

get into communication with the different ports of the world from which they had sailed, you could not ascertain that fact with any degree of certainty. They have reports all the time about great numbers coming. I had reports this morning. It was estimated that there would be 2,000 landed at Ellis Island to-day in excess of the quotas from the different countries from which they are coming, but that is just a rumor; but I presume there would be a good many land to-day, from what I have heard.

The CHAIRMAN. What are you going to do with them, when we know the quotas are full and they keep pouring in on us.

Mr. RISLEY. That is a problem that is almost distracting some of the officials.

The CHAIRMAN. Will you try to let us get, some time to-day or to-night or to-morrow morning, the number arriving at Ellis Island to-day that will be in excess of the quotas?

Mr. RISLEY. Yes; I can call them up by telephone.

The CHAIRMAN. Well, if we can get that list the first thing in the morning we will not hold you any further now, Mr. Risley.

Mr. RISLEY. I will telegraph Boston to ascertain the status there also.

The CHAIRMAN. Well, we are very much obliged to you.

Mr. RISLEY. It has been reported to me two or three times that there are 54 being held there in excess quota from these oriental countries. Of course, those are pitiful cases. They came from those regions that are distracted by the war, and with so many of their families and parents massacred, that I have been letting them in where they are mothers or wives or children coming to parents, or where there is an immediate relationship, and the condition of the present time. I have been recently letting them in for 90 days, and there are only a few of them, but I felt that that was the humane thing to do, until it could be finally determined what policy could be adopted as to such people.

The CHAIRMAN. Well, I understand that you must return at once to your office. We are much obliged to you.

The committee will have to go into recess. Miss Genevieve Forbes of the Chicago Tribune is here, that newspaper having kindly agreed to send her in order that we may make some inquiry in regard to the statements that have gone broadest about conditions at Ellis Island and immigration conditions generally. While I expect we will be pretty busy this afternoon in the House, we will try to hear Miss Forbes. We can arrange to secure the committee room of the Committee on Printing, in the basement of the Capitol. We will adjourn now to meet at that place at 2 o'clock.

(Whereupon at 12 o'clock noon a recess was taken until 2 o'clock p. m.)

AFTER RECESS.

The CHAIRMAN. The committee will be in order. Before we proceed with Miss Forbes, I will state that Miss Mallon has secured for the use of the committee the immigration laws of Australia, with all the recent amendments and has prepared a statement, as a result of interviews with Australians, concerning the method of applying the illiteracy test in that country.

I will appoint as a subcommittee to study the immigration laws of Australia and Canada, Mr. Cable, Mr. Valle, and Mr. Rainey. They can make a separate report, digesting the same.

STATEMENT OF MISS GENEVIEVE FORBES, CHICAGO TRIBUNE, CHICAGO, ILL.

The CHAIRMAN. Now, Miss Forbes, from time to time since the appearance of your articles in the Chicago Tribune and other papers members of the committee have expressed a desire to hear from you in person, and a few days ago I asked Miss Mallon if she thought it was possible to arrange with the Chicago Tribune for you to come before the committee.

I am sorry that you are here just at the time of strain in the House, which shortens the time that we have to give you. To begin with, you might just state your name for the record.

Miss FORBES. Genevieve Mildred Forbes, 722 Sherman Avenue, Evanston, Ill.

The CHAIRMAN. And your business?

Miss FORBES. Newspaper writer for the Chicago Tribune.

The CHAIRMAN. How long have you been with the Chicago Tribune?

Miss FORBES. Three years.

The CHAIRMAN. Do you specialize in any line of work?

Miss FORBES. Feature writing, mostly.

The CHAIRMAN. Feature writing devoted to rather sentimental stories?

Miss FORBES. Not at all.

The CHAIRMAN. You are not a sob-story writer?

Miss FORBES. Not at all.

The CHAIRMAN. Have you any particular knowledge of immigration laws?

Miss FORBES. No.

The CHAIRMAN. Do you know anything about them?

Miss FORBES. No; I do not pretend to know anything definite about legislative matters. That does not mean that I am entirely ignorant of them, but I do not pose as an expert on such matters.

The CHAIRMAN. You were sent by the Chicago Tribune to Ireland?

Miss FORBES. Yes.

The CHAIRMAN. To pose and return as an immigrant?

Miss FORBES. Yes.

The CHAIRMAN. You are a citizen of the United States?

Miss FORBES. Yes, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. You had to get a passport in order to return?

Miss FORBES. Yes.

The CHAIRMAN. What name did you travel under?

Miss FORBES. Genevieve Forbes.

The CHAIRMAN. You came in under your right name?

Miss FORBES. Yes. May I add that I left Chicago as an Irish girl?

The CHAIRMAN. Yes. Well, there is no harm in that.

Mr. SIEGEL. Did you leave Chicago with an American passport?

Miss FORBES. No. That is what I meant. I left with a British passport.

The CHAIRMAN. You left with a British passport, as a British alien going to Ireland?

Miss FORBES. For a visit; yes.

Mr. SIEGEL. And you returned, making use of the same passport?

Miss FORBES. Yes; with a few more necessary credentials that I got over there; but I started out from Chicago with the fabrication. It was necessary.

Mr. SIEGEL. Now, when did you arrive in Ireland?

Miss FORBES. I can not be exact. I arrived approximately the 8th of September, I think.

Mr. SIEGEL. How long did you stay in Ireland?

Miss FORBES. Perhaps two weeks.

Mr. SIEGEL. About what date did you leave for the United States?

Miss FORBES. I sailed on the *Celtic* from Queenstown October 2 or 3, October 2, I think.

The CHAIRMAN. Will you just tell us briefly your experiences in obtaining your visé at the American consulate in Ireland?

Miss FORBES. Well, that was very simple. You will remember I had a British passport. I went over to Dublin and stayed there, and stayed down in Wexford and got my credentials fixed at the British consulate, and then I went to the American consul, with everything apparently in order, inasmuch as my British passport was correctly stamped by the British consul, and at the American consulate I was informed of two or three other necessary regulations; for instance, vaccination; my definite third-class ticket; a formula which I filled out, stating that I had no police record, and various other things in order. I left my passport there for two days, I think, after which it was returned to me. That was very simple and very easy.

The CHAIRMAN. Did you have to have Irish papers of any kind? Sinn Fein or otherwise?

Miss FORBES. No. The majority of the girls did have Sinn Fein, but I took care that I went from town to town. Wexford was my supposed birthplace, but I was there for four or five days. I had to have letters from the parish priest. Not being a Catholic and not caring to do that—I thought it was a little sacrilegious to do that—I got letters from other people. That is, rather, I used the names of ministers whom I knew of my own faith, which is the Church of England, and they did not look into that. I had letters also from my supposed employers in Evanston—a series of letters which I had taken from this country.

The CHAIRMAN. Did you have to have a Sinn Fein permit?

Miss FORBES. No, sir; I did not.

The CHAIRMAN. So, if you stated that the girls in the party had to have those, it did not include yourself?

Miss FORBES. No; it was typical, however.

The CHAIRMAN. These stories you have written were stories of your experiences or the experiences of other girls?

Miss FORBES. I went over my experience very definitely myself, the things that happened to me, and in every case when I said "I," I was talking about myself, which definitely happened, with the exception of two or three times. One time that I remember is that I went through Ellis Island and got out at a certain time. The majority of the girls who were my most intimate friends, who came from Ireland, were kept there for another day. That was the only time that I put myself in with them. That is the only possible inaccuracy.

May I say also that the experience which happened to others were, I think, worse. That is, I was not feminine; I am a woman newspaper writer; I was not hysterical; I was not feminine, and I think I was the most calm and certainly the most unhysterical in my actions of any of the girls whom I was with.

The CHAIRMAN. Now, shall we pass by her coming out of Ireland?

Mr. SIEGEL. Don't you want some information as to what occurred on board ship, briefly?

The CHAIRMAN. Well, yes. I doubt if her experience was different from that of the average immigrant.

Miss FORBES. I have just one statement to make, perhaps. I do not think it is made smugly at all; we pay between \$80 and \$90 for third-class passage. I was on the steamer *Celtic*. The second-class passenger rates were increased very definitely lately, because many husbands refused to let their wives and children come over third class and come through the island, and therefore they saved up money enough to send them second class. As a result, the *Celtic* had taken over most of its third-class quarters and made them into second-class quarters.

We paid \$90, and we were not charity passengers, yet we could be bossed around by any steward or any stoker; we could be kept out of the lavatories for an hour or two hours in the morning, at the discretion or whim of any steward or any stoker, which I think was a very consistent complaint made by many of the people on board ship.

The CHAIRMAN. You were traveling third class.

Miss FORBES. Yes.

The CHAIRMAN. And you paid how much?

Miss FORBES. \$78 plus the \$10.

Mr. SIEGEL. Which was for the visé?

Miss FORBES. No; the head tax.

Mr. SIEGEL. The head tax on arrival; \$8, do you mean?

