

Bennington College
July 25, 1940

Memorandum for Mrs. Leigh

The College committee to cooperate with the Bennington County Committee for the Care of European Children is as follows:

Mrs. Leigh, Chairman, Mrs. Jones, Mrs. Brockway, Mrs. Chassell, Mrs. Park, Mrs. Leslie, Helen Eaton, Carolyn Clement, Mr. Leigh.

The special tasks of the College committee appear to me to be as follows:

(1) To have emergency arrangements ready for the care of twenty-five or more children during our vacation periods, August 18th to September 3rd, or December 21st to February 23rd. This implies having Miss Foresman ready with her plans for organizing the food and housing; having Dr. McCullough and Dr. Chassell on hand to furnish emergency medical service; having Dr. McCullough, Miss Foresman, and Dr. Chassell gather information on the best diet and to have such food ready. Further, to work with the local committee in getting the free use for the temporary period of Monument Inn or some other local hotel to be managed and supervised for the period by the College under Miss Foresman and Mr. Tschorn.

The College's offer includes free supervision, room and board during the vacation periods. It cannot pay for the rental or heating of the hotel if the College is in session, but will give free meals and supervision.

(2) Another task is to have Carolyn Clement, with the aid of Olive Godsill when she returns, go through the file of graduates and non-graduates to develop a list of those who have training in child care, in social case work, or in both, giving the amount of such training in each case. Using this list the College will prepare a letter asking for volunteers to help with the temporary care of the children on the campus and also for possible aid in supervision later. The reservoir of graduates and non-graduates would be those who are trained but who have not paid positions and who would be willing to volunteer. For such people who return to the campus the College should also give free room and board. After College opens there may be a similar registering of volunteers among undergraduates who could give help of various kinds, those especially who have had nursery school experience. It would be expected that the nursery school staff would similarly be recruited for this emergency task.

RDL

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