

CARTON 9136 THE BROTHERHOOD OF SLEEPING CAR PORTERS

Randolph, Philip A. Correspondence

1928-1936

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Telephone: EDGecombe {2323  
2324

# BROTHERHOOD OF Sleeping Car Porters

General Library

Headquarters:

2311 SEVENTH AVENUE  
NEW YORK, N. Y.

Official Publication: THE MESSENGER



Secretary-Treasurer  
ROY LANCASTER

Special Organizer  
FRANK R. CROSSWAITH

Field Representative  
S. E. GRAIN

General Organizer  
A. PHILIP RANDOLPH  
Assistant General Organizer  
W. H. DES VERNEY  
Assistant General Organizer  
A. L. TOTTEN

February 17, 1928

Mr. C. L. Dellums,  
Field Ag. & Acting Sec.-Treas.,  
517 Wood Street,  
Oakland, Calif.

Dear Brotner Dellums:

I am very glad to know that you are on the job and ~~are~~ pushing things vigorously forward. It is too bad that Mr. Jones turned out the way he did, however, it is well that you discovered things when you did. One of the reasons for my organizing the Organizing Committee while out there was to have them watch the affairs, so that they would be able to discover any regularities which were being carried on against the Movement. You and Brother Moore will be able to develop a very strong movement there, since harmony exists. I shall lend you every co-operation possible.

Brother Lancaster tells me that he has sent you everything requested, so far as he understood it, but if there is anything you have not received which you want, kindly inform me of same, and I shall have him send it to you forthwith. No doubt, it will take some time to straighten out affairs, but I am sure you will be able to handle the situation, with the co-operation of Dad Moore. You have got the necessary spirit expressed in the slogan that a quitter never wins and a winner never quits. Keep up the good work. Forward to victory!

Fraternally yours,

*A. Philip Randolph*  
A. Philip Randolph,  
General Organizer.

APR/LIM

**OUR GOAL:** More wages; better hours; better working conditions; pay for overtime; pay for "preparation" time; abolition of "doubling out," conductor's pay for conductor's work when in charge and manhood rights.





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Assistant General Organizer  
A. L. TOTTEN

February 17, 1928

Mr. Dad Moore  
519 Wood Street  
Oakland, Calif.

Dear Brothner Moore:

I am glad to receive your letter giving me information about the situation in Oakland. Brothner Lancaster tells me that he has sent you everything you requested, so far as he understood it. Now, if there is any other material you desire, I wish you would tell me just what it is, and I shall have Brother Lancaster send it to you immediately.

Brothner Lancaster did everything he could to get Brothner Jones to make his reports regularly, and so did I, but Brothner Jones was extremely negligent about doing so. We were only able to get action when I asked you and the Organizing Committee to get behind Brothner Jones and compel him to send his reports in regularly.

I am glad to know that Brothner Dellums is doing well. I thought he would be a good man to handle the work if ever an opportunity came to enlist him.

I am not planning to send anybody out there to take charge of the work permanently. One of the national officers will visit you from time to time, but not to remain.

I understood from Brothner Lancaster that there are some names that you have listed as members that he has no record of here. But wherever a man has paid his joining fee and has a card indicating same, he will be considered as a member.

Now, I know that it is quite discouraging for an organization to be victimized by such characters as Mr. Jones, nevertheless, you must realize that it is a condition which we must face resolutely and with determination to overcome it. Nothing must be permitted to hold back the onward march of the Brotherhood. There may be losses, but if our purpose is

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D. M.--2--2/17/28

Bancroft Library

honest, sincere and determined, our gains will overcome our losses.

We expect a hearing from the Interstate Commerce Commission any day, and I think it will be favorable and hope it will. If it is not favorable, we shall proceed with our plan to create the emergency which will require the establishment of an emergency board to investigate our dispute with the Company.

Our outlook is more promising now than ever before. Let us fight on and not lose the faith, work and not grow weary, and just as sure as the night follows the day, we are standing upon the brink of a golden dawning of a grander day.

Forward to victory!

Fraternally yours,

*A. Philip Randolph*  
A. Philip Randolph,  
General Organizer.

APR/LIM





BROTHERHOOD OF

# Sleeping Car Porters

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March 30, 1928.

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General Organizer

A. PHILIP RANDOLPH

Assistant General Organizer

W. H. DES VERNEY

Assistant General Organizer

A. L. TOTTEN

Secretary-Treasurer

ROY LANCASTER

Special Organizer

FRANK R. CROSSWAITH

Field Representative

S. E. GRAIN

Mr. C. L. Dellums,  
Secretary-Treasurer, B.S.C.P.  
519 Wood Street,  
Oakland, Calif.

Dear Brother Dellums:

How are the men reacting to the strike vote? They are signing up in fine spirit here and other places. Each and every man must sign a ballot. Don't permit any man to take one home. We must keep them out of the hands of the Company. I hope you will fire the men up with a new faith, loyalty, devotion and determination to carry on until victory is won.

I wish you would let the men know that you must build up a group of loyal men whom you and Brother Moore can depend on. Have them pledge to give from one to five or more dollars every month aside from dues so that we will be able to move through this crucial period with heads erect, without begging anybody. The Brotherhood has already gotten for the men an increase of \$64 a year. It has been going for thirty months and if every man had paid all of his dues and assessment, he would still be \$24 ahead of the game, so let them know that they must sacrifice now. Urge them to inform you how much each one will give and when, so that you will be certain about the financial stability and your ability to make larger remittances to the general office which must redouble and intensify its organization and propaganda work.

Let us not have the slightest doubt about our winning this fight. We are just as sure to win as the night follows the day. Keep men from doubting and keep fear out of their hearts. If we believe and are determined to win, it's impossible to fail; but if we doubt, we fail before we begin. Therefore I hope you will put your and Brother Dad Moore's spirit into the men so that they will not lag in their zeal and fighting spirit. Keep up the good work.

Fraternally yours,

*A. Philip Randolph*  
A. Philip Randolph,  
General Organizer.

Ran/D

## OUR GOAL:

More wages; better hours; better working conditions; pay for overtime; pay for "preparation" time; abolition of "doubling out," conductor's pay for conductor's work when in charge and manhood rights.





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FRANK R. CROSSWAITH  
Field Representative  
S. E. GRAIN

Mr. Dad Moore, Organizer B.S.C.P.  
519 Wood Street,  
Oakland, Calif.

Dear Brother Moore:

How are the men responding in signing the strike ballots? Each and every man must sign a ballot. Don't permit any one to take a ballot home. Ballots must be signed and left in the office. We must keep ballots out of the hands of the Pullman Company. They are signing up finely here and the spirit is good throughout the country. We must put the strike vote over in double quick time. I wish you would fire the men up with a new faith, confidence and flaming determination to stand firm and fight on. We must prove to the world that Negroes will not run away under fire. We are making history for the Negro boys and girls who are to come on. Do you know that this is the first strike vote ever issued by a Negro organization in America or the world? Hence, it is historical.

The eyes of the world are on us and we must make good; we must put the Movement over the top or report to God the reason why. I know that you are ready to go to the bat and fight to the finish. Tell all the men that we have gone too far to stand still, to turn back, to doubt or to hesitate. We must look straight ahead and march on without fear, realizing that our cause is just and that nothing can daunt us if we feel and believe that we can win.

Now I wish to urge that you and Brother Dellums talk with each and every man and get him to pledge a contribution of from one to five or more dollars every month aside from his dues. This is the only way to meet this struggle and go through without financial uncertainty. The Company thinks the men won't pay for the fight. We must prove that the Company is wrong. Every man must sacrifice now as he never sacrificed before. There is no doubt about winning, if the men stand firm. Make the contributions and pay dues. Have each man to let you and Brother Dellums know how much he will pay and when so that you will know what to depend on; then you can make larger remittances to the general office. Congratulations upon your noble spirit and faithful and loyal work. Remember me to the brothers. Tell them that we are rising higher and higher; that our faith and will to win are stronger;

Respectfully yours,

## OUR GOAL:

More wages; better hours; better working conditions; pay for overtime; pay for "preparation" time; abolition of "doubling out," conductor's pay for conductor's work when in charge and manhood rights.



William Green  
to APR  
1928

Form 1228A

Charge to the account of \_\_\_\_\_

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

CLASS OF SERVICE DESIRED	
DOMESTIC	CABLE
TELEGRAM	FULL RATE
DAY LETTER	DEFERRED
NIGHT MESSAGE	CABLE LETTER
NIGHT LETTER	WEEK END LETTER

Patrons should check class of service desired; otherwise message will be transmitted as a full-rate communication.

# WESTERN UNION

NEWCOMB CARLTON, PRESIDENT

J. C. WILLEVER, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

NO.	CASH OR CHG.
CHECK	
TIME FILED	

Send the following message, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to

NA 127 349 DL 8

Washington D. C. June 7, 1928.

A. Philip Randolph, General Organizer,  
Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters,  
2311 Seventh Avenue.

Because of my deep interest in the economic welfare of all working people, I am taking the liberty of communicating with you regarding the impending strike of Pullman porters and maids. All thinking, observing people know these groups of workers are suffering from real grievances and are smarting under the imposition of accumulated wrongs. The Pullman Company which exercises the right to organize its capital and corporation and which demands the right to be represented by officers and representatives of its own choosing denies the exercise of the right to its employed porters and maids who daily render faithful and efficient service. This arrogant dominating attitude assumed by the Pullman corporation is contrary to the American spirit of fair play and justice. It ought to arouse feelings of righteous indignation among all classes of people when they behold a powerful corporation oppressing its workers to the point of forceful resistance. No corporation should be permitted to assume a privileged status. The right to organize and petition for the redress of grievances is as fundamental to working people as the right to corporate existence, growth and development is to the officers



Charge to the account of \_\_\_\_\_

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

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-2-

and stockholders of a corporation. But even though the attitude of the Pullman Company is provocative to the extreme and the grievances of the porters and maids are great and exasperating, I am of the opinion that it would be unwise to engage in a strike now. Economic conditions are unfavorable to the success of such an undertaking. Because of a lack of understanding public opinion has not been crystallized in support of your demands. For obvious reasons a strike at this time would play into the hands of the Pullman Company. It is my firm conviction that the best interests of all workers concerned would be served through the postponement of strike action and the substitution therefor of a campaign of education public enlightenment regarding the justice of your cause and the seriousness of your grievances.

William Green  
President American Federation of Labor.





BROTHERHOOD OF

# Sleeping Car Porter

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NEW YORK, N. Y.

Official Publication: THE MESSENGER



June 8, 1928.