Miss FORBES. Yes; whatever it was.

The CHAIRMAN. Now, what was it that you said a moment ago?

(The last statement of Miss Forbes was read by the reporter.)

The CHAIRMAN. What did you mean by "charity passengers"?

Miss FORBES. Just a figure of speech, I suppose. We were treated as though they were doing us a favor to bring us over.

The CHAIRMAN. You do not mean to infer that there were any charity passengers on the ship?

Miss FORBES. No, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. All right. That is what I wanted to get. Now, go ahead, please.

Mr. SIEGEL. Now, was there any real trouble on board ship before reaching Ellis Island, except those that you described a moment ago, such as not getting the use of the bath facilities?

Miss FORBES. There were no bath'ng facilities. When I say "none," there were eight washstands, and there was no possible chance of taking a bath, absolutely none.

Mr. SIEGEL. How many were there in the steerage?

Miss FORBES. There were 580. There were 8 benches, each one of which accommodated 8 people; in other words, 64 seats on that rear poop deck.

Mr. SIEGEL. Was there not any other place where you could be seated?

Miss FORBES. After 7.30 o'clock at night, from 7.30 until 9.30, the dining room was available; yes.

Mr. SIEGEL. What about all day long?

Miss FORBES. During the day, in the morning when they were getting ready for the ship's inspection, we were out on this deck. It rained three days. There were two small inclosures with a roof over them, accommodating, if we stood up closely together, perhaps 30 or 40. We could hover in there. There were these benches that we could drag in, too. The rest of us sat in quarters; a great many of the continentals laid down on their baggage in the hold. Many others did not care to do that.

From 9 to 10.30 or 11 or sometimes 12 we were kept out of these lavatories and kept out of our cabin rooms. The reason was they were getting ready for ship's inspection. It was not always made plain, and it was not always necessary that that should be done.

The CHAIRMAN. Did the people in the steerage speak various languages?

Miss FORBES. Yes. There was an interpreter who had been hired to interpret but who got very incensed when anyone asked him anything, so much so that the last night, when a Western Union man came on, so that we might send telegrams to the relatives who had to claim us at Ellis Island, the interpreter was so excited when he was asked any question that one man, a Jewish man who had no official charge of his racial group, had to take charge of them and see that they sent telegrams. Several other girls did not send any.

The CHAIRMAN. Was not the excitement a little bit mutual?

Miss FORBES. Well, the official interpreter had no reason for excitement.

The CHAIRMAN. It was everyday work for him?

Miss FORBES. I should think so.

The CHAIRMAN. Were these lavatories closed in order that they might be cleaned?

Miss FORBES. Yes.

The CHAIRMAN. Were they inclined to get very dirty?

Miss FORBES. Yes; but that was the fault of the minority of the passengers, who were very dirty. The majority were not so at all. Some few minority were enough to make them very unpleasant. This was not the ship's fault at all.

The CHAIRMAN. The same thing applied at Ellis Island when you got there, didn't it?

Miss FORBES. Ellis Island was exceedingly clean in most cases.

The CHAIRMAN. Well, now, you arrived at quarantine. What happened next?

Miss FORBES. In telling of quarantine, may I go on the hypothesis that I was not a poor-class feminine hysterical person? I was reassuring the people with whom I was. In presenting this to you it may not seem at all definite. It may not seem anything about which to complain unless you get yourself into the attitude in which we were—of absolute dumb terror—which may not mean very much to you until you are in that condition. We were told absolutely nothing. Simply waiting around, not knowing what was going to happen.

We got up early Monday morning—about 5 o'clock. The women and children were put down on our regular deck. The men were put up on the second deck. The men had no inclosure of any sort. It was early morning. It was cold. There was a chilly wind. The men stood there. We got very worried. In fact, with great difficulty did we not see them as they formed in line and were stripped to the waist, and sometimes more, for their examinations.

We were lined up, as I say, on this first deck, down a narrow corridor, semi-enclosed, with one screen on the left side. On the right was a swinging door, leading down to the place in which were the men. They did not come out, but as the door would go back and forth you could see the men and they could see you. The stewards were lined up all about us, stewards who told continually that they would be there, and they would be behind the screens, and they would hold the screens, and they would look, and they would like to see who would keep them away. They would know exactly what happened to us. Finally two stewards went to the front of the boat and got up this large searchlight, which they rigged up at the end of the passage for the two women who were to examine us, saying to us what this searchlight was going to be used for—"You will have to pass there"—and all the time gleefully and loudly telling us that they would be there and see what was going on. They were not United States officials. They were the stewards on this steamship—some 18 of them.

We started down on passage, this first narrow passage, just herded in, and two hospital assistants on the ship came along. "Well, if you don't hurry, I will have to hit you. Hurry up. Get in line there." Some one suggested that the women who were carrying children might be allowed to go first; but that

was disregarded as being foolish. We got around the corner. You go down this line. We are right at the corner, and there is a woman here. There are stewards all around. We look up at this angle here and across the little hold, up to the second deck, where these men are being examined, where we can see them with their backs stripped; where, after they are examined, they go around this little narrow place and come down back of us, so that we can either see them or, as they come around putting on their clothes, they look down on us. We come around this corner there, and there is this searchlight—about there—and these two women.

Mr. SIEGEL. You mean at a distance of about 50 feet?

Miss FORBES. Why, I think so. It might be more. I can easily believe that it was more. It is very narrow. We were intensely crowded, packed right in. As we turn this corner, we are absolutely exposed to these stewards and these men, and the order comes to strip to the waist. Some few of us wanted to wait until we rounded this corner. The stewards kept up this continual fire of revelry and jest. "Well, we are going to be there. We would like to see who can keep us away." They were there, ostensibly, to keep order. We protest perhaps, not by saying anything, because you are probably afraid, absolutely, to say anything.

The CHAIRMAN. Now, did you protest in any way?

Miss FORBES. Not verbally; no. We just stand there for a moment or two, and these two assistants to these women come along and hit us over the shoulder, and tell us to "Get off your clothes at once."

Mr. SIEGEL. Men or women?

Miss FORBES. The two assistants to the women are women. In the examination it was white women examining the women. So, as we turn this corner we take off our clothes. We are packed in so tight that there is the very nauseating odor of the flesh. Our shoulders touch others' shoulders. We are mixed right up, right in one mass. We have our clothes in our hand. Two or three women faint. The children are crying; the children are becoming nauseated. Middle-aged women are crying a little bit. We pass down there. As I say, these stewards are still there, and these men still looking, and we finally get to these two women who give us an examination. I know nothing about medicine and I know nothing about nursing, but it would seem to me that it was a rather perfunctory examination.

But may I interject a moment to say that on the steamship itself we had examinations for cleanliness and for disease, conducted by a doctor and two nurses on the boat—the doctor in strict privacy in the hospital room, with an adjoining room. The doctor there, with more minute detail and carefulness and with much less humiliation, and I would say much greater accuracy, examined the passengers. The same hospital and rooms are now available, but they are not used.

The CHAIRMAN. But you could not examine 500 steerage passengers at quarantine in any time that you would want to hold the boat without creating these other distresses by delaying the immigrants.

Miss FORBES. May I just answer that by saying that the medical examinations was not, to say the least, careful.

Mr. SIEGEL. This examination that you are referring to is not the official examination of the United States Government, is it?

Miss FORBES. Well, it is the quarantine examination.

The CHAIRMAN. The private examination is the ship's examination?

Miss FORBES. Yes.

The CHAIRMAN. And a report of that is made. That is the only way the Federal Government has of knowing of certain diseases, is by the report of the ship's doctor. Now, you were going to state about the half-stripped examination.

Miss FORBES. Which could have been conducted certainly in these two available rooms.

The CHAIRMAN. What was the examination that you got?

Miss FORBES. Oh, ours was simply with the searchlight. The searchlight was put up to us and down our backs and around our bodies to the waist, and in our hair, to look for skin diseases, and between our fingers, and also to see the condition of our hair.

The CHAIRMAN. They were looking for those particular diseases that could be transmitted by the international immigrant?

Miss FORBES. Yes.

The CHAIRMAN. Scalp diseases, ringworm, and such things?

Miss FORBES. Yes.

The CHAIRMAN. How long did that examination of you take?

Miss FORBES. About a half a minute.

The CHAIRMAN. Did they turn back your eyelids?

Miss FORBES. That was done at Ellis Island. I do not know. I can not recall. I realize that it is very difficult to have adequate cleanliness on the ship, because some very small minority were very bad. At the same time there were on board two or three men who came to my notice, and two or three girls, whose standard of cleanliness, when they got on the boat at Queenstown, was as high as yours or mine, who, because of inadequate cleaning facilities or something, when they got off the boat, their hair or skin or something was wrong, and they were in the temporarily disqualified class, which greatly provoked them, indeed.

