

PROCEEDINGS OF  
THE SECOND BIENNIAL CONVENTION  
INTERNATIONAL AUXILIARY ORDER  
LADIES AUXILIARIES

to the  
BROTHERHOOD OF SLEEPING CAR PORTERS  
(An International Union)

Affiliated with the  
AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

\*  
\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*  
\*

Held at  
Saint Louis, Missouri  
September 16th - 19th, 1942

\*  
\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*  
\*



OFFICERS  
of the  
INTERNATIONAL LADIES' AUXILIARY  
TO THE  
BROTHERHOOD OF SLEEPING CAR PORTERS  
1942

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
Nannie M. Curby	St. Louis, Missouri



- D E L E G A T E S -

DIVISION	NO. OF DELEGATES	NO. OF VOTES	NAMES OF DELEGATES
Asheville, N. C.	1	1	Leo Sheptall
Atlanta, Ga.	1	1	Gertrude Ross
Baltimore, Md.	1	1	*Rosina C. Tucker
Boston, Mass.	1	1	Emetullah Oglesby
Buffalo, N. Y.	1	1	Dorothy Garrett
Chicago, Ill.	2	2	Mable Bryant Agnes Thornton
Cincinnati, Ohio	1	1	Pauline Clark
Cleveland, Ohio	1	1	Bertha Williams
Dallas, Texas	1	1	Olivia Rawlston
Denver, Colo.	1	1	Nannie Wells
Detroit, Mich.	1	1	Ida P. Whitaker
Fort Worth, Texas	1	1	*Rosina C. Tucker
Houston, Texas	1	1	Bessie King
Indianapolis, Ind.	1	1	Sara Allen
Jacksonville, Fla.	1	1	Julia Burwell
Jersey City, N. J.	1	1	Nora Fant
Los Angeles, Calif.	1	1	Emily Johnson
Louisville, Ky.	1	1	Cora Chatman
Memphis, Tenn.	1	1	Bessie Patton
Minneapolis, Minn.	1	1	Mattie Owens
Missouri	1	1	Alice Tillery Bertha Rector (Alt.)
Nashville, Tenn.	1	1	Davie Della Phillips
New Orleans, La.	1	1	Birtreszer Garrain



- D E L E G A T E S -

DIVISION	NO. OF DELEGATES	NO. OF VOTES	NAMES OF DELEGATES
New York, N. Y.	1	1	Jennie Toogood
Oakland, Calif.	1	1	Ardella Nutall
Omaha, Nebraska	1	1	Selma Clark
Philadelphia, Pa.	1	1	Libby Love
Portland, Oregon	1	1	Minnie Mae Smith
Salt Lake City, Utah	1	1	Nettie Gregory
Seattle, Wash.	1	1	*Letitia Murray
Shreveport, La.	1	1	Estella Wilson
St. Louis, Mo.	1	1	Lela Lee
St. Louis Train Porters Auxiliary Local #5	1	1	Josephine Freeman
St. Paul, Minn.	1	1	Ella Archer
Tampa, Florida	1	1	Ola Gregory
Toronto, Canada	1	1	*Halena Wilson
Washington, D. C.	1	1	Elizabeth Craig

\* \* \* \*

The following Auxiliaries were not represented by delegates or proxies:

Albany, New York	Norfolk, Virginia
Birmingham, Alabama	Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
El Paso, Texas	Richmond, Virginia
Little Rock, Arkansas	San Antonio, Texas
Montgomery, Alabama	Spokane, Washington

\*by proxy



MASS MEETING

Sunday, September 13, 1942  
St. Louis, Missouri

\* \* \* \*

Preceding the opening of the Third Biennial Convention and Sixteenth Anniversary Celebration of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters and the Second Biennial Convention of the Ladies' Auxiliary to the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, a Joint Mass Meeting was held.

The Mass Meeting was called to order at 3:30 o'clock p.m., at Lane Tabernacle C. M. E. Church, Newstead and Enright Avenues, St. Louis, Missouri, Mr. T. D. McNeal, presiding.

CHAIRMAN McNEAL:

Ladies and gentlemen, I am sorry the meeting was delayed. However, we will open the meeting now by standing and singing the National Anthem, led by the choir.

(The "Star Spangled Banner," was sung by the assembly.)

BROTHER P. T. PATTERSON:

Not more of light we ask, O God,  
But eyes to see what is,  
Not sweeter songs, but ears to hear  
The present melodies.  
Not greater strength, but how to use  
The powers that we possess.  
Not more of love, but skill to turn  
A frown to a caress.  
Not more of joy, but how to feel  
Its kindling presence near,  
To give to others all we have of courage  
And of cheer.  
No other gifts, dear God, we ask, but only  
Sense to see  
How best to use the precious gifts we have received  
From Thee.

Give us all fear to dominate, all holy joys to know,  
To be the friends we wish to be, to see the truth we know.  
To love the pure, to seek the good,  
To lift with all our might,  
All souls to dwell in harmony,  
Freedom's perfect light.

Amen.



CHAIRMAN McNEAL:

Fellow delegates, members and friends of Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, seventeen years ago the Pullman Porters, Maids and Attendants of the United States and Canada, smarting under the most vicious form of mistreatment and exploitation ever seen in the American industrial picture, decided if there was to be any ending of this exploitation, if there was to be any easing up of this mistreatment, the Pullman Porters, Maids and Attendants, themselves, would have to strike the blow by organizing and maintaining a bona fide labor organization. The original decision was made by six New York Pullman Porters, one of whom we have the pleasure of having with us here today. However, the idea spread like wildfire. Soon thousands of Pullman Porters, Maids and Attendants, throughout the United States and Canada were on the march for freedom, economic freedom, under the Leadership of A. Philip Randolph.

The way has not been easy. We have gone through seventeen years of hard, bitter struggle against an uncompromising and powerful foe represented by the Pullman people and other carriers. However, we have met here today, a powerful International labor organization, commanding the respect of the American people as a whole. From that small beginning we have grown until today the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters owns and controls contracts with carriers bringing to our membership a total of more than seventeen million dollars per year. And so today we are here in St. Louis to open our Third Biennial Convention, and Seventeenth Anniversary Celebration. Many of you have come from far places, from Seattle to Jacksonville, from Montreal to San Francisco, you have come here to take stock of what we have done in the past, and to formulate policies for the future. You have gathered in St. Louis to make plans to assure the permanency and the power of this organization, built on the sweat, the tears and the blood of the Negro people. And that is true; it is not just a form of speech. For any time you build an organization such as this, it must of necessity be built on sweat, tears and blood, and we have made that contribution; sweat, because you simply cannot organize ten or twelve or fifteen thousand men and women without someone doing a whole lot of hard work. Tears, because during the life of our organization, particularly during the first twelve years of the struggle five hundred Pullman Porters and Attendants, laid down their economic lives, in order that the rest of us might live in security and more abundantly. Blood, because, on the platform here today we have one of the men who bled for the cause, a man who was attacked by agents of a powerful carrier, and left to die in an alley of Kansas City. So we did contribute our blood to the cause. We are meeting here today, at a time of great crisis, of World crisis. The totalitarian ideas of Hitler, Mussolini and the Imperialism of Japan, have thrown the World into this crisis. Our own country, America, the United States of America, faces its gravest crisis. And I submit that the Negro people, together with other workers throughout the World, face a great crisis at this time.

The Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters has made an effort to play its part in working out the economic problems of the Negro people. We have put our money, our energy and our time, into movements designed to ease up the economic oppression against the Negro people. We have made a further contribution in giving to the Negro people, through the



"March On Washington Movement," the sterling, honest, intelligent and militant leadership of A. Philip Randolph. We want to assure the Negro people, the Nation, and the World that we will devote our time, energy and thought to the advancement of not only the Porters and Maids in our membership, but of workers in general, and Negroes in particular.

To this cause we have solemnly dedicated every resource at our command. The Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters proposes to see that program through.

I have been asked the question why we arranged this mass meeting at this particular church. For the information of those not connected with the organization, I would like to say that this is one of the few churches which, during our long and hard struggle, could see the reasons, the objects and purposes of collective action by Negro workers. The present pastor of this church has always been a friend of labor. And so we could think of no better place to hold the mass meeting in connection with our convention than in the home of a friend, and with a friend, the pastor, as our host. At this time I want you to listen to our friend, the Reverend N. W. Clark, pastor of Lane Tabernacle Colored Methodist Episcopal Church. (Applause.)

REVEREND N. W. CLARK:

Mr. Chairman, officers and members of the Seventeenth Anniversary and Third Biennial Convention of this wonderful organization, the pastor of this church can seek no higher appellation than the one that was given to him by Mr. McNeal, and that is, that he is a friend and a brother. There are some things that are evident to everybody that has eyes and ears, and therefore, it is not necessary for repetition or emphasis; for instance, no one who has eyes need question my color. You know I am black, and no one who has ears, need question my lung power; you know that I can expand my chest and something comes out, if nothing but air, and so there are some things that are evident, and any enlargement is superfluous. One is that this church does not need its pastor to stand here and offer words of welcome to a convention, or to a group of men that have so much to their credit in the way of constructive leadership as this organization. I repeat, that words of welcome are superfluous so far as the record of this church is concerned. To all of us who live in St. Louis, and to all of us who know something about the great history of this church, you know that we majored in helpfulness. We believe in collective efficiency. We believe in working together for the achievement of the highest good.

And so, your coming to this city, the announcement which was made was a source of very great joy to us. And to be your host at this mass meeting is a service that delights us, and one that we crave. You may be surprised if I tell you that your gift to this church is the largest gift that this church has ever received. It did not come because we asked you, and I did not even announce it this morning. I did not want my officers and the members to get the idea that you were paying for your shelter and the seats on which you sit, and so I didn't announce it. I shall announce it at my church conference, when I will have more to say and more to think about you. We are delighted to have you. We have watched your very fine record with a degree of satisfaction beyond



expression. . I have been associated with the local leaders here, very much to my pleasure and profit.

I first met Mr. Randolph when I was pastor in New York City, and at that time I was vice-president of the Interdenominational Alliance, before which Alliance he spoke in the interest of the Pullman Porters, and I cannot forget it, and so your career here makes us your ally, your battle is our battle, your fight is our fight; and if you need us now or hereafter command us.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN McNEAL:

Thank you, Reverend Clark.

The next scheduled item on the program was an address by Mr. Joseph P. Clark, of the Central Trades and Labor Group, however, we have a wire from Mr. Clark, which I will read to you at this time. It is addressed to the organization and reads as follows:

REGRET THAT BUSINESS IN CONNECTION WITH WAR PROGRAM  
REQUIRES OUR TIME AND WE ARE UNABLE TO ADDRESS YOUR  
CONVENTION. WE SINCERELY HOPE AND TRUST THAT YOU WILL  
HAVE A SUCCESSFUL AND PROGRESSIVE CONVENTION.

JOSEPH P. CLARK, PRESIDENT  
JOHN I. ROLLINS, SECRETARY  
ST. LOUIS CENTRAL TRADES AND  
LABOR UNION.

At this time we will have a few words of greeting from your host, the Zone Supervisor of the St. Louis Southwestern Zone, and Third International Vice-President, whom we call the Daddy of the movement, my friend and colleague, E. J. Bradley.

(Applause.)

BROTHER E. J. BRADLEY:

Mr. Chairman, International Officers, of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, Ladies' Auxiliary, delegates, members, and friends:

It is indeed a pleasure to greet you this afternoon and welcome you to our city to this second convention that has been held in the city of St. Louis by the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters since its inception. We want to kindly thank the pastor, the officers, the choir, and the ushers of this church for the splendid cooperation they have given us in the past and today. I want to extend a hearty welcome to all visitors, and we hope that they will go away just as well satisfied as those who came as delegates. We want every one who attends this convention to feel perfectly at home, and in the event things are not going just so pleasant with you, if you will get in touch with our office in the Finance Building we will be glad to assist in remedying the situation.

The aim of the St. Louis Division has been to bring about a better condition between workers and employers, particularly in the Pullman System, and industry generally and I think we have accomplished



much in such. We have built St. Louis from practically nothing twelve years ago when we had our last convention here, to a district today that is third to none in the United States, and one that every one is very proud of, including myself, to help to build it up.

There is a splendid spirit, we are glad to announce, that exists now throughout the country among porters generally, train porters and chair car porters are not finding so many difference between each other's position, as they did heretofore, since they both become a part of this International organization.

We are also proud to announce to the delegates and friends that the management is cooperating better with the organization in both the railroad industry and Pullman industry, than in the past. We have worked out many problems in the last seventeen years that many thought would never be worked out. Twelve years ago there were very few people in St. Louis who thought we would ever celebrate, or recognize a convention in 1942.

Our program is not complete. We are still working for a better and a large organization. We are seeking the cooperation of all citizens in assisting and building up a finer organization, and I hope the citizens will cooperate with us, as they have in the past.

Again, I want to say, that we want the delegates to feel perfectly at home. The Local here in St. Louis welcomes every delegate and every visitor as one of our own, and we intend to try to make you feel as though you are one of us while you are here.

As the program is rather extensive I am not going to take up your time. There are some people who have something to say who can no doubt really talk, and I just want the delegates and visitors to know that as president of this Local, we extend you our heartiest welcome.  
(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN McNEAL: We will stand and sing the Organization's Marching Song, "Hold the Fort."

("Hold the Fort," was sung by the assembly.)

CHAIRMAN McNEAL: At this time I want the delegates, members and friends of the Organization to meet the International officials of both the Ladies' Auxiliary and of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, and as I call you names will you please stand so that the delegates and members will know you.

First, we will introduce the members of the International Executive Board of the Ladies' Auxiliary, Sisters Annie Wilson, Carrie McWatt, Carrie White, Marion Sappington, Ella McBride, Rosie Taylor, Ella Johnson, Nannie Curby.

And now for the International Vice-Presidents of the Auxiliary: Sisters Letitia Murray of Los Angeles; Mae Dailey of St. Louis, Fannie Caviness of San Antonio and Katherine Lassiter of New York.



And now the International Secretary-Treasurer of the Ladies' Auxiliary, Mrs. Rosina Tucker of Washington, D. C. and International President of the Ladies' Auxiliary, Mrs. Helena Wilson, Chicago.

Now, I would like for you to meet the officers of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters. First, I would like to have you meet the lay members of the International Executive Board. Will you please stand as I call your names. J. R. Benoit of Denver; John C. Mills of Chicago; James Bell of Los Angeles; A. R. Dailey of St. Louis.

Now for the field organizers: Brother B. F. McLaurin of New York; Brother Ernest Smith of Chicago.

Now, the vice-presidents: I want you to meet the man who has carried the torch for the organization on the West Coast, the Fourth International Vice-President, Brother C. L. Dellums of Oakland.

The man who has done the work in the Detroit Zone is the Second International Vice-President, Brother Bennie Smith of Detroit.

The big man in this organization, or any other, the man who writes the pay checks, and the other checks, Brother Ashley L. Totten, International Secretary-Treasurer.

That finishes the introduction of officers whom you will not hear otherwise. I am sorry, I forgot to introduce Brother T. T. Patterson, who is secretary of the International Executive Board, Brother Patterson.

At this time we will be favored with a selection, "O Divine Redeemer," by Gounod, Miss Josephine Buck.

(Singing by Miss Buck)

(Applause)

CHAIRMAN McNEAL:

Thank you, Miss Buck.

It would be a waste of your time, fellow delegates and members, to go into details of what the next speaker has meant to this organization in particular and to the labor movement in general throughout the last twenty-five years. It would be a waste of your time to tell you that he has been given all of the hard tasks in this organization, and most of the unpleasant tasks, but he has built what is recognized to be the most powerful local organization in the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters. And so, without going into details, I give you the First International Vice President, Chairman of our International Executive Board, Milton P. Webster, of Chicago.

(Applause)

VICE PRESIDENT

MILTON P. WEBSTER:

Brother McNeal, International Officers, delegates of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, and Ladies' Auxiliary:

It is good to be here in St. Louis again. I come to St. Louis so frequently that I am about as much at home here as I am in



most districts. It has been my misfortune to have to visit, no doubt, more district than most of the other officers, because I have to visit those that are supposed to be mine, and I have to visit those that are supposed to be the other fellows'. And, during the earliest days of this Brotherhood I commuted back and forth between Chicago and St. Louis, because St. Louis was considered at that time one of the toughest spots in the organization to be organized, and nobody thought St. Louis would reach the place where it has reached today, but Brother Bradley. Brother Bradley always had confidence in St. Louis. And so it is gratifying to see this great gathering here in St. Louis, and I look around and see the men and women from all of the different parts of the country representing the Brotherhood, and it takes me back to the second convention of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, which was held here in St. Louis in 1930, when we didn't have as many delegates to the convention as we have people up on the platform, and there wasn't any Ladies' Auxiliary except in a few places, and most of the porters in St. Louis, as well as other districts, were not so particular about letting them know they were going to attend this convention. And it is certainly a demonstration of great progress when we look here and see ourselves represented from every corner of the Continent.

Five or six men started this Brotherhood. Back in the old days, you know, we had the company plan, the thing that we took because it didn't cost anything; the company paid for it. And we rebelled against the company plan. I believe somewhere back in 1924 we rebelled against that plan, and we held at that time, as a result of the rebellion against the plan, the first so-called joint conference between the Pullman Company and the representatives of the porters. There happens to be two or three men in this convention that sat in that convention in 1924, and that is Brother John Mills and Brother Ashley Totten and Brother C. S. Wells of Cleveland. I believe he is somewhere in the audience this afternoon. Brother Mills came to me at that time --- you know, Brother Mills and I have been old side kicks for many a day. And he said, -- the man that is responsible for me being in the Brotherhood. He said to me, "Brother Webster, I wish you would give me some figures. I am going to a conference with the Pullman Company on these wages and working conditions. I would like to have some quick figures." I said, "You don't need figures." He said, "Why?" I said, "The company has them all, they will give them to you." A few days later I saw him; he said, "Web, you were right. The company had the figures. The company sits on both sides." (Laughter)

Now, many of our brothers accepted this company plan in good faith. Brother Totten, Brother Mills, Brother Bradley, at one time accepted it. They accepted it in good faith, but soon found out it did not work, only like the company wanted it to work; and so we decided we had better set up another plan of organization, one that we controlled. And that is what got the idea into their heads to set up the Brotherhood, and the six men, of whom Brother Totten was one, held a meeting in New York in 1925. Then Brother Totten contacted Brother Mills in Chicago, and we got started in both places about the same time, and of course, the trouble we have had from those early beginnings, most of us are familiar with.

But one of the things that is probably more significant than anything else in connection with the accomplishments of the Brotherhood



about which we probably say the least. We talk about our contract, and the thirteen or fourteen million dollars it involves. We talk about our success in making the company put men back to work after they have discharged them. We talk about the hundreds of dollars in claims that we collect as a result of the contract violations. Those are the material things. But there is an angle of this situation that is far more important insofar as the economic welfare of the Negro workers is concerned, and all of the material things combined, and that is that through this organization, through the development of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, through the negotiation of this contract with its incidental millions of dollars it brings into the families of the Pullman Porters, a milestone has been passed, and that is, that there has been a change in the philosophy, in the relationship between the industrial corporations of America and Negro employees, and that is that through the organization the control over the jobs of the eight or nine thousand men who are members of this organization has been taken out of the hands of the company and put into the hands of the men themselves through the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters. (Applause)

And that, my friends, that far transcends any material value that could accrue to the members of this organization as a result of its work and efforts, because in so changing the policy and philosophy and psychology of industrial relations so far as Negro groups are concerned, a foundation has been laid upon which there can be built a structure as high as it is possible for us to do so.

And so it is quite gratifying that we are here to participate in our Biennial Convention and to celebrate our Seventeenth Anniversary, because it was contended, even by some of those who were optimistic, that we never would be here seventeen years later, and one of the reasons why some of our brothers waited so long to come in was not because they had any disagreement with the policies of the organization, it wasn't because they were afraid, there were a few men, of course, that were scared up back in the old days. It wasn't because they had anything against the organization; but way back in the back of their minds they didn't believe that a group of black men could develop any kind of an agency that would make a powerful white corporation like the Pullman Company do anything that it did not want to do.

Now, in the final analysis, that is one of the things why many men held back. I am going to wait and see, and, as most of us heard men say, as soon as they walked over the threshold of the Pullman Company, "I will come into this organization if it costs a hundred dollars." And I have had any number of men confess to me that they actually did not believe that could be done. But it has been accomplished. The Pullman Porter, by virtue of the development of this organization, has taken the job which was looked down upon a few years back, and has made a job out of it that is comparable to any job held by anybody working on the railroads today. (Applause)

I entered the Pullman service thirty-seven years ago, and people told me that it was a dog's job, and it was a good thing to stay away from. They said you are not treated as a man. Well, it wasn't altogether a dog's job, but it was a whole lot worse job than I expected it to be, and a far worse job than it is today. But at that time the



salary paid a Pullman Porter was \$25.00 a month, if you could get it. Every pay day you were charged 50 cents to \$2.50 for linens, for combs and brushes, for water glasses, for brake shoes, and anything else the company wanted to take out of your salary. And it was a source of many jokes among the porters. "Well, they only got me for a little bit this time," and so it has developed from a job where they took what they felt like away from you without any protest, to a job now where they are afraid that they haven't given you enough. (Applause)

So we have developed an organization that has built itself up to the point where in it has been able to command the respect of the corporation for which these men work, who are members of this organization. It has been able to command the respect of organized labor, and it has forged itself forth as by far the most outstanding expression of Negro solidarity in America today in other forms of organization. (Applause)

Those conditions came about, not because anybody showered anything down upon us, but because the Pullman Porters of this Nation pushed everything and everybody out of its way that attempted to impede its progress. (Applause)

They are not under any special obligations to anybody, because most of the people, most of the leaders of the group, most of the agencies which were prevalent at the time of our formation, they lined up on the other side with the Pullman Company, against us, and therefore we are under obligation to nobody.

The sacrifice, the perseverance and money that has been put into this organization is responsible for it being where it is today, and we are not here because anybody loves us.

Now, around my town, where we have quite a large organization, some of the big folks around there did not use to associate with us when we were not recognized among the best people. Now they say the Brotherhood is selfish, it doesn't do anything but look after its own business. I say maybe we might be selfish, but we are bringing a few hundred thousand dollars into this community every month and it is being spent around here among you people. In addition to that, we are going out and taking in other groups of people to try to help them get to the same place where we are, and if we can get them up to the place where we are we will feel we are making a worthwhile contribution to the community.

In other words, we are a trade union, we are a labor union, and our business is to organize people for their economic advancement. And that is the thing that we are doing more of than anything else. And so after we have accomplished to a large extent the purposes and programs and objectives of the Brotherhood, the Pullman Porter, in a sense of speaking, is doing pretty well now. He has got a base salary of \$113.50, a month; that is what the new man gets when he starts; that is better than \$25.00 a week; and in this day and time a salary, a starting salary of better than \$25.00 a week is a pretty good job. And porters' salaries run up; it is a matter of common knowledge; no secrets are being revealed; as high, in many instances, as \$158.00 a month in salary; that does not count overtime, time and a half after two hundred and sixty hours; and that does not count the time, the extra times.



These men working on troop trains are making \$350.00 and \$400.00 a month, at time and a half over two hundred and sixty hours. And so the porter has a pretty good job, by and large, and he not only has a good job from the point of view of income, but he has a good job because he has got an agency that can make his job secure. As long as he does his work as his work should be done he can rest assured that nobody can take him off of that job. That has been tried several times. (Applause)

And in one instance they took a man off the job unjustly, and they not only had to restore that man to the job, but they had to pay that man two hundred and ninety-one dollars and some odd cents as a result of unjustly taking him off of that job.

So, so far as the Pullman Porter himself is concerned, he is doing pretty well. But the Pullman Porter was not satisfied just to do well himself. A large part of the program in this organization is the organizing of unorganized Negro workers, particularly the unorganized Negro worker on the railroads. And so as we travel about the country, and particularly as we went into the Southland in days gone by, they used to not let us travel in the South very much. They told Bernie Smith once that if he didn't get out of town in twenty-four hours they were going to hang him to a palm tree, in Florida. And sent word to Brother Randolph as soon as he set foot in his home town they were going to lock him up.

Not so long ago I read an article where the Ex-Governor of Georgia, referred to me as a tar baby. I don't know whether I will go back to Georgia anymore. (Laughing)

So, finally, after they became a part of the American Federation of Labor, they told us it was all right to go South, and we started to travel South. And as soon as we started traveling South every Negro man came to us with his problems, particularly the train porters, and Negro locomotive firemen. And so after having made some comprehensive surveys of the situation and talking to a large number of other train porters, why, we decided, well, they need our kind of an organization, and so we went about to get the jurisdiction over them through the American Federation of Labor, so we could give them our kind of organization. And I believe --- I am not as familiar with the train porters' end of our organization as probably Brother Bradley and Brother McNeal. But I believe ninety percent of the train porters in America are in Locals that are affiliated with the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters. The train porters and chair car porters, and a very definite program is being carried out in the interest of chair car porters, some of whom are delegates to this convention.

And then we have got the case of the locomotive firemen, and that is significant for this reason. The Negro locomotive fireman is being driven off his job. He is being driven off of his job through a conspiracy, as we see it, between the white firemen's organization and the white managers of the Southern Railroads, where the Southern Negroes have been firemen. And they have adopted what they call in their contractual relations a promotable clause; that is, only promotable men shall have certain rights and certain privileges. Now, "promotable" translated in your language means, "white." That is just another way the white man has



of saying that this job belongs to the white man. And through that promotable clause and other devices the Negro fireman is being pushed off of his job. And therefore, the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, when this matter was brought to its attention, made a very comprehensive survey of the conditions of locomotive firemen. They were called together, representatives of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen in different parts of the country, and we held a conference and submitted to them a different method of organization. We found that one of the troubles was that they had too many different kinds of organization with nobody in it, with a whole lot of vice-presidents and executive boards, and no firemen, and each one of them wanted to hog the show. So we decided to set up a committee for the organization of locomotive firemen. And this committee is to recruit the firemen into one organization they can set up one national organization to represent Negro firemen. And that process is being rather successfully carried out. And I believe a majority of the Negro firemen in the country are in this organization, and if they don't all get pushed off these trains before we get around to it, we hope to be able to remedy some of the conditions about which they complain.

The case of the Negro locomotive firemen offers to Negro workers one of the best reasons why Negroes have got to organize trade unions for their own protection. Now, the Negro locomotive fireman has been prevalent on the Southern runs for many years. On many roads of the South all the firemen on all the trains were Negroes. That was when a fireman got \$70.00 a month, and shoveled twenty-five tons of coal a trip. It was a black man's job. But as invention made the job lighter and easier, as they introduced the stoker and Diesel engines and as the pay of the Negro fireman was equalized with the pay of the white fireman, then white men began to look at this job. And when they could shovel coal through a stoker by the turning of a lever rather than by back breaking work shoveling twenty-five or thirty tons of coal a trip, when it got to a place where it paid \$250.00 and \$300.00, then it was no longer a Negro's job, then is when the white men on the railroads began to plot to deprive the Negro men on the railroads of those good jobs.

The fireman's job pays well. With the engines the way they are now the job is a lot different. A stokerized engine is a much easier engine to fire than a steam, shovel fired engine. The fireman on a Diesel engine has a white collar job; all he does is look, sit down there and look at it, that is all, and therefore, when those jobs got to that place they decided they were not Negro jobs, and they would devise methods of pushing those Negroes off the jobs. There is where the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters entered the picture, because there was only one step from pushing a locomotive fireman off the job after it gets good, to pushing a black Pullman Porter or train porter off the job when it gets good, and if we don't stop these white people from the habit they have got of going out and taking jobs away from Negroes when they get good, what good will it do us to make a job good? And therefore, there is an everlasting obligation upon the Pullman Porters to put their force and power and influence behind the other Negroes who are unorganized. We don't have to worry about ourselves, we are doing pretty fair. Recently I saw where another so-called labor leader has muscled into the Pullman Porter's business, and the newspapers carried a great big headline about Pullman Porters deciding to go in CIO. And when you read the article you found that it was a Pullman Porter and Maid's Protective Association, which did not show



fifty porters all over the United States in the organization, and the two porters that were to be used as a nucleus for building the Pullman Porters union in the CIO were two men that had been discredited and put out of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters. But we have no particular concern so far as we are concerned ourselves, but we are concerned about what is going to happen to the Negro worker in the future, what is going to be done to keep him on these jobs? What is going to be done to keep him at a wage upon which he can live? How are we going to eliminate the old recognized philosophy as to last to be hired and first to be fired?

Now, we find a good strong trade union is a good remedy for that sort of thing for us. When the Brotherhood got into this field the Pullman Porters had a base wage of \$60.00 a month, and now they have a base wage of \$113.50, a month, and that has only been within a short space of time, and we believe what can be done for the Pullman car porter, what can be done for a train porter, and chair car porter, can also be done for other Negro workers, if they pay the same kind of price that these men have paid for this organization. And so, my friends, it is good for us to be here in celebration of our Seventeenth Anniversary, and attending our Biennial Convention. And not only have we been interested in the development of trade unions, we have stepped a little bit out of the trade union field and have started a program for the mobilization of force and influence and power to put Negroes on lots of other jobs where they otherwise have not been.

