which she finally forged her step-daughter's name to meet suf-
ficiently to stop for the time the pressure the store was
bringing upon her. Grafting in expense accounts is a common
delinquency among women who for clubs or organizations travel.
The use of official cars, official stationery, of all kinds of
small things which belong to somebody else and for whose use
one has no warrant, is familiar. There is great temptation
for the woman of small means who is ambitious to get on in
profession, club, organization, politics, to patch out in these
mean little ways. Mrs. K, too, like so many of her sisters, was
cought in the trap of spending more than she earned. She loved
good clothes, justified them if she over-ran her means by saying,
and probably believing, that her position required it. It was that
specious claim that made her when she reached Albany distinguish
herself by her good clothes, take an expensive house, entertain
largely. It was to pay for her clothes, run this house, to
travel as she did, that she used census employees for her private
service or pleasure, that she forged the names of family and
friends, that she showed the ingenuity in small pilfering which
only a woman who had accepted the idea of "honest graft" and
who found herself in a tight place, could possibly do.

One of the pernicious results of the kind of activity
that we see thousands of women engaged in now, that futile
activity of flying about from place to place, fostering organiza-
tions, from convention to convention, meeting to meeting, per-
suading themselves that by the number of people they talk with, the
lectures they hear, the organizations to which they belong, the
conventions to which they go, their public service is measured.
Mrs. K, like thousands of others, had come to a point where this
being in a small public eye was as necessary to her as the
adoration of her sex. She had dreamed of the time when she would
be the center of the stage, when she entered the restaurant
where the dignitaries of the convention gathered, people would
stop to whisper "There's Mrs. K" - when she was seated women and
men would come over and shake her hand, to have a word of talk
with her, to whisper in her ear. There had been a day when she
was the one who went - now her time had come. All the flub-
dubbery accompanying this feverish and futile activity goes
into the training of women who are coming into public life. It
trapped Mrs. K. And she was trapped, too, by the emphasis which party
politics puts on machinery, loyalty to it, working with it. It
never applauds individual character, loyalty to the things of the
State above its machine. It certainly never did in Onondaga
County, and Mrs. K was so faithful a follower of the Onondaga
county machine that the gentlemen who make its backbone were
glad enough to use her to meet the demands of women that the
Republican party recognize them. They abandoned her shamelessly
when conviction came. It was not the crime - it was the stupidity
of the crime that made them turn their backs, at least publicly,
on Mrs. K. They had not realized the limits which they, experienced
gentlemen that they are would put on the application of "honest
graft" might not naturally be understood by a woman inexperienced
in its application. They used "honest graft" under strict
limitations which she, poor woman, had not yet grasped.

She was a victim, too, in a sense, of the laxity of the
governmental organization which prevailed at the time she was
elected. I cannot help believing that if the re-organization of the
State government put in force by Gov. Smith, reducing the depart-
ments from 180 to 18 and making such offices as that of secretary
of state appointive instead of elective and bringing the secretary
into the governor's cabinet exactly in the Federal way, if the
regular cabinet meetings had been held at which Gov. Smith re-
quires from each head a full accounting - if this highly efficient
organization had been in effect when Florence K came into office,
I cannot believe that she would have ever attempted the use of
people and public moneys of which she has been proved guilty.
She would have gotten in those cabinet meetings that sense of
public office as a public trust which has been so strong a feature
of Gov. Smith's training of his associates.

Moreover, she was a victim of certain laxities. Mr.
LeB. was right when he condemned the organization of the Civil
Service Commission which had made it possible for a Chief Clerk to
pass over as many examples of misfeasance as the Chief Clerk of
the Civil Service Commission did. He was right in condemning the
laxity of a bank handling state funds which would repeatedly
cash checks which even a careless cashier ought to have recognized
as forgeries. There is nothing in this case of Mrs. K to show that
she was naturally a criminal. Her ambition, her vanity, the
flattery with which she was surrounded, the desire for more and
more money, the praise of both women and men with whom she carried
on political work - all these things had blunted whatever fine
sense of integrity and propriety she may have once had. A woman
who had kept the affection of her own family, a step-son and step-
daughter included, who was so adored by many fine women, could not
have been a naturally dishonest woman. Little by little she had
submerged to the vicious American habit of lopping off a little
here, a little there to help out the budget which was always beyond
her means. If rumor is true, she did it as the head of the Home
Economics department in Syracuse University. If six hams were re-
quired for the school, she ordered seven and sent one to her house
such is gossip. Tens of thousands of women the country over are
getting this sort of training in home, in their activities, in
I cannot believe that it is already the end of another day. I am very tired and do not feel well. I hope that you are well.

The last few days have been very difficult. I have been working very hard and I am very tired. I hope that you are well.

I hope to hear from you soon. I am very much looking forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,
[Signature]