

and) Record, Charles

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# THE SOCIALIST CHRISTIAN LEAGUE

President: Rt. Hon. George Lansbury, M.P.

Vice-Presidents: Rev. A. D. Belden, B.D. and Canon F. Lewis Donaldson, M.A.

"THE SOCIALIST  
CHRISTIAN"

2d. monthly. 2/6 per annum  
Editor: FRED HUGHES  
17 - 20, Holborn Hall  
Grays Inn Road, W.C.1

General Secretary and Treasurer:  
CHARLES RECORD, B.Sc.,  
"Yggdrasil,"  
Bank Top,  
Almondbury,  
Huddersfield.

3rd April 1933.

Dear Mr. Lansbury,

As members of the Socialist Christian League have, in correspondence, spontaneously expressed their sympathy with you, as our President, in your recent bereavement, I feel that I should not omit to convey to you, although belatedly, the feeling of sympathy and comradeship which undoubtedly is felt for you throughout the League.

For the Central Council, and for myself, I would add that our sincere sympathy and good wishes are with you.

Yours fraternally,

Charles Record



M449



STOCKTON & THORNABY

251

# Unemployed Workers' Association

(Under the auspices of Stockton & Thornaby Labour Party and Trades Council).

Headquarters.—LABOUR HALL, CORPORATION STREET, STOCKTON-ON-TEES

President:  
ALFRED COLLYER

Secretary:  
D. H. DAVIS

Treasurer:  
Coun. A. J. THATCHER

\*Chairman of Labour Party  
Coun. GEO. THORNTON

Secretary of Trades Council  
County Coun. J. ALDERSON, J.P.

33, Mitre Street,

Stockton-on-Tees,

April 4 1933

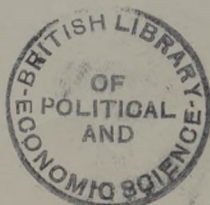
Dear George

I have to forward you the following resolution from our members of whom a 1,000 men and women attend every week. That this meeting sends to you the full appreciation of sympathy and love in your darkest moment, with the hope that the joy and happiness that you shared with your beloved, will ever be a source of joy and strength to you in your work

Best Wishes

Yours fraternally

D.H. Davis.



M449



? Henry Sanderson Furniss  
(1st Baron Sanderson; 1868-1939)

252

QUINTA DA BOA VISTA,  
FUNCHAL,  
MADEIRA.

5 April 1933

My dear Lansbury,

We have only just heard of Mrs. Lansbury's death, and I want to send you just a few lines to say how much we both sympathise with you. We remember meeting Mrs. Lansbury once or twice, and so perhaps we can in a small way understand something of what her loss must mean to you. We are both so very sorry for you.

Yours very sincerely,

Sanderson

Please don't think of answering this. We shall be home on the 17th.



M449

# Great Yarmouth Labour Party.

(Affiliated to the National Labour Party).

Prospective Parliamentary Labour Candidate :

Hon. Agent :

Hon. Secretary :

*G. Athmore*

*M<sup>r</sup> G. Laurbury M.P.*  
*House of Commons*  
*Westminster*  
*S.W. 1*

Labour Club,

51, King Street,

Great Yarmouth,

*5/4 / 1933*

*Dear Mr Laurbury*

I am requested by the members of the above Party to convey to you their sincere regret of the sad bereavement in your loss of Mrs Laurbury who is known by many of our members and they can testify to the good work she has done for our movement in the past. We feel sure that the poor in your constituency have received a sever blow with the loss of her help & kindness to all who came in contact with her.

Our members trust you will be able to over-come this terrible such in your life; so that you may still be spared to carry on the fight for the Underworld, which has been your sole ambition during your lifetime.

Wish you the best of health & success in whatever you undertake on behalf of our people.

*Yours fraternally*  
*G. Athmore*  
*Hon Sec*



M449



Telephone :  
Palmer's Green 1741.

George Latham  
(1875-1942)

254

36, Kingsley Road,  
Palmer's Green,  
N. 13.

7/4/33

My dear Lansbury -

Card

And God bless you George,  
and yours, for your characteristic,  
human, brotherly message! It  
means more to me, and mine, than  
I can say in writing; but you  
will understand. And in this  
time of added grievous loss,  
there is much that is very very  
~~hard~~ hard to bear, and  
understand.

With warmest regards

Yours always

Geo Latham





TELEPHONE,  
LANGHAM 1181.

Lady Edw<sup>m</sup> Lutgens  
(n. Lady Emily Lytton)

255

13, MANSFIELD STREET,

W.1.

April 5 33

My dear Mr. Lansbury

I must send you a  
line of deepest sympathy  
in yr. great sorrow. It is  
difficult to put into words  
all I feel. Life must be  
very hard for you at this  
moment. With such an  
up hill fight to wage -  
your helper & companion  
gone from your side. You  
will be supported by  
your belief & trust in that



Love of which all human  
love is a poor copy. It is  
the only light in the darkness  
of the world.

