

✓ Important for October
Board.
NESBIT, PLEDGER & EDGERTON
ATTORNEYS AT LAW
METROPOLITAN BANK BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D. C.

FRANK F. NESBIT
CHARLES E. PLEDGER, JR.
JUSTIN L. EDGERTON

April 26, 1939

TELEPHONE
METROPOLITAN 0475
CABLE ADDRESS
ADNES

Should go in

My October Report

Call noted
M.S.
7/19

Mrs. Henry M. Robert, Jr.
President General
National Society of the Daughters
of the American Revolution
Memorial Continental Hall
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mrs. Robert:

I am enclosing statement for legal services rendered the Society in a number of matters since my last statement of November 10, 1937. Some of them have been finally closed and in others, which are not now terminated, the statement covers the services rendered to date. The question of exemption from District of Columbia Unemployment Compensation Taxes, which has been presented to the District of Columbia Unemployment Compensation Board, is not included, as a final decision has not yet been rendered.

I want to congratulate you on your statement to the Society in your report regarding the Marion Anderson controversy as I read it reported in the press. I hope the incident is closed, but the letters which you advised me you received from the Marion Anderson Citizens Committee and her concert manager seem to indicate that there will be continuing efforts to revive the question. Recently, I received a call from Mr. Chester Gray, Assistant Corporation Counsel, with reference to a letter from Mr. Houston of the Anderson Committee, referring to a statement purported to have been made by Miss Emeline A. Street, Vice President General, to the effect that there was a statute in the District of Columbia prohibiting the use of any auditoriums here by colored artists. He asked to be advised by the Corporation Counsel if there was such a statute. As you are aware from our previous discussion, I have advised you that the only statute relating to the schools is one providing for separate white and colored school systems. The use of school auditoriums is a matter for regulation by the Board of Education. There is, of course, no statute prohibiting or attempting to regulate the use of halls and auditoriums generally, including privately owned halls and auditoriums in the District of Columbia. I discussed the matter with Mr. Gray and pointed

Mrs. Henry M. Robert, Jr.

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out to him that I did not see that the District of Columbia had any interest in the controversy or any occasion to advise private persons or private inquirers as to the law. I do not know what action the Commissioners have taken on the letter, but I anticipate that they will decline to be drawn into the controversy. I have not seen the letter Mr. Gray referred to or statement of Miss Street, but wish you to be informed of this incident.

Sincerely yours,

Frank J. Nestor

FFN:MH