As you know, when this defense program started out here there was a big howl all over the Nation, that they were not letting us in. Well, of course, we howled and howled and howled some more, and finally Brother Randolph decided we ought to do something about it. He said, "We have got to do something about it." I didn't know what we were going to do. But when the announcement came out of what we were going to do, he said he were going to march on Washington; and evidently the folks believed we were going to march on Washington, because we got some results. We accomplished something as a result of the March On Washington Movement. The March On Washington Movement is another bi-product of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters. (Applause) Because we staged in New York, and in Chicago, and in St. Louis, under the auspices of the March On Washington Movement, the greatest demonstration of Negro solidarity that has ever occurred since the Negro has been out of slavery; some twenty-two thousand Negroes gathered in Madison Square Garden under one roof, and listened for four or five hours to the problems that concerned Negroes. A comparatively large number, some eighteen or twenty thousand, gathered at Chicago, and I believe you people in St. Louis will agree that the meeting we had here in the Municipal Colosseum was by far the largest number of Negroes that had ever been gathered under one roof to discuss a serious question.

And so, through the efforts of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters this movement has been started, and the Negro people of the Nation are becoming aroused to the fact that if we are going to get our share in the defense work, and in whatever work or relief there is after the defense work is over with, that we are only going to get it because we have got the power to take it. They are not going to give it to us voluntarily. And that is demonstrated on every front upon which we work.



And so, I commend you into the hands of Brother Bradley, brothers and sisters, and I assure you that you are going to enjoy your stay here, because Brother Bradley is a most gracious host. He was a gracious host in 1930, when he probably could not scrape up a five dollar bill in the St. Louis Division. And I know that now, as he says, the St. Louis Division is third to none throughout the Nation; that Brother Bradley, of the St. Louis Division is going to see to it you enjoy yourselves to the utmost while you are in their midst. (Applause)

CHAIRMAN McNEAL:

I would like to direct the attention of the delegates and members to the program for the convention. You will notice that you are expected to register tomorrow morning at

10:00 o'clock in the Peoples Finance Building at Jefferson and Market, on the fifth floor, where the daily sessions of the convention will be held, two sessions daily, the first beginning at 10:00 a.m., and the second at 2:00 p.m., through Monday and Tuesday. On Tuesday night all of the delegates and members of the Organization and the Auxiliary will be guests at a big, what the committee here calls, soiree. It includes everything that Pullman Porters and Train Porters generally like, and that is covering some ground. It is free. All you need to get in is to have a delegates badge.

On Wednesday afternoon the delegates will go on a sight-seeing tour of some points of interest around the city here. We were not able to secure buses for this purpose. However, we did get the cooperation of a large number of people who have cars and that will take care of the problem of transportation.

And on Thursday night we will have the big convention ball at the Castle Ballroom; and it looks like the committee has arranged something that is out of the ordinary. So we look forward to having a very full week of activities, even though we have streamlined this convention, and haven't put on all the show we usually have.

At this time we will be favored by a selection from the choir.

(Singing by the choir.)

CHAIRMAN McNEAL:

Because this program would not be complete without it, and because without our Auxiliary, the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters would not be what it is today, because our women folk have backed us so splendidly, so whole heartedly throughout the seventeen years of our struggle, and because she is the greatest woman leader in our field, I want you to listen at this time to the International President of the Ladies' Auxiliary, Sister Halena Wilson. (Applause)

SISTER HELENA WILSON:

Chairman McNeal, International Officers, Brothers and Sisters, and visiting friends:



I should like at this time, and on this outstanding occasion to extend to the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, its officials and delegates, the personal and fraternal greetings of the International Auxiliary Order, its officials and those of its delegates as are gathered here to participate in this huge joint mass meeting. The Auxiliary takes great pride in these demonstrations since they always seem to represent the end of a long and turbulent pilgrimage, chiefly because such meetings are wont to call to mind the rocky road once traversed by this organization on its trek to the prominent place it now occupies in the country. That the organization did journey far on that road one need but look back to the starting place of seventeen years ago. The organization still has far to go because, as you have heard, its program has practically just begun. We have a great deal to do, we have a large program in the education and the development of our women. As these thoughts pass in review before the minds eye it is deeply gratifying to note that Negro women in ever increasing numbers are sharing equally with their men the responsibility of building an impregnable bulwark, not alone for their immediate use, but building with a clear insight into the needs and the problems that confronts their offspring, who one day will propagate the men and women of tomorrow.

It is now quite evident that all this and much more was in the mind of the president of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters when he established the Auxiliary in the city of New York in 1925. Thus was the Brotherhood prevented from making the costly mistakes that were made by the earlier exponents of the trade union movement who felt that the wife and mother should stand passively by and see their homes disrupted and their children hungry and barefooted, and still be in sympathy with a movement of which they knew almost nothing.

However, with active participation came greater understanding on the part of the wives and mothers, and it was found in fighting to keep their homes intact that they became most formidable and militant crusaders in a mutual struggle for economic emancipation.

In the seventeen years since the Brotherhood's Auxiliary was first organized the Auxiliary has come to rank as the foremost organization of Negro women in point of possibilities and potentialities, with forty-eight divisions in all of the principal cities in this country, including an Auxiliary in Toronto, Canada, with prospects of others in this latter place.

It was not, however, until the Local Auxiliaries were organized into an International organization under uniform guidance and direction, that the Auxiliary evinced any real promise of utilizing those huge potentialities. Since the reorganization there has existed a very gratifying and highly commendable attitude on the part of the members with regards to the basic and fundamental program, as being outlined by the Ladies' Auxiliary. The members of the Auxiliary are indeed fortunate that this type of training was begun so long ago, for there is every indication that this training will prove invaluable now that women are being called upon to bear an ever increasing percentage of the responsibilities outside the home. And it is believed the sooner Negro women, in particular, begin to think and act in terms of the race as a whole, and not just in terms of their immediate families, or in terms of their friends, or in terms of



hoping to get something alone for themselves, the better will they be able to meet these new demands that are being made upon them. Accumulative conditions covering a period of many years, not to mention the past few months, have brought about unbelievable changes in the thinking and the reactions of the female of the species. And it is evidenced that the end is not yet in sight. Where only a short time ago women had little more to do than indulge in things feminine, where once they had leisure to purr with and perhaps scratch at one another, they now find themselves to be an indispensable cog in the machinery that is helping to maintain life itself.

Weighted down with these unaccustomed duties the woman of today is becoming vastly different from the woman of yesterday. And it may be safe to presume that the woman who cannot see the wisdom of changing, and adhering to these new policies, will eventually find herself relegated to a position where she at least will not prevent others from making this necessary adjustment.

The World of today is playing for fabulous stakes, wherein, at least on the side of the Democracies, only the greatest good for the greatest number is to be considered. This being true, self-aggrandizement can have no place in the future scheme of things. The clear thinking and far-sighted among us realize, perhaps as never before, that widespread destruction, dislocation and devastation almost invariably follow in the wakes of the twin evils, selfishness and self-aggrandizement.

The streamlined version of disloyalty, insincerity, envy and intrigue now stalking the face of the earth are leaving in their wake more broken homes, broken hearts and more disease and wretchedness than this old war weary world perhaps has ever known before. So, that the legacy being inherited by the so-called weaker sex is bound to draw heavily upon it as well as to exact a tremendous toll in the days and years to come. Therefore, I repeat that it is deeply gratifying to observe that women on an ever-increasing scale, are beginning to think, not only in terms of today or tomorrow or even of a year from tomorrow, but way into the second, third and fourth generations, with a realization that their present actions and attitudes will go a long way to predetermine the welfare and the well being of their posterity. This more practical woman is cognizant that she must make her contribution now, that she must help to build strong organizations, particularly those of labor, if she is to help maintain or add to the economic endeavors of those who are seeking to perpetuate and to maintain, our present way of life.

To further stress the seriousness of this situation, it would be well to bear in mind that it is estimated that by the end of 1943 over four million women will be employed in the defense industry alone. And should this war last for a period of six years, then at least fifty percent of the women will be in places now occupied by men. And should the war last for a period of ten years, at least seventy percent of the work being done in the country will be done by women. So, you see if the working classes hope to maintain their present way of living, women must learn more of and become more in sympathy with the labor movement. And if the men who are now in the war, who have been called away, who have struggled so hard throughout the years to build organizations, to raise



the standard of living, to shorten hours to work, to increase rates of pay, if all that these men have been struggling and striving and fighting for all these years is to be maintained, it will have to be maintained by the women who are taking their places in these serious times, so it is very important that women know more about the labor movement.

As a race of people we are predominantly a working class people. Therefore, there is nothing that we have, nothing we could hope to have which would be as important to us as the source of our income, and that happens to be our job. And since our husbands are being called from those jobs, and we are having to take their places, we must know something about the things that we are doing, the movement that we are entering into, this new industrial field, the demands that are being made upon women and strive to maintain the way of life that our men have fought for, and have bled and died that they may bring a good and better way of living, bring security into their homes.

So we want our women to change their thoughts, to change their minds, their outlook, their attitude. We don't like to, perhaps, say things that may not meet with your approval, but I think we have wasted too much time as a race of women at the card table. (Applause) We must strive as other races are doing, to perpetuate our race. It is not enough to live a whole generation and die and leave absolutely nothing to the generation that is to follow. So we must begin to think in terms of the group and of the individual that is going to come after we pass off the scene, and it is time we became serious about this thing and leave something worth while for the people who will take up after we have passed on. And unless we, as a race of women do that, we are not meeting our full obligation and responsibility to a race of people. And after all, we are the mothers, we created the race, and the race can only be so big, or about as big as its women; and if we are not willing to make the sacrifice, if we don't see the necessity of striving for economic security and striving for job security and home security, all of those things come under economic security, then we have to begin to think in terms of home, in terms of perpetuating the race, in terms of striving and fighting and working by the sides of our men, so that they will know that we stand behind them, that we understand and appreciate the things that they are doing and know it is being done for our own advancement, for our own betterment.

Therefore, our women must not be deceived because of the high wages that they are receiving in these times, and the other inducements that are being offered them by a people who have striven all these years to keep them in the lowest wage brackets possible. And we find that in these various plants now, and if you read the daily newspapers, you will find that these great employers, and corporations, are waving in one hand a flag of the country, to show their patriotism, but to the trade unionists who understand their plans, purposes and schemes, they know they have a bludgeon in the other hand, and that is the thing that we have to become aware of. They aren't doing these things because they love us; they are trying to lull us into a sense of self-security, so that when our men have gone off to the war, and have been taken out of the field where they can no longer protect us that they can use to destroy that which our men have been building all these years.



So, we want our women to think about those things and to become conscious of the fact that if you expect to advance and expect to build respect for the race, you have to fight for it, you have to strive for it, and we must not let our men down, as they are being called away, and we must not let anything stand between us and the development, the protection of our homes against the day when our husbands will come back to private industry and find perhaps all that they have given their lives for, to have been destroyed by the very ones who inspired them to that effort.

So we want you to know, you women in the city of St. Louis, who do not belong to the Ladies' Auxiliary and are eligible that you are not being fair with yourself, because you belong in here. Now, there is a great difference between \$60.00 a month and \$113.00 a month, and you wouldn't have that if the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters had not given it to you. (Applause) So, you must come in and help to protect that, because if the organization falls you will lose that \$113.00, just the same as the rest of us will lose it. So it is up to you to help protect the organization and make it permanent, make it secure. This is just a beginning. Our men don't intend to stop with \$113.00. So you see we have a great opportunity to stand by them. You know they have trouble in the labor movement and some day our men may be actually forced to show the Pullman Company that they mean business. They may have to have a showdown some day and if those men call a strike, if they should go in there and say, "We want these things. If we don't get them we will do thus and so." Well, now, if their women won't stand behind them they couldn't do a thing because the greatest strike-breaker in the World is a man's wife. (Applause)

So these are very fundamental and very basic problems; and you need to come in and see what we are attempting to do. We are trying to develop the minds of our women. We want them to think in terms of things that are best for them. And your home and your job are the things that make everything else possible. We tell our women; your social clubs, your church clubs, your fraternal organizations, everything that you are in, comes from that job. If you don't have the money you can't pay church dues. If you don't have the money you can't pay lodge dues and club dues; you can't go to those lovely formals and have the nice things we all like to wear. So, you see it is the job and the money from that job that makes all these things possible. So you belong in the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters and its Auxiliary, and we hope that you will join with our local group here, and help to make a bigger and a better Ladies' Auxiliary and Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters. (Applause)

CHAIRMAN McNEAL:

Thank you, Sister Wilson.

The Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters is proud of its Auxiliary and we are all proud of its militant leader, Sister Wilson.

I keep hearing the various speakers refer to the pay of Pullman Porters at this time. I was thinking a moment ago when Sister Wilson was discussing the matter of pay for Pullman Porters of something that happened on the 15th of last month. One of the men came to the



office, an extra man, he had been working a very short time. He came to the office with a check for \$247.00, for fourteen days pay. He said, "I am not going to cash this check." I said, "Why, is it too much for you?" He said, "No. The way I figure, I am \$1.87 short." (Laughter) Most of these porters are making money.

I would like to announce that the International Convention of the Ladies' Auxiliary will open in the Phyllis Wheatley YWCA, Beaumont and Locust Streets, on Thursday at 10:00 A.M. All of the women delegates are expected at that hour to register, and all of the various visiting Sisters and members are invited to attend.

At the Brotherhood Convention in the Finance Building tomorrow, the sessions are not open except to members of the organization and of the Auxiliary.

I would like to announce, also, that the photographers want to see the International Officers of both the Auxiliary and the Brotherhood on the east side of the church immediately after this meeting.

At this time, ladies and gentlemen, delegates to the Convention, and members, I present to you the International President, Brother A. Philip Randolph. (Applause)

INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT  
A. PHILIP RANDOLPH:

Mr. Chairman, International Officers of the Brotherhood, and Ladies' Auxiliary, fellow workers, and friends:

I want to say a brief word about the struggle of our organization and what it has meant to the Pullman Porters in particular, and the Negro people in general. There are two schools of thought with respect to the meaning and the interpretation of progress. One school says that all progress is due to environment, and that unless you have favorable environment progress is impossible. Another school of thought says that progress is due to individuals. That individuals are the sovereign agents that are responsibilities for progressive human action and human institutions. They point to Buddha and Confucius, Zoroaster and Moses, Jesus Christ, Socrates, Aristotle and Plato, Alexander, Hannibal, Caesar, Cicero, Charlemagne, Napoleon, Cromwell, Shakespeare, Washington, Lincoln, Booker T. Washington, Dubois, Dunbar, Phyllis Wheatley and so forth.

Unquestionably individuals have exercised a tremendous influence upon the course of human events. They have been responsible for the determination of great social currents in the World. And it is undeniably true, also, that environment plays a tremendous role in shaping the affairs of the World. It is hardly possible to say that one is more important than the other. It is fair to say that progress is the result of the coordination of the influence of the environment and individuals.

With respect to the Brotherhood I want to say a word about the individuals. I can't refer to every individual who has been a factor in the life of this organization, but I want briefly to mention just a few. You have, for instance, sitting on the platform, Mrs. Rosina Tucker,



who is the International Secretary-Treasurer of the International Ladies Auxiliary to the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters. I remember, as one of the officials of this organization, when Sister Tucker was the single force that was responsible for the progress of the Washington Division of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters. (Applause)

I remember the time when she went out on the highways and byways, and talked to the men, and preached to them why their place was in this organization. I know, also, that her husband was penalized because of her activities. However, she was spotless. I said that as an instance to show the significance of the individual in any big, great social movement.

There is another person on the platform, Mr. T. T. Patterson, who, when the days were dark, and when the storms of opposition were breaking with fury upon our movement, had such unsurpassing faith in its ultimate success that he gave to the organization as a loan \$1500.00 (Applause)

Now, you know it takes a whole lot of faith for any one, as my comrade and colleague, Web, would say, to "Get up off of \$1500.00."

And there is Ashley Totten, whose unremitting determination was so strong, that even though, as Brother McNeal indicated, he was beaten into insensibility, with his blood running down the streets of Kansas City, would not leave that place under my constant insistence. He said, "No, I am here. Here is the battleground of the organization, and I am not going to leave it."

Now, it is spirits like these people that made this organization possible. There is Brother Puckett; Brother Puckett is sitting around here somewhere. He is the grand old man of this organization. I remember meeting some Brothers from Pittsburgh once, and they said, "Brother Randolph, there is one man running between Chicago and Pittsburgh, and he doesn't let anybody sleep at night, constantly pushing literature into their hands, and preaching about this organization."

And so, my friends, you have them here and there. There is Brother Bell from Los Angeles, who started at the very beginning of the movement and never swerved, has come all the way from Los Angeles here. And there is Brother Clark. I can't call all the names of the men, but Brother Carl Clark, who is now out of the service because of illness, never permitted a meeting to be held in Chicago when he was in the city unless he was there standing guard, fighting for the cause of this great movement. And, of course, we have men who have had the task of formulating and shaping policies, such as Brother Webster, Brother Bennie Smith, Brother C. L. Dellums, and Brother McLaurin, Brother Ernest Smith, and all of the various local representatives throughout the country, who are constantly at the helm, guiding this great movement along its course.

And so, my friends, the Negro people today have got the task of facing perhaps their greatest ordeal, not only how while the war is on, but in the post-war period; and in the various communities of America, we have men and women who are going out into the broad field of action.



They are facing indescribable dangers, taking unspeakable risks, in order that they might beat down discriminations that prevent Negroes from exercising their rights as citizens to secure employment upon a basis of merit and ability.

I know in Jacksonville, Florida, there is Miss Bertha M. White, one of the aggressive women of that city, who has been the head in building the March On Washington Movement there. And when the date was set for the march, July 1, 1941, she wired me a few days before the march was to take place. She said, "Jacksonville will be there in high colors." (Applause) Think of it, Jacksonville, Florida, down almost at the end of the country, in the South.

And here you have in St. Louis some of the finest spirits in the entire country contributing their bit to make democracy work as a process in this country. I remember when we called the first meeting of the March On Washington Movement here, and a young woman, Thelma Grant, was a driving and inspirational force of that meeting, that was responsible for giving crystallization to the movement. And there in Chicago you have another fine group of people. And so, my friends, one man said, "Show me an aggressive individual and I will point to you a person who is capable of transforming a community from one point of view to another." That is why the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters is a power in America. It is composed of people who have courage, vision, integrity, determination, and an iron will. They have the spirit which says, "Never say die." That is why we are able to push all of our enemies out of the way, and win the recognition of The Pullman Company.

Now, the Brotherhood is one of the outstanding movements in the labor forces of America, one of the significant International organizations in the American Federation of Labor, and which will be one of the forces that will make the post-war period the period in which the Negroes will be able to take their places alongside other races in the country in playing their part in the rehabilitation of the World and the creation of a democracy for which all of us struggle and for which all of us are working in order that we might bring and develop a new civilization, a civilization without caste of race or religion or nationality, but based upon the creativity, merit, ability, worth and character. Thank you,  
(Applause)

CHAIRMAN McNEAL:

The members of the International Executive Board are asked to meet tonight at 8:00 o'clock on the fifth floor of the Finance Building, in the solarium, for the annual pre-convention get-to-gether.

At this time I would like to introduce a very old friend of the Organization, not only a friend, but a member, a man who is not connected with the railroad service at this time. He is a representative of one of the large national oil companies, but a man who has been with the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters All the way, a man who has carried a Brotherhood membership card all these years, and, incidentally, a man who gave up a good job on a newspaper because of his friendship to this



Organization. I want the friends, members and delegates of the Organization to meet Billboard Jackson, of New York. Mr. Jackson. (Applause) Mr. Jackson will be with the delegates and members in the various sessions of the Convention.

At this time we will bring the meeting to a close, and stand and sing the Organization song, "We Shall Not Be Moved."

(Singing song.)

ADJOURNMENT



SECOND BIENNIAL CONVENTION

of the

LADIES' AUXILIARY

to the

BROTHERHOOD OF SLEEPING CAR PORTERS

\* \* \*

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS

FIRST DAY --- THURSDAY MORNING

St. Louis, Missouri  
September 17th, 1942

Pursuant to the official Convention Call, the Second Biennial Convention and Sixteenth Anniversary of the Ladies' Auxiliary to the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters was called to order in the Auditorium of the Locust Street, Y. W. C. A. by Mrs. Lela M. Lee, President of the St. Louis Ladies Auxiliary to the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, acting as Chairman of the Convention Committee, presiding.

Invocation was offered by Reverend Milton Thompson, Pastor of the Berea Presbyterian Church of St. Louis, Missouri.

Delegate Rosina C. Tucker led the group in the singing of the Brotherhood Marching Song, "Hold the Fort."

DELEGATE LEE: I am very happy to present, Mr. Ray C. Schroeder, who has been sent by the Mayor of the City to welcome the delegates of this Convention. Mr. Schroeder is better known in St. Louis as "Mr. Fixit" over the radio. At this time I am very happy to present Mr. Schroeder to the Convention.

MR. RAY SCHROEDER: Our Mayor planned to be here this morning but was unable to do so because of a very important conference with the Governor. However, the Mayor said to "tell those ladies we are tickled to death to have them here in St. Louis." St. Louis has wonderful facilities for a convention city. St. Louis has 19 railroads, has wonderful air service, bus and boat service, and a logical place for people who are tied up with transportation problems, to meet. St. Louis was first settled by traders from New Orleans, and has grown to a population of about 850,000 people, separate from its county. St. Louis has always been a great transportation center, and is known for its good drinking water.



It was George Pullman who came out from the east and settled in Chicago, and got to thinking about the long misery of trips on the railroad trains with no convenience for eating and later developed the idea of the diners. The first sleeping cars were on the Chicago and Alton Railroad. Years ago there were no conveniences even like heat on trains other than a stove at one end of the car, and that was a fire hazard. In England, if you took a trip in the winter they gave you a foot stool and put hot water under it so that you actually felt that you would freeze to death. But now, St. Louis is justly proud of its transportation system and the Ladies Auxiliary to the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters representing the men who were responsible for maintaining the comfort afforded on trains today. You as a group, should organize and stick together and be unified and just be one and by doing so you should get some place in this great world. It is well to remember the old statement - - - "We will all hang together or else we will all hang separately."

Mayor Becker extends a hearty welcome to the Ladies Auxiliary and if you get into trouble, the Mayor says, "just drop down to the City Hall and I'll take care of you."

#### WELCOME ADDRESS BY LELA M. LEE

International Officers of the Ladies Auxiliary to the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, delegates, members, friends and visitors to the Second Biennial Convention of the Ladies Auxiliary to the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters.

It is with profound pleasure and the deepest feeling that I stand here before you today on behalf of the officers and members of the St. Louis Division Ladies Auxiliary to extend to each and every one of you a most hearty welcome. We assure you it is a real pleasure to have you here, in fact, words are simply inadequate to express to you just how happy we are to have you as our guests. We welcome you to our homes, we welcome you to our churches, we welcome you to the great city of St. Louis with its many educational institutions and various places of amusements. We welcome you for the constructive work that you have done in the various communities. We welcome you with a hope that you will continue to step forward, ever upward and onward until you reach the highest point of excellence in the labor world, we do want you to know that whenever you come to the city of St. Louis that you will always find the word "WELCOME" indelibly stamped upon the hearts of each and every member of this organization and we sincerely hope that you will graciously accept all courtesies and hospitalities that may be extended to you while in our city.

We, who are here today should offer thanks to almighty God for sparing us to be here. We are sure all of our paths have not been strewn with roses the past two years. Each and every one of us has had or must have some dark days, but my friends,



remember that behind every dark cloud there is a silver lining. I'm sure that we all realize the fact that these are critical times in which we live --- critical for the world, critical for the nation and critical for the Negro race with the world engaged in one of the worst wars known in history. If there ever was a time when the American Negro should unite his efforts and fight for his constitutional rights as American citizens that time is now. Forget about yesterday for it is gone forever --- don't think about tomorrow for it does not exist but today is here --- let us take advantage of it and strike while the iron is hot.

From the earliest times woman's usefulness as an individual and otherwise has been generously recognized by the whole world. In every walk of life woman has played her part, is still playing her part and playing that part well. The women of this organization are all grateful to our great leader, Brother A. Philip Randolph and all the other men who have labored long and hard to make this meeting possible. We are also grateful to the noble pioneer woman of this organization who banded themselves together and perfected an organization that would support our men in their great struggles for economic justices. Among these pioneer women of the auxiliaries (the purpose of which is to unite the women relatives of the porters into one powerful organization in order to give intellectual, moral, spiritual and financial support to the struggles of the porters) might be mentioned, Sister Katherine Lassiter, 1st International Vice President, Chairman of International Executive Board and President of the New York Auxiliary; Sister Rosina C. Tucker, past President of the Washington, D. C. Auxiliary, who at this time is our very efficient International Secretary-Treasurer, and last but not by any means, least, Sister Halena Wilson, our dynamic courageous hard-working International President and also President of the Chicago Auxiliary. There are a number of other women who fought on for the cause of the Brotherhood - - - one that I know of since I have been connected with this great organization and whom I think deserves to be mentioned is Sister Nannie M. Curby, the first president of the St. Louis Auxiliary and at present a member of the International Executive Board and chairman of our local Executive Board. These women should be referred to as "Signal Lights" in the Brotherhood's early struggle for economic freedom. I only wish that every woman relative of all Pullman Porters throughout these United States, Canada and any other place where there are porters, could be referred to "Signal Lights" in this great labor movement. What a great organization we would have!!!

American women throughout the country are working hard for victory and I must say that as wives of Pullman Porters we are not sitting idly by. We mean to stay right in the midst of the fight against discrimination, segregation and Jim Crowism until victory has been won. We are 100% behind the "March on Washington Movement." We shall ever keep in mind its slogan - "Get up off your knees, stand upon your feet, mobilize, organize and fight for your constitutional rights." If we would be really wise we must diligently apply ourselves to the same continuous application which others did. We must be satisfied to work with an aim and await the result with patience. For temperance, frugality, honesty and economy accompanied by strong determination and perseverance will bring us to the goal of success and prosperity.



Then, ladies and gentlemen, may every act that attempts to destroy happiness and sisterly or brotherly love among us, that would plant piercing thorns where blooming flowers grow and unpleasant sound where enchanting music reigns sink into oblivion and rest under the shade of defeat.

But he among us who is inspired with love, touched with sympathy longing to uplift and benefit humanity, raising the fallen, encouraging the weak, his efforts will not be inglorious. But every step will be a great deed written on the page of hope and success, an illuminating power that brightens the future, a beacon light for those behind and whose end will be a story that transforms from earthly to heavenly, and takes its place inside the gates of pearl amid the shouts and welcome of millions.

So, ladies, if you have not accomplished all you wished to accomplish the past year, don't get discouraged and don't lose your enthusiasm. If you are in a rut in some way or other, politely step out, if your prospects have not been responsive, get a new list; if your talk for new members has not been effective, get a new talk and if you haven't worked enough to bring success to your auxiliary, work, work some more and continue to work until you have put your auxiliary in the front ranks in the labor world.

In concluding, permit me again to say: "We welcome you, International Officers, we are very glad to have you as our guest. We welcome you too, delegates and visitors and wish for you all continued progress. We, members of the St. Louis Auxiliary are very glad you came. Here's extending to you all a most cordial invitation to come again.

"So let us all keep up  
With a heart for any fate,  
Still achieving, still pursuing,  
We must learn to labor and to wait."

"For duty points with outstretched fingers  
For every soul to action high  
Woe betide the soul that lingers  
Onward, onward, ladies must be our cry.

Onward, onward ever onward,  
Human progress none can stay.  
If we make a vain endeavor  
We shall like chaff be swept away.

I thank you.

Response to Welcome Address by Delegate Tucker.

DELEGATE ROSINA C. TUCKER:      Madam Chairman, International Officers,  
Visiting Delegates and Friends:

At the 1940 Convention, I received a letter stating, "Mrs. Tucker, we are asking you to make the response" - and here we have 1942,



I happen to pick up this program today and saw that my name was down to make the response. Now, I didn't know it was going to be a permanent thing, that I would have to respond every time we meet. So, I said, well, in the morning I'll see what I can get together, but here it is, I haven't a thing prepared; I have been going around here trying to get credentials straightened out. But I am going on and I am glad to be here once more to see the women of this great organization and I am very very proud of you. I am very close to these auxiliaries because I have to correspond with you and I find it a great pleasure. My work is very very difficult and, of course, you know how you are --- everytime there is an election, you change, you get new secretaries, then I have to commence with the a, b, c's, with the whole matter all over again. But, nevertheless, I have to pray for patience and I think we get along very nicely.

Speaking of being called upon to talk with nothing prepared and when you know nothing about it, its a frequent occurrence with me. I remember once I went to a certain place as a guest to help celebrate a wedding affair, and I was in the reception line, if you please. They wanted to make a presentation and called upon me, called me out of the reception line to make this presentation. I know that I have gone to places to rest and when I got there, they had lots of work outlined for me to do. One lady even had a pattern and the material all ready for me to cut a dress for her. So, you see, I am just somewhat used to being snatched up and somehow or other the Lord helps me out.

Now, we are here to work out plans, to improve our auxiliary, to improve the work of the organization. None of us have had it as easy as we would have liked. There is nothing that is easy. It isn't easy for you, as women, to look after your homes as you would like to and that is one thing we study in our auxiliaries. There are some who say, "We don't care anything about co-ops, about fruits, vegetables, about eggs, etc.", but we have had studies in our auxiliary there in Washington and although I am an experienced home maker I realize there are many things for us to learn and we do want you to be interested in the program of the organization. This is an organization for business, not for giving parties, and dances and things for as critical as times are now, we will have to throw aside a great deal of those things we consider pleasure and place that energy along constructive lines. Now, I am asking you to be one person who will determine that you yourself will be a good member of the Ladies Auxiliary and you are not going to find things easy, for when you begin to accomplish something, then you will find opposition. This organization had no particular opposition from those who surrounded us, until we began to accomplish something. Everything will be thrown in your path, but we want you to stand firm, we are no longer "Babies". It makes no difference what someone says, keep on with your organization.

