The Bertha Corets Papers
Manuscript Collection No. 307
Box 1
Folder 10
General Correspondence
1943 - 1958
Congressman Elmer J. Holland,
Congress of the U.S.
Washington, D.C.

Dear Congressman,

About two months ago I cut out a clipping from the newspaper and neglected to write to you before this of my approval of your attack upon the newspapers New York Daily News and Chicago Tribune.

In view of the continued apathy of the public the service you rendered should be both supported and commanded.

If you have any copies of your speeches on this subject I should appreciate receiving them.

Yours very truly,

Bertha V. Corets

P.S. Was the Congressman you refer to - Jeannette Rankin?
My dear Mrs. Corets:

There has been referred to me for reply your letter of January 5, 1943, addressed to the Secretary of State. In your letter you refer to the fact that at the present session Congress will consider, among other things, the question of again extending the authority of the President to negotiate reciprocal trade agreements. You also recall an earlier letter in which you expressed approval of the program. Your letter also asks for information on various aspects of the trade-agreements program as it affects foreign countries and various United States interests.

In response to your request I am enclosing several publications of this and other Government agencies, together with statements and addresses of Government officials, dealing generally with purposes and the effects of the reciprocal trade agreements. It would be difficult to give categorical replies to your questions about the effects that trade agreements might have had upon the internal economy of Germany, upon United States supplies of beef, and upon the attitude of the Argentine Government toward the war. In connection with the last point, you will recall that a reciprocal trade agreement with Argentina was signed on October 14, 1941 and went into provisional effect on November 15 of that year. Several of the enclosures give specific information on the supplies of meat in the United States, imports of beef and veal,

Mrs. Bertha V. Corets,
956 Edison Avenue,
Bronx, New York.
veal, and the proposed Sanitary Convention with Argentina, signed in 1935 but not as yet acted upon by the Foreign Relations Committee of the United States Senate.

In connection with your reference to the probable contention that "importations of the other fellow's products are going to compete with American labor" you will be interested in the memorandum prepared in this Department entitled "A Survey of Labor's Interest in Foreign Trade", the statement by Mr. Isidor Lubin, Commissioner of Labor Statistics in the United States Department of Labor, and in the address given by Dr. Lynn R. Edminster at Chicago on April 22, 1939. All these deal with the actual effects on United States employment, wages, and living standards, that follow the adoption of rigid exclusionist tariff policies, and the reason why such policies inevitably reduce employment in this country and lower our living standard.

Your continued interest in the program, and your intention to support it in your addresses, are deeply appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

For the Secretary of State:

William A. Fowler
Acting Chief, Division of Commercial Policy and Agreements

(For enclosures, see following page.)
Enclosures:

Pamphlet:
"Sanitary Convention Between
The United States and Argentina"
Trade Agreements Calendar,
January 5, 1943
Press releases:
os. 5547, 5548, 5549,
5550 (1942) (Agriculture),
157 (1939), 381, 477, and
485 (1942)
Memoranda:
"Statement of Isidor Lubin,
Commissioner of Labor Statistics,
Department of Labor"
"A Survey of Labor's Interest in
Foreign Trade"
"United States Imports of Beef
and Veal"
March 16, 1944

Dear Miss Corets:

Thank you for your note and for your gracious words about my column. I read your suggestion with interest and shall bear it in mind. I fear, however, that the military clique in Japan is so intent on immediate advantage in war that it would not be swayed from its course by any threat of future punishment.

Sincerely yours,

Anne O'Hare McCormick

Miss Bertha V. Corets
956 Edison Avenue
Bronx
New York 61, N.Y.
April 2, 1946

Mrs. Bertha Corets
956 Edison Avenue
Bronx, New York

Dear Mrs. Corets:

In accordance with our telephone conversation, the following is the information we have on the anti-Semitic leaflet called The American.

This leaflet first came to our attention several weeks ago when a general mailing of it was made from Tucson, Arizona. Investigation reveals that the pamphlet was published by J. McKinney of Joplin, Missouri and printed in Tucson, Arizona by the Acme Printing Co. Word from Tucson and Joplin reveals that McKinney is an exceedingly disreputable character who has had a rather checkered career in the field of religious bigotry and labor baiting. As a matter of fact, several years ago through the efforts of the labor group in Joplin, he was compelled to leave that city.

Our investigation of McKinney and his dissemination of this leaflet has not been completed. When we have accumulated all the information we want in the matter, we will take the problem up with the federal authorities on the question of McKinney's violating the federal statute re use of the mails for fraudulent purposes. Other constructive action will also be taken in the premises.

Perhaps your brother still has the wrapper in which he received his copies of the leaflet. We would appreciate his sending it to us. Does he know from whom he received them?

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]
Secretary to Arnold Forster

TO ELIMINATE DEFAMATION OF THE JEWS AND TO COUNTERACT UN-AMERICAN AND ANTI-DEMOCRATIC PROPAGANDA THROUGH A BROAD EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM; TO ADVANCE GOOD-WILL AND PROPER UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN AMERICAN GROUPS; TO PRESERVE AND TO TRANSLATE INTO GREATER EFFECTIVENESS THE IDEALS OF AMERICAN DEMOCRACY.
April 9, 1946

ARTHUR L. MCKENNEY

At the beginning of March, 1946, a large number of a scurrilously anti-Semitic, one-page leaflet, entitled The American was mailed as second-class matter in a plain unsealed envelope bearing $0.00 stamp and postmarked Tucson, Arizona.

Over a picture of two children appeared the legend "Forced To Flee From Jewish Power & Wrath - Right Here in America!". Under the picture appeared the caption "These Christian-American Children Persecuted--Made 'Refugees' By 'Tolerance Preaching' Jews!".

Although the flyer stated on its masthead that it is published monthly and gave the address P. O. Box 325 in Joplin, Missouri, the identity of the author as well as the printing plant was not revealed. Investigation disclosed that the author and chief disseminator of this malicious sheet was the notorious Jew-baiter, Arthur L. McKenney, now residing at 844 East Helen Street, Tucson, Arizona. For the past two years, he has been employed there by the Southern Pacific Railway as a brakeman, and is at present on a three-month leave of absence.

