

INTER-OFFICE MEMO

TO: Mr. Jones
FROM: Mrs. Cooke

July 3, 1944
Bennington College

Re: Preparation Room

Thought you might like to have my story about the Preparation Room and the position I must take due to my help being unwilling to work there under present conditions.

When I came here in March, 1943, in going over my department, Mr. Petersen brought to my attention that the Preparation Room was not properly ventilated. I took the matter up with Mr. Tschorn and he said there was a fan there for ventilation and that it was considered adequate. I assumed he was right and that the Chef was mistaken. Last summer when work was done in the Preparation Room by the students, Mr. Lydenberg was in charge, and since neither he nor Mr. Petersen spoke of bad ventilation, I assumed that all was well. This year I put into effect a system which I outlined in your office in which a person from the Kitchen would supervise all preparation of vegetables put in the Quick Freeze. Mr. Morrison and Mr. O'Brien were appointed to supervise this work. After several days they both came to my office and said they could not continue to work under present conditions - conditions being, no ventilation. They demonstrated what they meant and to my satisfaction. I then got in touch with Mr. Tschorn through Murray McGuire. A shower curtain was installed around the steam kettle. I asked Mr. O'Brien to show me how this worked and when it was proven to my satisfaction it was as bad as ever, I called Mr. Tschorn in to see it and he agreed it must be corrected at once. This was last Friday, June 30th. At that time I pointed out to Mr. Tschorn that work must go forward this week because Mary Walsh has kept me pretty much informed about the Farm and when to expect certain vegetables in. He said he would get in touch with the G. E. in Schenectady at once and arrange to have a larger fan installed.

Today Mary Walsh said chard could be put in the Quick Freeze Wednesday and string beans at the end of the week. I called Mr. Tschorn to see if he thought the fan could be installed by then but of course due to the holiday nothing can be done until after Wednesday. He hasn't received an answer to his letter sent on Friday so he isn't sure just what the man from G. E. can do.

I trust you realize my position in the matter. I cannot put food away unless someone such as Mr. Morrison or Mr. O'Brien supervise the work and yet I hate to see all the students' efforts go for naught. I am using up the peas as fast as they come out of the garden and shall use all other vegetables likewise, but both Mary Walsh and I foresee a surplus and what to do with it is the problem.

Sorry to have to trouble you with all this but feel this year you should be kept informed at all times so there will be no boomerang on the Farm such as the one we had last year due to a misunderstanding between Mr. Lydenberg and myself which I was unaware of until you brought it to my attention. Thank you for your cooperation in helping me to right this situation.