

August 22, 1940

Mrs. Mary Denman  
Director of Field Information  
United States Committee for the Care of European Children  
215 Fourth Avenue  
New York, New York

Dear Mrs. Denman:

I have your letter of August 20th. I am afraid that you misunderstood my letter of the fourteenth and what Bennington County has done.

As you know, after attending the meeting of college heads held in New York several weeks ago, where I learned that the local committee was the sound basis of organization, I took the initiative in Bennington to have a local committee for Refugee children organized. There was an existing local interest which seemed to require some sort of intelligent leadership. After my more recent visit at your office, when I learned that the United States Committee did not plan to recognize the Bennington Committee but thought it best to organize a Vermont State Committee, I reported this to our local committee group. Since then the local group has been marking time. This has been bad for morale but it seemed wise not to create any confusion or any organization not in line with the United States Committee.

I am delighted that Persis Holden is taking the leadership in getting the state committee organized. She, of course, is the best qualified person to do this. The Bennington Committee, as I understand it from our talk in New York, would be a sub-committee of the state committee and would operate through it. I do not believe that we have taken any steps that would hinder this arrangement. My only hope is that the committee can be organized soon, as the local committee is beginning to feel that it has been all dressed up for some time and has no place to go. Persis Holden has told me that she is going ahead with the organization and hopes to have a meeting soon at which the local organization will be represented.

Am I right in thinking that the College's offer to provide facilities for temporary reception and care should work independently of the Vermont Committee and should be reported directly to Dr. Stearns of the educational section? If not, should I then file this offer with Persis Holden and the State Committee or should it be with some other United States Committee department head?

Please believe ~~that~~ I am trying to cooperate in every way to help in getting Vermont and Bennington soundly organized.

Sincerely yours,

Robert D. Leigh  
President