This anti-Jewish flyer was not McKenney's first excursion into the field of anti-Semitism. The following is his record:

Some years ago, a periodical called The Labor Magazine was published in Muskogee, Oklahoma, the manager and editor of which was Arthur L. McKenney. Highly characteristic of the extremely anti-Semitic nature of this so-called labor organ was the fact that, until July, 1941, Robert E. Edmondson, the old-time pro-Nazi and notoriously anti-Semitic pamphleteer, was listed on the magazine's masthead as "contributing editor" and member of its "advisory board".

McKenney's journal carried the inscription, "Published in the Interest of all Labor" and "Owned, Controlled, Edited and Published solely by Labor". Furthermore, the periodical attempted to gain the confidence of organized labor with cartoons depicting the benefits of labor unions and with occasional contributions by alleged labor leaders. In reality, McKenney's objective was to confuse labor
by creating racial and religious hatred. To this end, practically every page was replete with violently anti-Semitic statements, of which the following editorial by McKenney in the May, 1941 issue of The Labor Magazine is only one example:

"Now, What is thinking labor confronted with? The big-wigs demanded 'Vote for the New Deal'... If a few crafty politicians will smile on them -- invite a few to dinners to Washington, and appoint a few of their Judaistic numbskulls to a trip to South America or Europe, they will again advise the labor voters to weld an iron ring about their own and their children's necks with their votes."

Such illustrations of the true nature of this journal were repeatedly displayed in outbursts such as these:

"Judaism (is) an insult to all America. An octopus that proposes the destruction of Christianity and Christian philosophy.

"The scope of Judaism is world wide. Long ago the wise Scandinavian statesmen barred Judaism from their shores. They (the Jews) have captured more than half of the English-speaking nations -- with the present influx into America, unless checked, they will enslave our children, eventually ban Christianity and control our every educational source."

McKenney's views on foreign affairs were revealed on August 22, 1941, in his response to a poll taken by the Fight for Freedom Committee, Inc., in New York. McKenney commented on a post-card:

"Hitler is a beast, but not worse than England, France and Russia. We should keep our nose out of the Roosevelt-Jewish emergency. President Roosevelt should be impeached, he is incompetent and unfit for the presidency. We should arm ourselves and become Americans first, last and always."

* * * * *

Legitimate labor leaders and organizations have long been aware of the destructive activities of McKenney.

A. As early as November, 1932, he was exposed in an official labor organ, the American Railway Journal (Vol. XIII, No. 11, p. 103ff.) as "A Wolf In Sheep's Clothing", as a "Union Labor Counterfeit", as "Unfaithful to his associates, untrue to his word, unworthy of confidence", as a "Racketeer", as "A Turncoat and Traitor, a traitor to his fraternal obligations, a traitor to organized labor, a traitor to honor, a traitor to legitimate business, a traitor to the sacred trust of true manhood toward women wherever they are found, a crock and a scoundrel, and this man
has the audacity to lay a Benedict Arnold hand on a real man's fraternal shoulder and call him 'brother'."

B. The same issue of the American Railway Journal published a statement by D. B. Robertson in behalf of the Grand Lodge of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen at its 31st Convention with reference to McKenney's Railway Employees' Journal, then being published by McKenney. Robertson gave the following background history of McKenney:

"Our investigation develops the following facts:

"In 1914 and 1915, A. L. McKenney published in Kansas City, Mo., a monthly journal known as the Railway Journal. This publication was in existence considerably less than a year. We have no record of his later activities until in 1922.

"Just prior to our Twenty-ninth convention, held in Houston, Texas, in 1922, A. L. McKenney began publishing a monthly journal in Houston which was called the Texas Trainmen's Journal, and just before our convention he got out a 'convention number', and through some unknown source, he secured a picture of our late president, W. S. Carter, and it appeared on the cover of this so-called 'convention number'. The number contained several pages of advertising matter, which we are informed he secured through his having represented to advertisers that this was the official 'convention number' and was sponsored by our Brotherhood.

"Subsequent to the Twenty-ninth convention, he published this journal under various names in Wichita and Topeka, Kansas; in Kansas City, Mo., and Galesburg, Ill., and at the present time he is publishing the 'Railway Employees' Journal' at Ottumwa, Iowa, and Trenton, Mo. We are informed that the present publication has a circulation not in excess of two thousand. The subscription rate is $1.00 per year. The journal is printed in the commercial print shops, so it is very apparent that he is depending almost entirely upon advertisements to provide the finances necessary. We are informed that he is unscrupulous in the methods used in securing advertisements; that he poses as representing Railway Conductors, Locomotive Engineers, Maintenance Shop Crafts, Switchmen, Locomotive Firemen, Railway Trainmen, Railway Carman, Railway Clerks, Signalmen, Telegraphers and Dispatchers, Shipper and Farmer. He appears to be particularly active just before elections, and he actively opposes those seeking public office who refuse to advertise in his publication.

"His editorial policy seems to be to personally attack any officer of the Brotherhood who will not endorse his publication. He is not in sympathy with the laws of our Brotherhood, governing the Protective Department, and in every publication of his journal he attempts by unfair criticism to create dissatisfaction with our Brotherhood among our members who are readers of his journal.

"He claims to be a member of the Clerks' organization, but President Fitzgerald states that he can find no record of his ever having been a member. He also claims to be a member of the Order of Railway Conductors and the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen.

"Recommendation of the Committee:
"We recommend that this convention go on record as being opposed to these so-called Labor Journals, which are not sponsored by the Grand Lodge of some recognized labor organization; that we condemn the policy of A. L. McKenney and his scurrilous Railway Employees' Journal; and that our International President be directed to inform the B. of L. E., C.R.C., and B. of R. T. of our actions."

The Journal then editorially enumerates the various "fake labor publications" turned out by the adventurous McKenney and continues:

"McKenney is working a confidence game upon your businessmen and we have information showing where A. L. McKenney has perjured himself in a number of places to secure his second-class mailing privilege through the United States Post Office Department, swearing to paid subscription lists, which are not true.