It is somewhat like the ancient city of Pompeii, where many many years after the city was completely destroyed and covered with lava, it was excavated by a party of explorers and among the interesting facts discovered therein, it was noted that the guards were still standing at attention. That, in spite of the intense heat, of that burning lava, of the panic stricken people during that time, those guards were still watching over the city, and this is the thing that is necessary for us, as members of the Ladies Auxiliary to the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, to always be on guard, watching over this organization, protecting it from



intruders, from the fire of all the things that may come upon it and its purpose.

I wish to say to you that we are very pleased to be here in St. Louis, to carry out our work and we are hoping it will be a nice sweet, quiet session, but if necessary, we are going to do what they say about baptists, and incidently I'm baptist, exercise our independence. So, if its necessary to exercise our freedom, we will do that to accomplish what we will and to keep the people straight. So, I thank the Chairman and apologize for taking up so much time. If I had prepared something, it would not have been so long, so again, I thank you.

Delegate Rosina C. Tucker led the group in the singing of "God Bless America."

DELEGATE LEE: At this time, ladies, I wish to present to you, Sister Mae Dailey, the Second International Vice Presidet, who at this time will introduce our International President, Sister Halena Wilson.

DELEGATE MAE DAILEY: Madam Chairman, officers and members of the Ladies Auxiliary to the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, visitors and friends at this Second Biennial Convention. We are assembled as the largest Negro trade union labor auxiliary in the world under the dynamic leadership of a person who has served faithfully, one who is very very good at her work, one who has used untiring efforts and cooperated with all of the labor organizations and of whom we all are proud. She feels the responsibility of the auxiliary; she is one who fights for economic security and who has the vigor and ability to present herself. I present at this time the one whom I am glad to serve, the International President of the Ladies Auxiliary to the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, Sister Halena Wilson.

Chairman Lee led a rousing cheer in honor of Sister Halena Wilson.

#### PRESIDENT'S OPENING ADDRESS TO CONVENTION

Madam Chairman, International Secretary-Treasurer, other International officers, delegates and members:

Before delivering my address I wish to apoligize to Sister Tucker. My secretary must have overlooked sending her a copy of the Convention Program which I hope explains why she did not receive previous notice that she was to respond to the welcome address. I assure you the omission was purely an oversight.

It now becomes my pleasing duty to appear before this splendid gathering for the purpose of declaring the Second Biennial Convention of the



Ladies Auxiliary to the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters open in due order for the dispatch of such business as may regularly come before it and it again becomes a pleasure and a privilege to have the opportunity to express in behalf of myself and the others here assembled our deepest appreciation for the splendid accommodations and other arrangements which have been made for the happiness and the comfort of the visiting delegation. The evidence of the warm hospitality on the part of the citizens and that of the officials of this city in the historic State of Missouri has done much to contribute to the wellbeing of all. We trust our presence here will do naught but add to the glory of the division's past as well as its present and future accomplishments. In the past when the officials were hard pressed to strengthen the morale of the various local divisions it was their wont to point to the unusual hardships and the many privations which beset the officials and members of the St. Louis Division. Therefore, we look upon the division's ascendancy over those conditions as being among the outstanding achievements of our great organization; and it would be amiss if I did not at this time call attention to the valuable service that was rendered by the St. Louis Ladies Auxiliary and to that of its two members who are among the present officials of the International Auxiliary Order. The devotion, the loyalty and the foresight of the splendid women of this city played no small part in helping the St. Louis Division to the position it now occupies.

In coming here this year it is under conditions far different from those that existed two years ago when we gathered so jubilantly in the great city of New York. Then we were light-hearted and care-free while today each of us has cause of concern and reason for unrest. The world for us as a racial group is the same and yet it is not the same. It is true that we still have the same old problems. The same old discriminations and the same restrictions, but fortunately, we as a race are coming to the realization that the remedy to these conditions lie within our own keeping. With this realization has come a challenge and a responsibility which the race has no choice but to accept. Millions of human beings in all parts of the world are dying to perpetuate a way of life that was acceptable to themselves. No favors are being asked and but few are being given and this, no doubt, will be the order of the day when once this dreadful slaughter has come to an end. Conditions throughout the world have reached the point where men must prove their right to survive, therefore, it is evident that the Negro can do naught but meet this challenge thereby proving himself worthy of consideration and inclusion when men and nations gather to salvage what is left of our present civilization. It is encouraging to note that the race is showing an inclination and a determination to meet this challenge; that it is willing to fight and die for its social, economic and mental emancipation the same as all other racial groups. It is deeply gratifying to know that the organization of which we are so justly proud is charting the course and paving the way for Negro people in this evolutionary process. It is indeed a great pleasure to know that the organization has won this right to lift its voice against any and all forms of human subjugation or human exploitation by having paid the price in suffering and hardship.

To say that these are uncertain and unpredictable times is but putting it mildly. Life long customs, prejudices and traditions are being uprooted, the impossible is taking place in the most unbelievable



and unheard of places throughout the entire universe. Bonds of servitude and of inequality are being torn asunder and cast aside. The demand for justice and freedom is the predominant cry of the day. As a result of these evolutionary changes the American Negro has within his grasp his greatest opportunity to establish a permanent and basic foundation, not only for his own immediate economic, political and social advancement, but for that of the future generations that are yet to come.

It is quite evident that there is a powerful and a relentless force moving throughout the world and it would appear that mankind in spite of his self-confidence and self-reliance is being compelled to acknowledge his dependence upon a force mightier than himself. Man, no doubt, is yet to pay a bitter and a costly price for this knowledge, but it should be our most fervent hope that the eventual end will more than justify the price. The all important question before us as a racial group is: What, if anything, will the Negro get out of this world calamity that has befallen mankind? Not, how much will he gain of material possessions, but rather how much of unity, solidarity, and racial dignity will be acquired as a result of his emulating and observing the compelling force of a oneness of purpose and the invincibility of the minority groups, once they have closed their ranks and have decided to stand all for one and one for all. The burning question is: Will the Negro continue under the false premise of an individualistic philosophy which has placed almost insurmountable limitations upon him or will he create a standard for himself based upon the facts as they are being enacted before his very eyes?

#### MARCH-ON-WASHINGTON MOVEMENT

The great March-On-Washington Movement and its historical results has contributed immeasurably to a better way of life for Negroes and should be proof enough to unquestionably establish the power of a determined and a united people. The auxiliary is keenly aware of the far reaching and vital significance of the March-On-Washington Movement and heartily approves and endorses every phase of its activities. The Ladies Auxiliary was conceived out of the same conditions that brought forth the March-On-Washington Movement and it is dedicated to the principle of fighting for justice and for liberation of suppressed and under-privileged peoples wherever they are to be found. As the auxiliary grows in experience, in numbers and in finance it will greatly extend its activities and will make use of its experience and its finance to help promote the general good of all down-trodden people. Therefore, the auxiliary hails the March-On-Washington Movement and looks with great pride and approbation upon A. Philip Randolph, the movement's National Director who has long distinguished himself through his unrelenting and uncompromising fight in behalf of his racial group. The auxiliary takes great delight in the tenacity of purpose and other sterling qualities which have earned for this intrepid crusader the distinction of being among the great men of this generation and who because he possesses the courage of his convictions has won a victory given to but few men, and surely to no other of his racial identity.

Again we ask, "Will the Negro take pattern from the rest of the world and assemble all his forces and harness all of his energies for the task of liberating, uniting and instructing his own racial group



where there is needed several life times of agony, sweat, and self-dedication or will he continue alone on the uncertain and indeterminate road he has followed, lo, these many years?" If the Negro emerges from his present experiences stronger in spirit and with a greater degree of racial unity and racial solidarity and with nothing more, then this mad world turmoil will not have been in vain, at least insofar as the Negro is concerned.

#### Educational Program of the Ladies Auxiliary

In the Convention of 1940, the Education Committee recommended that the International President develop an Educational Program to be submitted uniformly to the local auxiliaries. A program in keeping with this recommendation was outlined and sent with instructions to the various auxiliary presidents. As the history of the labor movement deals largely with conditions which existed prior to the workers successful attempt to form labor organizations it was decided that the auxiliary program should begin with the study of the labor movement. It was felt that even a limited knowledge of the hardships and deplorable conditions which prevailed prior to the advent of labor organizations and even since their advent would strengthen the determination and the loyalty of the auxiliary members and better fit them to speak and to act as advocates of the labor movement in general and of their own organization in particular.

#### Women in Industry

Aside from acquiring a knowledge of the labor movement, conditions surrounding the woman worker was considered next in importance. The plight of the woman worker long has been a sad one with present and future conditions having but small chance of improvement so long as women reject organization and so long as they persist in knowing so little about the conditions which determine their rates of pay and their hours of work. Unscrupulous anti-labor groups have played upon the emotions of the woman worker to such an extent in many instances that women workers have been known to actually champion the cause of their employer as against their own interest and this when attempts were being made to secure for them conditions of work and rates of pay more favorable to themselves. By becoming more fully conscious of the existing remedies or the urgent need for them, women, whether married or single, employed or unemployed eventually will see the wisdom of putting forth every effort to insure themselves against the day when they as a wife, widow or mother may be called upon to go out from her home in quest of a livelihood.

This mantle of protection which the labor movement affords is particularly desirable when a wife or mother is compelled through some unfortunate circumstance to work at starvation wages because of the urgent need to fill the place once occupied by the rightful head of the family. Women who have the misfortune to fall into this category according to a survey made by the Women's Bureau, United States Department of Labor, are unusually hard pressed to adjust themselves to this new mode of living and this is especially true where there is a home to care for and children to feed, clothe and educate. And yet, women by their indifference or unawareness of the advantages or the protection guaranteed by the labor movement sentence themselves and in far too many instances their children



to the hard and uncompromising conditions, encountered by the unorganized worker, whether male or female.

### Child Labor

The manner in which the child laborer has been exploited throughout the ages is one of the saddest reflections upon a civilized people. So much so that any system which places profits above human progress or above the perpetuation of the human race can scarcely be termed anything other than vicious.

Various statistical reports refer with concern to the undermining influences which malnutrition, environment, retarded physical growth and limited mental development is bound to have upon the coming generations. Six and seven year old children working from 10 to 12 hours a day at the rate of 3¢ to 5¢ per hour, certainly may not be expected to bequeath much either in mental or physical strength or vigor to their posterity. Therefore, the abuse of child labor which strikes at the very root of civilization should not be encouraged nor tolerated. Neither should an economic order go unchallenged which insists upon paying the head of the family such low wages that child labor becomes a necessity. And so, the study of all phases of child care and child employment were included in the program that was submitted to the local auxiliaries.

### Consumer Cooperation and Consumer Education

Since the worker and the consumer is one and the same it is only logical to assume that the individual would eventually seek some means of protecting himself, both as a wage earner and as a consumer. As a wage earner strives for a rate of pay commensurated with the existing standard of living the consumer as a shopper or buyer strives for quality and a more equitable distribution of the merchandise placed on the market for his consumption. The consumer strives for an uncontrolled market in which to spend his limited earnings. The worker strives for an income in keeping with an ever rising cost of living. Getting ones money worth or protecting the purchasing power of ones dollar is one of the greatest problems confronting the working-consuming public. Misleading advertisements, adulteration, misrepresentations, short weights, harmful and often dangerous substitutes, extract enormous sums yearly from the family budget and very often endanger the life and comfort of an unsuspecting and uninformed people.

Not only are the advocates of the Consumer Movement concerned about these flagrant abuses but they are deeply desirous of obtaining additional legislative enactments for the protection of the consuming public. Under the existing competitive economic system a few individuals are permitted to gain control of the natural resources and other life giving substances of the world while the majority of the people are sacrificed upon the altar of more and ever greater profits.

In this land of plenty millions of persons are said even now to be living far below the danger line of existence and all because a few individuals are allowed to manipulate a market once believe to function for the good of the masses. As a consequence the more enlightened



have turned to the Consumer Cooperative Movement for a solution to their economic problems for by adopting the basic principles of the Cooperative Movement wage earners now are able to cooperate and to pool their resources for their mutual protection. It is indeed interesting to note that in less than 100 years the Cooperative Movement has grown from an uncertain venture that started with a capital investment of \$140.00 and a membership of 28 people to a vast enterprise of many millions of dollars and with a membership running into many millions all in less than 100 years.

#### Current Topics

In this day of priorities of merchandise, ceiling for hours and floors for wages, freezing of prices, credit restrictions, limited purchasing power, etc. one must read and exchange ideas if one is to keep abreast with a rapidly changing world. It is true that many of these changes are a great benefit to the people while there are bound to be some of an opposite effect, therefore, it was felt as a result of discussing these pertinent changes that appear in the various newspapers and other current publications that the auxiliary members will be in a better position to express their opinions and to make themselves felt in such matters than they otherwise would be.

While the program as outlined may not have produced any unusual results up to the present time it is felt, however, that much progress has been made. The intervening months between the Convention of 1940 and this Convention of 1942 have been spent in exploring the possibilities of and acquainting the members with the numerous advantages of such a program. Unfortunately, too much already has been said and is now being said to discourage and to discredit collaboration and unification on the part of the working classes and it is quite obvious that the present national crisis is being used as a pretext to further divide men and women, capital and labor, Negro and white. Therefore, a program embodying the subjects referred to are considered as being essential to the development, the safety and wellbeing, not only to our own group, but to that of the country as well. It is the desire of the Auxiliary to acquaint its members with the fundamental principles of earning a livelihood and to impress upon them the part they should play in this very often uneven struggle. It is believed such participation will be less difficult of attainment once women become impressed and imbued with the spirit and the oneness of purpose which motivates a true trade unionist for the hand that rocks the cradle can do more to inculcate and instil these principles and can do more to dissipate the individualistic tread of the Negro than any other known influence. Therefore, the future of the Negro race may be said to depend largely upon the examples, teachings and the beliefs of the women of the Negro race.

#### Convention Proceedings

The International Auxiliary feels that an explanation relative to the Convention Proceedings should be made at this time.

Owing to the limited funds and the limited facilities of the International Auxiliary it was not possible to print or to distribute more



than a few copies of the 1940 Convention Proceedings. In view of these limitations, the Brotherhood once again assumed the responsibility of compiling and distributing the proceedings for which the Auxiliary is deeply grateful, however, it has been decided that this responsibility will be taken over by the Auxiliary in the future since its obligations are not so numerous as those of the Brotherhood and since it is felt the Auxiliary is now in a better position to handle this phase of its activities.

#### National Membership Drive

The International Executive Board spent quite sometime after the close of the 1940 Convention discussing ways of augmenting the National Membership. Many suggestions were advanced only to be rejected because the proposals were thought not to contain an appeal commensurate with such an undertaking. It was not until it appeared that the effort would have to be abandoned that Sister Sappington, the secretary of the Board suggested conducting the membership drive in honor of Brother Randolph's birthday. The suggestion was accepted with much enthusiasm and later submitted to the local divisions. It was agreed at the time the proposal was accepted that only the names of the members obtained during the drive would be sent to Brother Randolph as an expression of the great esteem in which he is held by the auxiliaries throughout the country. But being aware of the loyalty and the devotion of each of the auxiliary members it was finally decided to include the names of all the members in recognition of their years of allegiance to so worthy an undertaking. These names were bound and presented a few days prior to Brother Randolph's natal day as a birthday memoir from the membership of the Ladies Auxiliary, and I am indeed pleased to state that the Los Angeles Division lead all other divisions in the total number of members that were obtained during the Membership Drive.

#### Bethune-Cookman Fund

During the month of February, 1941, a communication was received from the International Counsellor of the Ladies Auxiliary that the Bethune-Cookman College was experiencing quite some financial difficulty and that there was a probability that the school would change hands if substantial cash donations were not received. The letter suggested that the International President call the situation to the attention of the local auxiliaries with a request that each make a contribution to this worthy institution. As the contributions were sent to a source other than the auxiliary it was quite some time before the total amount that was contributed by the auxiliaries was known to the auxiliary officials. However, I am pleased even at this late date to announce that the auxiliaries increased the Bethune-Cookman fund with the sum of \$273.50.

#### Elections - June, 1941

Owing to a misunderstanding three local elections were conducted in June, 1941. In the Oakland Auxiliary where the election resulted in a change in the official staff the election was declared void and the old officers retained in office. As no changes resulted



from the election that was held by the Jersey City Auxiliary no ruling was necessary but the auxiliary was informed of its mistake in holding an election at that particular time. In Seattle where so much time had elapsed between the date of election and between the time the information reached the International President it was decided that it would be to the best interest of the division even though new officers had been elected to let matters stand as they were.

#### Special Edicts

In January, 1941, a special edict pertaining to the International Auxiliary to the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters and to that of the more recently organized national auxiliary to the P.P.B. of A. was issued by the International President of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters. The edict declared the national auxiliary to the P.P.B. of A. to be a dual organization and stated that all members of the Ladies Auxiliary to the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters who were affiliated with the P.P.B. of A. Auxiliary were required to relinquish their membership in that Auxiliary or forfeit their membership in the Auxiliary to the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters. A general letter to supplement the edict was issued by the International President of the Ladies Auxiliary and it is a pleasure to report that the choice that was made was overwhelmingly in favor of the Brotherhood's Ladies Auxiliary with only a few such members electing to remain in the P.P.B. of A. Auxiliary. These members were regretfully dropped from the membership roster since it was felt that the members did not understand the full import of their actions.

#### New Auxiliaries

Since the Convention of 1940 numerous contacts have been made with several of the divisions where no auxiliaries existed. As a result of these contacts auxiliaries were organized in the Montgomery, Birmingham, Indianapolis and St. Louis Divisions. Sister Dailey reported having been successful in organizing an auxiliary to the Train Porters Local in this city. An auxiliary to the Nashville Division was organized shortly after the 1940 Convention by Sister Davie Phillips who attended the Convention at that time as a visitor. Many contacts were made in the Columbus and the Charleston-Savannah Divisions, but with less gratifying results. A number of letters explaining the aim and the purpose of the Ladies Auxiliary were sent to each of the division's prospective members in an effort to give the necessary information and this despite the fact that at first weeks passed without a word of acknowledgement of an indication of the division's interest. It was decided, however, not to become discouraged but to persevere until the desired results had been obtained. Too much praise cannot be given the Brotherhood officials in these divisions for their cooperation since it was through them that the names and addresses of those who were eligible for membership were obtained. The International Auxiliary desires to take this opportunity to express its appreciation and thankfulness to these brothers for their splendid spirit of cooperation.

#### Reorganization

Letters under date of August 22nd, September 10, 1941, respectively, were received from Sister Dailey calling attention to



the reorganization of the Memphis and El Paso Ladies Auxiliaries. These divisions were contacted without delay and the necessary paraphernalia and information pertaining to the Amendments to the Constitution, Rules and Regulations and other Acts of the 1940 Convention were submitted. The El Paso Auxiliary was considerably strengthened in its reorganization through the inclusion of the women relatives to the Train Porters of that division and we are happy to report that both divisions are doing splendidly since their reorganization.

#### Special Membership Arrangements

Sister Lassiter, the Supervisor of the Eastern Zone, wrote shortly after the first of the year, 1942, regarding a situation pertaining to the New York Auxiliary membership. Sister Lassiter pointed out that since many of the New York Auxiliary members resided in Jamaica, Long Island, that something of a specific nature would have to be considered for the accommodation of this group of members for owing to the distance and the expense of attending the meetings in New York, many of the members had become irregular in their attendance. The same conditions were said to have prevented others who were eligible from joining the auxiliary. So, it was finally decided to have the president of the New York Auxiliary go to Jamaica to hold special meetings instead of requiring them members of Jamaica to go to New York. Under this arrangement the two groups are presided over by the same president and both groups are required to pay dues to the same secretary-treasurer. Thus the two groups while meeting separately are in reality one and the same. At first there was some doubt concerning the workableness of such a plan, but so far as the arrangement is working out very satisfactorily. The International Auxiliary is indebted to Brothers McLaurin and Patterson and to Sister Lassiter for this novel idea.

#### Consolidations

As it had been the desire of the Brotherhood officials for quite some time to see a consolidation effected between the two Kansas Auxiliaries, there was quite some satisfaction on their part when this was finally agreed upon. It long had been the consensus of opinion on the part of the Brotherhood officials that one large auxiliary in that division would be considerably more effective than two small auxiliaries. Therefore, it was upon the advice and the insistence of Brother Rufus Norman, the counsellor of that division that the consolidation was finally brought about. After being informed of the action that was contemplated and as a result of the correspondence that passed between the International President, it was thought she, being the Supervisor of that zone should pay a visit to the auxiliary to assist in the consolidation of the two groups. This trip was made in the month of March, 1941 at which time a very inspiring and enjoyable visit was had with the auxiliaries of both cities.

#### Remittance of Per Capita Tax

Upon receiving inquiries from the Memphis and El Paso Divisions regarding their indebtedness to the International Auxiliary Order and since it is the desire and the purpose of the International Auxiliary to assist the local divisions in their efforts to become strongly organized it was decided after consulting the International



Counsellor to cancel the indebtedness that had accrued against the two auxiliaries during the period of their inactivity.

#### Resignations of Local Officials

Only a comparatively small number of resignations were brought to the attention of the International President following the local elections of June, 1940. It cannot be too strongly emphasized that each of these resignations was determined more by circumstance than by choice. It was felt that such steadfastness of purpose was a happy indication of the future possibilities of the Ladies Auxiliary since the very existence of such an attitude is proof that the efforts put forth throughout these many years have not been in vain. A great deal has been said about the ruggedness of the pioneer women of America and as much will be said one day about the Negro woman of this period who is so nobly striving to help shape and direct the destiny of a hitherto down-trodden people.

#### Official Communications

It is with regret that it must be said that the work of the International Auxiliary has been greatly retarded during the past years owing to the failure on the part of many of the local auxiliaries to attach sufficient importance to the communications sent them by the International officials. There is a possibility that unless a more responsive attitude is adopted by the local auxiliaries regarding such communications that the future development of the Ladies Auxiliary will be seriously handicapped. In this day of rapid change situations are altered so quickly that a delay of three or four weeks may easily render the desired information absolutely worthless by the time it is received. Because this is true the local auxiliaries are being urged to give more consideration and prompter attention to all communications pertaining to the business of the organization. The auxiliaries must not lose sight of the fact that coordination and cooperation are essential to a successful culmination of any and all group efforts.

#### Official Visits

While enroute home from the Convention of 1940 I had the pleasure of visiting the Jersey City, Buffalo and Detroit Auxiliaries. As I had become rather tired by that time and had begun to feel the strain of several months of preparing for so important an occasion I was unable to stay long in either place. In March, 1941, visits were made to the St. Louis, Kansas City and Oklahoma City Auxiliaries. The general attitude and response found in these divisions was very encouraging. The meetings were well attended at which time the Constitution, Rules and Regulations and the general program of the Auxiliary were explained.

In June, 1942, a visit was made to the Indianapolis and Louisville Auxiliaries. Both divisions were found to possess a strong appreciation for the outstanding accomplishments of the organization and each had a strong sense of the need for unity and solidarity on the part of the working classes in general and their own group in particular.



On Sunday, August 9th, of this year, I had the extreme pleasure to journey to the Twin Cities Division in company with the International President and the 1st International Vice President of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters. Joint meetings of the Auxiliary and Brotherhood members were held in both cities. These meetings have added new determination to that that already existed. It was my pleasure while in the city of Minneapolis to have the privilege and the pleasure to officiate at the joint installation of the officers of the St. Paul and Minneapolis Auxiliaries; prior to and after which many lovely courtesies and kind considerations were bestowed. My most sincere and heart felt thanks to all the members in each of the cities which it was my good fortune to visit.

#### Zone Supervisors

All things considered the Zone Supervisors have done a splendid job in their respective zones. In discussing the possibility of personal visits on the part of the zone supervisors it was the opinion of the International Counsellor that the International Treasury was not at that time of sufficient size to safely underwrite the expense of such trips; therefore, owing to a desire to keep the organization on a sound financial basis it was thought best to wait until some method could be devised whereby neither the International nor the local auxiliaries would be drawn upon too heavily in an effort to finance these visits. It is hoped, however, that this Convention will enact legislation to supplement Resolution #10 that was adopted by the 1940 Convention and which was to the effect that the local auxiliaries sponsor entertainments to help defray the expense of such visits.

#### Reinstatements

The 1940 Convention concurred in a resolution to cancel all indebtedness of members who were unfinancial as of that date, such members were granted the privilege of either paying all arrears or paying the initiation fee or of re-joining as new members. This was done in the interest of building the auxiliary's membership. Since September, 1940, members becoming unfinancial were required to pay all arrears without being compelled to submit an application for reinstatement. In the absence of any specific provisions it was decided after consulting the International Counsellor that all such arrears need not be paid on one sum but could be paid in installments until the full amount was liquidated.

#### General Membership

Although the total membership of the Auxiliary is a fraction higher than that of two years ago, it is still far from being satisfactory. Records show that hundreds of new members have been acquired throughout the country since the 1940 Convention, but these have barely compensated for the members who have dropped out. So, that such a fluctuation represent a real problem in the stabilization of the Auxiliary, therefore, it is essential that this problem be met with greater resolution on the part of those who are interested in the development of the Ladies Auxiliary for never has there been a time when women were expected to contribute more toward the maintenance of a way of life than they are today. Men workers



by the millions are being supplanted by the women workers. Many whom, no doubt, will fail due to a lack of understanding to properly evaluate the true worth of labor organizations. Long years and great personal sacrifice were required to bring about the high standard of living now enjoyed by the American working classes. Whether these gains will be maintained or whether this bitter struggle will have to be fought all over again when finally these men return to their respective places of employment will depend largely upon the women who are taking their places. The Ladies Auxiliaries to the various labor organizations can play an historical part by selling and reselling the trade union movement to those of their sex who do not recognize the advantage as well as the vital necessity of maintaining powerful labor organizations.

#### General Financial Conditions

The report submitted by the International Secretary-Treasurer as of June, 30th of this year shows the finance of the International Treasury to be about twice that of a similar period ending June, 1940. This report indicates the sound financial status of the Auxiliary and argues well for its future success. However, the amount that was brought forward was much less than it should have been. For the circumstances surrounding the International Treasury are comparable to those surrounding the general membership in that neither represent a substantial gain. In this instance also the gain has barely covered the loss even though the dues are double what they were prior to January 1940. So, that keeping the membership intact is of the utmost importance and requires far greater effort than is being put forth by the officials and members in general and the membership committees in particular. If personal contacts are to be made in the local divisions by the International Officials and if the International Auxiliary is to identify itself with other organizations of a similar nature it is essential for the local divisions not only to maintain its present membership, but to greatly add to the same.

#### Deaths in the International Auxiliary Since 1940 Convention

Less than a year after the adjournment of the 1940 Convention the ranks of the International Official family was broken by the passing of the late Sister Venzie P. Witt, who was a faithful member of the International Executive Board. Sister Witt was fully aware of her condition even before she left her home to attend the Convention in New York City at which time the state of her health was of grave concern to her friends and co-workers. Her only response to the many solicitous inquires were, "I just had to come." This urge on the part of the late Sister Witt was not motivated so much because of the office she held, as much as it meant to her, but because to her the organization was a living, breathing organism around which was entwined all of the fine instincts and enviable attributes of which Sister Witt was so generously endowed. In the Board meeting as else where Sister Witt was wont to say "you may always count upon me to do whatever is best for the Organization" and such was her attitude throughout the many years of her unselfish and devoted service. It can truly be said of Sister Witt that in her passing the Auxiliary lost one of its most sincere and loyal members of whose genuineness there was never any doubt.



### Deaths in the Local Auxiliaries Since 1940 Convention

The first death in the local auxiliaries to be brought to the attention of the International President was that of Sister Jessie Parker who was the very efficient and capable secretary-treasurer of the Cincinnati Ladies Auxiliary. Sister Parker's death occurred a few weeks following her return from the New York Convention. Since that time, unfortunately, the various auxiliaries have been visited many times by the grim reaper much to our sorrow and deep regret. It is the desire of the International Auxiliary Order to pay a fitting tribute to the memory of these departed sisters before the adjournment of this Convention.

### Patriotic Stamps

Shortly after the outbreak of hostilities between this country and the treacherous Japanese empire there was a fervent desire on the part of all Americans to make a contribution befitting the needs and in keeping with the demands of their country. Following the outrageous and infamous attack of December 7th, individuals and organizations throughout the length and breadth of the country appeared to vie with one another in their desire to render every possible assistance to those charged with the responsibility of preserving the independence and the integrity of this continent. Out of this intense wave of patriotism was evolved the idea for the patriotic stamp which was finally submitted to the local auxiliaries, as being indicative of the Auxiliary's loyalty to its country and as evidence of the Auxiliary's recognition of the responsibility it felt for itself and its racial group.

Owing to the laxity with which far too many of the communications are usually disposed of by the local auxiliaries, the sale of the stamps was delayed several months thereby seriously hampering this very worthwhile undertaking. At present barely one half the number of stamps that were printed have been sold. It is realized that many thousands of these stamps could have been sold had they been offered to the general public but there were definite reasons why this was not done. The principle reason being that it was desired to make this stamp with its dramatic appeal represent the specific war effort of the Ladies Auxiliary and it is hoped the entire membership will support the International Auxiliary in this effort. With this in view each local auxiliary is being sincerely requested to get behind this stamp buying campaign and push it to a successful and laudable conclusion. For it is only by constantly and continually reminding America of its hypocritical position relative to this illusive thing called democracy that the Negro may hope for a square and fairer deal once the country has emerged from its present attempt to establish democracy strangely enough everywhere apparently, but in America. The International Auxiliary is indeed grateful to Sister Milbrey Sneed, Chairman of the Education Committee of the Chicago Ladies Auxiliary for this very splendid idea and would like at this time to express its deep appreciation to her for her untiring efforts in getting this stamp printed.

