

AL/2086 (final draft)

34 Marlborough Hill,
N.W.8

November 17th., 1931

Dear Lord Cecil,

I hate troubling you when you have so much important international work.

I am a member of the Executive Committee of the London and National Society for Women's Service and it is in regard to the following circumstances that I write: at the Annual Meeting on December 3rd. the proceedings described on the cuttings which I enclose took place.

It was evident that there was very warm and widespread support in the Hall for the general lines of these proposals, but it was also felt that any observations you, our President, care to make on the whole question would be of great value and for that reason the matter was deferred to this year. It would be a disappointment to many if we were to defer it again in view of the fact that, as you know, one of the main purposes of the Society is to secure equality of opportunity for women with men in the professions and in other spheres, and also that resolutions on similar lines have been passed several years ago not only by the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship, but even by the more cautious body, the National Council of Women, in both cases by very big majorities.

It would be our earnest hope that you could give the great weight of your full personal support to the actual terms of these resolutions or possibly of one maintaining the same principle but differently worded, but, even if you cannot give such definite support yourself, I am writing to ask your permission to assure the meeting this year that you, as President, would not wish to restrain the members should they desire, after full consideration, to pass some such resolutions, or a like alternative drafted by you.

I may add that my personal views, held for many years, are reinforced by the fact that I have been an active member of Dr. Maude Royden's congregation at the Guildhouse since it was started.

Yours sincerely,

The Agenda for the Annual Meeting ought to go to the printers at the end of this week.

Dear Lord C.

with AL/2086 (Prelim Draft)

I hate troubling you when you have so much important international work:

LXXX I am a member of the Executive of the Ls.w. and it is in regard to the following circumstances that I write. Last year at our Annual Meeting I proposed and our Treasurer seconded on behalf of the Committee this resolution:-

That in the op. of this a. M. of the Ls. the continued exclusion of w. fr. ~~XXX~~ equal opp. with men of following a vocation to the ministr with in the established Ch. of this country, is a matter wh. is the concern of all Brit. subjects whether members of any ch. or not, and it therefore instructs the Ex. Comm. of this Sec. to take steps, as opp. offers, to secure the removal of the existing barriers. The meeting recommends that a copy of this res. be sent to the two Archb. of the Ch. of Eng. and to the B. of London.

The foll. amendment was moved by Miss Anne Gil and sec. by Miss Philips

To leave out all words after service and substitute "the pub. deliberations of the 1930 Lambeth Conf. show th. the Ch. principle of sex equality, for wh. the sec. stands, and wh. has been adopted by the nation, has not been fully accepted by the Est. (or National) ch. of this country, and it therefore instructs the Ex. Com. to make ~~XXXX~~ a plan of ed. and carry it out among the bishops, clergy and laity" and to add as a rider

The sec. also expresses its op. that, as a matter of justice and as witness to the prin. of sex equality (ie. capacity not sex to be the criterion) the Nat. Ch. should require that all posts in the secretariat and organisation of the secular side of its work, centrally and throughout the dioceses, should be open to w. as to men, with equal rates of pay for equal work, and equal prov. of superannuation; it suggests that offices included in the system of "officiality" e.g. Diocesan Chancellor, need not continue to be offered to lawyers of the male sex exclusively. It calls upon the nat. Ch. in this country to set an example in the ways above mentioned to its daughter churches overseas."

After discussion, etc.

It was evident that there was very warm and widespread support in the Hall for the general lines of these proposals but ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ it was also felt that any observations you, our president might care to make on the whole question would be of great value.

It would be a great disappointment to many if we were again to defer the matter in view of the fact that one of the main purposes of the society is, as you know, to secure equality of opp. for w. with men in the prof. and other spheres and also considering that res. sim. to the one proposed have already been passed not only by the nat. union for. e. c. but even also by the more cautious body the n.c.w.

It would be our earnest hope that you could yourself give the great weight of your full ~~XXXX~~ support of the actual terms of these res. if you cannot give such personal support to the actual res. I am writing to ask your permission to assure the meeting that you, as pres. would not desire to restrain the members should they wish, after full consideration to pass some such res. as those quoted above or, alternatively, to consider any draft res. establishing the main prin. wh. you might yourself suggest.

I may add that my personal views, held for many years, are reinforced by the fact that I have been a member of Dr. Roydens congregation during the past nine or ten years.

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