rent control and many other phases of labor that affect our people. Since I have been in Washington we have made many contacts with the various labor groups and especially with your leader, Mr. A. Philip Randolph and many other friends in the Dining Car group. We have enjoyed many fine relationships with the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters. I am to talk to you this afternoon on Subsidies.

When people get together for the purpose of talking about Subsidies it can mean but one thing. That is the need for using all means possible for keeping down the cost of living.

The purpose of subsidies is clear. When the point is reached where a certain commodity can not be produced at a price low enough for the average person to buy, part of the cost of production is absorbed by payment to the producer from Government Funds, for example, suppose it is necessary to place a ceiling of 5 cents a pound on potatoes in order to help keep the total living cost down, suppose also that the farmer finds that he is unable to deliver potatoes to the market at a price low enough to enable the retailer to sell them at 5 cents a pound and still make a profit. The Farm Security Administration acting for the Government will pay farmers enough to insure him a profit and enable him to sell the potatoes at a price low enough to allow the retailer to sell them at the ceiling price. On the other hand if surpluses of potatoes develop or other conditions make it necessary, Subsidies are granted to support prices -- to keep them from falling too low.

The foregoing is a simple explanation of how subsidies work, which I felt compelled to discuss because of your request that I speak on this subject. Frankly, we in OPA say very little on this subject both because of its controversial nature, and the fact that subsidies are administered largely by other agencies. However, interest in Subsidies grow out of an interest in Price Control. Therefore, I feel justified in addressing myself to the most pressing problem of Price Control in the Reconversion period.

Before we enter into a discussion of future Pricing program, let us take stock of the present situation:

Because of the active participation of organized groups throughout the country, such as the Ladies' Auxiliary to the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, our nation has successfully weathered the storm of War created problems in our economic life.

The line has been successfully held against rising prices and living costs have been kept down. Through rationing each one of us has had his share of scarce commodities. But the job is not done and the threat of inflation has not been removed.

There is a growing tendency on the part of many of us to think the time has come to relax and disregard compliance with Price and Rent Control Regulations. This is clearly evidenced by the large numbers of workers leaving war plants and returning to peace time jobs, the dropping off of bond sales and an increasing disregard for the need of observing price ceilings and rationing regulations.

This wave of optimism that is sweeping the country can easily produce disastrous results on both the battle front and home front. True the war is going well in Europe and victory seems to be on the horizon, but the pressures which create inflation are apt to increase rather than decrease after victory in Europe is won.

A case to this point is what happened after World War I. In 1920 more than two years after signing of the armistice, cost of living went up much higher than it did at any time during the war. As a matter of fact, two years after the war prices went up 40% higher than any time during the war. Most of us remember this inflationary period and the deflation which followed. Millions were unemployed, production decreased and economic collapse followed. Our basic concern then is not to allow ourselves to fall in the same pitfalls. Therefore, we should enter into the reconversion period well informed and participate intelligently in the consumers role to prevent post-war inflation on the one hand and deflation on the other. Lets see what will happen if prices are allowed to rise uncontrolled in the reconversion period:

First of all rising prices in the reconversion period may cause the American people to dissipate the 100 billion dollars they have saved during the war by causing them to buy commodities at inflationary levels. For an example, suppose you were compelled

to pay 20 cents for a loaf of bread, 90 cents for a dozen eggs, 25 cents for a pound of sugar, 60 cents for a pound of pork chops and twice as much for an automobile, washing machine, refrigerator, than the cost was in 1940, how long would your war savings last? If price ceilings were kept at the 1942 level your savings would certainly last much longer.

The other condition that rising prices might produce, remembering what happened after the last war, people may refuse to buy at the high prices and wait for deflation to set in. This will prevent full production resulting in unemployment, and an unstable economy. Obviously it is better to keep prices down so people can buy, thereby encouraging full production, full employment, and decent wages. Many new commodities will appear on the market which have never come under price regulations. The tendency may be to place such a high price on these commodities that the average person could not buy them. Consequently no market would develop and the plants producing these things could not be kept going at full production capacity, which would result in the loss of jobs for many, and the denial of the consumption of these commodities for many more. So in order to make new commodities available to all at a price they can pay, it is necessary to place price ceilings on these commodities.

In the third place, our real aim is to permit everyone a share in the fruits of American production.

This is possible only if prices are kept at a level low enough for a majority of the people to buy. We have always been able to produce more than our people could buy. Many people could not buy these things because prices have been too high, and their earnings too low.

What we want to do is to produce more things than ever before and sell them at a price people can afford to pay. This is labor's stake in Price Control, for only if we produce at maximum capacity can we have full employment and decent wages.

What can the Ladies Auxiliary to the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters do to keep down rising prices during the reconversion period--

Here are some concrete suggestions:

1) Learn the Group numbers of the stores where you shop. A big chain store is likely to be OPA Group 4. A small corner grocery is likely to be OPA Group 1 or 2. Every store should have a placard telling what OPA Group it belongs to. Ceiling prices in these stores are set according to the Group they belong to.

2) Look for the ceiling prices on the official ceiling price lists posted in your store, get copies of the OPA ceiling price list from your local Ration Board for every member. The Board is listed in your telephone directory. Look

at the ceiling prices before you pay your bill -- and pay no more for any item than the official ceiling price listed. If not sure, call your Ration Board explaining the facts. Your name will not be used.

3) It is a good idea to make a shopping list at home. Put down the legal ceiling price beside each thing you plan to buy, using the official ceiling price list. Take the shopping list to the store with you, and check the prices you are asked to pay, with the official ceiling prices. The prices you are asked to pay may be lower, but they must never be higher than the ceiling prices.

4) If you are asked to pay more than the ceiling price, here is what to do: First, tell the grocer that his selling price on that particular item is higher than the OPA Ceiling price. He may lower it. If he doesn't lower it, call your local Ration Board or send a penny post card with the same information to your local Ration Board.

The Price Panel of the Ration Board will investigate your report and your name will not be used.

If the Price Panel finds that the grocer deliberately overcharged you, knowing the correct ceiling price, and if he refuses to settle the overcharge with you, you may bring civil action for three times the amount of the overcharge or \$50, whichever is greater or refer it to OPA.

You can see how that kind of participation in the OPA program helps price control and your pocketbook too.

But this is only one part of the OPA program. In addition, you should know that every eating and drinking establishment must display a poster showing the ceiling prices of 40 basic meals and commonly sold food items. Pay no more than the prices shown on this poster.

The prices of meals and separate items of food and drink should be the same as those charged during the week of April 4 to 10, 1943. These prices must be on file in each establishment and shown to any customer who requests to see them. They must also be on file with the Ration Board.

The same applies to beverage prices. They must be no more than they were during the week of April 4 to 10, 1943. And they must also be on file for inspection by the public on request.

Another extremely important part of the OPA program which operates for your protection is rent control. Labor's stake in rent control is great, because 17 per cent of each workers' earnings goes for rent. Over 88 million of our population live in rented dwellings, and a good percentage of this 88 million are workers.

What does OPA do for these tenants?

1) It freezes their rent at a specific date and keeps it there, so that every tenant should know exactly what his legal maximum rent is. Every tenant should have in his possession an official statement showing the maximum rent. This is called a registration statement, a copy of which should be on file at the OPA Rent Office. If the tenant is paying, or is asked to pay more than the rent shown on the registration statement he should immediately notify the OPA.

Every new tenant, moving into a different apartment or house, should ask to see the registration statement before he pays his rent.

2) OPA has recently made it clear that landlords can not ask for "security deposits" in excess of one month's rent in advance. We found that some landlords were asking for as much as six months' or a year's rent in advance. This is an evasion of rent regulations. If the landlord shows OPA he has a special need for collection of a security deposit for the return of certain objects, such as keys or ice trays, OPA may authorize a maximum deposit of \$10. If a security deposit is required in the lease, the landlord is within his rights to charge it. No security deposit may be asked for low-cost housing or for war housing, unless this was in the rental agreement. These same limitations apply to hotels and rooming houses.

3) Your services, furniture, furnishings or equipment may not be substantially decreased unless there is a corresponding decrease in the rent you pay.

4) A tenant who is overcharged on rent may file a complaint with the OPA Rent Office and institute a civil suit for three times the amount of the overcharge or \$50, whichever is greater.

5) A landlord must give a tenant at least 30 days notice before evicting him and he may not evict one tenant to make room for another, unless the first tenant has failed to pay his rent, or has constituted a nuisance, or has in some other way violated the rent agreement.

The job that I have outlined to you is a very difficult one. This is true because people will not be as willing to cooperate in maintaining price ceilings after Germany is defeated but we must, somehow, create an awareness to the fact that pressures for higher prices do not cease on V-Day.

Our hope, therefore, lies in our succeeding not only in observing price regulations ourselves, but also to develop a well informed and intelligent citizenry so that we can hold the line until a stable economy is achieved.

In closing I should like to remind you of a fact which you all well know because of our relatively low incomes. We Negroes tend to suffer most when prices go up. Your responsibility is two-fold, therefore, I charge you members of the Ladies Auxiliary to the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters to support the Pricing program both for your race and for your country.
(Applause)

PRESIDENT WILSON: We feel greatly benefitted in having Mr. Hargrove bring the convention this timely information. We are indeed pleased to have him here.

DELEGATE MURRAY: Do you have your questions ready?

DELEGATE NANNIE WELLS: In starting the Consumers' Movement is it true we have to have a class for one year of study?

DELEGATE MINNIE LEE: If I understand your question -- it is not necessary to have a year for study and buying. We are suppose to thoroughly understand understand and study the Co-operative program before entering in to the actual operation because it is better to understand and to know of the many mistakes before entering into a buying club. Just how often and regular you attend your study club, getting your capital and how rapid you progress generally depends upon how long the members will remain in the study club.

DELEGATE NANNIE WELLS: Our ladies in Denver have done quite a bit of work in investigating to see whether the merchants have their OPA regulation list placed where the public can see it. Our ladies have received OPA buttons for this work. If the merchants hesitate to place their prices and regulations where we can see them, or if they do not have them we report them to our local OPA Board.

DELEGATE MURRAY: In speaking of the study group it is essential that we have a good foundation before entering into a buying club and that is one reason why we urge each division to have a study club in your particular auxiliary so that we may be prepared when the time comes to start a buying club.

There are more than 2 million families in America, enrolled in the Consumers Cooperatives. They are in the New England States -- throughout the midwestern states and on the Pacific slope.

As a racial group we too, are beginning to realize its advantages, and Co-ops are being organized in different sections of the United States. The Negroes in Gary, Indiana, were among the first to open a Co-op store. The Ladies Auxiliary to the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, started a Brotherhood Cooperative Club in 1943.

Reverend Clayton Russell, Pastor of Peoples' Independent Church, in Los Angeles, California, opened his first store in 1942. They are now successfully operating 5 stores. Their gross income for the first year was 18 thousand dollars. They started as a racial group; they now have 225 financial members, and have included Mexicans, Phillipinos, Chinese and Whites in their group. Mr. Albritton, the general manager, expresses himself as feeling that they have made a step forward in building a better relationship between the races. Families with agricultural experience are being organized and will move to the farms to produce the supplies for their markets.

The road to success in the Co-op movement is not always easy. There are many dangers, pitfalls and problems in its operation -- some of which are competitive wholesale and retail situations, lack of membership support, overstocking, dishonesty and incompetency. Most of these conditions reveal the need of detailed study and for this reason we urge the members of the Ladies Auxiliary to give time and thought to this program, for it points the way to a democratic solution of one of the problems that, without doubt, will confront us when the present emergency is at an end and another period of reconstruction has begun.

I wish to thank the participants of this division for their excellent contributions and the very fine way in which they were presented.

I want at this time Ladies, to thank Mr. Hargrove for contributing to the program and I am sure we deeply appreciate the interesting material he has presented on Subsidies this afternoon.

PRESIDENT WILSON: At this time the Chair should like to appoint the various committees. It was found that several auxiliaries did not send in their election returns and delegate credentials as instructed. These committees are filled, of possible, before the convention to save time, however, the additional appointments will be made at this time.

APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES

Credential Committee

Nora Fant

Velmer Coward

Sara Allen

Olivia Kirtley

Cecile Charles

Constitution and Resolution Committee

Katherine Lassiter	Rosie Taylor
Rosina C. Tucker	Minnie A. Lee
Nannie Wells	Davie D. Phillips
Mae Dailey	Nora Fant
Fannie J. Caviness	Sara Allen
Mattie Owens	Ella Johnson
Letitia Murray	A. Philip Randolph
Halena Wilson	

Organization and Propaganda Committee

Mae Dailey	Carrie White
Ella McBride	Annie Daniels
Dorothy Garrett	Lillie Kendirk
Hilda Carrington	Jessie Walker
Norma Harrison	Addie Thomas
Olivia Rawlston	Ellen Williams
Nannie Guy	Helen Hudson
Susanne Lester	Gertrude Ross
Serena Lamar	Gertrude Epps

Cooperative and Credit Union Committee

Letitia Murray	Estelle Wilson
Roseann Lyons	Lela Jackson
Vivian Comedy	Engliss Johns
Cecile Charles	Frances Dyer
Garda Chevalier	Margaret Woods
Ola Roberts	Bessie Patton
Bertha Rowland	Inez Temple
Cora Stewart	

Workers' Education Committee

Fannie Caviness	Anna Wilson
Jannie McGathon	Marguerite Rouse
Elizabeth Austin	Ethel Tribue
Mary Lee Davis	Lela Lee
Ethel Hughes	Laverne Davis
Ardella Nutall	Maude Fields
Emma Dixon	Louise Costin
Lou Mattie Deberry	Mayme Benoit

Committee on Rules and Order of Business

Nannie Wells	Davie Della Phillips
Estelle Wilson	Lela Lee
Susanne Lester	

Publicity Committee

Rosa Taylor	Vivian Comedy
Marion Sappington	

Finance Committee

Rosa Taylor	Rosina C. Tucker
Halena Wilson	

Auditing Committee

Elizabeth Craig	Velmer Coward
Carrie McWatt	

President Wilson requested that all communications received be read at this time. Delegate Rosina C. Tucker read the following:

"MRS. HELENA WILSON
INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT, LADIES AUXILIARY
BROTHERHOOD OF SLEEPING CAR PORTERS
3278 East 128 Street
CLEVELAND, OHIO

GREETINGS BEST WISHES YOURSELF OFFICERS DELEGATES
WITH HOPE AND PRAYERS FOR HISTORIC ACHIEVEMENT AND MOST
SUCCESSFUL CONVENTION.

MONTREAL DIVISION

MAISIE DASH, PRESIDENT

HELEN SHEFFIELD, REPORTER"

* * * * *

"PRESIDENT HELENA WILSON
LADIES AUXILIARY B S C P
7615 CEDAR AVENUE
CLEVELAND, OHIO

PLEASE EXTEND MY GREETINGS TO THE DELEGATES IN
ATTENDANCE AT THE FOURTH BIENNIAL CONVENTION OF THE
LADIES AUXILIARY TO THE BROTHERHOOD OF SLEEPING CAR
PORTERS. I WISH TO PERSONALLY THANK YOU FOR THE SUPPORT
AND COOPERATION YOU HAVE GIVEN TO ALL OPA'S PROGRAMS
THROUGH THE ACTIVITIES OF YOUR ORGANIZATION. WE ARE APT
TO GO THROUGH A DIFFICULT ECONOMIC PERIOD BEGINNING SOME
TIME IN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS. AT THAT TIME ALL GROUPS WILL
BE NEEDED TO HELP KEEP THE PUBLIC WELL INFORMED OF THE
PROBLEMS OF PRICE AND RENT CONTROL AS THEY EMERGE SO THAT
ALL OF US MAY DO OUR PART IN HELPING TO SOLVE THESE PRO-
BLEMS INTELLIGENTLY. WE IN OPA REALIZE THAT WE CANNOT
DO THE JOB ALONE. WE NEED THE UNDERSTANDING AND BACKING
OF GROUPS LIKE YOURS TO MAKE THE PROGRAM WORK. WE ARE
COUNTING ON YOU.

CHESTER BOWLES, ADMINISTRATOR, OPA"

"TO THE FOURTH BIENNIAL CONVENTION
LADIES AUXILIARY TO THE
BROTHERHOOD OF SLEEPING CAR PORTERS

WE EXTEND WARM GREETINGS AND FELICITATIONS IN THE
INTEREST OF THE NOBLE WORK YOUR AUXILIARY MAY ACCOMPLISH
IN ITS MEETING.

WE FEEL ASSURED THAT BY THESE EFFORTS YOU WILL GO
FORWARD, AND WILL MAKE FOR A GREATER UNDERSTANDING OF
THE TASKS FOR HUMAN BETTERMENT THROUGH STRUGGLE AND
SACRIFICE, AND ON THIS BASIS WE WISH YOU EVERY SUCCESS.

SOLON G. HELL, CHAIRMAN
JOINT COUNCIL DINING CAR EMPLOYEES"

* * * * *

"Mrs. Halena Wilson
International President, Ladies Auxiliary
Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters
7615 Cedar Avenue
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Sister Wilson:

In behalf of the officers and members of the Eastern
Zone of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, I am send-
ing greetings to you and your promising Auxiliary at this
your Fourth Biennial Convention.

The splendid progress made under your able leadership
could only be achieved through the valuable cooperation of
its officers and members.

Recognizing that the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car
Porters could not carry out a successful program without
the sympathy, understanding and assistance of the women,
we wish to express our deep and sincere gratitude for the
willing aid rendered in the building and maintenance of
this valuable economic instrument of Negro efforts and
achievement. We judge from your enlightened program that
you aim to do greater work than before towards the re-
adjustment of a post-war world, in the saving of peace and
the winning of a greater degree of democracy for every
American citizen. To serve is to grow.

Yours for service and fraternity,
/s/ Thomas Patterson
Eastern Zone Supervisor
Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters"

"Mrs. Halena Wilson
International President, Ladies Auxiliary
Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters
3456 South State Street
Chicago, Illinois.

Dear Mrs. Wilson:

Through you I wish to extend most cordial greetings of the National Council of Negro Women to the Ladies Auxiliary to the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, with the hope that the Fourth Biennial Convention may be both constructive and progressive.

These are the days when the best that women have is called for. These are the days when the united efforts of women must be felt; not only throughout America, but throughout the world. These are the days that present a tremendous challenge to our womanhood, and we must be ever alert to our opportunities.

The National Council of Negro Women joins with you in working for a just and everlasting peace.

It is our sincere hope that the Ladies Auxiliary to the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters will join with us this year in advancing the cause of all women.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Mary McLeod Bethune
President
National Council of Negro Women, Inc."

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"Mrs. Halena Wilson
International President, Ladies Auxiliary
Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters
7615 Cedar Avenue
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Mrs. Wilson:

On behalf of the Women's Trade Union League of Chicago I extend to your officers and delegates greetings and every wish for a successful convention.

In the short time that your International Auxiliary has been organized you have made great progress and you are doing very good work in your Local Auxiliaries. We are particularly proud of your Chicago Auxiliary that is affiliated with our Chicago League and to have you on our Local League Executive Board.

"We all know that we will have many post-war problems to meet and I am sure your Auxiliary in convention assembled will give thought and consideration to these. It is only by all working together that we will be able to meet these.

