

FOREIGN LANGUAGE INFORMATION SERVICE

INCORPORATED

222 FOURTH AVENUE, NEW YORK CITY

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May 27, 1939

Dear Miss Tarbell:

There will be an important meeting of our Board - presumably the last until fall - on Thursday, June 8th at 6:30 o'clock at the Town Hall Club, 123 West 43rd Street. I had not expected that we would try another evening meeting this spring, but several members of the Board have suggested one in order to allow adequate time for discussion. Dinner has been set for 6:30 so that we may finish as early as possible.

At this meeting the Board will be asked to act on the enclosed recommendations of our Committee on Re-organization. We have talked so long about changing the name of the Service that concrete proposals to do so may come as a surprise.

How the Board will react to the name proposed by the Committee, I do not know. I hope you will like it. Probably it is not ideal - or at least is not likely to seem so in the beginning. I am convinced, however, that a change must be made, if we are to do our job, and that now is an opportune time to make it and to do some re-organizing.

I have tried out the proposed name and others with a great many different kinds of people and believe that the proposed name not only is the best of all those suggested, but is the only one that does not have serious disadvantages. "The New America Society" is relatively short, simple and appropriate. If it does not describe what we are doing - no name, probably, could do that - it is a name like "The Survey" and "Red Cross" which can readily acquire a definite significance. We can make it mean what we want it to. Not only has it possibilities of growth, but the more familiar people become with it, in my experience, the better they like it. The old name should not, of course, be discarded. "Foreign Language Information Service" and "F.L.I.S." could be retained as the name of the department handling our foreign language press work. According to a recent letter from the Secretary of State at Albany, the proposed name is one under which incorporation can be effected.

While the new name is only one of the Committee's recommendations, it is the most immediate and I have wanted to say at least this much about it in sending the recommendations to you.

I hope you will make every effort to be at our meeting on June 8th. If that is out of the question, won't you send in your opinion on the Committee's recommendations so that we may have the fullest possible expression from the Board before action is taken.

Sincerely yours,

René Lewis

Director

Miss Ida M. Tarbell