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ADDRESS REPLY TO  
50 WEST 50TH STREET  
ROOM 922  
NEW YORK, N. Y.  
TELEPHONE: CIRCLE 7-0250

Aug. 16, 1938.

Professor Ernest W. Burgess  
Department of Sociology  
University of Chicago  
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Professor Burgess:

A few days ago I received a letter from Mr. Paul Sayre, of Iowa City, Iowa, inviting me to participate in a Meeting of The National Conference on Family Relations to be held in New York City the middle of September. He wrote the letter to me, as I understand it, at your suggestion and I should be very grateful if you would send me some word about Mr. Sayre and his Organization.

I have conferred with the leaders in our field in the East and no one is acquainted with Mr. Sayre nor has anyone heard about The National Conference on Family Relations. The fact, however, that Mr. Sayre has enlisted your cooperation is in itself a commendation to us. We should, however, like to know a little more than we can learn from the letter Mr. Sayre himself has written.

With kindest greetings, believe me

Yours cordially,



SIDNEY E. GOLDSTEIN

Address: 40 West 68th Street, New York, N.Y.

August 18, 1938

Dr. Sidney E. Goldstein  
40 West 68th Street  
New York, New York

Dear Dr. Goldstein:

Mr. Paul Sayre is professor of law at Iowa State University, specializing in the field of family law. He represents a group of the American Association of Professors of Law who have been very much interested in bringing lawyers into participation in the field of family relations. This group has been rather isolated from the other persons in the field of family relations but in planning for a National Conference on Family Relations, Mr. Sayre has been learning of what has already been done by workers in other disciplines in this field.

Recently Mr. Sayre came to Chicago to have a conference with me about the National Conference on Family Relations and made a very favorable impression on me in regard to his social vision and his interest in working with others in the field. At that time I told him of the organization of the New York State Conference on Marriage and the Family and the leading part which you had in it, and that the motivating principles of your organization were the same as those of his proposed National Conference. I suggested that by all means he should get into contact with you and enlist your support and participation.

Professor Sayre confessed frankly to me that he had entered this field with a rather limited knowledge of what other persons had been doing, but with the conviction that the teachers of family law and professors of law had a contribution to make to the improvement of considerations within the field of family relations.

After correspondence with other persons, I decided that I would cooperate with Professor Sayre in working for the success of his first National Conference, and, as I said earlier in my letter, I feel that it is a good opportunity to secure the cooperation of a group that has not been previously active in this field.

With personal best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

Ernest W. Burgess

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ADDRESS REPLY TO  
50 WEST 50TH STREET  
Room 922  
NEW YORK, N. Y.  
TELEPHONE: CIRCLE 7-0250

Aug. 22, 1938.

Prof. Ernest W. Burgess  
Department of Sociology  
University of Chicago,  
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Prof. Burgess:

I am very grateful for your letter of the 18th and the information you send concerning Mr. Paul Sayre. I have written him that I shall be very glad to cooperate with him in advancing his program and in the development of his Organization.

He represents, as you say, the legal approach to our problem and it is undoubtedly important to have the cooperation of a group of Professors of Law who are interested in family relations. Professor Jacobs, of the Columbia Law School, and other men have been working with us here and we realize how fundamental is their contribution to the advancement of family life.

It is my earnest hope that these men will emphasize the point that we are now stressing through the New York State Conference on Marriage and The Family, namely, the responsibility of the State for the protection of marriage and the conservation of the family. Private Organizations can do much but until the State undertakes to do more than it is doing today it would be difficult for us to achieve anything like an adequate program.

With kindest greetings, believe me

Yours cordially



August 25, 1938

Dr. Sidney A. Goldstein  
50 West 50th Street  
New York, New York

Dear Dr. Goldstein:

I appreciate your letter of August 22, and your willingness to cooperate in the development of the organization which Professor Sayre is initiating.

It seems to me that a group of professors of law will be most helpful in enabling us to secure recognition for the responsibility of the state in the protection of marriage and the conservation of the family.

Looking forward to seeing you again in New York in September, I am

Sincerely yours,

Ernest W. Burgess

EWB:it



September 23, 1933

Professor Paul Sayre  
College of Law  
State University of Iowa  
Iowa City, Iowa

Dear Professor Sayre:

Your letter just received with the enclosed check for five dollars which I will make good use of for postage.

I agree entirely with you that it will be best to write to persons in the different states in terms of organization by states, with perhaps a suggestion that there may be regional as well as state conferences.

I am quite willing for you to experiment with the local organizations unless there should be some very definite demand in some local community in Chicago where the local persons would be willing to take entire responsibility for it. I feel that it would be more efficient for me to put my time in writing to key persons who would be willing to take the leadership in the different states. My plan is to begin first with persons in the Central states, since they might point up to a regional conference in advance of state conferences.