With every good wish to your Ladies Auxiliary and your affiliated Auxiliaries, I am

Fraternally yours,

/s/ Agnes Nestor
President
Women's Trade Union League"

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"MRS. ROSINA C. TUCKER
INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY-TREASURER
LADIES AUXILIARY B S C P
7615 CEDAR AVENUE
CLEVELAND, OHIO

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PAST SUPPORT. WE ARE COUNTING ON YOUR FUTURE HELP IN THE NEW FIGHT WHICH WILL START AS SOON AS CONGRESS CONVENES. 10 MILLION AMERICANS MUST BE FREED FROM THE SHACKLES OF THE POLL TAX IN ORDER TO FULFILL THE AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF OUR DEMOCRATIC WAR AGAINST FASCISM AND TYRANNY AND IS NECESSARY FOR ADVANCEMENT OF DEMOCRACY IN OUR OWN COUNTRY.

MRS. KATHERINE SHRYVER
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
NATIONAL COMMITTEE TO ABOLISH
THE POLL TAX."

* * * * *

"MRS. HELENA WILSON
INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT, LADIES AUXILIARY
BROTHERHOOD OF SLEEPING CAR PORTERS
7615 CEDAR AVENUE
CLEVELAND, OHIO

GOVERNOR SPESSARD HOLLAND OF FLORIDA HAS SET WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 18 FOR ELECTROCUTION 3 NEGRO BOYS SENTENCED GAINSVILLE, FLORIDA COURT FOR RAPE CIRCUMSTANCES SUR-

ROUNDING TRIAL MAKE IT APPEAR DUE PROCESS OF LAW HAS BEEN DENIED TRIAL FOLLOWED ATTEMPTS IN ANOTHER COUNTY TO LYNCH THESE BOYS ACCORDING TO ASSOCIATED PRESS DISPATCH TRIAL HELD WHILE ARMED STATE MILITIA GUARDED DEFENDANTS AGAINST VIOLENCE A MOB OF THREE HUNDRED OUTSIDE COURT HOUSE DURING THE ONE HOUR TWENTY MINUTE TRIAL APPEAL HAS BEEN FILED IN GAINSVILLE CIRCUIT COURT IN ALMOST ALL OTHER FLORIDA CASES ON RECORD IN WHICH APPEAL HAS BEEN PENDING A STAY OF EXECUTION HAS BEEN GRANTED HOWEVER GOVERNOR HOLLAND HAS REFUSED TO GRANT BOYS A STAY REQUEST YOU WIRE GOVERNOR HOLLAND TALLAHASSEE FLORIDA URGING HE GRANT STAY OF EXECUTION PENDING TAKING OF APPEAL THROUGH THE COURTS. PLEASE LET US KNOW WHAT ACTION TAKEN.

GEORGE MARSHALL, CHAIRMAN
NATIONAL FEDERATION FOR CONSTITUTIONAL
LIBERTIES"

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It was moved by Delegate Ella Johnson of Tampa, Florida that all greetings be acknowledged and especially the telegram concerning the rape charge in the Gainsville, Florida Court. Delegate Ellen Williams, from Albany, New York, seconded the motion.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

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ADJOURNMENT

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SECOND DAY - TUESDAY MORNING SESSION

Cleveland, Ohio
Tuesday, September 19, 1944

The Third Session of the Convention was called to order by President Wilson at 10:55 a.m.

With the singing of "America" Delegate Maude Fields of Vancouver gave the invocation.

The Credential Committee submitted a report of 56 delegates and 13 International Officers making a total of 69 votes.

The Roll Call indicated no absentees.

PRESIDENT WILSON: We have a visitor here who has asked permission to address the convention for five minutes. According to the rules of order just adopted we have to have the consent of the convention.

DELEGATE TUCKER: Madam President, I think the convention will give that consent since the gifts being passed around are from that person.

PRESIDENT WILSON: With common consent of the convention the chair presents Mr. J. A. Jackson of St. Louis, Missouri.

J. A. JACKSON: Madam President and members of the Ladies Auxiliary, I feel I belong here as I started with this Organization in 1925 when they did not have a charter. I am glad to be with you ladies and to note your progress. I am working with one of the largest company's in the world, the Standard Oil Company, which employes 48,000 people, 8,000 of whom are Negroes. There are about 340 Negro dealers throughout the country who have 1,500 people working for them through this Organization.

I want to take just a moment of your time to think with you about the post-war plans. I listened to the Secretary-Treasurer of the Brotherhood speaking about the delinquency now found in the Brotherhood. I do not like to hear of this so, I believe, if the girls will keep up with their husbands and ask for their paid up dues cards that we can prevent this delinquency. After all, the economy standards of our whole race depends upon you women because you spend over 50% of the income on yourself and that is done to help you look nice -- keep it up -- it makes you look well.

Another complaint, I was not invited to the party last night and I will write my wife and tell her I don't have anyone to play with. The wife has a big job to do in the house, that is, if we are to save in food, insurance and the many necessities of life so it is important that the women begin now by encouraging your husbands to pay their dues by the year and not to allow them to become delinquent. Many people are being laid off their jobs and about 40,000 will be dropped this year until three million will be dropped, so it is well to protect your job now. These days of plenty are about over.

My assistant, Mr. Patterson, has 75 invasion maps, some booklets on how oil is produced which is helpful to the youth, and one or two other gifts, which I am going to leave with you for distribution among your members. There are not enough of one type to go around but I am sure you will adjust that.

PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you, Mr. Jackson, for your very kind remarks. You may rest assured that the porters who are not paid up are not related to any one of this group. After adjournment we will take care of the distribution of the gifts.

At this time we shall have reports from the Zone Supervisors relating what has been done by them during the two year period just ended.

DELEGATE LASSITER: Ladies, I beg to make the following report:

Albany - This auxiliary is somewhat hard to describe as there have been no changes or improvements. Sister Wilson visited this division twice and found that their meetings were irregular and their financial reports were lagging behind most of the time. The auxiliary has a fine set of women but their interest does not seem to be centered in the Organization; and the auxiliary has become very inactive.

Ashville - Over a period of time this auxiliary wasn't doing so well as they had some difficulty there with the Secretary-Treasurer, who was not making her remittances to the International Secretary-Treasurer. Since then that has been cleared up and the auxiliary is functioning satisfactorily.

Atlanta - This auxiliary was visited by Sister Wilson and myself in May. The ladies there are doing a splendid job. The meetings are regular and interesting. There is a lot of spirit among the members. We were greatly impressed with the operation of that auxiliary.

Buffalo - This auxiliary is operating with some difficulty as most of the offices had not been filled prior to August 1943. Since then Sister Wilson has made two visits, but there has been no noticeable change, or any improvement. Their meetings are irregular and their financial reports are not up-to-date.

Boston - The auxiliary there has been found to be more or less inactive. The officers are changed much too often. The people holding offices are employed, making it difficult for them to hold office and attend meetings regularly. Meetings and reports are irregular.

Baltimore - It has been necessary for this auxiliary to curtail its activities as so many of these members are no employed in war work. This has retarded their progress. However, there has been an election of a new president. With her fine administrative abilities, the auxiliary is again steadily pressing forward and hoping to build an excellent auxiliary.

Tampa and Jacksonville - Sister Wilson and I visited these auxiliaries and we were very much impressed with their present setup and future plans. Meetings are regular and financial reports were satisfactory.

Philadelphia - This is a splendid auxiliary, which is functioning excellently under the leadership of Mrs. Lillian Collins. They meet their obligations promptly. There had been some difficulty in regard to re-selecting the same president, but everything worked out satisfactorily and at present there are no problems.

Washington - This auxiliary is functioning to full capacity with meetings regular and financial reports good. The members are interested and are much enthused over their plans. Their ideas are excellent and the auxiliary shows great promise for the future.

Richmond - It has been reported that the membership has been remaining small although many contacts have been made to get new members. However, their meetings are regular and still are a financial success. All new officers were elected with the exception of the Secretary-Treasurer which is Sister Elizabeth McNeill.

Norfolk - This auxiliary is very anxious to have an International representative come and speak to them. They are interested in increasing the number of members and they believe that by sending this representative it would add further stimulus to the auxiliary and thereby increase their membership. Financially they are still a success and have no other problems.

Birmingham and Montgomery - The Birmingham Auxiliary is not functioning according to the financial report. It has made no remittance to the International treasurer.

The Montgomery Auxiliary was visited by Sister Wilson. Financial reports were found to be satisfactory and still were meeting all their obligations.

Jersey City - This auxiliary has recently elected a new president and officers. Sister Wilson and I visited the meetings and found them to be interesting and well coordinated. Financial reports were inclusive and satisfactory.

New York - We have a membership of 132 - 89 paid up. In 1942, we sent \$15 worth of patriotic stamps, which went toward the purchase of war bonds. We donated \$25 to the March-On-Washington; also sold 250 tickets at one dollar per ticket for the March-On-Washington Ball. We gave to the FEPC \$25. Our meetings are regular and our per capita tax is paid up-to-date. We have already planned our winter activities.

It was moved by Delegate Ellen Williams and seconded by Delegate Mattie Lou Deberry that the report of the Eastern Zone Supervisor be accepted.

DELEGATE MAE DAILEY: President Wilson, International Officials, Delegates and visiting friends of the 4th Biennial Convention, International Ladies Auxiliary, Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, I bring you greetings from the South-West Zone. It is with profound gratitude that I submit the following report.

I am happy to say that the Southwest Zone is still mounting success. The growth is slow but steady. The responsibility of the International Ladies Auxiliary Order is keenly felt by the women of this zone.

My visit to each local in May 1943 found the auxiliaries successfully carrying out the program of the International Ladies Auxiliary, functioning with a clear understanding of the Constitution and By-laws; and a fine spirit of cooperation existing between the Brotherhood and Auxiliary. I visited each auxiliary in my zone with the exception of Nashville, Tennessee -- at the time of my tour, Brother Randolph was in Nashville and it was felt that he would do the necessary work there. My visit included the following auxiliaries: Memphis, Tennessee; Shreveport, Louisiana; New Orleans, Louisiana; two auxiliaries in Little Rock, Arkansas. The visit was both profitable and enjoyable with the highest type of hospitality extended me. I enjoyed a lovely stay in each city.

To the eight auxiliaries in my zone, one new auxiliary has been organized; a Train Porters Auxiliary at Parsons, Kansas. Three re-organized -- the St. Louis and Little Rock Train Porters, which makes a total of 11. I am submitting a report for 9. The Chattonooga and Memphis Train Porters auxiliaries are still unorganized. To this zone 76 new members have been added since the last convention; making a total of approximately 250 members on the zone roster.

May I take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to all for your splendid cooperation, I have enjoyed working with you and I wish you continued success.

Nashville Division Ladies Auxiliary to the Brotherhood is making steady progress. Sister Davie D. Phillips, President and delegate from there reports they are doing fine. All assessments and per capita tax have been paid. Contributions to the March-On-Washington, U.S.O., Y.W.C.A. and the Auxiliary's Scholarship Fund, have been made. I received regular correspondence from there. To this auxiliary six new members have been added making a total of 36 financial members. No deaths. I wish to express my thanks for the splendid cooperation.

Memphis Division Ladies Auxiliary. The President and delegate, Sister Bessie Patton, reports a very splendid year's work. My visit there in May 1943 found a wide awake group at their post of duty. Annual affairs, such as the Randolph Birthday Party, A Pink Tea; jointly the Brotherhood and Auxiliary have a banquet -- all of these affairs bringing new members into the auxiliary and a large sum of money into the treasury. The Zone Supervisor's visit created enthusiasm, interest and a considerable amount of moral support to the auxiliary. The hospitality extended me was the finest. 15 new members added, no deaths, total number active and financial members on the roster is 36. Correspondence is regular and a fine spirit of cooperation always comes from there for which I am deeply grateful.

The New Orleans Division Ladies Auxiliary, under the dynamic leadership of Sister S. D. Lester, who represents that Auxiliary as delegate in this Fourth Biennial Convention. Sister Lester, together with the other local officials are carrying on the International Ladies Auxiliary program very nicely. Upon my visit to this group in May 1943 I found a very active Auxiliary with a large attendance. The Auxiliary's program was well planned; the visit was quite successful. I enjoyed the hospitality of this city also. For the 2 year period contributions have been made to the Scholarship Fund and the regional conference of the Brotherhood. A Popularity Contest, which brought a large sum of money was one of the ways of replenishing the treasury. Twelve new members have been added -- no deaths -- complete total on roster -- 36 active and financial members. I wish to express my sincere thanks to this group for full cooperation.

Shreveport Division, Ladies Auxiliary to the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters. For a 2 year period, beginning September 1942, ending August 1944. The President and delegate, Sister Estelle Wilson, informs me after going back to her district from the St. Louis Convention, was able to organize her group to a better advantage, because she had a clearer understanding, which gave a more workable knowledge of the Organization. Beginning 1943 the year's program was divided into 3 parts of 4 months each, with the following subjects as lesson study: Rationing, Conservation, Credit and Cooperative Unions. Under rationing, basic foods, meal planning and substitution. They would assign a member to bring in a menu and study it for the necessary

food value and substitution. In conservation, they studied hints on home sewing, making over clothes, and home decoration. Also, made a complete study and read all available literature on Cooperative Unions. January 1943 and January 1944 - \$17 and \$15 respectively were donated to the Red Cross, food for Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts; \$10 Patriotic Stamps; Scholarship Fund. Participated in War Bond Sales, helped the U.S.O. The following affairs are sponsored with high financial success -- that is -- teas, style reviews. At one of these affairs \$132 was clear profit for the treasury. The zone supervisor's visit in May 1943 was an inspiration, the meeting well attended; the hospitality was the very best extended me. I enjoyed every moment in this city. The Auxiliary was moving on nicely. Two new members; one death; total active financial membership of 19. I am happy to report perfect cooperation is received at all times from this Auxiliary for which I want you to know that I deeply appreciate.

Little Rock Train Porters Auxiliary was re-organized in August 1943. I made the trip there and found a very small group of women. The district is very limited and there is not much room for expansion. I have visited there several times since their re-organization. There are five financial members with all assessments paid; one new member; no deaths. This small number is very cooperative and I enjoyed each visit; they are very anxious for any information that I am able to give them. I am serving as their proxy here in this convention. This is one of the auxiliaries that was affected by the new setup under the ruling of Train Porters. Although the group is small the reports are regularly submitted.

Little Rock Brotherhood Auxiliary was re-organized in January 1943. I made the trip there and found a very very bad situation. Upon my arrival the President and Secretary-Treasurer tendered their resignation. I declared these two offices vacant and proceeded to appoint officials to fill the unexpired term with a complete re-organizing of this group. The number is very limited, however, the correspondence is regular, also I look in upon them regularly. All financial indebtedness has been paid. No new members; no deaths. This Auxiliary's membership is so small there is no representation in this convention.

Parsons, Kansas Division Train Porters Auxiliary was organized since the last convention. Early in January 1943 International President Wilson contacted me concerning this group and made the necessary preparation for the organization of this Auxiliary on February 5, 1944. It was completely organized through correspondence. The meetings are held monthly -- regularly reports are submitted to the International Secretary-Treasurer.

Sister Mary Lee Davis is President of the Parsons Auxiliary and also delegate here in this convention. Brother Otis S. Scarborough, Chairman of the Brotherhood's Executive Board there has been of valuable assistance and has cooperated wholeheartedly in helping this group get started. I have received 100% cooperation

from them. There are four new members; no deaths; a complete total of fourteen active and financial members with all indebtedness fully paid. I wish to thank this Auxiliary for its splendid cooperation.

St. Louis Train Porters Local #5. For the two year period, beginning September 1942, ending September 1944, reports a slow but steady progress -- this group is small with a limited district. I meet with them each month at their regular monthly meetings and I serve as Educational Chairman. The program is planned for a year and covers four subjects over a period of three months, much interest is exhibited in our classes. We have sub-chairmen under the supervision of the general chairman of the Membership Committee, covering each section of the city in an effort to keep alert in contacting new members. This group has 99% volunteer service in the O.P.A.; one entertainment is given each year as a ways and means to replenish the treasury. Contributions to the Scholarship Fund; March On Washington; Y.W.C.A. and to a member who is in need of assistance. All financial indebtedness has been paid and each member in this local has paid her convention tax, so they are doing splendidly. One new member; one death, Sister Alice Powers; total members on roster - 9. I wish to thank this auxiliary sincerely for its cooperation. I am serving as proxy for them.

Last but not least, my own St. Louis Division Ladies Auxiliary to the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, is making a splendid contribution to the International Ladies Auxiliary Order. The two year period just ending the first of September found us at our post of duty. The following contributions have been made: Scholarship Fund and \$50 to the March On Washington. Sister Lela M. Lee, is President and delegate; Sister Alice Brown, Secretary-Treasurer; and our Consumers Chairman, is Sister Eva Swait, who is visiting this convention. Two annual affairs are given each year from which a very large sum of money is cleared. I must mention our last annual Spring Tea in May which netted \$130. This auxiliary has a fast growing membership under the leadership of Sister Zola Johnson, for the two year period; 35 new members came into the auxiliary. Meetings are held semi-monthly; financial reports are submitted monthly. All financial obligations have been paid. There are 95 financial members on the roster; one death, Sister Nannie M. Curby.

In my conclusion, may I say, it has been a very pleasant association, the results splendid, the cooperation has been of the finest, for which I am deeply grateful to each one who made a contribution to the success of the Southwest Zone. In the words of our International Counselor, Brother A. Philip Randolph, I bid you forward, onward and upward.

Faternally yours,

Mae Dailey
International Zone Supervisor

DELEGATE LELA LEE: I moved that the very excellent report coming from our Zone Supervisor be accepted.

DELEGATE DAVIE D. PHILLIPS: I second the motion. (motion adapted).

PRESIDENT WILSON: At this time we will have the report from our Third International Vice President of the Southern part of the South West Zone.

DELEGATE FANNIE CAVINESS: Madam Chairman, International Secretary-Treasurer, International Officers, Delegates, Visitors and Friends to the Fourth Biennial Convention, International Auxiliary Order.

I am indeed happy to be present and to bring you greetings from the lone star State of Texas. I am also pleased to bring you a report of my work as Zone Supervisor of Texas. As I take view of the two years work, I must take in consideration all the prevailing circumstances and conditions and the many obstacles that have presented themselves to retard the success of the Order.

While submitting my report to you, it would give me great pleasure to give a detail account of my visits to each locality but time will not permit this so I bring you a general report of the following visits.

DALLAS, TEXAS. I arrived in Dallas, Texas, July 12, 1943, I was met by the President, Sister McGowan, and Olivia Rawlston, Secretary-Treasurer and three other members of the auxiliary. The meeting was held at the Y.W.C.A. Here the ladies were instructed on the general rules governing the organization, the constitution and by-laws. The ladies expressed themselves as being glad they were instructed on rules that had not been made clear to them before. With the information they received they felt that the Organization was not able to put over a better program than it had in the past. The meeting was adjourned and the ladies assembled in the lovely home of Sister O. S. Jackson for a garden party. Dallas -- \$42 bond; Junior Fund -- \$5. Membership -- 28; paid ups -- 23; transferred 3 to Los Angeles and one to Chicago.

FORT WORTH, TEXAS. On July 5, 1943 I arrived in Fort Worth, Texas. President Lyons was contacted and the next afternoon a meeting was held at the home of Sister Banks. The president was unable to attend the first meeting on account of death in the family. However, she attended the second one which might well have been considered a success. Several of the brothers attended also. They were instructed on the general rules and regulations. Finding that this auxiliary did not have the 1938 Constitution I instructed them on how they might go about securing one.

