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U. A. W. - C. I. O.

Olds Local No. 652

1118-20-22 S. Washington Ave.

LANSING 10, MICH.

NOV 5 1946

Cpy to Gp

11-4-46

Dear Walt:

Here's a little thing I foward in our plant at Olds. all genl foremen & Supts. got them. You might be able to use something contained in this talks.

Here's hoping the people vote out the reactionaries tomorrow.

As ever your friend,

Fraternally,

Harold Wilson

Lansing, Mich.

Thanks

Jack or Earle

Jack

November 6, 1946

Mr. Harold Wilson
Local 652, UAW-CIO
1118 South Washington Avenue
Lansing 10, Michigan

Dear Harold:

This will acknowledge receipt of your note of November 4 with enclosed copy of C. E. Wilson's talk before the National Press Club. Thank you for sending this to me.

Fraternally yours,

Walter P. Reuther
President

WPR:ok
uopwa 26 cio

A Talk Before
National Press Club

Washington, D. C.

By C. E. Wilson

President of General Motors

Plus

A Transcript of Questions

By Club Members and

Answers By Mr. Wilson

October 1946

GENERAL MOTORS CORPORATION

DETROIT 2, MICHIGAN

NEWS

FOR RELEASE

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Attached is a copy of a talk given before a National Press Club luncheon here recently by C. E. Wilson, president of General Motors Corporation, and a transcript of questions by club members and answers by Mr. Wilson. The guest speaker was introduced by Paul Wooton, president of the National Press Club.

America Needs Unlimited Work Opportunity and Efficient Production

Mr. President, Gentlemen: I appreciate this opportunity to address the National Press Club. In thinking about what I might say today I was reminded of a statement which I understand was made by Raymond Clapper: "Never underestimate the intelligence of the people, but never overestimate their knowledge." I myself think the people would better understand the production problems our country faces and would arrive at the right answers to the questions of production, wages and prices if they had knowledge of all the facts. It is in this spirit that I appear before you today. I am here in the interests of more light and less heat.

I am going to speak particularly about production in the automobile industry because that is the thing I know most about. The automobile industry has spared no effort to produce cars and trucks in volume to satisfy the pressing demand of the American people. The industry has fallen far short of what it had hoped to do, and far short of what it could have done if all of us—government, labor and industry—had worked at the reconversion and peace production job as we did at the war production job when we were in that life and death struggle. Perhaps it was not realized how much easier it was to stop a going activity—war production—than it was to start equivalent peacetime activities to take its place. Perhaps it wasn't fully realized that organized unemployment—in other words, strikes—would so disorganize industry and increase costs and prices by creating further shortages when important shortages already existed.

During the month just passed General Motors produced in the United States 99,412 passenger cars, 33,261 trucks and buses, for a total of 132,673 vehicles. This is approximately 40,000 fewer vehicles than we had hoped to produce in September, even in late August when the final schedule for September was made. This failure was due to a shortage of materials caused by current strikes and the aftermath of past strikes. It was approximately 10,000 fewer vehicles than were produced in August. We are hopefully starting another month and, with a few more working days in the month, expect to achieve a substantial increase over September. Whether we will or not will depend on the continuing flow of materials and parts to our plants.

The total production in the twelve months —October 1, 1945, to September 30, 1946—for General Motors in the United States has been 466,996 cars and 230,642 trucks, a total of 697,638 vehicles.

I do not want to bore you with too many figures, but production figures for any period without comparison with the past are hard to appraise. In the calendar year 1940 General Motors produced in the United States 1,710,904 passenger cars and 308,194 trucks for a total of 2,019,098 vehicles, which was an average production per month of 142,575 cars and 25,683 trucks,

or a total monthly production of 168,258 vehicles. For the calendar year 1941, we produced 1,818,481 cars and 434,214 trucks, for a total of 2,252,695 vehicles. This was an average of 151,-540 cars, 36,185 trucks, and a total of 187,725 vehicles per month. The current production of cars is at about two-thirds the average monthly production of the two prewar years; while the current truck production slightly exceeds the prewar monthly average for these two years.

In spite of the fact that we still are far from prewar production, total employment in the car and truck divisions of General Motors is right now at a new peacetime peak. In August, the last month for which we have complete records, employment in General Motors divisions directly concerned with the production of automobiles and trucks was 282,315, compared with average monthly employment of 234,282 in 1941, the highest prewar employment. When other divisions, such as those making Diesel engines, refrigerators and household appliances, are included, total General Motors employment in August was 333,176. Also, General Motors employees in the car, body and truck divisions are currently averaging more hours of work per week than before the war. In August the average hours worked per week in the car, body and truck divisions was 41. This compares with 40.2 hours in 1941 and 38.8 hours per week in 1940.

Absenteeism is considerably higher than prewar. We estimate that absenteeism in September was at the rate of 4.7 percent. That means that every day an average of nearly one out of every twenty employes was absent from work for reasons of his own. In 1941 absenteeism was at a rate of 1.6 percent, about one-third of the present figure. Absenteeism alone reduces the 40-hour work week to a little over 38 hours work for the average employe and importantly reduces the efficiency of operations.

In 1929 the automobile industry produced 5,358,420 vehicles. In 1937 the industry produced 4,808,974 vehicles. In 1941 the industry produced 4,838,561 vehicles. It now looks as though a realistic forecast for the industry for next year might be 5,000,000 cars and trucks. This can only be accomplished if materials are available and if there are no important work stoppages. We expect by the end of this year that General Motor plants and facilities will be reorganized to produce our historical part of this production.

We are bothered by the high costs of our production and the high prices we must charge for our cars and trucks. Even at these prices automobiles are probably still better values than almost anything else which can be bought. If they are compared with the present cost of houses they still look cheap. The pent-up demand due to no production for the four war years, coupled with this fact, indicates that cars and trucks can be sold if materials can be obtained to produce them, and if the people of our country are still willing to work for the things they would like to have as has been the case in the past.

We get thousands of question every day from all over the country from people who want new cars but can't get them. They do not understand why. I wish they knew how hard we are trying.

The trouble is bottlenecks. Recently we got down to a day and a half supply of pig iron. We finally found some at a blast furnace in Utah and shipped it to Michigan so we could keep going. We have shipped pig iron from Boston, and even from Mexico, though it added 50 per

cent to our cost for this item. To bring pig iron from Utah and Mexico to Michigan is certainly like carrying coals to Newcastle. We have thousands of men scouring the country to find materials and supplies, with instructions to bring them back by train, truck or plane—just so we can keep production rolling. We are currently flying nuts and bolts from Buffalo to Flint in quantity to keep our car assembly lines there going.

You know, if you count all the bolts and nuts, there are something like 8,000 individual parts needed in an automobile. I guess we use about everything in making an automobile except ostrich feathers. And, whenever, as now, we just can't get enough of some of these parts and materials, it slows down the whole manufacturing process. I wish some of you men could go with me through our operations and see what we are doing in a desperate effort to fill these production gaps, keep the workmen employed and satisfy our customers who have been waiting so long for the new cars they need so badly.

When I finish speaking I will try to answer any questions you men care to ask concerning the automobile industry and particularly General Motors. Before attempting to answer the questions I would like to make a few observations that at least to me are quite clear and that I feel bear importantly on the production situation in which the country, and particularly General Motors, finds itself:

1.—A war is terribly wasteful in human values and treasure. This second World War was especially so. It was not prosperity, even though to some it may have seemed to be, and the immediate aftermath of such a war cannot be prosperity either. The clean-up, the mop-up, the reconversion to peacetime activities still require hard work, patience, understanding and some sacrifice on the part of all of us.

2.—As a nation, it is possible for us all to have more **only** if we **produce** more. We cannot live very long on the accumulations of the past, especially when they have largely been dissipated by war.

3.—There is no fixed relation between wage rates and what is often referred to as the cost of the American standard of living, the Bureau of Labor Statistics standard, for example. We cannot eat food that is not produced, no matter what it costs. We cannot drive automobiles that have not been manufactured, no matter what we earn. Only by work and efficient production can wages and prices be brought into line. As years go on, the average standard of living can be raised only by increasing the volume of goods and services that are produced per capita.

4.—If we are to carry out our expensive foreign policies and responsibilities; if we are to continue, even approximately, the present high rate of federal, state and municipal expenditures; and still have a reasonable standard of living left, we are going to have to quit quarreling and go to work. This is especially true for those of us who are producing the real wealth of the nation—on farms, in the mines, in the factories and laboratories, in construction, transportation and distribution.

5.—We should all be very thankful that America has had and is having an unusually good crop year. The Lord has been good to us even though we seem to be messing up the problem of food supply a bit ourselves.

6.—We are in the middle of a stream, or sea, crossing over from the land of war, regimenta-

tion and dictatorship, to the land of peace and plenty, of freedom and opportunity. We must help each other across but because the water seems cold or deep, we must not hesitate, lose faith or turn back.

7.—We will all be more prosperous and happy when thrift and industry have their reward, laziness and dissipation their penalty, when the planning of the country is from the grass roots by the millions of its citizens according to their individual desires, abilities and ambitions—when the customer is again the boss.

CHAIRMAN WOOTON: I am sure that Mr. Wilson knows the hesitancy with which members of the press ask embarrassing questions. So there are a few questions here about the 1946 models. I think we had better start with them.

Why are nuts and bolts and miscellaneous hardware left inside when generators are assembled? (Laughter)

MR. WILSON: Well, someone must have had an unfortunate experience. (Laughter) Actually the nuts and bolts are so scarce that I don't see why anybody would waste one. I think the trouble basically is a lack of interest in the job by the individual workman.

We can't put enough inspectors in our plants to watch over workmen all of the time. Unless he himself wants to do a good job and does his part, it can't be done. I don't know just why it is. I guess it is restlessness and a sort of dissatisfaction over the present situation. I suppose it is part of a world condition following the war. People seem to be distracted by many things. They don't seem to be sold that the way to get along is to do a good job on the particular thing in hand. I don't think our plants are any worse; I think mostly they are better than others.

I hope that our customers will find very few miscellaneous nuts and bolts in our product. (Laughter and applause.)

CHAIRMAN WOOTON: I think, Mr. Wilson, that answers the next question. It is: Why do you leave lubrication out of distributors? Here is another one that I think probably requires a little more answer: What about the fit of the hood?

MR. WILSON: I didn't know it was so bad when you got so far away from Detroit. I thought the hoods fit pretty good, at least 99 per cent of the time. If you have got one that does not fit as good as it ought to, why, it is just part of that same thing I have been talking about. We certainly hope to make our cars better all of the time

I had a report not very long ago that the customers generally were quite pleased with the quality of our cars. That does not mean we don't hope to make them better all of the time. I am sure we will.