I have had a request from the Russell Sage Foundation to give information about this organization for the 1939 Social Work Year Book. All the questions but one, I think I can fill out and that is in regard to the number of members. What number should we put down? I presume it would not be fair to put either the number of persons who have actually paid their dues or the number of persons who have been elected to membership but as yet not been heard from. It occurred to me that I might enter the number of persons who, from my experience with other organizations, would probably be paid members by January 1, 1939. In my judgment that should be either four or five hundred. I would however like to have the benefit of your advice and direction upon this point.

Enclosed is a rough draft of the general form of letter which I am planning to send out to persons vitably interested in family

September 23, 1938

relations in the different states. I would like to have your suggestions with regard to any changes that should be made in it. You will note that I have rather played down the notion that the conferences should themselves be action organizations. The more I reflect upon it the more I believe that the vitality of the National, regional, and local conferences will be upon giving the conference idea the place of paramount importance. For example, the conference may find that it wishes to stimulate the youth movement but I believe its function should be in stimulation and that any other movement that develops should be a separate organization so that the conference will remain faithful to its central ideal of the consideration and discussion of research programs and proposals for improvement in the field of the family.

I hope you will write me freely how your mind reacts to this way of stating the function of the conferences.

With best wishes. I am

Sincerely yours,

Ernest W. Burgess

ZNB:it

enc.



September 23, 1938

Professor E. T. Krueger  
Vanderbilt University  
Nashville, Tennessee

Dear Krueger:

The organization meeting of the National Conference on Family Relations was held in New York City, Saturday, September 17. Enclosed with this letter you will find a program of the meeting and the constitution and by-laws of the organization.

The leader in the organization of the Conference was its president, Professor Paul Sayre who is professor of law in the University of Iowa. Because of my belief in the value of the objectives of this new organization and the importance of the function which it may serve, I have accepted the position of secretary for the first year.

At the meeting of a planning group at the conclusion of the Conference, it was decided to hold not only a national Conference annually but to organize state and probably regional conferences. I am writing to you, inviting you, if you feel as I do about the possibilities of this organization, to take the leadership in organizing a Tennessee State Conference on Family Relations. I will be glad to have your judgment on this matter and if it seems feasible to ask if you would send me the names of five to ten other persons who, in your judgment, should constitute the organizing committee for your state.

In our discussions in New York, it seemed that national, regional, and state conferences would center around the following activities.

- (1) The holding of an annual conference at which would be presented
  - (a) the findings of research in the field of marriage and the family;
  - (b) the discussion of problems bearing upon family welfare;
  - (c) the consideration of any program of action which might grow out of consideration of research and problems.
- (2) Between conferences, the national organization in cooperation with the regional and state organizations would serve as a clearing house of information about research completed or in progress, proposals affecting family welfare, and other material that might be requested from members of the organization.
- (3) The publication of proceedings or a quarterly bulletin which would keep the members of the Conference in contact with new developments in the field of marriage and the family.

The emphasis of the Conference is to be upon the dissemination of research, the consideration of problems and proposals for improve-

September 23, 1938

ment of family welfare, and the stimulation through education of the public and its organizations. At the present time it is not proposed that the conferences themselves should be action organizations although any state conference might properly find that it would need to take the leadership in bringing about an organization for the purpose of action.

While state conferences would have a high degree of freedom in carrying on their activities, it is planned that they would be directly affiliated with the National Conference on Family Relations in order that both the state and national organizations would have the benefit of constant intercommunication which we believe to be essential to the vitality of this movement to promote knowledge and wisdom on the part of the public in the field of family relations.

With best wishes to you and Mrs. Krueger, I am

Sincerely yours,

Ernest W. Burgess

EWB:it  
enc.



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THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON FAMILY RELATIONS  
COMMITTEE ON MEMBERSHIP  
LAW BUILDING, IOWA CITY, IOWA

September 30, 1938

Dear Professor Burgess:

You will be glad to know that I have a very fine letter from Professor Huntington saying that he will be glad to take part in all work in the future. He also mentions that his address at the luncheon is to be published as a Sunday feature article in the Eastern newspapers.

In regard to his paper at the Round Table, he says he has no manuscript for this but he thinks he might prepare one if that were necessary incident to our publication. I have received the stenographic record of the Conference and I will see what we have for his paper. I doubt if it is very complete, but I think I could send Professor Huntington a copy and it would not be difficult for him to work out something which he could approve for publication if he had the convenience of this copy of his oral remarks.

