

COUNCIL OF NATIONAL DEFENSE  
WASHINGTON

WOMAN'S COMMITTEE  
1814 N STREET NW.

July 5, 1918

Mrs. Robert Nelson,  
916 French St.,  
Wilmington, Delaware.

My dear Mrs. Nelson:

There is a possibility of the Woman's Committee of the Council of National Defense undertaking some organization work among the colored people, in the South particularly, and I am wondering whether you would be available for such work. The plan is tentative now, and it may not prove advisable at this time, but I am so keenly interested in it that I am sending you this word in order that you may give it consideration, and perhaps find it possible to undertake such work if the plan materializes.

Would you be interested, and could you come to Washington to talk it over with me in case I have a definite proposition to discuss with you next week?

Sincerely yours,

*Hannah J. Patterson*

Resident Director

P/D



COUNCIL OF NATIONAL DEFENSE

WASHINGTON

WOMAN'S SUFFRAGE  
1917

The Council of National Defense  
has been organized to coordinate  
the efforts of the various  
departments of the Government  
in the event of a national  
emergency. It is composed of  
representatives of the War  
Department, Navy Department,  
Department of the Interior,  
Department of Agriculture,  
Department of Commerce,  
Department of Education,  
Department of Health,  
Department of Justice,  
Department of Labor,  
Department of State,  
and the Federal Reserve Board.

The Council is organized into  
various committees, each of  
which is charged with the  
responsibility of coordinating  
the efforts of the various  
departments in the event of a  
national emergency.

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY



COUNCIL OF NATIONAL DEFENSE  
WASHINGTON

WOMAN'S COMMITTEE  
1814 N Street.

July 24, 1918.

Mrs. Robert Nelson,  
916 French Street,  
Wilmington, Del.

My dear Mrs. Nelson:

A telegram was sent you yesterday postponing your coming to our Headquarters, on N Street, until Monday, August fifth.

This was done because Miss Patterson, who is taking a much needed vacation, has found that she will not be able to return to her duties before that date, and it will be better for you not to come until she is here to advise you. She felt sure that this postponement would not inconvenience you.

Very truly yours,

*C. P. Lamar*

(Mrs. Joseph R. Lamar)

Chairman,  
Department of State Organization.

L:C.



COUNCIL OF NATIONAL DEFENSE

WASHINGTON

WOMAN'S COMMITTEE  
1814 N STREET NW.

August 12, 1918

This is to certify that the bearer,  
Mrs. Alice Dunbar Nelson, is an authorized field  
representative of the Woman's Committee of the  
Council of National Defense.

*Hannah J. Patterson*

Resident Director, Woman's Committee  
Council of National Defense.

P/D



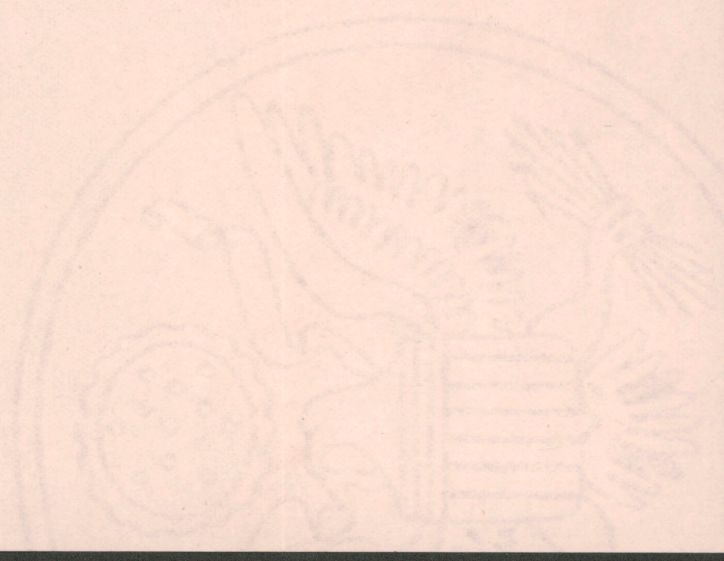
COLLEGE OF NATURAL HISTORY

WASHINGTON

April 10, 1916

This is to certify that the  
above named person is an authorized  
representative of the Smithsonian Institution  
and is entitled to all the privileges  
of such representative.

Respectfully,  
Director of the Smithsonian Institution





COUNCIL OF NATIONAL DEFENSE  
WASHINGTON

WOMAN'S COMMITTEE  
1814 N STREET NW.

