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White House Conference on Social Education, 1935.

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
SUPREME COURT OF ERRORS

CHAMBERS OF
WM. M. MALTBY
CHIEF JUSTICE

April 8, 1935.

STATE LIBRARY BUILDING
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver,
The Temple,
Cleveland, Ohio.

My dear Rabbi Silver:

The deepening concern about crime has resulted in many commissions and conferences to foster research and to strengthen law enforcement agencies. Evidence has now accumulated to demonstrate that we have to deal, not alone with weak or vicious individuals, but also with deep rooted and widespread social maladjustments of divers kinds. It has also been made clear that the gradual elimination of social maladjustments to lessen the incidence of crime, as well as the permanent improvement of law enforcement agencies, is dependent upon an awakened public opinion in communities throughout the nation.

A Nation-wide Program of Social Education has accordingly been under consideration for some time. Channels to groups in communities all over the country have been assured by the National Agencies of major civic, religious and social organizations. Details of this program may be found in the enclosed memorandum.

When this project was laid before the President of the United States, he evidenced keen interest and authorized the holding of a White House Conference to launch it. The advantages of such a Conference are also indicated in the enclosure.

This Conference will be held in the White House on May 18th, but since its personnel will consist of those interested in and working through civic, educational, religious and social organizations of national scope, it is not an official conference. It is desired, therefore, that it be held under the sponsorship of a group of representative citizens, and all of those concerned in the working out of this significant program will appreciate your sharing with the President and Mrs. Roosevelt the sponsorship of the White House Conference. Such sponsorship should indicate an expectation of being able to attend. Enclosed is a list of those who are being asked to serve, many of whom have already expressed their willingness to do so.

An early reply will be appreciated as our time for preparation is short.

Sincerely yours,

Wm. M. Maltby

WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON
SOCIAL EDUCATION

MAY 18, 1935

ORGANIZING SECRETARY
PAUL W. GARRETT

129 EAST 52ND STREET
NEW YORK, N. Y.
—
PLAZA 3-4700

April 9, 1935.

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver,
The Temple,
Cleveland, Ohio.

My dear Rabbi Silver:

A letter has already, or will very shortly, come to you from Chief Justice Maltbie of Connecticut, asking your cooperation by serving as one of the Sponsors of the White House Conference.

I feel that a word of explanation is due you on the subject of the dates. Originally Mrs. Roosevelt and I selected two early in April, but she found later that they were quite impossible and wired that the 17th and 18th of May were the only dates she had available. It seemed necessary to accept them as it was not wise to ask her to shift them a third time, but I felt very sorry when I learned that the 18th fell on a Saturday.

I realize that this may prevent your participating, unless some of your associates could handle the services on that day. But even if this prevents your attendance at the Conference, I hope it may not bar lending the prestige of your name to it.

Very sincerely yours,

P. W. Garrett

PWG:W

A NATIONAL PROGRAM OF SOCIAL EDUCATION
IN
CRIME AS A COMMUNITY PROBLEM

A few years ago when crime achieved the dignity of "a National Problem" it was obvious that the first requisite, if we were to diminish the volume of crime or to deal effectively with offenders, was accurate information.

Divers programs of research and special studies of many kinds were undertaken and the information needed is, as a whole, now available.

Today the obvious task is a speedy utilization of the results of our research. Our tardy use of this information is due primarily to our failure to parallel our program of research with, or for the education of citizens. While we have spent vast sums and employed the best minds to secure the needed information we have left largely to chance the education of our citizens on whose grasp of the broad results the actual application of our information depends.

A Systematic and Sustained Program of Social Education is now a necessity, for until this is done the elimination of conditions which we now know to predispose to delinquency and crime on the one hand and on the other the making of our agencies and institutions which deal with offenders really effective will be accomplished spasmodically and slowly.

Information about a social problem is the first step. But social understanding by citizens generally provides the only sure basis for wise and sustained social action.