With my affectionate regards

I am

Yrs very sincerely

Emily Ketyms



M449

Iswar ~~Saran~~

(256)

6, Edmonstone Road  
Allahabad  
U. P.  
India

5<sup>th</sup> April 1933

Dear Mr Lansbury,

I have learnt  
with profound sorrow of the death  
of Mrs Lansbury and my heart goes  
out to you in great sympathy. In  
your great grief it will be some  
consolation to you to feel that there  
are thousands of Indians who share  
the grief of one who has always been  
a consistent friend of India. Your  
sorrow is shared by a great many  
people in this country & they have



noted with great kind + admiration  
your participation in the Indian  
debate immediately after your be-  
haviourment.

May he soul have peace!

With unswerving sympathy,

I remain,

Sincerely yours

Jswar Savan

Caterina Patricchio

St. Michael  
Huizen N.  
Holland -  
April 7/33.

258

Dear G.L.

It was with such sadness, on my return to Europe from India last week, that I read of the most sad loss you had just had in the passing on of your beloved wife & lifelong companion -

I cannot express to you how my heart went out to you in loving sympathy. It is only when one has been through such times oneself that one can enter a little into the state of another's grief, for whatever we believe the personal loss is just the same.

You dear G.L. who are so much beloved by so many thousands of people, & who have such splendid courage - know that this is only a temporary parting - & that all is very well. My thoughts are much with you & your family.

Most sincerely

Caterina Patricchio.



M449



(259)

Helen Noyes-Lewis 6. Tavistock Square. W.C. 1.  
April 8. 1933.

Dear Mr. Lausbury -

I know you will be overwhelmed with letters of sympathy with you in your great loss and yet I feel so keenly to write to thank you must be enduring (for have not I also experienced it?) but I feel I must put off to you my deepest sympathies - after so many years it must

260

indeed by hand & hope  
somehow you will be comforted.

to up - dear -

Sincerely yours -

William Lloyd Lewis



M449



Mrs. Walter Coates 157 Lincoln Way, East <sup>(261)</sup>  
Chambersburg Pa  
April 9<sup>th</sup> 1933

Dear George -

Only yesterday did I hear from England of your irreparable loss. I am so sorry Bessie had to leave you. I know how truly you were one and how void this world will seem to you without her loving companionship. But you do know she is now where no ills and sorrows can reach her. We who are left to fight the loneliness must help each other by trying to carry on - life which was so glorious for me when I had Walter, now seems bare and futile. You are fortunate to have your established occupation to fill your days, and moments of despair

I have not yet found, a new  
niche into which I can place  
myself - This Winter I have been  
of some solace and help to the  
two sisters of my Mother, who still  
live in the old home here - but  
they are well enough to look  
after themselves and one another  
so that I am not a necessity to  
them - I am glad - for I want to  
return to England, which seems  
my natural home now - and tho'  
my actual little home is in New  
Galloway, Scotland - it seems the  
same to me - I sail from N.Y on  
the 26<sup>th</sup> and if I get to London before  
I go to Scotland I will try to see you  
at the House. Please express my  
sincere sympathy to all your family  
I know your supreme faith helps  
you to bear up bravely -

Ever your sincere friend  
Eleanor Coates



M449



Phone:  
RICHMOND 0929

London Teachers Association  
THE COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF THE N.U.T. FOR LONDON

262

President:  
E. W. WILTON, B.A. (Oxon.)

5, ORMOND ROAD,  
RICHMOND, SURREY.

9<sup>th</sup> April, 1933

Dear Mr. Lanchbury,

I hope I may be allowed to express my deep personal sympathy with you in the heavy loss you have lately sustained & to say very sincerely how much I have felt for you in your sad affliction.

I have no authority to write officially, but I am quite sure that thousands of my fellow-teachers in East London & in the whole of London share my sentiments. Knowing how dear the cause of education of the London child has always been to your heart.

Yours sincerely  
E. W. Wilton



M449

Violet Blanche Douglas - Pennant

April 9<sup>th</sup> 1933

(d. 1945)

THE OLD HOUSE,  
HOLLAND STREET, W.

(263)

Dear Mr. Laurbury.

You must let our old S.L.C. acquaintance write a few lines to tell you how very sorry I was at your great loss.

Though I only had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Laurbury a few times, I know how much she meant to all who knew her & how greatly she was beloved in Bow & many other places. It must be a great joy & comfort to think of your wonderful life together here



to know how close she is to you  
 & your work.

Please do not dream of replying.  
 I only want to add my deepest  
 sympathy to all the volume  
 which surrounds you at this  
 sad time. I did not write sooner  
 because you must have been  
 overwhelmed with letters.

Yours sincerely

Violet Douglas-Pennant





The NONESUCH PRESS Ltd.

16 GREAT JAMES STREET, LONDON, W.C.1

264

Sir Francis Meynell  
1891 —

Telephone  
Holborn  
6516

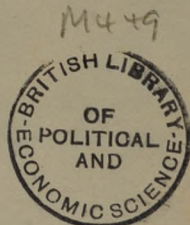


Vera Meynell  
Francis Meynell  
David Garnett

April 10 1933

Dearest George: it was a privilege  
to design the card for Mrs. Lausbury.  
I have thought of you constantly.  
It seemed impossible to write, and  
unless. But to do any little thing  
that you really wanted done was a  
cherished opportunity to say "I love you."  
It is twenty years since I first  
saw you at the flat in Adelphi  
Terrace. That was the best thing  
that ever happened to me, because it  
has had nothing, but nothing, great  
good in it. Bless you, and bless her  
who partly had the moulding of you.  
Daisy says that you may be free for the  
weekend of May 20, I might like to come  
to us at Tophesfield. Need I say it would  
be a joy to have you?

