

COUNCIL OF NATIONAL DEFENSE  
WASHINGTON

WOMAN'S COMMITTEE  
1814 W Street.

July 23, 1918.

Miss Ida M. Tarbell,  
132 East 19th Street,  
New York.

My dear Miss Tarbell:

I am just in receipt of your letter of July 20, enclosing a copy of Mrs. Becker's report of her work in Texas.

I quite agree with you that she reported exceedingly well, and if there was any trouble about the status and functions of the Woman's Committee, it ~~was~~ originated from other sources than Mrs. Becker.

The other day Miss Patterson sent me a letter from Mrs. Fleming, speaking in a very complimentary way of Mrs. Becker's visit, and quoting her as having said that the Woman's Committee was "not a new organization but a council of organizations." Miss Patterson suggested that I should write Mrs. Fleming on this point, stating that the Woman's Committee is and of necessity must be an organization, but that it is not a competing organization.

Yesterday, before I received your letter and this report, Mrs. Becker came in to see me, and told me, in effect, what she has written you. I took that occasion to show her Mrs. Fleming's letter and my reply. I understood her to say that the statement about a "council of organizations" was Miss Parker's (N.L.W.S.), and not her own. I showed her a copy, also, of a letter I had written to the Michigan Chairman of the National League for Women's Service, showing to what extent the Woman's Committee is an organization. I enclose you a copy of this letter, which I will ask you to kindly return. Mrs. Becker was delighted with it, and said she could have used one hundred copies of it in Texas. I think she has a very clear idea of the function of the Woman's Committee. I am satisfied that we will have to lay more stress upon the fact of the organization, as set forth in this letter which I enclose. At the request of Mrs. Bruce, of Kentucky, I sent her a copy of all of it except the part that refers to other organizations. She writes me

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that they are having it mimeographed and sent to their County Chairmen. If we are able to give a reason for our existence, and assert clearly and strongly what our relation is to other organizations, I think we will find it well worth while.

I will call Mrs. Wilkes attention to the suggestion about the moving pictures, as you suggest.

Doctor Shaw does not return before Wednesday morning. I do not know of any business that will call for a meeting in the near future. As you know, I am going home on the first of August, and expect to be absent for about six weeks, as I am going to move.

If any message comes from the Council, I will let you know.

With thanks for your letter, I am

Affectionately yours,

*Clara P. Loman*

Enclosure.

L:C.