

503 Trust Bldg.,
April 9, 1917.

Mrs. A. L. Guerard, Pres.,
Houston Equal Suffrage Assn.,
Houston, Texas.

My Dear Mrs. Guerard:

The more I think about it, the more I realize that, in my surprise, I did not express myself clearly when you put up to me the decision as to whether Houston should redeem or repudiate her pledge, - made in 1915. I felt, and do feel, very keenly the fact that I personally do not enter into that question at all. At the 1915 Convention, I personally pledged certain money and certain services, which pledge I have conscientiously redeemed, - the pledge of service at great cost of labor, far greater than I had anticipated, for never had I calculated on spending eight, ten or, as it sometimes happens, twelve hours a day in an office, nor the many long and weary hours I have spent in the field, nor the added financial sacrifices necessary to enable me to give this time. And that is the only pledge which I personally have any right to make a decision regarding, or express any opinion concerning. If, in my surprise and embarrassment, I did express any opinion about the Houston pledge, I beg that you will excuse and forget it.

However, as you are newly come into the work (and how happy I am that you have come into it, I cannot begin to tell you!) I want you to know how the State Association spends its money, some of the calls that come upon us, and how we are "put to it" to meet them. So I am sending you herewith a copy of a letter sent out early in January, giving a brief outline of the work planned by the Executive Board for the months of January and February. I feel sure you will recognize that it is a serious thing to be called upon to finance this work, as I seem to be, out of "thin air," and that you will keep in mind sympathetically the needs of the state work when coming to a final decision regarding the Houston pledge.

Permit me to again congratulate you on your wonderful meeting and the splendid work now being done in Houston.

Very sincerely yours,

Enc.
MFC-BHL

President.