Ever yours  
Francis





Personal

J. T. Murphy

145 Grosvenor Rd  
Highbury New Park  
London N.5  
April 10/33.

265

Dear George, Perhaps this letter may appear to you somewhat belated or unexpected. But ever since I read in the newspapers of your great loss in the death of your wife & the beautiful service with which you laid her to rest. I felt I must write you.

I am not a Christian. That you know. I am an atheist. But the beautiful way you said farewell to your life long sweetheart moved me, <sup>more</sup> deeply than words can tell. It seemed so wonderful that in the midst of an age that is so decadent there should suddenly blaze out such a manifestation of enduring love & comradeship between man & woman.

If ever you feel a bit despondent, or sometimes you no doubt will, please remember that at least one (I'm sure there are thousands) received inspiration from your dearest how. It wasn't really dear George. Your wife & you shed a great light just then for which I (& my wife), among many will always feel grateful however the storms may rage on other things.

Very sincerely yours

J. T. Murphy



M449

Please do not think an answer to  
this letter is necessary. I am aware  
how many letters you must receive.

Robert H. S. D. L. Newman  
(1st Baron Marnhead; 1871-1945) <sup>183</sup>  
MARNHEAD PARK, EXETER.  
April 13<sup>th</sup> 1932.

Dear Lausby, Card

266

May I venture to intrude upon  
your great sorrow with this letter.  
I expect Easter will bring you many  
moments of the happy past, I hope it  
will also bring you much joyful  
hope of the future. We Christians  
have the great happiness of being able  
to look forward with hope and not  
look backward with despair.  
Still I know from sad experience  
how sad these pastings are and  
how difficult it sometimes is to  
say "Thy Will be done" I am venturing





M449

to enclose a copy of a little prayer  
I have found helpful.

I know when we sat in the Commons  
we did not always see "eye to eye"  
but I feel that we both felt that  
Christ and his teaching was the only  
hope for the World. (Thurttle)

I hope your son-in-law is well,  
will you remember me to him  
With much sympathy in your present  
sorrow

Yours sincerely

Harriett

I may not recognize one by your  
signature, <sup>but</sup> this letter is as  
Robert Deacon who used to  
sit in the House.

(Wm.) Wedgwood Benn  
(1877)-

40,  
MILLBANK,  
WESTMINSTER.  
VICTORIA 0078.

(267)  
Slasgale  
Southwicks  
Essex

Good Friday  
14 April 1883

My dear Scarr.

You have brought  
solace & comfort to so many -  
indeed your name stands for  
sympathy - that I feel sure  
that whether it is expressed or  
no. You must be feeling the  
warm & loving reflection from  
thousands of what you have  
tried to give.



I have always felt sure of  
encouragement from you in  
any decent interest. <sup>I might have</sup> & for that  
alone owe you so much that  
I don't know how much  
you have been in our thoughts  
or in the thoughts of many  
thousands in the worst  
wrenching life men.

God bless you.

Bedford Ben



M449

Rev. Alfred Trimble Fryer  
63 Newbridge Road. Bath 14 iv 1933

(268)

My dear Lanebury

Card

I wish you all Easter joy. The recent news of your wife's departure for her reward brought with it the assurance of your faith in the unseen and the certainty of your hope. All that is to the good.

I have been very busy with psychical research lately and it has been a real treat to find that the most recent workers in that direction are feeling that love is the element they most reckon upon for a basis of certainty.

I need not explain exactly how it works, but it is most cheering to find men of science relying upon it.

There is much to make life difficult just now and to wonder what can be done to put matters straight,

but I hope all will come well.

Thine ever

Alfred Fryer



M449



GUARDIAN ANGELS SCHOOL,  
INFANTS DEPARTMENT,  
WHITMAN ROAD,  
MILE END, E.3.

269

Card  
Easter 1933.

[say Easter Sunday  
16 Apr.]

Dear Mr Lansbury.

Your great sorrow  
was very much in our  
thoughts during the  
days of Lent & you  
would have been  
consoled could you  
see the little children  
praying for the eternal  
rest of you dear  
devoted model wife  
(R.I.P.) - Perhaps sometime  
when a few moments  
is your own in the quiet  
of the evening you may

GUARDIAN ANGELS SCHOOL  
DEPARTMENT  
ROAD  
MILE END, E.3.



M449

find a thought - for  
Comfort in these little  
books. One can hardly  
realize that there is  
a time of trial awaiting  
each one until it  
comes

God bless you  
& Comfort you  
the childrens prayers  
will help I know

for Isidore &  
her Infant

East 1933.



H. O. LEACH,  
GENERAL MANAGER.  
E. W. LEWIS,  
RESIDENT SECRETARY.

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES FOR GREAT BRITAIN,  
2, 3 & 4, COCKSPUR STREET,  
LONDON, S. W. 1.

TRUSTEES GREAT BRITAIN,  
THE RT. HON. THE EARL OF ALBEMARLE  
THE RT. HON. REGINALD MCKENNA, P.C.

270

# SUN LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY OF CANADA

(INCORPORATED IN CANADA IN 1865 AS A LIMITED COMPANY.)

