

7:2

CORRESPONDENCE

IN-HOUSE

AUG 1945

C-A  
171

8/2/45

Notes to Mr. Harrison

1. The excellent report made by Mrs. Booth has been recognized by both the Executive Committee and by the Executive Secretary of the Columbia Foundation who read it with great interest.
2. Mr. Crotty is in receipt of minutes of the meeting of July 2, called by Mr. Harrison. Action at that meeting called for the creation of a sub-committee whose responsibility called for the development of a proposed plan and tentative budget to be presented to the Executive Committee not later than August 15.
3. The sub-committee meeting was held on July 16 (see minutes, enclosed) and the minutes sent to Mr. Crotty, for his consideration. A copy of his reply is enclosed.
4. The Executive Committee has approved this report of the sub-committee, and its recommendation can now be recognized as established policy.

I feel that Mr. Crotty's letter expresses pretty well what they are thinking in the South, and as that thinking is pretty definitely in line with what we feel will be the natural evolution of the work of the Committee, it seems entirely in order.

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PACIFIC COAST

Committee on American Principles and Fair Play

(INCORPORATED)

Headquarters: Room 203, 465 California Street, San Francisco 4

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Office: 2287 Telegraph Ave.,  
Room 215  
Berkeley 4  
Telephone: ASHberry 6214

August 3, 1945

Dr. Arthur Cushman McGiffert, Jr.  
Pacific School of Religion  
1798 Scenic Avenue  
Berkeley, California

Dear Dr. McGiffert:

Enclosed you will find a copy of a letter which the Committee is considering sending out. Dr. Paul Taylor will call you tomorrow ( August 4) to explain what it is about and to see if you think it is O.K.

Very sincerely yours,

*Cannie Halliday*  
Secretary

*Ruth - I don't mind  
sticking one week out and  
think well of this - if the  
other committee members  
do not see any serious  
damage to us.  
C. C. Y.*

*Please show with Ruth.*

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*ok file*

PACIFIC COAST

Committee on American Principles  
and Fair Play

(INCORPORATED)

Headquarters: Room 203, 465 California Street, San Francisco 4

Los Angeles, California.  
875 So. Manhattan Place, Apt. 2  
August 9, 1945.

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WALTER WANGER

Executive Secretary

*Mrs. Katherine E. Kaplan*  
157 Belmont Ave.  
Los Angeles 24, Calif.  
Area 3-8839

MRS. GRACIA D. BOOTH  
1062 West Sixth Street  
Los Angeles 14, California  
MAdison 2678

Dear Galen Fisher;

Your letters of the 25 and 28th shud have been answered long ago but sickness and the re-adjustment to a new working environment plus new contacts and calls for organizational advice and assistance have kept me hopping. Now, at the close of one of my very busiest days I find my mind set on writing the long-deferred epistle--- just like a woman!

This has been a typical "working day" for me---breakfast at seven-fifteen, Raymond off to his office at eight, the apartment "redded up" etc and me at eight-thirty (I work faster and with a clearer mind when I start early). Then some short notes which I handled rather than wait for the Secretary. The mail came at eight-forty-five---I went through that, sorting out the urgent things to dictate answers to and attending to some of lesser importance immediately and then filing them out of the way.

Next came a long-distance call *from* Santa Ana. I have been down there several times to consult with their key people about organizing and a plan had been approved for a small nucleus group to meet any evening this week except this evening but they got their wires crossed and called the group for ~~to-~~nite. Both Raymond and I were to attend and speak to a public affairs committee here in the central Y.W --a date of long standing and on which we had been *much* advertised. So, I sent Joe Moody, the splendid young business executive who has stuck his neck out fearlessly on behalf of the Evacuees and is chairman of our L.A. coordinating committee. He will give them a great boost, as to morale, and I hope he will from now on consider Santa Ana his step-child and continue the relationship. Meanwhile, the Postmaster at Belleflower phoned that a petition was being circulated to not allow Evacuees to come back there---result, Raymond was secured to address the Rotary at noon today and I went along and the four people from Santa Ana who are most interested came up to meet me there and ~~who~~ when the Rotary was over, we all sat down with Raymond and got down to bed-rock about a Civic-unity committee *in Santa Ana* im Santa Ana which might conceivably culminate in a