HOUSTON, TEXAS. Houston, Texas being my next visit, I arrived there on the 8th of July, was met by Sister King, the President, and the Secretary-Treasurer, Sister Scott, who made my trip a

very pleasant one. The meeting was called at 4 p.m. the same afternoon and was largely attended. It was indeed a pleasure to find this chapter in good shape. The members are very interested in their work and welcomed the suggestions on how they may have even a greater organization. It was learned that the auxiliary had no charter. I wrote immediately to the past Secretary-Treasurer but receive no answer. I recommended that a charter be sent as soon as possible to the Houston group. The fine work being done by this auxiliary speaks for itself. While in Houston I visited Sister Upton who was the first president of the Ladies Auxiliary in Houston and who is now ill and unable to attend the meetings. Her interest in the Organization is as keen as ever and we both were inspired over the work being carried on by the Houston Auxiliary. The social side of my visit was enjoyed very much. I was entertained with a breakfast by Sister Myles; a dinner and a grand reception which was held in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Scott. Sister Scott is the Secretary-Treasurer of the Houston Auxiliary.

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS. My visit with the San Antonio Auxiliary was made the first Wednesday in August. The ladies were in the midst of a membership drive and several new members were added while I was there. The work in this auxiliary has been hindered because it was necessary to elect new officers. The new president assured me that with the cooperation of the members that we could expect a big program these next two years.

In April 1943, I was fortunate in calling together a group of ladies to organize the Train Porters Ladies Auxiliary. We started out with nine members. The ladies are doing a very good job.

My visit to Galveston, Texas was postponed because of bad weather. But I learned that the auxiliary there is doing very good work.

I wish to congratulate all of my auxiliaries for their cooperation. The El Paso Auxiliary is the only one which has not shown much progress but it is hoped that in the near future this group will be taught the need of a strong auxiliary in this area.

Although the work has been a bit strenuous because of traveling conditions, I have enjoyed my visits very much. I wish here to pledge my support further to the International Auxiliary and hope that the future will find us all doing our part to promote the success of the auxiliary. I thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

Fannie J. Caviness
3rd International Vice President

DELEGATE NORA FANT: I move the acceptance of Sister Caviness' report.

DELEGATE CARRIE WHITE: I second the motion.(Motion carried).

DELEGATE LETITIA MURRAY: Madam Chairman, Official Delegates, Members and Friends:

It is again my great pleasure to bring greetings to the Fourth Biennial Convention of the Ladies Auxiliary to the B.S.C.P. from the Division of the Pacific Coast Zone.

During the months of May and June of 1943 I had the opportunity and pleasure of visiting the auxiliaries under my supervision. The hospitality of each group was deeply appreciated, the cooperation in planning and the attendance at the meetings were all very gratifying. The social life and the sight seeing trips will always be pleasant memories. Above all we feel that it was successful in building a greater organizational spirit and strengthening their determination to continue their fight for a movement that offers the greatest promise to minority groups for economic freedom and a real democratic way of life.

In a recent report, Sister Ardella Nutall summarizes the activities of the Oakland Division as follows:

There are 32 active financial members. Regular meetings continue. Speakers from the N.A.A.C.P., Y.W.C.A., The Women's Federation and the National Trade Union League have spoken on their educational programs. Contributions have been made each year to the Scholarship Fund. Funds from the Auxiliary made it possible for two boys to spend four weeks at summer camp. The Auxiliary has sponsored one March On Washington effort.

In June of 1943, the Zone Supervisor, Sister Letitia Murray visited the division and held a series of constructive meetings. Brother Dellums visits the meetings regularly and keeps the local well informed on Brotherhood matters. They have also been honored by visits from First International Vice President Webster and International President Randolph. She reports that the Auxiliary is functioning in grand style. Sister Nutall was re-elected for the ensuing term. She is also the delegate to this convention. Sister Maude L. Mitchell is Secretary-Treasurer

On my visit to Portland Division I found the Auxiliary among the most active. Three meetings were held there. One new member was enrolled. In 1943 \$20 was contributed to the Scholarship Fund. A letter was sent to the President protesting the change in the jurisdiction of the Fair Employment Practice Committee. A reply was received from the Executive Secretary, Mr. Lawrence W. Cramer, explaining the change and thanking them for the letter. They displayed a splendid spirit of organization. At the time of my visit they had a fine bank balance. There are 33 financial members. Sister Engless Johns is Secretary of the Council for a Permanent F.E.P.C. Sisters Minnie Mae Smith is President; Texana Fisher, Secretary-Treasurer; and Engless Johns, Delegate. The division was honored by their International officials, Brothers C. L. Dellums, 4th International Vice

President; Milton P. Webster, 1st International President; and A. Philip Randolph, International President.

Prior to my visit to the Spokane Division it had not functioned since the winter of 1942. However, on my visit in May 1943, the cooperation given in planning and attending meetings, the interest manifested in the work was very encouraging. One new member was enrolled. All delinquent members became financial; dues and fees to the amount of \$16.50 was collected. I left with the assurance that the auxiliary would be continued. It is to be regretted that it was not long before their indifferent attitude was resumed -- meetings were not attended -- reports were neglected and although every means was used to encourage them to carry on, it was of no avail. It was decided then that the division be disbanded until such as they become interested and desirous of carrying out the Rules and Regulations of the International Auxiliary Order.

A recent report from Sister Jessie Walker, Secretary-Treasurer of Seattle Division, stated that 14 members were enrolled; 9 meetings have been held in the last year. Many of the members work on defense jobs, for that reason the attendance has been poor, some time there would not be a quorum at the meetings, but the members present would pay dues and have discussions as to the good and welfare of the auxiliary. Affairs to raise funds were a Candy Party and a Rally. Social affairs given were: a picnic at the Beach Club in Fort St. Lewis and a Christmas Party in which the brothers joined. The following International officials were entertained: Sister Letitia Murray, Brothers C. L. Dellums and A. Philip Randolph. Sister Amanda Riley is the newly elected President. Sister Jessie Walker was re-elected Secretary-Treasurer for the third consecutive term. She is also the delegate to the convention. Their treasury was in good condition.

The meetings in Salt Lake City were well attended. The interest and enthusiasm were commendable. Problems of the auxiliary were discussed and clarified, that is, the eligibility of wives and women relatives of Chair Car Porters; the auxiliary' policy as to two treasuries, one for funds raised from entertainment and one for dues and fees and assessments. Summer vacations were discussed and explained. As in all divisions the Rules and Regulations, the Educational Program and the Youth Movement were explained. Contributions were made to the Scholarship Fund. The winter of 1943-1944 was so severe, no meetings were held. They were resumed in the Spring. The balance in their treasury was very good. The division was honored by visits from 4th International Vice President C. L. Dellums and International President A. Philip Randolph. Sisters Mettie Gregory is President; Dionysus Warren, Secretary-Treasurer; and Ruth Scott, Delegate to the convention.

Tucson Division Chair Car Porters Auxiliary -- The wives and women relatives of the Chair Car Porters in Tucson, Arizona,

organized in February 1944. They functioned for awhile as a social club. There were 12 members. In becoming adjusted to the jurisdiction of the International Auxiliary Order some of the members dropped out; 7 members remained. They have received their charter and all literature of the International Auxiliary Order. They are an enthusiastic group, interested in the work and pledge their every effort in building their auxiliary to be one of the most outstanding in the Pacific Coast Zone. I had the pleasure of visiting them and holding their election. Sister Margaret Woods is President and delegate to the convention. Sister Thelma Shaffas is Secretary-Treasurer.

The Los Angeles Division has 50 members, the most of whom are financial. Contributions were made to the Scholarship Fund for 1943-44. Also, to the local Community Chest, East Side Settlement House; for A Permanent Fair Employment Practice Committee. Eight affairs for raising funds have been given. Held "Open House" on launching our Membership Drive. All porters' families were invited. Nine new members have been enrolled -- one transferred from Fort Worth, Texas. \$19.25 has been given for Christmas cheer to sick and shut-in members. The U.S.O. is served every 5th Thursday by a committee assigned to that work. Nite letters and telegrams were sent to Representatives, Congressman Sheridan Downing and Hirman Johnson, and the President of the United States relative to the Anti-Poll Tax Bill and a Permanent Fair Employment Practice Committee. The third ten dollar lot of Patriotic Stamps has been purchased by the auxiliary. The Educational Program has not been all we have desired because of the illness of the appointed chairman and the difficulty in replacing her. However, we have had speakers from O.P.A., Round Table discussions and several other programs. Brother C. L. Dellums, 4th International Vice President, Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, usually speaks to us on his quarterly visits to Los Angeles. We were honored also by visits from 1st International Vice President Milton P. Webster and International President A. Philip Randolph. Sister Letitia Murray, re-elected President; Sister Arie Walker, re-elected Secretary-Treasurer; Sister Louise Coston is delegate to the convention. Sister Aurelia O. Bell, member of local Executive Board is visting the convention.

I wish to thank all officers of the International Auxiliary Order and the auxiliaries of the Pacific Coast Zone for their splendid cooperation.

Fraternally yours,

Letitia Murray
Zone Supervisor.

DELEGATE MURRAY: I did not know I had the Vancouver Auxiliary in my zone but I would like to have a report from that division.

PRESIDENT WILSON: Members, just before we act upon Sister Murray's report, I would like to get the consent of the convention to have the delegate from Vancouver to make an oral report in order that we may have a complete report of the auxiliaries. The Chairman like your permission for that member to give a brief report.

DELEGATE NANNIE WELLS: I move that this report be given by the delegate.

DELEGATE MATTIE DEBERRY: I second the motion. (motion adopted).

DELEGATE MAUDE FIELDS: We, out there in the great northwest are struggling to interest our women in the Auxiliary. Our population is small, therefore, we have a very limited number to work with. We have ten members who are anxious to participate in the program; eight financial members and we give teas, dances and are keeping up our obligations to the Organization. Sister Barbara Cole is our President and we are carrying on as few as we are.

PRESIDENT WILSON: Having heard the report coming from the fourth International Vice President, what is your pleasure?

DELEGATE ARDELLA NUTALL: I move the report be accepted.

DELEGATE SARA ALLEN: I second it. (motion adopted).

PRESIDENT WILSON: I will ask Sister Mae Dailey to take the chair while I as the supervisor of the Middle Western Zone make my report.

DELEGATE DAILEY: We will now have the report of the Middle Western Zone coming from the International President.

PRESIDENT WILSON: Madam Chairman, Officers, delegates and friends, as Zone Supervisor of the Middle-West and Detroit-Pittsburgh Divisions, I beg to make the following report.

On May 3rd and 4th, 1943, a second visit was made to the Indianapolis Ladies Auxiliary. This was a small division but that seemed at first to make up its mind that it did not want to be organized, however, to-date it is among the strongest auxiliaries from an organizational view of point, in the entire zone. Under the fine leadership of its President, Sister Sara Allen, it is continuing to forge ahead. There appears to be purpose and understanding in this division, which speaks well for the Auxiliary's future, if no unnecessary changes are made at this crucial time of the Auxiliary's development. Here, there is a regularity with regards to the financial

statements and ready acceptance of other responsibilities that cause this division to be a real asset to the entire organization.

CINCINNATI -- The Cincinnati Ladies Auxiliary was visited May 5th and 6th, 1943, and unfortunately, appears to be the only auxiliary in the zone that has failed to make any progress since the convention in 1942. It has not been possible to maintain an unbroken contact with the auxiliary, but it is hoped that other visits may be made to this division in the very near future for the purpose of ascertaining what can be done to assist in the development of the division. The membership, finance and other internal conditions are not fully known at this time although the election returns show changes in the official setup, which may prove beneficial.

COLUMBUS -- The Columbus Ladies Auxiliary was organized May 2, 1943, after a rather extended period of communication, during which time a number of difficulties had to be overcome. The auxiliary is developing very well at present under the capable leadership of its first president, Sister Frances Dyer, and there is every reason to believe it will continue to make progress if discretion is used with regards to changing of officers in that as in all divisions. A visit was made to this division on the 7th and 8th of May, 1943, at which time the aims, purpose and functions of an auxiliary to the labor movement was fully explained; also the duties of each office so that the entire membership would know what to expect of its officers.

PITTSBURGH -- On May 11th and 12th, 1943, a visit was made to the Pittsburgh Ladies Auxiliary where I found a very lively and interested membership. The meetings were well attended, the members working harmoniously together to uphold the splendid record of the Pittsburgh Division, which is also the home division of Sister Marion Sappington, one of the fine members of the International Executive Board. The auxiliary had a high percentage of paid up members as of August 9th also a flattering treasury for a division of its size.

CLEVELAND -- The Cleveland Ladies Auxiliary was visited on the 13th and 14th of May 1943, at which time there was an opportunity to address the membership and to answer a number of questions which seemed to perplex certain members. Here, as else where, a detailed explanation was made of the composition of the Ladies Auxiliary as well as the relationship and responsibility of each local division to the international organization. The Constitution and Rules and Regulations for the Local Auxiliaries were discussed and explained also. The Cleveland Auxiliary has cooperated in every way possible to make this present meeting a success and it is hoped that it will become greatly strengthened as a result of the outstanding activities taking place at this time. The International Auxiliary Order desires to extend its deepest appreciation to the auxiliary's membership, its officers; the various committees; and to Sister Rosie Taylor, as a member of the Auxiliary's International Executive Board. The auxiliary's membership was reduced by the passing of Sisters Emma Pittman and Elsie Maddox.

DETROIT -- A visit was made to the Detroit Auxiliary on the 15th through the 17th of May, 1943, just at a time when it appeared that such a visit was most needed. There was a desire to carry on but since the program was not too well understood there was quite some doubt to the proper method of procedure, however, much time was spent in explaining the work of the Organization and in answering the many questions that were asked by several of the members. And, I am pleased to report there has been a steady growth in this division throughout the months since this visit was made. The financial reports have been made with a degree of regularity and exactness, that has added to the progress of the division. There has been a gradual increase in membership and a creditable treasury. The auxiliary has met all of its financial obligations and holds the distinction of having one of its members to be among the first to receive a scholarship from the International Auxiliary. Sister Jessie Davis is the capable president of this division.

LOUISVILLE -- The Louisville Auxiliary was visited in June 1942, at which time, due to my illness, only a brief discussion of the Auxiliary's program was possible. However, every effort has been made to keep informed as to the activities of this division. The auxiliary had the misfortune to lose its president, Sister Cora Chatman, the year following the 1942 convention. This auxiliary in the past was a bit weak where the Organization was concerned and might had cease to exist, but for the deep loyalty and strong devotion of Sister Chatman. So, it is a great tribute to her leadership that the auxiliary has carried on so well at this time and there is every indication that the auxiliary will continue to expand under the fine leadership of its new president, Sister Addie Thomas. The auxiliary had a memorial service to its late president, which I am sure will live long in the memory of the men and women of Louisville. The membership and finance of this division have taken a step forward during the past several months.

OKLAHOMA CITY -- A visit has not been made to the Oklahoma City Division since 1941. This division has been confronted with a number of difficult problems and probably would have suffered as a result thereof had it not been for the courageous attitude displayed by the President, Sister Lessie Bennett and the loyal support of a few other stalwarts of the division. The auxiliary while not sending a delegate, has nevertheless, been punctual with its reports and has met all other obligations in a very creditable manner and it is hoped a return visit can be made to this division in the very near future since it deserves all the encouragement it can get.

MINNEAPOLIS AND ST. PAUL -- Two visits have been made to the Twin Cities Auxiliary. The last one being a joint meeting that was held in St. Paul, in May of this year. Here, as else where, the members were eager to learn more about the Organization and its program. After a very fine meeting at which time a number of subjects were discussed and many questions answered I left with

the feeling that the division had been definitely benefited. These visits have had very satisfactory results -- both auxiliaries having shown a marked improvement. The paid up membership in St. Paul was reported 100% as of August 21; while Minneapolis has a high percentage also. These auxiliaries are doing very well under the leadership of Sister Ella Archer of St. Paul and Sister Mattie Owens of Minneapolis. There has been a financial improvement in these auxiliaries also. St. Paul reported a loss of one member, the late Sister Cora Curry.

KANSAS CITY -- A visit was made to the Kansas City Auxiliary in July of this year. For some time the unsettled condition in the auxiliary had caused quite some concern. The unrest was brought about mainly due to the failure on the part of the president to fill her office as it should have been filled; also of the resignation of the secretary-treasurer, who had been unfortunate to lose her husband just a short while ago. Reports of the election and the inability to get the financial records adjusted made the visit essential at that time. On the evening of the first meeting all offices were filled and after a very frank and open discussion the atmosphere was cleared and there is every reason that the auxiliary will do well under the leadership of Sister Ethel Tribue. On the following evening the officers were installed after which members present expressed their determination to strive for a closer relationship in the division.

OMAHA -- The financial statements and other information received from this auxiliary as of August 20, 1944, shows a total enrollment of 37 and a paid up membership of 37; 8 resignations and two deaths. The auxiliary also has an enviable record of having paid its convention tax in full. No visit has been made to this division as yet, due as much as anything else to the very fine manner in which it continues to carry on the work of the Organization. The financial statements, while not submitted monthly as required, are reported more or less satisfactorily, except for this one omission, which I am sure will be corrected in the future. The auxiliary reported the death of Sister Essie Harris. Sister Iola England is the re-elected President of this division. Sister Mamie Smith passed in 1943.

DENVER -- It has been several years since a visit has been made to this division, but it has been my very great pleasure to hear some very splendid reports of the auxiliary's activities from persons not connected in any way with the Organization. These reports have come from Miss Frances Williams, Consumers Counselor of the Office of Price Administration; from delegates of Denver who were in Chicago attending a conference; from representatives of the Consumer Cooperatives and from other sources. The auxiliary appears alert to every opportunity and certainly is a credit to the entire Organization. It was quick to take advantage of the scholarships offered by the International Auxiliary by submitting one of its very capable members for this honor, and from all reports represented the auxiliary very creditable. The Denver Auxiliary has been highly successful from a financial point of view; also from the point of view

the staunch support it has given to the auxiliary, first, through the late Sister Venzie P. Witt and through Sister Ella McBride, past and present members of the International Executive Board; and through its President, Sister Nannie Wells, who has served the auxiliary well during the past several years.

TORONTO-CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILROAD -- The Toronto Auxiliary to the Canadian Pacific Railroad was organized in November 1942. It has not been possible up to this time to pay the division a visit, but the auxiliary has responded exceptionally well since the date of its inception. A close contact has been maintained with the International office so that the division has been enabled to become fairly well informed. The financial statements coming from the auxiliary have been in good form. All of its obligations having been discharged in a very satisfactory manner. Sister Mamie Willis is the newly elected President of this division.

TORONTO-BROTHERHOOD -- No reply containing the information requested during the month of August was received from the Pullman Toronto Ladies Auxiliary, but in looking through the financial statements submitted by the Secretary-Treasurer over the past several months there is an indication of the auxiliary's progress. The reports have been fairly regular and in good form. Sister Hilda Carrington was re-elected as President.

MONTREAL -- The Montreal Ladies Auxiliary was organized in November 1942 and reported in August 1944, a total enrollment of 30 with 23 financial members as of that month. The auxiliary reported one deceased member during the past 2 years. The local treasury contains well over 200 dollars, which does not include the per capita tax and other assessments due the International Auxiliary. There was also a 40 dollars contribution to the Scholarship Fund. No visits have been made to this auxiliary but as the auxiliary's Zone Supervisor, I am indeed pleased to report the existence of a splendid cooperative spirit. This division was also among the first to receive a scholarship from the International Ladies Auxiliary. Sister Maisie D. Dash is the re-elected President of this division.

WINNIPEG -- The Winnipeg Ladies Auxiliary was organized by Brothers A. Philip Randolph and Bennie Smith, in the month of November 1942, at the same time the other auxiliaries to the Canadian Pacific Railroad locals were organized. The auxiliary has demonstrated a very keen interest of the Organization's program and has kept in close contact with the International Office through its first President, Sister Helen Williams and the newly elected President, Sister Alva Hayes; and a number of communications have passed between the officials as a result of which that the division is fairly well informed concerning its relationship to the International Ladies Auxiliary and the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters. The data requested for this report was not received but the records for the past months are in good form and

should add to the continued success of the division, if here, as else where, no unnecessary changes are made until the auxiliary has made greater progress.