TELEPHONE: MONUMENT 2631-2.

MONUMENT BRANCH:

A. M. LESTER,  
BRANCH MANAGER.

51-54, GRACECHURCH STREET,

Please quote reference.....AML/IAC  
and Policy Number.

E.C.3.

*Personal*

18th April, 1933.

D. Postgate Esq.,  
39, Bow Road,  
London, E.3.

Dear Sir,

Re:- Policy No. NY.1119094.

I take this opportunity of returning the Death Certificate of Mrs. Lansbury, the beneficiary under the above numbered policy and would thank you to acknowledge the safe return to you of this document.

We have entered the necessary particulars in the records of the company and if I can be of service to you in any other way, please do not hesitate to let me know.

Yours faithfully,

*A. M. Lester*

BRANCH MANAGER.



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PERSONAL

1932-36

ECB

21-24, BRUSSELSCHEN STRASSE

2011 LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY OF CANADA



(271)

Trinidad Workingmen's Association Inc.,  
40 St Vincent Street, Port of Spain,  
Trinidad, British West Indies,  
18th April, 1933.

To

the Rt. Honourable Mr George Lansbury M.P.,  
Transport House, London.

Right Honourable Sir:-

I am directed by my Executive to convey to you, and the other members of your family, the sincere sympathy of the Trinidad Workingmen's Association, over the irreparable loss sustained by the death of the late Mrs Lansbury, the news of whose demise appeared in the public telegrams of the 16th instant.

It is our earnest hope that you will be endowed with the necessary strength to bear your sad affliction.

I am, Right Honourable Sir,

Yours sincerely,

*Vivian E. Henry*  
( Vivian E. Henry )

General Secretary.



M449



The British Guiana Workers' League,  
77 Robb Street, Lacytown,  
Georgetown.  
19th April, 1933. (272)

The Rt. Hon. George Lansbury, M.P.,  
House of Commons,  
Westminster,  
London, England.

Sir,

The sad news of the loss of your esteemed life-partner after more than fifty years of happy married life impels us to tender you our very sincere sympathy in your great bereavement, and to wish you God's cheer and increased strength so that you may be able to sustain the irreparable loss at this age.

Your noble life and valuable service to humanity have always filled us with admiration, and given us some inspiration though thousands of miles separate us. May there be some consolation to you to learn from afar that you and your excellent partner have not wasted life but have benefited humanity far as well as near, and that the Christian hope of the immortal crown awaits us after death, so that the dear departed are blessed in preceding to receive it.

May the sweetness of your life be continued by pleasant reminiscences of your dear departed, if the actual communion of saints does not keep your spirits in constant touch, is our earnest prayer for you. The working people of British Guiana are all united in this to you

While I remain,

Yours faithfully,

*A. A. Thorne*

A. A. Thorne.  
President.



M477



\*

RHODESIA RAILWAY WORKERS' UNION.

273

J. W. KELLER,  
GENERAL SECRETARY.

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS:  
"UNITY" BULAWAYO.

P.O. Box 556.

Telephone Nos.:  
3186 (J. W. Keller).  
3250 (C. N. Davidson).  
3251 (Enquiries).

*General Secretary's Office,*

*Bulawayo, April 24th 1933.*

S. Rhodesia.

IN REPLY PLEASE QUOTE OUR  
REFERENCE AND DATE.

YOUR REF. ....
OUR REF. ....

To the Editor  
of the  
"Daily Herald"  
LONDON,  
England.

Sir,

Will you be good enough to afford space in your columns for an expression of the deep regret felt by the workers of Rhodesia at the death of Mrs. Lansbury? Many of us are aware of the fifty years' battle which she and George Lansbury have waged against the cruelty of the capitalist system, and their fight has had its influence on the lives of workers in this remote Colony of the Empire.

I wish to say very simply that we sympathise whole heartedly with the gallant Leader of the Opposition in the hour when he will miss his helpmate so keenly, and we trust he will be long spared to carry on the noble work to which he has devoted himself during his life, not the least part of which was the establishment of the "Daily Herald".

Thanking you, Sir,

I am,

Yours truly,

*J. W. Keller*



M449



# TRANSPORT & GENERAL WORKERS UNION

(INCORPORATING THE T.&G.W.U. & THE WORKERS UNION)

274

REGISTERED OFFICES:

*Transport House Smith Square,*

**WESTMINSTER  
LONDON  
S.W.1**

*General Secretary, ERNEST BEVIN*

*Financial Secretary, STANLEY HIRST  
Asst. General Secretary, JOHN CLIFF*

*Ernest Bevin*

**EB/IS:**

12th May, 1933.

Rt. Hon. George Lansbury, M.P.,  
House of Commons,  
Westminster,  
S..W..1.

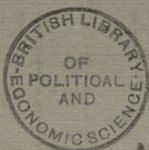
Dear George,

I enclose herewith a pamphlet, which is a reproduction of the series of articles which I wrote for the "New Clarion".

We, as a Union, have not raised this as a Party matter. I have discussed the problem with dozens of Employers and find there are a large number who think that something should be done. For that reason, the pamphlet has been addressed to all the Members of Parliament, to the Leaders, to all kinds of Public People, Joint Industrial Councils, Conciliation Boards, Employers' Organisations, Industrialists, certain Civil Servants, Public Authorities, Co-operative Movements, Trade Unions, etc., in the hope that we shall create some public opinion, at this stage, to do something of a practical and tangible character on behalf of those who are the victims of the present situation.