CHAIRMAN WOOTON: I have an idea that Mr. Wilson also has answered the next two questions. One was: Are wheels on new cars supposed to be in alignment? (Laughter.) And: Do any of the directional signals work? (Laughter.)

MR. WILSON: I don't understand how the men down here got such a big allotment of cars. (Laughter.)

CHAIRMAN WOOTON: We have heard rumors that a great many cars are going into export. What are the facts?

MR. WILSON: The export of cars from the country is controlled by the government on a percentage basis with relation to the past. It is a little less than 6 per cent, I think. You might

say, perhaps in a certain selfish way, we should take the position that so long as we need cars so badly in our country, we should not export any of them. But, the people in the business abroad have also been without cars for a long time.

The people in the countries abroad are in the same position as we are. In addition it is only consistent with our policies, our international policies. I have an idea we are shipping more than 6 per cent of our food abroad. I think that the country in its idealistic way is reasonably trying to share with the rest of the world.

So that is about where the export business is. It is running around 5 or 6 percent of the current production as it did in the prewar years, and it is frozen at that ratio until such time as everybody has all the cars they want to buy.

CHAIRMAN WOOTON: In the automobile industry what is your best estimate of the month and year when the customer will again be the boss?

MR. WILSON: Well, that is a good question, and it is a difficult one to answer.

Now, to answer this question, I have to make certain assumptions. There are two ways of bringing the laws of supply and demand into agreement. One is by building a lot of products and satisfying the demand. The other is by having the price go up so fast that the people don't want the products at that price.

So I can't really answer the question. I assume the question means: When can a buyer walk into a dealer's place of business and buy a car and drive it out?

The situation should ease up from now on. Up until the last few months cars still have been wearing out faster than new cars have been produced. The situation two or three months ago was even more acute in the way of transportation needs than it was at the end of the Japanese war.

I would think that within about two years, assuming that we don't have a runaway inflation and a buyer's strike, you will be able to get cars at fair prices on short delivery.

CHAIRMAN WOOTON: Mr. Wilson, here is a related question: Do you foresee the time when cars can be produced and sold at a prewar price?

MR. WILSON: I don't think I will live long enough. (Laughter.)

We are used to thinking of a dollar as a sort of a fixed thing. Apparently, we are currently finding out that it is not. I don't expect to see a return to the purchasing power of the prewar dollar in any decade or two. I think that if we can hold the situation about where it is now and not have any more inflation of wages and prices, it might be a pretty good thing for the country Whether we can do that or not, I don't know.

That is one of the important things that is going to have to be settled in about six months. I don't know whether we are going to try artificially to shorten the work week.

My own point of view on that is this: The real question is, does the average American citizen need more time to enjoy and spend the fruits of his labor, or does he need more goods and services to enjoy the leisure time he now has? That is the measure I put on it. (Applause.)

I also recognize that we have a tremendously big part of our national income going into requirements of government. You can take any

round figures you wish, perhaps 35 billion dollars a year, and say the national income is 175 billion. Or take 40 and 200, that is 20 per cent.

Basically, that means, on a 40-hour week standard, that the average person, no matter how we kick the taxes around and who pays them, is going to work 32 hours for himself and 8 hours for the government.

Before the war, the ratio wasn't so bad. I think we in this country would have been quite smart if we had all worked a few hours longer per week during reconversion, until we got out of the difficulties the country is in on shortages.

I think that any further shortening of the standard work week is going to write down the standard of living of the nation. I said once that a 30-hour week, carried out and enforced, in my opinion would make a second class nation of our country in about ten years. I believe that.

I believe there will be fewer people employed on a short work week than there will be on a longer work week. I don't subscribe to the principle that there is only so much work to be done, so divide it up among more people. The real difficulty is that there are not enough people who know enough to work 30 hours and make the kind of living they expect to get.

So I think we will be very lucky if we stabilize the purchasing power of our money substantially where it is, and I don't expect to see Chevrolets selling for five or six hundred dollars in my lifetime. (Applause.)

CHAIRMAN WOOTON: At your last appearance at a press club luncheon a few years ago, Mr. Wilson, you said you and Walter Reuther were getting along all right. How are you getting along now? (Laughter.)

MR. WILSON: Well, as near as I can tell, that is sort of a personal question, isn't it?

CHAIRMAN WOOTON: Yes, sir.

MR. WILSON: So far as I know, I get along with Walter Reuther as well as anyone else that sits on the same side of the table as I do, and I think considerably better than some who sit on his side of the table.

CHAIRMAN WOOTON: There are two or three rather related questions: What can you tell us of new models, and particularly new engines, including the prospect of jet propulsion or other radical changes in power system? They did not include atomic energy.

In view of the limited production and urgent need for replacement vehicles for essential transportation, are new types and models likely to be introduced next year?

When is the industry likely to reach the point where production can be interrupted to tool up for new models?

MR. WILSON: Those are good questions. I will start on the part that is easiest for me to answer.

I don't see any chance, in any reasonable number of years ahead, that jet propulsion engines will be used to operate vehicles.

The jet propulsion engine has a peculiar field in aircraft, to get the advantage from the method of propelling the airplane itself. Essentially, jet propulsion is just blowing a big blast of wind out of the rear end and shooting a plane ahead. I can't see how you could get much traction out of that to handle a vehicle. As a matter of fact, taking a plane off the ground and at low altitudes is one of the problems in jet propulsion.

It is one of those things that has its own field. I don't think it is going to be a problem for us in the truck, car and bus business in the near future.

On the change of models, I am sure that the whole industry will continue its past policy of product improvement as soon as it can, and General Motors will do the same.

We haven't built very many of our 1946 models and none of the other companies in the industry has built anything like as many as they hoped to. I think the changes between the '46 and the '47 models won't be very radical. Some of these dreams of the artists and people that did not have to make good on what they talked about were pretty radical, but I don't think there are going to be very many cars built soon that are essentially too different from the present cars.

CHAIRMAN WOOTON: Is the industry devoting enough effort to turning out parts so that the maximum number of aging automobiles may be kept running until the backlog of demand for new cars can be met?

MR. WILSON: I am pretty sure that people who have their cars tied up would say that we are not doing it. Actually we are producing parts at something like twice the level we ever produced service and replacement parts before the war. We are trying to build that up all of the time.

Actually, we get into a tough question when we get down to deciding whether we will put the copper into some radiators to repair the cars in the field, or whether we will build another new car. The same thing is true of the pig iron or the lead or any other item that is short on account of strikes and holdups from a supplier's plant.

We try to divide the available material fairly between the service customers and the new customers. We will do the best we can, and while the volume of new car production is still considerably under the prewar basis, the flow of service material, as I say, exceeds twice the prewar basis.

CHAIRMAN WOOTON: Mr. Wilson, do you see any signs of real improvement in union-management relations in the automobile industry?

MR. WILSON: I brag about our relations sometimes. Actually, during the war, according to the record, and considering the number of employees involved, the average in the industry was 14 times as many man hours lost through labor stoppages and trouble as was the experience in General Motors.

We have an umpire system, with the umpire paid jointly by the union and ourselves. We have had it in effect for six or seven years. Since the men returned to work after our big strike, we have had practically no stoppages of work in our plants.

Our trouble really comes about through what you might call the nation's trouble. What is the sound policy for the country regarding wages and prices and production? We got singled out last fall, perhaps because we were big. It fitted the union leaders' plans, at least the plans of some of them, to force us, by economic warfare, to spearhead the solution of what I call the nation's problem. That was unfortunate for everyone.

I think I would rather see somebody else be first the next time, and I am still hopeful we will all be smart enough to work out the problem without shutting down the nation again pro-

gressively for several months like we did last winter. That certainly does not get any of us anywhere.

The average General Motors employe lost, oh, eight or nine hundred dollars in his savings. Employes got the increased wages, but the prices of course, had to go up. The prices went up for everything, and a new level was established, but the savings were gone. General Motors affairs are in about the same position. It isn't the smart way to do it, gentlemen. (Applause.)

CHAIRMAN WOOTON: Mr. Wilson, has any automobile manufacturer besides General Motors gotten out from under the maintenance of membership clause in its labor contract? Do you think any will?

MR. WILSON: The change in the General Motors contract is one to a voluntary checkoff. We did not see why that was not a fair thing to do. We were willing to cooperate with the union to the extent of saving it the trouble of collecting the money. We did not think it was right to deny a man the right to work if he got into a row in his union, or force him to lose his job, if he did not believe in union activity.

The Wagner Act does not call for a closed shop. The past point of view of our country, back in the Railroad Labor Act days, was anything but the closed shop. Personally, I don't believe in coercion and that sort of thing. I think the union ought to be sold on its merits to the individual workman. That is the way we have it worked out. I think some other companies have the same arrangement now.

I think it is a fair thing to the union and to the men and to the company.

It is a nuisance to try to collect a dollar a month from two or three hundred thousand people, and we are willing to perform that service for the union, for those employes who voluntarily say, "Yes, we want you to do it." Have I answered that one?

CHAIRMAN WOOTON: I would say you have, yes, sir. What effort is General Motors making to help make possible a guaranteed annual wage?

MR. WILSON: You men are more familiar with the semantics than I am. That is sort of a catch phrase. To answer the question, the way it was put, I would have to know exactly what you meant by it. But I can say this: For many years General Motors has been studying very carefully its model change times, its inventories, and how it handles its business with the object in view of stabilizing employment.

Actually, the annual wage, perhaps as it is loosely used, is not a problem at all when you have a stabilized business. If you have a seasonal business, there is no way you can do it. No one is proposing, just to take an extreme example, an annual wage for cherry pickers in northern Michigan.

So we don't have any definite plan on what people might call a guaranteed annual wage. No one has said what he means by that. Over what period is it guaranteed? Are you going to start to pay more people for not working part of the time? If you do, costs are going up. Or, some of those who do work are going to have to take less compensation to support the others.

I think we are going to have to be a little careful in this country about how many people we start to pay for not working, in various forms. (Applause.)

CHAIRMAN WOOTON: Has General Motors had any priorities on steel supplies which prevent any new automobile manufacturer from getting steel? (Laughter.)

MR. WILSON: No, there are no priorities on steel for automobile production. If the gentleman that asked that question is thinking about the same concern as I (laughter), I might tell him that an official of that company called me up and I offered to loan him 300 tons of body sheet if he would tell me the sizes he needed. He never did, though he asked if we would let him have some steel, being pretty sure that we would say, "No," and was much surprised when we said, "Yes." (Applause.)