CHICAGO -- The Chicago Auxiliary is stronger from an organizational point of view today than at any time since it has been organized and this, despite the fact that there has been a sharp reduction in the auxiliary's paid up membership. The educational program is better understood and a larger number of members are contributing to the auxiliary's activities than ever before. City, State and National issues are discussed with understanding and appreciation and the organizational and cooperative spirit has been greatly enhanced as a result of the Consumer Cooperative Movement being sponsored by the auxiliary as a part of its educational activities. Members are learning bookkeeping, buying, pricing, business management and other obligations of which they previously were unaware. The membership drive which suffered as a result of the President's absence from the city during the first months of the year, has added 42 new members as of the last meeting on the evening of September 7th. This drive will be terminated on the afternoon of October 1st, at which time awards will be made to the winning contestants. The auxiliary's tea in October 1943 realized 500 dollars from its efforts. The auxiliary has supported such National measures as the Poll Tax Bill, the war-time FEPC and the present Federal Post-War Bill, Grade Labelling, O.P.A., Public Housing, Reconversion, Subsidies, and almost countless other issues, which have done much to improve the thinking and the reaction of the Chicago membership and this despite the numbers engaged in war work or other war efforts. Chicago reported the loss of three members, the late Sisters Rebecca Patterson, Posie Fellows and Jayne Chubb.

Fraternally yours,

Halena Wilson, Intl. Zone Supervisor
Middle Western Zone.

DELEGATE MAE DAILEY: What will we do with this excellent report?

DELEGATE LELA LEE: I move that this report be adopted.

DELEGATE LELA JACKSON: I second the motion. (motion carried).

PRESIDENT WILSON: The International Secretary-Treasurer will submit her report at this time.

DELEGATE ROSINA C. TUCKER: I should like at first to bring you my report on the visits made by me because of my nearness to these auxiliaries, before bringing my report of the International Treasury.

REPORT OF VISITS - DELEGATE ROSINA C. TUCKER

Madam President, Officers and members of the International Ladies Auxiliary Order, Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters and Friends.

In May 1943, I was requested to visit our Richmond and Norfolk, Virginia Auxiliaries for their encouragement and enlargement. As you know, Sister Lassiter is the Supervisor of these auxiliaries, but since I live nearer to them than she I was asked to make the journey thereby relieving her.

Conditions of travel being what they are I considered myself very lucky when one of the Washington brothers succeeded in reserving a chair for me as far as Richmond which added immensely to my pleasure and relaxation. To my dismay on my arrival at Richmond the first signal of a blackout had sounded and after a little persuasion a cab driver took the risk to get me to Sister McNeil's home before total darkness. To my delight and satisfaction he succeeded. The blackout lasted several hours which prevented a meeting scheduled for that night, Wednesday night. Sister Granderson, the President, and I, spent Thursday and Friday visiting delinquent members and wives who had not yet joined the auxiliary, so that when we had the meeting on Friday night there was a very good number of women as well as men present. This meeting was held in one of the large rooms of the Elk's home. I discussed the Purposes and Functions of the Ladies Auxiliary. Every one present stated that he and she had a better knowledge of the aims and purposes of the auxiliary than before.

The next morning, Saturday, Brother McNeil, the Secretary-Treasurer of the local Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, saw me to station and secured a seat for me to Norfolk by escorting me away down, around and about the station and placed me on the car before others were allowed to go through the gates. Therefore, my trip from Richmond to Norfolk was comfortable. At Norfolk I called a meeting of the women for Sunday afternoon which was well attended by both women and men. This meeting was held in one of the parlors of the YWCA and was enthusiastic and beneficial. At this meeting the organizing, educational and entertainment committees were appointed and their functions stressed and each person there was directed to visit members in their several neighborhoods and to urge them and their husbands to come to a meeting called for the following Tuesday night. Just at meeting time a terrible storm blew up, in fact, it was a cloud burst. Some people actually being unable to get out of their homes. I felt that the show must go on and after wading through flooded streets I reached Sister Bryant's home, the meeting place, soaked from head to foot. My clothing and shoes were removed and I was dressed in a house coat and straw shoes while my articles of clothing were being dried by an electric fan. In this attire I carried through my program with those who could attend and in this attire I had to return to Sister Leak's home because my clothes were still wet.

In May 1944 I was requested to visit Asheville, North Carolina. Arriving Tuesday morning I called a meeting of the officers for Tuesday night. I went over the program with them and set up the committees. On the next night we conducted the regular program of the Auxiliary with each officer carrying out her part. Every one was enlightened and delighted and so was I. The next night I was given a reception. I always discourage such demonstrations but this had been planned before I arrived. All of the members of the auxiliary were present as were all of the brothers who were in the city at the time. This reception was carried through in a very high class manner having been headed up by the President of the auxiliary and the President of the local. Every one was most kind and appreciative one of the ladies having furnished me with a corsage for the evening.

May I state that Richmond, Norfolk and Asheville have shown marked improvement since my visit. Each auxiliary has added to its membership and has kept up its obligations. Richmond and Norfolk who have not sent delegates to the convention before have delegates here now. Asheville has always sent a delegate. All of you would be signally impressed with the fine type of women connected with these three auxiliaries. I was proud of the progress that they have made in a civic way. They live well and most of them own beautiful homes which are conducted with intelligence and culture. I am so proud of them and others of our fraternity all over this country who have made and are making progress along this line. This is one of the aims of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters.

My conclusion is that we must be patient with our smaller auxiliaries and must nurture, instruct and encourage them. They must be visited by the proper international officers, those who understand their needs and can supply them and who can make a sympathetic approach to their problems.

On June 25th, Brother Randolph had a special letter sent me asking me to make the sacrifice and fill a speaking engagement for Brother McLaurin on June 30th at Norfolk. This gave me only five days for decision and preparation. However, I wired Brother McLaurin at Chicago that although my husband was sick I would go. Accordingly, I left Friday morning the 30th for Norfolk and arrived in time to deliver the address that night and returned to Washington the next morning. The subject given me for discussion was "The Early History of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters and its Contribution to the Negro Race." The occasion was a mass meeting under the auspices of the Norfolk Division. They had a very fine supplementary program and a very good attendance, and the entire program was enthusiastically received.

I was happy for these assignments and grateful to these divisions, both brothers and sisters, for contributing to the success of my endeavors.

Fraternally submitted,

Rosina C. Tucker
Intl. Secretary-Treasurer.

The acceptance of the report of Sister Tucker's visits was moved by Delegate Inez Temple and seconded by Delegate Serena Lamar.

PRESIDENT WILSON: It has been called to my attention that one of the auxiliaries has been overlooked and I shall again ask the convention if it will consent to giving this auxiliary an opportunity to report. Some auxiliaries have been organized by the Brotherhood's officials and we do not always have an opportunity to make contacts. So, I'm asking the convention's indulgence.

DELEGATE ELIZABETH AUSTIN: I move giving consent to the delegate of the Savannah-Charleston Auxiliary.

DELEGATE LILLIE KENDICK: I second the motion. (motion carried).

DELEGATE INEZ TEMPLE: Our auxiliary was organized by Brother McLaurin. It was a difficult job to organize our ladies because they did not take to this type of program. We were organized in March 1944 and have sent in our reports and have received our charter. We have 15 members on our membership. Our field is limited because we have very few men in our district. The auxiliary has sent me as its delegate and I will be able to tell them of the many activities taking place within the auxiliary.

DELEGATE LEVERNE DAVIS: I move we accept the report coming from the delegate.

DELEGATE VELMER COWARD: I second the motion. (motion carried).

DELEGATE LOU MATTIE DEBERRY: There is a question that will not take very long to answer. Norfolk Division is divided by the river and our members donate to the various affairs. We have not been able to donate to every thing and I would like to get this question answered -- being divided -- how would we donate to the various causes?

PRESIDENT WILSON: The Chair doubts very much if the convention could decide that. It is a local problem so I would suggest that the two groups come together and decide what can be worked out to the best interest of both. The chairman has been requested to announce that a Game Party for members only will be given this evening at 8 p.m. at the Ladies Auxiliary's headquarters.

DELEGATE MARION SAPPINGTON: I move we adjourned. (motion second and carried).

SECOND DAY - TUESDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

Cleveland, Ohio
Tuesday, September 19, 1944

President Wilson called the Fourth Session of the Convention to order at 2:35 p.m.

Following the singing of "God Bless America", Delegate Elizabeth Craig, Washington, D. C., led the Convention in prayer.

The Roll Call was omitted.

PRESIDENT WILSON: Soon after the first of the year a request was made by the speaker who is to be presented for an opportunity to address this Convention. After reading some of the literature that was sent to my office it was felt that her message would be of interest to the Convention delegates, therefore, it was with no small degree of anticipation that the invitation was extended. So without further preliminaries I have the pleasure to present to you Mrs. Marie B. Schanks, Consultant on Negro Program, Planned Parenthood Federation of America, Inc.

MRS. MARIE B. SCHANKS: I would like to discuss the responsibility we, as part of this would be American democracy, should play in meeting the problems of our various communities. In order to do this we have to discuss and have a clear understanding of our racial problems. We must remember we, as Negroes have two types of problems.

We have the immediate problems of under employment and unemployment, substandard housing, lack of wholesome recreation, ill health, inadequate education, delinquency, family and community disorganization, personality demoralization.

We have the less immediate and obvious but more fundamental problems which handicap us as Negroes. In this latter group are the problems of society, liberty, freedom, war, race, and religion. We must remember our problems are the same as those of all other groups but ours are more intensified due to our social and economic status in this country.

As we have to live in communities very closely populated, it is necessary that we interest ourselves in improving the conditions in our communities. Remember, it has been in the last ten years that we have seen the development of any concentrated interest to do something about the Negro and his condition. More and more we are seeing evidences of interest which lead to action. It may not move as fast as we like, but nevertheless we are moving and there can be no denial we are gaining.

Community planning should be the interest of each of us regardless of our geographical location. In certain communities we may not be able to participate in the planning but there is always a way to get our thinking across to people who plan, if we know what we want and get our local thinking organized to present our thinking intelligently.

My suggestion would be a Community Council organized to discuss and plan action as a very important way of meeting our above mentioned problems.

We have three important definitions to consider in this overall community planning. We have first our processes which represent method of doing, problems which represent what we need to work with, and our activities are dependent upon how well the needs of our processes and problems are met.

Time will not permit me to discuss our nine immediate problems in detail, but I will again list them and discuss a few pertinent problems.

1. Unemployment
2. Bad housing
3. Ill health
4. Unwholesome recreation
5. Inadequate education
6. Family disorganization
7. Personality demoralization
8. Delinquency
9. Community disorganization

I know your organization is interested in unemployment and under-employment. A local agency which has planned with a well organized community council should advocate the following:

1. Integration of Negro men and women in war industries in skilled as well as semi-skilled jobs. Here I would like to say our curriculum planning in vocational and trade schools should be watched with the idea of having skilled trades included in schools for Negroes. We have had enough of guidance teachers saying Negroes are not employed in certain occupations, so don't waste your time in certain classes.

2. Cooperate with organized labor. Have them a part of the Community Council.

3. Advocate use of Negro counsellors in industry and government. This is a new field for the Negro but we are hearing from all sides of the grand contribution counselling service is making to improved community living. The counsellor knows the community resources and many a problem is no problem when they have been consulted. We must remember the Negro has not outgrown his dependency entirely.

4. Guard against misuse of Negro women and child workers. This is very important in our thinking of the Negro child working.

The employment of the Negro child may lead to our other immediate problems - ill health, unwholesome recreation, inadequate education, juvenile delinquency, community disorganization and personality demoralization.

Next, I would like to discuss community disorganization as so much of it exists in cities with large Negro population. I would like to define what I mean by community disorganization. It has two parts.

1. A community with little or no cooperation of social minded citizens for better ordering and preservation of the community under civic and spiritual minded leadership.
2. A community with a lack of cooperation in promoting social wellbeing together with exploitation by unprincipled representatives of corrupt politics, conscienceless and selfish business men, and promoters of commercialized vice.

I think the above will describe a great many Negro communities in these United States.

This should make each of us very conscious of the fact that we have a job to do in our community planning.

I would like next to discuss the last, but in no way the least of our problems -- Health. In discussing Planned Parenthood in my opening remarks, I hope I made it plain that we are definitely a health agency, interested primarily in improving the health of all people by an attempt to work on a cooperative basis with existing agencies for better health.

Planned Parenthood has social and economic value in community planning. When we have marriage counselling in our churches, our couples will have greater responsibility for marriage and family adjustment which will mean less personality demoralization.

Our child spacing program means giving contraceptive advice to the married couple, thus giving the mother an opportunity to gain strength from last pregnancy before attempting another; to the couple with any communicable disease until the doctor advises it is safe and sound. The program eliminates the motive for abortions. Medically prescribed contraceptive advice would reduce the motive of 85% of our married women to have abortions.

Our sterility program, with sterility clinics in operation and referral physicians, helps the childless couple to have the children they want, thus making a contribution to the prevention of family disorganization.

Our program to educate for better parenthood through our various clinics in 36 states with literature, speakers and medical program, all contribute to the elimination of community and family disorganization.

I would like to say that if the services of Planned Parenthood are utilized by families we will have a raise in our economic level. Our housing situation is bound to improve since we will not have too many people in the housing provided. The family has a chance to recover from the expense of last pregnancy, thus making a contribution to prevention of personality and family disorganization. We should have fewer desertions and separations because of the great load our families are carrying. At this point I would like to state that 1/3 of our nation, the third least able to bear it, is carrying the heaviest burden of childbearing and rearing.

We must remember the infant and maternal death rate among Negroes is almost twice the rate of the white population. I do not wish to present too discouraging a picture of the above as we are making noticeable improvement in the reduction of our rates, but we have a long way to go.

Our U. S. Public Health programs for states are giving much emphasis to health education for better living. Planned Parenthood program is at present a part of seven states using U. S. Public Health funds for health education and clinics. Our national venereal disease, tuberculosis and cancer programs offer great possibilities for reduction of our high death rates.

I have mentioned and possibly emphasized only one mechanism for meeting the challenge of participation in community planning, namely the Community Council. This I do think important. The Negro newspaper is another influence which is contributing a great deal to our community

planning. The other group is at least knowing what Negroes are thinking and that Negroes are using research and study of the acts of people directing their way of living.

The Negro church needs to be awakened to change its technique and accept its responsibility to participate in the education and planning for community betterment of its membership.

The Negro doctor is doing his part but there is great need for the community to realize the medical services for Negroes are badly neglected and if we participate and interest ourselves in the services offered in our community we would then know what we can do.

The labor leaders are new in the field of participation and planning, so we should evaluate and use their valuable knowledge. They are the people who can assist in making our problem of unemployment and under employment vanish.

The professional social worker in our midst should be respected for her professional training and given a responsibility in planning.

I have not confined my whole talk to Planned Parenthood because the desire of our National Federation is that we recognize all the existing problems and think in terms of Planned Parenthood making a co-operative contribution in community planning for family security, thus insuring happy families. Next, we are an agency interested

Next, we are an agency interested in population. Our objective is to increase the number of physically and mentally fit, to reduce the number of unfit.

Education is our next interest. Marriage counselling and health education.

I do hope we may feel free to discuss any questions I have raised in your thinking and I am sure I have not answered all questions in your thinking on Planned Parenthood.

I would like in closing to have you remember that Planned Parenthood is a health agency and where organized it represents one resource in a community's health program.

The success of democracy as a tool of progress is dependent on the education and training of all individuals so they will become competent, participating members of a democratic society.

I hope each individual, as he returns to his home, will develop an interest in his community and its problems. I would like the organization to have a committee on health which would include Planned Parenthood as part of its Health Education program.

A timely and interesting question and answer period was led by Mrs. Marie B. Schanks.

PRESIDENT WILSON: If there are no additional questions the Chair would like to take this opportunity to thank the speaker on behalf of the Convention and to let her know how much her very informative address was enjoyed, and to express the desire that her work will meet with the success that it is evidently deserves.

The Convention is honored with visits from very distinguished gentlemen from whom we shall have some brief remarks at this time.

Remarks were made by Brothers B. F. McLaurin, Charles W. Burton and T. E. Brown.
(Unfortunately these remarks were not recorded)

PRESIDENT WILSON: The kind remarks coming from the visitors are appreciated. The Convention is always pleased to have members of the opposite sex drop in during its sessions to see how this side of the Organization's affairs are being conducted.

And now that our distinguished guest have departed the International Secretary-Treasurer will make her biennial report to the Convention.

INTERNATIONAL LADIES AUXILIARY
BROTHERHOOD OF SLEEPING CAR PORTERS
817 Q St., N. W.
Washington, D. C.

ROSINA C. TUCKER
INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY-TREASURER

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS

- RECEIPTS -

Cash Balance, December 31, 1942 ----- \$ 1,923.16

Income from Auxiliaries:

Per Capita ----- \$ 3,894.62
Fees ----- 96.82
Assessments ----- 1,435.85

Patriotic Stamps ----- \$ 5,427.29
Rules and Regulations----- 110.39
Scholarship Fund ----- 99.40
577.71

Total Receipts----- \$ 6,214.79

Total ----- \$ 8,137.95

- DISBURSEMENTS -

Salaries and Office Expense ----- \$ 2,977.92
Printing ----- 215.59
Convention, 1942 ----- 944.05
Organizational Expense ----- 10.00
Zone Trips ----- 733.97
Scholarship Awards ----- 371.33
War Bonds (\$500) ----- 375.00

Total Disbursements ----- \$ 5,627.86

Respectfully submitted,

Rosina C. Tucker
International Secretary-Treasurer

DELEGATE LELA LEE: I move the convention receive this splendid report.

DELEGATE NANNIE WELLS: I second it.

PRESIDENT WILSON: Those in favor of accepting the report say "aye" - those opposed --- the motion carried.

Having concluded our business for this session we will consider the convention adjourned until 10 o'clock tomorrow morning.

THIRD DAY - WEDNESDAY MORNING SESSION

Cleveland, Ohio
Wednesday, September 20, 1944

The Fifth Session of the Convention was called to order by President Wilson at 10:45 a.m.

The Assembly sang the "Negro National Anthem" followed by Prayer by Delegate Ella McBride.

Roll Call by Delegate Rosina C. Tucker.

PRESIDENT WILSON: We will now have the report of the Constitution and Resolutions Committee.

Reading of Resolutions by Delegates Mae Dailey and Rosina C. Tucker.

INTERNATIONAL EXECUTIVE BOARD VACANCY

Resolution No. 1 - By the St. Louis, Missouri Auxiliary

WHEREAS: Our International Executive Board has lost one of its faithful members who has been with the Brotherhood along with her husband from the beginning of the Brotherhood, and

WHEREAS: The grim reaper has moved her from our group, causing a vacancy to exist in our International Executive Board, and, such vacancy must be filled at this biennial convention by a majority vote of the delegates assembled, and

WHEREAS: We, the officers and members of the St. Louis Division of the International Ladies Auxiliary are well satisfied that the late Sister Nannie Mae Curby filled her position with credit to herself and honor to the Auxiliary both, local and international.

THEREFORE BE
IT RESOLVED:

That in filling the vacancy on our International Executive Board at this convention the most serious consideration shall be given to one of the St. Louis members who has worked faithfully and untiringly in

her endeavor to build up a strong Auxiliary and a strong Brotherhood, who has cooperated splendidly with the officers and members of the Brotherhood in carrying on the fight to make the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters a bigger and better organization,

BE IT FURTHER
RESOLVED:

That since the St. Louis Division has asked for this by going on record by a large majority vote, this consideration be given to Sister Lela M. Lee, President of the St. Louis Division.