I think the pamphlet puts the position quite clearly and will meet with the sympathy of the Party. I shall be happy, together with others, to discuss methods with you. My Executive Council are of the opinion that if the matter is handled as an industrial as well as a political one, we might be able to get a volume of opinion to back us and enable us to really get something done.

You may think I am optimistic, with this Government, but still the problem is a very serious one and it is not exclusively limited to our side,



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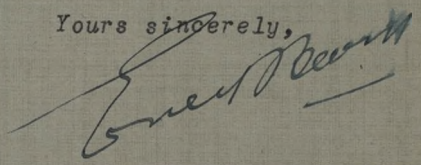
12 May 1933

-2-

the Employers are finding the position extremely difficult, especially with regard to recruitment, apprenticeship and the necessary preparations in the event of the return of trade.

Trusting to receive your hearty co-operation.

Yours sincerely,



GENERAL SECRETARY.



# TRANSPORT & GENERAL WORKERS UNION

REGISTERED OFFICES,

Transport House, Smith Square,

WESTMINSTER,

LONDON,

S.W.1.

General Secretary, ERNEST BEVIN

Financial Secretary, STANLEY HIRST  
Asst. General Secretary, JOHN CLIFF

276

*Ernest Bevin*

EB/IS

16th May, 1933.

TO: THE EXECUTIVE  
COMMITTEE OF THE  
LABOUR PARTY.

Dear Sir and Brother,

My Executive Council have directed me to forward to you a copy of the pamphlet, which is a reproduction of the articles I wrote for the "New Clarion".

We have not attempted to make this strictly a Party issue and the pamphlet is being sent to all the Members of Parliament, the Cabinet, Employers' Organisations, Publicists, Industrialists, as well as to the Trade Unions, in the hope that we shall secure public interest in the proposals.

We trust, however, to receive the whole-hearted support of the Party because if the Trade Unions are to re-organise we must get the weight of this huge army of unemployed dealt with. As I have explained in my pamphlet, and as is admitted by Mr. Neville Chamberlain, that even if the trade of this country is restored to any great extent, the present growth of rationalisation and technology is so rapid that the numbers of unemployed will still remain very large.

My Executive Council hopes, therefore, to secure your whole-hearted co-operation in the furthering of these proposals.

Yours fraternally,

ERNEST BEVIN.

GENERAL SECRETARY.



M449



GL to  
Ernest Bevin

277

18. v. 33.

Dear Ernest,

Thank you for yours of the 12th May and the pamphlet.

I think before we are able to put our back into it, the whole question must go to the N.J.C., T.U.C., and the Labour Party conference. I have always advocated the policy laid down in this respect in Labour and the Nation, and Mosley, Johnston and myself spent six months of our time trying to put that policy into concrete form. We were turned down by the Treasury and the Cabinet.

I think we must not make any mistake next time as to what we are advocating. My own view is your view: that we cannot deal with unemployment caused by rationalisation and scientific machinery without providing for more leisure, for a shorter working life with adequate means for maintenance. But you would be surprised if you could read the arguments which the gentlemen at the Treasury were able to marshal against us - though of course I did not accept these.

I wonder whether you would bring the matter up at the N.J.C. so as to get a united backing either for your scheme or for some other that the movement may accept?

yours very truly,

Ernest Bevin Esq.,  
T. G. Union,  
Transport House,  
Smith Square, S.W.1.



M449

re Mrs. G.L. deed.

(278)

W. H. THOMPSON,  
SOLICITOR.

TELEPHONE: HOLBORN 5734 (2 LINES)

cl/0

*Personal*

27, Chancery Lane,  
London, W.C.2.

[n6 - wife d. 23 March 1933]

22nd May 1933

Dear G.L.,

You will be pleased to hear that Letters of Administration have today been granted to you and Bill as administrators of the estate. This document has today been sent to Bill for him to make the necessary registration in the books of the Stratford Veneer Co. and while this is being done perhaps you will let me know what is the next step you wish me to take. This document will of course have to be registered with the Co-operative Society and although I have not seen the Lease under which 39 Bow Road is held I have no doubt there is a provision in that deed requiring the production and registration of the Letters of Administration. However, to help you in this direction I am today writing the Bank and enquiring.

Yours sincerely,

*W. H. Thompson*

The Rt. Hon. George Lansbury, M.P.,  
39 Bow Road,  
E.3.



M449



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GL

25. v. 33.

Dear Mr. Bevin,

You will remember you wrote to Mr. Lansbury on the 12th May enclosing a copy of your pamphlet, and that Mr. Lansbury in his reply referred to the arguments used by the Treasury and other Government departments when these questions were raised during the last Labour government.

Mr. Lansbury has now had an opportunity of collecting together the documents concerning the raising of the school age and retirement pensions, which were issued during the Party's last term of Office. If you would care to see these he would have no objection to your doing so, but he must ask you to treat them as strictly confidential and keep them under lock and key when you yourself are not using them.

The documents are at present here, but if you will let me know if and when you would like to see them, I will send them across to you

yours sincerely,

Ernest Bevin Esq.