CHAIRMAN WOOTON: Does the incentive system work among General Motors workers?

MR. WILSON: Who asked the question? Is that all right? What I would like to know is what you mean by incentive system. Do you mean a piecework plan? You see, there are various kinds of incentives. We have little piecework in any of our plants any more.

The UAW took a definite stand against piecework. That is nothing new, except that the union has been tougher about it since the war. That has caused some of the trouble in the automotive supply or the parts companies that have piecework in their plants. The car companies mostly had given it up, except in some unusual kind of places like a forge shop where it was rather easy to keep track of the individual production of a man. Where he had all of the material he wanted, the work done by some one on his left or right did not affect what he could do.

In our assembly lines, our car assembly lines, and in our progressive manufacture where we have the plants laid out so that the work flows from one section, in the plant, to another, individual incentive is much more difficult to work out.

Personally, I am more keen for what I call the positive incentives for good work and quantity of work, than I am for what I call the negative incentives, fear and coercion.

I think it is much more satisfactory if a workman sets his own pace and can be paid in proportion to the work he does, both on quantity and quality. That is contrary to the union point of view. They want to have all of the people doing the same kind of work paid the same, regardless of their capacity, willingness to work or production. The net result is that the average production hovers much closer to the effort of the poorest worker engaged in the business than to the normal average.

We had a very good example of that. It was in one of our big foundries. I do not know how many of you have ever been in a foundry. You have a molding line in the foundry and each molder has a chute where he can get all of the sand he wants. He has a pattern, the flask comes along on a conveyor and he can put down, as we say, as many or as few molds as he wishes and the men on either side have nothing to do with it. He completes the job. In this foundry we used to have piecework. The men were paid so much for each mold they made.

The union insisted that we change that method of pay to a day rate, so that every molder on that line got paid the same after he had worked for us, we will say, three months. Well, the average production went down 15 or 20 per cent. I don't blame the men particularly for it, because why should the huskier, more nimble, energetic men want to produce 20 or 25 per cent

more than the least able man in the line, who got the same amount of money?

As I say, I like the positive incentives for work, rather than the negative incentives, where the foreman has to keep crowding the men all of the time to get out the work. They don't like that. Neither do I like a situation where the man works just to a point where he thinks he won't lose his job, or to where the union is still able to protect him in that old rate of work.

It is a problem in the country. In fairness to the union's point of view, one must recognize there were some abuses in the piecework system in the past, in some plants, and that is nothing new in the business. As a matter of fact, I often recall an incident that happened to me personally, something over too long ago, 35 years ago.

I was working for the Westinghouse Company in East Pittsburgh and had a job of assembling some lightning arrestors, big porcelain affairs. This arrestor had a series of aluminum pans with some porcelain felt washers in between. They were stacked up on a tripod in a big crock, and then a solution was put in it. When the lightning would strike the trolley line or break through the oxide on the aluminum, and go to ground, no damage was done.

Well, I had a job of building a few of them. The way I was instructed to do it was to lean over the crock and put the pieces in one at a time, the aluminum, a piece of porcelain, some water glass for glue, then put the felt on, put another pad on, and finish the job.

In about a week we got a much bigger quantity to run. By that time I was a little smarter on it. I built myself some sub-assemblies. Without knowing it, I was following the practice of the automobile industry. I took the water glass and the felt, and I glued up the sub-assemblies. Then I took the parts, the stack of them, and my sub-assemblies, and put up a stack of them. Then I leaned over the crock about twice, instead of 40 times, and finished the job.

Well, I worked along from the morning to about the middle of the afternoon and finished it up. I started to make out my slip, and one of the older workmen came around and said, "Boy, what are you trying to do, kill that job?" I said, "What do you mean?" I had only worked there a couple of months. "Well," he said, "you are one of these young apprentices and you won't be here very long, and you have already done two days' work in less than a day. If you turn that in, it is going to be investigated by the time study fellow, and the standard will be changed, and I will have to work twice as hard the rest of my life." (Laughter.)

Actually, I had not worked as hard as I did the first time, but I had developed a better way, a better sequence of the work. That is what we do in our automobile plants all the time. We try to break the jobs down and save the number of motions that a man has to make, the number of different kinds of tools he has to pick up and lay down, so that the man does not physically work any more. With better tools and better organization of the work, he accomplishes more.

CHAIRMAN WOOTON: Mr. Wilson, you have given us so much information here that I am sure that you have set a precedent and that we are going to have more industrial executives as speakers in this club.

Here is just an innocent little last question: Why would not the automobile industry turn

over its books to the OPA for price fixing purposes? (Laughter.)

MR. WILSON: I think we substantially do. That is about the way the job is being done. They asked us to present some figures on our costs, and what they were back in 1940 and 1941, and they interpret those figures into the prices that they agree to let us charge for the cars.

I am a little bothered right now on why they should ask us to sell a Chevrolet for $160 less than a Ford, when the prewar differential was a five dollar bill. That is more price advantage than I want. (Laughter and applause.)

CHAIRMAN WOOTON: Mr. Wilson, we are very grateful to you, indeed, for coming here and giving us this very splendid time. (Applause.)

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THE TOWN HALL, INC.
123 West 43rd Street, New York 18, N. Y.
Telephone: WIsconsin 7-5800

A SHORT STORY OF TOWN HALL

A Monument to the American Spirit

OUR American pioneers, in the process of conquering the wilderness, developed a directness and independence of thinking unequalled in the history of the world. This direct and independent thinking was a striking quality of those courageous women who led the fight for woman suffrage. Those women took obstacles and failures in their stride — deftly using them to advance the goal they sought.

The defeat of the suffrage amendment to the Constitution of New York State in 1894 is of peculiar significance to us. Six of the intrepid women who took part in that campaign turned that defeat into a living memorial to the indomitable American will. Due to that defeat those women created an institution to educate themselves and others that they might become free and worthy citizens of a great republic.

The institution which they created, now known as Town Hall, has preserved the spirit of those women. This is a brief story of the institution they founded.

Six Women With Imagination

During the suffrage campaign in New York State in 1894, six prominent women of New York City came forward with a contribution of their own. These women were:

Eleanor Butler Sanders, wife of an outstanding clergyman, a woman of rare charm and great distinction, and a born leader.

Catherine A. B. Abbe, founder and President of the City History Club, whose influence in music, art and education was widespread.

Lucia Gilbert Runkle, one of the most cultivated persons in America, whose journalistic and literary work were such that she was invited by Horace Greely to join the editorial staff of the influential New York Tribune.

Adele Marion Fielde, who had been a missionary in China for ten years, organizing schools for Chinese girls and boys, compiling a dictionary in the Swatow dialect and aiding in the medical education of Chinese women.

Dr. Mary Putnam Jacobi, an accepted author at seventeen, first woman to be admitted to the École de Médicine in Paris and first woman member of the New York Academy of Medicine.

Lee Wood Haggin, youngest member of the group, active in church and educational work and ardently interested in the advancement of women.

With quiet assurance these women took up headquarters at Sherry's, the most fashionable spot in New York, and issued invitations through the press for people to come and sign their petition to the legislature which would give women the right to vote in New York State. Newspaper reporters flocked to the scene. New Yorkers came in such numbers that the streets were blocked with carriages. So many signatures were obtained that Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt once said she thought that present-day analysts would find it difficult to understand why the New York women were not successful in getting their amendment adopted. But a stubborn male legislature voted overwhelmingly against them.

Victory Out of Defeat

On November 16, 1894, these six resourceful women met in the home of Mrs. Sanders, at 433 Fifth Avenue. They discussed the decisive defeat of the suffrage amendment and what they would do about it. They had been denied the rights of citizens! The education, liberty, and advancement which come from participation in government was denied the women. Town Meetings were closed to them. There was no

agency to which they could turn for help. Brilliant Dr. Jacobi rose and said simply, "Madame Chairman, I move that we found an organization to educate ourselves." Her motion was unanimously adopted. These six women had decided to liberate themselves and others from political ignorance. If they were to attain the suffrage, they agreed, they would show that they were worthy of it. Thus, the League for Political Education — now known as Town Hall — was born. Out of defeat came a signal victory — a victory that spread throughout the nation and is now being felt around the world.

John Graham Brooks, Scholar

The six women were determined to obtain the best informed experts they could find as their speakers. They wanted to learn all that these wise men could impart. Any member of the League could then ask questions or voice opinions. The League for Political Education was really an expansion of the town meeting idea under trained guidance. Naturally the scholars who addressed the League were impressed by the earnestness and alertness of their audience. John Graham Brooks, of Harvard University, was one whose lectures attracted widespread attention. He was invited again and again and, as his audiences grew, the prestige of the League was greatly enhanced. He became the trusted advisor of Mrs. Sanders and her associates in shaping the educational policies of the League. By 1899 the League had grown from six members to six hundred. In that year Mr. Brooks made a suggestion which had far reaching consequences. He suggested that an invitation be extended to Robert Erskine Ely, also from Harvard, to give a course of lectures.

Robert E. Ely, Director Extraordinary

Mr. Ely had been head of the Prospect Union for ten years when he gave his first course of lectures for the League in 1899. Prospect Union

was Harvard's unofficial extension institution which was founded by Mr. Ely and Professor Francis G. Peabody. As a result of Mr. Ely's lectures he became a part-time executive officer of the League, dividing his time between New York and Cambridge. At the end of two years he gave up his work at Harvard to become the League's Executive Director. For more than thirty-six years his extraordinary talents were lavished upon the new institution. He appreciated the rare qualities which had gone into the making of the League, which he called, "a spiritual powerhouse." The women saw in him the ideal person for carrying forward their great work. Civic minded citizens soon showed a keen interest in the work which was being done. The splendid programs, the capable direction and the ever increasing number of enthusiastic members won the approval and support of the responsible leaders of the community. Among the early friends who gave active support to the League were such men as Elgin R. L. Gould, Robert E. Simon, Frank A. Vanderlip, Henry W. Taft and Arthur E. Bestor. The loyal assistance of prominent friends was a godsend to the League at the time of the death of Mrs. Sanders in 1905. Mr. Ely refers to Mrs. Sanders' death as a crisis in the League's history and gives unstinting praise to those who stood by at that time.