I should like in conclusion to say that there is conclusive evidence of a vast improvement in the auxiliaries, over that of two years ago. Such improvements need not necessarily apply to the financial or



numerical strength of the Auxiliary, but it can and does apply to the ever increasing, comprehension and enlightenment of the general membership. It may be said that a greater number of members appear to be thinking in terms of the general welfare of the Organization and in terms of the race as a whole than was evident prior to the reorganization in 1938. The nature and the scope of the program and the general acceptance of the highly important activities that are to be more fully developed by the Auxiliary are doing much to encourage constructive thought on the part of the members, so much so, that the element of "Self" that once loomed as so formidable a figure upon the horizon of Negro advancement is giving way and steadily receding in the face of a greater understanding and in view of a clearer concept of one individuals dependence upon another. The desire for public acclaim and the wish to bask in the more or less illusive and oftentime too, revealing the spotlight is being swept by the substance and the weight of common sense and by the force and intelligent thought and reasoning.

The elementary and basic teachings of the Brotherhood and its Ladies Auxiliary are preparing the Negro, both man and woman, for the important task that lie ahead. Both organizations may be said to be doing a magnificent and commendable job in that they are impressing upon this generation of Negroes its responsibility to and for the generations of Negroes yet to come. Happily we of today are learning that it is not enough that an entire generation of people should live and die without contributing something of a worthwhile nature to the next generation. The ideals and the principles being inculcated in the hearts and minds of the present day Negro are unquestionably preparing him to seek his rightful heritage as well as preparing him to meet with a challenge the maddening on-slaught of prejudice and segregation which long have robbed him of his birth right.

Women can and are playing an important part in this transformation and so long as Negro women continue to strive for the substance being careful to discard the glittering effervescence of the superfluous the race need have no fear for the future.

The key note of this and all similar meetings should be founded and grounded upon unity and solidarity of purpose. With but a single thought and an invincible determination to obtain and perpetuate that part of life which brings happiness and prosperity not alone to ones self or to those one likes best, but such a note ought to be founded upon the premise that such gatherings should be productive of and conducive to a better way of life. Wherein selfishness and the situations peculiar there to may find no place in which to lodge.

So, in the words of our great leader, I bid you; "Onward, Forward and Upward."

(applause)

- - -

The Chair called for the report of the Credential Committee.



# CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE REPORT

DELEGATE FREEMAN:

We, the Committee on Credentials herewith submit the following report:  
Your Committee on Credentials has examined the credentials of twenty-seven delegates representing thirty local divisions of the Auxiliaries and fifteen International Officials making a total of forty-five votes and we recommend that the following be seated:

Asheville Division	Leo Sheptall	1 vote
Atlanta Division	Gertrude Ross	1 vote
Baltimore Division	*Rosina C. Tucker	1 vote
Boston Division	Emetullah Oglesby	1 vote
Buffalo Division	Dorothy Garrett	1 vote
Chicago Division	Mable Bryant Agnes Thornton	2 votes
Cincinnati Division	Pauline Clark	1 vote
Cleveland Division	Bertha Williams	1 vote
Dallas Division	Olivia Rawlston	1 vote
Denver Division	Nannie Wells	1 vote
Detroit Division	Ida P. Whitaker	1 vote
Fort Worth Division	*Rosina C. Tucker	1 vote
Houston Division	Bessie King	1 vote
Indianapolis Division	Sara Allen	1 vote
Jacksonville Division	Julia Burwell	1 vote
Jersey City Division	Nora Fant	1 vote
Los Angeles Division	Emily Johnson	1 vote
Louisville Division	Cora Chatman	1 vote
Memphis Division	Bessie Patton	1 vote
Minneapolis Division	Mattie Owens	1 vote



Missouri Division	Bertha Rector	(alternate)
Nashville Division	Davie Della Phillips	1 vote
New Orleans Division	Birtreszer Garrain	1 vote
New York Division	Jennie Toogood	1 vote
Oakland Division	Ardella Nutall	1 vote
Omaha Division	Selma Clark	1 vote
Philadelphia Division	Libby Love	1 vote
Pittsburgh Division	Florence Ball Jones	1 vote
Portland Division	Minnie Mae Smith	1 vote
Salt Lake City Division	Nettie Gregory	1 vote
Seattle Division	*Letitia Murray	1 vote
Shreveport Division	Estella Wilson	1 vote
St. Louis Division	Lela Lee	1 vote
St. Louis Train Porters Local #5 Auxiliary	Josephine Freeman	1 vote
St. Paul Division	Ella Archer	1 vote
Tampa Division	Ola Gregory	1 vote
Toronto Division	*Halena Wilson	1 vote
Washington, D.C. Division	Elizabeth Craig	1 vote
*By Proxy	* * * * *	

#### APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES

The Chair appointed the following committees:

#### CONSTITUTION AND RESOLUTION COMMITTEE

Katherine Lassiter, Chairman	Mable Bryant
Rosie Taylor	Nannie Wells
Mae Dailey	Fannie Caviness
Mattie Owens	Letitia Murray
Julia Burwell	Rosina C. Tucker



COOPERATIVE AND CREDIT UNION COMMITTEE

Letitia Murray, Chairman	Davie Della Phillips
Florence Ball Jones	Estelle Wilson
Ella Archer	Sara Allen
Ola Gregory	Minnie Smith
Nettie Gregory	Bertha Williams
Cora Chatman	

ORGANIZATION AND PROPAGANDA COMMITTEE

Mae Dailey, Chairman	Ella Johnson
Dorothy Garrett	Jennie Toogood
Olivia Rawlston	Emily Johnson
Birtreaszer Garrain	Carnie White
Bessie King	Libby Love
Pauline Clark	Selma Clark
Gertrude Ross	Leo Sheptall

WORKERS' EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Fannie Caviness, Chairman	Agnes Thornton
Anna Wilson	Elizabeth Craig
Carrie McWatt	Nora Fant
Bessie Patton	Marion Sappington
Ardella Nutall	Emstullah Oglesby

COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ORDER OF BUSINESS

Marion Sappington, Chairman	Nannie Wells
Davie Della Phillips	Nettie Gregory
Corrine Watts	



FINANCE COMMITTEE

Lela Lee, Chairman

Rosina C. Tucker

Halena Wilson

AUDITING COMMITTEE

Agnes Thornton, Chairman

Julia Burwell

Jennie Toogood

PUBLICITY COMMITTEE

Mae Dailey, Chairman

Nannie Curby

Lela Lee

CREDENTIAL COMMITTEE

Josephine Freeman, Chairman

Ida P. Whitaker

Bertha Rector

\* \* \*

President Wilson introduced to the Convention,  
Brother O. A. Jackson of St. Louis, Missouri.

BROTHER JACKSON:

It is a pleasure to be in your midst and to see how far you ladies have come to listen so intently to your president's message. I belong to 37 organizations and have listened to a lot of things coming from the platform, but I feel that your president's speech is one of the finest I have ever heard. I have ~~with~~ the Auxiliary grow and I, myself am an honorary member of the Brotherhood, being a Brotherhood member for six weeks when it was in its early stages. It is a wise thing to think in terms of buying from race concerns or from those that hire the most race people. Of the 8,650 race men on the payroll of Standard Oil Company I hold one of the highest position of white or colored employed by Standard Oil. We are gaining and with such groups as this we, as a race will continue to gain.

\* \* \*

PRESIDENT WILSON:

We wish to thank Brother Jackson for his very timely remarks and wish him much success with the Standard Oil Company.



The First Session of the Convention was  
adjourned at 12:40 P.M. to reconvene at 2:00 P.M.

---



FIRST DAY - THURSDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

St. Louis, Missouri  
September 17th, 1942

President Wilson called the second session of the Convention to order at 2:10 P.M.

After group singing of "America", led by Delegate Rosina C. Tucker, the invocation was given by Delegate Ella McBride of Denver.

The Chair called for a further report from the Credential Committee.

DELEGATE JOSEPHINE FREEMAN:

We, the Committee on Credential herewith submit the following partial report: The following International Officials having proxy certificates will vote as follows: Delegate Rosina C. Tucker - proxy for the Baltimore and Fort Worth Auxiliaries - 3 votes. Delegate Letitia Murray - proxy for the Seattle Auxiliary - 2 votes. Delegate Halena Wilson - proxy for Toronto - 2 votes. The Committee has a report of 35 delegates present, 4 proxies and 15 International Officers which makes a total of 54 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 called for a report of the Committee on Rules and Order of Business.

DELEGATE MARION SAPPINGTON:

Madam President, Officers and Members of the International Auxiliary Order, we, your committee on Rules and Order of Business, beg leave to submit the following report:

1. The International President shall preside at all sessions of the Convention.



2. Daily sessions of the Convention shall be held at nearly as practicable as follows: From 10:00 A.M. to 12:30 P.M. and from 1:30 P.M. to 5:30 P.M.
3. The roll shall be called at the opening of every session unless omitted by general consent.
4. No member shall speak on any question and then move the previous question before surrendering the floor.
5. No member shall speak longer than three minutes at any one time except by general consent.
6. There is to be no interruption of the agenda without the consent of the Convention.
7. This Second Biennial Convention of the Ladies' Auxiliary to the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters shall be governed in parliamentary procedure by Roberts Rules of Order, Revised, except as provided in the preceding rules.
8. All delegates of the Convention to be seated within a given radius.

The report of the Committee on Rules and Order of Business was adopted by the Convention.

President Wilson introduced to the Convention, Mrs. Mary E. Ryder, President of the St. Louis Women's Trade Union League.

MRS. MARY E. RYDER: It is indeed a pleasure and a privilege to be here this afternoon because I have long anticipated meeting with your group after having corresponded with your president and also receiving such excellent reports from the Women's Trade Union League in Chicago of your activities.

The Women's Trade Union League has long occupied its place in the business world and is about to celebrate its 39th birthday and has become a distinguished group of women who can point with pride to the fact that such outstanding people as Mrs. Roosevelt, Mary Norton, Fannie Hurst, Raymond Robbins and Mary Drier, are members of the Women's Trade Union League. These outstanding people are in accord with the League's endeavor to secure for the women of industry and for women in general, some of the legislative needs that we know must protect women in industry.



First, I want to talk to you a little about our place in the present chaotic state of the world. I know that you all believe in the United States. I believe that the United States is a country of the people, by the people and for the people, whose just powers are derived from the consent of the Government. It is a republic within a democracy, and a sovereign nation among many sovereign states for which American patriots have given their lives and their fortunes. Therefore, I believe it's my duty to love my country, to obey its laws, to support its Constitution and to defend it against all of its enemies, within or without.

I am glad I am an American, born in America. I know that you are fully conscious of the great privileges that we, as Americans, enjoy and we find ourselves in the position that we are actually going to have a national election, being able to speak out as people at a national election and in a serious war period, which many countries are denied during that time.

I know you have suffered and I know that as a people you have suffered more than an average group and I want you to know now that this discrimination is not confined to you. We see and find discrimination in defense industries right here because of union proclivities. We know how difficult it has been for women in the Trade Union movement and in industry in general to receive a just and equal pay for equal service. I know that women don't get equal pay for equal service. We have made efforts to protect women through legislation and we know we have to continuously fight to secure for women the things that are rightfully ours.

It is part of our patriotic duty to begin as mothers and if we are not mothers, we should begin to look at the problems of the mothers in our neighborhood where there is much to be done, much that we can do individually. There is much we can do to keep freedom, patriotism, unionism and we must ever keep before us the pledge of the Women's Trade Union League:

"By the blood that stained the snow at Valley Forge and that crimsoned all seas, lakes, and our mountains and valleys;  
By those voices that cried out -- "Give me liberty or give me death."  
And by those immortal documents upon which the history of this government was founded, and by the graves of the heroes and heroines  
Of this country who gave their lives in order that we might enjoy freedom---

I hereby pledge myself that I will, within my life and with my life,  
Defend this country and in order that we may earn from those who have gone before us, the same gratitude and honor that will be theirs who have gone on before us."

\* \* \*



PRESIDENT WILSON:

We are happy to have Mrs. Ryder appear as our guest speaker and we thank her for the very splendid message she has brought to us in the spirit of understanding and in the name of the Trade Union Movement and we hope to bring her back to our members for I feel sure she has given us a clearer insight of the trade union movement. We have the very good fortune to know Miss Agnes Nestor who has cooperated so loyally with the auxiliary in Chicago and with the Brotherhood also, therefore, it is indeed a pleasure to have met Mrs. Ryder and to know of her work with the St. Louis Women's Trade Union League. We are happy to receive such an inspiring message.

\* \* \*

President Wilson requested that all communications received to be read. Delegate Rosina C. Tucker read these communications.

MRS. HELENA WILSON  
INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT  
LADIES AUXILIARY to the  
BROTHERHOOD OF SLEEPING CAR PORTERS  
11 JEFFERSON STREET  
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

BEST WISHES FOR A SUCCESSFUL CONVENTION

GEORGIA BOONE, PRESIDENT  
JERSEY CITY LADIES AUXILIARY BSCP

\* \* \*

MRS. LETITIA MURRAY  
4TH INTERNATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT  
LADIES AUXILIARY B.S.C.P.  
11 NORTH JEFFERSON STREET  
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

MAY YOUR CONVENTION BE PERFECT SUCCESS AND YOUR PROGRAM  
A HISTORIC ACHIEVEMENT IN PROOF OF THE SUSCEPTIBILITY  
OF OUR WOMEN TO BEAR THEIR RESPONSIBILITY IN THE MOST  
SERIOUS NATIONAL EMERGENCY.

R. J. MURRAY

\* \* \*



MRS. MAE DAILEY  
2ND INTERNATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT  
LADIES AUXILIARY B.S.C.P.  
YWCA BEAUMONT AND LOCUST  
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

ON BEHALF OF THE LADIES AUXILIARY TO THE TRAIN PORTERS  
LOCAL OF THE BROTHERHOOD OF SLEEPING CAR PORTERS I  
EXTEND TO YOUR OFFICERS AND DELEGATES ATTENDING THE  
BIENNIAL CONVENTION OF THE LADIES AUXILIARY TO THE  
BROTHERHOOD OF SLEEPING CAR PORTERS OUR GREETING AND  
WISHES FOR A MOST SUCCESSFUL CONVENTION.

TRAIN PORTERS LOCAL

\* \* \*

MRS. HALENA WILSON  
INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT  
LADIES AUXILIARY B.S.C.P.  
11 NORTH JEFFERSON STREET  
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

GREETINGS AND BEST WISHES FOR A MOST SUCCESSFUL AND  
CONSTRUCTIVE CONVENTION. HOPE ALL OF YOU WILL HAVE  
A WONDERFUL TIME.

FRATERNALLY YOURS,

H. L. ARMSTRONG, PRESIDENT  
LOS ANGELES DIVISION  
BROTHERHOOD OF SLEEPING CAR PORTERS

\* \* \*

MRS. HALENA WILSON  
INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT  
LADIES AUXILIARY B.S.C.P.  
11 NORTH JEFFERSON STREET  
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

GREETINGS:

THE RANDOLPH PINK TEA CLUB YOUTH MOVEMENT OF THE DENVER



DIVISION LADIES AUXILIARY TO THE BROTHERHOOD OF SLEEPING  
CAR PORTERS SEND GREETINGS TO THE INTERNATIONAL OFFICERS  
AND DELEGATES TO THE SECOND BIENNIAL CONVENTION OF THE  
LADIES AUXILIARY TO THE BROTHERHOOD OF SLEEPING CAR  
PORTERS AND WISH YOUR MEETING MUCH SUCCESS IN A TIME  
WHEN THE WORLD IS AT AN UNREST AND THE YOUTH IS THROWN  
OUT ON HIS RESOURCES. WE ARE SENDING \$2.00 TO HELP IN  
THIS GREAT MOVEMENT.

FRATERNALLY YOURS,

TOMMIE SINE ALBRIGHT, PRESIDENT

\* \* \*

MRS. HELENA WILSON  
INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT  
LADIES AUXILIARY TO THE  
BROTHERHOOD OF SLEEPING CAR PORTERS  
TRAIN, CHAIR CAR, COACH PORTERS AND ATTENDANTS  
c/o PHYLLIS WHEATLEY, Y.W.C.A.  
2709 LOCUST STREET  
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

DEAR MRS. WILSON:

ON BEHALF OF THE WOMEN'S TRADE UNION LEAGUE OF  
CHICAGO, I WISH TO SEND GREETINGS TO YOUR AUXILIARY  
MEETING IN CONVENTION IN ST. LOUIS.

MANY CHANGES HAVE TAKEN PLACE SINCE YOUR LAST  
CONVENTION AND YOU WILL HAVE MANY PROBLEMS GROWING  
OUT OF THE WAR THAT WILL CONFRONT YOU AT THIS TIME.  
I AM SURE ALL YOUR OTHER ORGANIZATIONS WILL BE ABLE  
TO REPORT ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN THE WAR EFFORT AS  
YOUR CHICAGO AUXILIARY WILL WHICH HAS BEEN WORKING SO  
CLOSELY WITH US.



I TRUST THAT YOUR CONVENTION WILL BE SUCCESSFUL  
AND THAT IT WILL MARK GREAT PROGRESS IN YOUR ORGAN-  
IZATION.

WITH GREETINGS TO YOUR OFFICERS AND DELEGATES,  
I AM

FRATERNALLY YOURS,

AGNES NESTOR  
PRESIDENT

\* \* \*

It was moved and seconded that telegrams, letters and  
greetings, become the property of the International Auxiliary Order  
and that they be answered.

\* \* \*

The President requested the various committees to re-  
tire to their respective meeting places and finish their work, pre-  
paratory to making their reports at the Third Session.

\* \* \*

President Wilson announced that at 12:00 Noon, Friday,  
September 18th, 1942, pictures of the Auxiliary are to be taken.

\* \* \*

President Wilson declared the meeting adjourned until  
Friday, September 18, 1942, at 10:00 o'clock A.M.

\* \* \*



SECOND DAY - FRIDAY MORNING SESSION

St. Louis, Missouri  
September 18th, 1942

The Convention was called to order at 10:35 A.M.  
o'clock by President Wilson.

Group singing of "America", led by Sister Rosina  
C. Tucker.

INVOCATION

Delegate Ella McBride, of Denver, Colorado, led  
the Convention in prayer.

Roll was called.

The Chair called for a further report from the  
Credential Committee.

DELEGATE JOSEPHINE FREEMAN: As Chairman of the Credential  
Committee, we beg to report that  
we have received no further cre-  
dential and that the committee  
has a record of thirty-eight divisions, thirty-nine votes and  
fifteen International Officers which makes a total of fifty-four.

The report of the Credential Committee was adopted  
by the Convention.

President Wilson called for Zone reports.

Zone report of Delegate Mae Dailey,  
2nd International Vice President and Supervisor of the Southwestern  
Zone.

DELEGATE DAILEY: Madam President, Officers, Members of  
the International Ladies Auxiliary  
Order, Visitors and friends. I bring  
you greetings from the Southwest  
Zone. It is with a feeling of deep appreciation that I submit the  
following report. I wish to express my sincere thanks to all for  
your splendid cooperation. The Southwest Zone in the past two years  
has made steady progress through earnest toil, true labor, undivided  
determination to promote the original ideals of this great organization.  
Such cooperation serves as a stimulant to make possible a better auxi-



liary, which is needed in a time of crises.

I believe the constituents of this organization do fully realize the necessity of women playing their part as militant leaders to secure economic advancement.

In every crises in the era of civilization women have shared the responsibility to the extent that they have been and are willing to become martyrs for a great cause and we the women of the Southwest Zone take this method of letting the International Auxiliary Order know that we are no less willing to do the same for the labor movement.

I am happy to report two new auxiliaries have been organized in my zone, one reorganized on December 3rd, 1941. I organized the first Train Porters Auxiliary in the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, Train, Chair Car, Coach Porters. Jointly I organized a First Aid class of the American Red Cross of members of Train Porters Auxiliary Local #5 and Ladies Auxiliary to the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, one of our members was the instructor to complete the class and presented the certificates. I have purchased from 10 to 20 soldier stamps from each auxiliary in my zone to help dispose of their quota. I have contacted the Chattanooga, Tennessee division Brotherhood in an effort to organize an auxiliary there.

In my zone there are eight auxiliaries. I am submitting a report of seven during this past two year period, doing an excellent job. They are as follows: New Orleans, La., Shreveport, La., Memphis, Tenn., Nashville, Tenn., Little Rock., Ark., Train Porters Auxiliary to Local #5, St. Louis, Mo., St. Louis Ladies Auxiliary Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters.

The New Orleans division Ladies Auxiliary under the militant leadership of Sister S. D. Lester and, Sister B. Garraim who represents that auxiliary here today as delegate is making wonderful progress. They have worked in harmony in enlarging the auxiliary. Their first effort after the 1st Biennial Convention in New York two years ago was a membership drive to reinstate delinquent and encourage new members to come into the organization. This met with quite a bit of success. The auxiliary has a very full educational program, the following topics have been thoroughly studied and discussed: Man Labor, Woman Labor, Child Labor, Cooperative Education, How to Buy, When to Buy, Where to Buy, and Consumer Movement. Annual affairs are given as a means to replenish the treasury. Contributions to the following were made, the Soldier Stamp, Bethune-Cookman College and March On Washington Committee. I have received cooperation to the fullest extent from this group, for which I am deeply grateful.

The Shreveport Auxiliary is moving along very nicely making rapid progress. The president is Sister Estelle Wilson, a very fine leader who is representing that division here as delegate. They have a total membership of 22, a fast growing treasury and making a splendid contribution, cooperating with the auxiliary's program 100%.



The St. Louis division Ladies Auxiliary is doing a very fine work. We paid our indebtedness to the International Ladies Auxiliary Order. We have made contributions to the following in the past two years--March On Washington Committee, Y.W.C.A., Bethune-Cookman College, U.S.O. Center, U.S. Army. We have given annual affairs to replenish the treasury, we have a fast growing membership with a total of 84 members financial. In March, 1941, Sister Wilson visited the St. Louis Auxiliary encouraging and inspiring the group. Mrs. Lee is president. On December 3, 1941, I organized the first Train Porters Auxiliary in the Brotherhood. This organization is making rapid progress under the careful guidance of Sister Josephine Freeman who represents the group here today as its delegate. They are intensely interested in making their contribution for economic freedom. The officers of this auxiliary include several cities. Once a month they make this trip of several hundred miles to hold meetings and making contacts, all over the Missouri Pacific system. Six months after they were organized, they purchased their charter, paid this convention tax, made a full report for ten dollars worth of soldier stamps, all of this was accomplished by personal contributions. Today they have 16 members on the roster and cooperating to the fullest extent.

Memphis division Ladies Auxiliary was reorganized July 24, 1941. I made the trip there in October to install the officers. That visit was both pleasant and profitable. Many new members were added to the roster, a lot of enthusiasm created. The Memphis division Auxiliary is one of the finest in the Southwest Zone working in perfect harmony with the Brotherhood under the splendid leadership of Sister Bessie Patton who is representing that group as its delegate here today.

Little Rock division Ladies Auxiliary. It is regrettable at this time to report is not functioning in perfect harmony with the International Ladies Auxiliary Order. I have made three trips there since the convention in New York two years ago. As you know the International Zone Supervisors do not have the privilege to visit the auxiliaries in their zone only through their personal interest and defray their own expenses. There are six members paid up to date.

Last, but by no means, least, the newly organized Nashville, Tennessee division is making a splendid contribution to the International Ladies Auxiliary Order under the dynamic leadership of Sister Davie D. Phillips who is the delegate from there. This auxiliary is definitely making progress. There are 23 financial members, a full educational program including a wide study of the Consumers Movement which had its good effects on the entire membership. Contributions were made to the following organizations: Y.W.C.A., Bethune-Cookman College, N.A.A.C.P., The interest and loyalty which makes the closest cooperation possible in this organization is indeed gratifying. Annual affairs are sponsored as a ways and means to replenish the treasury. One of the most interesting membership drives was conducted in this auxiliary. I wish to express my sincere thanks to this auxiliary for the wonderful cooperation.



In closing, may I say it has been a pleasure to work with you in the Southwest Zone. All of the contacts have been pleasant and profitable. Thank you one and all, for your attention.

The report of Delegate Mae Dailey was adopted by the Convention.

President Wilson called for a report from Delegate Fannie Caviness, Supervisor of the lower part of the Southern Zone.

Third International Vice President, Fannie J. Caviness, Zone Supervisor of the Southern Zone reported as follows.

DELEGATE CAVINESS:

Madam Chairman, International Officers, Delegates and Visiting Friends, again I say it is a pleasure to be here and to bring you greetings from the Lone

Star State, Texas.

At this time I will submit the following report. Since our last Convention in New York, we have had many changes but today we are thankful and blessed to be here in a land where there is so much freedom.

The Texas Zone is doing nicely and we have one instated auxiliary by Brother McNeal and they are doing nicely.

I have five auxiliaries, some of them have added new members and some have not. I have instructed them to keep up the membership drive as so many men have been hired during this war time. We have also tried to get our education program going but I find that some of the ladies don't want to study so I want to suggest that our International President might suggest to the Zone Supervisors something that might help to instill interest in the auxiliaries. This is a time in which we should study for our own advantage. The government is offering all type of jobs for men and women so it is going to be, whosoever will, let him come, but we can not expect to do the job unless we are trained. It is up to our organization, we will have to be trained if we expect to be leaders.

Again I say I am glad to be present and I hope for this assembly a great time and I want to thank the Presidents and Secretary-Treasurers in the Texas Zone for their cooperation and hope for all a prosperous year and to our International President and International Secretary-Treasurer, I have enjoyed the correspondence with you and I hope that such persons as you will be a great inspiration to all the Delegates and that we will go home with a double determination.

This report was adopted by the Convention.



President Wilson then called for a report of the Pacific Coast Zone.

Fourth International Vice President, Letitia Murray, Supervisor of the Pacific Coast Zone made the following report.

DELEGATE MURRAY:

Madam President, International Officers, Delegates, Members and Friends:

As your 4th International Vice President and Supervisor of the Pacific Coast Zone, I bring greetings from the Golden West and submit the following report to the Second Biennial Convention of the Ladies' Auxiliary to the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters for the period beginning September, 1940 and ending September, 1942.

During a time when every American is touched by this devastating war the work on the West Coast, though compelled to make some adjustment and add new war work activities, has continued. We are guiding ourselves to carry on and we are striving to do our bit in making more real and more alive the democratic way of life.

Spokane Division - Sisters Metta Johnson, President; Sudora Walker, Secretary-Treasurer. From their last report, ten members were enrolled. The division is small. There is not much room for expansion. Their correspondence was regular until the 1st of this year. Since this time I have written on numerous occasions, but received no response. Recently information was received that the June election was in progress and that the incapacitation of the secretary-treasurer was the reason for failure to answer correspondence.

Seattle Division - Sister Amanda Riley was president from June, 1940 to June, 1941. Not having become adjusted to holding elections biennially instead of annually, an election was held in June, 1941. Sister Julia Jones held the chair one year. Sister Jessie Walker was secretary-treasurer. Black-outs interrupted meetings during early part of 1942. Regular meetings were resumed. Thirty-one regular and five call meetings have been held. Their meetings are held on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month in the homes of various members. The attendance has been good. Several members have perfect records of attendance. Their present active membership is 13. There were two resignations. Seven benefit affairs and four social affairs have been given. Among the social affairs was a banquet for Brother Randolph and an informal evening for Brother Dellums. A tea honoring Brother Randolph's birthday and a Christmas party for the brothers. The members are participating in various phases of war work: knitting and sewing for the Red Cross, Canteen work, Air Raid Wardens, Instructors in nursery schools, Nutrition classes and defense measures. The entire membership has taken at least one of the 1st Aid courses. Each member has purchased at least one war bond. Much interest has been manifested in the Consumer Cooperative Program.



Have had speakers on this subject. Subscribed to Consumer Guide. Sister Jessie Walker, secretary-treasurer, was elected delegate to this convention. Owing to the death of her father, she was unable to attend. As their supervisor, I was requested to act as proxy for the delegate of Seattle Division.

Portland Division - Sisters Minnie Mae Smith, President and, Elizabeth Collins, secretary-treasurer. Much of my correspondence has been unanswered. However, recently I received a grand report from them which proves that they have been working hard and are on the alert. In which they pledge greater support in the future. They have almost 100% First Aid Class attendance. In the war emergency they have pledged themselves wherever needed. Some are working as Air Raid Wardens, some sewing and knitting for the Red Cross, etc. The Consumer Cooperative Program has not been given much attention. There has been one resignation and one death. The Portland Division is very outstanding in that the 38 members enrolled are 100% paid up in their dues and all obligations and have a substantial bank account to their credit. Sister Minnie Smith, re-elected president, is delegate to the convention.

Oakland Division - Sister Ardella Nutall, president. Sister Dorothy G. Williams, who resigned in September, 1941, was elected secretary-treasurer. Sister Elizabeth Young was appointed to fill the unexpired term. They have 42 active members, 2 deaths and no transfers. Their activities have been: two testimonial dinners, sponsored two U.S.O. programs, an annual tea party, a membership drive banquet, a contribution was made to the Hospitality House; they have had speakers from the O.C.D. and Red Cross. They have sponsored two classes in home nursing, a few classes in Consumer Education. They were honored by a visit from Brother Randolph. Sister Nutall, re-elected president, is delegate to this convention. Mrs. Georgia Ann Thompson and Mrs. Wilson are visitors from the Oakland Division at this convention.