Then, as we passed before these two women in our examination, we were thrown out on an entirely open deck. Here our protests were verbal and not simply reluctance to move. This one woman would take you and push you out on this absolutely open deck, where there were men around, with our clothes in our hands. It was a thing that one girl alone would not have done. Being in crowds you protected yourself perhaps when you were pushed, or when you were protesting, when you were pushed again and yelled at and told to get out, you did get out.

The CHAIRMAN. Your individuality was lost in the crowd?

Miss FORBES. Yes.

The CHAIRMAN. Well, then what?

Miss FORBES. Well, then, we went up and consulted the United States Government authorities and were counted.

The CHAIRMAN. Then what?

Mr. SIEGEL. Now, just a second. Wasn't this medical examination on board ship made by some representative of the Government?

Miss FORBES. Oh, yes.

Mr. SIEGEL. By the Public Health Service.

Miss FORBES. Oh, yes; at the quarantine station two women, whose status I do not know—the rumor among the intelligent people in the steerage, and there were many of them, was that these two women had no medical or nursing training. I do not make that statement, however, because I do not know. They said they were simply civil-service employees, with absolutely no training in medicine or nursing, although they were passing upon us. I do not make that statement myself, because I do not know.

The CHAIRMAN. Did they wear badges?

Miss FORBES. No.

The CHAIRMAN. Did they have anything indicating the badge of the Public Health Service?

Miss FORBES. No; not visible.

The CHAIRMAN. Not on the caps?

Miss FORBES. They did not have on caps.

The CHAIRMAN. Do you think they were Federal employees?

Miss FORBES. I say the constant rumor was that they were.

The CHAIRMAN. Wasn't it possible to find out?

Miss FORBES. Well, you must remember that when I fall down on accuracy, it was because I was acting this part, and I could not demand information. From the rumor that I heard I would say that they were. I know this very definitely, that these two women, if they did not circulate the rumor, they certainly gave credence to the rumor that tips would be very much appreciated.

The CHAIRMAN. How do you mean they gave credence to it?

Miss FORBES. Well, the little girls who had very little money—some stewardess would say, "If you give these two women money, it will lighten the examination." I know that in the group I was I was practically the only girl who did not tip those two women, and I know those women took money averaging from 25 cents to \$1.50 from girls who had not more than \$5 in their pockets.

The CHAIRMAN. Those were the women that you think were Federal employees?

Miss FORBES. Yes.

The CHAIRMAN. Why didn't you test that out by giving a tip?

Miss FORBES. I did not know anything about the tipping until afterwards.

The CHAIRMAN. So the intimation from the stewardess did not reach you?

Miss FORBES. It did not come to me. It was not definitely said.

The CHAIRMAN. Do you say or don't you say that the stewardess told these girls that if they gave tips it would lighten the examination?

Miss FORBES. I say distinctly that the stewardess told some of the girls, and afterwards I talked to some of the girls, and each girl gave a tip, which was accepted.

Mr. CABLE. Did you hear her tell some of the girls?

Miss FORBES. No.

Mr. CABLE. All you know is what somebody told you?

Miss FORBES. I was in the cabin with these girls, and I know that four girls in the cabin gave her money.

Mr. CABLE. The girls told you?

Miss FORBES. Yes.

Mr. CABLE. That is where you got your information?

Miss FORBES. Yes.

Mr. CABLE. Do you state that this money was given to these two particular women who made the physical examination on board this ship *Celtic*?

Miss FORBES. I do.

Mr. SIEGEL. Have you the names of any of the girls who accompanied you, or who were in the cabin with you?

Miss FORBES. Yes.

Mr. SIEGEL. If you will just let us have their names and addresses, please.

Miss FORBES. Joan Asho, 31 Berrian Street, Worcester, Mass.; Harriet Coleman, care of Mrs. Breeden, Roger Askin School, Hartsdale, N. Y.

This name that I am going to give you now is the name of a man, but his sister-in-law was given such treatment that he wants very much to testify, or he wants at least to bring forth his evidence.

Mr. N. J. Collins, 137 Elm Avenue, Bogota, N. J.

The CHAIRMAN. It was his sister-in-law, you say? What is her name?

Miss FORBES. Hilda Vaarden. I might not have that spelled correctly. May I give you one or two more names, please?

Mr. SIEGEL. Certainly.

Miss FORBES. Elizabeth Sheehan, 25 East Fifty-first Street, New York City.

Mr. SIEGEL. To whom was she going?

Miss FORBES. Well, that is the address. I do not know.

Mr. SIEGEL. That is right in the heart of Fifth Avenue.

Miss FORBES. Well, they all had people that were claiming them. There are two more.

Mr. SIEGEL. Very well. What are their names?

Miss FORBES. Sarah Nash, Maggie Hill, Hewlett, Long Island, care of Mrs. E. P. Bucknell.

Then there was one newspaper man on board, Coulter Blake, of the Anglo-American News Service, 102 Jackson Place, East Baltimore, Md.

The CHAIRMAN. Was he traveling third class?

Miss FORBES. Yes. He did not know who I was, but he said he was a newspaper man, that he was on his uppers and was forced to come back that way.

The CHAIRMAN. You mentioned one girl there that might want to be examined about something else. What was that?

Mr. SIEGEL. Were you not referring to Miss Hilda Vaarden?

Miss FORBES. Yes.

Mr. SIEGEL. Do you want to take that up now?

The CHAIRMAN. Yes; you might as well.

Miss FORBES. Mr. Collins, who is an American citizen, and his wife, from Finland, an American by virtue of her marriage to him, and the sister-in-law, Hilda Vaarden, came over in the steerage. Mr. and Mrs. Collins got off at New York, being American citizens. Hilda Vaarden, speaking not a word of English, having in her possession seven different letters, credentials, papers, stating that Mr. Collins was to call for her and claim her at the island—the day after I got out I came back as an American girl to see how the immigrants fared at Ellis Island. I was looking up an imaginary Beeda Gallagher. I was put in this bull pen arrangement, and Mr. Collins was in the same place with me, with his wife. He was there. He took the first boat after the employees' boat. He got over there at 8.30 o'clock, and he was there all day long. He was courteously but definitely inquiring every half hour about what was the news of Hilda Vaarden, of the *Celtic*. Boys about 17 or 18 years old, who were parading up and down before us with lists, refused to pay any attention to him. He was an American and wanted to go a little higher than these boys. He had a little more assurance than some of the others, perhaps. At 4.30

in the afternoon he insisted on getting somewhere higher than these 17-year-old boys. He got to some one whose name I do not know, and this person told him that Hilda had that morning at 10.30 been shipped out on a train for—I think her destination was in Bogota, N. J. It might have been Minnesota; it might have been New Jersey; but I can not remember. If it was New Jersey, of course it would not be so bad. Remember that she had these papers and letters, and the law, as I understand it, is that she should be claimed by somebody, except in special cases, where an affidavit is required, or some definite testimony.

Mr. SIEGEL. That is a rule or regulation, which is the same as a law.

Miss FORBES. This rule, as he understood it and as I have understood it, has been varied with no authoritativeness. He was rather excited, and his wife got very excited and hysterical, and he called this man and he said that what they were doing to this girl was subjecting her to the possibility of immorality. The man made several rather definitely indecent remarks, I think, and finally the man said—

Mr. SIEGEL. Did you overhear those remarks?

Miss FORBES. No. He told me afterwards. Mr. Collins got more excited, and the man said—his name I do not know; Mr. Collins will know—this man said, "Well, report it to the United States Senate and see if we give a damn."

Mr. CABLE. Did you see this man asking these boys every half an hour about his sister-in-law?

Miss FORBES. No, sir.

Mr. CABLE. In other words, that is what he told you?

Miss FORBES. I see that you want what I know exactly. These two or three things that I am stressing are second hand, are they not?

Mr. SIEGEL. Did you see him approaching any of these boys?

Miss FORBES. Yes; I did.

Mr. SIEGEL. Did you see him ask them any questions?

Miss FORBES. I did.

The CHAIRMAN. Did these boys wear uniforms?

Miss FORBES. No, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. Were they in the room devoted to the various relief societies?

Miss FORBES. No, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. Were they in front of the detention room?

Miss FORBES. They were in this other room here.

Mr. SIEGEL. The information-bureau room?

Miss FORBES. It is only an alley way.

Mr. SIEGEL. Only an alley way?

Miss FORBES. Where he and I were to go if we would meet relatives coming from the boats. We were kept in this room, the doors unlocked, and every once in awhile when 20 people are there to claim 20 relatives, then they let them out.

Mr. SIEGEL. What you call the New York room?

Miss FORBES. I guess so.

Mr. SIEGEL. Do you recall when you left the place?

Miss FORBES. No one claimed me, you see. I had been in America and I had a job.

Mr. SIEGEL. Before you left the place you passed through the New York room, didn't you, in order to get the boat to get to the mainland?

Miss FORBES. I was thrown out of Ellis Island rather forcibly. I do not know whether I went the regular way or not.

Mr. CABLE. What do you mean by that? Will you explain that?

Miss FORBES. Very gladly.