"In August, 1922, issue of The Labor Magazine, A. L. McKenney made a vicious, malicious and unwarranted attack upon the Tribunal of Justice of the United States government, to carry on his blackmailing schemes.

"Check McKenney's activities and in case he calls upon you, notify your Chief of Police and Chamber of Commerce."

C. The Better Business Bureau of Oklahoma City, Inc., reported that The Labor Magazine was "condemned" by the Oklahoma State Federation of Labor in accordance with a resolution passed at its 31st Convention in Muskogee, Oklahoma, on September 14, 1935.

D. The Southwest Organizer, the official organ of the Chauffeurs, Teamsters and Helpers Local Union No. 523 I. B. of T. C. S. H. of America, affiliated with A.F. of L., denounced The Labor Magazine as a "smelly piece" and an "anti-labor organ and propaganda medium that is loyal to nothing so much as the job of selling advertising...."

E. According to C. W. Rogers of the Fort Worth, Texas Southwestern Railway Journal, another reputable labor organ, McKenney escaped expulsion from the Order of Railway Conductors of America some years ago on a technicality.

F. The Union Labor Record, official publication of the Springfield, (Mo.) Central Labor Union, reported on September 24, 1941, that:

"'Labor Magazine', the anti-Semitic, pro-Nazi publication issued from Muskogee, Oklahoma, and claiming to be a voice of labor has been suspended from the Labor Press Association, according to word received from R. E. Woodrmansee, secretary-treasurer of the International Labor Press of America.

"The magazine, according to Woodrmansee, was suspended from his organization on charges preferred by the officers of the Brewery Workers International Union of Cincinnati."
G. Three days later, the Joplin Ne's Herald carried an advertisement by the Central Labor Council (A. F. of L.) and International Union Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers, District No. 4 (C. I. O.) addressed to businessmen, repudiating The Labor Magazine and dissuading them from giving advertisements to this McKenney publication.

All these devastating disclosures and denunciations by legitimate trade union and reputable civic bodies resulted in the ultimate death knell for McKenney's publishing venture.

* * * * * *

Originally, McKenney's magazine claimed 18,000 readers and local representatives in Joplin, Oklahoma City, and Coffeyville. In size, it was thirty-four to forty-eight pages and contained a large number of advertisements from corporations and merchants in Tulsa, Oklahoma City, Joplin, Shreveport, Austin and other cities in western states. (In fairness to these advertisers, it must be added that most of them acted in good faith by placing advertisements in the magazine, believing that they were catering to labor groups, with which they were anxious to maintain friendly relations. This is particularly true in view of the fact that these advertisements were obtained under the false representation that the publication represented organized labor.)

After the foregoing widespread campaign, the number of pages and advertisements declined decisively, as indicated by a scrutiny of the November, 1941 issue. Instead of the previous forty-eight pages and 370 ads, this issue contained only twenty-four pages and 115 ads. The majority of these ads were tapped from a new community, while there were only a few ads from Joplin, Mo., and Muskogee, Okla., and no more than fifty repeat advertisements.

In addition to this shrinking of revenues, several members of this self-styled labor journal's "advisory board" dropped out, and McKenney's ill-repute forced him to discontinue his publication, making its last appearance in January, 1942.

It is significant that in this last issue the following nefariously anti-Semitic
literature was recommended to its readers: Charles B. Hudson's America in Danger, Elizabeth Dilling's The Octopus, Charles Coughlin's Social Justice, and Walter E. Burrows' Commonwealth. In his farewell editorial, McKenney accused the Jews of having brow-beaten the advertisers, forcing him out of business.

Nothing further was heard from him until the appearance of the aforementioned anti-Semitic leaflet, The American, in March, 1946, McKenney's newest endeavor.

Information received disclosed that the printers of the leaflet were the Acme Printing Company in Tucson, owned by the Messrs. H. L. Trusswell, Joe Hopkins and William Work, who did the job despite the unscrupulous vilification of the Jews contained in the text.

It further evolved that McKenney ordered twenty-five thousand copies on March 1, 1946, for which he paid a $50.00 deposit against the total bill of $75.00. On March 22, another five thousand copies were printed with only slight changes.

So far, known recipients of The American are: a public school and a business firm in New York City; the Chamber of Commerce in Portsmouth, New Hampshire; a school in Baxter Springs, Kansas; the State Auditor in Tallahassee, Florida; the City Library of Miami, Florida (10 copies); Dade County Bar Association, Miami, Florida, (8 copies); Department of Labor, Oklahoma City; Assistant Yard Master of the Union Pacific Railway in North Platte, Nebraska; the American Legion in Charleston, West Virginia; the YMCA in Oakland, California; the local Ford Agency in Savannah, Georgia; Montgomery County Bar Association in Dayton, Ohio; a member of the local bar in Cadillac, Mich. (10 copies); as well as the following places: Lynn and Boston, Massachusetts; Los Angeles, California; Kansas City and Baxter Springs, Kansas; Harvey, Illinois; Jacksonville, Florida; Sedalia, Missouri; Macon, Georgia; Hollywood, California; Cincinnati, Ohio. Some envelopes, in which The American was mailed, bore the name and address of Willard Ellis of Chetopa, Kansas.

Arthur L. McKenney's activities have been thoroughly scrutinized and all proper steps are being taken to counteract his divisive efforts.
February 28, 1947

Mrs. Mark Corets
956 Edison Avenue
Box 61
New York, New York

Dear Mrs. Corets:

I sincerely appreciate your letter of 26 February 1947, and I agree with you one hundred percent. The women of the United States could prevent wars, I sincerely believe, if they would all believe as you do, and if the mothers of this country would express their disapproval of cuts in military appropriations. If we had been strong militarily, we would not have had World War II.

I am enclosing a short speech that I made on the House floor recently, which I am sure will let you know what I think about our military training.

Best of luck to you, and I'm very glad to hear from you at any time.

There were many New York boys in my battalion overseas, and I have many friends up in New York.