county-wide Civic-unity organization eventually. I am to go down to Santa Ana soon and meet with the new executive at a noon-day meeting and help with definite pertinent problems etc. This has developed slowly but it has grown out of a community conviction of the necessity for such an action, so it will probably live and flourish. This case is typical of my method of procedure, as a rule, that is why I cite it in such detail.

On the way home I spent some time in Whittier. There the problem is more one of Mexican than of Japanese emphasis and I am helping Col. Finch (and is he enjoying it.) to round up the really interested folk with whom he will have a session soon. School Principal, Wiley, is much interested and so is "Chief" Newman, <sup>editor</sup> coach of Whittier. Then Vern Landreth, with whom I went to college years ago, now lives in Whittier and I am sure of his cooperation. There is also a fine business man, Robbins, Pres. of the University Club, who is most active in assisting Returnees, along with his very fine wife, who was more than pleased to have his name on our report as key person in Whittier. There are also representative women and some men of influence whom the other men will round up---so, the possibility of a Civic Unity set-up there is most encouraging, although my Quaker friends are not as enthusiastic as I feel they should be. Dr. Bruff will be a pillar and so will one or two other Friends. Once the ground-work is laid out a bit, the Pasadena Fair Play group expect to be responsible for Whittier. Also, we are having representatives from the communities of Montebello, Norwalk, Downey etc. join in these first meetings and it may end in an inter-community organization for Civic Unity---wish me luck! Once an organization is set up enough to have a meeting then I hope to have Raymond go speak on the idea of the state-wide Civic unity set-up or whatever he considers apropos ---

(Friday a.m.)

Lancaster asked me to help them secure a Nisei veteran for a big Kiwanis meeting and I finally got Major Hartney to go with a young <sup>Nisei</sup> G.I. who lost one arm overseas and is covered with ribbons and wears a purple heart insignia. The letter of appreciation I received from the Fair Play Sec. was an inspiration. We went to another meeting of the Van Nuys Valley Committee the other evening and they are well on their way --one community, Tacomina, has already licked a restrictive covenant effort and you should have seen <sup>the</sup> way the white folk squared their shoulders and purred when seven or eight fine looking Negroes walked into the High school library where we were meeting. <sup>This</sup> incident answers in part, I hope, your query as to whether or not newly organized groups simply applied themselves to the task of "keeping agency relations smooth or pushing joint new projects". In every one of the communities where I have been instrumental in setting-up a committee or just "waking" up an already existing loafing one, the impetus of an emergent need has been the deciding factor. If they say "we haven't any race problem or tense situation" then I start nosing around to locate the things they are unconcerned about and pretty soon some one wakes up to their responsibility. However, as a rule the consciousness of a problem is usually present and, more often than not, along with it a sense of utter bewilderment as to how to cope with it. When they reach the point where several agree that they must and will do something if only someone will guide them a bit---- well, that is when I sic Raymond on.

Does all this rambling visiting answer the question as to whether such committees will fill the place of Councils <sup>for</sup> Civic Unity? I truly believe they will-- in fact, that hope is in my mind always and I am suggesting such a possibility to every group and have found for weeks that such an approach meets with the very quickest and most enthusiastic response. The plan I drew up last spring for coordinating committees for re-settlement is being followed here in our L.A. set-up and they are working closely with Civic Unity here. The various sub-committees are preparing reports of their survey and recommendations and our next meeting is to be on the 22nd. I have asked each local group to report to me regarding their plan of action etc. and I expect to share that with you and Ruth if and when the information comes.

outside L.A.