Telephone: EDGecombe {2323  
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General Library

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A. PHILIP RANDOLPH  
Assistant General Organizer  
W. H. DES VERNEY  
Assistant General Organizer  
A. L. TOTTEN

Secretary-Treasurer  
ROY LANCASTER  
Special Organizer  
FRANK R. CROSSWAITH  
Field Representative  
S. E. GRAIN

Mr. Dad Moore.  
519 Wood Street,  
Oakland, Calif.

Dear Brother:

The Strike Committee, including Brother M. P. Webster and myself have postponed the strike. The reason for the action was that Mr. William Green, President of the American Federation of Labor advised that we postpone the strike but not call it off. He said that we would certainly lose, that our men had no discipline or experience and he didn't think we had much money.

Undoubtedly, our strategy in postponing the strike is sound and it will strengthen our Organization. We have won a great victory in getting William Green on our side.

Mr. Green also indicated to me that he felt that the Federation would grant us an International Charter. This will mean a great move forward. It will be the first time in the history of America that Negro workers will hold an International Charter.

At the next session of the Association of Railway Labor Executives, I expect to address and secure them to register their combined support of the Brotherhood.

Our strike maneuver has enabled us to see the weakness of our strike strategy and how the Pullman Company proposed to break the strike.

Our program now is to redouble our efforts and show the men that the organizers have iron faith and confidence in the justice of our cause and eventual victory. This attitude will reflect itself in a higher spirit among the men. Now Brothers, its natural that we will have an uphill fight, but we must hold our heads and not show any fear or doubt and victory is sure. I am working out our future program on organization, propaganda and finance. You will receive a copy soon.

Fraternally yours,

A. Philip Randolph,  
General Organizer.

Ran/D

## OUR GOAL:

More wages; better hours; better working conditions; pay for overtime; pay for "preparation" time; abolition of "doubling out," conductor's pay for conductor's work when in charge and manhood rights.



Records of KKK  
Lib of Congress  
Reel 3

9/25/87

No Letters from or to Deelums ??

W to ARK 6/11 he strikes ~~postman~~

6/14

W to Dad home → 6/19 CP \*

- ARK 6/19

ARK w/ly 6/21

W - ARK 6/21

W - ARK 6/23 in morning

ARK - W 6/25 on company union \*

W - ARK 6/26

Copies very poor quality

Library of Congress  
Visit

9/25/87



June 11, 1922

Mr. A. Philip Randolph  
2311 Seventh Avenue  
New York, New York

Dear Brother Randolph:

I have seen and heard quite a bit of the  
been taken away from the people, I would like to see  
it back to normal.

The point is still, however, that  
education is necessary as part of the process of  
called the first step to a new, more intelligent  
company to carry on the fight for the people. The  
people, however, are not the only ones who are  
out there and I think the people are the ones who

have to be the first to see the light. I  
will have to consider the situation  
out. The first step is to get the people  
could be a revolution. However, we are not  
lives. In addition, the people are not the  
the people are not the only ones who are  
are not the only ones who are not the only  
choosing to know so we with the union and the  
e they would at the least be able to see the  
are not the only ones who could be able to see the  
get into the matter of taking any drastic action? I would  
look into the matter of going to the courts or the  
force of it. I would also like to know what is the  
will be a proposition with the A. P. of C.

I have a release to the news papers on the matter  
crimination by the Mediation Board but they did not seem  
to play it up very well. The City Edition of the Chicago  
cover the situation very nicely. Just as soon as we get a  
ing spell, I am going to send you some of the clippings out o  
Chicago papers in order that you might see how the publicity  
handled.



A.P.R.--2--6/12/28

Relative to the radiation board's decision. I could also like to suggest, if possible, to get some definite information on the reasons why they ruled there wasn't any emergency in this case, and also why there was an emergency in the case of six hundred men on the Kansas City - Mexico - Orient Railroad. If we could get some facts on these two cases, I think it is the only two cases where the emergency board has been asked for, we will be in a position to put the radiation board in the middle and show them as far as actually preventing a radiation or its effects. As far as is concerned, they are powerless. Except for all the opposition on the carriers are influential.

I don't know just how far I can go in this matter. I have come down to New York, but I don't know if I can go. I will postpone it a bit until the 1st of July. In the meantime, you know that is capped out and I will be able to collect. I don't know if it is necessary for a report to be taken in view of the fact that I am in New York. I will be in New York for a few days.

If it is possible to get a report on the situation in New York, I will be able to collect. I don't know if it is necessary for a report to be taken in view of the fact that I am in New York. I will be in New York for a few days.

I could not get a report on the situation in New York. I will be in New York for a few days.

I have been in New York for a few days. I will be in New York for a few days.

Brother Jack is in New York. I will be in New York for a few days.

I am keeping close watch on everything and will keep you advised.

Fraternally yours,



25-SEP-2007 21:27

A. PHILIP RANDOLPH

Assistant General Organizer

W. H. DES VERNEY

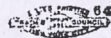
Assistant General Organizer

A. L. TOTTEN

2311 SEVENTH AVENUE

NEW YORK, N. Y.

Official Publication: THE MESSENGER



ScreenScan

ROY LANCAST

Special Organize

FRANK R. CROSSY

Field Representa

S. E. GRAIN

June 15, 1928

Mr. A. Philip Randolph  
2311 Seventh Avenue  
New York, New York

Dear Brother Randolph:

Just a word to suggest that I think we will have to take some action to forestall the attempts on the part of the company to intimidate the men. I would suggest that you have Henry T. Hunt or someone else competent to immediately look into this matter of getting an injunction and I think we can get enough perjury to come within the law.

It is my belief that the company intends to intimidate the men as soon as they have their hearings and it will have a tendency to make some of the men timid who are not supporting the organization and possibly have some effect on some of the weaker ones that are.

Except for holding a few men off their runs nothin' has been done in Chicago so far. However, I think the matter should be gone into at once.

I am in possession of a circular distributed by the American Negro Labor Congress. I think I would make it desperately plain to the people in New York that there is no connection between the American Negro Labor Congress and the Brotherhood. They are using this as a means of getting themselves before the public.

Things in general are moving along in very good shape.

Yours fraternally,

M. P. Webster,  
Chicago Division Organizer.

MPW/EG

**OUR GOAL:**

More wages; better hours; better working conditions; pay for overtime; pay for "preparation" time; abolition of "doubling out," conductor's pay for conductor's work when



June 19, 1929

Mr. Dad Moore  
519 Wood St.  
Oakland, Calif.

Dear Dad:

Just word to adv. is that everything in Chicago is in the best of shape. The men are co-operative to the utmost and the Brotherhood is far stronger now than it has ever been before.

Tell the men not to be discouraged because they did not go out on the strike. The strike was well-purposed in the best interests of the men. We are in a far better position than we were in a few drastic actions, and it will be better for the men of a reason is settlement is coming in the near future.

I will move to the Commission is planning the thing and the men should be all the A. F. of L. Of course we have all in all bank, but you want to take all of these things and don't let them out it on the men's head.

Things in general are in the best of shape and we are all confident of ultimate victory.

Yours fraternally,

H. P. Webster,  
Chicago Division Organizer.

H. P. /EG

BEST AVAILABLE COPY



I might suggest that the Community are  
circulating the story that the Brotherhood  
had been sold to the A.F. of L. of  
course you know that is all bunk, but  
you want to take all of these things  
up and don't let them put it  
on the Brotherhood







A. P. R. -- 2 -- 6/19/26

Unless some unforeseen circumstance prevents, I plan to get to New York about July 5th or 6th and will stay long enough to get things straightened out and we will go into all the various matters at that time.

I wired Brother Watson yesterday that I was sending him \$50. Although our finance here is far from the best, and we are carrying an unusual large number of unemployed men, I am fastly eating up the surplus and the committee has instructed me to conserve their funds as much as possible because of the fact that there is nothing definite as yet as to the future of the men and in order to keep up some kind of a spirit, we are going to their demands for assistance.

My observation is that our work is much more to the point. I am sure that we are doing a great deal of good and making a lot of new converts. I am sure that we are doing a great deal of good and making a lot of new converts. I am sure that we are doing a great deal of good and making a lot of new converts.

That's all, I will send you a letter soon. I am sure that we are doing a great deal of good and making a lot of new converts. I am sure that we are doing a great deal of good and making a lot of new converts.

I will send you a letter soon. I am sure that we are doing a great deal of good and making a lot of new converts. I am sure that we are doing a great deal of good and making a lot of new converts.

Brother Mills hasn't been on a statement, no doubt he will not be. I don't hear of any plans of the assembly and everybody is watchfully waiting.

I will keep you advised on any other developments.

Yours fraternally,

H. P. Webster,  
Chicago Division Organizer.

HW/PG





# Sleeping Car Porters

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ROY LANCASTER

Special Organizer  
FRANK R. CROSS

Field Representative  
S. F. GRAM

General Organizer  
A. PHILIP RANDOLPH  
Assistant General Organizer  
W. H. DES VERNEY  
Assistant General Organizer  
A. L. TOTTEN

Mr. F. J. [unclear]  
234 East [unclear]  
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Mr. [unclear]:

Besides, we know that the men who are dismissed are going to be spotted and framed up and dismissed from the service. That is, a large number of them will, and very generally our strong men will be included. Mathematically and spiritually, every Brotherhood man who is dismissed strengthens the Company Union and weakens the Brotherhood. Besides, I feel that the men will have much greater and deeper sense of security if they know that they are not doing something against the Brotherhood's orders when they vote or sign the petitions. Our very strong men will not sign or vote if they are ordered not to do so, but our experience has enabled us to know that a large majority of the men will sign petitions.



*Waldman  
on strike*

June 21, 1928

Mr. A. Philip Randolph  
2311 Seventh Avenue  
New York, New York

Dear Brother Randolph:

Received yours of the 19th. Relative to the plan of Mr. Waldman, I doubt whether or not it is feasible. What I had reference to was that the prevention of direct intimidation by district superintendents and others, because of union affiliations. The right to hire and fire, I know is the prerogative of the Pullman Company. Under the provisions of the Railway Labor Act, which guarantees the men the right of collective bargaining and the right to select their own representatives, etc., I thought they could find some remedy for restraining the company from these intimidations.

The injunction is an equitable remedy and not a legal remedy and it is supposed to give relief in extreme cases where there isn't any relief in the law, and in any such situation here we would have the right to sue for damages, there wouldn't be any equitable remedy available. However, I guess the lawyers know best and we might as well discount that feature of it, as I believe it would be a physical impossibility to gather sufficient evidence to support any such plans as has been outlined by Mr. Waldman. I don't think much of lawyers in a labor fight anyhow. In this particular fight they have been apparently steering us wrong all the time.