Mr. SIEGEL. Do you not think it is better to go back to the time you got off the boat and got onto the island, so that we can get her story connectedly?

The CHAIRMAN. Well, there are two or three versions to that story. We had better get hers.

Miss FORBES. Mr. Brophy, you mean, has made other remarks?

The CHAIRMAN. I do not know whether Mr. Brophy has.

Mr. SIEGEL. Did you have a talk with Mr. Brophy?

Miss FORBES. Yes.

Mr. SIEGEL. What did he say to you, if anything?

Miss FORBES. To answer that I will have to antedate it a little bit.

The CHAIRMAN. Go ahead in your own way. You gave the name of a girl—not this Finnish girl—but you said that we might want to make some further investigation about her.

Mr. SIEGEL. You made some reference to Miss Harriet Coleman.

Miss FORBES. She refers to this Brophy case.

Mr. SIEGEL. Tell us about the Brophy case then.

For the information of the committee, let me say that Mr. Brophy was in charge of what we call our port office.

Miss FORBES. Chief of inspectors.

Mr. SIEGEL. Chief of inspectors of the port I believe at that time.

The CHAIRMAN. Now, what happened? What happened to Harriet Coleman and how did you learn about it? Did he tell you or did you see it?

Miss FORBES. I was in the jury room—isn't that the room with the long benches?

The CHAIRMAN. The special inquiry room?

Miss FORBES. Yes. I had my various inspections finished. I had been O. K'd in every respect. One inspector was very courteous and very nice. My badge read "Chicago." I forgot that I had to go where I said I was going, and I asked if I might stay over in New York. He asked where I was going. I was told to give him the names of these girls at this women's hotel. He listened to what I had to say and very kindly gave me the stay-over, after having assured himself that I was safe and that I was all right.

As I was leaving, I saw five Irish girls, these girls whose names I have given you, who had been some of my most intimate friends, Harriet Coleman particularly, a young nurse in training, from England and Ireland. They were standing there crying a little bit, I was just ready to go out of this swinging door when I saw them, and they called me over and I went over there. Understand, I did not go over there to try to lay down the laws at all. I was exceedingly humble. I was exceedingly deferential, if you please. I went over there, and Miss Coleman said that she should have notified her sister that she was coming. The girls, through the arrogance of this interpreter the night before, and through the natural indisposition to ask things—probably they did not know enough about things—they are very timid; they are very decent girls—but through the inadequacy of any agency to tell them anything, they had not sent any telegrams, and there were five of them there with no relatives to meet them.

Mr. SIEGEL. Isn't there an Irish immigrant aid society there?

Miss FORBES. But they are held incommunicado, I think they call it. You do not see a welfare agency until you are through, or your case is almost hopeless. I did not see a welfare agency until after I was passed, or after I had been put in the detention room.

The CHAIRMAN. Now, let us see. Your examinations are through and you are on your way out of the island and you saw these girls in distress?

Miss FORBES. Yes. There is no welfare worker yet.

Mr. SIEGEL. How long had you been on the island before you started to go off the island?

Miss FORBES. One day, and then the next day was Columbus Day, and there was not any work done that day.

Mr. SIEGEL. In other words, the 13th of October, was it, that you left?

Miss FORBES. Yes. They had not notified their relatives. They are, as I am, all O. K., but the rule says you must be claimed by relatives; and, naturally, they are new girls there, and they can not be dismissed, but they want to get to their relatives. They want to get to a telephone or a telegraph bureau, and they asked me if I would telephone. They gave me the information. As I am talking, this gentleman comes up, I think properly, to see who I am and what right I have to talk to these girls. I appreciate that, because I might be a very wrong sort of an agent, and I explained to him that I am Genevieve Forbes, and that I came on the boat, and that I am from Ireland, and that by chance I have worked in America before, and that therefore I am a little bit more self-assured than these girls are, and I wanted to get word to their relatives. They are all through with their examinations and they are ready to go. The only thing that is holding them up is that their relatives are not there to claim them?

Mr. SIEGEL. Who is the man you are referring to?

Miss FORBES. P. J. Brophy. He says "The United States Government is taking care of these girls." I say "But they are not. You will not let them get in touch with their people." He says "You can not telephone here. This is not a hotel. We have only one pay telephone on the island." I say "We are willing to pay any charge that is asked for a telephone." He said "You can not go to a telephone." He said "At our own discretion we will communicate with these people." This Harriet Coleman is crying. Technically she is free

to come on to the United States if that cousin or aunt or sister were there to meet her. The only reason that that cousin or aunt or sister is not there is because they can not communicate. So she gives me the telegraph address and asks me to send a telegram. I asked Mr. Brophy if he will allow me to send a telegram, since he will not allow me to use the telephone; if he will send any employee with me to see that I am telling the truth. I have been very respectable; I know my place as well as they do, I think. I am also getting a little excited because I am getting rather nervous. He says "I don't like your impudence and I don't like your sass. You think you are making an impression on me, don't you?" I say "No; but if you are not doing something for these girls I do not see why you can not give me some definite reason why I can not."

Always please bear in mind that I appreciated the possible reason why he was interrogating me and refusing to let me do this. Appreciating that, I was using every definite means to convince him of just what our connections were, and just why we wanted to get to this telephone, and just why I wanted to go to the telegraph bureau. He was not very well pleased with me, and finally he said "The United States Government will take care of these girls when it sees fit," and that he did not like my attitude, and that if I thought I was smart I was not; if I thought I was making a good impression I was not.

He asked for my card. I had this green card, marked "Chicago," pinned on me, which you will remember was definitely passed in every particular. He took it off of me, and he pulled out a blue pencil, and he waived the pencil above the card, and he said "One more word of your impudence and I will keep you here all night." He asked for my name, and I asked him his name. I was getting a little more self-confident, and finally he said "Brophy." He gave me his name. I said "Mr. Brophy, I have been passed in every particular and stamped with the official seal, which entitles me to go. I want to know if you can keep me in face of that." He said "Never mind what I can do." He said "I can keep you here to-night or as many nights as I want to." He said "It is absolutely up to me, and one more word of sass out of you and I will keep you on the island, and I would like to see who can stop me."

Mr. SIEGEL. Then what occurred?

Miss FORBES. His employees were gathering on one side, and he was having them listen to the conversation.

The CHAIRMAN. His employees?

Miss FORBES. Well, I fancy they were. They were inspectors over whom he was chief. Behind him were the girls, who were trying to make me stop, because they feared they had got me involved rather too deeply. After making very clear to me that these rules which I had honored as rules could be arbitrarily set aside by his whim or pique—he repeated that three different ways to me—quite to my satisfaction, and most definite.

Mr. SIEGEL. Well, was it to your complete satisfaction?

Miss FORBES. Yes. Because the worse it was for him the better it was for me, as I figured it. After he had done this he finally put his blue pencil away and he called a colored man from over in the corner and he said "Throw this girl off of the island and see that she don't come back."

Mr. SIEGEL. Was that colored man in uniform?

Miss FORBES. The uniforms were dark blue, and the only thing I can remember is that little gold there on the collar. I would say, yes. He had no cap on. The other men whom I met had caps on.

Mr. SIEGEL. This colored man, was he tall or short?

Miss FORBES. Short and fat.

Mr. SIEGEL. Did you get his name?

Miss FORBES. No; I did not. I hope you will think that if I am inaccurate—I hope you will remember that I was acting my part.

Mr. SIEGEL. There have been previous complaints about colored men. There are two colored men there, and we are trying to get the identification of this one.

Miss FORBES. This man was short, relatively short and fat.

The CHAIRMAN. What did he say to you?

Miss FORBES. I had nothing to complain about him. He did just as he was ordered. He grabbed me by the two arms—

The CHAIRMAN. Now, did he grab you?

Miss FORBES. Yes. There is a runway, you know, there.

The CHAIRMAN. A flight of stairs?

Miss FORBES. To the left as you come out of this room. Mr. Brophy's desk is right there [indicating], and then there is some sort of a runway effect down to the right, as I recall it.

The CHAIRMAN. That takes you to the boat?

Miss FORBES. Yes.

The CHAIRMAN. Did he conduct you? Did he take hold of your arm?

Miss FORBES. Yes. But Mr. Brophy was so mad that, I suppose, it was reflected in the man. I do not feel any particular animus against this colored man.

Mr. SIEGEL. What did he do to you, if anything?

Miss FORBES. Nothing about which I complain.

The CHAIRMAN. How far did he conduct you?

Miss FORBES. Down this runway, and then there is a long channel that goes into the baggage room—there is an abrupt turn to the left—into a little room just before you go out to the boat. He left me there.

The CHAIRMAN. He did not put you entirely on the boat?

Miss FORBES. No.

The CHAIRMAN. Were you supposed to have a ticket for Chicago?

Miss FORBES. No; I had not bought my ticket.

The CHAIRMAN. Was there anything said to you about the line of travel?