Sincerely,

Olin E. Teague, Congressman
Sixth District of Texas

enc - 1

OET:dh
By OLIN E. TEAGUE, Congressman
Sixth District of Texas

(Today I am repeating here a speech I made on the Floor of
the House, my maiden effort as an "orator" since becoming a Member of
Congress. This was delivered a few minutes before the House voted
239 to 159 to cut the budget six billion dollars. I voted against
the budget cut because, as the following will show, I do not want our
National Defense hampered in any way while the peace of the world is
still so unstable, nor do I want the work of the Soil Conservation
Service hindered.)

Mr. Chairman, I regret that I do not have more than 2
minutes, because 2 minutes is entirely inadequate to cover this
subject. We have heard today from the Marines, the Navy, and the Air
Corps. I think you should hear a few words from the Infantry also.

In December 1942 I was assigned to an Infantry battalion.
Two years later, in December 1944, after 6 months on the front line,
after a number of wounds, I was forced to leave that battalion. At
that time there had been 300 men killed and over 500 wounded. If I
voted for any bill which I believed would weaken national defense, I
would feel like a traitor to those men and to every American who
sacrificed anything in this war.

The question is, Will it weaken national defense? I have
heard nothing but statements, no proof in any form or fashion that it
will not weaken it. What evidence do I have that it will weaken it?
While we were fighting we believed that we had the greatest leadership
in the world in General Marshall, General Eisenhower, and Admiral
Nimitz. Those men say today that it will weaken national defense to a
dangerous degree. As far as I am concerned, their opinion is good
enough for me. If you will cut $200,000,000 or $300,000,000, I will
vote with you, but when you cut so much that it is a definite detriment
to national defense, then I will not vote with you.

I would like to take 1 minute to read a letter from a
Republican up in Connecticut. All of you received this letter. I
hope you read it. This man lost three sons in the war. He should have a right to speak.

The above are photos of my boys, and I am speaking to you as their representative and that of millions of other boys who gave their lives for you and me and in thousands of cases because of our inefficiency and pure selfishness.

You or your predecessors failed to provide proper police protection, and as is always the case, Hell broke loose.

One of these or all three of these boys might have been your sons, or might be your sons 5, 10, or 20 years from now. Bear that in mind as you read the following results of your or your predecessor's bungling or selfishness in connection with our national safety.

Bud (F.L., Jr.) was the first to go at Avon Park, Florida. Reputedly a fine flyer, a fine pilot instructor on the early B-26 (Commonly called "Widow Makers"), he brought in a B-26 on its belly without a scratch on the crew. On Sunday, February 28th, 1943 he was killed — one plane cut off the tail of another in mid-air. These fault — yours and mine for not providing in the years 1920 to 1940 adequate amounts for training of personnel and proper equipment. The reasons given were necessary speed-up with too little training. Are you going to let this happen again because of lobbying of selfish interests from all walks of life.

I heard a so-called educator lobbying over the air against military training. He spoke of refusal of educational funds where they did not have R.O.T.C. and of such military training being proposed by our Army Personnel to build a military hierarchy to get us into the next war. He did not mention his own personal selfish interest or his own communist leanings and teachings under the guise of education.

Personally, I am a Republican, a great believer in college education, a believer in higher pay for educators and teachers — and especially if we can weed from our entire educational system communistic windbags of this type who have taken the education received at the expense of taxpayers of a free democracy to undermine that democracy in the minds and thinking of our younger generation.

Frank Lloyd Wassell, Jr. might probably be here today with many thousands of other fine upstanding patriotic, democratic, right thinking young men who should be our future leaders. He loved life, the people around him, his home and his country.

You are representing these young men and especially the youngsters they left behind. In the names of those men and regardless of your political affiliations, examine what we have suffered in the past through our failure to provide means of self-defense. We know what happened twice in the past. We do not know what the future holds, but we know that criminals do not attack in broad daylight from the front. They attack in the dark and from the rear.

I firmly believe that President Truman is first an American and second a Democratic Party President. As an American thinking in terms of the protection of its interests through Compulsory Military Training, he should be given the unselfish and non-political backing of every member of Congress.
Remember those who gave cannot speak for themselves.

Sincerely yours,

(SIGNED) F. LLOYD WASSELL

We have just paid over 300,000 American lives and billions upon billions of dollars for our way of life in the United States, and it was a bargain at that price.

It is my belief that had the Congress of the United States seen fit to spend a few of these billions in the twenties and thirties we would not have had to pay the price we have for our freedom today.

Much is said about waste.

The greatest waste in World War II was the waste of American lives because adequate defense which would have prevented World War II was not provided.

It was noted in one paper that research would be cut, and an American scientist recently said over the radio that Russia has many more scientists than we have, and they have 10 times the governmental backing that we give our scientists in the United States. If we stop research at this time, Russia will pass us, and it will be impossible to catch up.

I believe in economy in Government; I believe there are many governmental agencies which should be completely eliminated; but I also believe a weak national defense is the greatest false economy there is. Also, it is said the Department of Agriculture will receive a $200,000,000 to $300,000,000 cut, and that the Soil Conservation Service will receive a large part of this. This is also false economy, as soil conservation is insurance for our children in years to come.
March 14, 1947

My dear Mrs. Corets:

Your letter of February 26 to the Human Rights Commission was referred to Mrs. Roosevelt and by her to me for reply. I regret that this reply has been delayed.

In the enclosed document (E/259) I believe you will find the answers to your questions concerning the submission of views to be considered in the formulation of an international bill of rights.

Sincerely yours,

Richard S. Winslow
Richard S. Winslow
Acting Secretary-General

Enclosure:

As stated.

Mrs. Mark Corets,
956 Edison Avenue, Box 61,
New York, New York.
Hon Irving Ives,
U.S. Senator,
House of Senate
Washington, D.C.

Dear Senator Ives,

I really felt very much surprised when I read in the NY Times April 24 that the House had killed the appropriation for the Voice of America broadcasts.

I thought the policy of spreading our democratic ideas and culture was beyond question or opposition in the United States. The radio was the only means we had of getting beyond the "Iron Curtain", and the very fact that there is such censorship in Russia, is an added reason why we should try to reach the Russians. It is vital that we use every means of getting Russians to understand us and to counteract the charges of Imperialism etc that Russia so frequently employs.