The Committee recommends non-concurrence.

The recommendation of the Committee was received and adopted by the Convention.

CONVENTION DELEGATES

Resolution No. 2 - By International Executive Board

WHEREAS: A number of local auxiliaries are found to remain more or less dormant for long periods of time bestirring themselves seemingly for the sole purpose of electing a convention delegate, and

WHEREAS: Such long periods of inactivity deprives the International Organization of the financial support required of the local divisions, and

WHEREAS: Little or nothing is done in such divisions as a result of these periods of inactivity to develop, or to further the educational program of the Ladies Auxiliary

BE IT RESOLVED
THAT:

An auxiliary remaining inactive for a period of six months in any year, or that is unable to elect a sufficient number of officers necessary to properly conduct the business of the auxiliary, that said auxiliary be deprived of the privilege of seating its delegate in the biennial convention of the International Auxiliary Order.

BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED THAT: An auxiliary failing to make regular financial remittances, or that in the opinion of the International President is negligent in its various organizational duties, be suspended until there is satisfactory evidence of the auxiliary's ability to function as

required by the Constitution and General Rules and Regulations of the Ladies Auxiliary.

BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED THAT: When such a suspension occurs that the auxiliary in question shall have the right of appeal before the next regular session International Auxiliary Order.

The Committee recommends concurrence.

The recommendation of the Committee was received and adopted by the Convention.

DUES EXEMPTION

Resolution No. 3 - By International Executive Board

WHEREAS: There is a tendency in some local auxiliaries to grant dues exemption far out of proportion to the number of members in the auxiliary, and

WHEREAS: There is a custom in many auxiliaries to grant dues exemption whether or not the member is able to pay

BE IT RESOLVED

THAT: Local auxiliaries be required to pay the 13¢ per capita tax on all members who are exempted from the payment of dues

The Committee recommends concurrence.

The recommendation of the Committee was received and adopted by the Convention.

SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Resolution No. 4 - By International Executive Board

WHEREAS: It is the desire of the International Auxiliary to send as many of the auxiliary members to the Summer Classes of Workers' Education each year as possible thereby preparing such members for greater service in their local divisions, and

WHEREAS: It is the desire of the International Auxiliary to eventually establish a summer camp with the help of such funds where the members of the Organization may go for summer vacations

BE IT RESOLVED
THAT:

No application for a scholarship may be considered by the Scholarship Committee that is submitted by an auxiliary that has failed to contribute annually to the general Scholarship Fund.

The Committee recommends concurrence.

The recommendation of the Committee was received and adopted by the Convention.

TRAIN PORTERS AUXILIARIES

Resolution No. 5 - By International Executive Board

WHEREAS: The size, number and location of the districts of the various train porters working for the railroads make infeasible the establishment of a headquarters with a full corp of officers in each of the local districts, and

WHEREAS: The Brotherhood found it practical to set up headquarters in one central location to be responsible for all districts in the division, and

WHEREAS: Under this arrangement each local district is provided a Chairman and a Secretary-Treasurer, whose purpose is to conduct meetings and collect dues, the latter to forward monthly financial reports to the International Secretary-Treasurer and a report of same to Zone headquarters, and

WHEREAS: It is the policy as nearly as possible to elect Vice Presidents or Executive Board members from each of these districts so that such members may be available in the local districts as possible Chairmen, or Secretaries in the districts in which they reside, and

WHEREAS: This arrangement obviates the necessity of issuing charters to a number of smaller districts instead of one charter for the entire division

BE IT RESOLVED
THAT:

The International Ladies Auxiliary adopt this plan for the reasons herein stated, said plan to become effective as of June 1946 when the present terms of office will have expired

BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED THAT: The International President and International Zone Supervisor in whose zone these districts are located, begin in ample time to bring about an orderly change in the existing setup.

The Committee recommends concurrence.

The recommendation of the Committee was received and adopted by the Convention.

DELEGATE DOROTHY GARRETT: Would there be separate charters to each Train Porter's local?

PRESIDENT WILSON: A charter would be given to one central place and would cover all existing auxiliaries with the district.

The Committee recommends concurrence.

The recommendation of the Committee was received and adopted by the Convention.

CONVENTION TAX (AMENDMENT)

Resolution No. 6 - By International Executive Board

WHEREAS: Resolution #29, "Convention Tax" is so worded as to cause varied interpretation of its meaning

BE IT RESOLVED

THAT: The resolution be amended to read that each member in all local divisions be assessed a convention tax of one dollar payable any time during the biennial term up to (within sixty days of the convention date) after which no dues will be credited until the tax is paid.

BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED THAT: Members joining the auxiliary at any time during the biennial period be subject to the payment of the dollar tax.

The Committee recommends concurrence.

The recommendation of the Committee was received and adopted by the Convention.

DELEGATE BESSIE PATTON: I would like to know if a member joining the Auxiliary the year of the convention - does she have to pay the tax?

PRESIDENT WILSON: Yes.

DELEGATE LELA LEE: Those who have not paid the tax - do you continue to collect the tax?

PRESIDENT WILSON: If they were in the Auxiliary prior to the tax deadline, yes.

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

Resolution No. 7 - By International Executive Board

WHEREAS: It is virtually impossible for one member to hold more than one administrative office at a time without greatly complicating the function of both offices

BE IT RESOLVED
THAT:

It be unlawful for one member in a local auxiliary to hold more than one of the following offices at a time: that of President, 1st or 2nd Vice President, Secretary-Treasurer, or Recording Secretary.

BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED THAT: This rule does not apply to the local executive board, auditing committee, or other non-administrative offices of the Ladies Auxiliary.

The Committee recommends concurrence.

The recommendation of the Committee was received and adopted by the Convention.

GRADE LABELLING

Resolution No. 8 - By International Executive Board

WHEREAS: The National Consumer Retail Council made a survey recently of thousands of stores in forty different states to ascertain how many food brands were in use before the war and how many brands have been placed upon the market since the war, and

WHEREAS: The survey found the market flooded with scores of unfamiliar brands, one store having 30 different

brands of peas where before there were only 5, also 35 brands of corn as against 6 brands before the war, which according to the Journal was "purely trash" although not "harmful" and

WHEREAS: These new brands sprung up as a result of war time markets without regard for quality while many of the old brands unable to maintain their standard were found to be disappearing from the market

BE IT RESOLVED
THAT:

The International Ladies Auxiliary continue to cooperate with the various organizations that are interested in obtaining congressional approval of grade labelling of canned food and other merchandise for the general protection of the American public.

The Committee recommends concurrence.

The recommendation of the Committee was received and adopted by the Convention.

EQUAL PAY FOR EQUAL WORK BILL

Resolution No. 9 - By International Executive Board

WHEREAS: It is estimated that close to 20 million women were employed in all branches of industry at the peak of the war, most of whom were filling the places formerly occupied by men, and

WHEREAS: This large force of workers, if left unorganized or if permitted to work for less than a standard wage, will have an almost disastrous affect upon the American Labor Movement, and

WHEREAS: The American Labor Movement may without proper precautions in view of the uncertainties and probable oppositions of a post war period have difficulty in perpetuating the gains that labor has obtained at a tremendous cost to itself

BE IT RESOLVED
THAT:

The International Ladies Auxiliary go on record as opposing wage differentials on the basis of sex rather than on the basis of the skill and experience of the individual worker

BE IT FURTHER
RESOLVED THAT:

The International Ladies Auxiliary petition whenever the opportunity presents itself, all interested persons, organizations, or public officials to work for

a federal equal pay for equal work bill, thus preventing unscrupulous employers from pitting one sex against the other thereby jeopardizing the entire American standard of living.

The Committee recommends concurrence.

The recommendation of the Committee was received and adopted by the Convention.

DELEGATE HELEN HUDSON: Would this apply to the Canadian Auxiliaries?

PRESIDENT WILSON: If there is a need for similar bills.

STATES RIGHTS

Resolution No. 10 - By International Executive Board

WHEREAS: The ability of the respective States to safeguard and protect the interest of the citizens of the State is disproved by the disfranchisement of its citizens by lynchings, by discrimination and segregation, by a lack of equal opportunity within the States, and by the disastrous results of the great Depression of the late 1930's, and

WHEREAS: The various States indulge in the practice of erecting trade barriers, one State against the other to the detriment of the citizens of both, since the tariff placed upon the necessary imports purchased from the adjoining State if passed on to the citizens of the respective States through higher merchandise and food costs, and

WHEREAS: Private enterprise and other pressure groups exert a great influence upon City and State legislatures and more often deprive the great mass of the full protection of the State while themselves being granted special privileges

BE IT RESOLVED

THAT: The International Ladies Auxiliary approve the continued participation of the federal government (in times of peace as well as in times of war) in protecting the basic rights of health, housing, freedom

of person, the franchise, equal work opportunities, education and full employment insofar as all the citizens of America are concerned.

BE IT FURTHER
RESOLVED THAT:

The International Ladies Auxiliary oppose and condemn as insincere and unsound the current attempt to wrest from the Federal government the broad functions as set forth in the above paragraph, since it appears that the individual State is incapable of administering to its citizens without undue favoritism.

The Committee recommends concurrence.

The recommendation of the Committee was received and adopted by the Convention.

OFFICE OF PRICE ADMINISTRATION

Resolution No. 11 - By International Executive Board

WHEREAS: The ruinous affect of inflated prices and uncontrolled wage increases following World War #1 created a spiral of price and wage increases that eventually produce unprecedented suffering and privation throughout the country, and

WHEREAS: The enactment of ceiling prices, rationing of food and household articles including controls over wearing apparel brought about a more equitable distribution of all such items, and

WHEREAS: There are grave dangers of run-away prices following the close of the current war without retention of over all price controls, and

WHEREAS: Despite the efforts of O.P.A. to regulate prices, the cost of living has risen out of proportion to wage increases which are held rigidly to the little Steel Formula

BE IT RESOLVED
THAT:

The International Ladies Auxiliary approve the continuance of O.P.A. until such time the reconversion of civilian production of adequate to meet consumer requirements

BE IT FURTHER
RESOLVED THAT:

The International Ladies Auxiliary impress upon the members in its local divisions the necessity of assisting in the enforcement of existing price controls by checking price lists and reporting all violations found in their respective communities.

The Committee recommends concurrence.

The recommendation of the Committee was received and adopted by the Convention.

BLACK MARKETS

Resolution No. 12 - By International Executive Board

WHEREAS: The United States government has estimated that the American public is spending an estimated one billion, 200 million dollars in the black markets for food alone since rationing went into effect, and

WHEREAS: The National League of Wholesale Fresh Fruits and Vegetables found as soon as seasonal fruits hit the ceiling price set by O.P.A. that they were taken off the market and placed in the hands of black market distributors, and

WHEREAS: Such speculators manipulate the markets so as to produce unwarranted price advances which threaten the whole O.P.A. price control structure

THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED THAT: The International Ladies Auxiliary condemn and vigorously oppose such practices whenever there is an opportunity to do so, and

BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED THAT: The International Ladies Auxiliary in the interest of post war stabilization admonish its members against patronizing these forms of illegitimate business as thereby preventing a carry over of black markets prices and practices into a peace time economy.

The Committee recommends concurrence.

The recommendation of the Committee was received and adopted by the Convention.

PRESIDENT WILSON: We were just in the business of reading the resolutions, however, since time is pressing I shall, without further delay, introduce the Auxiliary's International Counselor, Brother A. Philip Randolph, who will address the convention at this time.

INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT A. PHILIP RANDOLPH
BROTHERHOOD OF SLEEPING CAR PORTERS

Madam President, Officers and Members of the Fourth Biennial Convention of the Ladies Auxiliary to the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, I am delighted to have the privilege and honor to say just a word to you. We are meeting at this time when the world is bound by strife, amidst the vast crisis of race against race. The crisis was not created, the war was not created, but the victory will be lost when the war is over and consequently, we have a great responsibility - not only in understanding the social forces they play upon us, but the courage and integrity that face us for the advancement of the race.

A telegram from Washington was received recently stating that the Senate would report on a Permanent F.E.P.C. and that the report would be favorable. If that happens it will be the first time in the history of America where any single agency in our Government has come out and approved a policy against colour. Senator Elder of Louisiana is going to make a report on the opposition, therefore, you can see how forces are gathering over America during America's challenge for democracy. We have Japanese American soldiers in the main army, but Negro Americans are in a jim-crow army and you can see how great the responsibility of the Negro is today, and of course, the women have a tremendous responsibility. For a long time the man was known to have all the brains and the men had all the responsibility, but that day is gone. The war is being won, but only by the organized efforts of women. Men could not make the rapid progress they are making if the other half was not contributing her part, thus by working together we progress, and I can give you no finer example of cooperation of men and women than the members of our Organization. We do have it here and I am glad to greet you and to come here for the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, which is now in session at the Phyllis Wheatley in this great historical city.

The men of the Brotherhood are pioneers in the field of co-operation, therefore, we discuss our problems for your benefit. I know you are giving your earnest interest to the work of the Auxiliary. I have a lot of responsibility in representing all of the general movements of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters and the responsibility is almost overmasterly, but in this world you can not go forward without trials and tribulations - we must have them. I hope the Auxiliary here is going to develop a fine and interesting program. I am the International Counsellor but I can not tell you what to do. I better not even suggest because of my general responsibility to the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters. I hope you will permit me to tell you that a lot of the brothers did not want the Auxiliary. They said, "Aren't we having troubles enough - why bring the women in? You are going to have trouble." However, the work of the Auxiliary has been very constructive and many have thrown their hats up in the air for the fine work being done by you.

But getting down to brass tacks. I consider your organization a good organization. I consider your personnel a good personnel. In the trade union movement you do not break up an election every time you have one. The A.F. of L., which is 85 years old, has had only two presidents and two secretary-treasurers since its beginning. I am not here to tell you what to do, but I am telling you something about the trade union move-

ment and as I see it, you know, progress is not made by frequent changes. The Organization suffers as a change and so far as I am concerned I see this Organization moving along progressively from year to year, and I hope that will continue in every word. It would be unfortunate for the Auxiliary to develop confusion, which would be transferred over into the Brotherhood and if one is confused, the other will be also.

So my true friends and sisters, I want to bid you onward, forward and to say the Brotherhood is back of you. I hope the extensive program of the Auxiliary and the Brotherhood will help you and we are ready to give you every bit of cooperation that is needed. And in parting I bid you ever hold the banner of the Brotherhood high and I know you will and you will be proud to look back on this convention and that we are not thinking alone of ourselves, but of the generations to come. Workers of the education program, I wish you compliment you. It is a high mark preparing them for the leadership of tomorrow. Thanks very much.

PRESIDENT WILSON: The Convention is honored in having its International Counsellor pay it a visit during this session and to bring greetings from the International Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters. Many of the brothers felt years back that the Auxiliary was not ready for the honor bestowed upon it, but the women have done many things that it was thought they could not do. So much so that a good deal of the former opposition has been overcome.

SUBSIDIES

Resolution No. 13 - By International Executive Board

WHEREAS: It is the consensus of opinion on the part of a great number of persons that there will be a great need for the Federal government to subsidize certain industries at the close of the present war if American industry is to compete in foreign markets on equal terms with other industries, and

WHEREAS: The difference between the wages paid American workmen and those paid workmen in other parts of the world differ so widely - the workmen of this country receiving many times the wage paid workmen of other countries, and

WHEREAS: Unless the difference in these wage differentials are paid by the Federal government there is danger of a probable drastic reduction in the American standard of living

THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED THAT: The International Ladies Auxiliary go on record as approving Federal subsidies where needed for American industries engaged in foreign commerce, also as favoring Federal subsidies for domestic consumer commodities thereby preventing unnecessary price increases to be absorbed by the workers on the home front

BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED THAT: The International Ladies Auxiliary actively support any legitimate movement designed to further these proposals.

The Committee recommends concurrence.

The recommendation of the Committee was received and adopted by the Convention.

DEMOBILIZATION

Resolution No. 14 -- By International Executive Board

WHEREAS: The American Government is said to have on hand an estimated 103 billions of dollars worth of disposable surpluses of where there are several million tons of food, thousands of temporary and permanent homes built for war workers, hospitals, schools and finished goods ranging from tanks to hair pins, to railroads, including countless other commodities, and

WHEREAS: Unless preparation is made now for an orderly and gradual disposal of these vast quantities of materials there will be an even worse repetition of conditions that followed World War #1 when markets were crowded to overflow with surpluses of every kind, and

WHEREAS: It is vital to the welfare of Americans that the re-conversion from a war-time to a peace-time economy be effected with a minimum of unemployment, but with a maximum amount of supervision so labor and small business may be in a position to purchase these surpluses thereby protecting themselves from monopolies and other abuses

BE IT RESOLVED
THAT:

The International Ladies Auxiliary go on record as having approved the Murray-Kilgore Bill, which recommended a single government agency as a distribution center for these high surpluses and which provided that an opinion be received from the Attorney-General before consummating any sale of property valued at a million dollars, also help for ex-service men in establishing and maintaining their own small business enterprises and adequate compensation for munition workers during the reconversion period.

BE IT FURTHER
RESOLVED THAT: The International Legislative Committee continue to work for amendments to the existing Act whenever an opportunity presents itself.

The Committee recommends concurrence.

The recommendation of the Committee was received and adopted by the Convention.

SOCIAL SECURITY

Resolution No. 15 - By International Executive Board

WHEREAS: Payroll deductions in the form of a withholding tax represents the worker's way of laying aside funds for future emergencies which arise as a result of illness, injury, a period of unemployment, and

WHEREAS: Social Security grants, when adequate offer protection for workers through unemployment compensation, sick and accident benefits, including protection for the aged and a degree of security for the family of a deceased or injured worker, and

WHEREAS: The existing Social Security Act does not include domestic, agricultural and certain other low income groups where it is felt such coverage is most needed

BE IT RESOLVED

THAT: The International Auxiliary Order approve the amendments as contained in the Wagner-Dingell Bill and that the International Legislative Committee work in conjunction with the local divisions for their adoption when such legislation is before the United States Congress for ratification.

The Committee recommends concurrence.

The recommendation of the Committee was received and adopted by the Convention.

NON-PARTISAN POLITICAL MOVEMENT

Resolution No. 16 - By International Executive Board

WHEREAS: The primary purpose of the Non-Partisan Political Action Committee of the March-On-Washington is to mobilize the political strength of the Negro race in particular, and that of the other races of color in general, and

WHEREAS: There is strong evidence that the retarded development of the darker races as a whole is due primarily to their limited knowledge of the basic problems impeding their progress, and

WHEREAS: The minority groups are in a better position to bargain with candidates of both political parties when they refrain from being committed to either party thereby safeguarding their political, social, religious and economic rights.

BE IT RESOLVED
THAT:

The International Ladies Auxiliary strongly endorse the development of the Non-Partisan Political Action Committee of the March-On-Washington Movement and that members of all local divisions be advised to adhere as nearly as possible to this principle on the ground that such action on the part of the minority races will add to the effectiveness and the greater protection of their respective groups.

The Committee recommends concurrence.

The recommendation of the Committee was received and adopted by the Convention.