Many of these newly organized communities are setting up public meetings for late August or early September at which either Raymond or I or both of us are being asked to speak. In South Pasadena the new Civic Unity Committee is planning a meeting for Sept. 14, where both of us are expected to report on the progress of our work and where they hope to have the cartoonist, Mauldin as their guest speaker. He has come out with some very strong statements on race prejudice and you may have seen his new book. The chief problem of that group is going to be negro rather than Japanese relocation although the immediate ~~cause~~ <sup>reason</sup> organization was discrimination against a Returnee there. And so it goes! And isn't it all interesting, compelling and worth every effort we can put into it!

At your suggestion, I sent Gordon Chapman the list of Committee heads and key people. Clarence's secretary omitted the addresses by mistake from my original report and so we had her mimeograph them separately. I have a lot of other names and if Gordon wants them I could send him the best ones in any ~~one~~ community he requests. It would be an endless job to copy all. Rita has been copying the card file for me and just completed it, after two weeks of doing an hour or more each day. You might tell Gordon that a copy of the committee chair men and key persons has been mailed from the Congregational offices to the ministers, Catholic priests and Buddhists and to the welfare and relocation heads in each relocation center.

Mr. Crotty recently asked Raymond and myself to have lunch with him at the Jonahan Club and we had a very fine and understanding time together. He feels that final merging with the Civic Unity Council, of Fair Play is desirable and is cooperating with Raymond beautifully and has taken me under his wing so to speak. I am finding Mr. Connoley and Al Wirin (civil liberties) and others like that most cooperative, especially, since I <sup>now</sup> represent only Fair Play and am taking full time for it. This enables me to meet and know people better and to make more useful trips afield. *People confused Clarence + me a lot.*

Wm Carris also most eager to do anything I ask and seems so eager that I am trying to figure out a job for his committee. At the moment he is "be-deviling" W.R.A. about the necessity of real homes for Evacuees to return to. W.R.A. reported to me some dirty work in the form of "anti" petitions going on in Rosemead and I am going to telephone Will and see if he will assume the responsibility for ferreting out the rats out there and then ask him to call Mr. Crotty, Finch and me.

Well, this already sounds like a newsreel and looks awful--- would you share it with Ruth, please? No doubt it will take your combined efforts to decipher it anyway.

I am keenly interested in knowing what progress has been made in the organization of a state-wide Civic Unity set-up. Whenever anyone has time to send on some information I would be pleased to have it.

I am securing a splendid Nisei girl for secretarial help who works part-time somewhere else. To date I am using Clarence's girl by the hour and doing bits myself. This machine jumps a cog about ever so often. Will rent a good one as soon as we know if we are moving to Pasadena or buying a place here. We expect to know this week-end. I think I have a small desk spotted and in the meantime, so long as Crotty leaves his office furniture in Clarence's office I am welcome to arrange interviews there or dictate correspondence, and no more rent paid to them as I am not using their phone at all. Working from home as a base, I get so much more done and can cooperate much more effectively and pleasantly with Clarence than when we were crowded into that small and noisy place.

*Well, I must do some phoning, go out for some interviews + dictate some letters. Hope you can read this bad typing.  
Very sincerely, - Gracia B.*

August 16, 1945

Dear Gracia Booth:

Your very newsy letter of August 9th has been read  
been read with satisfaction, and will be shown to Ruth today.

Thank you for sending all those names to Gordon Chapman. I will pass along your supplementary remarks.

Your tactics as to local work, and county-wide organization seem to me most sound and promising.

I have given Mr. Scott's office, (Miss Murphy) your expenses for July, and asked her to check on those for June. I think you advise your reimbursing yourself for the \$10.41 miscellaneous expenses out of your August rental, etc. allowance. Now that you have no rent, that amount should apply to other necessary outlays. All we want is to facilitate your total work, and keep things straight accounts.

Cordially yours, and with congratulations to Raymond on his good work,

Galen M. Fisher

P. S.

We have worked hard, and made progress on the Statewide Civic U<sup>ity</sup> set-up, as Ruth will be writing you in due course.