May I ask you to use every means in your power within the Senate to restore the full appropriation for the cultural exchange and sending of the Voice of America and other cultural exchanges.

Yours very truly

Mrs Mark Coretta
May 1, 1947

Glad to see Jan Masaryk, Foreign Minister of Czechoslovakia touring Slovakia in fight on Anti-semitism. Here is where Father Tiso was executed.

Miami Beach passes laws prohibiting Discriminating Signs - gentiles only

King Christian X of Denmark, size of Vermont - attended synagogue and wore Mogen David

Question if High School should give more studies for college credits to relieve pressure on colleges and save expense away from home.
June 26, 1947

Mrs. Mark Corets
956 Edison Avenue
Bronx 61, New York

Dear Mrs. Corets:

Senator Wagner has directed me to acknowledge your recent letter concerning the Palestine problem, and to assure you that the matter will receive his continued attention.

Very sincerely yours,

(Miss) Minna L. Ruphart
Secretary
February 26, 1951

Miss Bertha V. Corets
956 Edison Avenue
Bronx 61, New York

Dear Miss Corets:

On behalf of Governor Dewey, I acknowledge your letter of February 26th concerning the sale of a hospital at New Dorp Beach, Staten Island.

I am transmitting your letter to the Executive Director of the Joint Hospital Survey & Planning Commission, from whom I am sure it will receive appropriate consideration and attention.

Sincerely yours,

Constance K. Eberhardt
Confidential Law Assistant
Mr. B. V. Corets
956 Edison Avenue
New York 61, New York

Dear Mr. Corets:

This will acknowledge receipt of your postcard of April 20th, forwarded to me from San Francisco.

"Zion's Fifth Column" is published by Standard Publications, 5937 York Blvd., Los Angeles, California. You may secure a copy by writing directly to the publisher.

Very sincerely yours,

Jack B. Tenney

JBT:bp
June 24, 1954

Dear Mrs. Corets:

I, of course, remember very well the meeting to which you refer.

I am glad to hear that you have copies of Graetz' history of the Jews and the Babylonian Talmud in your house. Naturally, the Jewish contribution to world culture is also a contribution to American culture. You will find some discussions of this whole subject in a book called "The Jews" which I edited some time ago. I am sure that a copy of this is available in your neighborhood library. Unfortunately, the book itself is out of print.

With warm regards,

Cordially, as ever,

Louis Finkelstein

Mrs. Mark Corets
956 Edison Avenue
New York 65, New York

cd
October 24, 1955

Mrs. B. V. Corets
956 Edison Avenue
Bronx 65, N. Y.

Dear Mrs. Corets:

This will acknowledge your recent communication regarding the hearings held by the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee on the problem of Communist propaganda.

These hearings, which were held in New Orleans and in Chicago, were open sessions, and as yet they have not been printed. As soon as they are available for distribution, I will be more than happy to place your name on our mailing list.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

JAMES O. EASTLAND
Chairman
Internal Security Subcommittee

JOE:DD
MINUTES

of the

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

held on

Wednesday, November 9th, 1955

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The next meeting of the Board of Directors will be held on Wednesday, December 14th, 1955 at 1:30 p.m.
MINUTES OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

WOMEN'S DIVISION OF UNITED HIAS SERVICE - NEW YORK
November 9th, 1955

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Directors of the Women's Division of United Hias Service - New York Region, was held on Wednesday, November 9th, 1955 at 1:30 p.m. with Mrs. Bertha Corets, President Pro-Tem, presiding. The Board members present were:

Mrs. Max Apple  
Mrs. Nettie L. Berg  
Mrs. Mark Corets  
Mrs. Hilly Creditor  
Mrs. Arthur Ehrlich  
Mrs. Milton Ellerin  
Mrs. Mac Fenig  
Mrs. I. E. Gevirtz  
Mrs. Martin Goldman  
Mrs. Abraham Herman  
Mrs. Max Josephson  
Mrs. Jack Littman  
Mrs. Willy Schab  
Mrs. Arthur L. Schur  
Mrs. Marcus Schlitt  
Mrs. Louis Tolins  
Mrs. Ben Touster  
Mrs. Marie Levy

Mrs. Bertha Corets welcomed all the Board members present, and thanked them for the very nice attendance.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Mrs. Corets stated that before beginning with the business of the meeting she was very sorry to have to make an announcement of which members on the National Board were already aware, namely that Mrs. Leffert had resigned from the National Board and from the Women's Division. A committee from the National Board had been appointed to ask her to reconsider, but were unsuccessful. We must therefore accept her resignation with great regret. Mrs. Corets added she was sure that all agreed that we have suffered a great loss in Mrs. Leffert's resignation.

Mrs. Fenig asked whether a letter about Mrs. Leffert's resignation had gone out to the membership, and Mrs. Corets explained that letters had been sent only to members of the National Board, as the National Board had specifically requested that the announcement not be made officially until Mrs. Leffert had been asked to reconsider.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mrs. Corets then called for approval of the minutes of the last meeting (October 12th, 1955), a copy of which had been sent to the members of the Board before the meeting. The minutes were approved.

CHAPTER REPORTS

Mrs. Corets then asked for Chapter reports.
For the Abraham Herman Chapter, Mrs. Nettie Berg reported that their Theatre Party for "No Time for Sergeants" on December 11th promises to be a huge success. They have an excellent show, and tickets are going fast. She said that their October allocation had been small, but she felt sure that they will be able to make a very substantial allocation in December. She said that they have many plans under discussion for fund-raising, but she was not ready to give a report on them as yet. On November 30th they will hold a membership meeting at the Hotel Esplanade. They will have a book review of Herman Wouk's new book "Marjorie Morningstar" by Mrs. Mary Bloom and Mrs. Charles Zunser, a Director of the Chapter and well-known attorney, will talk on immigration legislation.

