

Nov. 9, 1918

Dear Mrs. Wilkes:

I have been very neglectful of the Washington work. It is hard to do half a dozen different kinds of things at once, and for the time being at least, I have had to put family matters ahead of everything else.

You wrote me some time ago about the complaint of the Woman's Committee of the Wisconsin State Association Opposed to Woman's Suffrage that the Wisconsin Division had been turned into a Woman's Suffrage organization. I have answered Mrs. Day that that division had done excellent work, that we considered it one of our best, that it was our policy to keep our hands off the state divisions, that of course the National Committee had always insisted that the work should be entirely non-partisan, that I should consider the matter of which she complained not a matter for the National Committee but of the state organization.

About the Missouri matter. I am enclosing a suggestion for a letter to Mrs. Bush. It seems to me obvious that Mrs. Hocker should be free to place directly with the Missouri press any communications received from National headquarters. These communications are authorized at National headquarters. The only question for the state is to place them to the best advantage and as promptly as possible. There should be nothing hampering in the state machinery.

Mrs. Hocker has no authority, of course, to change the meaning in any sense, but she should have the same freedom that other publicity chairmen have for getting the material directly into the hands of the newspapers. As you will see, that is the tenor of my letter to Mrs. Bush. You and Mr. Reynolds better go over it, and if you have any doubt about it, consult Miss Patterson.

I am returning Mr. Glenn's letter to Mr. Reynolds.

Foreign News Bureau: I have your letter about Miss Nicolay and the F.N.B. We will have to handle this matter carefully. I am not sure, and I take it from a letter I have just received from Mr. Reynolds, that you and he are not quite sure about carrying on

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the Foreign News in the large way in which we had planned. I doubt very much its advisability myself. Through the regular news channels the country will be getting fuller and fuller reports of what is going on in Europe, and we shall be of course swamped with people, our own and foreigners, coming to tell us about it. As I see it now, I don't think we ought to do more than to try and get a good page in each issue of the N.D. I do believe that we ought to do that, and that it ought to be full of color and that it ought to be made largely of human stories.

My notion of getting this material would be to follow the plan which we have been working on. If Mrs. Becker is willing to go on supplying whatever comes, let her do it. Let us get material wherever we can, and then let Miss Nicolay under your and Mr. Reynolds' direction, decide what is most fit for our purposes, and she, with your help, work it into shape there. I think the selection and the treatment should be done in the office. It can hardly be done in New York.

Mrs. Becker can be kept at the head of the department, if you think it wise, though I have an idea that it would be just as well not to put any name on it.

This of course would drop out all the beautiful plans that we had for serving the country with foreign news, but I cannot see that as part of our function at present.

It is quite possible, of course, that Mrs. Blair might find suggestions in the foreign material for articles for the magazines and syndicates. I certainly should continue to keep up the files as heretofore so that the people that I suppose are coming to us for material could use them, and so that we could answer inquiries, of which we are bound to have more and more. That is, as I see it now, I should continue the work of the Foreign Bureau about gathering material, which we would classify on cards as heretofore, our direct use of it being the page in the N.D. and the occasional article which Mrs. Blair might get out of it.

I am not going to repeat what I am saying here to Mr. Reynolds, but he will want to see it in connection with what I am

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writing to him and the two of you can talk over both letters and let me know what you think and whether I have made myself clear or not and let me know how far you agree with me.

But hold on to Miss Nicolay is my judgment, and don't send the material back to Mrs. Becker for rewriting. That would have to be done on the spot. That is, it is a matter of editing.

Of course I am very anxious to see the first issue. I can tell from your letters that you have all been working like Trojans.

I had your wire about an article of four or five hundred words for N.D. on the necessity of continuing work in states. I answered that I would do it. Let me know at once when you want the copy. I have to be prodded to do anything nowadays.

Affectionately yours,