Salt Lake City Division - Sister Minnie Turrentine, president and, Dionysus Warren, secretary-treasurer. Fifteen members are enrolled several of whom were added this year. There were no deaths. No resignations and no transfers. They have sponsored one social--- each was required to bring a guest; two educational programs; an annual dance on July 4th, 1941 and 1942. They were also honored by a visit from Brother Randolph. They have sponsored a class in First Aid and have done Red Cross work in the form of sewing, etc. No time has been given to Consumer Cooperatives. They answer all correspondence readily. Sister Nettie Gregory, present president is delegate to the convention

Los Angeles Division - Sister Letitia Murray is president and Sister Emily Johnson, secretary-treasurer. Seventy-three members enrolled of which 42 are financial. The most outstanding increase in membership at any given time was the National Membership Drive. It began October, 1940 and closed April, 1941, honoring Brother Randolph's birthday. 21 new members were enrolled. Through the Sunshine Committee aid has been given the needy, good cheer to those who were ill and con-



solation to the bereaved. Through the program committee, informative speeches and discussions on Consumer Cooperatives have been held. Mr. Harry Mercer of the States Cooperative Movement gave us a very instructive lecture. One night each month is devoted to an educational program and socializing. There has been eighteen educational programs. Two of our most outstanding speakers for the occasions were Mr. William Nickerson of Golden State Insurance Company and Mr. Darby of the N.Y.A.

On his quarterly visit, Brother Dellums, 4th International Vice President and Pacific Coast Zone Supervisor of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters spent one evening with the Ladies Auxiliary acquainting us with the welfare and progress of the Brotherhood. Benefit affairs in the form of teas, bridge tournaments, breakfasts, etc. have been given by the Entertainment Committee, enlarging the treasury to the extent that all obligations locally and internationally have been met successfully. The kitchen has been equipped by this committee. A banquet was given Christmas, 1941, honoring our husbands and families. The Publicity chairman has kept the local public and the Black Worker informed of activities of the auxiliary. Contributions have been made to the Building Fund of the Y.W.C.A., to the U.S.O. and to the Cookman-Bethune College. Telegrams were sent to the President of the United States and to Governor Darden of Virginia on behalf of Odell Waller, the share cropper. A telegram was sent to President Roosevelt protesting the submerging of the Fair Employment Practice Committee into the Manpower Commission and requesting its restoration to its former status. We were among the first to buy Patriotic Stamps and have just received our second order. We were honored on two occasions by visits by Brother Randolph. In October, 1941 and August 1942. We felt highly honored and deeply appreciative to have Brother Randolph, who is our International Counsellor, install the officers for 1942-44. The possibility and the fear of black outs and air raids, just after the Pearl Harbor attack, somewhat disrupted the even routine of our meetings. Meetings were changed temporarily from second and fourth Monday evenings to day meetings, however, our regular meeting time has been resumed. A war work committee has been appointed. The auxiliary sponsored a class in First Aid. Dr. J. H. McRiley was the instructor furnished by the Red Cross. There has been one resignation, two deaths and we have received one transfer from the Chicago Division. Sister Emily Johnson is delegate to the convention. Sisters Arie Walker, the present secretary-treasurer and Aurelia Bell are visitors from the Los Angeles Division.

In the Convention, 1940, I was proxy for four of the Pacific Coast Zone Divisions; Spokane, Seattle, Salt Lake City, and Los Angeles. This year, I am proud to report that each of these divisions with exception of Spokane have delegates elected from their own auxiliary. Sister Jessie Walker, delegate from Seattle is absent because of her recent bereavement. 210 members have been enrolled in Pacific Coast Zone during 1940-42. My contacts has been through correspondence. I have written 109 letters to the divisions, the International Office and others on behalf of the organization. The work accomplished in these conventions has given us a more profound appreciation for the purpose of the Ladies Auxiliary and the achievements of the Brotherhood will ever be a beacon light guiding us to greater accomplishments.



The report coming from Delegate Murray was adopted by the Convention.

President Wilson called for a report of the Eastern Zone.

DELEGATE LASSITER:

Madam President, International Officers and co-workers, I am very happy and proud to be with you today and I bring you greetings from New York and all the auxiliaries in my zone. I am happy and proud to be in St. Louis when the world is in such a dreadful state of affairs. I am proud to know that we have in our meetings such outstanding ladies as Sisters Lee, Mae Dailey, Curby and all of these fine ladies in St. Louis and that I have had a yearning to come here and visit these ladies who have received us so graciously that I am going to see if I can prolong my stay here after the Convention. I want to thank you for the marvelous things you have done and are doing to help make our stay here so pleasant, and I shall tell the ladies in New York of the grand time we are having.

The New York Ladies Auxiliary is very sorry to inform the Convention that it didn't get rid of as many stamps as it desired because at that particular time the auxiliary had several hundred tickets to dispose of for the Mass Meeting sponsored by the March On Washington Committee. Also, there was a contest among the whites and Negroes in raising money for bonds. We have also worked hard with the U.S.O.

Albany Auxiliary - The group there has been most active for the past year. I made a trip there in June. The members claimed Mrs. Williams, the president, has not been in accord with them and found fault with everything they tried to put over. They became so discouraged their interest was curtailed. Mrs. Williams stated that my visit was a life-saver, however, she did not tender her resignation because she was so inspired by my visit and stated she would continue as president.

Ashville Auxiliary - The group there has made some changes in their official staff. I do not know the name of the newly elected president, however, they are well in tact and have a membership of thirteen.

Alabama Auxiliary - The last communication from there was in July, 1942, they had just added four new members; two reinstated making a total of twenty-three members.

Boston Auxiliary - The group there is doing fine. They have been doing good work. One of their members is on the Executive Board of the Women's Trade Union League. Each year they have sent a child to camp for four weeks. They had quite an elaborate affair in March which netted them a large sum of money.

Jacksonville Auxiliary - The group there under the leadership of Mrs. Burdine reports excellent work. They have a membership of thirty-five.



Tampa Auxiliary - They are moving along rapidly. They also have a nice membership.

Jersey City Auxiliary - The group there under the leadership of Mrs. Boone reports success.

Baltimore Auxiliary - They have a very fine auxiliary there. One hundred per cent cooperative.

Washington Auxiliary - The last communication from there was in July, 1942. A very wonderful job they are doing.

I have received no communications from Buffalo, Birmingham, Philadelphia, Montgomery and Richmond Auxiliaries.

Brothers McLaurin and Randolph have visited several of the auxiliaries and have returned with good reports.

After some discussion, Mrs. Lassiter's report was explained and adopted with the necessary correction.

Sister Caviness took the Chair while the President made her report, who is Supervisor of the Middle West Zone.

PRESIDENT WILSON:

I have only recently received communications from each of the locals in the Middle West Zone and will give a brief resume of what the auxiliaries are doing, how they are responding to the Educational Program; what the membership is; the total registered as financial and the number of un-financial members in the zone. I also have the amounts paid by each local throughout the two year period to the International Treasury; also the amounts left on hand since sending the delegates to the Convention; all things considered it may safely be said that the Middle West Zone is in a fairly sound and a fairly good financial condition and responding quite well.

There are at present about 646 members in the Middle West Zone, however, only about 425 financial at the present time with nine deceased members in the two year period. I wish to state here that it is rather difficult for the Canadian local to send in its remittances, therefore, the Toronto Auxiliary has been exempted for the duration of War from making financial reports. The Toronto Auxiliary has requested that I act as its proxy.

I had the pleasure of a visit with the Louisville Auxiliary in June and had a splendid session with that auxiliary and found the group wasn't as far advanced as they would like to be but that they have an excellent president, with a splendid spirit and showing a great desire to learn more about the work and it is felt that the visit there will do much to develop a finer organization spirit on the part of all.



Communications have been received from Cleveland and I want to say that there had been a rapid development there. A few months back the membership was quite small and the members not quite so regular in their attendance, but there has been an increase in both and I trust they will continue to improve. The bank balance there is rather gratifying also.

Splendid reports come from Pittsburgh, but not so regular as they should but with the splendid leadership of Sister Sappington the division has increased its membership. There are forty-eight members at the present time and that is quite an improvement over that of several months ago.

The Indianapolis Auxiliary is our baby. It was organized not quite a year ago and I have had the pleasure of visiting there, and talking with the President, instructing members in the work, and left the auxiliary much straightened out as a result of the personal contact. The auxiliary has taken care of its financial obligations, has obtained its charter, patriotic stamps, paid taxes to the convention and has done unusually well in so short a time. I might add also, that this auxiliary was organized entirely through correspondence.

I have had a report from Cincinnati and they too, are doing well. I have not been able to keep contact there, but since I have had the pleasure of meeting the President, I am sure she will do all she can to keep that group together. They have a nice balance on hand also.

I visited Detroit on my way home from the New York Convention, I did find the zone a bit rough in spots. The president became ill and was forced to resign and there was a bit of trouble getting reorganized but according to reports everything is going along nicely. Detroit has been one of the most punctual locals in my entire zone. Sister Whitaker just will send in her reports even if she has nothing to say than "no meeting" so you can see the fine spirit there. We are very proud of Detroit because the officials have cooperated to the very utmost.

Omaha always sends in splendid reports, however, not as often as the law requires. The membership consists of thirty-eight. The division is doing good work and has been I believe since 1925. The secretary-treasurer reports an excellent amount on hand. The auxiliary displays a fine organization spirit.

Oklahoma City was organized a short time ago. I visited there as you know from my report. There has been quite difficult there but the division has a most dynamic president who is very much grieved because she does not get the response that she should. She wrote me recently that she probably would resign. I wrote back that "a good captain never deserts his ship" and I hear now that there is quite an improvement there.

Denver is my birth place and naturally I have a soft spot for that auxiliary, but there is a very excellent group there and



the auxiliary has done well under the leadership of Sister Wells. The membership has grown considerably during the past few years. The auxiliary purchased an hundred dollar war bond and inquired afterward if it was alright to have done so. The local has a nice bank balance on hand with all financial obligations being discharged.

Minneapolis and St. Paul have an excellent treasury and a growing membership. These two divisions are among the finest that the Brotherhood or the auxiliary has any place. The morale is high and the spirit unexcelled.

I visited Kansas City a year ago and assisted in the consolidation of the two Kansas divisions. They have a nice sum in their treasury also. The auxiliary sponsored a raffle not long ago and realized \$100.00 .

Reporting on Chicago, I should like to say that we have a wonderful group and a fine Educational Program that is developing very rapidly. The auxiliary has a Consumer Study group recently organized and the members being instructed in bookkeeping with a view toward entering into a Consumer Buying Club in the near future. Inasmuch as the Chicago Auxiliary is my own auxiliary I feel a bit hesitant to say many of the fine things that might be said about it. It is generally known that the Chicago Auxiliary is the largest in the organization, that it is one of the oldest auxiliaries whose work has spoken for it throughout the years of its existence.

In closing, if I have overlooked any of the locals in the Middle West Zone I shall greatly appreciate it if you will call the same to my attention.

The report coming from President Wilson, Zone Supervisor of the Middle West was adopted by the Convention.

PRESIDENT WILSON: At this time we will have the report of the International Secretary-Treasurer, Sister Rosina C. Tucker.

#### FINANCIAL STATEMENT

DELEGATE ROSINA C.  
TUCKER:

Madam President, delegates, members and friends, I submit the following report:

Total Enrollment - August 1942.....	1,502
Total Income from September 1940	
through August 1942.....	\$3,742.83
Expenditures from September 1940	
through August 1942.....	\$2,866.40



Assessments for 1942.....	\$ 403 50	
Patriotic Stamps.....	364 25	
Balance in Bank, Sept. 9, 1942.....		2,687 28

The report of the International Secretary-Treasurer was adopted by the Convention and accepted with the necessary corrections and placed into the hands of the Auditing Committee.

PRESIDENT WILSON:

I would suggest that the members who have a grievance to see the International Secretary-Treasurer at the close of this meeting.

Delegate Tucker read a greeting from Baltimore containing a donation of ten dollars to the Convention. It was moved and seconded that the communication and donation be turned over to the Auxiliary.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 o'clock P.M.

\* \* \*



SECOND DAY -- FRIDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

St. Louis, Missouri  
September 18th, 1942

The Convention was called to order at 2:05 P.M.  
by President Wilson.

The group was led in singing "God Bless America"  
by Sister Rosina C. Tucker.

Delegate Ella McBride of Denver, Colorado led the  
Convention in prayer.

Roll was called with few delegates missing.

The Chair was relinquished by President Wilson to  
the Chairman of the Consumer Program, Delegate Katherine Lassiter.

DELEGATE LASSITER:

It is a pleasure to relieve the President  
because she has a huge task with the work  
of the Convention.

This afternoon we have with us Miss  
Frances Williams, Consumer Program  
Advisor for the National Office of Price  
Administration who will talk to us about  
the Consumer Movement.

MISS FRANCES WILLIAMS:

Speaking as an individual I should like  
to say that I have greatly enjoyed your  
Proceedings. I listen very attentively  
to the presentation made by your President  
and I want you to know that I consider it as able a presentation as I  
have heard and I was greatly impressed with the report coming from the  
Credential Committee also, the manner in which it was made. Usually the  
work of the Credential Committee in most organizations is so poorly  
organized that several sessions are required to register and tabulate  
the various delegates, thereby causing much unnecessary confusion. You  
have the most powerful and most outstanding Negro organization in the  
country.



I think one of my greatest thrills was experienced at the huge demonstration recently held in the Madison Square Gardens in New York City under the direction of the March on Washington Movement of which your own A. Philip Randolph is the National Director. It was quite a remarkable sight when Mr. Randolph with a large escort of Pullman Porters marched down the center aisle of that huge building to take his seat upon the platform surrounded by an audience of more than twenty thousand people. Then too, I was impressed by the fact that the first rows of seats were set aside for the visitors. It was interesting to see the porters and the other persons connected with the Brotherhood take a back seat when, because of their position in the Brotherhood which is responsible for the March On Washington Movement, these people could have had any seat in the building or any place on the platform that they might have desired. I tell you, you have truly arrived when you can take a back seat when by right you do not have to do so.

I was greatly impressed with your International Secretary-Treasurer, Mrs. Rosina Tucker, who represented your President at a recent meeting held in Washington, D. C. under the auspices of the Consumer Division of the Office of Price Administration. She made a splendid appearance; she was neatly dressed and made a worth while contribution to the conference, by showing that she had listened and listened well to what had transpired in that meeting.

Speaking as a Government official I want to talk about how the Government was proposing to serve consumers of this country. The total war efforts are so much larger than anything ever attempted before, so much more complicated, that it just won't work well unless everyone comes to some kind of an understanding. The first form of Government was to establish law and order which required the service of the police or a sheriff and the next form of Government was that of an arbitrator but later the government was growing up and getting to be a large part of what the President called the government acting as a servant of the people. In time of war we can't all direct Armed Forces or keep price systems stabilized but we can say to the government, we just don't like the way prices ran away in the last war and so the government tries to work out a price system.

If the Government is to serve us, it will only be a good agent when we tell it what we want done. Some people are only concerned with the Government around election time and they do not consider what the Government is doing every day. The idea of Price Control was composed six months before it was passed by the legislature, but it was not made known because Congress did not feel that people were in a hurry about Price Control. Mr. Leon Henderson has been able to fix prices somewhat so there was a ceiling price, but we should train ourselves to look for these ceiling prices. A grocer should post his ceiling prices and he has to send a copy to the Government.

Price Control is necessary because priorities are preventing the manufacturing of many essential commodities; as these commodities become scarce and the demand greater, without some form of regulation the



price would come prohibitive thereby making it possible only for people of wealth to purchase the necessities of life. With price control, regardless to the scarcity in any given commodity said commodity is available under price control to the rich and to the poor, alike. For instances in buying a particular commodity. If there is enough of this commodity to meet the demand the price will not be greatly affected whereas if there suddenly became more of a demand for this particular article then there was an available supply then without price regulation the cost of the article would immediately rise out of all proportion thereby causing an unequal distribution which would bring about a serious dislocation of market prices.

In regards to rationing, we know what it means. How much or how little we may have - it means share and share alike. Finally, I want to say something about the machinery, about both Price Control and Rationing. If our agent is to work for us, we have to know where to find it. We should have a local war price ration board, one to every 25,000 citizens. These boards officially are supposed to be made up of representative citizens from the neighborhood. Therefore, if there was a neighborhood with a large percentage of Negro citizens, we would expect to have Negroes on the Board. So, if you have such a neighborhood and there are no Negroes on the Board, write Mr. Henderson or the President or get in touch with your Mayor. In every state there is a district office and in many cities there are offices of the Office of Price Administration. There is no discrimination in these offices. So, write them and demand service, have them meet with your groups so you will get to understand how they can help you.

The Government has all sorts of pamphlets that are filled with information of this type and they can be received without cost.

(Applause)

The Chairman next introduced Father George Andrews of the Catholic Diocese.

REVEREND GEORGE ANDREWS:

I am not going to address you as a minister or priest but as one who has been working with the people. I have been asked to take part in this discussion on Consumer Cooperative and I am very glad to say that the subject is very familiar to me for I have been working with a group for the past eight years.

There are three distinct groups among the people who are cooperators. The capitalists who supply the money to organize and run the country and; labor which supplies the muscle to get the work done and; the consumer who uses the product that has been manufactured. From the sale of the product the selling price is divided into three parts. One part goes to the capitalist; one part to the



manufacturer and one part to the laborer. So, a cooperative is an enterprise or business enterprise which differs from both private and municipal or other governmental business enterprise in its actual by-laws or constitution. We find that the aims of the consumer cooperative is to obtain commodities of good quality at reasonable prices; to eliminate from the process of distribution such practices as short weights and measures, etc.; and to eliminate economic competition and waste from distribution of commodities. Capital is never paid a fixed wage. This wage which is paid to capital in form of interest varies all the way from nothing to eight per cent.

Here in St. Louis a smoke ordinance law was passed where certain grades of coal is to be used. Now, this was thought to be a luxury but it did a great deal for our city. However, the smoke law was a great burden for the Negro people.

I have a Negro parish. It is a block from here and the people of my parish were suffering. Most of the people had to buy their coal in baskets. Many were going without fuel. Something had to be done so we saw the secretary of the Mayor to arrange a method whereby assistance could be given the low income groups. Mr. Jack Steinley, a colleague of mine, is the Superintendent of City Infirmary, was appointed to give whatever help he could to help the public who fell in this low income group.

In Kansas a flour cooperative was organized to sell wheat. 125 members saved \$150,000 more for their wheat and an oil cooperative brought gas fuel from the refinery and sold it to their members for  $8\frac{1}{2}\%$  a gallon which cut the price in half. Our members here began with five stations and sold the coal for 15¢ a basket while before it sold for 45¢ a basket thus cutting the price of a basket of coal a third. Less than a month twenty-six coal stations were formed. Long lines formed during the winter months and over a period which lasted for four months over 1,000,000 baskets of coal were sold.

However, we failed to make any profit but the coal went rapidly and we were helping the under-privileged. Plans were made to stop business during the summer months at the conclusion of our coal season. We called upon the Mayor and he told me personally that our coal business really kept the phone ringing about the price of the coal but no complaint was made of note.

Mr. Steinley will tell you something more of the smoke law.

(Applause)

MR. JACK STEINLEY:

We need to be very careful to spend our money wisely. For the past fifteen years the flour products were around 4¢ lb and in time has increased  $6\frac{1}{8}\%$  to 10¢.

Milk at one time was 8¢ a quart but now it is selling 13¢ and 14¢ a quart.



With the war cooperatives are meeting several problems and as time goes on more and more problems are confronting coops as well as everything else.

There are several organizations setup as cooperatives; we find in rural communities that the cooperative is usually organized to serve as a general store, that is, in addition to groceries in the store they handle dry goods, hardware, feed, and some machinery and farm implements. Many groups have gone into production in addition to production carried on by cooperative wholesale organizations. Most of the oil cooperatives have been started as partly retail and partly wholesale. Other coops are numerous such as for bread, fertilizer, flour, rayon, soap, etc. Coops are organized on broader scales and under a law that will protect us from the capitalist taking over complete control.

There are now in operation in the cooperative territory in the states of Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan, seven district oil associations.

Only we find in large coal cooperatives in the United States of America do buy less to reach the consumer and who will develop the interest of the next in consumer. Many members in the coal cooperatives increase their stock of living as they increase their shares in the coop.  
(Applause)

DELEGATE LASSITER:

I wish to thank Father Andrews and Mr. Steinley for appearing on our program this afternoon.

DELEGATE MURRAY:

International Officers, Members and Friends, of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, we are very happy to have you at our first panel discussion on the Consumer Program. Our subject is, "A Woman's Responsibility in Today's Crisis".

Members of the Panel are Mrs. Agnes Thornton, Chicago Division; the Secretary-Treasurer for eight years; Mrs. Ruby Lee Lacy, Fort Worth, Texas, a former chairman of the Education Committee and president for four years; our Third International Vice President, Sister Fannie J. Caviness of San Antonio, Texas Division; Mrs. Nannie M. Wells, Denver Division who has been president for three years in her division and also former chairman of the Education Committee and; Mrs. Emily A. Johnson, Los Angeles, California, the former president and secretary-treasurer of her division and now the chairman of the Education Committee.

Our program is a practical one and is intended to stimulate and spur your interest on this subject and to give you a picture of the earnestness with which women are thinking of their



responsibility in the rules of economic living which will benefit us in "Today's Crisis" and thru out our entire lives and points to the fact that we now must unite in this great stand for the ultimate victory of this nation. Who are consumers? Broadly speaking they are 132 million users of our national resources. However, our discussions will be confined to the part that women, as consumers play in this world emergency. Women buy 83% of all consumers goods. As consumers we are on the war front to share in the responsibility of winning a victory over Hitler, Mussolini and Hirohito, the ruthless leaders of the Axis Powers. High prices, the need of conserving rationing and salvaging make us more and more acutely aware each day that there is an economic battle front as well as military battle front.

This national emergency and the need of vast production has brought about a rise in wages. Incomes are growing and our supplies are shrinking. Factories are working at full blast, but because we are sending men and material to war, and because we have lost land and ships to the enemies, we have fewer civilian supplies. It is estimated that in 1942 we will have 7 billion dollars less new goods to buy than in 1941. With more money to spend and less goods to buy prices go up. There are usually four buyers for every three articles for sale. If allowed to skyrocket, rising prices in war, bring about a hardship for all classes. Many people will be deprived of actual necessities.

Thousands of our men at home are on the production line working in all forms of war industries. Many thousands of others are facing death on the battle fields of the world, willing to give their lives as the price of freedom. Fighting for life or death; for living under the tyranny of the Axis Powers can not in the terms of civilized men, be called living. If they are to give their time, their efforts and even their lives to preserve our democratic way of life and to make this a more fit world in which to live in it is our responsibility to know how to control prices, how to conserve, be willing to ration, and eager to salvage. Our most strategic weapon of defense in todays crisis is information. Information on how to buy, what to buy, how to use, how to save and how to repair. In gaining this knowledge, (as consumers, we aid in keeping the cost of living down, we maintain our living standards, maintain our morale and prevent post war inflation). In our consumer knowledge, properly used, we have a collective buying power to supplement - the bargaining power of the Trade unions. It is in the home that the basic health and efficiency of the nation must be protected.

The National Emergency has brought women vitally in the war effort, in that we must sacrifice our personal and private needs that the Americans remain a free nation. Because of the war, the markets of the world, which have supplied us with goods are now inaccessible, our ships are needed for war purposes, making imported goods increasingly more difficult to obtain. The war production necessary in preparation for total defense, makes it impossible for the industrial out put to meet the civilian demands for these reasons we confronted by a shortage of normal materials that provided us with



necessities, luxuries and entertainment. The shortages that have and will continue to develop will of necessity, entail more and more sacrifices. But I am sure that there is not a single one of us who will not gladly make these sacrifices if we fully understand the reasons for them, for health and welfare of the nation depends upon our knowledge and use of our incomes and commodities.

The discussion will be continued by Sister Agnes Thornton who will speak on "Better Buymanship"; Sister Caviness - "Conservation"; Sister Wells - "Mrs. America is Willing" and; Sister Johnson - "All Out For Victory".

#### BETTER BUYMANSHIP

DELEGATE AGNES THORNTON: With the world at war the responsibilities of women have increased many fold. It has become necessary for women to engage in activities and work that heretofore was monopolized by men. With these new and added responsibilities, extra effort and emphasis must be placed on the home during this crisis. Our nation's leaders have stressed the importance of the home front. It is through this medium, the home front, that the morale of the army is kept at the highest point. This again shows the importance of women, since it is their responsibility to keep the home fires burning, and be a bracer for our men in today's crisis.

During war time there are many restrictions and deviations from our normal way of life. It is the woman who must make most of the adjustments to meet the abnormal standard of living and to keep the country on an even keel economically and socially. The home is regarded as the family unit. This is where the housewife's greatest responsibility lies. It must be kept cheerful, clean, inviting and above all, the highest standard of health must be maintained. This is a momentous task, and aside from this, women must shoulder other burdens that have been left with them, due to the absence of the men folk, who are serving our country.

Too much stress can not be put on the importance of the health of the family at home. The bases of good health is a proper diet, under normal conditions this is not such a difficult problem nor is it so expensive, but during this war the difficulties are multiplied many times because so much of our normal food supply has been diverted to the armed forces and shipped to our allies under the government's Lend Program.

Hence the housewife must exercise greater care and judgment in selecting a well balanced diet that is wholesome, nutritious and essential. The radio, newspapers, manufacturers of food products and magazines, and the home economic departments give many helpful suggestions that are vital to good health. Pamphlets may be had by send-



ing to the Federal Government that will assist the busy modern woman in her meal planning.

Most incomes have been increased since our country went to war. But cost of living and taxes have more than off set any advance in incomes most of us received. Here again the women's responsibility is evidenced. They must buy wisely on a market that has been curtailed by the war effort, at a price that is higher than they have been accustomed to paying. Yet they must save at least ten per cent of the gross income to buy war bonds and stamps. Income taxes will be much higher next year and will include practically all brackets of incomes, therefore, in order to make a limited budget cover all phases of her household very careful planning is required. The cost of living has been estimated to be 30% higher than the corresponding date last year. Many items are much higher. The government is attempting to control prices by freezing prices on various commodities at a price level of a previous date, March 1, 1942, was set by the OPA as price ceiling level. Merchants are required to display their ceiling prices, which of course, varies with different merchants and different localities; but nevertheless the wise buyer may use this as a guide. She knows in order to get the best "buys" she must "shop" at different stores and be on the alert for sales and week-end specials and buy where she can get the most for her money. The Consumer Division of the OPA has issued monthly bulletins that are helpful to the home maker in better buymanship - because one wants quality as well as quantity. Such items as clothing, fuel, utilities, insurance, doctor and dental care, school expense, rent or home payments, taxes and many other necessities must be worked into the budget. This, as everyone knows can not be done haphazardly, there must be forethought and planning.

A few years ago a woman's responsibility stopped in the home, this left some time to pursue her vocations and hobbies. Today it is different. There is a shortage in everything including help. There are the community, church and social activities in which women should participate. These activities add more necessary expense to an already over taxed budget. Donating to the church, Red Cross, USO and your own federated organizations are typical examples. The community is very important, there must always be an effort to raise the standard of living in our own community. The acute housing situation and its accompanying evils is a matter of grave concern to the mother and the housewife. The local and state government have done much in reducing the ill effects of this condition by providing better housing, vocational schools, play grounds, parks and types of supervised recreation for the children. The real responsibility, however, falls directly into the hands of the mother who must always be on the alert and keep her family in the best social channels.

Women have come to the aid of their country at a time when modern civilization is in danger of being destroyed and replaced by fantastic ideology. The experience women will get now, during these perilous times, will equip themselves for greater responsibilities that lies ahead after this war has been fought to a victorious conclusion by America and her allies.



When the war is over women will have played no small part and they will receive their share of the victory. The effects of the war will be felt in every home, therefore, plans should be made now as to the methods of readjusting the country to normalcy. So women must start planning now how they will face the post-war problems. It is not a pleasant thought when we think of post-war conditions. A world bled of part of its manpower and drained of much of its wealth.

There must be a revamping of the entire and economic systems. Women will courageously do their part; yes, even more than their part to hasten the time when their homes will again become normal.

### CONSERVATION

DELEGATE FANNIE J. CAVINESS: The word "conservation" denotes thrift saving, preserving and refraining from wastefulness. It is true that America is known throughout the world as a wasteful nation. But the side that wins this war will be the one that can conserve anything we can do as consumers. To increase available supplies of goods is not only a net gain for the nation but a gain for ourselves. Some of the things we can do to aid in winning this war is conservation of clothing. Buy durable long wearing clothing and make what you have last as long as possible by streamlining them. Do you know by keeping off the cuffs of trousers that enough wool is saved for 300,000 additional suits, while the cuffs from 21 pairs of trousers saves enough cloth to make a complete army uniform. Any old trousers, dresses, table cloths, sheets with little holes conserve by mending them. Women must accept cotton hosiery as a part of their clothing supply. Last year manufacturers made a dozen pairs of silk nylon stockings for every woman in this country including girls 15 or older. This year instead the industry probably will turn out about seven pairs of rayon stockings for each woman. Thus saving precious silk and nylon for parachutes and other military uses.

We must conserve on the utilities in our home. We must learn to cut the waste by using the least amount to the greatest advantage. Learning to care for the repair our mechanical appliances. To conserve our utility, gas stoves may take the place of metal ones to save steel for making tanks and ships. The United States must use in this war effort about 500 or more metal than she can produce, though 1943 a recent survey showed that why so many metal goods, from lawn mowers to kitchen sinks, have had to be discontinued for the duration. 110,000 pounds of steel which went into black head squeezers last year will be used in making the following weapons: 4,400,300 caliber machine guns. 55-16 inch shells, 110,200 pounds aerial bombs better than three ton tanks. Refrain from purchasing rubber swim suits, caps, powder puffs, gloves, etc.