FAIR EMPLOYMENT PRACTICE COMMITTEE

Resolution No. 17 - By International Executive Board

WHEREAS: The temporary war-time F.E.P.C., which was created by a Presidential Executive Order, removing many discriminations and restrictions where the American Negro was concerned, and

WHEREAS: The transfer of million of workers from the production front to the battle fronts of the world caused acute manpower shortages thereby jeopardizing the war efforts of the Allied nations although millions of essential workers were available, and

WHEREAS: The Negro, realizing that he had as much at stake as any one else in America, became determined to fight and die, if necessary, as a first class citizen of his native America, and

WHEREAS: The F. E. P. C. that was created as a war-time emergency, made the hiring of Negroes mandatory, but only for the duration of the war

THEREFORE BE IT
RESOLVED THAT: The International Ladies Auxiliary campaign vigorously by calling upon Congress for the creation of a permanent post-war federal F.E.P.C. as a guarantee of full employment for all of America's citizens without regard of race, creed or colour

BE IT FURTHER
RESOLVED THAT: The International Legislative Committee put forth every effort to impress upon the local membership in every division the urgency and the great importance of their immediate support of this vital measure.

The Committee recommends concurrence.

The recommendation of the Committee was received and adopted by the Convention.

JUNIOR AUXILIARIES

Resolution No. 18 - By International Executive Board

WHEREAS: It is essential that the philosophy of the trade union movement be understood by the youth as well as by the adult, and

WHEREAS: The worker on the job, on the picket line, or sitting around the negotiating table is better fortified and strengthened when he has the unqualified support of his entire family

BE IT RESOLVED

THAT: The International Ladies Auxiliary take steps at the earliest possible date and set up Junior Auxiliaries for the purpose of enstiling into the minds of the future workers of the race the many advantages that accrue to workers and their families through strong labor organizations.

The Committee recommends concurrence.

The recommendation of the Committee was received and adopted by the Convention.

DOMESTIC WORKERS

Resolution No. 19 - By International Executive Board

BE IT RESOLVED

THAT: The International Ladies Auxiliary favor an amendment to the Social Security Act to include domestic, agriculture and other workers not covered by the existing act and that a resolution stating the Auxiliary's position with regards to this matter be sent the appropriate committee in the House and Senate when these bodies have such amendments under advisement.

The Committee recommends concurrence.

The recommendation of the Committee was received and adopted by the Convention.

WHITE PRIMARIES

Resolution No. 20 -- By International Executive Board

WHEREAS: Lily White Primaries, so-called in the South are a nullification of the 14th and 15th Amendments of the American Constitution since they deprive American citizens of their right of franchise

BE IT RESOLVED

THAT: The International Ladies Auxiliary condemn the vicious system of so-called "Lily White Primaries" as adopted by the Southern white politicians as a means of perpetuating themselves in office at the expense of other American citizens

BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED THAT: The International Ladies Auxiliary heartedly commend the recent decision of the United States Supreme Court which ruled on the unconstitutionality of the "White Primaries" in the State of Texas, said decision setting a precedent for disfranchised citizens of other States where this evil custom still is in vogue.

The Committee recommends concurrence.

The recommendation of the Committee was received and adopted by the Convention.

FEDERAL ANTI-LYNCHING BILL

Resolution No. 21 - By International Executive Board

WHEREAS: Present indications point to widespread racial disturbances following the close of World War #2, and

WHEREAS: Past performances on the part of the various States indicate their inability to cope with the lawlessness of their respective citizens, including many of their local officials

BE IT RESOLVED

THAT: The Third Biennial Convention of the Ladies Auxiliary to the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters go on record as demanding the enactment of a law by Congress to make lynching a federal offense thereby taking the prosecution of such atrocities out of the jurisdiction of the local courts which because of their local affiliations prove themselves incapable of taking an impartial stand once the culprits are apprehended or of imposing a punishment to fit such an inhuman and odious crime.

The Committee recommends concurrence.

The recommendation of the Committee was received and adopted by the Convention.

WHITE SUPREMACY

Resolution No. 22 - By International Executive Board

WHEREAS: There appears to be a deliberate attempt on the part of certain reactionary forces in the benighted sections of the Southland to foment racial friction by spreading a vicious propaganda of white supremacy when every act on the part of such persons point to their own spiritual, moral and intellectual deterioration, and

WHEREAS: Science proves that environment and opportunity, and not the color of the skin to be the basis of one man's claim to superiority over another

BE IT RESOLVED
THAT:

While the International Ladies Auxiliary knows full well that a truly superior person is incapable of adopting such a behavior pattern that the Auxiliary, nevertheless, condemn and oppose any such doctrine because of the accumulative and destructive evils which tend to discredit a people and to disrupte a country at a time when millions of lives are being sacrificed to make a world that is free from all racial or religious intolerance.

The Committee recommends concurrence.

The recommendation of the Committee was received and adopted by the Convention.

W.P.A. and P.W.A.

Resolution No. 23 - By International Executive Board

BE IT RESOLVED
THAT:

The International Ladies Auxiliary favor the re-establishment of federal post-war W.P.A. and P.W.A. projects should existing social security benefits and other safeguards as adopted by the individual States prove inadequate to meet the needs of a large scale post-war unemployment situation.

The Committee recommends concurrence.

The recommendation of the Committee was received and adopted by the Convention.

TRADE UNION LABELS

Resolution No. 24 - By International Executive Board

BE IT RESOLVED

THAT:

The members of the Ladies Auxiliary to the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters support the organized labor movement by refusing to cross a picket line, by refusing to purchase articles of clothing, household furnishing, etc. that do not bear an union label, also by boycotting all businesses that appear on the "unfair" list of the various labor unions.

The Committee recommends concurrence.

The recommendation of the Committee was received and adopted by the Convention.

A. F. of L. and C. I. O.

Resolution No. 25 - By International Executive Board

WHEREAS:

There is at present a definite anti-labor trend in the country as well as in the Congress of the United States, and

WHEREAS:

There are grave dangers of workers losing many of their hard-earned advantages if the existing breach in the labor movement is not healed.

THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED THAT:

The International Ladies Auxiliary to the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters go on record as strongly urging a consolidation of the Committee for Industrial Organization and the American Federation of Labor as a means of protecting the labor movement from the forces which seem bent upon its destruction.

The Committee recommends concurrence.

The recommendation of the Committee was received and adopted by the Convention.

SOLDIERS' VOTE BILL

Resolution No. 26 - By International Executive Board

WHEREAS:

Civilians entering the armed forces of the country do not lose their citizenship by so doing, and

WHEREAS: Such persons enter the military services for the purpose of preserving the rights of all the citizens of a country including their own, and

WHEREAS: The Congress of the United States practically disfranchised hundreds of thousands and perhaps millions of American citizens by failing to adopted the simplified federal ballot on which service men and women might name their preference for federal office holders instead of relying upon the doubtful methods of their respective states to get state ballots to the far corners of the earth in time for them to have a voice in the affairs of their government.

BE IT RESOLVED
THAT:

The International Ladies Auxiliary condemn the action of certain Congressmen for playing politics with such votes in the hope of predetermining the outcome of the current presidential election

BE IT FURTHER
RESOLVED THAT:

The International Ladies Auxiliary condemn the 28 governors, who are on record as disapproving, or having banned the use of a simplified federal ballot for the millions of men and women thousands of miles removed from their respective states.

The Committee recommends concurrence.

The recommendation of the Committee was received and adopted by the Convention.

POLL TAX

Resolution No. 27 - By International Executive Board

WHEREAS: The Poll Tax laws now in effect in the six Poll Tax states are a perversion of the original Poll Tax laws which were in no way connected with the franchise but were meant to be a source of collecting much needed revenue, and

WHEREAS: The existing laws are a deliberate and unscrupulous plan to withhold from loyal citizens their political, civic and economic rights, and

WHEREAS: These laws contain stipulations virtually impossible of fulfillment thereby preventing hundreds of thousands of persons from attaining their full citizenship rights, and

WHEREAS: The recent coalition between the reactionary forces of both major political parties conspired to prevent the passage of the most recent anti-poll tax bill thereby indicating bad faith on their part.

BE IT RESOLVED
THAT: The International Ladies Auxiliary continue to cooperate with other liberal forces of the country to eventually force the passage of a federal anti-poll tax law.

BE IT FURTHER
RESOLVED THAT: The local auxiliaries continue at the appropriate time to memorialize the respective Congressmen of the United States to ascertain the position of each with regards to this corrupt practice with a view toward reprimanding or rewarding each according to his position regarding this vital issue.

The Committee recommends concurrence.

The recommendation of the Committee was received and adopted by the Convention.

TENANT FARMING

Resolution No. 28 - By International Executive Board

WHEREAS: Tenant farming contains the mechanism of a cruel and ruthless form of human exploitation which reduces almost countless thousands of persons to a deplorable and reprehensible state of existence, and

WHEREAS: The tenant farmer is subjected to treatment almost beyond human endurance which is purposely designed to break his spirit thereby causing resistance and escape to be extremely unlikely.

BE IT RESOLVED
THAT: The Convention denounce and oppose a system that makes it possible for one human being to maliciously exploit and deprive another of the right to live according to and in keeping with the accepted standards as prescribed by a modern civilization.

The Committee recommends concurrence.

The recommendation of the Committee was received and adopted by the Convention.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

Resolution No. 29 - By Vancouver Ladies Auxiliary

WHEREAS: The opportunity now exists, among Porters to a greater degree than any other class or group of individuals, coming in contact with the public of the opposite race, and

THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED THAT: The International Ladies Auxiliary commend the members of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, as a channel, through which better relationship may be fostered, educators as it were, to enlighten those with whom they come in contact, as to the race's achievements, abilities, and the truth about man, whether he be black or white.

BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED THAT: This be done in an intelligent, poised manner, not boastful, sullen or in anger, but with purpose, meaning and for the good of the race.

BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED THAT: The International Auxiliary urge officers of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, stress upon its members to foster and improve by word and deed better relations between races and that said officers, issue from time to time useful and informative points, pertaining thereto.

BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED THAT: The International Auxiliary suggest that reading rooms be set up in the larger centers, in Porters' quarters, furnished with books that will give necessary information and enlightenment, so that its members shall be better fitted to meet this larger task, or privilege, as they, as no other group hold this high position, a great opportunity to serve the race thereby serving in a larger way.

BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED THAT: This opportunity be used to its fullest.

The Committee recommends concurrence.

The recommendation of the Committee was received and adopted by the Convention.

DELEGATE ROSINA C. TUCKER: Madam President, the contents of this resolution is very very good, but you will notice it is addressed to the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters. The subject matter is under their jurisdiction, therefore, I would suggest that since we have

nothing along this line we can do, we will have to vote this resolution down, but if it was addressed to the Ladies Auxiliary it would be in our province to consider it.

DELEGATE MAUDE FIELDS: Owing to the fact that our auxiliary is new we did not know exactly what to do.

PRESIDENT WILSON: I do not believe it was intended to be addressed to the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters.

DELEGATE DOROTHY GARRETT: May I ask that the resolution be turned over to the Worker's Education Committee in order that the convention may adopt the resolution, which is a very good one.

DELEGATE ESTELLE WILSON: Can part of that resolution be adopted?

DELEGATE TUCKER: I do not want to be contemptuous but it was not addressed to the Auxiliary, however, if we take it and reword it, it can be used for everything in it which is applicable.

DELEGATE ARDELLA NUTALL: The delegate has expressed herself and has told us what she was trying to do and we should respect her.

DELEGATE LILLIE KENDRICK: Is it possible to correct the resolution?

DELEGATE DAVIE D. PHILLIPS: As a member of the committee I am going to recommend that this resolution be referred to the International Executive Board for correction.

DELEGATE VELMER COWARD: I second the amendment.

PRESIDENT WILSON: Those in favor of referring this resolution to the International Executive Board say "Aye" -- those opposed. Motion carried.

ELECTION OF LOCAL PRESIDENTS AND DELEGATES

Resolution No. 30 - By Los Angeles Auxiliary

WHEREAS: The success and life of local auxiliaries depend largely upon the sincere efforts and capable efficient handling of all affairs pertaining to labor organization by its officers, and

WHEREAS: Capable handling and representation requires an experimental knowledge of these affairs, and

WHEREAS: Some members are faithful and reliable and ever ready to give of their time and talents

THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED THAT: A nominee for President of any local be a member in good standing who has held an elective office during the past biennial and has served that office faithfully and well.

BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED THAT: A nominee for Delegate to conventions be a member who has held an elective office.

The Committee recommends non-concurrence.

DELEGATE DORTHY GARRETT: In that part of the resolution I think it is only fair that one should hold an elective office to be a delegate. I don't think they understand the importance of the Organization until they have held an office.

DELEGATE DAVIE PHILLIPS: In view of the fact that the auxiliary or divisions belongs to the members who are financial -- if a member is denied an opportunity it is a very bad policy. There is no reason why that member could not be elected a delegate to the convention if they are financial. They should be alert and, you know as members of your auxiliary, there are those who should not be elected as delegates but you can not deny a financial member who has been financial for two years the opportunity of being elected a delegate.

DELEGATE DORTHY GARRETT: I can not get into my head why that explanation.

The recommendation of the Committee was received and adopted by the Convention.

RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL REPORT FORM

Resolution No. 31 - By Los Angeles Auxiliary

WHEREAS: We believe, to expedite time and to afford a greater efficiency, the financial report should be reconstructed. That carbon copies should be onion skinned. That addresses should be omitted except in cases of new members or change of address, and that a copy of the financial report be sent to Zone Supervisor

The Committee recommends concurrence.

DELEGATE TUCKER: Concerning the reconstruction of financial forms - this thing pertains specifically to me. Every time there is confusion you change the report forms, the election forms and there are always changes. I am not in favor of a change. I

have found out that I use the carbon on thick paper and it never wears out for I have records since 1938. I am not in favor of the change and if a change is necessary I feel I can recommend it myself.

DELEGATE GARRETT: A resolution was submitted last convention stating that the report sheets be made in triple form.

PRESIDENT WILSON: The Chairman will answer that question. There was a mistake. The Brotherhood made up the original form and the new forms were not as ordered by the Auxilliary. It appears to be the position of the International Secretary-Treasurer that the International Secretary-Treasurer only should make suggestions for keeping the records of the financial forms.

DELEGATE OLIVIA RAWLSTON: I would like to say that -- some one has told me at this convention that they have been supplied with duplicate blanks -- some of us are not being allowed to use this type of book.

DELEGATE ESTELLE WILSON: I am asking for a point of information. We asked in the last convention and it was asked that the International Secretary-Treasurer supply us with a book similar to that of the Brotherhood. I do not see why we should change.

PRESIDENT WILSON: There is no intention changing the form. The Chair understands that it is not intended to change the form as such -- only to improve it.

DELEGATE MAE DAILEY: It was decided that triplicate forms be used in order that the International Zone Supervisors would receive a copy of the financial reports.

DELEGATE LETITIA MURRAY: I would like to explain to Sister Tucker and the Convention that the resolution coming from the Los Angeles Auxilliary was not ment to change the form, but to use onion skin paper for the second or third copy in order to help make clean and better copies.

DELEGATE ELIZABETH CRAIG: The reason why some have the short financial forms and others have the book form is because the International Secretary-Treasurer is using up the old forms first, which is the short form.

DELEGATE VELLER COWARD: The second and third copies you refer to -- do they go to the International office?

PRESIDENT WILSON: The original copy would be on the thick sheet and the duplicate copies on the second and third onion skin paper -- the first for the International Secretary-Treasurer; second for the International President; and the third for the auxiliary's own records.

The recommendation of the Committee was received and adopted by the Convention.

PASSES

Resolution No. 32 - By Los Angeles Auxiliary

WHEREAS: The Pullman porter having worked long and faithful for a small salary until recently and a majority of the older men have not reaped the benefits of the organization, which they fought and sacrificed to build.

THEREFORE BE IT
RESOLVED THAT: The porters' wives and minor children be considered for passes after the porter is deceased.

BE IT FURTHER
RESOLVED THAT: We ask that this be taken up with The Pullman Company.

CONVENTION PROCEEDINGS

Resolution No. 33 - By Washington Auxiliary

WHEREAS: We believe that the Report Proceedings of the Biennial Convention are education to the members of the Auxiliary, and

WHEREAS: We feel that these reports do stimulate interest

THEREFORE BE IT
RESOLVED THAT: The Proceedings of the Biennial Convention be printed in inexpensive book form making copies available to all members.

The Committee recommends non-concurrence.

The recommendation of the Committee was received and adopted by the Convention.

DELEGATE ELIZABETH CRAIG: The Washington Division sent in that resolution because the members who do not attend the convention would like to read about what went on during the convention and the Brotherhood have their proceedings in book form and each member has a copy.

DELEGATE MINNIE LEE: A great deal of cost is required to have this printing done and you can do as many other auxiliaries do - you could pass the copy of the proceedings among the members that the delegate receives; and most of the members do not read these proceedings anyway.

DELEGATE ELLEN WILLIAMS: At this time when there is a shortage of paper would it not be out of order to call for such a request?

DELEGATE MARY DAVIS: It would not be necessary during this war period.

ELECTIVE OFFICES

Resolution No. 34 - By Washington Auxiliary

WHEREAS: The Ladies Auxiliary to the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters is striving for the common good of all members, and

WHEREAS: The chief purpose of the Organization is to educate the members in trade union activities, and

WHEREAS: The progress of the Organization depends upon the intelligent understanding and co-operation of its members

THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED THAT: Members not attending one-third of the meetings during the two years without a reasonable excuse will not be eligible for an elective office.

The Committee recommends non-concurrence.

The recommendation of the Committee was received and adopted by the Convention.

FILING OF RECEIPTS

Resolution No. 35 - By International Executive Board

WHEREAS: At the end of our convention year there are many obligations to be met and extra strain necessarily placed on the International treasury

BE IT RESOLVED

THAT: All bills of the International officers be itemized and sent in during the current six months period that they are made so that the records may be facilitated.

The Committee recommends concurrence.

The recommendation of the Committee was received and adopted by the Convention.

DELINQUENT MEMBERS

Resolution No. 36 - By International Executive Board

WHEREAS: The records in the International Secretary-Treasurer's office show names of over 900 women who have belonged to the several auxiliaries and have now been dropped, and

WHEREAS: This number would greatly strengthen the International numerically and financially, thereby making it more powerful and effective.

BE IT RESOLVED

THAT: During a session of this convention time be set aside to openly discuss methods of restoring as many as possible of this large group of women.

The Committee recommends concurrence.

The recommendation of the Committee was received and adopted by the Convention.

PRESIDENT WILSON: We will now consider the adoption of the entire report coming from the Constitution and Resolutions Committee.

DELEGATE SUSANNA LESTER: I move the acceptance of the entire report.

DELEGATE LELA LEE: I second it.

PRESIDENT WILSON: It is moved and seconded that the committee report be accepted. Those in favor say "Aye" - those opposed. The motion is carried.

DELEGATE LELA LEE: I move that we have one more report before adjourning for lunch.

DELEGATE MARY DAVIS: I second it.

PRESIDENT WILSON: Those in favor of the motion say "Aye" - those opposed. The motion is carried.

The Co-operative and Credit Union Committee report will be made at this time.

COOPERATIVE AND CREDIT UNION COMMITTEE

DELEGATE GARDA CHEVALIER: After careful deliberation the Cooperative and Credit Union Committee submits the following recommendations.

1. Each auxiliary form a Cooperative Credit Union Study Club for cooperative study.
2. Each auxiliary contact the Consumers Division Office of Price Administration in their city, to secure speakers and literature concerning Cooperative and Credit Unions. Also, write Foreign Credit Administration and Bureau of Documents, Washington, D. C.
3. That each auxiliary study the following books:
The A B C's of Cooperatives by Gerald Richardson
Consumers Cooperatives in America by Bertram B. Fowler
Skin Deep by M. C. Phillips
American Chamber of Horrors by Ruth D. Lamb
Your Money's Worth by Stewart Chase
What is Consumers Cooperation by J. P. Warbasse
A Cooperative Economic Democracy by E. R. Bowen
Discovery of the Consumer by Beatrice Webb
Fundamentals of Consumers Cooperation by V. C. Alanne

That the Chairman of the Educational Committee be responsible for securing these books.