A Program of Social Education. Despite the very genuine concern which in recent years has been aroused by our crime record the task of reaching in an effective way the largest possible number of people in the largest possible number of communities is a formidable one. Fortunately, there are many national organizations (civic, religious, social educational and business) which in their local units throughout the country have for years been carrying on educational programs. They have already concerned themselves with various social problems.

Most of these national organizations not only have the machinery for reaching out quickly and inexpensively to the millions of members in their local units over the country but they are eager to participate in a common effort to educate their members in understanding the incidence of delinquency and crime; in diminishing the factors we know to help create the problem and in utilizing our knowledge of more effective treatment of offenders.

Measured qualitatively or quantitatively the educational work of these national organizations puts them in a most strategic position to help create

the intelligent public opinion that must underly effective public action. When a cooperative program - a national commission on social education to formulate educational materials and help the national organizations channel it to their local units - was proposed to the officers of these national organizations it was found that the project would receive their hearty cooperation.

Educational Material. Due to the variety of community conditions it is believed that the formulation of material to provide a basis for discussion and for investigating local conditions that conduce to delinquency and crime in their own community as well as the local agencies and institutions (police, courts, lockups and county jails) which deal with offenders, will be most effective.

The local approach will provide at once the best basis for a realistic understanding of the problem and an immediate and natural field for social action.

Plan Tried Out in Connecticut. The plan has been evolved from actual experimentation in several states, particularly in representative cities in Connecticut, under the auspices of a committee organized by the Chief Justice of the State with the technical service of the organizing secretary for the forthcoming White House Conference.

A White House Conference on Social Education. When this project was laid before President Roosevelt he not only approved it but authorized the holding of a White House Conference to launch it.

The participation from the outset of representatives of the national organizations (listed on next page) will go far towards making it a cooperative enterprise. It will give that feeling of solidarity which comes from engaging in a common task.

Reports of this Conference in the organs of these organizations will get the project into the consciousness of their members, while general publicity will farther the idea of Social Education to an extent which ordinarily requires several years of work.

A National Program of Social Education in "Crime as a Community Problem."

Personnel
for White House Conference

- I. For Chairman, Senator Harry F. Byrd
- II. For their technical knowledge and authority -

A few educators, psychologists, criminologists, and penologists, social workers, jurists, police commissioners, wardens, parole and probation officers.

Representatives of organizations concerned with Social Education such as:

National Committee for Mental Hygiene
Adult Education Association
Religious Education Association
National Education Association
American Prison Association
National Probation Association

- III. Officers of those national organizations which in their local units carry on educational programs, such as:

Association of University Women
Junior Leagues of America
National Federation of Women's Clubs
National Grange
League of Women Voters
National Congress of Parent-Teachers Association
National Council of Parent Education
Religious bodies - Catholic, Jewish, Protestant, and related organizations.
Service Clubs

- IV. Citizens, men and women of public spirit and interest.

Note: The whole conference personnel to include not over 200 persons.

April 11, 1935.

Chief Justice William M. Maltbie,
Supreme Court Building,
Hartford, Conn.

My dear Judge Maltbie:

I shall be very pleased to serve as a member
of the sponsoring committee of the White House Conference
on Social Education and I shall make every effort to
attend the Conference on May 18.

With best wishes, permit me to remain

Very sincerely yours,

AHS:EK

LIST OF SPONSORS

WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON SOCIAL EDUCATION

May 18, 1935

Justice Florence E. Allen
Ann Archbold

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Washington, D. C.

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Emily Newell Blair
Mrs. Sidney C. Borg
Mrs. Philip A. Brennan
Senator Harry F. Byrd

New Milford, Connecticut
Washington, D. C.
New York City, New York
Brooklyn, New York
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Dr. William A. White
Dr. George F. Zook

Framingham, Massachusetts
Washington, D. C.
Washington, D. C.

CARD OF ADMISSION

No. 25

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver

Conference on Social Education

at the
White House

Saturday, May 18, 1935

10 to 12:30 · 2 to 4 o'clock

Eastern Standard Time

It will be necessary to present this card at both sessions