August 13, 1918

Mrs. Alice Dunbar Nelson,  
c/o Mrs. Arthur Browne Hammond, Jr.,  
Howard Annex, City Hall,  
New Orleans, Louisiana

My dear Mrs. Nelson:

I am sorry I failed to ask you to return to this office late yesterday afternoon in order that you might take with you the two letters which I enclose herewith addressed to Mrs. McGehee and Mrs. Hooper, and also in order that you might have the report which came from the State Councils Section on the work which the State Councils are doing among the colored men, a copy of which I enclose herewith.

Unfortunately, I failed also to secure a copy of the itinerary which you had mapped out. Will you please send me a copy? I recall that we planned that you would visit Louisiana first, Mississippi next, and then Alabama. After that I am not certain what state you expect to enter, and I do not know in what order to send your letters of introduction.

Sincerely yours,

*Hannah J. Patterson*

Resident Director.

P/D



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COUNCIL OF NATIONAL DEFENSE

WASHINGTON

WOMAN'S COMMITTEE

1814 N STREET NW.

August 15, 1918.

Mrs. Alice Dunbar-Nelson,  
c/o Mrs. Arthur Browne Hammond, Jr.,  
Howard Annex, City Hall,  
New Orleans, La.

My dear Mrs. Nelson:

I am returning to you the clippings on the Flag Day demonstration at Wilmington, according to your request. Thank you very much for letting me see them. They have given me an entirely new conception of the energy and enthusiasm of the colored people in Delaware.

We hope that your work is proving as interesting and successful as had been anticipated, and that you are not finding the hot weather too trying.

With best wishes, I am

Very sincerely yours,

*Ruth Wilson*

Assistant to the Chairman,  
Department of State Organization.

Mrs. Joseph R. Lamar, Chairman,  
Department of State Organization.

W:C.

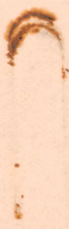




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COUNCIL OF NATIONAL DEFENSE

WASHINGTON

WOMAN'S COMMITTEE  
1814 N STREET NW.

August 16, 1918

Mrs. Alice Dunbar Nelson  
c/o Mrs. Edward McGehee,  
Como, Mississippi

My dear Mrs. Nelson:

I am enclosing herewith letters of introduction to be presented to the State Chairmen of Georgia, Florida, Kentucky and Tennessee.

I hope your trip to New Orleans was not too fatiguing, and that you had a most successful visit.

Sincerely yours,

*Harriet G. Patterson*

Resident Director.

S/D



COUNCIL OF JACOB L. ...

WASHINGTON

WOMAN'S ...



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COUNCIL OF NATIONAL DEFENSE

WASHINGTON

WOMAN'S COMMITTEE  
1814 N STREET NW.

August 19, 1918

Mrs. Alice Dunbar Nelson,  
c/o Mrs. Edward McGehee,  
Como, Mississippi.

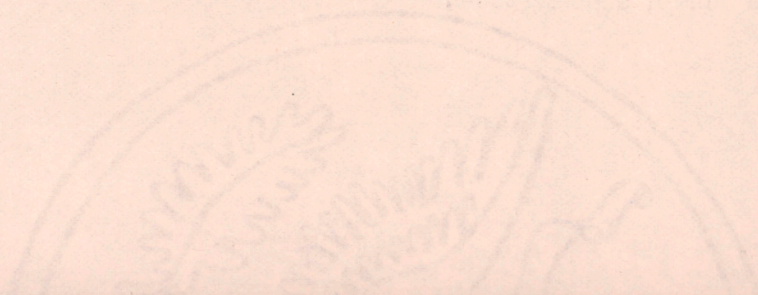
My dear Mrs. Nelson:

Your letter of the 14th and also of the 15th reached me to day, (Monday). You will, therefore, understand why I did not telegraph you since in your letter of the 15th you say that you will leave New Orleans on Sunday night for Como.

I am a bit sorry to hear that you have not gone to any of the other towns in Louisiana since Mrs. Hammond apparently would not have objected to your going. On the other hand it is perhaps as well not to venture further in Louisiana until you have gone into some of the States where the women have organized and are at work. I am sorry that Mrs. Hammond had the impression that the Woman's Committee in Washington feared that she was not securing the cooperation of the colored women, and that our sending you was more or less a criticism of her. Of course, that was not the case, and I shall do my utmost to make it clear when I write to her.

In the matter of organization, you of course understand that the only organization in which the Woman's Committee is interested is that of the State and Local Units of the Woman's Committee. We neither initiate nor sponsor new organizations, although the State Divisions and Local Units are at liberty to adopt whatever policy seems wise to them in their respective districts. For this reason it would not be possible for you to take any part in the movement to organize the domestics into a Labor Union, or in fact, to organize any kind of a voluntary unofficial organization. If invited to speak before Labor Unions you will, of course, be free to accept any such invitation, only your discussion must be confined to the war, to war work, and to the work which women have been asked to do and are doing through the Woman's Committee.