Miss FORBES. Well, here again, I suppose my case would not be quite typical, because I had been in America before; and the card, which would ordinarily be shown the immigrant, was, perhaps, not shown me because I had been here before just within 60 days. They wanted to be sure I had the \$25 landing money and then that I had enough for the ticket.

The CHAIRMAN. Your card did not show "Central Railroad of New Jersey and the Baltimore & Ohio"?

Miss FORBES. No.

Mr. SIEGEL. Now, reverting back to the question asked by the chairman, was there anything said to you by any person as to which line you were to use in going to Chicago?

Miss FORBES. Not a word.

Mr. SIEGEL. Although you were destined to Chicago you were allowed to land and stay in New York?

Miss FORBES. I will tell you what happened. My card said "Chicago." He said, "Well, you are through now. Go over there." I said, "I want to stay in New York, if I may, two or three days with a friend here." Of course, I was going to the New York office of the paper, but I had a friend who was employed in New York, who was living at a hotel at Thirty-sixth and Lexington, which is a very respectable, carefully guarded, girls' hotel. I gave him that name and the number of the hotel, and he, without any verification, consulted with some other men and said that I might stay. He crossed off the Chicago and put another mark on and said that I might stay.

Mr. SIEGEL. Did you report to the News in New York—the Illustrated News?

Miss FORBES. Yes; I did not immediately. I went to the McAlpin, and I did within three or four hours.

The CHAIRMAN. You did not go to the girls' hotel?

Miss FORBES. No.

The CHAIRMAN. You went to the McAlpin Hotel?

Miss FORBES. Yes.

The CHAIRMAN. Now, then, as a matter of fact, you were imposing on Mr. Brophy?

Miss FORBES. Yes.

The CHAIRMAN. You were posing as an immigrant girl?

Miss FORBES. Yes. I had fabricated a series of facts, which I justified because I wanted very much to find out this situation, and you could not do it by being an American girl, by being admitted in New York.

The CHAIRMAN. But now you realize that Mr. Brophy is there—

Miss FORBES. He is there to protect girls.

The CHAIRMAN. To protect girls, and that in his experience he has seen adventuresses come there—

Miss FORBES. Exactly.

The CHAIRMAN. Well dressed?

Miss FORBES. I was not well dressed. I was the worst-dressed girl in the steerage.

The CHAIRMAN. And in all disguises that can be adopted, for the particular purpose of enticing girls away from there, away from their true destinations?

Miss FORBES. Exactly.

The CHAIRMAN. You realize that?

Miss FORBES. Yes, sir; exactly.

The CHAIRMAN. So that, the minute that you had been cleared and out of the jam at Ellis Island, where it is always congested, and were on your way, you were lunging back to assist friends, or show an interest in other girls, you realize now that you were running counter to something that the United States is trying to prevent?

Miss FORBES. Exactly; which I tried to explain, and tried to show you that I appreciate it when I testified. That does not explain the fact that he, by a whim, could keep me there that night, or as many nights as he chose, which he said he could.

The CHAIRMAN. Now, let us see. Now, you said that the more you were detained the more it helped your purpose in writing the story.

Miss FORBES. Yes. By the fact that I was going to try to play myself into a bad adventurer. As a matter of fact, I had a much better time than any girl in that steerage, because I passed every examination, because I had a certain amount of inherent assurance.

The CHAIRMAN. Yes; but you wanted stories.

Miss FORBES. Yes; when they came to me.

The CHAIRMAN. And your experience at Ellis Island had not been so very startling up to the moment that you left the island with your full clearance and O. K. in every respect?

Miss FORBES. But I did not go to these girls thinking, "Here is a grand newspaper story." I went to those girls because they were crying.

Mr. SIEGEL. We have not as yet heard what occurred after she was brought off of the ship, on the barge to the island, or what occurred on the island previous to her leaving. Now, after you left the ship *Celtic* you were placed on a barge, were you not?

Miss FORBES. Yes.

Mr. SIEGEL. And you were taken to the island?

Miss FORBES. Yes.

Mr. SIEGEL. Just go ahead with that in full and tell us exactly what occurred.

Miss FORBES. I do not want to be argumentative or show bad taste, but may I make one remark? The chairman, Mr. Johnson's remark that up to this time my adventures had not been startling, doesn't that rather defeat the charges that have been made against me as having very greatly exaggerated things? My charges were not very startling. I went over there because 9 or 10 people had definitely made charges of gross immorality. I found none. I found what I thought were distinctly indiscretions. The very fact that my charges were not startling, but were nevertheless provocative enough to make people from all over the country interested in them, shows to you the validity of what I was trying to do.

The CHAIRMAN. Well, I grant that; but I was just calling attention to the fact that you were leaving the island when this incident occurred.

Now, we are going to let you come back to when you were leaving the ship.

Mr. SIEGEL. In other words, the chairman is only trying to obtain the facts. It is not a question of argument.

Miss FORBES. Well, after that first examination, Monday, after quarantine—

Mr. SIEGEL. You mean that was Monday, October 10?

Miss FORBES. Yes. We stayed on board all that day. The immigrants in third class were lauded, and the quarters were fenced off, as they had to be, because the colored people had to go in and unload the ship.

On Tuesday morning we got up to go to Ellis Island. We got up early and had to form in this line. Here, may I say, that I have been around in crowds enough to know that you have to be quick. You can not treat people as individuals. But you could have told us something. We were just pushed on. We got on, and in about two hours, these examinations of our papers—we got onto the immigrant dock.

The CHAIRMAN. The technical examination of papers—what was that; your passports?

Miss FORBES. Yes; the passports and the green medical card which had been stamped by the steamship officials, which was now either turned in or else given a final stamp. I think it was turned in.

The CHAIRMAN. And an examination as to what money you had?

Miss FORBES. Not there; no. This was just as we were getting off the boat. And then there was the luggage; but that is not particularly necessary. There

was a colored man waiting to put us on the tender. There was nothing vulgar about him, nothing to which you could object other than the fact that he was pretty arbitrary; but that might have been necessary.

Mr. SIEGEL. Was he in blue uniform also?

Miss FORBES. Yes, sir.

We got on. They were simply in a hurry or simply businesslike. That was all right. Some of the girls were worried about it. That was because they did not know. It was not the fault of the officials. I distinguish very much between the ordinary incivility and the humiliation and indecency.

We got on the tender and were put up on the second platform of it. It was simply dirty, and small, but perhaps it had to be. There was a narrow stairway leading down to the first floor and the door, which was barred from the outside. I know it was barred, for one of the women and her little youngster wanted to get down to see the husband, or some one downstairs, and they could not get past this door. It was guarded by two men, who were the two worst men that I have met. The tender—it was either the *Adlle* or the *General Putnam*; I do not remember which. There are two immigration barges. I went back on the *General Putnam*. It is my impression that I came over to the island on the *General Putnam*; but it might have been the *Adlle*. It is one of the two. The man in charge was a man about 30 years old, of medium size, rather medium height, rather slight. He is not the man who was there before. There has been another man with a one-syllable name, and it was not he. It was his alternate. He got on. We were up in this upstairs. This man came along and, as I understand, he is not a Government official, yet he was in charge of us. Our interpreter left us on board ship. There was no one there to talk to those who could not speak the English language. This man in charge and his assistant kept coming around and telling the girls what was going to happen to them, that they wished they were going to be there when the women were going to be examined. A little Hungarian girl came up this narrow stairway, and she was pretty and she was little. She was slight. She was perhaps ill-able to take care of herself. Her skirts founced up above her knee. She was a little bit too ostentatious, perhaps, and this man called her over and put his arm around her shoulder and said, "Don't worry about that; don't worry about your knees showing; you are going to show a lot more before it is over." He stayed around with her a little while.

We got to Ellis Island after a little while. We were perhaps a half hour before any of us got off.

Mr. SIEGEL. How long were you on this barge?

Miss FORBES. Well, just about the time it takes to go from the dock to Ellis Island. That is about 45 minutes, isn't it? Then we got there and tied up, and were there perhaps another half an hour. The officials would go back and forth. I do not know what they were doing. Then they began to call the men in groups of perhaps 20. No one had told these men anything about it. There was on board a foreign family, a Frenchman with his wife and three or four children and grandmother. The Frenchman had the passports, and he did not know anything about anything that was going on, and this man in charge came over and told him that it was time to go down, and grabbed him away. He yelled, "Family, family." His people clung to him, in perhaps rather ridiculous manner; he did not know where he was going. He had the passports and the papers, and there was no one to explain anything to him. This man who was in charge grabbed at him and swore a bit at him, said he was holding up things, which he was, and knocked him down the stairs. Then—

The CHAIRMAN. Did he knock him down the stairs?

Miss FORBES. When I say "knock" I am not being extravagant. He pushed him down. He did not plunge him down.

Mr. SIEGEL. Well, you know, when you use the word "knock" you want to be accurate.

Miss FORBES. Then the various 20 or 25 had gone—

The CHAIRMAN. This Frenchman got his family together, did he?