I continue to get responses about the conference and a large number of good wishes for our future success.

One thing that pleases me particularly. I receive inquiries asking about conferences or as they say "branches" in different parts of the country. This is exactly in line with Dr. Goldstein's idea about regional conferences and directly in keeping with your actual work on state organization.

I think it very fortunate indeed that you are working through these persons for activities in all the States. That is exactly what we should do now. Of course, at the beginning we have all the inertia to overcome which is incident to the starting of almost any project however practical and successful it may later prove to be. But

once we can get units underway in different parts of the country, that in turn will help carry the thing forward. There is such a natural and practical need of this thing now that I anticipate in the near future much of our work will be almost the direct opposite of what we do at the present time: we will later be called on to give our efforts in wise regulations and restraint of the various activities of the conference throughout the country.

Very truly yours,



Professor E. W. Burgess  
1126 East 59th St.  
Chicago, Illinois

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ON

## MARRIAGE AND THE FAMILY

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ADDRESS REPLY TO  
50 WEST 50TH STREET  
ROOM 922  
NEW YORK, N. Y.  
TELEPHONE: CIRCLE 7-0250

Oct. 3, 1938.

Prof. E. W. Burgess  
University of Chicago  
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Prof. Burgess:

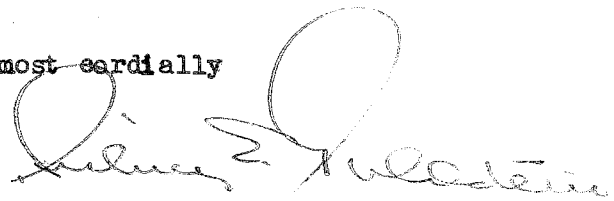
On October 19th and 20th, I find now, I shall be in Cincinnati. This means that I could be in Chicago Tuesday, October 18th, or Friday, October 21st. Which day would be better for the little conference that you have generously agreed to call together? If I remember correctly you told us in New York that the earlier part of the week would be better than the latter part. Prof. Sayre writes that he would come at any time convenient for yourself.

There are two important matters, I believe, we are to discuss. The first, the Mid-West Regional Conference, which now seems more urgent than it did in the Spring when I was unable to meet with you and the committee. The second matter is of course the program of the National Conference on Family Relations. Personally I feel very much encouraged as a result of the response to the meeting in New York. The men and women in the East were a little skeptical at the outset, but I am certain that most of the leaders now feel that a new and important movement in the field of marriage and family life has been launched and should be advanced as rapidly as our resources will permit.

If you think that we cannot cover all these important matters adequately in one session I shall try to arrange my program so as to be in Chicago for two days instead of one. It is not necessary for me to add that we all look to you for leadership in this movement and earnestly trust that you will find it possible to assume this new burden without too much strain upon your strength and time.

With kindest personal greetings, believe me

Yours most cordially



October 4, 1938

Professor Paul Sayre  
Law Building  
University of Iowa  
Iowa City, Iowa

Dear Professor Sayre:

I have written to Professor Sellin in regard to publication in the Annals of the Academy of Political and Social Science. I have also received a paper by Folsom which you sent.

I have not yet heard from Dr. Goldstein with reference to the time that he is to be in Chicago but will let you know as soon as he writes. I did receive a letter from Mr. Bridgman of the National Council of Parent Education saying that he would be in Chicago in about two weeks and would like to talk with me about the National Conference on Family Relations.

I am getting the letters out to the key men in the different states and will let you know as soon as I can what the response has been.

I am glad to hear what you say about getting the responses about the Conference and particularly the inquiries about having conferences in different parts of the country. I think you are quite right that we will soon have to begin to consider what should be done in wise regulation of the various activities of the Conference throughout the country.

Very sincerely yours,

Ernest W. Burgess

EWB:it



NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PARENT EDUCATION  
INC.

SIXTY EAST FORTY-SECOND STREET, NEW YORK  
TELEPHONE: VANDERBILT 3-8534

October 6, 1938

Professor Ernest W. Burgess  
University of Chicago  
Chicago, Illinois

Dear Dr. Burgess:

It is now definitely decided that I shall be passing through Chicago on Saturday morning, October 15th. Do you have any time that morning when we might spend forty or fifty minutes together discussing both the future of the National Conference on Family Relations and also the various plans which are now under consideration for the reorganization of this Council?

*Adrian*  
Please address your reply to my home at 126 Old Post Road, Croton, New York.