It sounds logical that the company would attempt to circulate a Yellow Dog Contract, but I do not feel that it is the best strategy to submit to anything the company sets forth. In event we do, from my observation and contact with the men, it will weaken the morale of the men that are strong and demoralize those that are weak and in event the situation developed that it would be absolutely necessary to push the strike situation through, we wouldn't have a handful of men to do it with. In other words, I believe that any program of passive resistance will completely break down what morale we have got left, and if we are not able to produce something which can be held out to the men to look forward to, I do not see how we can hold them for any length of time.



A. P. R. -- 2 -- 6/21/28

Of course, a number of the men are going to stick regardless of what happens, but you, no doubt are well aware of the fact that we need all of them.

Now, I believe with this strike situation, as it has developed, and in view of the fact that it has only been postponed, and not called off, that the strike threat can be manipulated to such an extent as to even prevent the circulation of the Yellow Dog Contract. For instance, let it be understood that any harsh methods used to force men to sign the contract would be met with a withdrawal of the men from service. That, I believe, would have a tendency to prevent any such tactics in as much as it is a rather expensive method to make these elaborate preparations as has been made previously. My information is that they are still holding themselves in readiness to meet the situation in event it does come up again and I believe we are going to have to prosecute even a more militant program than heretofore in order to keep the interest of a majority of the men.

Of course, if there is an increase in pay given to the men it will no doubt maneuver to our benefit; that any increase that is predicated on any Yellow Dog Contract, I think is going to maneuver to the benefit of the company.

Of course, the A. F. of L. situation will not be clarified until fall, and I doubt whether that could be a sufficient item to look forward to, particularly due to the fact that we can't give any definite information on it.

Now, the spirit of the men as I am able to glean from reports coming from other territories is still good, but it will not stay good, in my opinion, unless we can produce some new program which will create an overwhelming amount of interest.

Most of our men who were discharged were replaced back into the service again a day or two ago. Now, I am of the opinion that these men are being discharged for the specific purpose of putting them back through the plan. However, I will watch the situation and reserve further discussion on the situation until I get down there around the first of July.

Fraternally Yours,

M. P. Webster,  
Chicago Division Organizer.

MPW/RQ





From Dad Mose

BROTHERHOOD OF

Sleeping Car Porters

after cancellation of strike

Telephone: ED

Telephone: EDCecombe

# BROTHERHOOD OF

# Sleeping Car Porters

Headquarters :

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Secretary-Treasurer  
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FRANK R. CROSSWALL

Field Representative  
S. E. GRAIN

SENGER  
6/22/28

28  
C. arm.  
e

7 →

General Organizer  
A. PHILIP RANDOLPH  
Assistant General Organizer  
W. H. DES VERNEY  
Assistant General Organizer  
A. L. TOTTEN

[illegible]



A.F.R.--2--6/26/28

ment of the various men who were to travel out of headquarters and cover the fields. This announcement could be made direct to the men from the headquarters, as well as the newspapers and it will be for-stall any attempt on the part of the company that we were close-in-up. It would be a sensible step taken in the interest of company.

I am passing this on to you that you will be thinking it over and we can discuss it in detail when I arrive. Also, I have in mind, if it can be one and arranged, whereby we could go to arrange to finance field agents for at least six weeks or so in the event they were not able to take the various meetings. I think with a number of live agents in the field, and get by a lot of amount of publicity, you can with that assistance call it from the A. F. of L. and the Brotherhoods, that we could handle this situation very well to our advantage and really build up an effective piece of machinery that could call a strike on in a little if it has to be done.

Another thing that has occurred to me in a few days is the matter of intimidation that might be used in the election. Refusing to vote in the election, or if a man is elected, it could be pre-arranged, finally, that we could go to the men wholesale or intimidate them on account of union work and would result in a record of the strike. That would be a good excuse and we can keep the count. I think it will be a good idea. I think it would be effect to cause I interest in it. I think it would be over four hundred thousand dollars in making these small contributions and I don't think they are very anxious to spend that money again and I believe they will be a little more anxious in trying to provoke the situation to bring about the strike again.

If I could get copies of those affidavits and any other information relative to any of the union situation, I think a good story on how the election was participated in by 85 per cent of the men, I think that as a foundation could prove very effective. However, we can go over all these matters when I get down there.

Fraternally yours,

M. P. Webster,  
Chicago Division Organizer.

MPW/EG



25-SEP-2007 21:42

General Organizer  
A. PHILIP RANDOLPH

Assistant General Organizer  
W. H. DES VERNEY

Assistant General Organizer  
A. L. TOTTEN

2311 SEVENTH AVENUE  
NEW YORK, N. Y.

Official Publication THE MESSENGER

ScreenScan

ROY LANCASTER

Special Organizer

FRANK R. CROSSWAI

Field Representative  
S. E. GRAIN

Mr. W. H. Des Verney  
224 East 10th St.  
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Mr. Des Verney:

I am writing you

to let you know

that we are

very interested

in your work

and hope you

will be able to

help us in our

struggle.

Very truly yours,

A. Philip Randolph

General Organizer

of the

United Brotherhood

of Carriers

of America

and

the

International

Association

of

Firemen

and

the

International

Association

of

Police

and

the

International

Association

of

Firemen

and

the

International

Association

of

Police

and

the

International

Association

of

Firemen

It would be unwise tactics to lead them into a position where we know they would be cut to pieces and their spirit demoralized when we plan a supreme and big offensive in the form of a strike. The wiser policy will be to save our men for the big offensive so that if there are sacrifices

OUR COAL

More wages; better hours; better working conditions; pay for overtime; pay for "preparation" time; abolition of "doubling out" conductor's pay for conductor's work when in







Webster on  
Messenger

June 23, 1928

Mr. A. Philip Randolph  
2311 Seventh Avenue  
New York, New York

Dear Brother Randolph:

Received yours of the 20th relative to the Messenger situation. I will talk it over with some of the boys whom I had planned to interest in the proposition and will no doubt be able to give you some definite information when I come down there next week.

I note also the expenditures incurred during the period between January 29 and April 30 and the income, and it does seem a very small deficit but I think with the proper capital injected into the situation that it not only can pay expenses, but also make a profit out of the situation. I will go into the whole matter with you when I come down there.

I feel satisfied that a proper advertising campaign here in Chicago would bring about some results. I believe with a little effort we could push it forth and make a paying proposition out of it. Some arrangements might be made with the creditors if they are friendly. If it was shown that other interest had taken control and intended to project a new system which would be more profitable. Since they have waited this long, I think any serious effort made to reduce the deficit would be beneficial to them.

The advertising soliciting could be done on a nationwide scale and through our organization. I think it could effectively be done. Of course, I know very little about the magazine business, but I believe we could probably, with the proper advice, get the thing in shape so that it would be a benefit to everybody concerned.

Your plan for changing the material is also very good. The matter heretofore contained in the Messenger was excellent. I have heard it expressed that it is fifty years beyond the group and we will have to give them something they will read and pay to read. That would not necessarily mean an elimination of those



P.R.--2--6/23/28

features, but they could be cut down to a minimum and eventually worked up and as the size of the magazine grew, more of that matter could be replaced.

The situation here is about as usual. There has been a little slowing up in the dues paying in the past week, which is only a natural thing after so much activity, but I will try to get the new program started with vim so that it can be carried on for the period that I am away, which will be about ten days.

I visited Mr. Brown of the Railway Express Clerk's organization. I was informed by him that there is probably a bit of politics injected into the situation and of course politics is controlled by money and wherever money is concerned, you can rest assured that the company is going to come out on top. He also informed me that the Railway Labor Executive associations had already arranged with Richberg to re-draft some sections of the Railway Labor Act, that is along the same lines that Mr. Robertson had written you and it might be well to see if you could make some suggestions so that the smaller and weaker organizations could be better protected and I think if that could include a clause which would stipulate the method whereby the right to represent the men could be proven and in some way make it binding upon the company that when once the right to represent the men had been proven under the law, they would have to deal with them and then we could eliminate that process used by the company in holding out as long as possible, with a view of wearing the men out.

Bonnie writes me today that he has considerable difficulty in getting lines started from headquarters and asked me to send him some from here. While it is true that he must have some, I can see no reason why starters can't be sent from headquarters. It appears that he has had that same difficulty in other fields that he has worked in. Those matters are of vital importance and I think nothing else should come before providing the field agents with material to work with. I have not sent him any starters yet and probably won't, unless it develops that that can't be gotten from headquarters.

I note the Chicago Defender is still carrying our matter and have evidently decided to stay put. I did not notice one line in either the Whip or the Courier, which, I think, is an evidence that their line of attack has changed, and in other words they do not know which way to come.

I will keep you advised on any new conditions.

Fraternally yours,

M. P. Webster,  
Chicago Division Organizer.





Telephone: EDGecombe {2323  
2324

# BROTHERHOOD OF Sleeping Car Porters

Headquarters:

2311 SEVENTH AVENUE  
NEW YORK, N. Y.

Official Publication: THE MESSENGER



July 2, 1928

Secretary-Treasurer  
ROY LANCASTER

Special Organizer  
FRANK R. CROSSWAITH

Field Representative  
S. E. GRAIN

General Organizer  
A. PHILIP RANDOLPH  
Assistant General Organizer  
W. H. DES VERNEY  
Assistant General Organizer  
A. L. TOTTEN

Mr. C. L. Dellums  
519 Wood Street  
Oakland, Calif.

Dear Brother Dellums:

Permit me to thank you for your letter of June 28th. I am glad to get the reactions of the men in Oakland to the strike manœuvre. I am glad to note your spirit of optimism and determination. It is encouraging to note the plans that you had worked out for putting things over.

I am also appreciative of your letter giving me information about the activities of the Communists in Oakland and your attitude toward them. I wish to advise that it will be sound policy not to have any connection with them at all, because it will be discovered, and you will have endless trouble from the police authorities, and it will alienate the American Federation of Labor, because it is well known that the Communists employ every device conceivable to break up the organizations which they don't control and rule. They have wrecked union after union in New York, and the American Federation of Labor knows their tactics, consequently we cannot temporize with them, but we must simply have no relations with them at all because they will worm their way into the Movement and you will never be able to get them out.

I am working out some plans with the A. F. of L. and the Big Four Brotherhoods which will mean great power to our Movement. It will take a little time, but we have got to work carefully through this period so that we can strengthen and consolidate our position. We have outwitted and outthought the Pullman Company at every turn.