Miss FORBES. I do not know. The last time I saw them they were not together.

The CHAIRMAN. He was sent down with the men?

Miss FORBES. Of course, they could not be together, but could not some one have told him that?

The CHAIRMAN. How many languages do these men have to be able to speak to tell everything to these immigrants?

Miss FORBES. I do not know. I am not clever enough to devise a system, but I should think there should be some card posted or something to tell.

After these various delegations would go, there was finally a little boy, about 12 years old, maybe 10 years, who was left up with the women and children. The man yelled, "Is there any more men up here?" Some old Scotch woman, who did not know this boy, said, "There is a little boy up here, about 12. He ought to go with you." He said, "It is too late now; he has got to stay here." He came up and he says, "I would give a lot to have your chance to-day. They are going to take off all of your clothes, and I would give a lot to have your chance."

Mr. SIEGEL. Was this man in uniform?

Miss FORBES. No, sir; but he was in charge of us.

Mr. SIEGEL. Did he have a badge on or anything like that?

Miss FORBES. No, sir; he had a business suit on.

Mr. SIEGEL. Didn't he have a badge on the lapel of his coat or something?

Miss FORBES. No, sir.

Mr. SIEGEL. All right. Proceed.

Miss FORBES. So this little boy was kept up there. The women were still on board. The men went up this line to the end of Ellis Island, and pretty soon they, or some of the others, we could not tell who, were passing by one of the rooms with their clothes off. This same man would come up to the girls and point out to them the men going through and make remarks about it.

Mr. SIEGEL. In English?

Miss FORBES. Yes; although he spoke some foreign language, too.

As I say, without being feminine or hysterical, it did seem to me that it was very easy, if you were young, if you were pretty, to capitalize, in at least minor ways, any sex charms that you might have. They would be very glad to be with you. If you were not young, if you were not pretty, if you were not able to take care of yourself, all you got was to be yelled at.

The CHAIRMAN. He was in charge of the barge, assembling these people and grouping them and getting them over to Ellis Island?

Miss FORBES. Yes, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. And then go back for another barge load?

Miss FORBES. Yes. But he was for that time in command of us.

The CHAIRMAN. He was flip and coarse?

Miss FORBES. He was flip and coarse and indecent, I think, and inefficient. Those two men were the worst ones that I met.

We got off and we were hurried in to Ellis Island. Rather hurried a little too much, inasmuch as that when certain groups would get in, when the room would be filled, they would close the door, quite naturally, but the children would be slipping back a pace or two, and they would be left out. There was a little boy in front of me, 5 years old, carrying a part of the family chattels, which was a large feather bed sort of a thing, and he, not being able to keep pace with his mother, and his mother not being allowed to slow down with him, his mother had gone in in the first group. It was a temporary absence, but it was enough to make it a little terrifying, and unnecessarily so.

Finally we got into this room, and in the middle of the room is a man whose cap says "Watchman." He is a middle-aged man with a mustache. He had no number on his uniform that I could see. He was standing in the middle of the room. There were painters on a scaffold near-by, and two or three internes in those white robes, standing near a turnstile. We were put in the circle. It is very much impressed upon us that we are to move quickly and that we are to keep this line. There is a woman about four paces in front of me who is in a very delicate condition and should not be standing at all.

She wavers out of line a little bit, and this man who was standing in the middle runs over to her, and he very definitely pushes her—she is out of alignment perhaps a foot—and he pushes her back into the line, saying, "Stay over there where you belong."

The CHAIRMAN. Are you referring to the man who had the word "Watchman"?

Miss FORBES. On his cap; yes, sir. The women sort of shuddered when they saw him do this. The woman back of her, I think it was, put forward her suit case for this other woman to sit down on, but she looked at the suit case, and then she looked at the man, and she stood up.

There are little incidents like that that may be discounted. We are told to take off our hats and put down our hair. You can not do it in just a second,

which is what he wants you to do, and if you do not he comes over there and takes hold of you. One girl was a little slow about taking off her cap, and he came over there and yanked her cap off. The children get out of line. He makes passes at them. He stands there keeping up this running flow of conversation, and very definitely coming over and hitting them into line. He is the watchman.

We get up to the turnstile, and then we get through and two doctors who are in uniform are there. It seems to me an unnecessarily quick way they push us through, but perhaps not. The first doctor examines our teeth. He grabs hold of your head and you are pushed forward, here and here and here. He takes one hand and jerks it in a downward sweep as far as it will go, and then closes your mouth together again. It seems very perfunctory, as well as rather rough.

Mr. SIEGEL. It is not perfunctory at all.

Miss FORBES. It may not be. Then we come on to the man who examines our eyes, who turns back the eyelid. I thought again perhaps it was perfunctory. If it was worth doing, it was worth doing right. It is a never-ending line. There is no waiting. It is so quickly done, but it may be very thoroughly done.

Mr. SIEGEL. He is looking for trachoma when he is pulling the eyelids up. You can tell that very quickly.

Miss FORBES. Well, then, we got into the jury room which I mentioned.

The CHAIRMAN. You just had two doctors; one looked at your mouth and exercised the muscles and nerves?

Miss FORBES. Yes.

The CHAIRMAN. And the other gave you the eye test?

Miss FORBES. Yes, sir. I do not know anything about medicine, and I do not know how definitely you can tell from a superficial examination some of the diseases. But it does seem to me that I was not examined very rigorously.

Mr. SIEGEL. You had been examined on board ship?

Miss FORBES. Almost mostly for your garments, for lice, as a matter of fact.

The CHAIRMAN. If that examination had lasted for a half an hour, how long would it have taken to have examined that 500 on this same ship?

Miss FORBES. I presume if they had this same number to examine it would have taken quite a long time.

The CHAIRMAN. Now, this was on the first floor. You did not have to climb any stairs yet, did you?

Miss FORBES. No, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. You had your baggage?

Miss FORBES. Yes.

The CHAIRMAN. And did the other women have their baggage?

Miss FORBES. Yes.

The CHAIRMAN. Some of them lots of baggage?

Miss FORBES. Yes.

The CHAIRMAN. Did you complain that there was no one to assist them with the baggage?

Miss FORBES. I did not make any complaints at all until I met Mr. Brophy.

The CHAIRMAN. You did not write that women were not given any help with their baggage?

Miss FORBES. No, sir. Mrs. McNish is the one who did that.

The CHAIRMAN. You were not at Ellis Island when they had to climb the stairs with their baggage and babies?

Miss FORBES. Oh, yes; after this. The jury room is on the second floor.

The CHAIRMAN. But the first smash is not upstairs? It was on the first floor. That was one of Commissioner Wallace's reforms. He was still in charge while you were there?

Miss FORBES. Yes. It was just the last week of his régime, I guess.

The CHAIRMAN. Now, you are in what you call the jury room?

Miss FORBES. Yes. I do not know whether that is the technical word for it.

The CHAIRMAN. In the long room?

Miss FORBES. Yes. I rather imagine the one that is called the jury room is the one where these special judges come up.

The CHAIRMAN. This is where you are, in the long room, and there are inspectors sitting at high desks, and they call out the names once in a while?

Miss FORBES. Yes.

The CHAIRMAN. Now, what happened there?

Miss FORBES. May I say, the lavatories there were exceptionally clean, but we were not permitted to get to them. There were women there, you know,

with children. We were there perhaps from 11.30 in the morning until 5 o'clock. It might have been later than 11.30 when we got upstairs, because in a short time we got these two sandwiches and coffee.

Mr. SIEGEL. That was served to you afterwards?

Miss FORBES. Yes; as we sat there.

The CHAIRMAN. You sat on a bench along with the other Irish immigrants?

Miss FORBES. Yes. I was put in with the people who did not speak English—I do not know why. The man who was assigned to us shoved me into this row. We did not have any inspector. It might have been chance, or it might have been that we, not speaking English, could not protest.

Mr. SIEGEL. What date was this now, Wednesday?

Miss FORBES. No, sir; this was Tuesday, October 11.

Mr. SIEGEL. This was in the afternoon?

Miss FORBES. Yes. It was before 12 when we went in there. It was the first one before the platform. The other crowds had inspectors, and I asked two or three of the young people going by if they knew when the inspector was coming, and of course they did not answer me.

Mr. SIEGEL. Well, they were slightly handicapped that particular day and the following day.

Miss FORBES. Well, I presume that perhaps might have been the reason.

The CHAIRMAN. How long did you stay in that bunch?

Miss FORBES. Well, that afternoon. There were four little children there with their mother. She had been put in some other room, and this young fellow came along there, and he was telling me and telling anyone else that he was at all interested in to move forward, because these children, it did not make any difference when they got through; it was all right for us to step up in front of them. They kept getting pushed back and back until they just stood in the last place.

The CHAIRMAN. These were orphan children?

Miss FORBES. No. Their mother was about the island some place. They were alone temporarily.

Mr. CABLE. How old were they?

Miss FORBES. The oldest one was maybe 14.

Mr. CABLE. And the other ones?

