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Letter From Francis Mairs Huntington-Wilson to Willard S. Small, March 25, 1918

Francis Mairs Huntington-Wilson

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THE LINCOLN
13th & Locust Streets,
Philadelphia, Pa.

March 25th, 1918.

My dear Mr. Small:

Many thanks for your kind letter of March 15th. It is a great satisfaction to sense in it that enthusiasm and keene realization of fundamentals that is so absolutely necessary to the coordination of efforts to improve the quality of the nation. I cannot but feel that the four subjects of eugenics, sex hygiene, children's welfare, and early education have a unity as nothing but four sides of one great problem, and that, therefore, for the efficiency of organized effort they may well be treated together.

Dr. Davenport has sent me some excellent notes upon eugenics which will only need a bit of explanation and addition. Through Major Snow and Mr. Walter Clarke, as well as Mr. Zinsser I have no doubt the section regarding sex hygiene will soon be in satisfactory shape.

It had been my hope to get the pamphlet into the form of a rough, tentative draft which could be submitted to the Board of Education and to the Bureau of Children's Welfare and that until that stage was reached it would be better that I should trouble you busy officials as little as possible. Therefore, I have been and still am negotiating with various national authorities in the endeavor to get the section upon education prepared. As to children's welfare, I have written to a Dr. Cornelia (?) Putnam of Providence, R.I., but have received no reply. Of course, I am not myself in position to carry this matter beyond a certain point. If you and Dr. Claxton are sufficiently interested, I shall be immeasurably grateful for any suggestions or help which you can give me before the matter can be placed in more appropriate and competent hands than mine. My hope, of course, is that it may ultimately be taken up jointly by your bureau, by the proper Committee of the Council of National Defense, and by Miss Lathrop's bureau, and then with funds from a few individuals or foundations, may be promulgated through the Committee of Patriotic and Defense Societies or whatever other agencies seem best.

To illustrate more clearly the nature of the scheme as I see it, I venture to enclose the rough skeleton outline with some explanatory notes which I got up some time ago. Perhaps with this before you it will be better possible to give me your views as to how best now to proceed with the plan, - one in which it is unnecessary to say that I do not expect to appear in any way, being solely interested as a citizen who regards the present a peculiarly suitable time for such a joint campaign of national welfare.

With renewed appreciation of your interest, which I hope you will also convey to Dr. Claxton, I am, my dear Mr. Small,

Yours very faithfully,

W. S. Small, Esquire,
Department of Interior,
Bureau of Education,
Washington, D.C.

P.S. - I forgot to say that I have not been in communication with Mr. H. H. Moore, although I have talked exhaustively with Mr. Zinsser and the whole scheme is before Major Snow.