M449



re Mrs. G.L.

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W. H. THOMPSON,  
SOLICITOR.

TELEPHONES: HOLBORN 5734 (2 LINES)

C1/0

27, Chancery Lane,  
London, W.C.2.

*Personal*

31st May 1933

Dear G.L.,

I have registered the Letters of Administration in the books of the London Co-operative Society and they are desirous of knowing whether you wish to be paid the amount of the Share Capital and Death Benefit or whether you would prefer the account to be transferred into an account in your name. In any case please let me have the Share Passbook of the late Mrs. Lansbury and if you have an account in the Society let me have your Passbook together with your appropriate instructions.

Yours sincerely,

*W. H. Thompson*

The Rt. Hon. George Lansbury, M.P.,  
39 Bow Road,  
E.3.



M449



re Mrs. G.L.

W. H. THOMPSON,

SOLICITOR.

TELEPHONES: HOLBORN 5734 (2 LINES)

Cl/O

27, Chancery Lane,  
London, W.C.2.

15th June 1933

Dear G.L.,

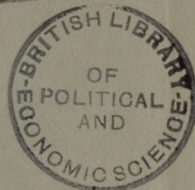
I am enclosing the Co-operative Society's cheque for the dear  
benefit £7.14.4. and leave you to deal with it.

Yours sincerely,

The Rt.Hon.George Lansbury, M.P.,  
39, Bow Road,  
Bow, E.3.

Enc.

*W. H. Thompson*





Foreign Office 283  
1 July 1933

STATELESS PERSONS.

ID/CH/

There are in the world, at the present time, many hundreds of thousands of persons who are without nationality and who lack the protection and assistance which that word implies.

The situation of those persons is due to a variety of reasons. It may be due to a radical change of government - as in the case of the Russian refugees, of whom there are about a million in different parts of the world -, or to racial differences - as in the case of the 300,000 Armenian refugees who fled from Turkey; or it may be due to the shifting of frontiers following the signature of the Peace Treaties, which dispossessed many thousands of persons of their former nationality without ensuring for them the guarantee of acquiring another.

Whatever are the causes of their present statelessness those persons are eminently deserving of the protection of the League of Nations. They should be regarded as the "Children of the League of Nations", to use the words of Mrs. Swanwick, the British Delegate, who in 1924 acted as Rapporteur to the League Assembly For Refugee Questions and introduced her Report to the Assembly with these inspiring words: "Is there anyone who is likely to be a better friend of the League; a better child of the League, than he or she who has its international passport?"

The League has almost since its creation admitted its duty to afford assistance to persons without a country and without a Government willing to protect them. As long ago as 1921 it entrusted Dr. Nansen, its High Commissioner, with the protection and assistance of about one million Russian refugees. His mandate was extended successively to 300,000 Armenian refugees, and to some thousands of Assyrians, Assyro-Chaldean and Turkish refugees. What the Nansen Office has been able to accomplish for those refugees, in the face of the most extraordinary difficulties, is now a matter of history. It has transformed many tens of thousands of what were facetiously described as "International tramps" into citizens of the world who are entitled to obtain Nansen passports from more than fifty Governments, as well as many kinds of legal and material assistance from the representatives of the Nansen Office in fifteen countries. That assistance takes a variety of forms: it ranges from the large scale settlement of thousands of Armenian refugees in agricultural colonies and urban quarters in Syria and Soviet Armenia, to the placing of refugees in groups; as families; or as individuals, in every conceivable occupation - from engineers to bootblacks - in countries as far flung as Brazil and China. Now must it be thought that these persons are treated as the pampered objects of charity: far from it: they retain their self-respect, and the Nansen Office husbands its funds, by means of a system of advances to indigent refugees which they have to repay as soon as they get on their feet, to enable the Nansen Office to help still more destitute refugees. In other words, the Nansen Office acts as a sort of benevolent banker to the refugees.

An attempt was made by Dr. Nansen and M. Albert Thomas, in 1927 and 1928, to extend to all stateless persons the facilities afforded to the Russian and Armenian refugees. These efforts were only successful in so far as the Assyrian, Assyro-Chaldean and Turkish refugees were concerned, Sir Austen Chamberlain in particular insisting at the Council table that the Nansen Office was only created to protect persons who had become refugees as a result of the Great War. Thanks, however,



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2.

to efforts made by the International Federation of League of Nations Societies and by Sir Willoughby (now Lord) Dickinson and Sir Walter Napier, the League was subsequently induced to introduce a system of passport for persons without nationality. That system was only adhered to by a limited number of Governments and in practice has given but meagre results, owing to the absence of any international machinery charged with the execution of the system.

The failure to secure the extension of the Nansen Office services to all stateless persons was due to the fear of certain Governments that such extension would confer political protection on those persons and encourage some of them to undertake active political measures against the countries of which they were previously nationals. If there was any ground for such anxiety in 1927 and 1928, it no longer exists, seeing that the present functions of the Nansen Office are purely humanitarian. It is possible, moreover, that too great an emphasis was laid on the necessity of helping stateless persons, and far too little emphasis on the advantages which would be conferred on the countries concerned by relieving them of the danger connected with the existence in their countries, or on their borders, of large numbers of outlaws. That danger was stressed by Dr. Nansen in his Report to the Ninth Assembly, in which he said:

"If intelligent human beings are forced to brood over a situation so much against their wishes and efforts that they come to regard it as an injustice, and if they are denied the most elementary forms of protection, there is the danger that their physical and intellectual energies, instead of being turned into constructive channels, may be exploited in other ways which will exact a heavy reckoning out of all proportion to the slight sacrifice they now ask."

