Temporary Emergency Relief Administration
124 East 28th Street
New York City

Attention: Jesse Isidor Straus, Chairman

Dear Mr. Straus:

I am instructed by our Work Bureau Committee to place before you the situation which we are facing. Last night, March 2nd, we had registered at the Work Bureau 7,508 men and women. In February of 1931, 407 registered at the Work Bureau. In February of 1932, 1,255 registered and we believe that the cases registered this year are certainly three times more urgent than they were a year ago.

On the basis of our investigations we know that sixty per cent of this number must be classified as "most needy". This means that 4,500 families are living with their backs against the wall. In this group is not included single men or married men without children.

This 4,500 represents the desperately needy and involves approximately 19,000 men, women and children. Of this number we have 2,400 working. If we hold our present payrolls which are running approximately $25,000 per week, all our funds will be absolutely gone by the last week in March. We desire to place this situation before you so that you may know the problems we are now facing and which also lie ahead of us.

We are therefore forced to ask if you could give us any assurances of what the Administration can do when we reach the latter part of March. Such definite information will be of tremendous assistance in making our plans, and without such information within a week or two we shall be at a loss to know where to turn.

On the basis of the Administration's advice to go ahead and put men to work who are most needy, and on the basis of our own desire to do so, we have crowded our payrolls to a maximum, our understanding being that when our money was all gone you would be in a better position to assist us. Our chances of further appropriation from the City or County are so terribly slim that we are forced to rely upon your assistance. Every bit of help that you can possibly give to us will be appreciated beyond words. For all that you have done so far, our warmest gratitude is herewith expressed.

With warm personal regards and high esteem, I am,

Faithfully yours,

J. Derbyshire
Secretary, Emergency Work Bureau Committee

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