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PACIFIC COAST  
 Committee on American Principles  
 and Fair Play

(INCORPORATED)

Headquarters: Room 203, 465 California Street, San Francisco 4

875 South Manhattan Pl.

Aug 21. '45

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2234 Kelton Ave.

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Phone: 38839

MRS. GRACIA D. BOOTH

1062 West Sixth Street

Los Angeles 14, California

MAthson 2975

Dear Galen Fisher -  
 You + Ruth will be interested to know that out at Pomona yesterday the Pomona Fair Play Committee was organized but under the name of Pomona Council for Civic Unity

Their group represents a good cross-section and their Sec. is the young Rabbi. I invited a representative of the group at Claremont who are having me out there in a week or 10 days to help them get going. She was all enthused over the organizational meeting yesterday. <sup>Raymond spoke, too</sup> Later she is planning a small group meeting soon to discuss organizing. The Whittier group are discussing among themselves + will call on me when ready + I'll send (or take with me) Col. Finch who wants to help there. W.P.A., Fair Play + Civic Unity all helped prepare the way at Pomona.

In the confusion of moving my things

from 105-2 out home here, I have mislaid  
my receipts (carbons) for monthly <sup>expenses</sup>  
my last check came June 1 or 2 <sup>however</sup> covering  
May and (I think but not certain) with  
\$25<sup>00</sup> toward ~~July~~ June I think the April  
acct was started <sup>in</sup> ~~over~~ that way —  
i.e. — the acct for April paid May 1  
with \$25<sup>00</sup> added toward ~~May~~  
Mr. Scott's office should know.

Nothing was paid in advance  
when I started April 1, however.  
I'm sure Miss Murphy's books will  
show how it was handled.

I've a lovely Nisei girl  
living about "20 minutes by bus"  
down Western from us, who comes  
by day or half day or hour, as I  
need secretarial help. Now + then  
I have mimeographing done downtown.

It was good to hear from you  
once more. I shall keep you posted  
re. new community set-ups. Oh, yes,  
I am to go to "Vista" soon for 2 days  
or so. The people who asked me say the  
anti group there are anti everything.  
Regards to Pats — Sincerely Gladia.

August 27, 1945

Mrs. Gracia D. Booth  
875 South Manhattan Pl.  
Los Angeles 6

Dear Gracia Booth:

I have yours of August 21, and am delighted to note how <sup>w</sup>ell things seem to be opening up at Pomona and how Col. Finch is pitching in with you at Whittier and elsewhere. It is most encouraging when men like him make this cause a major in their program.

As Ruth told you, it will be better for you to clear the financial questions directly with Miss Murphy of Mr. Scott's office. If she did not pay you ~~for~~ the April \$25. until <sup>M</sup>ay 1, then it seems quite likely that June acct, was paid on July 1. We don't want you to be out of pocket.

In writing about financial and other important matters, it would be well for you to type your letters and keep a carbon copy for reference, although I hardly need to mention it to one so sensible as you.

Ruth has gone on a needed vacation, after clearing up several vexatious diplomatic and similar problems.

Sincerely yours

Calen M. Fisher

Night letter  
8/22/45

Mrs. Gracia Booth  
875 S. Manhattan Place  
Los Angeles, Calif.

Scott now in San Francisco. Fisher suggests you send new itemized account June expenses to Scott airmail as quickest way to receive check for same.

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Office: 2234 Telegraph Ave.,  
Berkeley  
Telephone: ASHberry 6214

August 28, 1945.

Mrs. Ruth Kingman,  
535 San Luis Road,  
Berkeley, California.

Dear Ruth,

I am delighted to hear that at last you are leaving for your vacation.

I have written Mayor Lapham and Dr. McGiffert, as per copies herewith. I haven't the address of the State Commander of the American Legion, nor his full name, but as soon as I obtain these I will write him along the lines you suggest.

I hope that you will not hurry back to work.

Yours sincerely,

*Maurice Harrison*

MEH:FH  
Enc.