To the Executive Committee:

My Dear Colleague:

This letter relates to the Massachusetts trouble and requires an immediate answer by return mail.

Last winter the General Secretary saw growing estrangement between prominent members of the Massachusetts Niagara Movement. He endeavored by friendly letters to heal the breach but was unsuccessful. In June he added personal persuasion but was still not entirely successful.

The Chief points in dispute were these:

1. How far shall persons unconnected with the Niagara Movement or even in some respects inimical to it, be allowed to help in an entertainment to raise funds for the Niagara Movement.

2. Who are bona fide members of the Massachusetts Niagara Movement. The third annual meeting appointed committees on these subjects.

These committees refused to interfere in the local quarrel and simply recommended more careful election methods in the future. One committee also suggested that in the interests of harmony the General Secretary appoint a new Massachusetts Secretary. This the General Secretary could not consent to do, as he thought this would be reflection on an efficient officer. The committee recognised the full power of the General Secretary in this matter under the constitution and acminated in this conclusion.

The General Secretary in exercising this power of appointment has always consulted carefully the local body and followed their wishes just as far as he could consistently with the interests of the general body whose representative the State Secretary is.

After the annual meeting therefore the General Secretary set out to ascertain:

1. Who are bona fide members of the Massachusetts Niagara Movement.

2. What are their wishes as to new members.

So quietly and in person consulted every member.