I would advise that you get together with the Ladies Auxiliary and the Organizing Committee and plan some affairs to raise some funds for the Organization, perhaps a picnic. I am sure that you will be able to make it a success. How is the Ladies Auxiliary getting along? Have they been helpful to you and Brother Moore. Kindly remember me to Brother Dad Moore and all the brothers and friends. Keep up the good work.

Fraternally yours,

*A. Philip Randolph*  
General Organizer

APR/LIM

**OUR GOAL:**

More wages; better hours; better working conditions; pay for overtime; pay for "preparation" time; abolition of "doubling out;" conductor's pay for conductor's work when in charge and manhood rights.





BROTHERHOOD OF

# Sleeping Car Porters

Headquarters:

2311 SEVENTH AVENUE  
NEW YORK, N. Y.

Official Publication: THE MESSENGER



July 3, 1928

Bancroft Library

General Organizer  
A. PHILIP RANDOLPH  
Assistant General Organizer  
W. H. DES VERNEY  
Assistant General Organizer  
A. L. TOTTEN

Secretary-Treasurer  
ROY LANCASTER  
Special Organizer  
FRANK R. CROSSWAITH  
Field Representative  
S. E. GRAIN

Mr. C. L. Dellums  
Sec.-Treas. B. S. C. P.  
519 Wood Street  
Oakland, Calif.

Dear Brother Dellums:

Your letter relative to the situation in Oakland and the Communists' efforts received and contents therein carefully noted. Your explanation of the situation is entirely satisfactory.

You need not tell me that your heart is in the Movement. I realize that you are just as devoted to the Brotherhood as anybody else in it and that you have made the sacrifice which is the test and proof and measure of such devotion.

I am concerned that we make no mistakes of the head which may be disastrous to the Movement, coming as a result of a misunderstanding of some other process of organization which may appear to be favorable to our cause. I know that not many Negroes know anything about the Communist movement; in fact, only one other member of our staff of organizers has any fundamental understanding of the objects and aims and methods of the Communists, therefore, it is my duty to inform all of our organizers who have the work of keeping the spirit and opinions of the men sound, solid, fundamental and constructive informed on the nature and scope and objective of the various political, economic and social movements with which you are bound to come in contact from time to time.

Your reasoning is quite sound when you indicate that your object was to get all the power that you could, inasmuch as we had no adequate machinery and force to execute an effective strike, and then you were unaware of the nature of the Communist movement, so that I wanted to put you on your guard, Brother Dad Moore, and also the members of the Organizing Committee.

## OUR GOAL:

More wages; better hours; better working conditions; pay for overtime; pay for "preparation" time; abolition of "doubling out," conductor's pay for conductor's work when in charge and manhood rights.



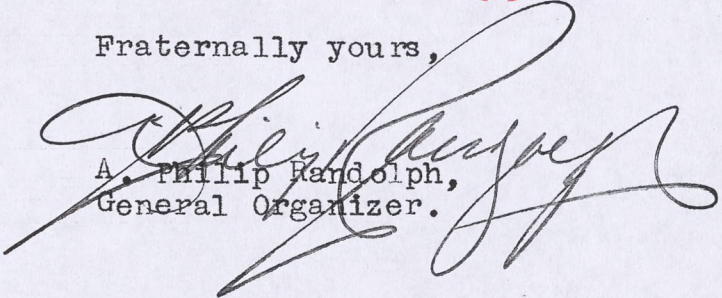
Now that you have made a clear and full explanation of the situation, the matter is closed, and I am indeed appreciative and fully cognizant of your fine ability and deep sense of loyalty in this great cause which we all are seeking to advance with effect and constancy.

I hope to be able to let you know when I am coming to California in the very near future. Congratulations upon your splendid work. You and Dad Moore are doing a fine job. I know that you will arrange a series of big demonstrations when I give you the dates, as we want to put over something which will be the biggest thing that Oakland has ever seen by way of a meeting, and I am sure that your energy, resourcefulness and capacity will enable you to do it effectively.

Remember me to Dad Moore, the old warrior, and the Brothers. Let us fight without ceasing, work without wearying and realize that nothing in the world can stem the tide of the Brotherhood if we ourselves are determined to win. Optimism means victory. Faith, hope and confidence in our cause is the surest key to the solution of our problems.

Keep up the good work.

Fraternally yours,

  
A. Philip Randolph,  
General Organizer.

APR/LIM



Dick Howard

BROTHERHOOD OF SLEEPING CAR PORTERS  
CHICAGO DIVISION HEADQUARTERS  
4231 MICHIGAN AVENUE  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

February 11, 1932

To Organizers, Secretary-Treasurers, Field Agents, Etc.  
Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters

Greetings:

The Pullman Company has just instituted a \$5.00 per month cut affecting all Pullman porters and maids. This cut, as you know, was brought about through secret conferences held by the Pullman Company, about which none of the porters knew. One of the conferences were held in December; the other held in February, at which the amount of cut was determined upon..

It is apparent that the Pullman Company did not intend that there be any publicity given to this cut in porters wages and intended to just let it come to them quietly. But the Brotherhood, which was aware of both conferences and the intent on the part of the company to cut the porters' wages, mobilized such influences as they could in protest to the cut. Fortunately, we were able to get the cooperation of some powerful groups of citizens here in Chicago and through the Congregational Ministers' Union a letter was addressed to the Pullman Company on the day that the last conference was held in which they protested the pay cut as being an injustice, etc. A copy of the letter is enclosed herewith.

This letter was also given to the newspapers, portions of it was published in one of the Chicago newspapers, together with the statement from the Pullman Company. In this statement the Pullman Company took the position that in line with the program of all railroads to cut wages of the employees 10 per cent, the Pullman Company had proceeded, offering the argument that the porters were treated better than the average railroad man because his cut was not 10 per cent. They also set up the fact that the \$5.00 cut in porters' wages was simply taking away from them the increase given to them in 1929. Another argument offered was the fact that officials of the Pullman Company had been cut far more than 10 per cent.

It is clear, from the statement of the management as appeared in the newspapers, that they are on the defensive trying to make an excuse to the public for this pay cut, but their argument is not on substantial grounds and will not bear the analysis of public opinion which puts the Brotherhood in a far more favorable position to argue its case to the public, as well as to the court.

Let me urge upon you that you at once get together the porters in the district and explain to them this situation. The following points can be brought out:



1. This cut was brought about through secret conferences, under the Plan of Employees Representation in violation of both the letter and spirit of the Railway Labor Act.

2. The cut is an injustice to the porters by reason of the fact that he has already suffered a drastic cut in his income because of the falling off of tips.

3. The method the Pullman Company used to slip this cut over plainly demonstrates the futility of any real relief ~~xxx~~ under the Employee plan of Representation.

4. The difference in the situation can be seen by comparing the energy and activities put forth by the Company in holding elections and making porters vote when through Brotherhood agitation they were forced to grant an increase, and the secretiveness and undercover method used to hold a conference when they had decided that conditions were such that they could take the increase away from them.

5. There isn't any short cut to relief in this situation.

6. The Sleeping Car Porter can only protect himself as all other railroad men, and that is through bona fide organization.

7. The Brotherhood is pursuing the only fundamental, sensible, plausible and reasonable method whereby this condition can be eliminated.

8. No bona fide representation of porters can be had as long as the Plan exists, and the Brotherhood is using the only plan whereby the Plan can be eliminated, through the injunction suit under the Railway Labor Act as it has been interpreted by the decision of the United States Supreme Court.

The Pullman porters, who, of course, are unusually grieved because of a cut in pay at this time, can only get consideration from the Company by helping the Brotherhood to remove the Plan, and it ought to be the obligation of every man who feels the sting of the pay cut to put his efforts, whatever they might be, and give financial support to the extent that he can in order that sufficient power might be put to the Brotherhood to carry through its injunction suit.

You might read this letter written by the Congregational Ministers' to the Pullman Company which forced the Pullman Company out into the open, and also emphasize the fact to them that it would be a discredit to the intelligence of, not only the Pullman porters but the entire Negro Race for them to stand idly by offering excuses and let the Pullman Company get away with pulling a secret conference and cutting their wages and saying nothing about it, or giving them any notice that their wages were to be cut.

It also might be pointed out ~~to them~~ that these members of this Plan of Employees Representation which they and the Pullman Company have contended that was the best thing for them, knew



that these conferences were being held and never told the porters anything about it, nor upon inquiry could they learn anything about it. This, we think ought to arouse the porters to their responsibility.

Brother Randolph will be in Chicago for three weeks or a month longer where we expect to complete the program for carrying on the Brotherhood's work and hope to have some definite announcement on the injunction suit before he leaves. We will keep you informed from time to time as conditions develop, and we urge upon you to be as active as possible in your territory among the men.

The first step that we would urge, if funds are available, that notices be sent out and meetings held immediately, and we wish to caution you not to be discouraged if the men do not come out to the first few meetings but continue holding the meetings and making contacts as much as you possibly can.

We are sending you this for your own information from which you will be expected to base your argument and carry on the work of the Organization, and will furnish you with additional information from time to time.

Let us hear from you frequently as to how things are going if they are not going at all, we would be pleased to hear that also.

Fraternally yours,

*A. Philip Randolph*  
A. Philip Randolph,  
National President

*M. P. Webster*  
M. P. Webster  
Chairman General Executive Board

P. S. Urge all porters from your district who come into Chicago to come to the Brotherhood headquarters and attend the meetings, both afternoon and evening.



BROTHERHOOD OF SLEEPING CAR PORTERS  
CHICAGO DIVISION HEADQUARTERS  
4231 MICHIGAN AVENUE  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

February 17, 1932

Mr. C. L. Dellums  
1160 Eighth Street  
Oakland, California

Dear Brother Dellums:

The Brotherhood is making history at this time. Sunday, February 7, we held an epochal meeting in Chicago with the largest number of porters we have seen in a long time. February 8, Brother Webster and I appeared before the Congregational Ministers' Union and told them the story of Pullman oppression of the porters. They asked what could they do. We informed them they could protest against an impending wage cut which was unjust because of the low wages porters received and the fact that tips had virtually vanished. They responded immediately and dispatched letter to the Pullman Company which provoked a reply admitting that the Company was cutting the porters' wages by \$5.00 but defended it on the grounds that Pullman Officials were sustaining a cut of more than 10 per cent, as though you could compare the wages of porters with the salaries of officials.

We have got the Pullman Company on the defensive. This wage cut plays into our hands. It was worth thousands of dollars to us to have maneuvered the Company into this embarrassing position. ~~It will help us awaken indifferent porters.~~ It will help us arouse the public. It exposes the futility of the Plan and shows the great value of the Brotherhood. If we had not gotten the Congregational Ministers' Union to act, porters would not now know of the wage cut and they would have gotten a wage cut of 10 per cent instead of the \$5.00.