For the Concourse Chapter, in the absence of Mrs. Elsie Jacower, Mrs. Corets stated that they are holding a Theatre Party on December 11th for "A Hatful of Rain". They are planning "A Day at Forest House" in the Spring, and a special activity for each month. On November 2nd, they had a membership meeting at which they had a showing of the Beersheba film, with an excellent commentary by Mrs. Marie Levy. Mrs. Corets recommended that this film be shown to all Chapters.

Referring to the Theatre Party of the Concourse Chapter, Mrs. Berg pointed out that the date is the same as that of the Abraham Herman Chapter's Theatre Party. There was some discussion on clearing dates and Mrs. Fenig suggested that before a date is set by a Chapter for any function or Theatre Party, the date should be cleared with the office. This was agreed upon by all and all Chapters were requested to make note of this.

In answer to Mrs. Berg's question re the "Day at Forest House", Mrs. Corets explained that the sale of a $10 raffle book entitles the member to the Day's outing, on which about $5 is expected to be made. A bus will be available for the day to take members to Mahopac and back.

For the Council Chapter, Mrs. Beatrice Gevirtz reported that the Council Chapter was facing the serious problem of possibly not being able to continue to function, and that she wished to bring this situation before the Board. She stated that as of last May she had been President for two years, despite many difficulties because of general lack of interest, she had carried on with Chapter activities (three Theatre Parties and two Luncheons) with the help of but a few. She particularly wished to mention Mrs. Kleban whose entire cooperation she received. At the beginning of this season she tried to revive the interest of the leadership of the Chapter by calling Board meetings, in September and October, and a membership meeting on November 22, Mrs. Gevirtz went into further detail of the many obstacles she had to overcome and her efforts in trying to keep the Chapter functioning.
Here Mrs. Corets asked Mrs. Gevirtz whether she would not continue discussion of this matter after the other Chapter reports, when it can be given more time. Mrs. Gevirtz felt however that it should be discussed now, as it was a problem of the greatest importance. Mrs. Corets acceded to her request and the discussion was continued.

Mrs. Gevirtz stated she had no solution to suggest, that she had resigned as President of the Council Chapter and could not take the Presidency again. Mrs. Corets felt that there was hope in the fact that the Council Chapter had a paid up membership of 126, which constituted a healthy background. It was important that the Board discuss this problem fully. It was therefore suggested by Board members to continue the discussion later in the meeting.

Then Chapter reports continued.

For the Emma Lazarus Chapter, Mrs. Betty Ellerin reported that they were having a Theatre Party for "A View From The Bridge" on December 5th. Their last membership meeting was held on October 26th at which time they had a showing of the film with commentary by Mrs. Levy. Mrs. Ellerin said that this film had been most favorably received, and had sparked renewed enthusiasm among her members. Some new members joined and they had a wonderful meeting.

For the International Chapter, Mrs. Irma Goldman reported that at their November 16th meeting they will have a showing of the film, with Mrs. Levy doing the commentary. They are planning a Theatre Party in March, and also a Spring Fashion Show. They are also selling tickets for a Concert to take place on November 20th. Mrs. Goldman said that a check for their October allocation would be sent to the office.

For the Junior Chapter, Mrs. Levy reported that Mrs. Etra had informed her that because many of the members had moved away from Manhattan, the Chapter was finding itself in some difficulty. Mrs. Levy stated that there are plans for eventually adding a new group to the Chapter and that this is being worked on.

For the Lee Kleiman Chapter, Mrs. Toni Littman reported that their card party was held on November 2nd and had been a most successful affair financially. Their next meeting will be held at the Shelter on November 16th, and they will have a showing of the Beersheba film with Mrs. Marie Levy doing the commentary. They are now concentrating on their Raffle Luncheon to be held on January 19th at Cooky's.

Mrs. Fenig of the Sarah Chapter commented that they were a wonderful group of young women, and suggested that Board members attend their next affair to see how they function.
For the Lena Silberstein Chapter, in the absence of Mrs. Kadin, Mrs. Levy reported that they had a Luncheon meeting on October 16th. They are planning a Theatre Party for "Pipe Dream" in January.

For the Lottie Saperstein Chapter, in the absence of Mrs. Benton, Mrs. Levy reported that they were having a Theatre Party tonight for "A View From The Bridge". Their December meeting will be a Chanukah Party, and they are planning a Raffle Luncheon in the Spring.

For the Sarah Chapter, Mrs. Lee Creditor reported that their November 7th meeting had been a most interesting one, with a showing of the Beersheba film with commentary by Mrs. Bertha Touster. She said that Mrs. Touster's talk on the work of United Hias Service Today had been most interesting and informative and had made all their members more enthusiastic about the work. She was very glad that Mrs. Touster had been able to come. They will hold their Raffle Luncheon on December 7th at the Plaza Hotel, and are planning a smaller Luncheon in March. She said that they have a very busy schedule for the rest of the season with many fund-raising activities planned. A check for $500 as their October allocation had been sent to the office.

For the Sophie Ginsberg Chapter, Mrs. Helen Schlitt reported that they are holding their Theatre Party for "The Vamp" on December 7th and are hoping to make a great deal of money from it. She said their next big money-making function will be their Spring Luncheon on May 9th. Their next meeting would be held as usual at Monte's on November 28th and would be a Card Party. In answer to a question by Mrs. Berg, Mrs. Schlitt explained that they paid $1.10 per person for a very nice Luncheon, and that 8 members of the Chapter rotated as hostesses, dividing the expenses between them.

For the Zena Chapter, in the absence of Mrs. Miriam Lurie, Mrs. Levy reported that the first membership meeting of the season was held on October 25th. It was a well attended meeting, despite the fact that Mrs. Lurie was in Europe at the time. Mrs. Levy stated that she had addressed the group on the work of United Hias Service and the activities of the Women's Division and that a very lively question and answer period followed, her talk providing an opportunity for clarifying for those present many aspects of our work. Before leaving, Mrs. Lurie had made all the arrangements for this meeting, and the next meeting will be held after her return from her trip.

Mrs. Levy added that the Zena Chapter is a very fine group of over 50 members, of whom some 25 have paid their dues already.

