

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILES

August 21, 1944

On Saturday, August 19, I discussed with Mrs. Morgenthau the proposal of Helen Montfort Moody, Chairman of the Women's Conference on National Affairs. She has proposed that they sponsor a conference of the various leaders of national women's organizations to discuss the results of the Bretton Woods Conference, and that we cooperate by furnishing them with speakers.

Mrs. Morgenthau indicated that she felt the idea was good, providing the group sponsoring the conference was reliable and if we could cooperate in the program without antagonizing the other women's organizations. She suggested that I speak to Mrs. Josephine Schain who, she stated, was very familiar with the various women's groups and whose judgment she respected most highly. She also suggested that we might check with Miss Anna Lord Strauss, National Chairman of the League of Women Voters, and obtain her views.

This morning I spoke to Mrs. Schain. She stated that she had heard about the program covering the Education Conference which this group had sponsored and had been invited to attend their program on the Food Conference. She had checked on the group and had found that it was comprised of a few Washington women and that it was not a national organization. She stated, however, that her reports were to the effect that their previous programs were highly successful and she thought it would be worth while for us to assist them in a program on the Bretton Woods Conference. I explained to her that Mrs. Morgenthau was concerned about whether their initiative in the matter might irritate the various women's organizations. Mrs. Schain thought that this would not be the case. She said that the women's organizations looked upon this group as a local Washington group doing a special service in bringing together representatives of the women's organizations to hear Government officials discuss these results of international conferences.

I then spoke to Miss Strauss. She stated that she did not know any of the members of the Women's conference group, but that one of her staff had attended one of their programs and had reported favorably. She stated, however, that she personally was unfamiliar with the reaction of the various women's groups to this organization.

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