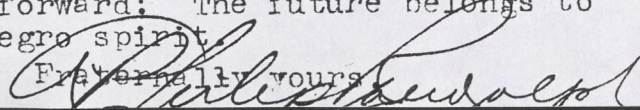
I therefore wish to urge you to hold as many meetings among the men as possible and fire them up with this wage cut and especially the secret manner in which it was made, which is an insult to the men. It gives the Brotherhood a great opportunity to build.

I shall be in Chicago for several weeks perfecting the various phases of the injunction case. It is my hope that we will have perfected quite a great step forward in this present campaign.

The spirit of the men of Chicago is flaming high. This move of the Company's will strengthen our injunction case over 100 per cent. We could win the case on this move alone. So be not discouraged or dismayed. If we stand by our slogan that "A quitter never wins and a winner never quits" and "He who would be free must himself strike the first blow," we shall go forward and reach our goal of victory.

Remember me to all the brothers, sisters and friends. Tell them upward, onward and forward! The future belongs to the Brotherhood and the new Negro spirit.

Fraternally yours





BROTHERHOOD OF SLEEPING CAR PORTERS  
CHICAGO DIVISION HEADQUARTERS  
4231 MICHIGAN AVENUE  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

March 3, 1932

Mr. C. L. Dellums  
1160 Eighth Street  
Oakland, California

Dear Brother Dellums:

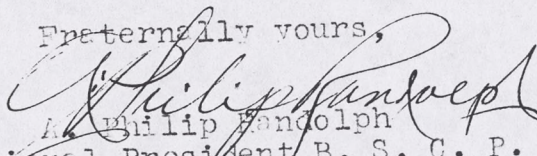
Permit me to say that the campaign here we are waging in Chicago in the interest of our injunction case and the development of public opinion behind our fight is meeting with signal success. The white congregational ministers have espoused the cause of porters with interest and enthusiasm. Now, we are trying to wake up the Negro preachers which though is a hard job, but we hope to win some measure of success.

I was in Cincinnati a few days a week or so ago and had a conference with the officials of the Brotherhood of Railway Clerks. We went into all the details of the case of theirs, which resulted in their winning the supreme court decision outlawing the company union. They are quite confident of our victory. They gave me all the material relating to their fight so that we are quite well equipped to meet the situation. We are working on every phase of our case here so that it will be in complete readiness when the trial comes up.

I will probably be here until the first of April. Some of your men have come into the Headquarters and I was very glad to see them.

Kindly remember me to the madame, the brothers, sisters and friends. Keep up the good work.

Fraternally yours,

  
A. Philip Randolph  
National President B. S. C. P.

APR/EGW



Telephone: EDGecombe 62323  
2324

BROTHERHOOD OF

Phone Lakeside 0144

## Sleeping Car Porters

Headquarters:

2311 SEVENTH AVENUE  
NEW YORK, N. Y.

Official Publication: THE MESSENGER



Secretary-Treasurer  
ROY LANCASTER

Special Organizer  
FRANK R. CROSSWAITH

Field Representative  
S. E. GRAIN



General Organizer

A. PHILIP RANDOLPH

Assistant General Organizer

W. H. DES VERNEY

Assistant General Organizer

A. L. TOTTEN

June 22, 1928.

Mr. C. E. Dellums,  
519 Wood Street,  
Oakland, Calif.

Dear Brother:

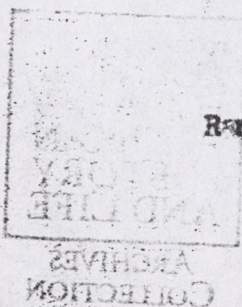
May I advise that you call together your Organizing Committee for the purpose of planning the execution of the enclosed program.

I would suggest that you proceed immediately to utilize the correspondence from the railway labor chiefs in creating a higher morale among the porters and maids and the general public.

Feel free to make any suggestions that may come to your mind.

Faternally yours,

*A. Philip Randolph*  
A. Philip Randolph  
General Organizer.



### OUR GOAL:

More wages; better hours; better working conditions; pay for overtime; pay for "preparation" time; abolition of "doubling out," conductor's pay for conductor's work when in charge and manhood rights.



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PACIFIC COAST HEADQUARTERS,  
1716 Seventh Street,  
Oakland, Calif.

January 17th 1935.

Mr. A. Philip Randolph,  
National President of the  
Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters,  
105 W. 136th St.,  
New York, N.Y.

Dear Brother Randolph:

I am proud to report that the southern trip was quite successful. Of course not from a financial standpoint because of the fact that it takes a tremendous amount of money to make such a long trip, but the spirit of the men was created to a high degree. The observation of the situation in New Orleans by Brother Campbell just about covers the Texas districts as well. We now have a representative in all of those districts and in many committees have been established and I understand are working splendidly.

I am sending a few more authorization cards and some application blanks that I found in Fort Worth.

I talked with Brother Hampton in Fort Worth at length concerning the operation and management of the Brotherhood. I was surprised to hear of him sending contrary orders to Brother Smallwood. I talked very plainly to Brother Hampton, telling him that he as well as several other brothers in his position were entitled to consideration, but on the other hand we could not allow them to destroy the organization. I informed him that the organization must maintain discipline. I told him that I took instruction from my superior with a question and expected the same consideration from my inferiors. I also informed him that in the Kansas City convention the organization would be straightened out and from now on everything would have to function smoothly. And that we would be proud for him to go along with us as instructed before, but he or anyone else that absolutely refused to abide by instructions would have to be removed. He gave me his word of honor that so far

*word for  
discipline*



as he was concerned everything would run according to instructions in the future.

I note by the convention agenda that no reference was made to financial reports. I realize what a job it would be for the men to make a four year report, and I also appreciate conditions under which we have all had to work during the past four years. I am therefore wondering if we will have time in this convention to go into such reports. Please inform me as to whether or not we will go into that angle of the Brotherhood's past.

*Revised*

I am proud that the case has been filed with the Board and that we are nearing the final stages of the fight. I believe that we will win from the investigation because I don't believe that the protection association can present 51% of the men as signed to their authorization cards. If a vote is declared I am confident that we would win by a larger majority than we at the present time have, yet I realize that we would be required to pay a certain percentage of the expenses incurred which I would rather not see us face, nevertheless whatever the future holds in that line the West can be depended upon to share its part.

Following are the names and addresses of the Secretary-Treasurers in the Texas districts:

C. King - 2926 Cochran St. Dallas, Tex.  
E. Jenkins - 4710 Farmer St., Houston, Tex.

I would suggest that you contact Brother D. Gordon - 417 Estrella St., El Paso, Texas. He is the Chairman of the local and due to the sudden and untimely death of our good Brother Lukas, we are at the present time without a secretary there. I shall get in touch with Brother Gordon and have him call the executive board in session to elect a new secretary.

I will complete the check of the southern trip within the next two days and will then give a more detailed report of the trip. Keep up the good work.

Fraternally yours,

QLD/vgs



April 9, 1935

Mr. A. Philip Randolph  
105 West 136th Street  
New York, N.Y.

Dear Bro. Randolph:

Thanks for your letter of April 3rd  
and the information contained therein. I have been  
looking forward to receiving a report of the last  
Washington conference; just arrived today.

*Loath*

My recent illness was not so serious  
but just the same, necessary steps had been taken  
for the protection of the Brotherhood, in case  
anything did happen. I went to the hospital and  
had my tonsils removed. I am proud that I did,  
because I am now again on the job and never felt  
better in my life.

*Representation  
election*

I think, after all, that the election  
to settle this question of representation is the  
best course. With-out the election it is certain  
that we would be carried to court. With an  
election, if we are carried to court, we will  
have the upper hand and will be certain of  
victory. Now with the election facing us we must  
take nothing for granted, and must, therefore, go  
out to win the election. I feel confident that  
the Pacific Coast will go more than ninety percent  
for the Brotherhood; Los Angeles included. But  
at the proper time I shall be ready to spend some  
time in Los Angeles as a safety first step.

I note your reference to many of the  
Locals not complying with the new instructions.



It is as I expected and you probably will have to do some plain talking to some of these fellows in order to get their co-operation. I shall comply with your request by calling upon my Local to comply. So far, Los Angeles and Portland have been doing all right, Seattle will need a different set-up. I can't hear a thing from Bruggess in Salt Lake. I am now trying to get Elpaso re-organized. When Bro. Lucas died, Elpaso was wrecked. I received a letter from the chairman telling me they had decided to discontinue the Elpaso Local, but I think that I have about straightened them out now, and will get some support from them.

In sending out the instructions for the making out of weekly reports, I would suggest that you instruct the Local Secretaries to make out their reports in triplicate form in ink and using carbon. The original copy to be sent the National Office, the second sheet to be sent to the zone office and the third sheet retained by the Local. That is the only method of assuring the three offices of having identical reports.

Now about the "Black Worker"; please send 600 to my office. I shall see that every porter in my zone gets one. We have taken the necessary steps to get them mailed to the men until we can get our second-class mailing matter straightened out. I have secured a postal permit to mail them out from this office for one cent each. That privilege will cost us \$12.00 per thousand. We have, therefore, made arrangements for the first two issues of the "Black Worker". We have the mailing list for the entire Pacific Coast already, and as soon as we receive the "Black Worker" they will be mailed out. It would only be necessary to send each Local Office about a dozen. Now there are 550 porters in my zone; I have 500 of their names and addresses, the remaining 50 are scattered all over the zone and I think within a few days I shall have their names and addresses also.

Black  
Worker



So you can see how easily and quickly I will put  
the "Black Worker" in the hands of the men. I  
realize it is a little expensive, but expense  
means nothing while we are preparing for the  
election. I think, too, that right now it is  
easily worth \$6.00 to us to get our propaganda  
in the hands of every porter in the Pacific Coast  
Zone. Please straighten this matter out in your  
office so that the papers for all the Coast  
Locals will be shipped to this office.

Keep up the good work and remember  
that you can at all times depend upon the West  
Coast.

Fraternally Yours,

CLD/his

C.L. Dellums



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April 27, 1935

Mr. A. Philip Randolph  
105 West 136th Street  
New York, N.Y.

Dear Brother Randolph:

Men in our territory are not only prepared for this election, but are quite anxious for it to come about. The election is the one thing that the porters have wanted all along. I remember that during the days of the bitter fight over the Plan Elections, that the men often complained that the election was one-sided. They said that they should be allowed to vote for the organization of their choice. This election will give them that opportunity.