Economic Club, Established 1907

From the beginning, membership in the League was open to men as well as to women. However, most men of affairs could not go to morning lectures. It was important to awaken the interest of leaders in business and finance to the value of non-partisan discussion of public questions. Mr. Ely, with characteristic insight, joined with Mr. J. W. Beatson to establish the Economic Club of New York. This club, which was especially for men, was founded in cooperation with the League. The members of the Economic Club are officers of the largest banking and industrial organizations in the

country. Attendance at the regular dinner meetings ranges from eight hundred to a thousand men. The Economic Club does reach the men whom it was designed to serve. The late Wendell L. Willkie, one of its presidents, called it, "the foremost non-partisan forum of men in the country."

The Need For a Home

The early meetings of the League were held in the home of Mrs. Sanders. Later the meetings were held in the Ladies' Athletic Club, then in Aeolian Hall, then in the Berkeley-Lyceum Theater and in one hall after another. By 1911 the growth of the membership made it apparent that such rented auditoriums were inadequate. One memorable spring day in 1912, Mrs. Anna Blakslee Bliss turned to Mr. Ely as they were leaving the Berkeley-Lyceum Theater and said, "The air was bad during the speaking. We ought to have a better place." The very next day she sent a generous check to start a fund for a building of their own. The task of collecting funds for such an undertaking was appalling, and many staunch friends thought that it could never be done. However, a site was selected and the first payment was made in April, 1917, on the day this country entered the first World War. The cornerstone was laid in January, 1920. This service was performed by Colonel Theodore Roosevelt, Jr., in the unavoidable absence of his wife, Eleanor Butler Alexander, grand-niece and namesake of Eleanor Butler Sanders.

Anna Blakslee Bliss, Benefactress

On January 12, 1921, in the 26th year of the League's history, the auditorium was finished and the doors were opened to the public. We can imagine what a thrilling moment it was, even if the debts were staggering and the rest of the building still uncompleted.

Two years later Mrs. Bliss made a tour of inspection through the unfinished building and

stopped to talk with the Director, Mr. Ely, in his unfinished office. She asked about the indebtedness and the amount which would be required to finish the building. Mr. Ely replied, "We estimate about $1,100,000 in all." Mrs. Bliss inquired, "If a friend were to subscribe $500,000 toward the total of $1,100,000, do you think that other friends would subscribe the additional $600,000?" When the amazed Mr. Ely could answer, he responded, "I am certain they would."

An Idea With a Roof Over It

We can imagine the superhuman efforts which were made to raise that $600,000 and the satisfaction on the part of those who burned the first mortgage on the stage of Town Hall in January 1925.

Dr. Harry A. Overstreet has termed our building "An idea with a roof over it." Certainly the search for unbiased truth received a great stimulus through this concrete symbol of its mission. The movement for an informed and responsible citizenry achieved a permanent status through having a home of its own. Above the entrance to Town Hall are carved the significant words "Ye Shall Know the Truth and the Truth Will Make You Free."

The Town Hall Club, Established 1925

Upon the completion of the building, another great dream was realized. A club was created in the heart of our great city in which those who appreciated the ideals for which Town Hall stands could meet. Here one could extend the hospitality of a luncheon or a dinner, while exchanging ideas and sharing experiences. For out-of-town members it provided a home within the city. The quality of food and service has been kept on a high level. The cost has been so moderate, (thus giving the greatest service to the largest number) that a democratic atmosphere has been faithfully maintained.

The genuine friendliness of its members has given the Town Hall Club an individuality of its own. The membership is composed largely of people who do things — writers, lecturers, artists, social workers, teachers, and business and professional people, with many famous ones among them. The distinguished members have generously participated in the various activities, such as the Tuesday Round Table Luncheons, the Friday Stag Luncheons and the Sunday Evening Fireside gatherings. They also take an active part in the dinner discussions and conferences of every sort.

The art committee which arranges the exhibitions of paintings and other works of art is one of the most active of all the committees. The contribution which it makes to the Club is of great value.

When one considers the conspicuous success of the Town Hall Club, its cordial spirit and good-will, it seems difficult to believe that it was considered an experiment when it was founded. No well-known club in New York had ever before admitted both men and women to full privileges of membership. With its background and the quality of people it has attracted, it should continue to be a sort of spiritual pioneer among clubs.

A Center for Music

The Town Hall Auditorium was planned upon the democratic principle of having all seats good seats. There was to be no special privilege for the few but the maximum of privilege for the many. The result is a pleasing combination of intimacy and spaciousness which is a boon to musicians. Thus Town Hall has become the favorite place for discovering and encouraging promising young artists. Great artists appreciate the opportunity of appearing here also as they are heard to such good advantage. Town Hall's importance to the community in the cultivation of the public taste for the best music is well recognized. Mrs. Abbe would have been highly gratified if she

could have foreseen this great service of the organization in the realm of music.

George V. Denny, Jr., President, 1937

In 1930 Mr. Ely again gave evidence of his special insight when he recommended Mr. Denny as Associate Director. Mr. Denny was head of the Institute of Arts and Sciences at Columbia University and was previously an instructor at the University of North Carolina. The selection of this talented Associate Director was amply justified when, in 1935, he created "America's Town Meeting of the Air." Through this medium Mr. Denny made of our organization a national institution. Our country and the whole world have benefited from Mr. Denny's gifted imagination, his zeal for public service and his innate common sense. He has been referred to as "a man with a passion for education and a flair for showmanship." He succeeded Mr. Ely who retired in April, 1937. Mr. Ely, who is now Director Emeritus of Town Hall, has remained Executive Director of the Economic Club. At the time of Mr. Ely's retirement, the name of the League for Political Education was changed to The Town Hall, Inc., and the title of its Executive Head was changed from Director to President.

"America's Town Meeting", 1935

In 1934, Mr. Denny was disturbed by a friend's remark that a certain person "had rather be shot than caught listening to Roosevelt on the radio." Being a passionate advocate of the open mind, it was shocking to realize that here in this free country, where people could hear all sides of a question, some people just wouldn't do it. In grappling with the problem of how to induce people to listen to both sides of a controversial question, he conceived the idea of "America's Town Meeting of the Air." This new development was yet another expansion of the New England town meeting.

What a stupendous idea that was — bringing our whole vast population together in one great town meeting — through the miracle of radio!

We know of the instant response to those first broadcasts and of the letters that poured into the Town Hall and the N.B.C. Network. We are aware that interest has been sustained in high schools and colleges and listening groups all over the world. Everyone now knows of the millions of individual listeners who "tune in" weekly for these broadcasts carried weekly over 213 stations of the American Broadcasting Company. We are especially interested in the junior town halls and the town halls now in remote parts of the world. From Europe, China and Japan for instance, requests have come for help in setting up town halls in those countries patterned after our own. "Town Hall Phillipines" has recently been established in Manila with regular broadcasts over the United States Army Radio.

Needless to say, we have not been able to render the full service of which we are capable because of lack of funds.

The Committee of Six Hundred

Like all unendowed educational institutions Town Hall has always had to struggle for funds. Due to the purchase of the much needed building on the west of Town Hall and certain unpaid indebtedness on the main building, a mortgage of $200,000 remains on our property. The work to be done has always exceeded the means for carrying it on. People who care deeply for Town Hall realize that there is an urgent need at this time to free the institution of debt so that it can better fulfill its great mission.

The Committee of Six Hundred is now being created to do honor to our Six Founders by paying off the mortgage on our building. Each member of the Committee pledges himself to raise or to subscribe $350.00 or more for this purpose. The name of each of these members

will be inscribed upon a permanent scroll, appropriately placed in Town Hall, as one who helped to free Town Hall of debt. Members of the Committee of Six Hundred will carry the message of Town Hall to many people who have not recognized its true importance. They will provide Town Hall with a dependable number of those who are interested in, and who have learned to take some responsibility for, this vital institution. They will make it clear that Town Hall didn't "just happen." They will reveal how it was built up by the unceasing labor and devotion of people of vision who cared enough to dedicate themselves to its high purposes.

Glancing Backward

Perhaps our Six Founders were not fully aware of how truly American their procedure was when they reached into the universities and brought learning directly to the people. They could not have known how profoundly their movement would influence their entire community nor that their work would become a pattern for adult education. Certainly they could not have foreseen the impact which their efforts would have upon our country as a whole — through the medium of radio. They could hardly have dreamed that their method would some day be introduced in far off Japan, nor that it would be recognized as the accepted method of democracy. It seems impossible for them to have imagined that their pioneer efforts would eventually become a potent factor in helping to preserve our American traditions. The power of an idea, when backed by spiritual force, is greater far than anyone can foresee.

Looking Forward

"The Town Meeting idea," writes Mr. Denny, "has been used successfully to resolve labor-management problems. It should be used more extensively for this purpose. Our occupation forces in Japan are using the Town Meeting to teach the Japanese civilians the ways of democracy. The United Nations Assembly has been called a Town Meeting of the World. The town meeting is the deadly foe of the mass meeting, which is the tool of dictatorships. When we can hold Town Meetings in any city in the world, including Moscow, we need have no fear of a third world war."

Our Six Founders escaped from political ineffectiveness and made a worthy contribution to the future by founding this noble institution. We too can escape from a feeling of inadequacy by carrying forward the great work which they began. We can see, even more clearly than they, the need for unfettered truth, and for free and open discussions in the quest for truth. We know that as long as institutions of this sort continue their beneficient service to our people, our America is safe. *Where Town Hall flourishes, Freedom is secure.*

If you want to know what YOU can do to help, you will be interested in the suggestions on the following page.

What YOU Can Do

Help us to help America find the right answer to today's problems:

—You can become a member of the Committee of Six Hundred upon payment of $350 or more. Your name will be inscribed on a plaque in Town Hall with the other distinguished persons who have already joined this Committee (see back cover).

—You may endow a chair in Town Hall for $1,000 in memory of any distinguished American. Name must be approved by the Town Hall Historical Committee.

—You may become a Patron of Town Hall through an annual contribution of $1,000.

—You may join the Town Hall Lecture Division to better equip yourself in meeting your responsibilities as a citizen.

—You may subscribe to one or more courses in Town Hall's Workshop Division.

—You may listen regularly to "America's Town Meeting of the Air" and possibly organize a Town Meeting Discussion Group in your home, school, church or club.

—You may include a bequest to The Town Hall, Inc., in your will in order to insure the perpetuation and spread of the Town Hall work.

All Gifts and Bequests to Town Hall are deductible under Federal and State Income Tax Regulations.

For further information address:

Mrs. Yorke Allen, *Secretary*

The Town Hall, Inc.
123 West 43rd Street
New York 18, N. Y.

Mr. George V. Denny, Jr.
Town Hall, New York

Dear George:

I like this little booklet better than anything that has been written about Town Hall. Mrs. Deane has done a real service in making her brief story available to our many friends old and new.