Our children will be forced to do without ice skates and roller skates. They use up about 12,500 tons of steel. This is enough to



build the hulls of two heavy cruisers for the Navy.

To conserve on rubber we will be helping greatly in this war. The woman who drives their own automobiles wear out about 25 times as much rubber as is used per individual on the average city bus. These can be conserved by walking and using the bus more. Thus conserving gasoline and rubber. Heavy bombing planes require over three tons of rubber items, enough to make 600 passenger car tires. A battle ship contains 75 tons of rubber or enough to make about 900 millions rubber bands. A 37 m.m. Anti Air Craft Gun carriage requires 298 pounds of rubber and the President has called for 20,000 antiaircraft guns this year and 35,000 next year. So all that we can save in the home will aid the production of war material.

We can conserve on sugar since sugar has become a war weapon. Seven pounds of sugar will make the powder to fire a standard Naval three inch anti aircraft shell. As true Americans and housewives we shall pledge ourselves to conserve everything that can be used to win this war and keep our freedom. By fighting as fierce an economic battle at home, as the armed forces are fighting on the front - our fight at home can be summarized in one word "Conservation".

#### MRS. AMERICA IS WILLING

DELEGATE NANNIE WELLS:

There were two travelers seeking a place to live, the first came to a community and met an old man who was leisurely cutting away on a stick. "Good morning, Sir", said the traveler, "I should like to settle in this community. I hope the folk here are better than I found at the last place". "What kind of folk were they?" Asked the old man. "They were terrible, talked nothing but WPB, SMA, and OPA. A rich man could buy only a wee bit of butter, wee bit of sugar, fats and other articles. Every family has made a rationing program when we have so much food more than we can eat, cotton and wool more than enough for the clothing we wear, automobiles more than any other community, wealth of goods all round us. And an honest man never had a chance." "No" said the townsman, "The people here are no different from those you left." You had better go elsewhere. The traveler departed with a heavy heart.

Later in the day the second traveler greeted the old man. "Good afternoon, Sir", I am looking for a good community where I may live in quiet; I thought perhaps you might tell me if I can find it here." "And how were the people you left?" Asked the townsman, as he continued whistling. "They were the finest people I have ever known, always willing to help in time of trouble. They no longer buy tires, new cars, large amounts of clothing and food or sugar because they have the money to do so. They are willing to share and share alike. Like human beings they make mistakes, but they are honest and sincere with each other. I hated to leave them." "These people are no different from those you left," said the old man.



Let us look for qualities of trust, brotherhood and love in those of our own community and not move from place to place trying to escape responsibility in today's crisis. What has happened? What does it all mean? Among a people who own the richest land on earth, it is natural that rationing should seem strange, new and unfair to some. It came upon us over night you might say and we felt its effects before we were sure of its meaning, its purpose and its method.

Mrs. America is willing to do her share. Maybe she is not the type to join the WAAC's or be a Red Cross Nurse, maybe she hasn't the time to be an Air Raid Warden, or get fitted for an AWVS uniform, maybe she has her hands full cooking the three meals a day for the family, washing, mending and performing other mundanes, but necessary household duties. She is just as patriotic as the next one.

The housewife is one of the most important instruments used in winning the war. Victory is sure because of her knowledge of nutrition, that is, the vitamins, A, B, C, D, and B<sup>2</sup>. Knowing that our boys and girls, men and women are filled with these body builders, they can give their best for our country.

Mrs. America is willing to welcome "Rationing". Rationing is not starving, long bread lines, shoddy goods, it is a community plan for dividing fairly the supplies we have among all who need them. It is not un-American, the early settlers of this country, facing scarcities of food and clothing, pooled their supplies and apportioned them out to every one on equal basis. You see rationing is an American idea. She believes in sharing and sharing alike, to sacrifice together if necessary in today's crisis.

Rationing is the measure the Government can take to insure equal opportunities for all citizens to obtain the necessities of life, regardless of race, creed, or color, rich or poor are allowed the same amount. Rationing means fairness, it keeps up public morals. Without rationing there would be injustice for millions of consumers. At one time there would be too much, another time there would be severe scarcity, prices would go out of reach of the poor, there would be runs on scarce commodities and hoarding. Rationing eliminates these evils and is a blessing in war times.

Some may say, "Why rationing in a land of plenty?" There are two basic reasons why Mrs. America is willing to ration. First, our production has been decreased to a very low ebb, due to the lack of raw material. There is not a plenty of surplus sugar, our supply of rubber and new automobiles are practically cut off. We do not have plenty copper, iron ore, zinc, mercury, and other minerals. Secondly, in war time we must use our resources for purpose of producing guns, tanks, ships, planes and for feeding our soldiers and sailors.

Our merchant ships have been sunk and their cargo. Peace time trade and production has been shattered. We must get along on our reserve stock. And today mechanized war required rubber, metal, wool, and sugar in enormous quantities for trucks, tanks, planes,



battleships, clothing and food. In World War I the United States used 330,000,000 pounds of smokeless powder. To make that much it takes  $4\frac{1}{2}$  cups of sugar from every person in the United States and in this war we are using many times more.

How rationing? --- The President has been empowered to allocate supplies and to ration any commodity if necessary. He delegated these powers to the War Production Board, and in this board there is a division of Civilian's Supply. The function of this division is to represent civilian interests relating to the supply and priority activities of the WPB and formulate plans and programs providing for materials, articles, power, fuel and other commodities available for civilian use. This division is better known as the Office of Price Administration and it is responsible for rationing. Its headquarters are located in Washington D. C. There are sub-offices located in what we call key cities. They have local boards in each community. All instructions are sent out from the National Headquarters. During the month of May over a million persons were employed to help in registration. The teachers and public school buildings were used for a week or more in some communities. The housewife, heads of families and individuals were asked to register at the schools. Each was given a War Ration book of 28 stamps with all information as how to use it. Persons failing to register on set date were allowed to go to the local board and register.

Each stamp is only good for one pound of sugar and must be used during a set period of time; if not, it is void. All complaints should be taken up with your local board of OPA.

Mrs. America is willing to save sugar wherever possible, she will live within her ration and not waste. She will use less sugar in her coffee and tea and use more sugar substitutes for deserts. As fresh fruits, jello and dried fruits. We really don't need sugar; what we need is the food that sugar gives us, and that can be found in other food products of the energy type. Every person does not need the same amount of energy, therefore, pool your sugar and you will find the amount ration will be a plenty. Use syrup and honey for baking, prepare simple deserts or no deserts, but a salad instead. You will find plenty of recipes to match your sugar ration in the daily papers or write the Consumer Division - Office of Price Administration, Washington, D. C. Plan meals wisely, cook carefully, and don't waste any sugar when filling up bin, bowl or when handling it in any way.

Sugar for canning --- You can get sugar for this purpose. The OPA has made allowance for canning as liberally as they possibly could in view of the real need for rationing sugar. One pound for every four quarts of finished fruit, for any amount you want to put up. And one additional pound for each person in the family to make jams and jellies. There is no limit to the amount you put up or can if you are sure it will be used. It is very necessary to save all the fruit possible as is to save sugar. It would be a shame to have our fruit go to waste. The fruit canned this year will not only feed our



Allies across the waters. Every jar of home canned goods leaves a can of commercially packed goods for our armed forces and Allies. And every jar of fruit put up at home leaves a little more freight space to carry war materials.

We have less sugar in our warehouses now than we need for normal yearly requirement and Cuba, the Phillippines and Hawii has plenty of sugar, but we can't get in into this country without ships. We cannot spare our ships to hauling sugar for civilian use. Every boat load of sugar shipped into this country endangers the lives of our seamen. So when applying to your ration board for a certificate for sugar for home canning don't abuse the privilege. Be sure to answer these three questions correctly: Amount canned last year; number of quarts you plan to can this year; how much have you left from last year. You should keep a record of all fruit canned this year. Be sure all jars are filled to their capacity. Don't waste jars by wasting space in the jar. In another year you may not be able to get jars.

America must realize that rationing of sugar and of all kinds of rationing is a grim business and there is and must be a tightening down and cutting out of luxuries so that there may be more and better weapons to destroy our enemy. If we are to keep our freedom, standard of living and lives of our men.

#### ALL OUT FOR VICTORY

DELEGATE EMILY JOHNSON:

In the time of war every nation brings to its people heavy responsibilities. To the American housewife this war is bringing important responsibilities.

We know by recorded history that the American woman tilled the soil, made the clothing, weaved and cooked. All of the crafts and many of the arts originated with women. The American woman is unique. In England, she is envied, on the continent she is revered. No where else in the world except possibly Australia does her counterpart exist.

The distinctive position of the American woman is the outcome of four factors; opportunity of education, freedom of choosing an occupation, legal equality and abundance of leisure.

Today she has been sufficiently trained to be able to earn a living. She has numerous opportunities for gainful employment, and she chooses on the other hand to maintain a home she is well fitted for her task.

At this time our nation is calling upon all housewives to help bear the responsibility of furnishing material to help in this world struggle. They are asking that the American housewife include among her many accomplishments the act of being efficient in salvaging.



Now you say, What can I salvage? I could talk for hours on what to salvage, but I will take a few minutes and explain the most essential articles that every American housewife must salvage: waste paper, such as wrapping paper, cardboard boxes, paper bags, newspapers, magazines, and books. Their use for war is to wrap war materials. Old rags, such as cast-off clothing, burlap bags, draperies, mattresses, pillows, old carpets, old bed clothes. Their use for war is wiping rags in defense plants. Roofing and flooring materials. Scrap metals, such as iron, brass, copper, aluminum, lead toothpaste tubes, shaving tubes, old tools, metal beds, stoves, tire chains, pipes, old batteries, old kettles, garden implements, old electric fixtures, old plumbing fixtures, and old lawn mowers. Their use for war is for tanks, guns, planes, battleships, trucks, merchant ships, freight cars, housing units, industrial plants.

Do you know that the steel industry operates on the bases of half and half, 50% metal from pig iron and 50% remelted scrap metal. Therefore, about 50% of every tank, every ship, every submarine and every gun is made of scrap iron and steel.

Do you know that even one old shovel will help make 4 hand grenades? Old rubber, such as tires, tubes, rubber overshoes, old hot water bottles, old rubber hoses. Their use is for new tires and tubes, treads for tanks.

Our government has set up a "Salvage for Victory Program". A state and local organization is located in your community. You must use it as this is an all out for Victory Program and Victory means Salvage. And from a successful Salvage Program we are sure that the lesson of learning to salvage and cooperation will be useful to us in establishing our economic security when peace is obtained.

We are familiar with the present economic system and we know the limitation of private industry to meet the challenge of the past depression. And we see in this new war program society moving on war bases to accomplish and learn some of the fundamentals that are accomplished by a successful consumers cooperative system. Such as encourage thriftiness and the sense of responsibility that go with ownership; make impossible the large privileged incomes from rent, interest, and dividends; substituting the service motive for the profit motive; making everybody a useful worker with hand or brain.

With these fundamentals well learned during the war we are sure that when we do end our struggle for Victory we will be able to accomplish the other fundamentals that will help us in stabilizing our economic system.

#### SUMMARY

DELEGATE LETITIA MURRAY:

In the discussion that have been presented we can see that the knowledge gained in the the study of consumer cooperative will aid



in informing and training women what they may do in the home to share the responsibility in Today's Crisis.

In the discussion on Better Buymanship, the particular points stressed in our contribution to victory were: 1st - Planning carefully; the housewife wisdom in the choice of foods clothing and shelter, make for the health and well being of the family. 2nd - Buy wisely - to meet your family needs, make every penny you spend count. And last by knowing quality - protect living standards and prices; by comparing prices, reading labels, watching your weights and measures and knowing protection given by the government.

The second speaker - pointed out a sure way to contribute to victory in winning the war. It is the elimination of waste, by conserving our resources and extracting the greatest benefit out of every thing we use, wear and eat.

The third speaker emphasized Mrs. America's Responsibility in the War emergency by her willingness to sacrifice and to share in the fair rationing of scarce commodities and by using substitutes for needed war materials. This prevents inflation and discourages hoarding and profiteering. It has one sure way to keep supplies flowing to the home front as well as to the battle front.

Getting into the scrap is the fourth speakers contribution in this all out for victory program. By salvaging every pound of the things that have been accumulated and stowed away or heretofore thrown into the junk heap - which may be used toward restoring to all the nations in this troubled world - their freedom from the treacherous attackers of power crazed dictators.

Therefore, the knowing how to buy, conserve, fair rationing of scarce goods, salvaging, price control, proper eating, keeping up the morale on the home front, maintain the morale on the battle front. To make sacrifices cheerfully, to give unstinted obedience to the myraid of new emergency rules, to indulge in all patriotic civilian defense activities. These are all small tasks in such chaotic times, but they are as much a part of the war effort as increased war production.

Budgeting the income in order to tell our money where to go, instead of asking it where it went, is in itself a great contribution in winning the war - the savings accumulated by this method should be turned into war bonds to be pooled and used for the need that is sure to arise in post war days.

By living up to these ideals the women in the home are emulating the gallant boys on the firing line, and are doing their bit for victory and for the preservation of our precious way of life in order that we might build a firmer and more permanent future.

This completes the discussion. I wish to thank the speakers for an interesting and vivid portrayal of this subject. We hope that



everyone has found the discussion instructive and worth while and that you will go back to your respective divisions and make the study of the Consumer Cooperative an important item on your Educational Program, for your own benefit, for our country and for Victory.

(Applause)

\* \* \*

The International Executive Board will meeting Saturday morning at 9:30 o'clock at the Y.W.C.A. Building.

\* \* \*

A reception given in honor of the Brotherhood and Auxiliary will take place in the McQueen's Hall of the Locust Street Y.W.C.A. from 9:00 until 11:00 p.m. this evening.

\* \* \*

The Convention was adjourned at 4:05 p.m. to reconvene Saturday, September 19th at 10:00 a.m.



THIRD DAY - SATURDAY MORNING SESSION

St. Louis, Missouri  
September 19th, 1942

The Convention was called to order by President Wilson at 10:30 o'clock A.M. by singing "America."

Prayer was offered by Delegate McBride of Denver, Colorado.

PRESIDENT WILSON:

We are honored this morning with a visit from Brother A. Philip Randolph, International Counsellor of the Ladies Auxiliary whom I am informed must catch a train at twelve o'clock noon, therefore, I should like to suggest that the usual order of business be suspended so Brother Randolph may address the Convention at this time.

It was moved and seconded that the regular order of business be suspended.

BROTHER A. PHILIP RANDOLPH: Madam President, International Officers and Members of the Ladies Auxiliary to the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, I am indeed happy for the privilege of appearing here with you at this time and to observe you in your deliberations on this important hour. As a matter of fact, your Convention is holding sessions at perhaps the most crucial period in the history of the world, which means every organization and institution has a solemn obligation to view the world situation in such a way as to serve the cause of democracy.

We are threatened, as a matter of fact, with the emergence of a new system of society which may wipe out and sweep away everything that we have known in the past, which constitutes that which we hold dear and solid and conservative. No one can say whether the axis force or the democratic powers will win, no one can say what will be the outcome. Whichever side wins, we know this, that after every war, certain forces are set in motion that will go from one or the other extreme - - to the extreme left or extreme right. Military fascism may sweep over the world and creep on our country and if military fascism sweeps America, we face dictatorship, all free associations, religious, cooperative, cultural or trade unions, are crushed. You members, to maintain any kind of free voluntary associations under



the totalitarian system will have organized on totalitarian basis. There is no division, you have no opinion of decisions, of appreciation, a diverted opinion. All opinions are stratified, regimented, standardized. You will be in one groove, you have no opportunity of voicing your oppositions to any position held by the state. That is the essence of fascism. It stands to reason that such a minority group as Negroes could not even hope to go forward because the position of going forward depends upon the ability of winning world support to opposition. We can not win that support if we can not make known what our position is and can not make known what our position is without free speech. Consequently, though you here in this convention represent one segment of the Negro members and one section of American population, you have a solemn obligation to know where the forces are moving and take your position on the side of democracy. It is my hope and wish that your Convention will go on record as supporting the struggle of united nations to preserve and win and maintain the cause and the principles of democracy, not only because it means progress to the Negro people but because it means progress to the world.

Just as we here in America are now in the throes of a great struggle with our democratic rights, in view of the unspeakable discriminations, segregation and Jim-Crowism brought upon Negro people; what we are doing here is being done right now in India in the interest of the independence and freedom of 390,000,000 people of the world. I have recently had occasion to go through a bit of literature on the Indian situation and I find 30,000 Indians were thrown into prison by the British forces because they took their stand for independence and freedom and this very movement the leaders of India, Mahatma Gandhi and Nehru, who have taken a position for independence of India, are languishing in prison, in concentration camp. Their leaders are holding meetings, calling for their liberation. Gandhi has indicated that unless his people are liberated, he will go on a fast to death and Indian people are so independent and consecrated to their cause that nothing prevents them from expressing their liberty.

As a part of this world's struggle and as a part of struggle of the Negro group, we have obligation of doing two things, maintaining ideals and principles and maintaining policies and programs designed toward progress and building up strong institutions. As the International Counsellor of this Organization I long since recognized that the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters would not be able to develop stability and strength without the support and cooperation of the women. I saw that from an analysis of the history of America. I realized that the Negro man, in order to have courage, needed the cooperation and sympathy of the Negro women; needed to be patted on the shoulder and told "we are with you -- go on," or "whatever comes through we sink or swim or perish, we will go down together or we will rise together." Women have marched side by side with their men, they have drunk of the bitter cup of strife and they have maintained their position.

I remember an incident in the coal fields of Pennsylvania when I had the occasion to visit there. A strike was on, the pits and cars were picketed and police were called in by the operators



to protect the mines and they had what is known as a "picketing agency" or private armies designed to break the spirit of the men and trade union organization. I have seen cases where strong, powerful, able bodied miners were shot down by the police before the pits. When a miner was shot, they had a practice of going in committee to tell his wife about it. There, again, the women played a part, they knew of their husband's work. She would know something had happened when she saw that committee, and when she would go to investigate, there he would be, lying on the ground, blood running, dead!

Now organized labor in America has been built upon tears and bloodshed and sweat and that is the way the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters has come into being and gone forward. We are going along smoothly now, but we can not tell how long it will last. We do know that after every war, there is a period of depression, and when that depression comes, employers begin to attack workers and the union of workers. They want to reduce wages, then a struggle comes, strikes begin. That may come to us, and we are beginning to build to meet that situation. That is why we placed a tax on the men. We know a struggle is coming and you can't fight a struggle without power and we are building now to realize to develop that power and we need your cooperation, your support.

In the event those strikes would come, we couldn't win without you, even if we had a million dollars, if you women were against us, we couldn't win. If in the end, women would say, "I don't think you ought to do it, I don't think you ought to step down off this job these critical times, what are we going to do, there are the children!" Consequently, you can see, you have a grave position, stand by the men when the crisis comes, tell them regardless what comes or what happens, I am with you, I will stand back of you, I will give you my cooperation, my support, I will stand with the Organization, we are going to win.

So, I say to you that we are now moving toward a crisis in America, we are already in the crisis of the war, following this war we face another crisis. There is going to be a grave economic crisis; inflation may not run riot because of some effort to control prices but following the war trouble will come then you are going to have a wholesale slashing of wages, laying off of men, unemployment will be nationwide. Poverty, want, desperation, bewilderment will come and when periods like that come, hearts of people sink. You will need the spiritual force and need organization that will stand under and hold up that will buoy up the spirit of men. That is why you are organized. I might say here, men did not believe in the early days that you should be organized. They rather felt that you would be a problem yourself, instead of helping, that you would hinder, and I know from time to time when I talked with the men about it, they were not for you. But as a result of the power invested in me as International President I said to them: "I am going to organize them any way and I am going to order you to support them and now they see the value of you as an organization. You are the only organized economic group of Negroes we have in the world -- and that is a great tribute to you. I want to see you make good, I want to see you have a position and standard in this country



among Negroes and the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters that nobody can point to you and say you are not building a strong, solid, spiritual movement; not fulfilling its purpose, and to that end I want to counsel and advise you not to change your official family. I have a responsibility for telling you this, I have an obligation to see that the Ladies Auxiliary goes on efficiently and effectively. That is a responsibility that rests upon the shoulders, upon the office I hold.

In the first place you can't make officers over night, it takes time. Consequently, Trade Union Movement has the responsibility of carrying on continuously and coordinating progress. I advise you, it is unwise to start a practice of throwing out and putting in people on the grounds that everybody should have its turn. We need people who have accumulated experience. If it is possible to love all of the women, I love all of you. I have not seen a group of white women anywhere who are superior to you. If I did not believe it I would not tell you so. I have weighed and compared the white girls and colored girls and as a result of my study, there is absolutely no difference in the races. I see the white women in The Trade Woman's Union in the A. F. of L., as a matter of fact, they are way below you from a point of view of capabilities, of spiritual value. They have no comparison to you because the white women who are wives of various Trade Union groups have various opportunities that colored women do not have, therefore, you have incentive to move forward and they think it is enough to be white. It is pitiful to see them in action. It would be a thrill to you to see how far your organization towers above these organizations run by some of these white women of the various trade unions. So I want to congratulate you on the progress you have made and the progress you are going to make and I want to say, your president has carried the program on with dignity and ability. Your secretary-treasurer, Sister Rosina Tucker, has conducted the work of her office with ability and accuracy -- her records comparable to any of the finest in the country. Sister Lassiter, Sister Caviness, Sister Dailey, Sister Sappington, Sister Murray, and Sisters Taylor, Johnson, McBride, White, Curby, McWatt, White, I know them all, the names may not just come to me right away, but I know you fundamentally and spiritually. You are in my heart. I would rather be here with you than standing in the White House among that pomp and splendor and all those dignitaries.

It is now about time for me to leave and I want to request and suggest you suspend your order of business and go into your election. I know some of your delegates have to go away also, I have to go, but I hope I will receive a telegram that the official family remains as it is.

(Applause)

PRESIDENT WILSON:

The Convention desires to thank Brother Randolph for his very interesting and timely remarks. I feel we all have been greatly inspired by the message coming from Brother Randolph.

We are very sorry the brothers are leaving so hurriedly but with so little time we are very glad to have had them



come. We should like very much to have had some remarks from the brothers but as they are following their Chief they have very little time to spare.

BROTHER BENOIT:

I am only going to say three words and that is that I hope the women will follow the instructions that were given by the International Counsellor of their great organization.

PRESIDENT WILSON:

Members you have heard Brother Randolph's suggestion that the Convention suspend the order of business and enter immediately into the election of officers. What is the pleasure of the Convention?

DELEGATE TUCKER:

I move we suspend the regular order of business and go into the election.

DELEGATE PHILLIPS:

I second Sister Tucker's motion.

PRESIDENT WILSON:

It has been moved and seconded that the regular order of business be suspended and that the Convention enter into the election. The motion is adopted by the Convention delegates.

DELEGATE NORA FANT:

I want you to know that as a member of this organization that the suggestion of our International Counsellor thrilled me no end. I know what this work requires as I am affiliated with the International Ladies Garment Workers Union, #25, American Federation of Labor, and have been for some years and I know what this organization needs and that is leaders who will stand by and you can't make leaders or progress when there is a continuous change in the official staff. It thrilled my very soul to hear our Counsellor speak in those terms.

PRESIDENT WILSON:

At this time we will proceed with the election. At the last Convention Brother Ernest Smith representing Brother Randolph held the election. As Roberts Rules of Order states that the chair may hold the election. The chair will proceed at once to do so.

DELEGATE TUCKER:

It is also in order that as an official I may make the motion that the entire official family be re-elected by acclamation as suggested by Brother Randolph.

DELEGATE BERTHA RECTOR:

I rise to second the motion.

PRESIDENT WILSON:

It has been moved and seconded that the officers of the International Auxiliary Order be re-elected by acclamation.



PRESIDENT WILSON:

There being no descending vote the officers are duly elected for the ensuing term of office.

We are fortunate to have Brother Bell of Los Angeles as a visitor and I am going to ask him if he won't do the Auxiliary the honor of installing its newly elected officers. Brother Bell is one of the great stalwarts of the Brotherhood and is one of the members of the Brotherhood's International Executive Board.

BROTHER JAMES BELL, SR.:

I want to state it is a privilege and an honor conferred upon me to install the newly elected officers of the Ladies Auxiliary to the Brotherhood of Sleeping

Car Porters. I regard it a distinguished honor. I don't want to take up a lot of your time, but I am indeed proud of this great honor bestowed upon me. Sister Halena Wilson, Sister Katherine Lassiter, Sister Mae Dailey, Sister Fannie J. Caviness, Sister Letitia Murray, Sister Rosina C. Tucker and members of the International Executive Board, Sisters: Nannis M. Curby, Carrie B. McWatt, Ella Johnson, Marion Sappington, Rosie Taylor, Ella McBride, Anna E. Wilson, Carrie E. White; I take great pleasure in installing you as the official staff, Ladies Auxiliary, Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters.

Madam President, you are expected to carry on your noble work just as you have in the past, never letting anything retard the progress of this great organization. A great responsibility rests in you ladies and it brings tears to my eyes as I listened to Brother Randolph speak, and I just want to say, I am so glad I have lived to see the fruits of your labor. Mrs. Tucker, you are required to handle the money and I pray and trust that you are as interested in the welfare and the building of your organization as our great Brotherhood secretary, Brother Totten -- guard your treasury.

Now, you all know your places, pray God that you may carry out your duties.

The Convention stood and received the newly installed officers.

PRESIDENT WILSON:

We are very glad to have the election over and won't burden you with speeches. We are very grateful for the way you have received us and we hope to serve you equally as well in the future.

We will proceed with the Resolution Committee as we want you to have the benefit of the discussions so do not leave. Will Constitution and Resolutions Committee make its report at this time.



CHAIRMAN LASSITER:

My voice is rather weak but I will submit the report of the committee.

DELEGATE MAE DAILEY:

We want to introduce for discussion, Resolution #1.

#### ELECTION OF LOCAL PRESIDENTS AND DELEGATES

Resolution No. 1 - By Los Angeles, California, 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:

That a nominee for President of any local be a member in good standing who has held an elective office during past biennial and has served that office faithfully and well;

BE IT FURTHER  
RESOLVED:

That a nominee for Delegate to Conventions be a member in good standing who has shown a working interest in the Auxiliary during past biennial.

The Committee recommends non-concurrence.

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

DELEGATE FANT:

Don't we have something similar to this in the original By-laws?

DELEGATE TUCKER:

I think the reason the committee recommended non-concurrence because it involves a member who is not in good standing cannot be a delegate or a president of a local. I think the spirit of the resolution applies to the time of elections and I hope the dues paying members will abide by the recommendation of the committee.

DELEGATE FANT:

Will you please repeat that resolution.



DELEGATE MURRAY:

When a member pays his dues regularly no one should attempt to keep him from holding office. It is a very fine recommendation and we all come up against these things and anyone who has paid their dues has a right to hold office out of the local.

#### RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL REPORT FORM

Resolution No. 2 - By Los Angeles, California, Auxiliary

WHEREAS:

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

The Committee recommends non-concurrence.

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

#### HONOR BROTHER RANDOLPH'S BIRTHDAY

Resolution No. 3 - By Los Angeles, California, Auxiliary.

WHEREAS:

Being blessed with one in our midst who is a great leader, one who stands for all the fine things that tend to make our race respected and honored by all;

THEREFORE BE IT  
RESOLVED THAT:

The locals throughout the country dedicate their programs during the month of April of each year to Brother Randolph honoring his birthday.

The Committee recommends non-concurrence.

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

#### WOMEN'S ARMY

Resolution No. 4 - By International Executive Board

WHEREAS:

The present world conflict is making great inroads into the manpower of the nation



thereby necessitating the use of unprecedented numbers of women in various branches of the military service, and

WHEREAS:

Negro women feel it a duty as well as a privilege to assume the responsibilities of preserving the ideals for which both black and white men are fighting and dying

THEREFORE BE IT  
RESOLVED THAT:

The Second Biennial Convention of the Ladies Auxiliary to the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters go on record as approving the formation of a Women's Auxiliary Corp where feasible to all branches of the military service, and

THEREFORE BE IT  
FURTHER RESOLVED:

That the Convention insist upon an impartial use of all qualified women regardless of race, creed or color.

The Committee recommends concurrence.

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

#### ATTENDANCE

Resolution No. 5 - By Denver, Colorado, 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.



## VACANCIES

Resolution No. 6 -- By International Executive Board

WHEREAS:

Neither the Constitution or the Rules and Regulations contain provisions for filling vacancies that occur in the local auxiliary other than that of the office of the president and vice-president

THEREFORE BE IT  
RESOLVED THAT:

The local Executive Board be empowered to make recommendations in such instances to the general membership

THEREFORE BE IT  
FURTHER RESOLVED THAT:

All members be notified of the Executive Board's recommendations and that the subsequent action of the auxiliary in filling the vacancy be submitted for approval to the International President of the Ladies Auxiliary.

The Committee recommends concurrence.

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

## NEGRO SOLDIERS

Resolution No. 7 -- By International Executive Board

WHEREAS:

Negro men are being called upon to shoulder arms in the defense of their country, and

WHEREAS:

The Negro service man makes the same sacrifices and endures the same hardships and is therefore entitled to the same considerations accorded others who are likely to make the supreme sacrifice while fighting to defend the integrity of their country, and

WHEREAS:

Negro men have added to their physical hardship every conceivable form of segregation and intolerance and as a result thereof are compelled to go into battle or to perform their several duties with a heart made heavy and with a mind greatly disturbed due to the injustice and the unfairness of such treatment.