The Black Worker is our most effective weapon and we should therefore make every effort to see that a copy reaches every porter in the service. Even in the smaller districts where we have no local, we do have names and addresses of some of the men. We could send some of the Blackers to a few of the men in those smaller districts and urge them to distribute the papers.

I feel absolutely certain that Brothers Smallwood and Hampton will distribute the Black Workers in any district other than their own. I would advise that Houston be dealt with direct, and also Dallas. Of course they are not under my supervision but I give this observation from my experience down there. El Paso will be cared for by me, as well as Salt Lake City. The distribution in Seattle and Spokane will also fall through unless directed through this office. I therefore hope that in the future, six hundred copies of the Black Worker be sent my office for this ~~territory~~.

I have urged the secretaries of the various locals in this zone to organize Victory Committees. We have prepared instructions for every member, here in our office. The secretaries, therefore will only have to create their committees

Representation  
Larkin South  
of New York  
Employee Rep  
Plan

Black Worker

Victory  
Committee



and supply them with a copy of the data. I think in a few days we will have a strenuous drive going in every local. Keep up the good work.

Fraternally yours,

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CLB/kh

C. L. Dellums



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May 8, 1935

Mr. A. Philip Randolph  
105 West 136th Street  
New York, N.Y.

Dear Brother Randolph:

Mark  
bullet?

Just a word of comment upon the rules and regulations  
governing the Election. What do you think of taking the Election  
through the mails? I am of the opinion that if the Board  
conducted the Election through the Dep't of Labor, we would  
get better results. If the porter received a ballot in a  
Government envelope with a return envelope, requiring no postage,  
he would be impressed by the fact that the Government was  
taking the vote. A short statement could be included from the  
Board stating that the Election was secret and would be re-  
viewed by no one other than the Board. If the Election is  
held in each District the men will have to go to the poles to  
vote, probably down town in the Post Office Bldg. Many of  
them would never go to vote. My observation is that Negro  
rail-road men are not in the habit of voting at all. They  
would say they had voted, when as a matter of fact, they had  
not been near the poles.

Now, just as soon as the eligible list is completed  
you should ask the Board for a copy. We could then get out  
a letter to all the men immediately, explaining the situation  
to them. As it stands now, we have the names and addresses  
of about sixty (60) per cent. Through the Board you could  
contact them all.

I am quite certain that no matter how the vote is  
taken we will win but I am thinking of the quickest, cheapest,  
yet safe method. And also the way to get the greatest number  
to vote. The Pacific Coast is ready and I am certain, safe,  
but I am thinking of the many Districts where we are not so  
certain. Would appreciate your re-action to the suggestion.

Fraternally yours,

CLD/kh

C.L.Dellums



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May 13, 1935

Mr. A. Philip Randolph, President,  
B.S.C.P.,  
105 West 136th Street  
New York, N.Y.

Dear Brother Randolph:-

Thanks for your letter of the 8th inst. I think  
the booth balloting system for the larger districts is by  
far the best. I feel confident that by a constant drive  
we will be able to get the men out to vote.

I have just this morning held a lengthy conference with half dozen Los Angeles men, four of whom own automobiles, and they promised to use them in hauling the men to the polling place. They of course, wanted to know that I would be on the scene. I plan to be there a few days before the election starts in order to instruct them how to vote. I think we are certain of 80 percent there. With Oakland, Portland, and Seattle going 98 percent, the Coast will therefore, show for itself. The men are anxious to vote and only want to know when, how and where.

Kindly remember me to Totten and all the Brothers. Every thing is progressing splendidly. Congratulations upon your great work, keep it up.

Faternally yours,

CLD/kh

C.L. Dellums



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July 5, 1935

Mr. A. Philip Randolph, National President,  
B.S.C.P.  
4231 S. Michigan Ave.  
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Brother Randolph:-

Just received your letter relative to the  
proposed plan of writing the Pullman Company for a  
conference to informally discuss a temporary arrange-  
ment for the handling of grievances.

I have given this matter quite some thought.  
As a matter of fact, I raised this very question with  
Mr. Carmody on ~~the~~ return from Seattle. We happened  
to come down together and I took advantage of the sit-  
uation to discuss the proposition with him. Now I don't  
think to hold a conference with the Company would be  
the wise thing to do. To discuss any kind of arrange-  
ment under the present set-up might play right into  
their hands. We must not recognize the existing con-  
tract nor the existing condition at all. If we do we  
might run into complications when we attempt to change  
them.

The present arrangements on rules governing  
working conditions and rates of pay were negotiated  
with an organization that no longer exists. We must  
therefore take the position that the law requires the  
Company to Make and Maintain the agreement with the  
representative of the employees. Therefore, I do not  
see how we can recognize a set-up of which we had  
no part in making.

The records of the National Mediation Board  
show an interesting case which occurred on one of the  
Pennsylvania subsidiaries. In that case the carrier  
maintained that they recognized the organization which  
won the election and that it was the duty of the org-

Handling  
Grievances  
after  
election  
implications  
in BSCT

Smart  
Shaw  
offensive  
in D

protection  
BSCT  
3 units?



ganization to set up an arrangement to function under the existing contract. The union refused on the grounds that the contract was negotiated by an organization that no longer existed. The case was again carried to the Board and the Board ruled that the union was right and that the law required the carrier to Make and Maintain agreements with the duly authorized representative of the employee. The carrier eventually did.

We can file for a conference the latter part of this month and the Company would have a month in which to set the conference. That would give us two months in which to get ready. I think two months will give us enough time to work on the membership. The Company has been fighting for time anyhow and if we wanted to set the conference further back they would not object. For the above reasons, I think the proposed plan unwise.

Fraternally yours,

C.L. Dgillums

CLD/kh



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Mr. A. Phillip Randolph  
105 West 136th Street  
New York, N.Y.

Dear Brother Randolph:-

D received the telegram of the proposed conference with the Company. That was the greatest news yet and should remove the last vestige of doubt from the minds of the doubting Thomases. The spirit in the West is in high pitch and still mounting. Even Los Angeles is showing signs of coming to life, Portland, Seattle and Oakland are steadily going over the top and are making substantial reports to National headquarters weekly.

I have been expecting daily to hear from you concerning the immediate plan. I was wondering if you are planning for me to attend this conference. As ~~soon~~ it, all of the zone supervisors should be in on this first conference. I realize that it will take many conferences to settle this matter and that it will not be necessary for all of us to attend all conferences. But I think that by all means we all should attend the first one.

Now as you realize, it takes quite some time and money for me to make the trip, and I can appreciate the condition of the national funds and yet this trip is one that should be made, all else notwithstanding.

Now the national office to date has not been burdened with the expense of the election on the Pacific Coast. We took care of that from the local treasury and of course that broke us. I have ~~submitted that~~ report and expense to Brother Totten. If the national fund can re-pay that at this time, I can use it for the purposes of this conference. And now, on the other hand, our collections this week were pretty good and if necessary I could get to Chicago on them. If that meets with approval and the national fund will not



stand the election expenses; you can wire me to be in Chicago for the conference, using all available funds.

Hoping to be with you in this history making conference, I am,

Fraternally yours,

C.L. Dellums

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August 5, 1935

Mr. A. Philip Randolph  
4231 S. Michigan Ave.  
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Brother Randolph:

Inclosed herewith is my itinerary covering  
the Pacific Coast Zone, as of general order as of Aug.  
3, 1935.

As you realize, there is not enough time for  
you to O.K. said itinerary and advise Brother Totten  
to send finances. I will therefore, proceed to Los  
Angeles and you can have Brother Totten to send the  
funds to our Los Angeles office.

*Recent hand  
draw*

I plan to put in ten strenuous days in Los  
Angeles. I plan to hold meetings by night and conduct  
as well as participate in a house to house campaign  
by day. I plan to personally talk to every eligible  
porter in Los Angeles on this trip. I should spend  
two weeks there but time will not permit me to do so.  
I think we will raise quite some funds in Los Angeles  
this time.

I note on page two of general order effect-  
ive as of Aug. 3, that all Pullmansporter and maids  
who are at present working or furloughed are eligible  
and invited to become members of the Brotherhood. Do  
you mean by that that the porters who were barred from  
the Brotherhood are now eligible? If the bars are  
removed please advise by telegram. Personally, I  
think it is all right to admit them but from a racial  
as well as principle view-point I think it unwise.

Also I note in the grievance agreement #4  
that it states; on failure to get satisfaction from  
Assistant General Manager Vroman, the matter to be  
taken to the National Board of Mediation. I think  
you intended that to read; National Board of Adjust-  
ment.

I shall expect to hear from you by the



week end in care of our Los Angeles office.

Faternally yours,

C.L. Dellums

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P.S. May I advise that the Pacific Coast zone forwarded  
to the National Headquarters during the month of July,  
between three hundred and fifty and four hundred dollars.  
Oakland alone sent \$191.85. Not so bad. This week's  
report showed \$93.30 to national headquarters from  
Oakland.

CLD:kh



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November 7, 1935

Mr. A. Philip Randolph  
105 West 136th Street  
New York, N.Y.

Dear Brother Randolph:

*jurisdiction  
11/11/35*

As I see the International Charter, we might over-look the red caps and train porters but as far as the in-charge porters are concerned, the conductors are all wet. Again I think we shall insist on those people who claim jurisdiction over the red caps giving them a square deal, the same thing of course for the train porters. And then, there are quite a number of men on Pullman cars such as cooks and waiters that the Culinary Workers' Union would prevent us from organizing. I think we should at the proper time demand action for them on the part of the Culinary Workers' Union. They should give them service or release the jurisdiction to us.

*AF L  
of  
FOW  
PV 209-216*

I received the report of the closing day's session of the A.F. of L. Convention. May I congratulate you upon your splendid fight for the Colored brother. Now for two years in succession that I know of, they have held our matter until the last minute. We should insist upon a change in that situation in the very near future. I think your talk had its effect and Frey's remarks clearly indicated that they didn't like the spot-light. Green merely used his position in an attempt to save the face of the Executive Council. Harrison isn't so hot and I think he has a large degree of prejudice himself. I am sorry that I could not be in that fight for I would have stepped on those birds.

Upon my return from Chicago I spent three days in Salt Lake City. I think everything there will go along much smoother in the future. I could easily see that Burgess had collected quite some money at



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various times. He had made no entries upon his books for a couple of years or more. He entered \$47.00 about the time that I arrived and when I questioned him about the \$47.00 he said he had sent it to Brother Totten. Of course I knew better. I took our books and stamps from him and set up a local among the men and I think they will get results. The day after I arrived home I received a special from Burgess telling me that he knew that he had not fooled me and did not object to being removed but begging me not to expose him. He stated that he had been in Salt Lake about forty years and that the people had great confidence in him. In my reply I told him that we were finished with the subject and had no further interest in the matter but I also informed him that he is not fooling the people in Salt Lake but only kidding himself. I told him that the people there had no confidence in him and knew of everything that he had done, not only in reference to the Brotherhood but the other connections as well.