I believe they also will be glad, as I am with them, to have this written record of our founders and loyal supporters and friends. We do not forget that about 4,000 friends contributed to the fund which made our building a reality.

The Committee of Six Hundred is doing a splendid service in working to pay to the last dollar all the remaining mortgage on our building. This work is so necessary and so right that it is bound to succeed.

As Honorary Chairman of the Committee and as one who is very deeply interested, I am asking for the privilege of subscribing the last dollar of this fund now.

With the conviction that Town Hall will continue to grow *greater in service* with each passing year, I am

Sincerely yours,

Robert E. Ely

Scarsdale, N. Y.
September 28, 1946

Town Hall Committee of Six Hundred

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MRS. O. W. WUERTZ
MISS KATHERINE V. YOUNG

The Committee is in process of organization. Members as of press time, October 14, 1946, are as listed above.

November 6, 1946

Mr. J. F. Lincoln, President
Lincoln Electric Company
12818 Coit Road
Cleveland 1, Ohio

Dear Mr. Lincoln:

I have delayed answering your letter of October 9 in the expectation of receiving the printed transcript of our broadcast, so that I could see how I worded my comment on the maldistribution of savings among the families of the United States. This has not yet arrived.

The reports published by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics on its liquid assets survey arrange the families both by income and by the amount of their savings, and in each case show the proportion of total liquid assets held by families at the various levels.

If I stated that the low-income half of the population held only 3 per cent of the total, this was incorrect. This is the proportion that is held by the lower half of the population arranged according to their holdings. They are not exactly the same grouping of families, but neither are they too far apart with respect to holding the short end of the deal and in not having enough to carry them along.

Your Burton Bigelow informant is correct in the information he sends you on families arranged according to income. However he did not send you this other information which was published both by BAE and by the Federal Reserve Board. It classifies families according to their holdings, and shows the top 10 per cent holding 60 per cent of the total;

the next 40 per cent holding 37 per cent; the next 20 per cent holding 3 per cent, and the lowest 30 per cent holding practically nothing.

The fact of grossly unequal distribution is striking, whichever way it is stated.

Thank you for sending me this criticism and affording me an opportunity to comment upon it.

Very truly yours,

Walter P. Reuther
President UAW-CIO

WPR:ok
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THE LINCOLN ELECTRIC COMPANY

OCT 11 1946

"Shield Arc" Welders • "Fleetweld" Electrodes • Welding Supplies

12818 COIT ROAD
CLEVELAND 1, OHIO

October 9, 1946

Mr. Walter A. Reuther
U.A.W. C.I.O.
Union Headquarters
Detroit, Michigan

My dear Walter:

You brought up the matter of savings in the meeting in Grand Rapids.

I am enclosing a letter and a table from the Burton Bigelow Organization which was sent to me on their own initiative, as you can see from their letter. I am sending this to you merely as a matter of help, rather than for any other reason, as I do not believe you wish to make mis-statements and I am sure it was either a slip or lack of fact that caused you to make the statement you did.

I am looking forward to having a conference with you at the convenience of both of us.

I was very glad indeed to meet you in Grand Rapids.

Kindest regards.

Very truly yours,

J. F. Lincoln

President

JFLincoln:m
Enc.

Burton Bigelow Organization

MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS

274 MADISON AVENUE

NEW YORK 16, N.Y.

October 7, 1946

Mr. James F. Lincoln, President
Lincoln Electric Company
Cleveland, Ohio

My dear Mr. Lincoln:

In the Town Hall Meeting of the Air program on Friday, I observed that Walter Reuther used savings figures to the affect that 50 per cent of the lower-income families hold only 3 per cent of the savings. This is either a gross intentional misstatement of fact, or a bit of colossal ignorance. I am attaching a copy of the chart which shows a recap of these figures and this indicates that 47 per cent of the families have 21 per cent of the savings. Somebody ought to curb the recklessness of these red-handed radicals who get on the radio with their peculiar philosophies.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely yours,

Burton Bigelow

BURTON BIGELOW ORGANIZATION

Burton Bigelow:ec
Encl. (1)

TABLE 2A - THE INDIVIDUAL SAVINGS PICTURE

As Shown by Recent U. S. Department of Agriculture Study

ANNUAL INCOME BRACKET	% OF SAVINGS	% OF FAMILIES	ACCUMULATIVE		REVERSE ACCUMULATIVE		MEDIAN ANNUAL INCOME	MEDIAN AMOUNT OF SAVINGS	% MEDIAN SAVINGS OF ANNUAL INCOME
			% OF SAVINGS	% OF FAMILIES	% OF SAVINGS	% OF FAMILIES			
$7,500 and over	23%	3%	23%	3%	100%	100%	$10,000	$7,270	72.7%
5,000 to 7,499	13	5	36	8	77	97	5,500	2,700	49.09
4,000 to 4,999	10	7	46	15	64	92	4,300	1,450	33.72
3,000 to 3,999	16	15	62	30	54	85	3,300	900	27.27
2,000 to 2,999	17	23	79	53	38	70	2,400	470	19.58
1,000 to 1,999	14	27	93	80	21	47	1,500	230	15.33
0 to 999	7	20	100	100	7	20	600	20	3.33

BURTON BIGELOW SALES CONFERENCE

For example -- to take the top income group -- those earning $7,500 or more annually -- this group represents but 3 per cent of the total families, but it holds 23 per cent of the savings. The median income of this group is $10,000 per year and their median savings fund is $7,270, or 72.7 per cent of a single year's income.

Going down the tabulation we observe that:

> The $5,000 to $7,500 group contains 5 per cent of families, but holds 13 per cent of savings.
>
> The $4,000 to $5,000 group contains 7 per cent of families, but holds 10 per cent of savings.
>
> The $3,000 to $4,000 group contains 15 per cent of families, but holds 16 per cent of savings.

Now the picture changes -- interestingly enough -- just below the mid-range or median point! In --

> The $2,000 to $3,000 group, 23 per cent of the families hold only 17 per cent of savings.
>
> The $1,000 to $2,000 group, 27 per cent of the families hold only 14 per cent of savings.
>
> The 0 to $1,000 group, 20 per cent of the families hold only 7 per cent of savings.

In other words, in the three highest income brackets, 15 per cent of the families hold 46 per cent of the savings, while in the three lowest income groups, 70 per cent of the families hold only 38 per cent of the savings.

Buying Power Still Concentrated at Top

Those two statements summarize the important findings for marketing men. As ever, the largest percentage of dollar buying power is where it usually is -- in the hands of the top income groups. The people who, regardless of savings, have the surplus current income to buy what they want are the same folks who have the surplus savings to buy what they don't want!

In the last column, it is interesting to note the steadily declining percentage of one year's median annual income which has been accumulated by each income group. Let's not be confused by the wording here -- the percentage figures do not mean, for example, that the $7,500 and over bracket folks save 72.7 per cent of EACH year's income, but that they have accumulated in total 72.7 per cent of one year's median income for the group.

NOV 4 1946

SUGGESTED DRAFT

OK

Dear Mr Lincoln -

I have delayed answering your letter of October 9 in the expectation of receiving the printed transcript of our broadcast, so that I could see how I worded my comment on the maldistribution of savings among the families of the United States. This has not yet arrived.

The reports published by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics on its liquid assets survey arrange the families both by income and by the amount of their savings, and in each case show the proportion of total liquid assets held by families at the various levels.

If I stated that the low-income half of the population held only 3 percent of the total, this was incorrect. This is the proportion that is held by the lower half of the population arranged according to their holdings. They are not exactly the same grouping of families, but neither are they too far apart with respect to holding the short end of the deal and in not having enough to carry them along.

Your Burton Bigelow informant is correct in the information he sends you on families arranged according to income. However he did not send you this other information which was published both by BAE and by the Federal Reserve Board. It classifies families according to their holdings,

and shows the top 10 percent holding 60 percent of the total; the next 40 percent holding 37 percent; the next 20 percent holding 3 percent, and the lowest 30 percent holding practically nothing.

The fact of grossly unequal distribution is striking, whichever way it is stated.

Thank you for sending me his criticism and affording me opportunity to comment upon it.

DEM 10-31-46

NOV 15 1946

The TOWN HALL, Inc.

An Educational Institution Founded in 1894
as The League for Political Education

123 WEST 43RD STREET, NEW YORK 18, N. Y.
Telephone: WIsconsin 7-5800

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MARK STARR
CHARLES WILLIAM TAUSSIG
NORMAN THOMAS
MRS. JAMES H. VAN ALEN
FREDERIC A. WILLIS

November 13, 1946.

Mr. Walter Reuther
411 West Milwaukee Avenue
Detroit 2, Mich.

My dear Mr. Reuther:

As a fellow Trustee, it is my pleasure to invite you to dine with me in the interest of Town Hall at 6:30 P.M., November 18th in the Gold Room at the Union League Club.

Please put on a dinner coat, if convenient, and come prepared to listen to Peter Grimm, Russ Maguire, Judge Joe Levine and a few others tell what Town Hall means to us. You can write me here, or at The Barclay, Lexington & 48th Street, Apartment 647, New York City.

Hastily,

Arthur E. Orvis

AEO:CH

Arthur E. Orvis

November 15, 1946

Mr. Arthur E. Orvis
The Town Hall, Inc
123 West 43 St
New York 18, N Y

Dear Mr. Orvis:

Your letter of November 13th has been received in Mr. Reuther's absence from the city.

It will be impossible for him to attend the dinner on November 18th in New York City, since he is attending the CIO Convention in Atlantic City all of that week.

Sincerely yours,

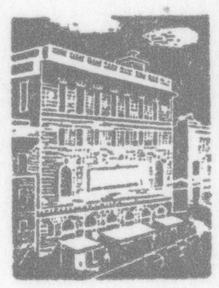
uopwa
26cio

Gwen Lurie, Secretary
to Walter P. Reuther

TOWN HALL COMMITTEE OF SIX HUNDRED

123 WEST 43rd STREET, NEW YORK 18, N. Y.

Telephone: WIsconsin 7-5800



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ROBERT H. ARMSTRONG — *Co-Chairman*

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MRS. EMMA B. PENNOCK
MRS. CLARA R. FOSS
MRS. GEORGE W. ALGER
MR. ROBERT H. ARMSTRONG
MRS. ISAAC FRIEDENHEIT

NOV 20 1946

November 18, 1946

Mr. Walter P. Reuther
411 West Milwaukee Avenue
Detroit 2, Mich.

Dear Mr. Reuther:

Your faith in the mission of Town Hall is something which I am taking for granted. I know that you believe that our country is a better place in which to live because we can have institutions such as our Town Hall. It would be of great benefit to Town Hall if you would translate your thoughts on this subject into writing. I tried it rather extensively in the enclosed booklet.