-29

I note that you speak of this local union of domestics as having failed to secure recognition from the Woman's Committee. The only recognition it could have would be the recognition of the head of the union as a member of the honorary committee of the New Orleans Unit of the Woman's Committee. The Woman's Committee does not endorse the special activities of any of the members of its honorary committee, but merely brings them together for war work. For example, the Suffrage Association is a member of the Honorary committee of the Woman's Committee, but the Woman's Committee, by accepting the Suffrage Association in this way, does not endorse suffrage. I go into this in detail in order to point out what I am confident that you already know, that the New Orleans Unit of the Woman's Committee would be entirely right in not endorsing any labor union and in not giving it any assistance. If the labor union applies for admission to the honorary committee in order that it might do some war work, or in order that the domestics of the city might be shown how their work ties up with war work, then I should say the New Orleans Unit was at fault. All of this, however, will be of no value to you so far as your New Orleans visit goes, since you will have already spoken to the Union.

I am glad to have your further report on the weighing and measuring test, and to learn how thoroughly Mrs. Proteus has organized the City of New Orleans. I should think the morale of the colored people in New Orleans would be better in view of the fact that Mrs. Proteus has a colored chairman in each ward and that they, as well as the white chairmen, constitute the city committee. It is discouraging, of course, that almost all of the work which is under consideration is "only under way," but after all it does take a long time to get things started. I shall be interested to hear your further report of the meeting Saturday night.

In view of the fact that your letter was so long in reaching me, I suggest that you send day or night letters if at any time in the future you wish my view about any special matter, or about your itinerary.

I have today received a letter from Mrs. Hooper, the State Chairman of Alabama, in which she states that she has consulted with the State Council about your work, and that they are very eager to have you meet with a committee of the State Council and the Woman's Committee to discuss your plans. We are writing Mrs. Hooper, reiterating what we said before, that you will go into a State prepared to do whatever the State Chairman desires in the way of organization. From what I have learned of the organization of colored women in the states, I have been convinced that better results are secured when a colored section of the State Division of the Woman's Committee is organized in such a way as they have organized in Florida, and in the manner it was organized in Maryland. This section







-5-

has its own chairman and leaders. They carry on the same work as the white women and are constantly in consultation with the leaders of the Woman's Committee in their respective districts, whether they be state, county or local. This was the plan Maryland inaugurated and carried out until, through a misunderstanding, the Governor appointed some colored women on the negro Council of Defense. It then became necessary to unite the work of the colored men and colored women in one Council, and the women feel that the work of the colored women has not gone ahead as rapidly since that time, as it did prior to the organization of the joint Council. I talked with a woman from Baltimore who is reputed to be the best friend of the colored people in Baltimore, and she told me that the leaders among the colored people in the Committee agreed with the women of the Woman's Committee that the work had been carried on more effectively when the women were organized as a section of the Woman's Division than it has been since the joint organization.

However, all of this is merely by way of suggestion, as the State Chairmen can adopt whatever plans seem best to them.

Sincerely yours,

*Hannah J. Patterson*

Resident Director.

P.S. Mrs. Hooper has requested that she be given at least a week's notice before your arrival in Alabama in order that she may have sufficient time to arrange for meetings. Will you therefore let her know in ample time before your intended visit.

H.J.P.

P/D







( COPY )

CALIFORNIA STATE FEDERATION OF COLORED  
WOMEN'S CLUBS,

Oakland, Calif., Aug 21, '18

Mr. William E. Easton,  
National Representative,  
All American League of California,  
Los Angeles, Cal.

Dear sir:- We as an earnest body of women, striving for self betterment and the betterment of all humanity, wish to congratulate you for the honor bestowed upon you as a member of the Special Speakers' Bureau of the War Department.

We feel proud of you and we know in selecting you to act in that capacity they have chosen one who is able to convey to the public the meaning and significance of this great and terrific conflict, not for a world's supremacy and the murdering of innocent women and children, but a World's fight for Democracy.

We sincerely wish you continued success and attention with your able addresses and noble plea for justice for all humanity.

You, I trust will overlook our delay in sending you our congratulations, for we have just returned to our homes from your beautiful city, where we had the pleasure of listening to your very interesting as well as instructive remarks during one of the sessions of our Federation.

Yours for "Deeds not Words"

Mrs. Hettie B. Tilghman, President,

Mrs. Edythe Nicholas, Secretary

( SEAL OF FEDERATION )



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Phila, Pa. 12/18.

