

COUNCIL OF NATIONAL DEFENSE
WASHINGTON

April 10, 1918

WOMAN'S COMMITTEE
1814 N STREET NW.

Miss Ida M. Tarbell,
Titusville, Pa.

My dear Miss Tarbell:-

When will you reach New York? Miss Patterson tells me there is to be no Committee meeting this month. If it does not suit you to come down to Washington within the next two weeks, may I see you in New York some week-end? I want to clear up some matters which it is rather hard to write about.

I am trying now to find some one who will take Mrs. Blankenhorn's place. I hate to see her go. I shall enclose a little statement of the work she has done while she has been here. I think it is a good record, and I know that the work goes on much faster when we have a competent person to write, read copy, and contribute ideas.

I have heard nothing from Dr. Shaw about the letter to the Central Powers which I presume you sent her. I understand that she is back, although I have not seen her. I shall ask her about it one of these days.

Mrs. Blankenhorn leaves at the end of this week. I queried Sarah Comstock again to know if she could come. Now, I think I shall take the candidates we had before more or less in order, and try to get some one. *Mrs. Milnes comes first.*

I certainly think we should have Mrs. Becker on the Practical Service Bulletin. I wrote you, either at Titusville or New York, that she could come. She will come without a salary, taking the risk of getting it. I don't think that is fair, but I think the work so needs doing that we will have to arrange it that way unless you can see some better plan. She cannot afford, I know, to come without a salary, and I have spoken to Miss Patterson about possibly getting her one. She shakes her head and says she does not see how it can be done. I do not think the Committee can afford to leave this work undone. It should not be muddled up any more, either. If some one will take it and stay with it until it is finished, it will be a great help indeed. Do you think that I might risk having Mrs. Becker come as a volunteer - expecting that the money can be found for her in May?

Mrs. Ball told me some time ago that she did not expect to stay longer than May as she wants to go to her farm and do "something definite for the Government." She has not been in at all for about a week, and so far as I know has seen no one in the house. It would have been different if you had been here, I am sure, but I doubt whether she is self-directing enough to put the thing through without constant supervision. I think that if Mrs. Becker has a good start that is all she will need.

I enclose copy of this week's report.

4/10/18

A number of the states are responding very well on the Child Welfare drive. I do not think we have done so badly from headquarters, either. We have had fifteen stories in about six weeks.

I am sending two releases to Publicity chairmen in the coming week, also the little manual as soon as I can get it multigraphed. I have the proper O.K. on that now. It was held up a long time in Mr. Clarkson's office.

I have asked Miss Scott to please hunt up a real nursing story for us. The Committee recommended the Vassar plan, and I know that the need is terribly acute for nurses here, as well as abroad. Somehow it should be worked out to use more colored nurses.

Please let me know when I may see you. It will be a glad day!

Sincerely,

Gertrude

NEWS DEPARTMENT.

(MRS. EDMUND P. SHELBY.)

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P.S. I can probably tell you before long if there is a chance of getting the Blair's other room for you on May 1st. I think you could have it for three months, furnished as they have it for about thirty five or forty dollars if Mr Blair's Mother doesn't take it into her head to come east. I am keeping a hand on it for you -

Much Love,

Gertrude