I am asking our Town Hall lecture members to write ten or twelve letters to their friends telling the purpose and the needs of Town Hall in the most convincing language at their command. This is a part of our campaign to liquidate the mortgage on our building. Will you help to set an example to our members by writing such letters to your friends and acquaintances? Just so we don't cross wires, please let Mrs. Pool, our secretary, know to whom you will write. I am sure you will find that by writing these letters your own faith in all Town Hall is doing will be deepened and your zeal for our institution greatly enhanced. In case you wish to send a draft of any letters which you write to the office, we will be glad to get them out for you on your own stationery or ours.

Trusting that you and our other Trustees will reenforce our efforts to make the significance of Town Hall better known, as well as to liquidate the mortgage on our building, I am

Most sincerely yours,

Claire Courteol Deane

Claire Courteol Deane
Chairman, Committee of
Six Hundred

November 29, 1946

Mrs. James H. Van Alen, Chairman
Town Hall Historical Committee
123 West 43 St
New York 18, N Y

Dear Mrs. Van Alen:

In reply to your letter of November 21st, Mr. Reuther has checked some of the names on the enclosed list and asked me to return it to you.

Sincerely yours,

Gwen Lurie, Secretary
to Walter P. Reuther

uopwa
26cio
encl

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MARK STARR
CHARLES WILLIAM TAUSSIG
NORMAN THOMAS
MRS. JAMES H.VAN ALEN
FREDERIC A. WILLIS

NOV 25 1946

November 21, 1946.

Mr. Walter P. Reuther
411 W. Milwaukee Avenue
Detroit 2, Michigan.

Dear Mr. Reuther:

We have been questioned and criticized several times of late for not having a greater number of illustrious names commemorated in the Town Hall auditorium. To this end I enclose a list of such, pleading for your cooperation in glancing through it and checking for suggestions prospects who might contribute jointly to a chair because of their interest in the person to be so commemorated. In some cases, if you were willing we should like to use your name in such an approach but even otherwise we would value an anonymous suggestion. Of course if you have any additions of notables that you think we have omitted we would welcome those, too.

Please notice at the end of the list a group of chairs to be obtained from corporations in memory of their founders. If you have any contacts in theseccorporations to whom we might make such a recommendation I am certain this would go far toward our securing the endowment.

The time has really come when the Historical Committee must ask for the wholehearted cooperation of all of its Trustees, if we are to continue this work on the same level of prestige to the institution and aid in paying off our mortgage.

I enclose two lists in case you have any friends who might be interested.

Sincerely yours,

Eleanor H. Van Alen
(Mrs. James H. Van Alen)
Chairman, Town Hall
Historical Committee

EVA:MM
Enc.2

EMINENT LIVES WHICH SHOULD BE COMMEMORATED IN TOWN HALL AMONG THE ENDOWED CHAIRS

Presidents

GEORGE WASHINGTON (1732-1799)
THOMAS JEFFERSON (1743-1826)
GROVER CLEVELAND (1837-1908)
✓ FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT (1882-1945)

First Ladies

MARTHA WASHINGTON (1731-1802)
ABIGAIL ADAMS (MRS. JOHN ADAMS) (1744-1818)
DOLLY MADISON (1772-1849)

Patriots, Statesmen or Diplomats

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN (1706-1790)
(Statesman)
PATRICK HENRY (1736-1799)
(Statesman)
✓ THOMAS PAINE (1737-1809)
(Statesman)
ALEXANDER HAMILTON (1757-1804)
(Statesman)
JAMES G. BLAINE (1830-1893)
(Statesman)
STEPHEN A. DOUGLAS (1813-1861)
(Statesman)
COL. EDWARD HOUSE (1858-1938)
(Statesman and Diplomat)
PAUL REVERE (1735-1818)
(Patriot)
ELIHU ROOT (1845-1937)
(Statesman)
OSCAR S. STRAUS (1850-1926)
(Diplomat)
DANIEL WEBSTER (1782-1852)
(Senator and Orator)
OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES (1841-1935)
(Jurist)
BARBARIE FRITCHIE
(Patriot)
BETSY ROSS
(Patriot)

Suffrage Leaders

SUSAN B. ANTHONY (1820-1906)
CARRIE CHAPMAN CATT (1859-
ELIZABETH CADY STANTON (1816-1902)

Army and Navy Notables

ADMIRAL GEORGE DEWEY (1838-1917)
T. J. (STONEWALL) JACKSON (1824-1863)
(Soldier)
JOHN PAUL JONES (1747-1792)
ROBERT E. LEE (1807-1870)
(Soldier)
OLIVER H. PERRY (1785-1819)
(Naval Hero)
ADMIRAL ROBERT E. PEARY (1856-1920)
(Explorer)
MAJ. GEN. G. W. GOETHALS (1858-1928)
(Panama Canal Engineer)

Scientists

JOHN JAMES AUDUBON (1780-1851)
(Naturalist)
LUTHER BURBANK (1849-1926)
(Botanist)
JOHN BURROUGHS (1837-1921)
(Naturalist)

ANNIE J. CANNON (1863-1941)
(Astronomer-Spectrum of the Stars)
✓ GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER (1864-1943)
(Scientist)
JOHN ERICSSON (1803-1889)
(Inventor)
ROBERT FULTON (1765-1815)
(Inventor)
ELIAS HOWE (1819-1867)
(Inventor)
ELI WHITNEY (1765-1825)
(Inventor)

Medicine

WILLIAM OSLER (1849-1919)
(Surgeon)
CRAWFORD W. LONG (1815-1878)
(Anaesthesia Discoverer)

The Church

DWIGHT L. MOODY (1837-1899)
(Preacher)
PATRICK CARDINAL HAYES (-1940)
(R.C. Archbishop of New York)
MARY BAKER EDDY (1821-1910)
(Founder of Christian Science)

EMINENT LIVES WHICH SHOULD BE COMMEMORATED
IN TOWN HALL AMONG THE ENDOWED CHAIRS (Page 2)

Founders of Institutions

WILLIAM PENN (1644-1718)
(Founder of Pennsylvania)
JOHN HARVARD (1607-1638)
(Founder of Harvard University)
JOHNS HOPKINS (1795-1873)
(Founder of Johns Hopkins University)
CLARA BARTON (1821-1912)
(Founder of Red Cross)

Town Hall Personalities

LEE WOOD HAGGIN
(Town Hall Founder--only one of the six women not yet commemorated here)
ARTHUR E. BESTOR
(Town Hall Trustee)
FREDERICK H. WOOD
(Town Hall Trustee)
JOHN GRAHAM BROOKS
(Town Hall Lecturer)
MRS. JACKSON FLEMING
(Town Hall Lecturer)
CHARLES ZUEBLIN
(Town Hall Lecturer)
IDA TARBELL
(Town Hall Lecturer)
VILHJALMUR STEFANSON
(Town Hall Lecturer)
HAMILTON W. MABIE
(Town Hall Lecturer)
J. LINCOLN STEFFENS
(Town Hall Lecturer)

American Painters

GEORGE W. BELLOWS (1882-1925)
EDWIN H. BLASHFIELD (1848-1936)
CHILDE HASSAM (1860-1935)
ROBERT HENRI (1865-1929)
WINSLOW HOMER (1836-1910)
JOHN LA FARGE (1835-1910)
JOHN S. SARGENT (1856-1925)
JAMES WHISTLER (1834-1903)
F. LUIS MORA (1874-1940)
(Painter of Town Hall Club Murals)
MARY CASSATT (1843-1926)
AMANDA B. SEWELL (1859-1926)

Dancers

ANNA PAVLOWA (1885-1931)
ARGENTINA (-1936)

Sculptors

GEORGE GREY BARNARD (1863-1938)
GUTZON BORGLUM (1871-1941)
SOLON H. BORGLUM (1868-1922)
DANIEL C. FRENCH (1850-1931)
LORADO TAFT (1860-1936)
HARRIET HOSMER (1830-1908)
BELA PRATT (1867-1917)

Theatrical Producers

DAVID BELASCO (1854-1931)
RALPH W. INCE (1887-1937)
MORRIS GEST

Musicians (including violinists, pianists and composers)

LEOPOLD AUER (1845-1930)
(Violinist)
JAN KUBELIK (1880-1940)
(Violinist)
MAUD POWELL (1868-1920)
(Violinist)
EUGENE YSAYE (1858-1931)
(Violinist)
STEPHEN C. FOSTER (1826-1864)
(Composer)
VICTOR HERBERT (1859-1924)
(Composer)
SERGEI RACHMANINOFF (1873-1943)
(Pianist and Composer)
JOHN PHILIP SOUSA (1854-1932)
(Bandmaster and Composer)
GEORGE GERSHWIN (1898-1937)
(Composer)

Actors

FRANK BACON (1864-1922)
JOHN BARRYMORE (1882-1942)
HOLBROOK BLINN (1872-1928)
EDWIN BOOTH (1833-1893)
ARNOLD DALY (1875-1927)
LEO DITRICHSTEIN (1865-1928)
DOUGLAS FAIRBANKS (1884-1939)
CHARLES FROHMAN (1860-1915)
DAVID GARRICK (1717-1779)
WILLIAM GILLETTE (1855-1937)
JOSEPH JEFFERSON (1829-1905)
WILTON LACKAYE (1862-1932)
ROBERT B. MANTELL (1854-1928)
THOMAS MEIGHAN (1879-1936)
HENRY MILLER (1860-1926)
CHAUNCEY OLCOTT (1860-1932)
WILL ROGERS (1879-1935)
WALKER WHITESIDE (1869-1942)
FRANCIS WILSON (1854-1935)

EMINENT LIVES WHICH SHOULD BE COMMEMORATED IN TOWN HALL AMONG THE ENDOWED CHAIRS (Page 3)

Actresses

MARY ANDERSON (1859-1940)
NORA BAYES (1880-1928)
SARA BERNHARDT (1845-1923)
AMELIA BINGHAM (1869-1927)
ALICE BRADY (1893-1939)
MARGUERITE CLARK (1887-1940)
LOTTA CRABTREE (1847-1924)
CHARLOTTE S. CUSHMAN (1816-1876)
MARIE DRESSLER (1869-1934)
ELEANORE DUSE (1859-1924)
MAXINE ELLIOTT (1871-1940)
MINNIE MADDERN FISKE (1865-1932)
PAULINE FREDERICK (1885-1939)
MARGARET ILLINGTON (1881-1934)
MAY IRWIN (1862-1938)
BERTHA KALICH (1874-1939)
LILLIE LANGTRY (1856-1929)
MARILYN MILLER (1898-1936)
FLORENCE MILLS (Negress) (1895-1927)
HELENE MOJESKA (1845-1909)
ADA REHAN (1860-1916)
MADAME REJANE (1857-1920)
EMILY STEVENS (1882-1928)
ELLEN TERRY (1848-1928)
BLANCHE WALSH (1873-1915)
MRS. THOMAS WHIFFEN (1845-1936)
PEARL WHITE (1889-1938)