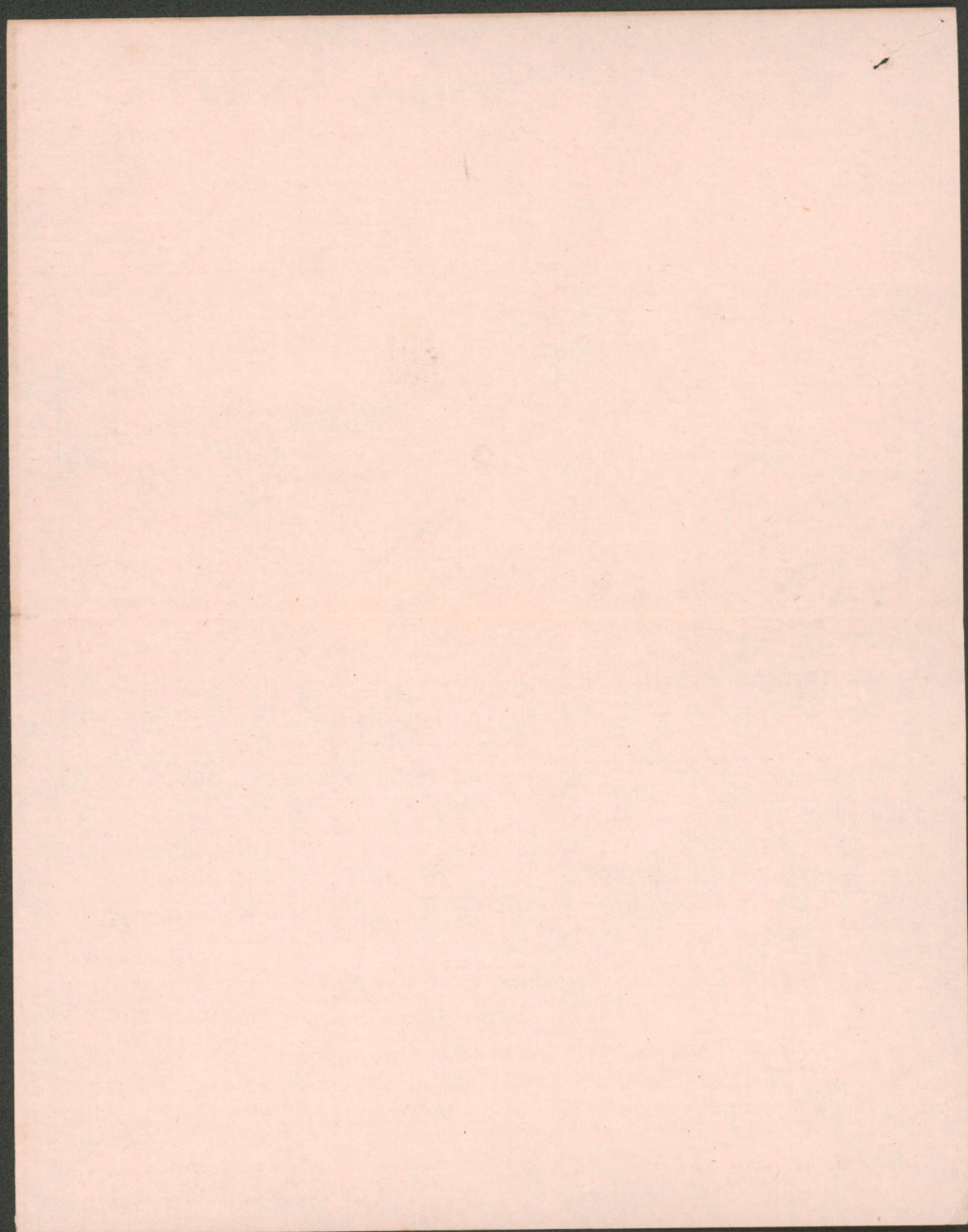
Dear Mrs. Dunbar-Nelson:-

I've just received a letter from  
Hinds Hayden & Eldredge, Inc.,  
1722 Arch St.,

Philadelphia, Pa.,

stating that they are ready to go to press  
with the Geography Primer, about which  
I wrote you some time ago, I objected  
to the picture of the Negro in the book (which  
my daughter studied) and suggested  
Paul L. Dunbar. They agreed to put Dunbar's  
picture in. Not having a good picture of  
him I wrote you. Now they write  
me that "we are holding ~~the~~ our re-  
vision of the Geography Primer.  
Awaiting the picture!" So please







send the picture to them  
at once. If you cannot  
please wire me at once at  
my expense

To Harry F. Thorpe  
Harrington, Del,  
where I now am.

Hastily yours

R. R. Wright, Jr.