THEREFORE BE IT  
RESOLVED THAT:

The Second Biennial Convention of the Ladies Auxiliary to the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters condemn and protest in the strongest terms at its command the inhuman and the undemocratic treatment being perpetrated against a group of citizens whose loyalty never has been questioned

THEREFORE BE IT  
FURTHER RESOLVED THAT:

This Convention forward while in session a respectful but fitting protest of these conditions to the President of the United States.

The Committee recommends concurrence.

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

#### PRINTED CONSTITUTIONS

Resolution No. 8 - By Buffalo, New York, Auxiliary

WHEREAS:

The majority of members have no knowledge of the Constitution of the Ladies Auxiliary

THEREFORE BE IT  
RESOLVED THAT:

Booklets of the Constitution be printed and sold to each member.

The Committee recommended concurrence.

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

#### FINANCIAL REPORT SHEETS

Resolution No. 9 - By Buffalo, New York, Auxiliary

WHEREAS:

The financial report sheets have just ten spaces for names and require two or more sheets for each report sent in

THEREFORE BE IT  
RESOLVED THAT:

Financial report sheet books, patterned after those used by the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters be adopted when the Auxiliary's supply of report sheets is exhausted.



The Committee recommended concurrence.

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

#### CHARTERS

Resolution No. 10 - By International Executive Board

WHEREAS:

The question has been raised on numerous occasions regarding the names of officers and members to be placed on the local charter

THEREFORE BE IT  
RESOLVED THAT:

Regardless of the length of time the local auxiliary has been organized that only members in office when the charter is granted shall have their names affixed to the charter.

The Committee recommended concurrence.

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

#### JUNIOR AUXILIARY

Resolution No. 11 -- By International Executive Board

WHEREAS:

The International Auxiliary is reaching the stage where greater attention can be directed toward the development of a Junior Movement within the organization

THEREFORE BE IT  
RESOLVED THAT:

This Convention authorize the International President to appoint a committee to draw up the Constitution, Rules and Regulations and to work out a program for the purpose of setting up a Junior Auxiliary as soon as conditions will warrant.

BE IT FURTHER  
RESOLVED THAT:

This committee shall consist of three, including the International President and the International Counsellor. The third member to be appointed by the International President.

The Committee recommended concurrence.

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



#### ARTICLE XVIII

Resolution No. 12 - By International Executive Board

- WHEREAS: Article XVIII, page 65, Convention Proceedings, 1938, stipulates that charges made against an auxiliary member shall be preferred in writing to the President, and
- WHEREAS: The Article contains no stipulation relative to the procedure to be taken should the President be personally involved,
- THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT: In instances where the President is either the accused or the accuser that the local Executive Board notify the party accused in accordance with the provisions contained in said Article, and
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT: Where the President is involved that the Vice-President shall preside over said proceedings.

The Committee recommended concurrence.

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

#### DISCIPLINE OF AUXILIARIES

Resolution No. 13 - By International Executive Board

- WHEREAS: The future of the International Auxiliary depends largely upon the cooperation, discipline and a respectful compliance on the part of the local auxiliaries and their officers, and
- WHEREAS: There may develop an harmful tendency on the part of the local auxiliary or its officers to refuse to comply with or to recognize the authority vested in the International President thereby endangering the entire structure of the Ladies Auxiliary
- THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The International President shall be granted the authority to discipline either by reprimand, suspension or expulsion any officer, member of auxiliary who or that arbitrarily refuses to subscribe to the edicts, rulings or decisions that may be rendered by the International President



BE IT FURTHER  
RESOLVED THAT:

Said member or auxiliary shall have the right of appeal in accordance with provisions as contained in Article XVIII of the Rules and Regulations for Local Auxiliaries, 1938 Convention Proceedings.

The Committee recommended concurrence.

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

#### UNION LABELS

Resolution No. 14 - By International Executive Board

WHEREAS:

The laborer is often compelled to resort to extreme measures to secure relief from economic exploitation in the hope of adding to the comforts, security and happiness of his family

THEREFORE BE IT  
RESOLVED THAT:

The members of the Ladies Auxiliary support the organized labor movements by refusing to cross a picket line and by refusing to buy articles of clothing, household furnishings, etc. that do not bear an union label also to boycotting businesses that appear on the "un-fair" list issued by the various labor unions.

The Committee recommended concurrence.

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

#### DOMESTIC AND AGRICULTURAL WORKERS

Resolution No. 15 - By International Executive Board

WHEREAS:

The National Social Security Act does not include domestic or agricultural workers who constitute a majority of the workers of the nation among whom are many thousands of Negroes

THEREFORE BE IT  
RESOLVED THAT:

The Second Biennial Convention of the Ladies Auxiliary to the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters go on record as favoring an amendment to the Social Security Act to include domestic and agricultural workers and that a copy of this resolution be sent to the appropriate committee in the House and Senate when these two bodies have such an amendment under advisement.



The Committee recommended concurrence.

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

#### LILY WHITE PRIMARIES

Resolution No. 16 - By International Executive Board

WHEREAS: The lily white primaries of the South are a nullification of the 14th and 15th Amendments to the Constitution since they deny loyal American citizens the right to vote, and

WHEREAS: Negroes in every section of America are duty bound to rise up in protest against such an undemocratic procedure

THEREFORE BE IT  
RESOLVED THAT: The Second Biennial Convention of the Ladies Auxiliary to the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters go on record as vigorously condemning lily white primaries in the solid south and that the auxiliary call upon the Congress and the President to encourage and support legislation to wipe out this political evil which vitiates the intent and purpose of our democratic form of Government.

The Committee recommended concurrence.

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

#### CONVENTION DELEGATES

Resolution No. 17 - By International Executive Board

BE IT RESOLVED THAT: Article VI, paragraph 2, page 62, Rules and Regulations for the Local Auxiliary, 1938, Convention Proceedings be amended to read: "No member shall be elected as a Convention Delegate or officer in local division who has not remained continuously financial for two years preceeding elections except where new divisions are established."

The Committee recommended concurrence.

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



AUXILIARY'S LOYALTY

Resolution No. 18 - By International Executive Board

- WHEREAS: The United Nations are arrayed against the might and the godlessness of the Axis Nations in a life and death struggle to maintain and perpetuate the finer and nobler instincts of mankind, and
- WHEREAS: The United Nations are fighting to bring peace and plenty to all the peoples of the World as outlined in the Atlantic Charter, and
- WHEREAS: The United Nations evince a love of humanity and a reverence of God in contrast with the cruel dictates of the totalitarian state which perpetrates the most grievous injustice against its citizenry by regimenting adult life and by warping the minds of their offspring who are taught to hate, kill and desecrate everything held sacred by those who believe in God and the benevolent influence of religion
- THEREFORE BE IT  
RESOLVED THAT: The Second Biennial Convention of the Ladies Auxiliary to the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters rededicate itself to the democratic and God loving way of life
- BE IT FURTHER  
RESOLVED THAT: The Auxiliary pledge itself to an even greater contribution both morally and financially to the total war efforts of this country and its allies so that the totalitarian monster now stalking the earth may be completely destroyed and never permitted to again visit such desolation upon the peace loving peoples of the World.

The Committee recommended concurrence.

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

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

Resolution No. 19 - By International Executive Board

- WHEREAS: The division of the labor movement has done much to weaken the bargaining power and striking force of the organized worker, and
- WHEREAS: There is grave danger of the workers losing the many hard-earned advantages they now enjoy as a result of this division



THEREFORE BE IT  
RESOLVED THAT:

The Second Biennial Convention of the Ladies Auxiliary to the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters go on record as strongly urging a complete consolidation between the Committee for Industrial Organization and the American Federation of Labor.

The Committee recommended concurrence.

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

#### NOMINATIONS

Resolution No. 20 - By International Executive Board

WHEREAS:

Members of the Ladies Auxiliary are not required to be out of the city in the line of duty or in quest of a livelihood, and

WHEREAS:

The degree of the members interested can be determined only by the member's faithful service and regular attendance

THEREFORE BE IT  
RESOLVED THAT:

No member who is not present during the nomination of officers shall be eligible to be placed in nomination in the local auxiliary.

The Committee recommended concurrence.

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

#### ARTICLE VI

Resolution No. 21 - By International Executive Board

WHEREAS:

Article VI, paragraph 2, page 62, Convention Proceedings, 1938, stipulates that the local auxiliaries shall elect a delegate and other officers annually, and

WHEREAS:

The present remittance to the International Auxiliary does not warrant a yearly meeting of the Ladies Auxiliary

THEREFORE BE IT  
RESOLVED THAT:

Paragraph, 3, page 62, Article VI, of the Constitution and the Rules and Regulations be amended to read that officers in the local



auxiliary and a delegate shall be elected biennially and that the term of office shall be for two years or until a successor has duly qualified.

The Committee recommended concurrence.

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

#### INTERNATIONAL ELECTIONS

Resolution No. 22 -- By International Executive Board

WHEREAS: The Constitution provides that the International Officials of the Ladies Auxiliary shall be elected annually at each regular Convention, and

WHEREAS: The present income of the International Auxiliary Order does not warrant yearly meetings of the International Auxiliary Order

THEREFORE BE IT  
RESOLVED THAT:

Article VI, of the Constitution be amended to read that the International Officials shall be elected biennially and that they shall hold office for two years or until their successors have duly qualified.

The Committee recommended concurrence.

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

#### UNITED STATES WAR BONDS

Resolution No. 23 - By International Executive Board

WHEREAS: Our Country is at War and our liberty is threatened, and

WHEREAS: The expense of this War is tremendous and the financial assistance of all organized groups is necessary

THEREFORE BE IT  
RESOLVED THAT:

The International Ladies Auxiliary Order of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters go on record as purchasing a \$500.00 War Bond



BE IT FURTHER  
RESOLVED THAT:

The funds used for the purchase of said bond  
be that received from the purchase of the  
"Patriotic Stamps"

BE IT FURTHER  
RESOLVED THAT:

Further purchase of War Bonds will be at the  
discretion of the International Executive Board.

The committee recommended concurrence.

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

#### CHARGES AGAINST INTERNATIONAL OFFICIALS

Resolution No. 24 - By International Executive Board

WHEREAS:

Representation in and affiliation with the  
International Auxiliary is restricted to  
members in good standing in the local auxi-  
liaries to the International Auxiliary to the  
Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters

THEREFORE BE IT  
RESOLVED THAT:

No member shall retain her office in the  
International Auxiliary whose affiliation  
with her local auxiliary has been terminated.

BE IT FURTHER  
RESOLVED THAT:

When the loss of membership in the local auxi-  
liary is due to action growing out of charges  
preferred against said member that said mem-  
ber shall not lose her official standing in  
the International Auxiliary until or unless  
the charges are sustained by the International  
President, the International Executive Board  
and the International Counsellor of the Ladies  
Auxiliary.

The Committee recommended concurrence.

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

#### LYNCHING

Resolution No. 25 - By International Executive Board

WHEREAS:

Mob rule and lynching are still in vogue in  
certain sections of the country, and



WHEREAS:

The individual state appears incapable of safeguarding the life and person of certain of its citizens as well as seeming incapable of regulating the actions of others of its citizens, and

WHEREAS:

Mob rule and lynching are in direct conflict with the democratic processes of the Nation as embodied in the Bill of Rights

THEREFORE BE IT  
RESOLVED THAT:

The Second Biennial Convention of the Ladies Auxiliary to the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters insist upon the enactment of a law to make lynching a federal offense thereby taking the prosecution of such atrocities out of the jurisdiction of the local authorities who are virtually incapable of making an impartial investigation or of bringing the culprits to justice.

The Committee recommended concurrence.

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

#### MARCH- ON-WASHINGTON MOVEMENT

Resolution No. 26 -- By International Executive Board

WHEREAS:

There was ill concealed evidence of a concerted movement to restrict and to deny employment of the Negro in the defense industries despite the urgent need for skilled and unskilled workmen and despite the great peril confronting the democratic countries of the World, and

WHEREAS:

These restrictions seriously impeded the defense program of this and other countries as well as embarrassing and working a hardship upon a group of loyal American citizens, and

WHEREAS:

It was concluded after repeated attempts had failed that only something of a drastic nature would have any bearing upon this unfair and undemocratic procedure, and

WHEREAS:

The March On Washington as proposed by A. Philip Randolph, International President of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, caused the President of the United States to



issue an Executive Order, prohibiting discrimination in all war industries and branches of the Government

THEREFORE BE IT  
RESOLVED THAT:

The Auxiliary heartily endorse and go on record as declaring the March On Washington Movement as having achieved the greatest victory ever won by Negroes in their fight for economic justice, and

BE IT FURTHER  
RESOLVED THAT:

The Auxiliary emulate the example of its Counsellor, A. Philip Randolph, by dedicating itself to an uncompromising fight against all forms of discrimination where ever they are encountered.

The Committee recommended concurrence.

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

#### POLL TAX

Resolution No. 27 - By International Executive Board

WHEREAS:

A national movement has been initiated for the purpose of passing a federal law to abolish existing poll tax laws as a prerequisite to voting in federal elections, and

WHEREAS:

The poll tax laws now in effect in the eight poll tax states are a perversion of the original poll tax which was in no way connected with the franchise but was 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 certain stipulations that were purposely made virtually impossible of fulfillment thereby preventing hundreds of thousands of persons from attaining their full American citizenship

THEREFORE BE IT  
RESOLVED THAT:

The Ladies Auxiliary to the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters heartedly endorse this movement and that it make every possible contribution toward eliminating this vicious and undemocratic evil.



BE IT FURTHER  
RESOLVED THAT:

The local auxiliaries memorialize the respective congressmen of the United States to ascertain the position of each with regards to this odious and corrupt practice with an end toward rewarding or reprimanding said congressman when he comes up for re-election in the respective states.

The Committee recommended concurrence.

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

#### BIENNIAL CONVENTIONS

Resolution No. 28 - By International Executive Board

WHEREAS: Conventions are costly and would be likely to work a hardship upon the local divisions if held annually, and

WHEREAS: The Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters has amended its Constitution so as to hold its Convention biennially instead of annually

THEREFORE BE IT  
RESOLVED THAT: Article II of the Constitution be amended to read that the Convention of the International Auxiliary Order shall meet biennially instead of annually during the third week in September.

The Committee recommended concurrence.

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

#### CONVENTION TAX

Resolution No. 29 - By International Executive Board

WHEREAS: The total cost of the Biennial Sessions of the Ladies Auxiliary including transportation, per diem, stenographic work, printing, entertainment, etc. reduces the International Treasury no small degrees, and

WHEREAS: The Auxiliary has been informed that it is expected to assume more of the every increasing costs of these necessary items, and

WHEREAS: It is not thought to be sound judgment or good business methods to deplete the treasury for any reason whatsoever



THEREFORE BE IT  
RESOLVED THAT:

A Convention Tax of 50¢ per year per member be levied against the entire auxiliary membership, said tax to be payable at anytime within 60 days of the Convention date to the International Secretary-Treasurer and

BE IT FURTHER  
RESOLVED THAT:

Said tax be kept in a fund separate from all other receipts, and

BE IT FURTHER RE  
RESOLVED THAT:

The remainder of this Convention Tax should there be one be used to help defray the traveling expenses of the Zone Supervisors.

BE IT FURTHER  
RESOLVED THAT:

No member shall be considered financial who has not paid the tax within the time specified in this resolution.

The Committee recommended concurrence.

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

#### DUES BOOKS

Resolution No. 30 - By Buffalo, New York Auxiliary

WHEREAS:

Dues cards for the Ladies Auxiliaries are good for two years

THEREFORE BE IT  
RESOLVED THAT:

Dues books good for a number of years patterned after the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters be adopted.

The Committee recommended non-concurrence.

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

#### TENANT FARMING

Resolution No. 31 - 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

THEREFORE BE IT  
RESOLVED THAT:

The Second Biennial Convention of the Ladies Auxiliary to the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters here assembled oppose and denounce a system that engenders such cases as the Odell Waller Case, and

BE IT FURTHER  
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 recommended concurrence.

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

#### RESTRUCT EXISTING LABOR LAWS

Resolution No. 32 - By International Executive Board

WHEREAS:

The history of the trade union movement is one of oppression, persecution and coercion, and

WHEREAS:

The courts and other law making agencies were often resorted to by the employer groups in an effort to forestall the workers in their attempt to organize and bargain collectively for short hours, higher wages and better working conditions

THEREFORE BE IT  
RESOLVED THAT:

This Convention condemn any attempt to enact legislation or any attempt to restrict, curtail or nullify existing labor laws that are acceptable to the organized worker

BE IT FURTHER  
RESOLVED THAT:

This Convention recommend the formation of an active and aggressive labor legislation committee, said committee to include the International President, International Counsellor and three other members to be appointed by the International President of the Ladies Auxiliary.



The Committee recommended concurrence.

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

#### UNION SHOPS

Resolution No. 33 - By International Executive Board

WHEREAS: The struggle of the working classes has been long and bitter and filled with privation, bloodshed and even loss of life itself, and

WHEREAS: Present rates of pay and existing living conditions stem from the efforts and demands of organized labor, and

WHEREAS: There are millions of unorganized workers now enjoying the comforts and the benefits made possible by a more aggressive and enlightened group of workers

THEREFORE BE IT  
RESOLVED THAT:

The Second Biennial Convention of the Ladies Auxiliary to the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters declare it to be unjust, unwise and unsound for the unorganized worker to weaken the bargaining power or the structure so painstakingly erected and acquired by the organized worker who is responsible for most of the social and economic gains now enjoyed by all workers and their families.

BE IT FURTHER  
RESOLVED THAT:

The Convention go on record as endorsing all attempts to establish union shops in all industries where they do not already exist, to the exclusion of all workers who have an opportunity to join the union but refuse to do so.

The Committee recommended concurrence.

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

PRESIDENT WILSON: As the session is running past the time specified in the Rules and Order of Business should the Committee continue with its report or should the Convention recess at this time?

The motion was adopted that the Convention recess and reconvene at 2:00 o'clock.

ADJOURNMENT



SIXTH SESSION - THIRD DAY

September 19, 1942  
St. Louis, Missouri

The Sixth Session of the Convention was called to order by the International President, President Halena Wilson at 2:10 P.M. The audience stood and sang "Lift Every Voice and Sing" followed in prayer by Delegate McBride of Denver.

Due to the fact that the report of the various Committees were being made at this time, it was moved and seconded that the order of business be suspended and the speaker for the afternoon be presented.

PRESIDENT WILSON:

We have a very distinguished woman of our group coming to us this afternoon, to bring a message, to instruct and inform us of her work and the activities of the department with which she is connected. Mrs. Hunter, aside from her work with the government is an accomplished singer and it is hoped she will, if time permits, favor the Convention with a selection as I am sure it will be greatly enjoyed by all.

MRS. NELL HUNTER:

Madam President, officers and members, my first utterance to you is to thank you for the United States government for the privilege of bringing to you a very timely message; then I want to give you my personal thanks because I like to be among nice people and I know I am in very special company now.

I realize that I am in some very high-powered company for I have heard of the speakers preceding me. I am here with a very definite message -- to my mind, very serious message because of these serious times. You are perhaps fed up with hearing so much about the War, but what else is there to talk about. War is the business of the world today and will be the business for several years to come; it has only begun for us.

We all know, we are not winning the war. Of course, we all believe that we will win in the end, but we find so much of this sort of thing through the country. We must realize it is high possible to lose this war. We have lived in peace and comfort for quite a number of years and would be content to go on from where we are, speaking of Negroes. We should keep on fighting for the things that we know we ought to have. It is better to fight from the level we are on now than to go down and fight up all over again. Get behind every war effort we can and try to save what we have and fight from this level and go on further.



This war is being fought on so many different fronts, more than ever before. They have infinite ways of killing, and the side that kills the most, is the side that wins. Now ladies, I am a pacifist. I don't believe in war but we are in it now and we have to fight for everything we have and want. We can't go and fight but we must keep the home front safe. The supplies cost money. The government spends \$140,000,000 a day to carry on supplies and the costs are increasing all the time. The government is getting money from taxation, they are not trying to raise all the taxes, by the people and for the people, so they have decided they will let the people buy bonds and stamps to raise money. If you buy bonds, you are rendering the government a service. They are asking everybody to invest 10% of your salary in bonds. When you buy bonds, you simply invest money and get it all back, plus the interest. Now if the banks could, they would buy up all the bonds themselves, it would be a wonderful investment but that would shut you and me out so we would have no part in it; so the government fixes it so everybody can share in the benefits of this war. Now is the time to open up a savings account with as little as 10¢ war stamps until you get your bonds. You can purchase 10¢ or 25¢ war stamps and put them in your book and turn it in for your \$18.75 war bond which will be worth \$25.00 in ten years. It implants in you the thrift habit. We are America's poorest minority group. We have not been privileged to making large salaries. We have been first on relief -- first in the bread line -- first to ask for surplus commodities; and when you go out begging you cringe within yourself. That is one reason we are kept down because we have been so poverty stricken. Now is the time to get out of this state.

I am asking you who haven't started buying bonds and stamps as yet, to start at once. Ladies, don't feel because your husband is buying 10% of his salary in war bonds that that is all you need to do, it isn't. We will have to buy bonds from now on because the war won't end right away, it will take two or three years to get back to peace time economy after the war even.

You hear so much talk about inflation. There are some who don't know what "inflation" means and others who don't care to go into it. It only means that during this time, the government stopped all industry that has to do with civilian needs and placed it on government work making instruments of war, things to kill people with, and as a result that makes things that are scarce have more value to it. Say for instance you wanted to buy a hat and when you went in to buy it there were several other ladies wanting the same hat. Each one wanting it bad enough to pay almost any amount for it. What would happen, the price would jump up. It's just like bidding for it, because the demand is so great and inflation means that prices are going up so high that money gets out of balance. Out of the allowance you get as housewife, put something into war stamps and bonds. This message is especially for women because women in America control 70% of the wealth in America. It doesn't mean they own that money but some make high salaries, some have trust funds set up for them or it is given to them to spend. You are the budgeteer so its up to you ladies to get this thrift habit.

This is the first group of its kind in America, the first organization of women affiliated with a labor union, that I have contacted and I feel very proud to have been here. I work with women's organizations



all over America, stimulating interest in war bonds and stamps. I am sure you have a treasury and the money that is in your treasury that you are not going to need, why not put it into war bonds. Now about the safety, the United States treasury is the safest bank in the world. If we lose the war, we lose everything anyhow and it's up to you ladies to try to save this government if we can and join in and make things as we want them to be.

You might ask what right have I to save this government, it hasn't been fair to me. We do have the right to fight, in other places they don't have the right to fight so let us put more money into our government and let it help us. No matter what it is that you are affiliated with, the more you put into it, the more you care for it. So, if we as Negroes could have more feeling for the government to put a little more into it, we would be more concerned with the way it is run. If we have money to assist ourselves and organizations we can get results from the dominant people, more than we have had before. Education will bring results, money will bring results and your vote will bring results.

Ladies, go back and spread this word among your community people, tell them why they should buy bonds and stamps. If you don't feel so patriotic, spread this message anyway and help build it up among others. For your organization, I don't sell bonds myself, but think of these questions: Do you have a treasury? -- Do you plan to put it into war bonds -- don't answer, just think about it. It would be mighty fine if I could say that the first organization of women affiliated with a national labor group has put its savings into war bonds. So, when you go back to your homes and cities, ask them to put this on the agenda for the next year "Buy war bonds and stamps". I am asking women's organizations all over the United States to stress buying war bonds and stamps. If you will do that, our War Savings Committee would like to contact you once a month and if you are not buying but one stamp, you are buying.

Now ladies, in closing I believe this is the battle of armageddon a world wide war, a revolution. We have had wars before, but not a revolution. We have had to sacrifice before, but not like we will have to sacrifice for this war. Here's something for us to do, let us prepare the ground for those boys when they come back here. Let us try to build a world for them when they return, get hatred out of our hearts, search yourself every day and see if you are delivering that message of love, harmony and security for those boys when they come back. I thank you.  
(Applause)

The Chair requested that Sister Mae Dailey make the response to Mrs. Hunter's address.

DELEGATE MAE DAILEY:

Madam President, I am sure I voice the sentiment of each of you when I say we enjoyed this message. It was indeed full of information and we will take her message back to our organizations and spread the good word around. Mrs. Hunter, I am happy to say, we have already voted to purchase a \$500.00 war bond following the plan of our Brotherhood to purchase \$25,000.00 in



war bonds. Also we have already purchased two \$75.00 war bonds. We are deeply thankful for having you come to us and bring this wonderful message and have enjoyed every bit of it. Again, accept our thanks.

As a form of relaxation, the President stated the audience would stand and sing "Any Bonds Today" led by Mrs. Nell Hunter.

PRESIDENT WILSON:

We are very grateful to Mrs. Hunter for the splendid message she has brought this afternoon and hope we shall have the pleasure of hearing her again.

At this time the Committee on Constitution and Resolutions will continue with its report.

#### PRICES

Resolution No. 34 - By International Executive Board

WHEREAS:

Numerous surveys indicate that rises in prices are seldom in proportion to a general or a particular wage increase, and

WHEREAS:

An increase in wage is almost invariably followed by an announcement of a further rise in the cost of merchandise, services or other commodities being supplied or dispensed by the particular industry granting the wage increase

THEREFORE BE  
IT RESOLVED THAT:

The Second Biennial Convention of the Ladies Auxiliary to the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters approve an over all ceiling on prices at wholesale and at retail to prevent an unjustifiable or ruinous price inflation.

The Committee recommended concurrence.

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

#### WAR

Resolution No. 35 - By International Executive Board

WHEREAS:

America was the victim of a vicious and a premeditated attack while in the act of negotiating a better understanding and a better relationship with an insincere and treacherous nation, and



WHEREAS:

The present administration under the able leadership of the President of this country extended itself to the utmost in an effort to prevent open hostilities and to warn the people of the impending danger even in the face of an ever increasing tide of opposition.

WHEREAS:

The American Government is fighting with other countries to perpetuate and to maintain a system of democracy as against the creation of a totalitarian state.

THEREFORE BE  
IT RESOLVED THAT.

This Convention go on record as extending its unqualified support to the government in all its efforts to preserve and perpetuate the democratic way of life, and

BE IT FURTHER  
RESOLVED THAT:

This Convention reaffirm and reiterate its pledge of loyalty in this the country's most perilous hour.

The Committee recommended concurrence.

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

#### PRESIDENT'S FAIR EMPLOYMENT PRACTICE COMMITTEE

##### Resolution 36 - By International Executive Board

WHEREAS:

The Fair Employment Practice Committee was appointed by the President of the United States as the result of the issuance of Executive Order, #8802, and

WHEREAS:

The afore-mentioned committee was rendered invaluable service by bringing about better race relations and greater industrial opportunities for Negro workmen, and

WHEREAS:

The Fair Employment Practice Committee has been uncompromising in its exposure of conditions which obtain in private industries as well as in various branches of the Federal, State, and local governmental departments

THEREFORE BE IT  
RESOLVED THAT:

The Auxiliary express its unqualified approval of the Committee's achievements, and



BE IT FURTHER  
RESOLVED THAT:

The Auxiliary protest any attempt to dis-continue or to curtail the Committee's activities so long as the present emergency exist or so long as there is need for the Committee's services.

The Committee recommended concurrence.

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

#### EIGHT HOUR LAW

Resolution No. 37 - By International Executive Board

WHEREAS:

Much opposition has been encountered and many years spent in an effort to secure legislation to limit hours of work for the woman worker, and

WHEREAS:

Hundred of thousands of women now work interminable hours a week for a mere pittance

WHEREAS:

Statistics proves that long hours do not increase production but rather that they have an opposite effect, and

WHEREAS:

Hours of work in excess of 8 hours a day are found to produce mental and physical fatigue thereby lowering the efficiency and the resistance of the worker, and

WHEREAS:

The lowering of physical resistance results in illness and the loss of thousand of employees hours of work

THEREFORE BE IT  
RESOLVED THAT:

The Auxiliary oppose any change in the restrictive regulations which now exist for the protection of the woman worker especially as these changes apply to the lengthening of the 8 hour day, and

BE IT FURTHER  
RESOLVED THAT:

The Auxiliary go on record as condemning the various state legislators for failing to enact protective laws for the woman worker who is not covered by the Federal Wage and Hour Law.

The Committee recommended concurrence.

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



## CHILD LABOR

Resolution No. 38 By International Executive Board

- WHEREAS: The child of today will be the adult of tomorrow, and
- WHEREAS: Discipline, the benefits of home influence, educational opportunities, sound bodies and unimpaired mental perspective are acquired during the impressionable formative years of a child's life, and
- WHEREAS: The absence of these influences and advantages encourage child delinquency and worse evils,
- THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The Ladies Auxiliary condemn and oppose any economic system or order which as a result of an unequal distribution of its profits, limits or affects the family income to the extent that children are compelled to contribute to their own support, and
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT: The Auxiliary protest any attempt to remove or ease the restrictions that now regulate health hazards, hours of work and rates of pay in so far as they apply to the child laborer.

The Committee recommended concurrence.

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

## RAILROAD PASSES

Resolution No. 39 - By Aurelia Oby Bell, Los Angeles, California

- WHEREAS: It seems hard on widows of Pullman Porters to be deprived of passes, and
- WHEREAS: In some cases a widow has children to support, and
- WHEREAS: The Porter in many cases has given long and faithful years of service
- THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The Brotherhood be requested to ask The Pullman Company for passes, (R.R.) for widows and their dependents.



The Committee recommended non-concurrence.

The recommendation of the Committee was adopted by the Convention.

#### VOTES

Resolution No. 40 - By Josephine Murray, Minneapolis, Minnesota

BE IT

RESOLVED THAT:

Every member of the Auxiliary be an intelligent voter since the gains of labor must be held.

The Committee recommended non-concurrence.