4. That the Chairman of the Education Committee appoint members to attend classes and concentrate on practical problems of cooperative educational policy and store management, directing of problems, buying, displaying and pricing policies.
5. Cooperative and Credit Union education may be advanced through moving pictures and local radio programs also much information may be gained through the Farm and Home hour broadcast, an N.B.C. program.

SIGNED: Letitia Murray - Los Angeles - Chairman
Garda Chevalier - Toronto - Secretary-
Inez Temple - Charleston
Margaret Woods - Tucson
Cora E. Stewart - Oklahoma City
Cecile Charles - Boston
Lela Jackson - St. Paul
Bessie Patton - Memphis
Ola Roberts - Chicago
Estelle Wilson - Shreveport
Rosie Ann Lyons - Fort Worth

Vivian Comedy	Cleveland
Engliss Johns	Portland
Frances Dyer	Columbus
Bertha Rowland	

DELEGATE LILLIE KENDICK: I move the report be accepted.

DELEGATE LOUISE COSTONS: I second it.

PRESIDENT WILSON: Those in favor of accepting the report say "aye" - those opposed - motion carried.

DELEGATE MARY DAVIS: I move that the reports be continued.

PRESIDENT WILSON: Those in favor of continuing with the report say "aye" - those opposed - motion carried.

The Organization and Propaganda Committee will report at this time.

REPORT OF THE ORGANIZATION AND PROPAGANDA COMMITTEE

DELEGATE GERTRUDE ROSS: Madam President, Officers and Members of the Fourth Biennial Convention. We, the committee on Organization and Propaganda after careful consideration respectfully submit the following recommendations.

THEME: EDUCATING OUR WOMEN IN TRADE UNIONISM

1. That the Auxiliary effect an international boycott against non members who refuse to become part of the Auxiliary. Since international boycott is one of our most effective weapons against non union women.
2. That each Auxiliary member engage in continuous propaganda for the purpose of spreading trade unionism for Negroes, the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters and Auxiliary's history and accomplishments for our group in particular.
3. That a copy of the Constitution and By-laws be purchased by each Auxiliary member so that they may acquaint themselves with same.
4. Open meetings at intervals where non members can come in in which the history of the Brotherhood and the Ladies Auxiliary may be given.
5. That each member of the local executive board be made an intergral part of the organizing machinery and be given authority to collect dues and instruct new members.

6. Organizing committee work in close cooperation and harmony with the executive board, president and zone supervisors.
7. That each local Auxiliary set up organizing committees with chairman, district captain and squad leaders.
8. That the organizing committee keep a supply of literature on hand for distribution to new members.
9. Don't propagandize on it unless you've read it in the BLACK WORKER, Ladies Auxiliary's Constitution and By-laws or hear it from some one in authority. Form a slogan - "Don't repeat it."
10. Each Auxiliary send a report to zone supervisors and international president on the work of the organizing committee every three months.

Fraternally submitted,

SIGNED: Mae Dailey - St. Louis - Chairman
 Gertrude Ross - Atlanta - Secretary
 Ella McBride - Denver
 Dorothy Garrett - Buffalo
 Hilda Carrington - Canada
 Norma Harrison - New York
 Olivia Rawlston - Dallas
 Nannie Guy - Richmond
 Susanne Lester - New Orleans
 Carrie E. White - Kansas City
 Annie Mae Daniels - Houston
 Lillie Kendricks - Philadelphia
 Addie Thomas - Louisville
 Ellen Williams - Albany
 Helen Hudson - Winnipeg
 Serena Lamar - Augusta
 Gertrude Epps - Ashville

DELEGATE OLIVIA RAWLSTON: I move the report be accepted.

PRESIDENT WILSON: Those in favor of the motion to adopt the report say "aye" - those opposed - motion carried.

DELEGATE NANNIE WELLS: Should a report of the Scholarship Committee be given at this time.

PRESIDENT WILSON: No, not now.

The Legislative Committee will report at this time.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

DELEGATE ROSINA C. TUCKER: Madam President, Officers and delegates to the International Ladies Auxiliary Order of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, and friends.

Because of my residing in the Capital City of this country, and my nearness to the halls of Congress, I was selected to be chairman of the International Legislative Committee, the duty of which committee is to sponsor bills, and to study bills presented to Congress to be sure that they do not react against the interest of Negroes in general and workers in particular; to help mobilize the masses of Negroes and to focalize their attention on such bills toward preventing unfavorable action. While the committee is interested in all legislation affecting the welfare of our country it is particularly interested in:

First, Federal aid to education with federal standards and federal supervision. This applies to primary and secondary schools, colleges and rehabilitation schools.

The other week I read two articles -- the first in one of our Negro weeklies - the subject of which was "Who fights this war?" The writer stated that in New York state there are 571,000 Negroes, one half as many as are in Georgia which has 1,084,927. He said that you would naturally think that Georgians would outnumber the New Yorkers in the Army and Navy two to one. But then don't. New York has 6,000 more colored men in the armed forces than Georgia. Are the Southern States lying down on the War? Are they L-F's? Georgia does draft twice as many colored men than New York, but the time it defers some to work on the farms and rejects others for illiteracy, New York qualified for service more than Georgia. Pennsylvania and South Carolina send the same number of men into the army. But South Carolina has nearly twice as many colored people as Pennsylvania. The same ratio exists between little New Jersey and big Arkansas; North Carolina and Maryland and so it goes. The Southern States are not carrying their full weight of the war. The less populated Northern and Western areas are 100 per cent more efficient in furnishing soldiers and seamen for the armed forces. This is the direct result of segregation and race hate in the South. Its backwardness of producing fighting men places a larger burden to be borne by colored men from the North and West. So you see the war effort has been affected by the lack of education of the Negro in the South saying nothing of the effect on the Negroes' health, mental state, morale and financial status.

The second article I spoke of after discussing the lack of education results in an increased military draft on other population group. Thus, a deferment in Georgia for illiteracy results in drafting a skilled worker or father in New York. It causes a reduced efficiency in the military service and a reduced social efficiency thereby preventing contribution to peacetime affairs.

The army complains that educational deficiency has deprived the armed forces of more physically fit men than have been killed in the war. The solution to this problem is impossible without Federal aid to the States and such a bill was defeated in Congress a few months ago by that contemptible States right issue.

You will be interested in knowing that selective service figures shows that Negro registrants in ten Northern and border states showed up better in mental tests than did white registrants in seven Southern states. In most southern states fewer Negro in proportion to whites were rejected for failure to meet the minimum intelligence standards. We are told that because of poor schooling in the South, the American military has lost at least 15 full divisions. This because of illiteracy of the colored and shockingly true of the white registrants.

Secondly, the committee is interested and is strong for the enforcement of the 14th and 15th Amendments to the Constitution which will release votes of thousands of Negro citizens in the South. The enforcement of this legislation will almost automatically remove all those permanent politicians who are re-elected each term by a small minority of citizens.

Thirdly, we are interested in Negro representation and Negro participation in the peace conferences before and after the war ends. There are many other items of legislation which interest us, but the next three are of the greatest importance to us. First, the Passage of the Anti-Lynching Bill which you already know a great deal about and it needs no elaboration here. In passing, however, I want to call your attention to the flood of protests and criticism against the Nazis and Japs who have tortured most cruelly, American soldiers and other prisoners in the war theatres. It is my prayer that the knowledge of such atrocities will bring some to all white Americans the cruelties upon our people, not only in the South, but all over this country and to the extent that they will determine to do something about it. Also, that the white soldiers, because of his fighting and suffering with the Negro soldiers, yet after the Negro and white soldier baptism in each others blood, the white soldier will return entirely washed clean of all semblance of prejudice and that he will be eager to do something about this damnable race supremacy tomfoolery.

Second, the abolition of the Poll tax. There has been a great deal of pressure exerted against this bill HR-7 which seeks to correct the evil of thousands of citizens deprived of voting because of a tax being a pre-requisite to voting.

A paragraph from the majority report of the Senate Judiciary Committee on Poll Taxes is: "One of the greatest privileges, and a fundamental one, of every citizen of the United States is the right to vote. If he is deprived of this right he is denied the right to participate in governmental affairs. Such a citizen becomes an outcast." A group of Negro citizens wrote to the Senate in part, "Nothing is more essential to the functioning of our

democracy than a free use of the ballot without restrictions. We are fighting, millions throughout the world are fighting --- for the elementary right of democratic government. The entire Negro people ask that HR-7 as a war measure, be enacted."

Organized labor wrote, "Ten million Americans disfranchised by the Poll Tax is a serious handicap to our war unity, at home and to our allied support in other lands." This was signed by such men as Sidney Hillman, George Meany, Philip Murray, Matthew Woll and others. Church leaders wrote, "The world looks to the Senate for moral and intellectual leadership. Those sent by you, who have died in battle against the enemy have kept the democratic faith. The disfranchisement of millions on millions of our citizens calls for redress." This statement was signed by the most prominent colored and white clergy of the country.

Members of the Bar wrote: "As lawyers deeply concerned with the preservation of our democratic institutions, we go on record in support of HR-7, the bill to eliminate Poll Tax requirements in Federal elections. The legal issues that have been raised in connection with the abolition of the Poll Tax make it imperative that lawyers lend their support to this measure." This statement bore the signatures of prominent lawyers from every corner of our country. The House of Representatives passed this bill but the Senate filibustered.

The "must" legislation is the passage of the Dawson-Scanlon-LaFollette bill HR-3986 which is the bill that the BSCP is sponsoring under the leadership of our brilliant and fearless president, A. Philip Randolph, who has called to his aid not only the masses of Negroes but Negro and white clergymen (Protestant and Catholic), Rabbis; labor groups (AF of L and CIO); civic and fraternal groups. All of you know that out of the box the Ladies Auxiliary grew through the March-On-Washington Movement, organizations being set up in all large cities and many many small cities. These thousands of citizens were prepared to march to Washington at the psychological moment to demand work without discrimination. This movement was so powerful that the President of the United States was forced to issue the Executive Order 8802 on June 25th, 1941. Out of this Executive Order grew the FEPC. The order declares that there shall be no discrimination because of race, creed, color, national origin or ancestry; that the right to work without discrimination is a constitutional privilege; that employers are forbidden to discriminate because of race, color, creed, etc., and labor unions are forbidden to deny membership or otherwise discriminate.

The FEPC is composed of seven members appointed by the President of the United States. These members serve for seven years. It functions as does the Labor Relations Board with power to hold hearings, issue orders and to petition a United States Court of Appeals to enforce its orders. Our organization and our race is honored to have the International First Vice President of the BSCP, Milton P. Webster, as an honored member of the FEPC.

In 18 months FEPC has handled over 10,000 individual complaints of discrimination in employment averaging about 250 cases per month. Thru public hearings it has opened the doors of the Aircraft industry to Negroes and increased employment of many valuable workers from minority groups. It has opened jobs on the railroads; exposed prejudices in the unions and has secured the cooperation of enlightened employers and enlightened labor unions and the cooperation of Jews, Catholics and other minority groups to work for a permanent FEPC. There is a council that carries on an educational campaign nationally and locally to keep before all people the aims of the FEPC.

We are slowly learning the power we have in uniting our forces, our energies and our money. We are too, slowly learning the power we have in numbers. Why eight Negroes tied up the entire transportation system in Philadelphia the other week. A group of determined Negroes held up for two days the report of the platform committee at the National Democratic Convention. Eight thousand porters forced the great Pullman corporation to bargain collectively with them. We are powerful when we can honestly work together. The white people of the south fear us. Remember that.

To recapitulate, the Legislative Committee urges that all auxiliaries make with watchful eye, a study of all legislation pertaining to Negroes in particular as a part of the educational program but especially the Anti-Lynching Bill, the Poll Tax HR-7 and the Dawson-Scanlon-LaFollette Bill for a Permanent FEPC.

Fraternally submitted,

Rosina C. Tucker

DELEGATE LETITIA MURRAY: I move the convention receive this report.

DELEGATE NORA FANT: I second it.

PRESIDENT WILSON: Those in favor of accepting the report say "aye" - those opposed - motion carried.

DELEGATE NORA FANT: I move the adjournment of this session.

DELEGATE NANNIE WELLS: I second it.

PRESIDENT WILSON: All in favor of this motion say "aye" - those opposed - motion carried.

THIRD DAY - WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

Cleveland, Ohio
September 20, 1944

The closing session of the Convention was called to order by International President Wilson with the singing of "America" and prayer led by Delegate Ethel Tribue, Kansas City, Missouri.

A continuation of the reports was in order.

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

The following reports are being made by members who were awarded scholarships to the Labor Summer Schools by the International Ladies Auxiliary.

REPORT OF:

Mae Frances Allen
Recording-Secretary
Denver, Colorado

Having been the recipient of a scholarship from our International Ladies Auxiliary to the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters to attend the Labor Institute at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin, I wish to thank the Ladies Auxiliary and the Scholarship Committee for having chosen me as one of those to attend the School for Workers as a representative of our organization. So it is with gratitude and sincere purpose I submit this report.

The general two week institute classes started July 9, 1944, with Ernest E. Schwartztrauber, Director in charge of the opening meeting. Instruction classes began July 10 with the faculty in charge.

I wish it was possible that all persons interested in organized labor and who have not attended such classes could at some time attend the School for Workers at Madison, Wisconsin, for there one not only acquires a wealth of knowledge concerning labor, its history and the laws that govern this great world institute called "organized labor" and the problems thereof, but its assets and power, for in unity there is strength. The method of teaching is streamlined. Instead of class room type of teaching as of the usual conventional procedure, work is assigned by units rather than by pages in a book; speakers from various fields as related to the courses; educational tours and movies, which makes it easier to absorb the facts -- learning becomes a real pleasure. Much is learned from the association with each other

sharing other's problems and knowledge as to their particular group.

The general setup of the school is truly commendable. The Brotherhood of Man advocated throughout the program, not in so many words, but also in action and plans, for there are many races, creeds and economic beliefs from all over the country. Sharing together, learning and enjoying everything together in a spirit of oneness, which symbolizes what America can be like if our very much preached democracy was sincerely practiced here in America on a larger scale, and in more schools and groups.

On July 15, I had the profound pleasure of appearing on the Institute's Weekly Broadcast over Station WHA from 1:15 p.m. to 1:30 p.m., to discuss "Woman's Part in Organized Labor", as pertaining to our Auxiliary. The work as volunteer assistants to the O.P.A. work in Denver was mentioned on this broadcast as I am a member on the O.P.A. Committee in our Auxiliary.

Classes closed July 22, after a most enjoyable two week study.

I do hope that more and more members of our organization will be sent to the School for Workers at Madison each year and pledge to do all I can toward this end.

Fraternally submitted,

Mae Frances Allen

BY: Delegate Nannie Wells
President, Denver Division
Ladies Auxiliary BSCP

REPORT OF: Gertrude Coward
Montreal, Quebec

It has been to my great advantage to have had the opportunity to go to Hudson Shore Labor School, West Park, New York for two weeks through a scholarship given by the Ladies Auxiliary to the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters. I was indeed grateful when I learned that my application had been received and accepted. I am humbly thankful that I had the opportunity to have gained considerable knowledge on the Labor conditions in the United States of America of which I knew next to nothing. Upon my return home I received a letter from the Auxiliary asking me to make out a report on my trip. You know I'm not very good at this sort of thing so I hope that you will bear with me and pardon my errors.

Before I delve into the facts of what went on at the school I must first tell you of the beautiful scenery all around West Park. It is simply marvellous to see the sun coming up and going down on the Hudson River and to be able to watch the boats going up and down during the course of the day. That is something that I do not have much time for here in Montreal. Your mountains is another picture that I could not take my eyes away from. They are so beautiful when the sun shines on them and when they are wet and fresh from the rain. The fact that the school was so away from everything did not bother us in the slightest with all of nature's beauty to keep our minds occupied.

As we approach the school we first see the beautiful Aberdeen Building of Hudson Shore Labor School, where the library in which, with the help of our library teacher Miss Ida Goshkin of Akron, Ohio, anything one wished to gain more knowledge of, was available, and also where we had our lessons. We were taught three subjects. First, Economics; second, English; and last but not least, Dramatics.

Our Economics teacher was Miss Gertrude Creig of Wellesly College, Massachusetts. During my two weeks there, Miss Creig included lively discussions between students with experience in the work-a-day world. Our very patient and learned teacher guided us with a clear and informative method of teaching. During the course of my two weeks there I was given several pamphlets and other reading materials which helped me considerably to understand the Labor Legislation and its administration. In order to clarify labor's legal status, we discussed the National Labor Relations Act, the Wagner-Murray-Dingell Bill for the extension of social security, which is still pending, the Fair Labor Standards Act, - "The Little Steel Formula" - and legislation pertaining to social security, minimum wages and maximum hours, child labor, health and safety regulations. We looked into the administration of Labor Legislation as carried on by the Department of Labor and the National Labor Relations' Board, the Wages and Hours Division in the Department of Labor, the War Labor Board and the Fair Employment Practice Committee. During one of our classes we set up an imaginary ideal community and considered its necessary community agencies. We also compared the origin and organization of co-operatives with those of private business enterprise, and discussed cost of production, wages and hours, consumer demands, and the cost of living and how these things are related to each other. As you can see from what I have just related to you that I gained a considerable bit of knowledge during my stay.

Under the sure guidance of our English teacher, Miss Rhetta Arthur, I also gained quite a bit of information that I was none to sure of before I went there. In my first class I noticed that the classes were conducted according to parliamentary procedure. I appreciated that very much as I

was very vague about how a parliamentary meeting was conducted. Each day a different student acted as Chairman and in that way we all were able to take over a meeting under parliamentary procedure before long.

My first subject was "Propaganda" and we studied the different devices of spreading "propaganda." Some of the frequent devices used for spreading "propaganda" are newspapers, conversation, literature, radio and movies.

As part of the work in studying "propaganda" our English class undertook a political election complete with caucuses, on July 19th when the two political parties, which the English class had organized, brought their campaign out into the open with full-fledged platforms covering the questions which it believed would arouse interest among all the residents of Hudson Shore. The two parties took their names from their favourite form of dress. One was known as the "slacks" and the other the "shorts." This gave every student an opportunity to demonstrate political affiliations by what she wore. The campaign did not stop with clothes alone. Gay posters appeared through the living and the dining room of the Smith House and campaign literature crept into private mail boxes. Radio time was given to both parties at meal time. Campaign songs were composed and sung. Political speeches filled with "omnibus" words, "glittering generalities" and all the other well known devices for propagandizing the voter were made by both parties.

The immediate object of the campaign was to elect three officers: The Persuader, Vice Persuader and the Stooze, who were to devote their best efforts to convincing the student government and the Director to put into effect the proposed platforms. The "Slacks" Party advocated changing existing school policy to include - more picnics, less baseball, more spaghetti, less macaroni, and longer periods between class assignments. They also opposed faculty participation in dishwashing.

The "Shorts" party favoured less picnics, more baseball, shorter assignments, macaroni instead of spaghetti, and faculty participation in dishwashing. Much of the campaign propaganda centered upon the dishwashing issue, while both parties neglected to emphasize the relative persuasiveness of their candidates for office. The methods and merits of the propaganda used by both parties were analyzed in the English class at the end of the campaign.