Miss FORBES. One was about 5 and one was about 9, and there were two of them about 14, a boy and a girl. They did not speak English. I saw them just pushed back ever so many times. That seemed to be their permanent position, at the end.

Mr. CABLE. Was this some employee of the Government who suggested that you go ahead of them?

Miss FORBES. Yes; this was the young man—he was not one of the inspectors, but he was there.

Mr. SIEGEL. Did he have a badge on?

Miss FORBES. None of them had badges on.

The CHAIRMAN. Well, let us go on.

Miss FORBES. While I was sitting there, though, I did see two or three women inspectors. One woman who was particularly splendid and fine, who was taking care of some children, was talking at the same time about what she termed the inconsistency of the matter of a mother and two children, all with the same disease, some trifling thing, I do not know what it was, sufficiently trifling so that it was cured within a day or two—that the mother had been sent back to the ship from which she came. I think it was the *Kronland*, and the two children, with the identical disease, demanding identical treatment, were detained at the island. They were just little youngsters, and they were pretty easily excited. She commented then on what she termed the inconsistency of this arrangement. She seemed very efficient and very splendid; very kindly.

Mr. CABLE. You do not know anything about the disease except what she told you?

Miss FORBES. No; that is hearsay again.

Now, here comes the one acknowledged inaccuracy in my report. The other girls, many of them, with whom I was, did not finish that day, but were sent back to the boat and stayed there all day Columbus Day. They came back on Thursday, the 14th, and were dismissed then. Because I had been in America before, I suppose I got through more quickly. The inspector finally came, about 5 minutes to 5, and I got through that day. But I had gotten to be very good friends with the stewardess.

Mr. SIEGEL. You mean Thursday, October 13, wasn't it?

Miss FORBES. Yes. So that, as a matter of fact, I was discharged 5 minutes of 5 on Tuesday. I went back to the boat on Wednesday, October 12, because I wanted to see the stewardess. I had gotten to be good friends with her and I went back to see her, and then I saw these other girls, so I was on the boat, but I was not detained there. Then Thursday they went to Ellis Island and got through there.

Mr. SIEGEL. Were you allowed to go on board that boat?

The CHAIRMAN. Now, we are coming to it. When you left the boat the second time, how did you come back through Ellis Island?

Miss FORBES. I did not come back through Ellis Island. This was a personal friend of the stewardess.

Mr. SIEGEL. Well now, you have jumped your story. You were before the inspectors?

Miss FORBES. Yes; but I wanted to explain to you the one acknowledged inaccuracy in my story.

Mr. SIEGEL. What we are trying to do is to get a consecutive story.

The CHAIRMAN. Now, when did you have the affair with Brophy?

Miss FORBES. Oh, Tuesday, because I was discharged 5 minutes to 5 on Tuesday. I had my affair with him 15 to minutes of 5 on Tuesday.

The CHAIRMAN. So, after the boy took you out to the boat for the city, what did you do?

Miss FORBES. Oh, I went right up to the McAlpin and called up my mother in Chicago.

The CHAIRMAN. You were on the island what night before that?

Mr. SIEGEL. Monday night.

Miss FORBES. May I restate that. Monday morning was quarantine. Monday all day we stayed on the boat.

Mr. SIEGEL. You mean on board ship.

Miss FORBES. Yes. Tuesday morning we all left for Ellis Island. We got through these examinations by noon. We went to the jury room, and in my line there was no inspector until perhaps half past 4, or probably just before that. At 5 minutes to 5, Tuesday, October 11, I was out of Ellis Island. I had had my affair with Harriet Coleman and Mr. Brophy. I went to New York. I went to the McAlpin and got fixed up. Wednesday was Columbus Day. There was nothing on the island.

I knew the stewardess, and I went back to the *Colt* at the New York dock to see her, and I talked then with three or four or five of my Irish girl friends. I did not go on the boat. I just got on the gangway there for perhaps an hour. Thursday these girl friends of mine, with whom I had spent a part of Wednesday, came to Ellis Island and got through the island. In my story, one acknowledged inaccuracy that I make, in article 12 or 13, I say that I got out Thursday with these girls. I want to be very sure that you know that I am not consciously trying to put something over.

The CHAIRMAN. So, when the authorities investigated the stories they found that discrepancy?

Miss FORBES. Well, I do not know. I did not know that they found any discrepancy. I did not know that they had investigated.

Mr. SIEGEL. Oh, yes; they have looked into the matter quite thoroughly, because when the articles appeared in the news, I brought it to their attention at once.

Miss FORBES. I do not recall going out then. I went right back to the island, and visited all the welfare workers, so evidently they had not read it that soon.

The CHAIRMAN. You were not in the room for the temporarily detained?

Miss FORBES. I went back this Thursday that I am speaking of. I went back there and stayed in the bull pen for a while, and saw some girl friends of mine, but not very long that day. I left and went down in the welfare rooms. I visited Mr. Kusumono, of the Italian consulate. I visited Miss Wheeler, of the Baptist Church. I visited the girls in charge of the Congregational. I was in the very crowded room where the agencies are.

Mr. SIEGEL. That has been changed since you have been there. Commissioner Todd has now provided separate rooms for them, so that there will not be any crowding.

Miss FORBES. It seemed very crowded while I was there.

Mr. SIEGEL. There will be no crowding there, because Commissioner Todd has provided benches and additional hall, and he has made a complete change there, so that you can not recognize that part of the work.

Miss FORBES. These welfare workers, I do not agree at all with Mrs. McNish; but I did think that they were spending a lot of time on statistics, and not so much on welfare work. Miss Wheeler told me that she had profound respect for the chiefs in the Immigration Bureau, but that the subordinates were very difficult to deal with, and that she realized that there should be some more welfare agencies, but they were not permitted. Apparently she had asked for assistance, and at the other agencies as well as hers they would prefer to do the little work they were allowed to do without making complaint, rather than making complaint and having it all minimized.

I realize, as Mr. Johnson has suggested, that time is valuable, but if there had been one or two agencies or mediums of assurance, it would not have held us in this very terrified state. It would, I think, have made us cooperate with the United States Government, and work a little faster. I may be wrong, but I feel that way.

Mr. SIEGEL. Were there any representatives of the Hebrew Shelter and Immigrant Aid Society on board ship at the time?

Miss FORBES. No, sir.

Mr. SIEGEL. When the ship arrived?

Miss FORBES. No, sir. There was one man on board who was spokesman for all Jewish people on board, but it was through the kindness of his heart.

Mr. CABLE. How much time, altogether did you spend investigating this situation there?

Miss FORBES. Well, I was there all day Thursday, and I went over again on Friday.

Mr. CABLE. How much of that time did you spend making that kind of investigation?

Miss FORBES. My investigation was never into the real statistical side of their work. My investigation was the cursory kind that you would make, just going through, to see their equipment, their nurseries, and things like that.

Mr. CABLE. How many did you visit altogether?

Miss FORBES. Well, it was my impression that I saw everything.

Mr. CABLE. How many were there?

Miss FORBES. In this crowded room there were agencies of perhaps 20 denominational and racial groups. Then we were taken upstairs. This girl said, "Take off your hat, and they will think you are a worker; otherwise they will not let you go through here."

The CHAIRMAN. Who said that?

Miss FORBES. It is not Miss Weller. Miss Weller will know what the name is, though. She is a young Polish girl.

The CHAIRMAN. Representing one of these working societies?

Miss FORBES. Yes.

Mr. CABLE. Did you stop at each of those 20 societies?

Miss FORBES. Not stop; no. Here is this large room with desks crowded into it, and the various agents are there. I met seven or eight of them.

Mr. CABLE. How much time did you spend at each one?

Miss FORBES. A very brief time.

Mr. CABLE. Five minutes?

Miss FORBES. I was there not more than an hour.

Mr. CABLE. You spent about an hour, then, in the total investigation of the aid societies?

Miss FORBES. No, sir. I spent an hour in this room, and then this girl took me around to the various—you see the large racial and denominational groups have certain different situations. The Baptists have a nursery. The Congregationalists have something else for the next room. Somebody else has something else for some other department.

The CHAIRMAN. Has anybody got a laundry there? Any denominational laundry?

Miss FORBES. I did not see any denominational laundry. This Miss Wheeler's friend said, "If you keep your coat and hat on they will not let you go through here." She said, "If you take off your coat and hat they will think you are a worker." I remember at the time I happened to have pumps. She said, "It is too bad that you have pumps on, because they would not think that you would be here working in the pumps." So I took off my hat and coat and I went through, and it took me, to go around through these nurseries, from probably 10.30 until 3 o'clock. I just saw it. That is all I could do. I went through the dormitories, where they have the double-deckers; the iron frame and spring, and one blanket. The girl said it was quite clean; it was quite clean, very clean. There were perhaps 40 double-deckers in this room.

The CHAIRMAN. And one blanket to the bed?

Miss FORBES. One blanket—there is a double-decker, so there are two blankets to each bed.