Singers

EMMA CALVÉ (1866-1942)
ENRICO CARUSO (1873-1921)
FEDORE CHALIAPIN (1873-1938)
JEAN De RESYKE (1850-1925)
EMMA DESTINN (1878-1930)
MARIE GALLI-CURCI (1840-1905)
ALMA GLUCK (1884-1938)
LILLI LEHMAN (1848-1929)
MARY LEWIS (1900-1941)
JENNY LIND (1820-1887)
NELLIE MELBA (1859-1931)
ADELINA PATTI (1843-1919)
ERNESTINE SCHUMANN-HEINK (1861-1936)
ANTONIO SCOTTI (1869-1936)
LUISA TETRAZZINI (1874-1940)

Poets

PAUL LAURENCE DUNBAR (Negro) (1872-1906)
EUGENE FIELD (1850-1895)
OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES (1809-1894)
(Poet, Essayist)
FRANCIS SCOTT KEY (1780-1843)
(Poet and Composer of National Anthem)
JOYCE KILMER (1886-1918)
SIDNEY LANIER (1842-1881)
HENRY WADSWORTH LONGFELLOW (1807-1882)
JAMES RUSSELL LOWELL (1819-1891)
EDWIN MARKHAM (1852-1940)
EDGAR ALLEN POE (1809-1849)
(Poet and Fiction Writer)
JAMES WHITCOMB RILEY (1854-1916)
EDWIN ARLINGTON ROBINSON (1869-1935)
WALT WHITMAN (1819-1892)
JOHN GREENLEAF WHITTIER (1807-1892)

Poets (Continued)

EMILY DICKINSON (1830-1886)
JULIA WARD HOWE (1819-1910)
EMMA LAZARUS (1849-1887)
AMY LOWELL (1874-1925)

Authors

HORATIO ALGER (1834-1899)
(Juvenile Fiction)
AMBROSE BIERCE (1842-1914)
SAMUEL L. CLEMENS (1835-1910)
(Humorist)
J. FENIMORE COOPER (1789-1851)
RALPH WALDO EMERSON (1803-1882)
(Essayist)
NATHANIEL HAWTHORNE (1804-1864)
LAFCADIO HEARN (1850-1904)
(Essayist)
WASHINGTON IRVING (1783-1859)
(Fiction, Historian)
HENRY JAMES (1843-1916)
RING LARDNER (1885-1933)
(Humorist)
JACK LONDON (1876-1916)
HERMAN MELVILLE (1819-1891)
(Fiction of Adventure)
LOUISA MAY ALCOTT (1832-1888)
ZONA GALE (1874-1938)
HARRIET BEECHER STOWE (1811-1896)
KATE D. WIGGIN (1856-1923)

Educators

JOHN H. FINLEY (1863-1940)
(Educator and Editor)
WILLIAM JAMES (Philosopher and Pioneer
(1842-1910) Psychologist)
WILLIAM H. McGUFFEY (1800-1873)
HORACE MANN (1796-1859)
JOSIAH ROYCE (1855-1916)
(Philosopher)
HENRY D. THOREAU (1817-1862)
(Philosopher, Naturalist)
BOOKER T. WASHINGTON (1858-1915)
(Negro Educator)
NOAH WEBSTER (1758-1843)
(Lexicographer)
EMMA WILLARD (1787-1870)

Business and Finance

MARSHALL FIELD (1835-1906)
(Merchant)
ANDREW W. MELLON (1855-1937)
(Financier and Industrialist)
J. PIERPONT MORGAN (1837-1913)
(Banker)
JULIUS ROSENWALD (1862-1932)
(Merchant, Philanthropist)
HETTY GREEN (1834-1916)
(Financier)

EMINENT LIVES WHICH SHOULD BE COMMEMORATED
IN TOWN HALL AMONG THE ENDOWED CHAIRS (Page 4)

Miscellaneous

CLARENCE DARROW (1857-1938)
(Lawyer)
EUGENE V. DEBS (1855-1926)
(Socialist)
LUCRETIA MOTT (1793-1880)
(Reformer)
JANE ADDAMS (1860-1935)
(Civic Worker)
AMELIA EARHART PUTNAM (1898-1937)
(Aviator)
JOHN BROWN (1800-1859)
(Abolitionist)
DANIEL BOONE (1735-1820)
(Hunter)
LUCY STONE (1818-1893)
(Reformer)
ROBERT G. INGERSOL (1833-1899)
(Agnostic)
SAMUEL GOMPERS (1850-1924)
(Labor Leader)
HENRY GEORGE (1839-1897)
(Economist)

Group of Chairs to Be Obtained from Corporations in Memory of Their Founders

ALEXANDER GRAHAM BELL (1847-1922)
(Inventor)
CYRUS W. FIELD (1819-1892)
(Atlantic Cable)
CHARLES GOODYEAR (1800-1860)
(Inventor)
ADOLPH S. OCHS (1858-1935)
(Newspaper Publisher)
JOSEPH PULITZER (1847-1911)
(Newspaper Publisher)
MELVILLE E. STONE (1848-1929)
(Founder of Associated Press)
JOHN WANAMAKER (1838-1922)
(Merchant)
GEORGE WESTINGHOUSE (1846-1914)
(Inventor)
FRANK WOOLWORTH (1852-1919)
(Merchant)
HENRY BALDWIN HYDE (1834-1899)
(Founder, Equitable Life Assurance Society)

Charge to the account of _____ $_____

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DAY LETTER	✓	URGENT RATE	
SERIAL		DEFERRED	
NIGHT LETTER		NIGHT LETTER	

Patrons should check class of service desired; otherwise the message will be transmitted as a telegram or ordinary cablegram.

WESTERN UNION

1206

A. N. WILLIAMS, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

JOSEPH L. EGAN, PRESIDENT

CHECK
ACCOUNTING INFORMATION
TIME FILED

Send the following telegram, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to

DL

~~NOVEMB~~ DECEMBER 3, 1946

MR. GREGOR ZIEMER, EDUCATIONAL DIRECTOR
THE TOWN HALL
~~123~~ 123 West 43 St
NEW YORK N Y

AMX

AS I ADVISED YOU IN TELEPHONE CONVERSATION LAST WEEK, MR. REUTHER ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ EXCEEDINGLY REGRETS EMERGENCY SITUATION HERE PREVENTS HIS BEING IN NEW YORK TOMORROW. SINCE I HAVE NOT HEARD FROM YOU, WE HAVE NOT ASKED VICTOR REUTHER TO SUBSTITUTE AT LECTURE.

GWEN LURIE, SECRETARY
TO WALTER P. REUTHER

The TOWN HALL, Inc.

An Educational Institution Founded in 1894
as The League for Political Education

123 WEST 43RD STREET, NEW YORK 18, N. Y.
Telephone: WIsconsin 7-5800

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PHILIP D. REED
WALTER P. REUTHER
MARK STARR
CHARLES WILLIAM TAUSSIG
NORMAN THOMAS
MRS. JAMES H.VAN ALEN
FREDERIC A. WILLIS

9

November 11, 1946

NOV 13 1946

Mr. Walter Reuther
U.A.W. - CIO
411 Milwaukee Avenue
Detroit, Michigan

Dear Mr. Reuther:

We are looking forward to your lecture before the members of The Town Hall, Inc. on Wednesday, December 4, 1946, at 11:00 a.m. in the Town Hall, 123 W. 43rd Street. This note is sent as a final reminder of the date, place, hour and subject. Will you kindly verify or correct the information on the enclosed card.

Our bookstand carries for sale books that are suggested as helpful reading by our lecturers, so if you plan to mention any special publications in your lecture, will you please note them on the card.

I am enclosing six tickets which you may wish to give to some of your friends. If you would like additional ones, please let me know and I shall be glad to send them to you.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

Gregor Ziemer

Gregor Ziemer
Educational Director

When do you want to go? Tues Dec 3rd? Yes 6 PM bus stop
return? Dec 4th - what time? arr 8:56
4 PM car bus
7:29 PM

November 15, 1946

Mr. Gregor Ziemer, Educational Director
The Town Hall, Inc
123 West 43 St
New York 18, N Y

Dear Mr. Ziemer:

Your letter of November 11th has been received in Mr. Reuther's absence from the city. He is attending the CIO Convention in Atlantic City, and will be gone for several weeks.

I will check with him, and if there are any special books he wishes to mention, I will let you know when we return the card.

Sincerely yours,

uopwa
26cio

Gwen Lurie, Secretary
to Walter P. Reuther

July 27, 1946

Mr. George V. Denny, Jr.
The Town Hall, Inc
123 West 43 St
New York 18, N Y

Dear Mr. Denny:

In reply to your letter of July 9th, Mr. Reuther has asked me to let you know he will be glad to accept your invitation to speak at the Town Hall lecture meeting scheduled for Wednesday morning, December 4th.

Mr. Reuther wants it understood, however, that in making speaking engagements this far in advance, he never knows what may happen at that time. In the event some emergency in the Union arises, he would like the privilege of sending a competent substitite. You may be sure he will plan on making it himself, if at all possible.

Sincerely yours,

uopwa
26cio

Gwen Lurie, Secretary
to Walter P. Reuther

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THOMAS I. PARKINSON, ALBERT W. STAUB } *Ex Officio*

July 9, 1946

Mr. Walter Reuther
U.A.W. - CIO
411 Milwaukee Avenue
Detroit, Michigan

JUL 11 1947

Dear Walter:

You have always acquitted yourself with honors on Town Meetings; now we would like to have you on our lecture program. The Preliminary Announcement for next season is enclosed. I think you will agree that you would be in good company! Several of your fellow trustees are speaking for us - General Donovan, Mrs. Theodore Roosevelt, Jr. and Dorothy Thompson.

The lectures take place at 11:00 a.m., last for an hour and are followed by a twenty minute question period. We should like so much for you to talk on the subject, "The Role of the Labor Leader Today". Our lectures come on Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays between November 1st and the end of March. December 4th or February 5th would be good dates on our calendar at present, but others are possible. There would be an honorarium of $250.

