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503 Trust Bldg.,  
, March 23, 1917.

Mrs. W. H. Fain,  
Savoy Apts.,  
Houston, Texas.

My Dear Mrs. Fain:

Mrs. Cunningham has asked that I write to you explaining her inability to send you anything personal just now. She left Wednesday for a short visit with her mother, at New Waverly. Mrs. Fisher has had another siege of Grippe and was unable to come down here, so her daughter "just had" to go to her. And up to the moment of leaving she was too busy for even a thought at letter writing.

As you are aware, it was Mrs. Cunningham's intention to stop at Houston on her way home, but she was so tired, dirty, dissheveled, etc., that, believing she was going back to Houston on Monday anyway, she just decided to come straight HOME and be able to feel more like a real human being when she did see you. However, things prevented the visit to Houston to enjoy Mrs. Hale. She will positively be there, for Dr. Anna Howard Shaw's visit, and is hoping at that time she may have a long conversation with you, and will trust to you to arrange it or help bring it about in some way, no matter how many others may want her attention. In the meantime, she is so hopeful that you are collecting the money, mentioned by Miss Engle, for the state work. Unless this money is already collected and on hand at the bank, she asks me to beg of you to allow nothing to stop you in this work until the money is in the hands of the state treasurer. Needless to say, we are in our usual straightened circumstances.

I think this financial worry has so worn on Mrs. Cunningham that she more than needed these few days with her mother and sisters. When she left she told me that nothing on earth could induce her to accept the office she now holds for another year, even. I do not think the different suffragists over the state understand just what a strain this part of the work is; to be in the midst of plans that will reap great harvest, and be halted by the realization of no money to pro-

ceed. We both keep ourselves entirely out of personal funds, advancing for the suffrage work, and are glad to do it, and fail to understand just why it is so hard for others to give up money for suffrage. We feel that all other things can go until we win!!! And we are willing to not only work but sacrifice for it. This much, my dear Mrs. Fain, to have you understand why Mrs. Cunningham feels she cannot go on with the office. My heart goes way down into my toes when I think of her leaving. She is, to my mind, the one for the office, and since this legislative campaign has things at her finger tips and could accomplish so much for our cause in another two years. She says perhaps the fault is in her, and that Suffragists might give for some other president; and that at least they would find out just what sacrifices she has made, and understand how hard it is.

Pardon the length of this. Of course I do not know just what she would have written you, but I do know how highly she regards you and that she would want you to know just what prompts her in this decision. But she will discuss it all with you on April 3rd, I hope.

Hoping I may some day have the pleasure of meeting you,

Sincerely,

Headquarters Secretary.

P.S.:

Left out the most important part. Mrs. Cunningham told me especially to tell you how much your two letters received in Austin meant to her, and to say how much she appreciated them, and also the donation. Your loyalty means so much to her.

EHL