The campaign also presented an opportunity for learning the voting procedures of New York State. Registration was required of all voters. Residence requirements were made

and a literacy test was given to all persons registering. Mr. Coleman Rosenberger, a visitor at that time, spoke to the students seriously concerning methods used in analyzing and predicting election results. On the basis of a quick survey of public opinion at Hudson Shore, he predicted that the "Shorts" would win the election overwhelmingly.

It was, therefore, a great surprise when the votes were counted and the results were announced. The two parties for Persuader were voted tie. The Vice-Persuader was elected on the "Shorts" ticket, and the votes for "Stooge" were split by a write-in campaign for G. B. Creig (our Economic's teacher). It was explained immediately that the vote had been swung by a whispering campaign which originated in Room 6 (one of the faculty member's rooms) in the last hours before the polls were opened. The purpose of this campaign was to demonstrate the meaning of write-ins, the use of the split ticket, and the power of prestige and irrelevant arguments as devices for changing the trend of election returns at the last minute. The moral of this story is that politics can be a very complicated business. This same type of propaganda was carried on in Germany when the attention of the world in general, was focussed upon the persecution of the Jew in Germany, whereas their real motive was rearmament to conquer the world.

We discussed "Interviews" next, and each of us actually took part in an "interview." This too was also entertaining as well as educational, for after we had performed the interviews we wrote them as reports to a periodical.

And so we leave the beautiful Aberdeen Building, and come to the Smith House of the Hudson Shore Labor School, where we had our meals, slept and studied Dramatics. The Smith House consists of three floors. The second and third floors were used as dormitories and on the first floor we studied Dramatics under the direction of Miss Vivian Leopold. The thought of having to attend a Dramatic class made me somewhat sceptical of my acting ability. I had no idea what was expected of me, but Miss Leopold soon put me at ease after my first class.

A play was composed through improvisations by the Dramatic class, and depicted the shop of today and yesterday. We tried to portray the hardships of the shop of yesterday until the none too easy rise of the well-organized shop of today. We also tried to show the long way we have come and our sincere efforts to strive for greater things. We named our play, "We Shall Not Be Moved."

Miss Leopold was not only a teacher but a true friend.

After Dramatics we had recreation, or we wrote letters, washed or ironed clothes or studied. Recreation consisted of long hikes followed by a much needed swim or games such as Volley Ball, Baseball, Dodgeball and several other games.

Our meals were served out on the veranda which was screened in. While eating one could see the Hudson River at one point and if I sat at a certain table there was an apple tree. The first I had ever been so close to. I had been keeping my eye on that tree in the hope that one or two apples might be ripe enough to pick but to my sad disappointment I had to leave without doing so.

After supper, we had workshop which was held at the Aberdeen House where we had the use of the library and where our very efficient librarian, Miss Ida Goshkin, helped us in every way possible.

Each student had a project of her own choosing to work on. Mine was "The Program that the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation" (the C.C.F. party), presents to Canada." My reason for taking this subject was because the C.C.F. is a comparatively new party in Canada and fast gaining recognition in the Dominion of Canada, - my native land.

During the course of my sojourn we had several well known visitors who came to tell us about the different problems in the labor world.

We had a co-operative system at the school which everyone was given three or four chores each week such as, washing dishes, waiting on table, sweeping, mopping and dusting the different rooms, etc.

We also had a co-operative store and everyone bought shares in the store at fifty cents per share. We had all the little necessities one needs at a school such as this, but never remembers to bring along. For example, we sold face soap, soap suds, writing pads, post cards, stamps, pencils, loose leaf covers, etc. Our little store turned out to be a very successful venture.

In closing may I say that I have never met a friendlier group of people in all my experience in life, than the faculty and the students of the Hudson Shore School and it was with regret that I bid adieu to the Hudson Shore Labor School and the beautiful scenery surrounding it.

I sincerely hope that I have been able to make this paper sufficiently attractive to inspire the Auxiliaries to a greater effort in raising funds for schools such as this

so that others may benefit as much, if not to a greater extent, that I did.

Again, I wish to thank the members of the International and the locals who have thus contributed to my further education, and extend greetings and best wishes for great success at the Biennial Convention.

Fraternally yours,

Gertrude Coward

BY: Delegate Velmer I. Coward
Secretary-Treasurer
Montreal Ladies Auxiliary

Bernice Williamson
Washington, D.C.

A nation-wide campaign to teach tolerance in the schools and colleges in an effort to stamp out prejudices and antagonisms is being undertaken by the National Association Commission for the defense of Democracy through education, representing millions of workers. Such a school is Hudson Shore Labor School, West Park, New York.

After attending the summer course of the Hudson Shore Labor School upon scholarship given by the International Auxiliary, I feel, that every auxiliary in the union should make its contribution to the scholarship fund large enough next year, to send a student to one of these schools.

At these schools, an intensive program is mapped bringing leaders and workers together. At Hudson Shore, the student body was composed of workers representing many various fields of labor, and undergraduates from various white colleges such as Wellesley, Smith, Vassar, Radcliffe, Connecticut College for Women, and Bryn Mawr. The undergrads were there to study the problems of workers and the mechanisms of unionism.

In our Economic classes, we learned, that the continuance of our democracy during the post-war period will depend upon providing a fair deal and equality of opportunity for each citizen, irrespective of his race, religion, occupation, economic or national origin. And that, in order to preserve and further democracy, we must attempt fully to put into practice such attitudes as, "All men are created equal", "Love thy neighbor as thyself" and "the brotherhood of man". Each citizen must learn to cherish and insist upon for himself and all others, the basic rights and liberties, including freedom of speech and press, religious liberty, equality of opportunity and full participation in political action.

That citizens must learn to judge individuals by ability and worth and not by qualities attributed to the groups to which they may belong by the accident of birth or environment. We were taught that it was of fundamental national importance that there shall be no discrimination against any minority group because of race, creed or economic status.

In our English classes under the subject of the "A. B. C's of Propaganda", we found that, deep seated prejudices often originated in childhood through the mechanism of propaganda rather than from facts.

With all of these objectives in mind, the school's program was effectively presented and practiced.

The undergrads (of the wealthy colleges) awakened to what was happening on our home front, saw and were taught, the tragic error of generalizing about groups of people. They learned that it is not only unfair and unjustifiable to indict whole groups, but exceedingly dangerous to the preservation of democracy.

I am grateful to the ladies Auxiliary to the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters for making possible my attendance at Hudson Shore Labor School. It has given me much to bring back to my division to further our work.

Bernice Williamson
Secretary-Treasurer
Washington Division

BY: Elizabeth Craig
President
Washington Division

A partial report was given by Delegate Marguerite Rouse, Detroit Division for Sister Louise Edwards who attended the Labor Institute at the University of Wisconsin.

Delegate Minnie Lee, Chicago Division also gave an oral report of classes she attended at a seminar in Chicago which lasted five evenings and were in lecture form.

WORKERS' EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT

DELEGATE LELA M. LEE: We, the members of the Workers Education Committee, submit the following recommendations:

- A. Institute a Program of Education in each locality to:
1. Show what the Brotherhood means to families of Porters.
 2. Know why the wives, mothers and sisters should be members of the auxiliary; Know the aims and purpose of the auxiliary.

3. Know why husbands and sons are members of the Brotherhood. Know the Brotherhoods aims and purpose.
4. Show the struggles and successes of the Brotherhood in order to stand ready at all time to serve in any capacity when needed.
5. Know the connection of the Brotherhood and auxiliary to a trade union.
6. Study the contract between the Pullman Company and its Porters.
7. Advocate peace, harmony, good will and understanding and most of all a desire to stand firmly together.

B. LITERATURE

We advocate that each Auxiliary shall have the necessary literature with facts and ideas pertaining to the organization so as to be able to teach new members the necessity of cooperating with the Brotherhood as well as the local Auxiliary.

C. TRAINING PERIOD

We advocate that a Special Training Period should be set aside at least once a year by the local auxiliaries to run no less than two weeks.

D. TEACHERS AND SPEAKERS

We suggest that each Auxiliary head will appoint a staff of teachers, qualified to hold the training institute and shall invite speakers in, if possible. We further suggest that the Zone Supervisor try to make her visit to the local branch during this period.

Fraternally submitted,

Workers Education Committee,

SIGNED: Fannie Caviness - San Antonio, Texas - Chairman
 Lela M. Lee - St. Louis, Missouri - Secretary
 Anna Wilson - New York, New York
 Janie McGathon - Baltimore, Maryland
 Marguerite Rouse - Detroit, Michigan
 Bessie Patton - Memphis, Tennessee
 Elizabeth Austin - Jacksonville, Florida
 Ethel Tribue - Kansas City, Kansas
 Mary Lee Davis - Parsons, Kansas
 Carris McWatt - St. Paul, Minnesota
 Anna J. Hughes - Louisville, Kentucky

Laverna Davis	- Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
Ardella Nutall	- Oakland, California
Maud C. Field	- Vancouver, Canada
Emma Dickson	- San Antonio, Texas
Louise Coston	- Los Angeles, California
Lou Mattie DeBerry	- Portsmouth, Virginia
Mamie Benoit	- Denver, Colorado

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

The following financial report was submitted by the Cleveland Ladies Auxiliary.

DISBURSEMENTS

Refreshments	\$ 46. 21
Reception	96. 22
Convention Hall	75. 00
Memorial flowers	40
	<hr/>
Total	\$ 217. 83

Fraternally submitted,
Chairman

L. Patterson
R. Yates
M. Gray
J. Williams
B. Blackburn
M. Clarborne
M. Singleton
(Mrs.) Todd

AUDITING COMMITTEE REPORT

September 19th, 1944.

Madam Chairman, officers, delegates and members of the Ladies Auxiliary to the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters,

We, the undersigned, duly appointed auditors of the Ladies Auxiliaries of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters have duly examined the books of the International Secretary-Treasurer, Sister Rosina Tucker, and find them in order and wish to commend Sister Tucker on the fine work displayed in keeping all records of the organization accurately and up to date.

We wish to offer the following recommendation that this body go on record that the services of the Secretary-Treasurer be further remunerated.

Respectfully submitted.

Elizabeth Craig - Washington, D. C. - Chairman
Canie McWatt - St. Paul, Minnesota - Secretary
Velmer Coward - Montreal, Quebec

An open discussion on how to improve condition in various auxiliaries was discussed by the following delegates:

Gertrude Epps
Mable Brown - Winnipeg
E. Simmons - " "
Elizabeth Austin

MEMORIAL SERVICE

DELEGATE TUCKER: I will proceed to call the roll and will the delegates please respond as their Auxiliary is called.

Alabany

Asheville

Atlanta - In memory of Sister Ruth Randell, who passed the 15th, of June, 1944.

Our names may be in many books, and sent out over the land,
telling of our words and works, and how with men we stands. Our
fame may spread from shore to shore, and men our deeds proclaim;
Honors great upon us pour, and loud our praises acclaim.

There's nothing lasting we can gain, our works will pass
away. All honors we may thus obtain, will be forgotten some day.
But there is a book of life above. O may our names be there;
Then let him fill our hearts with love; And his Glory we shall
share.

By: Gertrude Ross
Atlanta Auxiliary

Augusta

Baltimore

Boston

Buffalo

Charleston

Chicago -

It is with deep regret, we the officers and members of the Chicago Ladies' Auxiliary to the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, mourn the passing of: Sisters Floy Fellows, Jayne Chubb, and Rebecca Patterson, who departed this life in 1944. These Sisters were very active and loyal members. And they will be missed more and more as the days go by.

Cincinnati

Cleveland - The Cleveland Ladies Auxiliary today pays tribute to the memory of Sister Elsie Maddox, who passed in November, 1942, and Sister Emma Pittman in January, 1944. Both were loyal and faithful members and we sincerely miss them, but as God has seen fit to take them from us, we humble bow to his will.

Columbus

Dallas

Danver

Detroit

Forth Worth

Houston

Indianapolis

Jacksonville - It is with deep regret that the Jacksonville Division of the Ladies Auxiliary, BSCP, mourns the passing of six of its members since the last convention: Sister Ella Parker, Sister Minnie Madison, Sister Flora Cave, Sister Viola Dorrell, Sister Jennie Forbes and Sister Cleo Wingate.

We like to think of those who have labored with us, those whom we loved and lost as having taken a part in the wealth of the Master's Kingdom, gurling in the streams, floating in the clouds and bursting in the light of the shores of an eternal world.

We know not the way we take.
What joy or grief it may bring
What clouds are over hanging the futured
What flowers by the way side may spring.
But there is One who journeyed besides us
Who in weal nor in woe will forsake
This is our solace and comfort
He knoweth the way we take.

Jersey City

Kansas City - In remembrance of our deceased members, Sister Ethel Williams, Sister Emma Taylor, Sister Viola Niclens and Sister Vita White.

I wish to dedicate this little poem.

We saw not the Angles that meet them there.
The gate of the City that we could not
see. Over the rivers The Mystic rivers
There are our love ones waiting to welcome
thee.

Little Rock Local #5

Los Angeles

Louisville -

In memory of our deceased of 1943, Mrs. Cora Chatman the organizer and President of the Louisville Division. We bow in humble submission to His will, "the Lord giveth and the Lord taketh away, Blessed be the name of the Lord." Mrs. Chatman has left us a Heritage of marked workmanship, unselfishness, charity, generosity, kindness, hospitality, loyalty to one's ideals. We honor her for having been our leader. We ask our Heavenly Father to give us courage to strive on with a greater determination to build the organization she would have it to be.

Memphis

Minneapolis

Montreal

Nashville

New Orleans

New York

Norfolk

Oaklahoma City

Oakland

Omaha -

In memory of Sister Essie Harris, who passed February 27, 1943, and Sister Mamie Smith who departed from our midst, December 13, 1943.

By Olivia Kirtley

Parson

Philadelphia

Pittsburgh

Portland

Richmond

St. Louis -

Her toils are past, her work is done,
and she is fully blest;
She fought the fight, the victory won.
And entered into rest.

We, the officers and members of the St. Louis Auxiliary wish to pay our tribute of respect to the memory of our deceased Sister Nannie Mae Curby who departed this life, May 8, 1944.

Sister Curby was a charter member of the St. Louis Auxiliary, being its first President and served in that capacity for three years. At the time of her passing she was a member of the International Executive Board and Chairman of our local Executive Board. She worked long and hard for the success of our Auxiliary. We cannot find words adequate enough to pay tribute to our departed Sister Curby. Her memory has been indelibly stamped upon the hearts of all the members of the St. Louis Auxiliary and shall ever be kept a living fire in all our souls. We cannot say and we will not say that Sister Curby is dead - She is just away. We pause to pay tribute to her memory and the cause for which she labored.

By: St. Louis Ladies Auxiliary.

St. Louis Train Porters

St. Paul -

We, the members of the St. Paul division, bow our heads in humble submission to Him that doeth all things well. We mourn the loss of Sister Cora Curry, who passed February 23, 1944.

Ella Archer, President
Lela M. Jackson, Secretary-Treasurer

Salt Lake City -

Sister Jannie Means, of Salt Lake City, Utah, a charter member of the Ladies Auxiliary, passed September 9, 1944. Not only a member but a dear friend to all. We will miss her presence at all times.

San Antonio -

The Green Reaper, Death, has once more evaded our ranks and removed from us one of our loyal members in the person Sister Ida Tucker, who departed this life April 7, 1944.

Where God saw fit to remove her we feel that the Auxiliary have lost a friend and a sister. On the morning of her death she had made all plans to have the Auxiliary meet that afternoon. It was unbelievable when the news came that she had suddenly passed. Therefore, be it resolved that we go on record as to mourn her lost, the officers and members of the San Antonio Auxiliary, who bow in humble submission to the will of Him who doeth all things well.

Humbly submitted,

Sister Ella Williams - President
" Emma Dixon - Recorder Secretary
" F. J. Caviness - Zone
Supervisor

San Antonio Local #9

Seattle

Shreveport -

It is with deep regret, we the officers and members of the Ladies Auxiliary, to the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters of Shreveport, Louisiana, mourn the passing of our beloved member, Sister Charlene Byrant, Chairman of our Educational Committee, August 31, 1943. Sister Byrant was a truly and faithful worker. And always gave her best to the Auxiliary work, she was an inspiration to her Auxiliary as she was never tired in trying to bring an instructive program to the Auxiliary. We loved her but God loved her best. Her memory shall linger with us and inspire us on our way.

Tampa

Toronto

Toronto (Pullman)

Tucson

Winnipeg

Washington -

In memory of Sister Phonnice Richardson, who passed in September, 1943, she was an ardent worker and was faithful to the end. Her memory will ever live in the hearts of the Auxiliary Ladies.

In memory of Sister Mary Evans who passed April, 1944.
She was one of the oldest members of the Auxiliary and also a good
and financial member.

We shall meet them some bright morning when the mist has
rolled away.

Vancouver

INTERNATIONAL EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER

With profound sorrow, the officials of the International Ladies
Auxiliary Order, Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, mourn the loss of
one of its most earnest and zealous members - Sister Nannie B. Curby.

WHEREAS: Sister Curby served as a member of the International
Executive Board for six years, and

WHEREAS: She brought to this position interest, intelligence, and
zeal in a degree rarely met with, and

WHEREAS: Her continuing interest in the education of women in
organized labor has been proved by her readiness to help solve the many
problems with which women have had to contend in this field.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT: We, her fellow members who mourn her loss
both as a member and sister, express our deep appreciation of her valued
contributions to the International Ladies Auxiliary Order.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT: The Auxiliary recognizing not only
its own debt to her but the obligation of all who are interested in
organized labor as will take this means of acknowledging her service, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT: A copy of these resolutions be spread
upon the minutes of the International Executive Board and a copy be spread
on the minutes of the Fourth Biennial Session and that a copy be sent to
the members of the family.

Done by order of

Halena Wilson, Intl. President
Mae Dailey, 2nd Intl. Vice-President

The Memorial Service was closed with the placing of a white
rose for each deceased member in a vase.

- ELECTION OF OFFICERS -

PRESIDENT WILSON: At this time we will proceed with the Election of Officers.

DELEGATE NORA FANT: I move to nominate the entire official body to be re-elected.

DELEGATE ELIZABETH CRAIG: I rise to second the motion.

PRESIDENT WILSON: Those in favor of this motion say "aye" - those opposed - motion carried.

Brother V. I. Petgrave, President of the Montreal Division, will install the officers.

- INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS -

BROTHER V. I. PETGRAVE: It gives me great pleasure to be with you today in the installation service of this great organization. The Auxiliary and the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters has been a great inspiration to us in Canada and we pride ourselves when we saw the need of this great organization.

At this time having been honored, I wish now to install Sister Halena Wilson, President of the International Ladies Auxiliary of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, Sister Rosina C. Tucker, International Secretary-Treasurer, Katherine Lassiter, Mae Dailey, Fannie J. Caviness, Letitia Murray. Four respectively, Vice-Presidents; International Executive Board Members, Sister Ella Johnson, Ella McBride, Rosie Taylor, Mariah Sappington, Carrie McWatt, Anna Wilson, Carrie White, Nora Fant.

I am indeed glad of this opportunity to do something for the International Auxiliary Order. My wish for you is that you continue the fine work you have done in the past.

PRESIDENT WILSON:

Due to the heavy program carried on this week there will be no speeches on the part of the International staff.

- ANNOUNCEMENTS -

DELEGATE MAE DAILEY:

I wish to offer a nomination that the International Auxiliary Order give the Cleveland Auxiliary a rising vote of thanks for its generous hospitality.

The President stated that the Convention would meet in Chicago, Illinois, the third week in September, 1946.

The Convention was declared adjourned by the International President, Sister Helena Wilson.

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