Mrs. Corets thanked all the Chapters for their inspiring reports.
DONOR LUNCHEON

Mrs. Corets said that at our last meeting a committee had been appointed to investigate various hotels, and to report at the next Board meeting. Mrs. Madeline Berger, Chairman of the Luncheon was away but had sent in a letter to be read at this meeting which stated that Mrs. Labiner and Mrs. Berger had visited the Hotel Pierre, the Savoy Plaza and the Ambassador Hotel and found that Monday, May 21st was available at all three. The menus were very similar as were the prices - $4.25, $4.50 per Luncheon. A kosher meat luncheon would about double the cost of a fish luncheon.

Mrs. Elsie Jacower visited the Sherry Netherland Hotel and the price quoted was $5.00 for Luncheon and the room could accommodate 250 guests.

At this point Mrs. Charlotte Fenig stated that the question of the overall Donor Luncheon had been discussed at the Board meeting of the Sarah Chapter, and members there had expressed dissatisfaction with last year's Donor Luncheon. They had discussed running a Chapter Dinner-Dance instead and having a Journal in conjunction with it. It was felt that this way they could raise more money than by just working for an overall Luncheon. She added that she would like permission from the Board of Directors for her Chapter to go ahead with such a function. She also stated that the Donor Luncheon had not been voted on as yet.

Mrs. Corets said that it had always been understood that the Donor Luncheon is the culminating event of the season for all the Chapters. She wished now to have an expression from all the Chapters on the Donor Luncheon. She added that in her own Chapter, the members had the feeling that in working toward the Donor Luncheon they were working toward something worth while.

Mrs. Corets stated that she personally felt that to discontinue our annual Donor Luncheon would destroy the feeling of unity of the Women's Division and might eventually have a bad effect on the whole organization. She then called on Mrs. Berg of the Abraham Herman Chapter, for her opinion on the Donor Luncheon.

Mrs. Berg stated that there had been discussion in her Chapter along similar lines as in the Sarah Chapter. It was felt that it would increase the fund-raising ability of the Chapter if it followed the example of the Sophie Ginsberg Chapter, by having a Luncheon and a Journal of their own. She felt that a much more personal and warm feeling could be established at such a function. She added even then there would be a representation of some 50 from her Chapter at the Donor Luncheon. The possibility of a Tea as a substitute for the Luncheon was suggested by her.

Mrs. Touster felt that every Chapter had the right to run its own affair in order to raise the most money. She also felt that the Donor Luncheon is too costly, and too cold an affair.
For the Council Chapter, Mrs. Gevirtz stated that the members look forward each year to the Luncheon and work toward it. She pointed out that a number of members of the chapter work at the Thrift Shop and come to the Luncheon on their Donor Credits. However, she thought that perhaps a Tea might be held instead of the Luncheon.

Mrs. Tzvi Littman of the Lee Kleiman Chapter said she was glad of an opportunity to speak on this matter. She said that the members of her chapter work toward the Donor Luncheon every year, and that to them it is a most important affair. She added that they were too small a group to run their own Luncheon, and that the Donor Luncheon was very important to all the members of the Lee Kleiman Chapter.

For the Emma Lazarus Chapter, Mrs. Ellerin stated that the Donor Luncheon provides an incentive for her members to work toward. They feel that it is a very impressive affair, and they work hard to get Journal ads. She stated further that the Luncheon represented the unification of the entire organization once a season, and showed the Chapters that they are part of a larger group. She suggested that the program be improved to create a warmer spirit, with public recognition given to individual Chapters. She added that in her opinion the Junior Chapters need this incentive for their growth.

For the International Chapter, Mrs. Goldman stated she agreed with Mrs. Ellerin. The members of her chapter work toward the Donor Luncheon all year and look forward to the opportunity of meeting the members of all the other Chapters at an impressive affair. About 60 of their members attend the Luncheon. Mrs. Goldman felt that if there is no Luncheon, the International Chapter would fall apart.

Mrs. Ehrlich of the International Chapter also expressed her agreement with Mrs. Goldman.

For the Sophie Ginsberg Chapter, Mrs. Schlitt stated that their Luncheon was their big annual project, and that their Chapter usually has a representation at the overall Donor Luncheon.

Mrs. Berg asked Mrs. Schlitt how they ran their Luncheon. Mrs. Schlitt replied that attendance at their Luncheon is on the basis of a $25 Journal ad or a $20 donation.

Mrs. Corets inquired of Mrs. Berg whether the Abraham Herman Chapter was planning to run their own Luncheon. Mrs. Berg stated that they were considering it, but in that event there would be a representation at the overall Donor Luncheon.
Mrs. Creditor, President of the Sarah Chapter stated that the Board of the Sarah Chapter in discussing a Dinner-Dance was thinking of a possibility of raising more money and that they had no desire to interfere with any overall plans of the Women's Division. She suggested however the possibility of an overall Tea instead of a Luncheon.

More discussion followed in which Mrs. Apple of the Sarah Chapter said that their Board Chairman, Mrs. Ida Engle had also stressed the question of unity. Some members felt that they might use surplus Donor Credits for an additional function. Mrs. Ellerin suggested that a Tea would not be adequate and not impressive enough but that the program of the Luncheon be improved. Mrs. Schur stated that every important women's organization in the United States has one culminating Luncheon of the season, where the members get together who are working for the same cause. It may not be necessary to have a Fashion Show, but it still should be a big and important affair for everyone.

Mrs. Josephson stated that it was important to have a big function for the entire membership, whether it be a Luncheon or Tea. Perhaps the quota can be reduced to $25.00 and each person be charged $7.50 for the Luncheon.

Mrs. Corets felt that there had now been sufficient discussion on the question and asked for a vote on the motion that an overall Luncheon be held with all the Chapters participating. The vote was 9 in favor, 8 opposed.

Mrs. Corets stated that this vote was too close and reflected too unhealthy a situation on which to base such an important decision. She continued to review her own interest in Hias which dated from 1941 when, as president of the Women's Auxiliary of the Jewish War Veterans, she had led a fund-raising campaign for Hias. Three or four years ago, she became more directly connected with our work when she found that Hias had a wonderful women's organization. When the Concourse Chapter was formed she became the President. She took over the presidency pro-tem this fall because of her enthusiasm for the work of United Hias Service and the Women's Division. Now she felt that if each Chapter goes its own way and we cannot work together, the Women's Division will break up, and that she did not wish to preside in such an event.

