

September 21, 1934

Dear Mr. McAvoy:

I have been so buried in work for the last few weeks that I have not been attending regularly to my mail. Your circular was thrown aside until I had a spare hour and that, too, is what happened to your letter of September 6th calling my attention to the difficulty that Mrs. Harry L. Powers is having in connection with an application for a Home Loan and asking if it is not possible for me to aid her.

My delay in reading your letter makes it too late to do anything I suppose since you say the foreclosure was to take place on the Tenth of September. In any case, dear Mr. McAvoy, what could I have done? If you, occupying an inside official position on the Board, knowing in detail all of the merits of the case and knowing beforehand from experience, too, all of the difficulties in securing attention and action from Boards in such cases as this, cannot secure what seems to be just aid, what could I, an outsider, do? I fail to see.

In the first place it would be highly improper for me to take up Mrs. Power's case until I, myself, had looked into the facts. Please don't suppose that I doubt in any way your presentation and the good sense in which you argue the case in Mrs. Power's favor. But if I were to appear before the Board I would have no standing surely unless I could assert that I knew all of the conditions and facts and that I was thoroughly convinced from my own investigation that here was a case where the Board should act and act promptly. I have seen enough of the well meaning, sympathetic interference in cases of this sort, to know that you can do nothing without yourself knowing what you are defending.

But you define a case which deeply interests me. The difficulties that you are having arise I should suppose from the hasty settling up of the machinery for the operation of the N O L C. To allow such appraisers as you describe to handle these cases in which so much is involved for individuals is little better than a crime. It defeats the meaning of a generously intentioned act and it helps, rather than hinders, the ghouls that always hang around desirable property when there is a chance of foreclosure.

As I say, I suppose it is now too late for anybody to do anything, that the matter is settled and I fear that the poor lady and her daughters have lost their property. If there is still time, all I could do under the circumstances would be perhaps to write a letter to some one whom you, yourself, might name that is active and powerful, calling attention to the case and saying that from your presentation it seems to me that there should be prompt and favorable attention.

I know Mr. Frank A. Vanderlip and could write him if you thought it would be of any use.

Regretting that I overlooked your letter for so long, believe me

Very sincerely yours

Mr. D. E. McAvoy
33 Liberty Street
New York City