The new set-up in Salt Lake is as follows: President, P. Mathis, 825 So. 1st West St., Vice-Pres., J.R. Oliver, 349 West No. Temple St., Sec'y-Treas., C. Beridon, 374 Romona St., Executive Board: Mathis, Oliver, Beridon, H. Dumas, 252 Popular Court, F. Summers, 280 Herbert Ave., Wm. Gregory, 164 Mead Ave. and J.L. Lynch, #8 3rd West St. Agreement Committee: Mathis, Beridon and Summers. At your earliest convenience you might write Mathis and Beridon.

I have just spent a week in Los Angeles but am not satisfied with results. The meetings were not very well attended and I fear a hard winter for them. As I personally see it, the Board will not get to our case until spring and I think we shall have to watch the weaker districts closely. I thought it best not to go to the great expense of covering El Paso at this time. I think it best to use the money to cover Los Angeles again in about thirty days. Morris still runs there and I understand they held a meeting there night before last. The stool pigeons in Los Angeles have been telling the men that the Company turned us down flat and that the Protective Association might get a contract. We have nothing to worry about in the other Coast districts but we will have to carry on a drastic drive regularly in Los Angeles.

LA problem

In our meeting Tuesday night which was largely attended, I explained the A.F. of L. Convention fight and read the speech delivered on the floor on the race question. It went over big and I think had a great effect on our men.

Keep up the good work.

Fraternally yours,

C.L. Dellums

CLD/kh



November 21, 1935

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Mr. A. Philip Randolph  
105 West 136th Street  
New York, N.Y.

Dear Brother Randolph:

The letter from Joseph B. Eastman is a clear indication of the recognition the Brotherhood is receiving on matters relating to railroad worker.

Yes, Los Angeles needs constant supervision because we have a number of bad situations there. There is a constant bickering between Upton and Holland; Mrs. Upton and Holland and between Holland and a few members of the trustee board, which hurts the efficiency of the entire staff. I have not heard from them since I left there and this is the third week that I have received no report. I think I shall visit them again next month and start getting them ready for the International. I think we should make every effort to get the International issue immediately, effective as of January 1st. Then we should have our dues books made and stamps printed so as to get them distributed before the first of the year. Strict instructions should be sent out that everyone must pay all of the seven dollars and the January dues in order to secure the International book. I think that would be better than the pledge that you are getting out. I think this should be done if it takes every penny we have because the anxiety of the men to get the new dues books will rebuild the treasury. Then we could get our local charters and seals made. I gave this observation to Brother Webster some time ago and requested that he convey it on to you.

I feel deeply the untimely death of Brother George Clark.

I held my first conference with Superintendent Armstrong a few days ago. He had put out instructions to the porters to leave the cars as clean as they were before departure. That is, to clean the car, mop up and leave the car so that it could be used immediately. When I went in to see him, he immediately proceeded to



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back down on the order and claimed that the porters had misinterpreted the instructions. He also stated that his subordinates had gone hay-wire on the order. Now, according to Armstrong himself, there is no new order or rules governing working conditions. There was a rule several years ago for the porter to bring his car into the terminal just he maintained it enroute. Armstrong says that the men had begun to disregard that old rule and that he was merely instructing them to conform to this rule. He said that many of the men had stopped dusting the beds of the morning of arrival and in many cases would not mop up at all on the morning of arrival. He wanted them to handle the car the morning of arrival, the same as any other morning. He does not expect them to do any mopping or cleaning after arrival, other than picking up papers that were deposited in the car by passengers after the porter had done his cleaning.

I explained to him that the porter could give his car a polishing up an hour before arrival and yet the smoking room could be in dis-order upon arrival. He said he realized that and did not expect the porter to clean up again after the passengers departed. Armstrong admitted that the Los Angeles staff had gone a long way towards creating a new rule but gave me his word that we would have no further trouble with them.

I think this clarifies the issue and the boys must be instructed to bring their cars in just as they maintain them enroute but not to clean up after arriving with the exception of removing trash from cars. They are naturally supposed to tidy up the smoking room when picking up soiled towels.

Before going into the subject, I stated my position in handling grievances and ask him for his. I ask him if I could expect to try the cases upon their respective merits without prejudice. Armstrong replied that he was perfectly satisfied to handle grievance with us and that we could at all times expect justice to be done. He stated that he would not take the position that the porter is always wrong and that everyone else is right. He also stated that he would take no advantage of him. He stated further, that if we presented anything to show that a decision rendered was wrong he would be pleased to reverse it.

Faternally yours,

C.L. Dellums

CLD/kh



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December 27, 1935

Mr. A. Philip Randolph  
27 6th Street  
Lakewood, New Jersey

Dear Brother Randolph:

*Allen*  
Just received your letter and am sorry to hear of your illness. I had a letter from Brother Webster yesterday and he informed me that you were in Lakewood. And then this morning the morning paper that the weather is very bad in Lakewood. According to news paper, quite a number of families are marooned, which gives me quite some concern about your well being.

*Forner*  
It is extremely unfortunate that the Brotherhood is always financially embarrassed. The organization should be able to send you out here for a thirty day rest. It is very evident that the Mediation Board will not call our case before April and I feel that you should come on out here any way. I need not tell you that your stay here would be of no national expense. We have more than enough funds in the local treasury to take care of you. There is not any thing to be done in the east for quite some time and you should therefore take the next train for California.

We wish for you a happy, prosperous and healthy new year. Please give this trip serious thought.

Fraternally yours,

C.L. Dellums

CLD/kh



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Mr. A. Philip Randolph  
105 West 136th St.  
New York, N.Y.

Dear Brother Randolph:

Health  
Sorry that you were unable to make the trip to Chicago and certainly hope that you are much improved. I understand the procedure used by the mediator and can see that it will take some time to straighten out this contract matter. Mediator

I feel certain that the Company will contest this matter to the limit. We are prepared to fight just as long as it will take to do the job right. We might as well be planning our strategy in creating an emergency. No doubt that will be the final conclusion anyway. With a favorable Mediation Board on our side, they probably will be helpful to us in the creation of an emergency. As a matter of fact, when the Company refused arbitration, they forced the emergency themselves. The harder the Company fights, the better it will be for us in the end. A good fight is always good for the workers in general and for the Negro worker in particular. We stay ready for a good fight.

C. A. Grievance  
My recent stay in Los Angeles was successful to a large extent. I adjusted a few minor grievances and one major one. As you know, four men were fired there about six weeks ago. One was a stool pigeon, One a swell-head who thought no one in the Brotherhood was smart enough to lead him. One a Negro that is just afraid of any kind of white face and the fourth was a member of the Brotherhood. Not a one of the first three had ever visited Nat Davis before but after we took up Davis' case they visited him often trying to find out what we were doing. Our Grievance Committee spent one hour and thirty minutes in conference with the zone superintendent, Armstrong, on the Davis case. Davis was running on a combination cafe car and the Company inferred that he had been stealing. We demanded specific charges in writing as well evidence



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Armstrong refused and made several statements which he said Davis had made to him. We informed him that we would have a deposition taken from Davis on these statements and then have a final hearing for the Los Angeles settlement. Armstrong said he would return to Los Angeles in about three weeks and asked us to wait until he returned, to which we agreed. Armstrong returned there Tuesday and reinstated Davis unconditionally. The Company was on the spot concerning the other three men and to keep us from getting all the credit and to save the face of the Protection Association crowd, they naturally had to put the others back to work also. But the men can see through it and I understand that there is quite a bit of talk among the men on the Brotherhood's work in causing these men to go back to work.

We have had a few other cases such as men being pulled out of line because of minor write-ups but usually a statement from the porter, made out by us, has restored them to work. We also had a Chicago porter pulled down in Los Angeles while I was there and he spent three days trying to find out why they were holding him. They were trying to work him up and down the coast. He was a paid-up Brotherhood man and finally came to us. We called the Company by telephone, informing them that this porter was one of our members and asking for an explanation. They explained to us as nice as they possibly could. We got the explanation for him in three minutes that he had spent three days trying to get. The Company was holding for a witness in a law suit which was due a week later. According to rules, porters held as witnesses are paid full wages plus \$2.50 per day, expenses. They would not tell him the reason they were holding him so as to work him for nothing. We pointed the rules out to the Company and they readily agreed that he did not have to work.

Done

The boys out here generally appreciate the Brotherhood's work and will carry on. I also arranged for a big dance to be held in Los Angeles, March 5th, at the Elks Building. I made practically all the arrangements for them while there and borrowed enough money from a few of the strong men to put the dance over. I feel certain that it will go over big and show a substantial profit. If I am not with you in Chicago at that time, I shall return to Los Angeles and spend the week of the dance.

Hoping you are much improved and looking forward to seeing you when we are called together with the Company again, I am

Fraternally yours,

OLD:kh

OLL. Dellums



February 20, 1936

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Mr. A. Philip Randolph

105 West 136th Street

New York, N.Y.

Dear Brother Randolph:

NWC  
What is the real dope behind this National Negro Congress meeting now in Chicago? I have heard quite a bit about it from Brother Webster, which of course, was all criticism. I am sorry that your health would not permit you to see the Congress through. It might not have done any good but it certainly couldn't have done any harm.

X  
I do not think it fair that your every move or utterance outside of the Brotherhood, and many in connection with the Brotherhood should bring down such a storm of criticism from some of your assistants. It seems to be all right for some of the boys to play all kinds of cheap politics and make all the inconceivable blunders that it is possible for a labor leader to make and yet it is always wrong for you to do anything that is not in connection with the Brotherhood. Some day you are going to have to tell somebody where to head in and the sooner the better.

X  
In all the history of the United States, nothing has ever had Negroes so stirred up and united before. From investigation, I find that the Negroes of the nation were rallying to this congress as they had never rallied before. All this was due to the love, respect, admiration, and confidence in one man, A. Philip Randolph. It is a great tribute to you to know that Negroes throughout the nation are anxious for your leadership and it is a national calamity that you could not see the proposition through, Webster or no Webster.

I hope your health is still improving.  
Best regards from the Brothers and Sisters and all your friends on the Pacific Coast.

Faternally yours,

C.L. Dellums

CLD:kh



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April 16, 1936

Mr. A. Philip Randolph  
105 West 136th Street  
New York, N.Y.