Recent events have increased the number of stateless persons and even the most optimistic student of international affairs would hardly venture to hazard the opinion that those numbers will not be increased in the next few years.

A time will certainly come when the League will be forced by public opinion to face frankly the facts of this situation and shoulder its responsibility, and it can but gain credit in the eyes of that public opinion by a courageous initiative now. Adequate authority for the purpose would appear to be conferred by Article 11, paragraph 2, of the Covenant, which reads:

"It is also declared to be the right of each Member of the League to bring to the attention of the Assembly or of the Council any circumstance whatever affecting international relations which threatens to disturb international peace or the good understanding between nations upon which peace depends."

Objections on financial grounds may be raised to the extension of the Nansen Office services to all stateless persons. It would therefore considerably facilitate negotiations if any recommendations to the League on the subject were accompanied by the definite promise of funds to enable the Nansen Office to afford adequate assistance.

There is just one other objection which may be raised. It will probably be pointed out that the Nansen Office is required to liquidate its organisation by the end of 1938, and that, in consequence, it might be useless for it to commence a task which it could not finish satisfactorily. It is almost certain, however,



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given the necessary funds, that the material side of the problem could be substantially solved before 1938. The political and legal aspects of the refugee problems will remain a permanent responsibility of the League Secretariat.

LD/CH/1.7.33



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(1893-)

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LONDON

7th July 1933

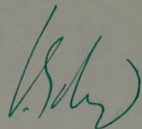
The Rt Hon George Lansbury, M P  
39 Bow Road, E 3

Dear Lansbury,

I have been urgently approached this morning by Professor Jacob Isaacs, of London University, in the matter of Dr Carlo Mierendorf. I asked Isaacs to set out the points in writing, and I attach what he has written. I understand from Isaacs that Mierendorf has many close friends in England, and, as apparently the only thing that is influencing Germany at all at the present moment is fear of public opinion abroad, the idea is that some pressure might be brought by pointing out the concern which is being caused to Mierendorf's English friends.

I don't know whether there is any influence you can use - this appears to be the only way of tackling the matter.

Yours sincerely,



PS Mierendorf is a Socialist (not a Communist), and is not a Jew.



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G.L. to  
(Robert) Anthony Eden  
Horn Par. Under-Sec., Foreign Office

(287)

11. vii. 33.

Dear Captain Eden,

I wonder whether anything can be done  
in the case of Dr. Carlo Mierendorf, which has  
been sent to me from a very reliable source.

I know that it is not a case in which  
we could officially interfere, but it may be  
possible for our Ambassador to make discreet  
enquiries.

Yours sincerely,

Capt. A. Eden, M.C., M.P.,  
Foreign Office,  
S.W.1.



M449





(Robert) Anthony Eden  
(1897-)

Foreign Office,  
S.W.1.

14th July, 1933.

PERSONAL AND  
CONFIDENTIAL.

*Dear Mr. Lansbury,*

With reference to my letter of the 12th July, I find that we had already heard from Lord Cecil about the case of Dr. Mierendorf. Much as we may sympathise with the sufferings of this unfortunate man and with the desire of his English friends to do what they can to help him, it is only too clear, as I feared, that there is really nothing that this Department can usefully do, officially or otherwise, in the matter. Since Dr. Mierendorf is a German national, we should have no locus standi for making any representations on his behalf to official quarters in Germany. Further, such representations would not only most certainly meet with a rebuff, but they would probably defeat their own object by making Dr. Mierendorf's position and his chances of better treatment even worse than they apparently are at present.

In/

The Right Honourable  
George Lansbury, J.P., M.P.



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Anthony Eden  
14 July 1933

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In any case it would be invidious for us to pick out and take up one individual case from among the numberless instances of ill-treatment and persecution which have been occurring in Germany during the last few months. If we did so I feel sure that Dr. Mierendorf would be suspected or accused of spreading "atrocious propaganda" - you know how fond the Germans are of the expression, and how they resent a well-founded charge - and he would be treated worse than ever. I am afraid therefore that there is no action which we could take on behalf of Dr. Mierendorf.

Yours sincerely  
Anthony Eden

---



re Mrs. G.L.

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Private

W. H. THOMPSON,  
SOLICITOR.

27, Chancery Lane,  
London, W.C.2.

TELEPHONES: HOLBORN 5734 (2 LINES)

Cl/0

Personal

19th July 1933

Dear G.L.,

As Mr Clayton informed you yesterday I have expended on your behalf in Estate Duty and Probate Court Fees and stamp duties roughly £45 and the arrangement he came to with you yesterday is quite satisfactory to me. There is no need for you to hurry about sending me the £55 and I am prepared to wait any time to suit you.

Yours sincerely,

W. H. Thompson

The Rt.Hon.George Lansbury, M.P.,  
39, Bow Road,  
Bow,  
E.3.



