

Reproduced from the Collections of the Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, scanned from Watkinson Library, Trinity College, Hartford Studies Project – Transcription of letter from Alice Paul, Chairwoman of the National Woman's Party, to Mary Ovington, Chairman of the Board, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, on March 31, 1919."

[March 31 1919] handwritten date

[Letterhead] NATIONAL WOMAN'S PARTY

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

LAFAYETTE SQUARE

WASHINGTON, D. C.

Miss Mary White Ovington, Chairman of the Board,

National Association for the Advancement of Colored People,

70 Fifth Avenue

New York City.

Dear Miss Ovington:

I have received the resolutions passed by the Board of Directors of your organization on March 10, and sent to me by Mr. Shillady. As I explained some weeks ago in a telephone conversation with your office, I do not know anything about the alleged interview to which your resolutions refer.

Your resolutions ask whether the Woman's Party consents to "the non-enfranchisement of the nearly five million colored women."

The National Woman's Party has only one object - - the passage of an amendment to the National Constitution removing the sex qualification from the franchise regulations. We take no stand whatever on any other subject. This amendment to the Constitution would not, of course, interfere with the states making any restrictions they desire upon the franchise, provided such restrictions were not forbidden by the National Constitution. All that our amendment would do would be to see that the franchise conditions for every state were the same for woman as for men.

Since an earlier amendment to the Constitution has removed the race qualification from the franchise regulations, the question of race

disqualification has already been settled and does not have to be settled in the campaign for removal of the sex disqualification.

Sincerely yours,

Alice Paul

National Chairman

AP/OB