Dear Brother Randolph:

Your observation on the Company planning a definite drive against the Brotherhood, as I see it, is absolutely true. They have no intention of giving him one inch and will press us to the very limit. But, since the law prohibits them from fighting us directly, we, to a large extent, have the upper hand.

However, I think our best strategy is to leave the Company out of it as far as possible and center the attack upon the stool pigeons. I think the psychology of the Company in dealing with us daily and not fighting us, is the best psychology for the porters. In other words, it is easier for us to poison the men against the stool pigeons. We can show them that the Protective Association is merely a bunch of "die-hard" stool pigeons. My observation is that if we tell the men that the Company is attacking them, it will only serve to continue the fear that they naturally have of the Company. That fear must be removed and we cannot remove it until we convince them that the Protective Association is fighting us, and not the Company.

~~To letter that~~ the Protective Association has put out has come to my attention as yet. Those things do not spread here very easily because our men, generally, don't associate with, nor even speak to the stool pigeon crowd. When one of our men is even seen talking with a Protective Association man, the rest of them will ride him.

I hope we do get the charter matter straightened out before the convention season arrives because there will be many conventions this year, which means many specials, which affords the strong men an opportunity to work on the weaker ones. We will never be able to push the matter of the international

Combs ally

Protective  
4/12/36



paraphernalia until we actually have it for presentation to the men. Once the new books and stamps are available, the men will be anxious to secure them.

I hope you will comply with the recommendations from the examination, and first of all, have the tonsils removed. However, they should be removed by a throat specialist, then you will have very little trouble from the operation.

Everything out here is moving along smoothly.

Fraternally yours,

O.L. Dellums

CLD/kh



May 27, 1936

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Mr. A. Philip Randolph  
105 West 136th Street  
New York, N.Y.

Dug  
HJM

Dear Brother Randolph:

In reply to yours of May 25th, may I say that I am infavor of maintaining a small size dues-book, about the same size as the one we use now. I would suggest though, that we have the color blue with "The Brotherhood" on the front in gold letters. I recommend the blue because I don't want the men to have any trouble in noting the difference between the books. I don't want a porter to show any part of the old book and claim he has a new book. I think dues stamps with the porter on them, such as we had before, will be the best. I dont like the card idea, nor at the present, the button idea. Your analysis of the button is sufficient but I would like to say concerning the button, that it will take us some time, with thousands of porters, to remove the fear so that they would wear the button. And again the button is primarily for public benefit, so that patrons can call for the button or refuse service. It is all right in a retail store but in our case, I think it out of place. And the button would require just as much trouble as the card.

Another word for the dues-books; a nice preamble on the front would be good if possible and a page of "Things you should know" in the back. I would start off with the meeting dates, leaving a blank space so that each local could fill in the metting date. We probably wont be able to have this done at the present time but at least, we could on the inside of the front cover



of the dues-book, urge the men to attend the meetings, leaving a blank space for the dates. I hope this matter is definitely settled immediately and the books and stamps are sent to press, forthwith.

Fraternally yours,

C.L. Dellums

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OLD/kh



August 3, 1936

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Mr. A. Philip Randolph  
36 West 135th Street  
New York, N.Y.

Want  
adequate  
financial  
reports

Dear Brother Randolph:

Permit me to say a word on the coming convention. I do not think sufficient time has been provided to do the convention justice. I see no reason for us to be in such a tremendous rush to get it over with. The convention should remain in session until all business is completed. I think due time should be allotted for financial reports; and I would suggest that you notify all the local secretary-treasurers to prepare financial reports covering the period from March 1, 1935 to August 31, 1936, inclusive. I would suggest further that you notify the zone supervisors that they will be expected to give adequate financial reports for entire zones, covering the same period. I hope you appreciate the fact, Chief, that about \$75,000 have been handled during that period. That is a lot of money and it should be accounted for, and then again, this should absolutely be the last convention in which shabby financial reports will be rendered. You should take the necessary steps to see that every penny of the men's money is accounted for. I have reason to believe that the handling of the porters' money in the Pacific Coast Zone has helped immeasurably in building a movement out here that will stand the test. When reports are delivered to the men involving thousands of dollars, they receive them with rousing ovations. If we don't give due consideration to the handling of the organization's funds, our own indifference will eventually wreck the whole structure. Therefore, I urge you to con-



sider these suggestions seriously.

I now offer for consideration, the removal of the national office to Chicago. I would recommend that a suitable building be secured there where the national office and the Chicago local and zone headquarters could occupy the same building but different floors. I think that the actual operation of the national office should be entirely separate from the local office. That, of course, would keep the local officials from becoming involved in matters that are national, in fact. I believe that if that transfer is made, it would help clarify the Eastern situation. By the national office occupying a separate floor from the Chicago office, it wouldn't interfere with, or cause any changes in the Chicago zone and local situation. All we would need to do then would be to create a national officer with headquarters in New York, to supervise the zone. Please give this suggestion some serious consideration and let me know what you think of it.

Fraternally yours,

C.L. Dellums.

CLD/kh

Copy to Brother Totten.

would  
not  
office  
move  
to  
Chicago

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November 6, 1936

Mr. A. Philip Randolph  
36 West 135th Street  
New York, N.Y.

Dear Brother Randolph:

Thanks for your recent letters. I had hoped very sincerely that my trip through the East had been well taken by the brothers. I did want to feel that the money wasn't wasted. I think that the spirit in the East at this time is wholesome and that the future is very bright. I believe that if I could have spent about a week in each of the major eastern districts after the five dollar dispensation was in effect that I could have produced some tangible results.

→  
*Mediation*

We must leave no stone unturned in order to force the Company into mediation. It is quite evident that they are going to do every thing possible to delay our matter and I seriously doubt that Mediator Cole is effective enough to push them sufficiently. If we could get the mediation going, I think that the five dollar dispensation would bring us in a greater amount of money than we have had since the early days of the organization. But now that the conductors' case has been settled and all the porters will soon know it, they will naturally wonder why the case is being delayed; since it has been announced that our case would be next. There is no doubt that you will have to go to Washington and take the matter up directly with the Board.

*Charter*

I presented the charter to the Salt Lake Division while there and I believe that Salt Lake will hold its own in the future. I shall leave tomorrow for Los Angeles, where I shall present the charter.. Then I shall run over to El Paso for a few days for the same purpose. I think that one trip a year a year



into such small places as El Paso will be necessary. And as we discussed the financial matter in pressing this drive, I would estimate that the Coast will have to have \$200.00. My recent convention trip and eastern tour cost us \$300.00 and I think it would be unwise to completely deplete the treasury, therefore I suggest that \$200.00 be appropriated for the Pacific Coast drive and be sent to us forthwith. The results of the drive so far indicates that the money will be well spent because I think my zone has reinstated enough men already to make up for the \$200.00. And after my trip over the zone, I am certain that the Coast will as a whole, show a stronger percentage of dues-paying members than ever before.

You will have to continue to urge the various districts to compile complete mailing lists of all the porters on the Pullman payroll; you must not let up on them until you have a mailing list of at least eight thousand because the Company now has more men on the payroll than they had when the election was conducted.

Again may I say that I certainly enjoyed my entire stay in the East, and I am sorry that I cannot visit with you again in the very near future. There are some very splendid men throughout the East and particularly there in New York; and with your present set-up, I am quite sure that you will not have as much trouble in the future as you have had in the past. I hope you are able to make the other few alterations that we discussed while I was with you there. I have already seen some brothers who have been in the office recently and they were carried away with the permanency that the present set-up shows.

I must advise that you will have to watch Brother Bennie Smith's zone carefully. I noticed that his present tactics will do more harm to the organization than good. He had refused to invite or allow men who are not members of the organization at this time to attend the meetings. Detroit men came to me and asked me to talk to Brother Smith and get him to allow them to bring these men into the meetings so that they could be converted. None of them had heard a word about the five dollar dispensation until I mentioned it in my talk. Unfortunately, Brother Smith is very bitter on the men who are not and delights in cursing them and making various threats. I had quite a session with him privately, about going along with the program that was adopted in Cincinnati. He told me that he wasn't going to have the local secretary-treasurers throughout his zone to report directly to the national office; and that he has instructed them that he is the zone secretary-treasurer. Even his letterheads have him listed in that capacity. I think you should check his zone over and if there are some secretaries still reporting to him, you should write them letters and give them instructions on the recent actions



taken in the convention and inform them that they are requested to report directly to the national office, with a copy of the report going to the zone office with the prorata due the zone. It wouldn't be necessary to mention Brother Smith's name, but just instruct them how to report.

Speaking of letterheads, I notice that Brother Bradley also has a special letterhead, prepared by themselves, that doesn't exactly conform to the standard letterhead. I think that is a bad policy, and that the letterheads should be prepared by the national office and sent to the various zones. I would suggest, however, that letterheads be prepared for each zone, showing the national office address, as well as the zone headquarters address. That is the only way by which we can keep the stationery uniform.

Letter  
book

Kindly inform the national office staff as well as the brothers and sisters that I enjoyed my stay with them and certainly appreciate their hospitality and splendid friendship, and that I am looking forward to again visiting with them some day. The brothers and sisters here are all very happy to know that you are in fine shape again; and are hoping that you can visit with us very soon.

Faternally yours,

C.L. Dellums

CLD/kh



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December 22, 1936

Mr. A. Philip Randolph  
38 West 135th Street  
New York, N.Y.

Dear Chief:

*Charter*  
*Membership*

I have completed the tour of the entire zone on which I covered every local and ~~presented~~ all the ~~charters~~. The Oakland Local charter will be presented right after the holiday rush is over so that as many brothers as possible can be present. I am proud to report that the tour was quite successful and that the zone took in 111 men. This gives our zone the best financial membership it has ever had. We have taken in fifty men in Los Angeles and they are now stronger than ever before. If Web will pardon my reference to percentage, the zone now has nearly 75% actually paid-up membership. That is pretty good but we plan a new year drive between the 1 and 15 of January in order to push the membership to better than 90%.

*Black Worker*

What progress has been made on getting the Black Worker entered in the Postal Dept. and what progress has been made towards securing a national mailing list? I note your great work at the A.F. of L. convention and I am proud to congratulate you for the same. At your convenience I would appreciate a report in detail and your observations all around.

May I extend the seasonal greetings and felicitations to Mrs. Randolph, yourself, and to Brother Totten and the office staff, Brother McLaurin and all the brothers and sisters. I most sincerely wish for you a very happy Christmas and a most unusual and prosperous new year.

Keep up the good work.

Fraternally yours,

CLD/kh