

C O P Y

November 6, 1943

Mrs. Helen B. Sater
Women's Bureau, Department of Labor
Washington, D. C.

Dear Madam:

I just got in from work many of the girls are trying to sleep so can't use my typewriter, but hope you can read this.

Your address was given me by Mrs. _____.
Here is the case I wish to present and concerns people who signed up for work with the Seabrooks who promised them 45 cents per hour for a 60-hour week. (They pay nothing extra for overtime). Free living quarters in the _____ dormitories; A F. P. H. A. arrangement or in cabins. If they stayed until December 1 or 15, 1943, they were to have transportation back hom. These people signed up with agents of the U. S. Employment Service at Hinton, Richwood, and Lewisburg, W. Va., and Cokeville and Newport, Tennessee.

October 16 to November 1 the company kept their agreement. Then on November 1 we were told that we must pay \$2.75 for single rooms, \$2 each for double rooms and gave us a paper saying we voluntarily authorized the corporation to deduct the proper amounts from each pay roll weekly. The first reason advance was, quote: "So we can keep the place for people like us". As we were from the South they evidently thought it a good argument because of the Negroes they have brought here. Later when I carried my authorization and a protest in I was told: "That the Government changed its plans so the corporation had to change." It isn't the money we so much mind but the unmitigated gall of bringing us so far from home and giving us no choice in the matter of payment.

Tonight the corporation brought in another truck load to whom they promised free living quarters, when they left Washington, ^{Tenn} and when they got them here made them sign identical slip of authorization to deduct rent from their pay checks. I have written letters of explanation to the U. S. Employment managers at Richmond, Hinton, and Lewisburg, W. Va. and Cokeville and Newport, Tenn. I expect word of some kind immediately but the affairs of those from Washington, Tenn crystalized my determination to write you. You can get in touch with me at _____ or if for any reason they should fire me communicate with me through General Delivery, _____

Mrs. _____ or Mrs _____ or _____ ought to know my whereabouts if I am not in jail. I am keeping quiet and working hard but if they found out I am trying to straighten this thing out - well I've heard some things that are not too nice. The men on the police force are nice though. I like it here and like the work but are people to be brought here

under false promises and kept because they haven't money to buy a ticket home. Please see if you can do something and do it immediately.

I just got my pay check. I haven't gotten one thing yet under MESO. They have my charged \$5 room rent could account for \$2.75 but what's the rest for. One girl got 12 cents.

Respectfully yours,