Lovely Mr

1934 MOBILIZATION FOR HUMAN NEEDS

1810 GRAYBAR BUILDING
420 LEXINGTON AVENUE
NEW YORK, N.Y. · MOHAWK 4-0000

OCTOBER 21 TO NOVEMBER 11

NEWTON D. BAKER, Chairman
MRS. FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT, Chairman
National Women's Committee

ALLEN T. BURNS, Executive Director

July 19,1934

Miss Ida M. Tarbell,
120 East 29th Street,
New York,N.Y.

My dear Miss Tarbell:

Mr. Burns asked me to be sure to have you receive today the enclosed copy of Margaret Culkin Banning's article "Two Billion More",and Mr. Newton Baker's letter about it. These, of course, he has talked to you about previously. He also wanted me to send you copy of letters from Miss Joanna C. Colcord of the Charity Organization Department of Russell Sage, and Mr. Joel D. Hunter of United Charities of Chicago.

These are all enclosed herewith and I am sending them to you by special messenger so that you will have had time to see them before your conference with Mr. Burns tomorrow.

Very truly yours,

T. Donnelly

Secretary to Mr. Burns

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CHARITY ORGANIZATION DEPARTMENT
of the Russell Sage Foundation
130 East 22nd Street
New York City

Joanna C. Colcord, Director

July 12,1934

Mr. Allen T. Burns
1810 Graybar Building
420 Lexington Avenue
New York City

My dear Mr. Burns:

You always put your mind on things I ask you to do and I can do no less than try to answer your questions of July 6th.

1. No possible order of society will prevent the occurrence in it of disadvantaged people. These people need private social work, in addition to public social work, because of its greater flexibility, its freedom from legal restrictions, its ability to use its funds to carry out individualized and usual plans, and to meet needs not yet recognized as part of the public's responsibility. Private social work can give disadvantaged people more time and individual attention, because the number of its clients will be considerably smaller for some time to come than that of the public agencies.

The community needs private social agencies as its pathfinding and experimental arm in dealing with social problems. It needs them as channels through which the individual citizen can put into effect his own impulses toward human helpfulness and exercise his own initiative in trying along lines that seem best to him to make his community a finer place in which to live. It needs them as friendly critics and analysts of the public program, pointing out new needs, or shortcomings in carrying out the responsibilities already accepted.

The profession of social work needs private agencies, for the training of new recruits in an environment where they can be protected from undue pressure in their green years, and for the development of new methods and approaches through the medium of social research and experimentation.

The public agencies need the private agencies, to relieve them of certain intensive problems they are not equipped to handle; to train and furnish experience to persons who will later become leaders in the public field; to work out joint plans with the public agencies for covering the whole community's needs, and to serve as interpreters and defenders to the community of public agencies' functions and performances.

2. I think we should come out boldly and say people have to be helped to rebuild their lives for a new order of society. We don't know what it is going to be, but all must be prepared for change. "Rebuild" shouldn't mean just picking up the pieces of shattered lives, sticking them together with the cement of good deeds, and going on "as we were".

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If the same proportion of our people are employed after the depression as before, then they are certainly going to be working for shorter hours than they used to work; and this means an entire reorganisation of peoples' habits, aims, even ethical standards, around the fact of increased leisure; and a corresponding realignment of our social instruments and tools. If a smaller proportion is able to get work of any kind, then we face the challenge of helping the surplus population find a new way-of-life not depending on work for wages. In either case, the situation of young people leaving school with respect to what they will do with their lives, will be quite different from their fathers'.

We must "rebuild", not as the ant rebuilds when some careless foot has knocked his home to bits; not after a traditional pattern, but after new and undevised forms to meet new conditions in our agencies, our institutions and our lives.

3. Concretely, the place and functions of private social work according to the general suggestions under 1 and 2.

4. The volunteer as partner with the professional in private social work. Perhaps something about the emerging idea of client group participation.

Sincerely yours,

(signed) J.C.COLCORD
Director

JCC:MMcD

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Copy

UNITED CHARITIES OF CHICAGO
203 North Wabash Avenue
Chicago, Illinois

July 12, 1934

Mr. Allen T. Burns, Executive Director,
1934 Mobilization for Human Needs,
1810 Graybar Building
420 Lexington Avenue
New York City.

My dear Mr. Burns:

I have your letter of July 6th concerning the Mobilization for this year. I am not much use as a publicity person but I will make a stab at answering your questions.

I. What arguments have you to advance for the maintenance of private social work this year?
If there is both public and private social work, each organization should stimulate the other. Because of the extent of the need, public social work will need to carry the major share of the burden for this and a good many years to come. The burden belongs to public social work not only because of its size but because the meeting of these needs is a definite responsibility of the government. In order that this responsibility be carried on as efficiently as possible, it is important that the citizenship maintain an active and continuing interest. One of the best ways to do this is by carrying on similar work supported by private contributions and absolutely divorced from public subsidy. This argument applies to each of the major fields of social work but with varying degrees of emphasis. I believe the public responsibility is greatest in the fields of health, family and child welfare and less in the character building group. The above argument is on the basis of community planning.

There are also other important reasons which can be classified under the following headings:

1 - Training workers
2 - Specialized services for certain individuals and families for whom the public social work is not yet ready to accept the responsibility
3 - Research
4 - Improving community conditions

1.- In order to carry these arguments into the family welfare field, may I add that at the present time the private family welfare agencies have very close relationships with university training classes and have done a great deal in the past to assist in the training of the hundreds of people who have gone into public and private social work. The private agencies are doing this more than the public.

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2. - At the present time the private family welfare agencies cannot and should not take the entire responsibility for any particular type of family which needs service and relief. Any one group, such as the blind or the handicapped, would be too much for this group of agencies to handle. However, if they are to maintain their usefulness in training, influencing community conditions and in research, they should take the responsibility in every community for a small proportion of the families in all the different catagories, and for these families they should provide the most skilled service and suitable relief.

3. - Research. At the present time the private family agencies are somewhat freer to conduct projects in order to improve the standard of work in the entire field. Research theoretically should not be confined to either group but it should be an important function of both. At the present time private agencies are freer to go ahead in this field than are the public.

4. - Improving Community Conditions. In Chicago and elsewhere the private family agencies have had an important part in developing the housing program. The family welfare agencies cannot keep out of this sort of thing even if they desired to. Here we are participating in developing plans for demolition of unfit houses, rehousing of families who up to this time have lived in such places, in planning the remodeling of buildings which are structurally sound, and last but not least in the rehousing of the families who must be moved from the blighted areas which will be rebuilt.

II.- What content would you put into the rebuild slogan of the national mobilization?

I would follow the word "rebuild" right through. For example, in a rebuilding program you need:

1. -A community plan
2. -Under this plan you need to be sure that the area which is rebuilt has proper relationships with the surrounding territory. For example, in selecting a slum area to be rebuilt, that area should not be surrounded by heavy industry and railroad yards.

In rebuilding private social work the construction must be such that it will help the growth of public social work rather than impede it. You can go a long way following this idea. For example, use of proper materials. In social work this would be adequate relief, properly trained social workers, adequate support of private agencies, etc. etc.

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III. - What subjects do you think the newspaper articles and radio broadcasts should stress?

In the newspaper articles the main thing should be that private social work is trying to help the development of public social work and that these are the ways in which private social work is trying to do it and that if private social work were not in the field the whole level of administration in the public field would drop.

I think the more you can dramatize the radio broadcasts the better they will be. I think people who listen over radios like that kind of thing.

Very truly yours,

(signed) JOEL D. HUNTER
General Superintendent

JDH* S

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