The recommendation of the Committee was adopted by the Convention.

#### HONORARY MEMBERSHIP CARD

Resolution No. 41 - By Julia B. Burwell, Jacksonville, Florida

WHEREAS:

There are many veteran members of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters who are now retiring from the Pullman service

WHEREAS:

Many of these Brotherhood members have wives who are members of the Ladies' Auxiliary and have contributed much toward the progress of the Auxiliary, both actively and financially, and

WHEREAS:

The financial status of these members is affected by the retirement of their husbands

THEREFORE BE IT  
RESOLVED THAT:

Members of the Auxiliary who are paid up at the time of their husband's retirement be issued an honorary membership card.

The Committee recommended non-concurrence.

The recommendation of the Committee was adopted by the Convention.

#### MARKING OF DUES CARDS

Resolution No. 42 - By Olevia Rawlston, Dallas, Texas Auxiliary

WHEREAS:

Under the present method used in marking dues cards there is an opportunity for anyone who so desires to do so, to mark her own card in advance or in other words



to otherwise cause a difference in the amount of dues shown on the card and that shown on the secretary-treasurer book, and

WHEREAS:

The secretary-treasurer may sometimes be put in an embarrassing position as a result of such tactics

THEREFORE BE IT  
RESOLVED THAT:

The Second Biennial Convention of the Ladies' Auxiliary to the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters go on record as changing the method now used so as to eliminate the possibility of dues cards being marked illegally or to adopt a similar method to that used by the Brotherhood in which all secretary-treasurers are furnished a punch, to show the months paid for by all members, and

BE IT FURTHER  
RESOLVED THAT:

The Punch used, perforate the card with the letter " A ".

The Committee recommended non-concurrence.

The recommendation of the Committee was adopted by the Convention.

DELEGATE GARRETT: In regards to this marking I had a resolution in question which was not considered in that we like the brothers have dues books where something or the other could be used as such, putting our initials on the books. It would be better to use the system the brothers are using.

DELEGATE TUCKER: May I make an observation. That I may have the authority to investigate through Brother Totten, the International Secretary-Treasurer, as to whether he thinks that we could use the books and stamps and report to the International Executive Board. I would gladly do it since anything to facilitate the work of the organization.

PRESIDENT WILSON: The International Secretary-Treasurer will act accordingly to your suggestions. What you want to do is try to establish a new system in marking the cards or whether to retain the present system. The International Secretary-Treasurer will investigate and report to the International Executive Board concerning her findings.



Resolution No. 43 - By Annie Mae Daniels, Houston, Texas Auxiliary

BE IT

RESOLVED THAT:

Each local be permitted to use its personalized official staff and the club emblem as its letter head.

The Committee recommended non-concurrence.

The recommendation of the Committee was adopted by the Convention.

Resolution No. 44 - By Hattie Lee Upton, Houston, Texas Auxiliary

BE IT

RESOLVED THAT:

The Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters organize a Juvenile Department.

The Committee recommended non-concurrence.

The recommendation of the Committee was adopted by the Convention.

#### AMERICAN RED CROSS

Resolution No. 45 - By International Executive Board

WHEREAS:

The segregation as practiced by the national and local branches of the American Red Cross constitutes an affront to the American Negro which can not and must not be tolerated or condoned, and

WHEREAS:

The blood so badly needed by the American Red Cross in its efforts to preserve human life and being freely and willingly given by the Negro can not be distinguished from that of any other race and is according to all scientific tests equally as potent in its life saving properties as that of the blood of other races

THEREFORE BE IT  
RESOLVED THAT:

This Convention condemn and oppose the practice of the American Red Cross of labeling the blood being donated by Negroes,

BE IT FURTHER  
RESOLVED THAT:

The delegates and members of the Ladies Auxiliary send a fitting protest to the American Red Cross and all other responsible persons affiliated with the same.



The Committee recommended concurrence.

The recommendation of the Committee was adopted by the Convention.

P.P.B.ofA.

Resolution No. 46 - By International Executive Board

WHEREAS: The Ladies Auxiliary to the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters is the only bona fide auxiliary to the Sleeping Car, Train, Chair Car, Coach Porters and Attendants, and

WHEREAS: All other organizations said to represent these groups of workers are dual organizations since no other organization has a legal right to represent these workers, and

WHEREAS: The P.P.B. of A. Auxiliary has been used by the employer to confuse and to divide the workers thereby lessening their bargaining power

THEREFORE BE IT  
RESOLVED THAT:

Any member of the Brotherhood' Ladies Auxiliary who becomes affiliated with the P.P.B.ofA. Auxiliary will automatically lose her membership in the Ladies Auxiliary to the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters.

The Committee recommended concurrence.

The recommendation of the Committee was adopted by the Convention.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S AUXILIARIES OF LABOR

Resolution No. 47 - By International Executive Board

WHEREAS: The union label trades department of the American Federation of Labor has assumed the responsibility of organizing all of the national and international state federation of women's auxiliaries, central bodies and joint councils of the labor movement into federations similar to that of the American Federation of Labor for the purpose of adding greater strength to the great labor movement with a view toward re-enforcing the position now occupied by the organized workers of America, and



WHEREAS:

The Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters is a bona fide and intergal part of the American Federation of Labor

THEREFORE BE IT  
RESOLVED THAT:

This Convention vote to become an affiliate of the recently formed American Federation of Women's Auxiliaries of Labor.

The Committee recommended concurrence.

The recommendation of the Committee was adopted by the Convention.

PRESIDENT WILSON:

We have the privilege of coming into the American Federation of Women's Auxiliaries of Labor. We should become a part of that great body of women. The fee is two dollars per capita tax and one cent per member per month.

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF NEGRO WOMEN, Incorporated

Resolution No. 48 - By International Executive Board

WHEREAS:

The National Council of Negro Women, Incorporated which has as its president, Mrs. Mary McLeod Bethune, and which is affiliated with the National Council of Women of the United States, Incorporated, and

WHEREAS:

The National Council of Negro Women is seeking to organize the Negro women who have accomplished any worthwhile task, and

WHEREAS:

The annual dues for membership in the National Council of Negro Women are fifty dollars

THEREFORE BE IT  
RESOLVED THAT:

The Ladies Auxiliary Order of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters go on record as becoming affiliated with the National Council of Negro Women, Incorporated.

The Committee recommended concurrence.

The recommendation of the Committee was adopted by the Convention.



President Wilson next called for the report of the Cooperative and Credit Unions Committee.

#### COOPERATIVE AND CREDIT UNION COMMITTEE

DELEGATE FLORENCE BALL-JONES: After careful deliberation, the Cooperative and Credit Union Committee submits the following recommendations:

1. That every local Auxiliary make a thorough and careful study of credit unions and their advantages, and that any educational program sponsored by an Auxiliary include the study of co-operatives and credit unions.
2. That each Auxiliary write to the Farm Credit Administration at Washington, D. C., or contact the Consumers Division of the Office of Price Administration in the city of each Auxiliary, and secure literature concerning cooperatives and credit unions.
3. That each local Auxiliary continue the study of the following books:  
Skin Deep by M. C. Phillips  
The American Chamber of Horrors by Ruth D. Lamb  
Your Money's Worth by Stewart Chase  
The A B C of Cooperatives by Gerald Richardson

and other books similar to the above, and the following bulletins:

Credit Problems of Families - Write to Superintendent  
of Documents, Washington, D. C.  
Loan Sharks and Their Victims by William T. Foster  
Write to 30 Rockefeller Plaza, New York City.  
Credit for Consumers by LeBaron R. Foster  
Write to 30 Rockefeller Plaza, New York City.

4. That each Auxiliary appoint a member to attend classes and concentrate on practical problems of cooperative education, policy and store management, directing of problems and publicity buying, displaying and pricing policies.
5. That cooperative and credit union education be advanced through motion pictures and the displaying of posters in such public places as is deemed necessary.

Signed by:

Letitia Murray - Chairman - Los Angeles  
Florence Ball-Jones - Secretary - Pittsburgh  
Estelle Wilson - Shreveport  
Sara Allen - Indianapolis  
Cora Chatman - Louisville  
Davie Della Phillips - Nashville  
Bertha Williams - Cleveland



Minnie Mae Smith - Portland  
Nettie Gregory - Salt Lake City  
Ella Archer - St. Paul  
Ruby Lee Lacy - Fort Worth  
Ola Gregory - Tampa

The recommendations of the Cooperative and Credit Union Committee were adopted by the Convention.

President Wilson called for a report from the Organization and Propaganda Committee whose Chairman was Mrs. Mae Dailey:

#### ORGANIZATION AND PROPAGANDA COMMITTEE

DELEGATE SHEFTALL:

The Organization and Propaganda Committee submits the following recommendations:

#### Educating Our Women That We Enjoy Good Conditions Because of the Brotherhood

1. Porters have the best jobs in the history of Porters, making it possible for the family to be properly housed, fed and clothed, etc.
2. The job is made good through the twelve to fifteen years of struggle and sacrifice of many of the Porters.
3. Train union organization of the Brotherhood are responsible for these conditions.
4. There is an obligation on the part of the Porter to keep the job and to keep the job good.
5. It is necessary to develop a strong and aggressive movement to keep what we have and to make further economic progress.
6. The Brotherhood provides the income, protects the income and is the only insurance of the job. It throws the strong arm of protection around the Porter and his family, and, therefore, must of necessity be of first importance and women are obligated to interest themselves in the Brotherhood.
7. Membership be divided into squads or groups.

#### Suggestions

1. A small pamphlet on the Ladies Auxiliary and the history of the Brotherhood and the Ladies Auxiliary as permanent literature for distribution among women who are eligible for the Ladies Auxiliary.
2. Open meetings at intervals where non-members can come in, in which the story of the Brotherhood and other trade union discussions will be given.
3. The President and other officers of the Ladies Auxiliary should go into the meetings of the men and talk about the Ladies Auxiliary at stated intervals. Also hold a joint session at least once every three months.



4. Special articles appealing to the members to have members of their families to join the Ladies Auxiliary should be run monthly for a while and then periodically under such headlines as, "Why Women Relatives of Porters Should Join the Ladies Auxiliary." A column of the same nature of the "Don'ts" column run by Mr. Randolph.
5. From time to time send invitations to all women relatives of members of the Brotherhood to attend the Ladies' meetings.
6. From time to time send out literature and have talks made on the history of trade unions in America with special emphasis on the Brotherhood.
7. Membership be divided into squads or groups. Over each squad should be placed a captain. There should also be a lieutenant to serve if the captain is ill or away.
8. That a copy of the Constitution and By-laws be purchased by each member.

Signed by:

Mae Dailey - Chairman - St. Louis  
Leo Sheftall - Secretary - Asheville  
Ella Johnson - Tampa  
Dorothy Garrett - Buffalo  
Jennie Toogood - New York  
Olivia Rawlston - Dallas  
Emily Johnson - Los Angeles  
Carrie White - Kansas  
Bessie King - Houston  
Libby Love - Philadelphia  
Pauline Clark - Cincinnati  
Selma Clark - Omaha  
Gertrude Ross - Atlanta  
Birtieazer Garron - New Orleans

The recommendations of the Organization and Propaganda Committee were adopted by the Convention.

President Wilson called for a report from the Committee on Workers Education.

#### WORKERS' EDUCATION COMMITTEE

We, the members of the Workers' Education Committee beg to submit the following recommendations:



1. We recommend that our International President be empowered to supply the Auxiliary with material and literature for the Workers Education Program.
2. We recommend that our International President and our International Counsellor advise the Zone Supervisors and that they in turn correspond with the duly elected chairman of each Auxiliary to select such speakers as the above said Supervisors shall approve.
3. We recommend that the chairman of each local secure such speakers.
4. We further recommend that the Zone Supervisors contact International President until desired results are obtained.

Signed by:

Fannie Caviness - Chairman - San Antonio	
Anna Wilson	Elizabeth Craig
Nora Foot	Agnes Thornton
Carrie McWatt	Emetullah Oglesby
Bessie Patton	Marion Sappington
Ardella Nutall	

The recommendations of the Workers' Education Committee were adopted by the Convention.

The Chair next called for the report of the Finance Committee.

#### FINANCE COMMITTEE

Rental of Hall .....	\$ 35.20
Decorations .....	12.50
Pictures .....	10.00

Total.....	\$ 57.70
------------	----------

Additional expenses for entertaining the visiting delegation were borne by the St. Louis Ladies Auxiliary.

Fraternally submitted,

Lela M. Lee - Chairman  
 Rosina C. Tucker  
 Halena Wilson  
 W. Mae Dailey

The report of the Finance Committee was adopted by the Convention.



The Chair called for the report of the Auditing Committee.

#### AUDITING COMMITTEE

We, the members of the Auditing Committee of the Second Biennial Convention of the Ladies Auxiliary to the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters wish to make the following report:

After careful and thorough examination of the records of the International Secretary-Treasurer we found them accurate and correct.

The neatness and the way in which the records are kept shows great efficiency and we commend our Secretary-Treasurer on her very excellent work.

We recommend that the Convention give Sister Rosina C. Tucker, our International Secretary-Treasurer, who has so conscientiously and diligently served her post, a rising vote of thanks for her splendid service.

Respectfully and fraternally submitted,

Agnes Thornton - Chairman  
Julia B. Burwell  
Jennie Toogood

The report of the Finance Committee was adopted by the Convention.

President Wilson thanked Mrs. Arдания Morgan for the lovely bouquet of flowers given and placed on the speakers table on the opening session. Sister Morgan is one of the members of the St. Louis Auxiliary.

At this point it was moved and seconded that a telegram be sent to the International Counsellor informing him of the outcome of the election, following his request in his address.

DELEGATE NUTALL:

Madam President, Officers and Members, it gives us great pleasure to present to our Zone Supervisor our token of appreciation for her fine work and services rendered by her at all times. I now present to you a gift from the members of the Pacific Zone.



DELEGATE MURRAY:

This is a very happy surprise and this expression coming from the delegates and members of the Pacific Coast Zone is an expression of your approval of me over that zone which is greatly appreciated. I cannot tell you how much I appreciate it and I take it also as proof of what we are going to have on the Pacific Coast, that is, greater cooperation from this group. I want to thank this group again for this beautiful bouquet of flowers.

In Los Angeles we have adopted a system of keeping our books that we consider a method worth while passing on to others. If the Chairman will permit I would like to have our delegate explain the book.

PRESIDENT WILSON:

I would suggest that the book be passed around after the meeting and perhaps the idea can be used in your own Auxiliary if it so desires.

We now come to the part of the Convention activities which was set aside to pay a fitting tribute to the memory of our sisters and co-workers who have departed from our midst since the meeting two years ago. As the roll is called each Auxiliary having suffered the loss of a member is being asked to respond by offering an eulogy in memory of its departed member.

To open our Memorial Service we shall sing "Blest Be the Tie."

#### MEMORIAL SERVICE

DELEGATE TUCKER:

I will proceed to call the roll and will the delegates please respond as their Auxiliary is called.

Asheville

Atlanta

Baltimore

Boston

Buffalo

Chicago -

To Our Sisters Gone Beyond

At this hour we pause today to pay tribute to the memory of two who had endeared themselves to their associates, and by their accomplishments and the example of their lives left a rich heritage for us and our successors.

Mark Anthony, in his funeral oration for Julius Caesar, said, "The evil that men do lives after them; the good is oft interred with their bones." That is not true my friends. If it were, the world would be in chaos today, because evil is destructive. No evil endures long; even



the horrors of war are forgotten in a generation. But the good that those such as the splendid sisters we are honoring today, accomplish in this world can never die.

The lives of Sisters Lillian and Ruby Haynes were open books, which have been read by all of us who were associated with them. Since time would not permit me to recount the numerous services they have rendered our organization, I shall mention only the outstanding features of their work.

Sister Lillian Haynes was known for her committee work. She not only worked faithfully as a committee member but also with the Auxiliary as a whole.

Sister Ruby Haynes, a dynamic committee member, will always be remembered for the excellent job she did as our hostess.

And now let us go forth resolved that their lives have not been in vain; that the high principles which actuated them shall henceforth have an uplifting influence upon us so that the good which they did may endure forever.

"Let us not mourn their going;  
Let us rejoice to know  
That--earthly labors finished--  
They were prepared to go.

Let us emulate their virtues,  
That men of us may say:  
The world is brighter, better,  
Because they passed this way."

Cincinnati - In attempting to bring to you an eulogy for our deceased secretary-treasurer who greeted you with her smiling face two years ago at New York City, I find myself at a loss for appropriate words for this most worthy individual. She came back to us and brought a beautiful message of the high lights of the whole convention. Eager to learn all the answers she attended every session. Then October 21, 1940 she slipped away. A character worthy of emulation, cheerful, always seeing the bright side, helping her people by sharing her knowledge. Jesse Mae Parker smiled her memory into the hearts of all who knew her. We picture her and hold her very dear in the following stanzas.

Near shady wall a rose once grew  
Budded and blossomed in God's free light  
Watered and fed by morning dew  
Shedding its sweetness day and night  
As it grew and blossomed fair and tall



It came to a crevice in the wall  
 Through which there came a beam of light  
 Onward it crept with added strength  
 With never a thought of fear or pride  
 And unfolded itself on the other side.  
 The light, the dew, the broadening view  
 Were found the same as they were before  
 And it lost itself in beauties new  
 Breathing its fragrance more and more  
 Shall claim of death cause us to grieve  
 And make our courage faint and fall?  
 Nay! Let us faith and hope receive  
 The rose still grows beyond the wall  
 Scattering fragrance far and wide,  
 Just as it did in days of yore  
 Just as it will forever more.

Cleveland

Dallas

Denver - Sister Witt at first like the rest of us was totally unaware of the meaning and significance of the company plan or company union. If the company, for whom her husband worked demanded or suggested that porters support and vote for their plan, the wives of porters felt that it was no more than right for him to do so. The porter himself knew little about the background and reason for the company union and the importance of self organization in the form of a real Trade Union, uncontrolled by the company. There were reasons for this which most of you know. But dear Sister Witt was a member of a race and a labor group interested in the preservation of democratic traditions in order that we may fight more effectively for liberty and social justice as wives. She was not unmindful of the great changes in world affairs that moved like a mirror of factions before her, she realized that these changes will continually go on. But she also was aware of the fact that change is not always progressive. Changes maybe retrogressive too. She knew the world had its dark ages as well as the Renaissance.

She vision the organized forces of the workers into Trade Union Ladies Auxiliaries that will fight for progress, freedom and justice against all forms of reaction and tyranny. She kept a perfect history of this organization and was sincere and honest with all. In writing a tribute to Brother A. Philip Randolph in 1938 she made this statement, and I quote: "If I were a preacher today and had to preach a sermon, I would take my text from the 15th Chapter of St. John and the 13th verse, 'Greater Love Hath No Man Than This, That A Man Lay Down His Life For A Friend', and my subject, 'Friendship'." We know her very life was given for the success of this organization and she shall live in the lives and hearts of her co-workers.



Sister Irma E. Moore was appointed to serve the unexpired term of Sister Witt. She did her work so well that she was elected to serve as secretary-treasurer for the next two years. She was very efficient and loved her work.

"There is no death, there is no night,  
The loved ones passed beyond our sight  
Are living in Eternal Light  
Removed from care and pain,  
And some day in a fairer land  
We shall hear their voices  
We shall touch their hands  
And with lifted hearts which understand  
We shall see our own again."

Brother Herbert Witt, husband of the late Sister Venzie Witt, sent these flowers in memory of her.

Detroit

Fort Worth

Houston

Indianapolis

Jacksonville

Jersey City - Jersey City mourned the loss of the late Sister L. Q. Williams, widow of the late C. Q. Williams of the New York Division. Sister Williams was not very active as an organization woman, but she was loyal in her financial obligations and in her moral support to the organization. Upon the passing of the late Brother L. Q. Williams, Sister Williams chose to cast her lot with the Jersey City Division.

Also, the late Sister Louise Minor, one of the last past president's of Jersey City and the mother of nine children has departed from our group.

Los Angeles - Los Angeles mourned the loss of Sisters Lavera Richardson and Marion Thedford.

Louisville

Memphis - Memphis mourned the loss of Sister Glover.

Minneapolis - In memory of Sister Ludie Watkins who was a faithful member and always ready and willing to do whatever she could for the Auxiliary, I place this flower for Sister Ludie Watkins.



Sister Frances Leaverett was always willing and in sympathy with doing whatever she could, but on account of her ill health could not do very much. She passed away in 1941. We miss them both.

Missouri - The late Sister Loudell Coleman was mourned by the Missouri Auxiliary.

Nashville

New Orleans - It is with deep regret, we the officers and members of the Ladies' Auxiliary to the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters of New Orleans, Louisiana, mourn the passing of our member, Sister Lillian Eggerson, who departed this life in the fall of 1940. I see her standing before me now. "Why make me mourn for loss that doth enrich us yet with upward yearnings of regret. Bleaker than unmassed stone our lives were but for this immortal gain of unstilled longing and uninspiring pain! As thrills of long hushed tone lives in the bowl so, our souls grow fine with keen vibrations from the touch divine of noble natures gone. Happy their end who vanish down life's evening stream. Placid as swans that drift in dream. Round the next river bend! Happy long lift, with honor at the close, friend painless tears the softened thought of foes! And yet, like him to spend all at a gush, keeping our first faith sure from mid-life's doubt and eld's contentment poor, what more could fortune send?"

New York

Oakland - It is befitting at this time to pay respect to our beloved ones removed from us, Sisters F. Wynn and G. McCain. We bow our heads in humble submission to Him who doeth all things well. These sisters were very attentive and loyal workers. God does not make mistakes. Rest in Peace.

Omaha

Philadelphia

Pittsburgh

Portland

San Antonio - We, the members of the San Antonio Division, bow our heads in humble submission to Him that doeth all things well. We mourned the loss of Sister Cora Walker who passed in November, 1940, and Sister Cecile Sigmond, December 1941.

Salt Lake City

Seattle



Shreveport

St. Louis - Those whom we love go out of sight but never out of mind;  
They are cherished in the hearts of those they leave behind  
Loving and kind in all her ways  
Upright and just to the end of her days;  
Sincere and true in heart and mind  
Beautiful memories she leaves behind.

These are the sentiments of the officers and members of the St. Louis Auxiliary with reference to the late Sister Jessie Miller who departed this life January 1941. Sister Miller was a loyal and staunch charter member of the St. Louis Auxiliary and was loved by all who knew her. At the time of her passing she was the Chaplain. Sister Miller is not dead. She had just gone to that beautiful "Isle of Somewhere", where we will all meet again some day. While our hearts were heavy and we deeply deplored her passing yet we would at this solemn meeting calmly say: "Thy will had to be done. Peace be to her ashes.

St. Louis Train Porters Auxiliary

St. Paul

Tampa

Toronto

Washington, D. C.

The Memorial Services were closed with the placing of a white rose for each deceased member in a vase.

- - - -

DELEGATE THORNTON:

Sister Halena Wilson, on behalf of the Mid West Zone, we wish to present this bouquet as a token of our love and esteem that we have for you and this is just a token, we could not pay you or tell you in so many words, the love and respect we have for you and we hope your years will be more successful and we hope to be closer to you in the next two years.

PRESIDENT WILSON:

This is indeed a surprise. You know I have had some very beautiful gifts and lovely courtesies during this convention and I am indeed grateful. I don't know of anything that gives me more pleasure than serving and since I like to serve I can assure you that as long as I am able, I shall try to give the very best there is in me. I am not only working for



the development of my own division but it is felt the smallest and the farthest removed is just as important as the one closest to me. I thank each and every one of you.

\* \* \*

The International Executive Board will meet in the McQueen Assembly immediately after the closing of the Convention.

\* \* \*

Sister Rosina C. Tucker was presented with a bouquet of flowers for her faithful services.

\* \* \*

It was moved and seconded that the St. Louis Ladies Auxiliary be given a rousing vote of thanks for having entertained the Second Biennial Convention so graciously.

\* \* \*

The President stated that the Convention would meet in Cleveland, Ohio, the third week in September, 1944.

\* \* \*

The Convention was closed with the singing of the song composed by Sister Rosina C. Tucker

\* \* \*

The Convention was declared adjourned by the International President, Sister Halena Wilson, at 4:52 P.M.

\* \* \*



# I N D E X

- A -

## ADDRESSES:

Andrews, Reverend George	69-70
Bell, James Sr.	88
Benoit, Joe	87
Dailey, Mae	29
Hunter, Mrs. Nell	108-109
Jackson, O. A.	46
Lee, Lela	25-27
Randolph, A. Philip	83-86
Ryder, Mrs. Mary E.	49-50
Schroeder, Ray	24-25
Steinley, Jack	70-71
Thompson, Reverend Milton	24
Tucker, Rosina C.	27-29
Williams, Miss Frances H.	67-69
Wilson, Halena	29-42

## APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES:

Auditing	46
Constitution and Resolution	44
Cooperative and Credit Union	45
Credentials	46
Finance	46
Organization and Propaganda	45
Publicity	46
Rules and Order of Business	45
Workers' Education	45

- B -

## BROTHERHOOD GREETINGS

87



- C -

# COMMUNICATIONS:

Armstrong, H. L.	52
Doone, Georgia	51
Murray, R. J.	53-54
Nestor, Agnes	52-53
Randolph Pink Tea Club	52
Train Porters Local #5-St. Louis	52

- D -

# DELEGATES, ADDRESSING CONVENTION:

Caviness, Fannie J.	58, 75
Dailey, Mae	29, 55, 89, 110
Fant, Nora	87, 89
Freeman, Josephine	43, 48, 55
Johnson, Emily	79
Jones, Florence Ball	120
Lassiter, Katherine	62, 67, 71, 89
Lee, Lela	24, 25, 29
McBride, Ella	48, 55, 67, 83, 108
Murray, Letitia	59, 71, 80
Nutall, Ardella	124
Phillips, Davie Della	87
Rector, Bertha	87
Sappington, Marion	48
Shaftall, Leo	121
Thornton, Agnes	73, 130
Tucker, Rosina C.	27, 51, 65, 87, 89
Wells, Nannie	76
Wilson, Halena	29, 46, 48, 51, 55, 63, 66, 67, 83
	86, 87, 88, 108, 111, 130

DELEGATES, LIST OF	1, 2, 43, 44
--------------------	--------------

- I -

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS	88
INTERNATIONAL OFFICERS	88
INVOCATIONS	24, 48, 55, 67, 83



- M -

MASS MEETING	3
MEMORIAL SERVICE	125

- O -

OPENING ADDRESS, PRESIDENT WILSON:

Auxiliaries, New and Reorganized	36
Bethune-Cookman Fund	35
Child Labor	33
Communications, Official	38
Consolidations	37
Consumer Cooperative Education	33, 34
Convention Proceedings	34
Current Topics	34
Deaths, International Auxiliary, 1940	41
Deaths, Local Auxiliaries, 1940	40
Educational Program, Ladies Auxiliary	32
Elections, June 1941	35
Finance, General Condition	40
March-On-Washington Movement	31, 32
Membership Drive, National	35
Membership, General	39
Membership, Special Arrangements	37
Reinstatements	39
Resignations, Local Officials	38
Special Edicts	36
Stamps, Patriotic	41
Tax, Remittance of Per Capita	37
Visits, Official	38
Women in Industry	32
Zone Supervisors	39

- P -

PANEL DISCUSSION:

A Woman's Responsibility in Today's Crisis	71
Better Buymanship	73
Conservation	75
Mrs. America Is Willing	76
All Out For Victory	79
Summary	80



# RECEPTION

82

## REPORTS:

Auditing	124
Constitution and Resolution	89-107
Cooperative and Credit Unions	120-121
Credentials	43, 48, 55
Financial	65, 113
Organization and Propaganda	121-122
Rules and Order of Business	48-49
Workers' Education	122-123
Zone	55

## RESOLUTIONS:

American Red Cross	117
American Federation of Women's Auxiliaries of Labor	118
Army, Women's	90
Article VI, Change In	99
Article XVIII, Change In	95
Auxiliaries, Attendance	91
Auxiliaries, Charters	94
Auxiliaries, Discipline	95
Auxiliaries, Junior	94
Auxiliaries, Loyalty	98
Auxiliaries, Nominations	99
Auxiliaries, Vacancies	94
C.I.O. & A.F. of L.	98
Constitution, Printed	93
Conventions, Biennial	104
Delegates, Convention	97
Dues, Books	105
Dues, Marking of Cards	105, 106
Eight Hour Law	113
Elections, Local Presidents and Delegates	89
Elections, International Officials	100
Fair Employment Practice Committee, President's	112, 113
Financial, Report Sheets	93
Financial, Report Forms Reconstructed	90
International Executive Board, Charges	101
Juvenile Department	117
Labels, Union	96
Labor, Child	104
Labor Laws, Restruct Existing	106
Lynching	101
March-On-Washington Movement	102
Membership Cards, Honorary	115



National Council of Negro Women	119
Passes, Railroad	114
P.P.B. of A.	118
Prices	111
Primaries, Lily White	97
Randolph, A. Philip-Birthday Honor	90
Soldiers, Negro	92
Stationery, Personalized	117
Tax, Convention	103
Tax, Poll	105
Tenant Farming	105
Union Shops	107
Votes	115
War	111, 112
War Bonds, United States	100
Workers, Domestic and Agricultural	96

- S -

#### SESSIONS:

First Day - Thursday Morning	24
First Day - Thursday Afternoon	48
Second Day - Friday Morning	55
Second Day - Friday Afternoon	67
Third Day - Saturday Morning	83
Third Day - Saturday Afternoon	108

- Z -

#### ZONE REPORTS:

Eastern	62
Middle West	63
Pacific Coast	59
Southwestern (Part One)	55
Southwestern (Part Two)	58