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( Copy of my first letter to Mr Lansbury )

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24-8-33

Dear Mr Lansbury,

The enclosed letters speak for themselves. I had hoped that someone would clear up the point on which I was not clear. Can you do so? The National Union of Seamen is more than it was when Mr Shinwell broke away from it. The Shipowners think so much of it that they hold it together by means of the P.C.5. You welcomed it back into the Labour Party. The Daily Herald speaks well of it and of the P.C.5. Mr Shinwell and Mr Lewis showed that they were no better than the officials of the N.U.S. when they launched the Amalgamated Marine Workers Union. I see know of no reason why they should not stand together on the Labour Party platform. Does the Labour Party approve of the N.U. S., the P.C.5., and the kind of union which Mr Shinwell and Mr Lewis formed before they moved on to the political field? Will you please enlighten me on this point, as I want to know what I am voting for when next the Labour Party asks me to vote for its candidate?

Yours sincerely,

S. Park.

P.S. I have voted Labour all my life, but I did not think I was voting for petty dictators and the P.C.5.



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Copy of Mr Lansbury's reply to my first letter.

28.VIII.33

Dear Mr. Park,

I have your letter. Apparently the statements made in your letter to Forward were incorrect if Shinwell's letter of the 14th, July is accurate.

The P.C.5 has been in force a good many years now and I seldom hear any complaints about it, but it seems to me that this is a matter for the Seamen and Firemen themselves. There is a the Union, and although it takes a long while to get a plebiscite of its members, this can be done and its up to you if you are a member of the union to get a vote as to whether the P.C.5 shall continue to receive the support of the Seamen and Firemen.

I have sent many men to the union as I have sent them to the Transport Union in connection with work at the docks and yours is the first complaint I have received in late years in connection with this matter.

Yours truly,

(signed) George Lansbury.



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1-9-33

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(Copy of my second letter to Mr Lansbury.)

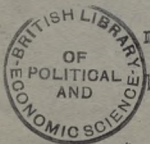
Dear Mr Lansbury,

Thank you for your reply to my letter. As the points on which I wish to be enlightened are not yet clear to me, I hope won't mind if I write to you again.

Mr Shinwell and Mr Lewis formed the British Seafarers Union because the N.U.S. was not run on the lines of the best trade unions in this country. They fought the N.U.S. for years. Then they formed the A.M.W.U. Here are some of its rules:-  
Rule 10: "Branch Secretaries shall be appointed by the G.E.C."  
Rules 5, 6, 7, "(The National Officials) shall hold office during the pleasure of the Society." Perhaps Mr Shinwell will check these extracts, and tell you under which rule the members had power to get rid of any official. I could not find it.

Does the Labour Party approve of unions like the A.M.W.U.? Does the Labour Party think that the men who formed it ought to be elected to power to bring in Socialism?

You suggest that I ought to get a vote of the seamen to see whether they will continue to support the P.C.5. What I want to do is to find out whether the Labour Party approves of the P.C.5. and the kind of democracy-- under which one man's vote may count as one, and another man's vote may count as five or six perhaps--which is in operation in the N.U.S. You don't suppose the seamen voted for these things, do you? The first hint ~~hint~~ I had of it the P.C.5. was when a British Consul told me, in threatening tones, about some new arrangement which was being devised by the Shipowners and the officials of the N.U.S.



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by means of which men would be dealt with who refused to put up with bad conditions. The next time I heard about it was when an official of the N.U.S. told us at a branch meeting in Glasgow that before very long we would have to belong to the N.U.S. whether we bloody-well liked it or not. The Daily Herald knew what it was devised for when it said, with obvious approval, that, by means of the P.C.5., no man not wanted by the owners or not in benefit in the N.U.S. would get a job. The P.C.5. looks to me like a fascist instrument to keep the seamen where the owners and the union officials want them, and it looks as if the peculiar N.U.S. method of voting was brought in to make it difficult for the seamen to get rid of the P.C.5 or of the officials who operate it. Does the Labour Party approve of the P.C.5 and of the N.S.U. brand of democracy? If they were imposed upon other workers by employers and trade union officials, would the Labour Party raise any objection? There is a lot of talk about dictators these days, and I hope that your reply will make it quite clear that the Labour Party does not believe in dictators, camouflaged or open.

Yours sincerely,

S. Park.

P.S. If the Labour Party does not believe in dictators, but has no objection to the P.C.5 and to the N.U.S. brand of democracy, I hope you will make that point quite clear.



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[say 2 Sept. 1933]

Copy of Mr Lansbury's reply to my second letter.

Dear Mr Park,

I have your letter of the ~~11~~ 1st. and have really nothing more to say than I have already said to you on the subject. I am sorry not to be able to answer you in the way you desire.

Yours truly,

(signed) George Lansbury.

Copy of Shinwell's letter.

[16 July 1933]

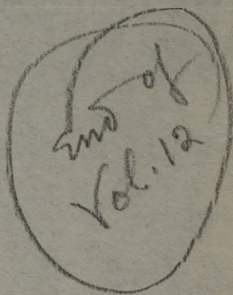
(To the Editor of Forward.)

Dear Comrade,

Your correspondent S.Park, is surely dreaming. The Marine Workers Union, with which I was formerly connected, went out of existence in the early part of 1927, therefore the question raised in S. Park's letter so far as I am concerned does not arise.

Yours sincerely,

E. Shinwell.



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