

COUNCIL OF NATIONAL DEFENSE

WASHINGTON

WOMAN'S COMMITTEE
1814 N STREET NW

March 11/1919

Dear Member of the
Woman's Committee
Council of National Defense:

You will find enclosed copies of letters received from the President and the Secretary of War, in response to the resolution passed at our meeting held in Washington, February 11.

This resolution was but a repetition of a similar position taken by the Woman's Committee when expressing the opinion that our work as a Committee was at an end and submitting our resignation. Yet, at the request of the Secretary of War, we were willing to wait for its acceptance until such time as in the opinion of the Council of National Defense our services in this capacity might no longer be needed.

That time seems to have come, and I am sure that the acceptance of our resignation will be a relief to each and all of us, since we have for some time realized that under existing conditions there was no further practical use for the Committee. As each of us has her own distinctive work which requires her personal attention, no doubt we are thoroughly satisfied with the action taken by the President and the Secretary of War (Chairman of the Council of National Defense).

Reviewing the work of the Committee, doubtless we -- in the language of the Book of Prayer -- realize that we have done many things we wish we had not done and left undone others we might have done. (?) And yet we cannot say there is no good in us.

I believe that permanent good will come out of the realization by women

that cooperation of effort is much more effective than that of any single group, regardless of how well organized it may be . I also believe that in many States this cooperation will continue and will prove a permanent benefit to society and to the nation.

The task given us by the Government was a large one and we brought to it the undivided effort and loyalty of our powers, and in so far as we have succeeded in being of service to our country we are grateful for the opportunity it has afforded us to serve .

The future work which might be considered Woman's Committee service will be cared for by the Field Division, and those members of the Woman's Committee who are also members of the Field Division will endeavor to serve the interests of women and the country as heretofore.

May I express my personal gratitude and high appreciation of the kindness of spirit and unity of purpose which have been shown in all our work together? I especially emphasize my deep obligation to you, one and all, for your thoughtful consideration and generous patience toward your Chairman.

In sending you my farewell message, it is with a deep sense of thankfulness for the privilege accorded me in serving with you the interests of our beloved country in its time of distress and sorrow. May the friendships which we have formed in our service prove lasting and helpful.

With sincere regards, believe me,

Faithfully yours

Anna Howard Shaw

Chairman Woman's Committee
Council of National Defense