1933 Woman's Crusade:

As I understand from the meager notes I have received the woman's part of this Mobilization for Human Needs Movement contemplates the National organization along the lines of the woman's committee of the Council of National Defense. It seems to be practical that the Organization should follow these lines. That organization was National and aimed at reaching the last woman in the country. It was built on what this last woman and her associates would do and the point of the National Committee was to find out exact points in which it was possible for the woman power to help the Government, to pass on at once to the State Organization, for each State has its organization, on the line of the Washington Organization, this information with this request that they get it down to the woman of the State. This call for activity along the specified lines was passed on to county organizations and from there to the local.

The Woman's Committee co-operated with the food administrations, taking their orders and plans and passing them on to its own organization, no work conflicting through their co-operation, that is if the spirit of the woman's committee was carried out. This department covered women in industry, headed by Agnes Nester and here the various problems that came up in connection with the mobilizing of woman for factories, which was carried on in such a large scale, were passed on. So that the committee had the counsel of the
various National committees on industry and their counsels and suggestions to guide them in looking after this particular department of the work. To go on with this, it came quite clear after the War had been going on a little while, that there was a danger of child health - maternity work - under the Children's Bureau being neglected, and a special effort was made by the woman's committee to pass on down to its local unit all of the directions of the woman's committee.

I remember Julia Lathrop saying one day in our office that it had taken the Woman's Bureau ten years to get over to so large a number of people as we did in two or three months the particular information of her office - a particular challenge and stimulant of her office.

I was much interested in the effort of the committee to spread through the country the work of the Agricultural Department as it was related particularly to homes. At that time the fact that it was possible for a county to have a donating, as it had a agricultural relation was not as we found so generally known, and we desired to stimulate that. It was so necessary to keep up the morale of the home under the terrible pressure of the War.

I take it that what the Woman's Crusade purposes - what this National Committee purposes - is that there be some such organization which will get down to the last woman the practical advice about supporting the human
needs of her neighborhood.

Every community has, of course, certain organized public funds and institutions to turn to in case of poverty, accidents, illness, distress of any kind. There are schools for the children. In many cases, but not everywhere, there are the district nurses. There is cooperation between the school and the district nurses which is going on as you know though in many county communities, it is idle to suppose that it it everywhere.

There are relief funds. You take it here in Redding. You know exactly what you are doing in the way of relief from that admirable itemized report on your financial condition.

One of the most interesting things I have seen in a long time. You know the names of the people that you are supporting by a monthly contribution. You know what Mr. Blank and Mr. Blank are getting monthly for their groceries and wood, etc.

Having these basic permanent institutions to turn to, is that all that you have need for? Every ailing child, or a child that dies, is proof that somehow there is something that you have not done. There is a quality of attention that we have not given, not that it wouldn't be done that if it was realized. The county will do what this itemized report shows that this county does, or this township, would do more if they were organized to see the needs. That is, the great need in every committee in every township must spy out, have a keener
observation. Now that does not come in a meddlesome way, but it should come through a neighborliness.

Moreover, where there is a need in every such community as this of greater interest the next step for the boys and girls who are passed on out of our schools, the training of the particular bent or interest that may have been developed - all of this seems to me to require a neighborly spirit. Where there are activities or responsibilities in a community, an important binding responsibility, one that the Government itself, is beginning to recognize, is the prevention of foreclosures which throw people out of their homes, off their little farms because of the inability to pay the mortgage on time or perhaps to keep up the interest. Nothing can be more expensive to a township than the turning of people out of homes, even if those people may be bailed.

There is no use arguing the effect of the home. It is perhaps the most successful institution, with all its faults, that the society has yet produced. This foreclosing on delinquents should be taken rigorously in hand and the place to begin is at home in the locality. Correct it there and you will have far less of great fortunes built up on fore-closures. We have had too many of them in this country.

If one could analyze what has been happening in the last four years it would be an appalling and disgraceful tale. Put in story of missions for Post a few years ago.

Something of this kind has happened recently
in our neighboring township of Trumbull.

Now what was done in Trumbull was really a proper rising of the authorities there, allowing the community to put an end to business brigandies and economic wastefulness. For nothing could be more wasteful for Trumbull than to have four children put out of their home and the entire care put upon the township.

Moreover, that would be another story of course if you had a cruel, drunken father. But in this case there seems to be nothing of the kind. Break up that home and it means five people distributed over the township. This stopping evil at the source is what this Crusade means.