I do hope you can be with us. We can make this a really significant event with good newspaper coverage.

Jeannie joins me in warmest personal regards to you and your good lady.

Sincerely yours,

George

George V. Denny, Jr.

GVD:LW
Encl.

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THE TOWN HALL, INC.

123 West 43rd Street — New York 18, N. Y.

Telephone: WIsconsin 7-5800

SOCIAL EVENTS planned for the 1946-1947 Season, including the President's Tea and special Luncheons, will give the Lecture Members an opportunity to greet their friends and the new members.

THE TOWN HALL WORKSHOPS evening discussion groups, increasing in popularity during the last two seasons, will open the second week in October. Further details may be secured from the Town Hall Workshops Division at the above address.

1946—1947 LECTURE SEASON

Preliminary Announcement

(Partial List)

HAROLD STASSEN
RANDOLPH CHURCHILL
JOHN MASON BROWN
FULTON LEWIS, JR.
RUTH BRYAN OWEN ROHDE
DR. LEWIS BROWNE
WILLIAM SHIRER
BISHOP G. BROMLEY OXNAM
MARGARET BOURKE-WHITE
MAURICE HINDUS
DOROTHY THOMPSON
HENRY J. TAYLOR
EDWARD TOMLINSON
WILL DURANT
JULIEN BRYAN
GENERAL WILLIAM DONOVAN

Now Let's Win the Peace!

YOUR TOWN HALL

DEAR NEIGHBOR:

When you cross the threshold of Town Hall I wonder if you realize the far-flung influence of this institution in our community, throughout the nation and the world. Do you realize what Town Hall is?

While millions know of it as the home of "America's Town Meeting," many people think of Town Hall primarily as a lecture center, a place to go at 11:00 o'clock in the morning. This is natural, for more than fifty years it has presented the nation's foremost lecture program which has been emulated in many communities throughout the country. Still others have begun to think of Town Hall as a place to attend popular Short Courses and Workshops late afternoons and evenings under the guidance of distinguished authorities in their respective fields. And this is understandable as more than 5,000 people attended these classes this year and had no other contact with Town Hall. Music lovers all over the country think of Town Hall as a musical center. And it is. The past year witnessed more musical events in Town Hall than in any season since it opened in 1921. Some think of Town Hall as a club in which to meet and dine with friends and interesting people who are doing things. Then there are those who know Town Hall as a Living Memorial to the lives of distinguished men and women who built our city and our nation.

The combined registrations in our Lecture and Workshop Divisions increased from 4,781 in the 1944-1945 season to 7,589 last year. "America's Town Meeting" experienced the largest growth in its history. Radio forums patterned after our Town Meeting have sprung up all over the country. There are nineteen Junior Town Meetings of the Air broadcast regularly in various cities of the country in cooperation with local school authorities. During the war our radio program reached men in the armed services throughout the world through the Armed Forces Radio Service. Most dramatic example of Town Hall beyond our borders is the inauguration of Town Meetings among the civilian population in Japan by our occupation forces there. They are using the Town Meeting method to teach our onetime enemies the ways of Democracy.

This is but a fraction of the picture of your Town Hall at work as it begins its fifty-second year of service. We need your help and believe we can help you both personally and as a citizen of this shrinking world. Won't you join us now, today?

FAITHFULLY YOURS,

Geo. V. Denny, Jr.
President

FACING YEAR II OF THE ATOMIC AGE

HOW ARE WE MEETING ITS CHALLENGE?

IN SCIENCE, LITERATURE AND THE ARTS

MONDAYS
BEGINNING NOVEMBER 11th, AT 11 A. M.

DR. LEWIS BROWNE
"Where Do We Go From Here?—A Prognosis from the Atomic Age"

EDWARD TOMLINSON
"Democracy Versus Totalitarianism in the Americas"

JOHN MASON BROWN — *"Seeing Things"*
WILLIAM SHIRER — *Subject to be announced*
JULIAN HUXLEY — *"Should Scientific Knowledge Be Pooled?"*
ORVILLE PRESCOTT — *"Books in the News"*
HAROLD J. KENNEDY — *"Broadway Today"*
NORMAN COUSINS — *"Don't Resign from the Human Race"*
DAVID SEABURY — *"Getting Rid of Fear"*
LISA SERGIO — *"How Fascism Could Come to America"*
BOSLEY CROWTHER — *"What You Don't Know About the Movies"*

(ADDITIONAL SPEAKERS TO BE ANNOUNCED)

IN NATIONAL AND WORLD AFFAIRS

WEDNESDAYS
BEGINNING NOVEMBER 6th, AT 11 A. M.

GENERAL ROGER RAMEY — *"Air Power in the Atomic Age"*
HAROLD STASSEN — *Subject to be announced*
RANDOLPH CHURCHILL — *"Socialism in England"*
FULTON LEWIS, JR. — *"Democracy With a Gun in Her Ribs"*
MILLARD LAMPELL — *"Young America Looks Ahead"*
ANDRE MICHALOPOULOS
"The Great Democracies and the Smaller Nations"
FRANCES PERKINS — *"The Destiny of Labor"*
HENRY J. TAYLOR — *"The Survival of Free Enterprise"*
DR. GERALD WENDT — *"How Science Is Remaking Our Lives"*
HARRY CONOVER — *"Style and Beauty"*
Illustrated by Five Conover Girls
JULIEN BRYAN — *Subject to be announced*
ADELAIDE STEDMAN — *"Current Reactions to Current Events"*
DOROTHY THOMPSON — *"Our World Today"*
MAURICE HINDUS — *Subject to be announced*

(ADDITIONAL SPEAKERS TO BE ANNOUNCED)

IN OUR HUMAN RELATIONS

SATURDAYS
BEGINNING NOVEMBER 9th, AT 11 A. M.

MARGARET BOURKE-WHITE — *"Eyes on India"*
BISHOP G. BROMLEY OXNAM — *"The Meaning of Culture"*
ELY CULBERTSON — *"Our Fight for Total Peace"*
GEORGE V. DENNY, JR. — *"A Christmas Carol"*
RUTH BRYAN OWEN ROHDE — *"New Horizons for America"*
LOUIS FISCHER — *"America's New Role"*
JAMES R. YOUNG — *"Let's Look at the Far East"*
WILL ROGERS, JR. — *"Have We Finished the Last War?"*
T. V. SMITH — *"Standards of Values for Modern Man"*
HELEN GAHAGAN DOUGLAS — *"Major Issues in Congress"*
VERA DEAN — *Subject to be announced*
WILL DURANT — *Subject to be announced*
GENERAL WILLIAM DONOVAN — *Subject to be announced*

(ADDITIONAL SPEAKERS TO BE ANNOUNCED)

★ ★ ★

Maintenance Membership $100.00
Admits TWO to the RESERVED section of the ORCHESTRA and LOGES to *all* morning lecture events.

Subscription Membership $25.00
Admits ONE to ORCHESTRA to *all* morning lecture events.

*MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

(Membership Tickets Are Transferable)

Day-of-the-Week Membership

Orchestra $12.00
Balcony $10.00

Admits ONE to one of the three regular series of lectures—Monday, Wednesday or Saturday. The series selected must be designated on enrollment blank.

**Early enrollment is advisable because of limitations in all classes of membership.*

★ ★ ★

Regular Membership $18.00
Admits ONE to BALCONY to all morning lecture events.

****Limited Membership** $5.00
A limited number available for teachers, librarians and social workers. Admits ONE to BALCONY on SATURDAY MORNINGS *only*.

***If applying for this membership, please designate on enrollment blank the name of the organization with which you are associated.*

JUL 19 1947

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ALBERT W. STAUB } *Ex Officio*

July 17, 1946

Labor Forces the Issues

Mr. Walter Reuther
U.A.W. - CIO
411 Milwaukee Avenue
Detroit, Michigan

Dear Mr. Reuther:

Although I haven't met you personally, I feel that I know you because I have listened to you on many occasions, especially on the "Town Meeting of the Air". And our good friend, George Denny, has often mentioned you in my presence; in fact, I was in his office when he talked to you on the phone and when you expressed - much to my great joy - your willingness to be our speaker here at Town Hall on December 4th.

As Educational Director of Town Hall, it is my business and privilege to get all the details lined up. Just for the records - could you kindly correct me if I am wrong in saying that you will be our speaker at 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday December 4th. The lectures are about an hour in length, and are followed by a twenty minute discussion period.

Now here is one other point which I dare to mention merely because I know what a great responsibility you have in our nation at present, and also because I know you have always carried this responsibility with unusual cheerfulness. In addition to the radio activities and the morning lectures, we have a series of smaller discussion groups which we call Workshops. They cover all sorts of activities from music to beauty culture. One of these classes will discuss the difficult subject of labor-management relations. This class meets on Thursdays at 5:30, and consists of a very distinct audience primarily interested in the solution of this knotty problem of labor-management. It is my hope to have eight discussions, four for labor and four for management. The National Association of Manufacturers has promised to help me secure four outstanding management exponents to discuss that phase of the problem. Would you possibly be willing to stay over one day in New York and be with us for this class on Thursday, December 5th? I am especially interested in presenting the side of unions as they concern government, a possible labor court, and things of that sort.

I realize this is asking a great deal, but I feel the contribution and the service rendered, if you could be with us for that class, would be so outstanding

that it couldn't be measured in words. I have written to Mr. Philip Murray and Mr. William Green. I could think of nothing more stimulating and inspiring than to have you as a leader at one of these seminar meetings. I sincerely hope it can be arranged. Town Hall would be eternally grateful.

Sincerely yours,

Gregor Ziemer

Gregor Ziemer
Educational Director

GZ:LW

P.S. In confirming the morning lecture date on December 4th, could you possibly at this time give us some tentative subject? We need this for our publicity purposes. The afternoon event on the 5th can be couched in general terms. Your name would be attraction enough.

July 27, 1946

Mr. George Ziemer, Educational Director
The Town Hall, Inc
123 West 43 St
New York 18, N Y

Dear Mr. Ziemer:

In his absence from the city, Mr. Reuther has asked me to acknowledge your letter of July 17th.

He has advised Mr. Denny that he will be glad to speak at the Town Hall lecture on Wednesday morning, December 4th, with the understanding that in the event some emergency arises in the Union at that time to prevent his going to New York, he will send a competent substitute.

Mr. Reuther does plan to make it himself, but at this early date we never know what may happen in December.

It will be impossible, however, for him to remain in New York for the class on December 5th.

Sincerely yours,

uopwa
26cio

Gwen Lurie, Secretary
to Walter P. Reuther