Mrs. Touster suggested that if the question had been worded differently, more members would have voted for it. Mrs. Berg pointed out that we are working for United Hias Service and stressed the importance of the younger Chapters in carrying on the work and stated that no one wants to negate any overall plans.

After further extensive discussion, Mrs. Corets again called for a vote on the Luncheon.
It was moved that a Donor Luncheon be held with a Journal with all the Chapters participating, the program and expense to be worked out by a committee. This was unanimously approved.

Mrs. Corets asked Mrs. Ellerin and Mrs. Touster to serve on a Program Committee to try and carry out the ideas expressed today. Both accepted.

Mrs. Corets suggested that upon the return of Mrs. Berger, Luncheon Chairman, plans for the hotel and other details for the Luncheon will be worked out.

Mrs. Corets then reverted to the discussion on the Council Chapter, over which she stated all are greatly concerned. She asked Mrs. Gevirtz again for suggestions or recommendations. Mrs. Gevirtz reiterated that she had done all she could for the Chapter and that now it is up to the Board.

Mrs. Corets explained that according to our By-Laws a Chapter may not dissolve without due procedure and members of the Chapter must be polled in the form of a referendum by mail. However, some other means may be found to solve this situation. Mrs. Touster said that this was the responsibility of the Women's Division and the Director. Mrs. Levy explained that she had discussed the situation with Mrs. Gevirtz and Mrs. Kleban and that an attempt had been made to set up a committee to carry on the work of the Chapter. Since this had been unsuccessful, Mrs. Gevirtz was bringing up the matter before the Board.

Mrs. Josephson here paid tribute to Mrs. Gevirtz, saying that she had attended many meetings of the Council Chapter and always had found them conducted in a most stimulating way by Mrs. Gevirtz. Mrs. Corets also expressed her appreciation of Mrs. Gevirtz's efforts to keep the Chapter going.

Mrs. Feinig reminded the Board that a similar situation had existed in the Long Island Chapter (now Lottie Saperstein Chapter) a few years ago, and asked what means had been used at that time. Mrs. Levy explained the various steps that were taken. First a committee of four was set up which functioned for a while, then Mrs. Leffert took over the Chairmanship of the Board to encourage the group and help it to continue to function. Subsequently Mrs. Levy was asked to take over as President Pro-Tem, which she did for some 6 months until a new President was elected.
Mrs. Levy stated that in the case of the Council Chapter, if a committee cannot be formed to carry on, there would be a referendum by mail of all the members. Thus a nucleus might be found interested in keeping the Chapter going.

This proposed procedure met with the approval of the Board.

Due to the lateness of the hour, the meeting was adjourned without taking up further business.

Respectfully submitted,

Marie Levy
January 17, 1958

Dear Miss Corets:

On behalf of Governor Harriman I wish to acknowledge with thanks your communication about Ellis Island and to tell you that the Governor appreciates your interest in proper disposition of the Island.

Cordially,

Jonathan Bingham

Miss Bertha V. Corets
956 Edison Avenue
Bronx 65, New York City
DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK
LADIES AUXILIARY

The
President
Bertha V. Corets
956 Edison Avenue - Bronx, N. Y.
Underhill 3-1499 - WES 7/160/77/52/48

Nov 19th, 1958

Jewish War Veterans of the USA,
1712 New Hampshire Ave., NW
Washington, D.C.

It was a shock to learn of the passing of George Fredman,
especially for those who worked with him on the Boycott, for we remember him
as an alert, tireless worker.

The thought that the great work he did and his name might pass
off into the "realm of the forgotten" prompts me to suggest for consideration at
the National Executive meeting, the creation of an award to be called the
"J. George Fredman Memorial Award" to be presented annually to the individual or
individuals who accomplish outstanding work combating subversive or un-American
activities.

Permit me to say I worked with George as National Boycott Chairman
for the Ladies Auxiliary, and for a time under Dorie Worth as National Boycott
Chairman for JWW. In the early days of the boycott when JWW was housed in two
small offices in NY and the office staff was just one paid worker, George was the
entire boycott. He was the research department, writer of releases, tireless speaker
all over the country, fund raiser and legal adviser, and most of the facts and work
of necessity was carried in his head for there was no office staff to co-ordinate.
In these days of affluence, it may be difficult to recall the 1930's - the active
boycott days - that was the depression period, and $2.00 was the average boycott
contribution from Posts and Auxiliaries. The boycott committee was required to
defray its own expenses and George personally saw to it that there was always money for
vital printing or expenses.

George was also a leading figure in the spread of the boycott to
Europe for he travelled to Europe with Mr. Samuel Untermeyer organizing the spread
of the International Boycott.

JWW can be proud of its Boycott work for it helped to defeat the Nazis
and were there more time I could support this with little effort, and in our organiza-
tion George Fredman was Mr. Boycott. Verily had George not expended his strength so,
he might be among us today. I hope you will want to feel his spirit and work could
carry on thru such an award and it would be a fitting Memorial for one who served the
organization and freedom so faithfully.

Respectfully,
Bertha V. Corets
Past National Boycott Chairman
Dear Friends

Feb. 28/1965

This is a copy of a letter I also sent a contribution for a memorial fund at that time.

I was disappointed when I heard the Eternal Light in the shrine was the decision.

How does anyone know that memorializes the mountaunious work of H. Friedman who died for J.W.V. He was the greatest membership chairman we had and I believe that all times he brought we are still the back bone of the organization.

There is an alternative proposition to an annual memorial dinner.

A room or section dedicated to J.W.V. Let us forget a repository for Magic posters. Newspaper. Film Pamphlets, etc. I have a private collection to start you off - otherwise I will send them to the Cernovich Jewish Archives. I am starting to get my house orders.

Hence Friedman was a sweet patient man ready to listen at all times and a great ELFAC to understand. He burnt himself out fighting the Magic Movement. I know. I worked with them.

Bertha V. Corte