Sincerely,

*R. P. Bridgman*  
Ralph P. Bridgman

RPB:CRG

*re: subject to be discussed, 11:15 AM  
Monday, Oct 15, 1938  
Would it be convenient for you to  
have breakfast with me and  
discuss the subject of House 1414, 15th  
St. If you are coming on Monday  
Central you could get off at 63rd St  
11:15 AM - 11:30 AM at the house, 126 Old Post Rd, Croton, N.Y.*

October 10, 1938

Dr. Sidney E. Goldstein  
New York State Conference on  
Marriage and the Family  
50 West 50th Street  
New York, New York

Dear Dr. Goldstein:

Please pardon my delay in answering your letter of October 3. I waited to be sure which of the two days you mention would be more convenient for Professor Sayre. I find that Friday, October 21, is better for him and I am therefore making arrangements for that date. According to our present plans, we will have a luncheon meeting for you to meet the group of Chicago people. That will mean that you and I and Professor Sayre would have Friday morning and, if necessary, part or all of Friday afternoon for a conference.

It seems to me that this should give us adequate time to discuss both the Mid-West Regional Conference and the program of the National Conference on Family Relations. I will be out of the city on Saturday but if it seems that there should be further discussion, you and Professor Sayre might wish to stay over until Saturday morning. I think, however, we will know better about that after our discussions on Friday.

I do not know what time your train will get in Friday morning from Cincinnati but I suggest that you, Professor Sayre, and I meet at the Quadrangle Club. If you get in early enough, we might have breakfast together. At any rate I would be glad for you to write me in regard to the time that you will arrive.

Looking forward to seeing you again, and with best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

Ernest W. Burgess

EWB:it

October 11, 1938

AIR MAIL

Mr. Ralph P. Bridgman  
126 Old Post Road  
Croton, New York

Dear Bridgman:

Would it be convenient for you to have breakfast with me at International House, 1414 E. 59th Street? If you are coming on Michigan Central, you could get off at 63d Street (Woodlawn) station, and this place is close by. We could then have breakfast at 8:00 or a little earlier or later as you might prefer.

Hoping this will be satisfactory, I am

Sincerely yours,

Ernest W. Burgess

EWB:it

October 18, 1938

Professor Paul Sayre  
University of Iowa  
Iowa City, Iowa

Dear Professor Sayre:

Arrangements have all been made for the meeting of the group on family relations at noon at the Chicago Bar Association. There will be about twenty persons present, including several from outside of Chicago. I think you will find a very real interest in having a Mid-West conference.

Monday I had the conference with Mr. Bridgman which I mentioned to you on your visit here. He was very cooperative in attitude toward the National Conference on Family Relations and had already reached in his mind the distinction between the National Council on Parent Education continuing as an agency in family education, with the National Conference performing a different function.

He did emphasize our building up in the National Conference on Family Relations representation from organizations already in the field. I will want to discuss these points with you and Dr. Goldstein.

Dr. Goldstein will arrive Friday morning and will meet us at the Quadrangle Club at nine o'clock. Would you be free to have breakfast with me at the Quadrangle Club at 8:00 Friday morning?

Your letter of October 14 received enclosing the list of members and the revised general figures on the financial status.

I will not prolong this letter, as it will be easier to talk over matters of common interest on Friday.

Looking forward to seeing you, and with best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

Ernest W. Burgess

EWB:lt



October 19, 1938

Professor E. T. Krueger  
Vanderbilt University  
Nashville, Tennessee

Dear Krueger:

I was glad to get your good letter of October 17 with its list of ten names for an organization committee. It looks like an excellent list. You are quite right in assuming that the new organization is interested in a general group rather than a specialized one.

I am having a conference on Friday with Professor Paul Sayre, the president of the National Conference on Family Relations. He will be interested to know about your cooperation in the matter of state conferences on family relations. Both of us wish you to be chairman of the organization committee, and in writing to the persons that you name, we will state that fact and ask them if they are willing to accept appointment to await hearing from you for further developments.

After my conference with Professor Sayre, I will wish to write you again more definitely in regard to the plans of the national organization.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

Ernest W. Burgess

EWB:it

October 29, 1938

Professor Paul Sayre  
University of Iowa  
Iowa City, Iowa

Dear Professor Sayre:

I was glad to get your letter of October 26 with its information about the estimates for our new publication. The cost seems reasonable to me and one that I trust we will be able to finance. I have heard from Dr. Goldstein who wrote that he was very sorry not to be at our meeting.

My plans are to go ahead with the arrangements for the regional meeting in Chicago. I wish to thank you for your suggestions in regard to procedure.

I have received the mailing list which will be helpful in going ahead with the membership campaign.

It will be good if we can have a conference with Professor Groves when he is in Chicago next month. I am enclosing with this letter copies of the papers which were read at the Conference.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

Ernest W. Burgess

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