The CHAIRMAN. One blanket to each pair of springs?

Miss FORBES. Yes. Mrs. Glenville protested about the dirt and filth. I did not find that borne out.

The CHAIRMAN. Who is Mrs. Glenville?

Miss FORBES. She is a lady who has registered a protest through diplomatic circles. She was hysterical, I think.

Mr. CABLE. Your idea is that they do not give enough time to the purpose that they are there for, but spend too much time on the records?

Miss FORBES. The welfare workers?

Mr. CABLE. Yes.

Miss FORBES. That is only a vague sort of an impression that I got, which was contradicted, perhaps, by statements of Miss Wheeler and others, that they did what they could do, rather than fight and not be allowed to do anything.

Mr. CABLE. Do you also think that some of these welfare workers could assist the Government in any way?

Miss FORBES. No, sir. I think if it could consistently be done, without slowing down the routine, it would be very well if there were some representatives, not of the racial or denominational groups, to sort of give these people a little information. You see, you do not know what is happening to you. You can not ask anyone, and you get very confused and mixed up.

Mr. CABLE. Do you think the immigrants would have more confidence in these welfare workers than in a representative of the Government?

Miss FORBES. I think they would, very much more, in the welfare workers than in those employees of the Government that I saw.

Mr. WHITE. You think, do you, that they would have less fear of them?

Miss FORBES. I would think so.

Mr. WHITE. And they might inspire some confidence?

Miss FORBES. Yes.

Mr. SIEGEL. You know that it is only of recent origin that the coffee and sandwiches are being served, that there was a time when all the immigrants had to stay outside, on the island, outside of the buildings, and get their bite, as they call it, out there?

Miss FORBES. I presume the tendency has been toward betterment.

Mr. SIEGEL. There has been quite an amelioration of conditions during the past year.

Miss FORBES. Along the line of food.

This does not fall in at this place, probably, but I would like to mention it, and perhaps ask about it. If I had been going to Chicago, as I was supposed to be, there was only one opportunity to get something to eat before I would leave. There is that cafeteria away down to the right, where the employees go, but here is the railroad room, and there is a concession rented out to a Mr. J. J. Lucier. It is the only place, as far as I know, where an immigrant going out to Nevada or Illinois could get food to take with them on this trip. There were lunch boxes there which were sold. I looked through the glass and there were two cheese sandwiches and ham sandwiches and I think an apple. I am not vouching for every one of these items, but that was the general make-up. One box was a dollar, and a slightly larger box, with a few more things, was \$1.50. I heard a great deal of comment about it, and also the question of who got the concession and why did they get it.

The CHAIRMAN. You understand that is all supervised by the Government, and was done to prevent fraud on the outside as well as on the inside.

Mr. SIEGEL. Now, the prices are not exorbitant, because I went over there Friday morning, all of a sudden, and I inspected those boxes all of a sudden. There was no one knew I was coming. There has been a new arrangement by Commissioner Todd by which you do not have to buy a new box, if you do not want to. You can buy separate articles, and the price is posted conspicuously.

Miss FORBES. That was not done when I was there.

Mr. SIEGEL. Since Commissioner Todd came in, that has been done. I will say that he is trying to do all that he can regarding the food line. It is hard to watch everything on the island all the time, but as far as price is concerned I think the price is very fair. I do not know where you could get hard-boiled eggs for 5 cents apiece. You can buy as many as you want for 5 cents each now.

Mr. CABLE. How much is the box?

Mr. SIEGEL. \$1 and \$1.50, depending on the size.

Mr. CABLE. What do you get?

Mr. SIEGEL. You get a half a dozen sandwiches, and you get several apples, and you get other kinds of fruit. You get a piece of cheese. It is well worth the money.

The CHAIRMAN. As a matter of fact, that family box is much cheaper than the same amount of food is sold for at any railroad restaurant at any city in New Jersey or probably in Chicago.

Mr. SIEGEL. Absolutely. Then it has been changed in this respect. You can buy each separate article individually at a very small price, so that you do not have to take a whole box. You can take the uniform box if you want to. The price of everything is posted conspicuously. They had no more idea than the man in the moon that I was going to drop in there on December 1. I did it purposely to see just whether the changes were made. The changes in regard to these welfare organizations have been such that the people who go over there to see them have rows of benches to sit on.

Miss FORBES. But my articles were written before those changes were made.

Mr. SIEGEL. I know that.

The CHAIRMAN. My experience is that each commissioner who comes in begins to inaugurate new reforms, and does the best he can, and in spite of all the various reforms, and everything done, there are still complaints of condition. Just why, we do not know. Mr. Wallace has us all hoping for great changes. He told us all the various stories and pointed out the dirty places, and was going to have everything cleaned up inside of 30 days. He did everything that he could. He tore out lavatories, cleaned out the sewers, fixed the doors and everything, and in a few months, according to the stories, it was as bad as it ever was.

Miss FORBES. Not as far as cleanliness is concerned.

Mr. SIEGEL. The physical construction of the building is such that it was never intended to handle the number of cases which it is called upon to handle.

The CHAIRMAN. I think so.

Mr. SIEGEL. And in addition to that, it is practically impossible for any commissioner to pay the wages of the kind of men that he has over there. It is just the same as a police commissioner.

The CHAIRMAN. Is there anything else now, Miss Forbes?

Miss FORBES. May I make another remark, please?

The CHAIRMAN. Certainly.

Miss FORBES. I heard statements made that these people there are not paid adequately and that is the reason, perhaps, we get that sort of people. But it did seem to me that so many of the people at the island were not Americans in nationality and were not Americans in spirit. I mean the American man, when he gets mad, he just gets mad. It is really these foreigners who are much worse than the Americans.

Mr. SIEGEL. Do you know that every one of those boys that you have been referring to are boys that were in the service on the other side, and that not a single one of those boys could get employment on the island unless he was a veteran who had seen service on the other side? The reason he did not have a uniform on was that the Government did not provide any, and the salary paid is so poor that he could not buy one. Now, that is the condition about which you were not aware.

Miss FORBES. No; I was not.

Mr. SIEGEL. Besides that, they have to have another qualification. They have to know an additional language besides the English language. And then you ask them to go over there for \$25 a week, and do all that work that they are called upon to do, and work seven days a week.

Miss FORBES. Of course, there is the thought to be considered, but the fact that they were ex-service men, of course, is to be commended, but there were lots of men in the service who could be brutal and who could be indecent.

Mr. SIEGEL. Perhaps they were talking to some of the immigrants the way some of the officers talked to them.

Miss FORBES. That may be true.

Mr. SIEGEL. The great trouble with Ellis Island has been, and is now, the physical construction, plus the lack of decent pay to the men.

After you have had some men who have been there 20 or 30 years, they are part of the system; and the same would apply to the police system. I am not defending their actions, because this committee has tried in every possible way

to ameliorate these conditions every time we have been over there, and we have been over there a number of times.

The CHAIRMAN. Are you ready to make any recommendations, Miss Forbes?

Miss FORBES. May I make a brief résumé of what I said and what in my humble opinion might be possible? First of all, let me say that I did not go over there with any feeling of unlimited immigration to this country. I would not make this country the getting-off country, morally or any other way. If you want one a week or seven a month, let them come, but treat them sort of decently.

On this ship, when I came to know these people—that is, while I do not sentimentalize about them, while I do not ignore the fact that they were a dirty mess of filthy humanity—where I knew they were coming over here for money, even girls, with a grossly exaggerated idea of the opportunities, girls who have been doing the hardest kind of manual labor on farms, domestic girls who were poorly trained, who were expecting to come over here and make good money and dictate terms to American mistresses, but, in addition to that, the very large majority of them were definitely interested—idealistically, if you please, in America and in its principles. They were accustomed to law. They were accustomed to regulation. They were accustomed to obeying officials. As you go over there and see the laws which could be explained so easily as being attractive to America, and which are highly justifiable—in fact, should be more protective in my opinion—when we see them administered in a haphazard way, when we see them carried out by people who are indecent, when we see the rules twisted sometimes, when we see ourselves absolutely ignored, while we who came on board came here for money particularly, and particularly because we liked America and because we were almost in awe of the Yanks—we were human—and when we see these things happening we come into America pretty well dissatisfied with any kind of law or regulation.

Mr. SIEGEL. You have to admit, however, that the great trouble, to a large extent, was on board ship, as far as the stewards were concerned, and these others that you mentioned?

Miss FORBES. Yes; I do not think the steamship lines are exculpable by any manner of means.

Mr. SIEGEL. We have no jurisdiction over those steamships, because under the international law they are supreme.

Miss FORBES. I do think this—I do not know anything about international relations—but I do think that the doctors, even the better kind of doctors on the English ship, resent the American interference, which is legitimate, and I think there is a feeling there that does not help the immigrant's case very much.

The CHAIRMAN. Feeling in what way?

Miss FORBES. The English doctor rather resents the American supervision in any possible way?

The CHAIRMAN. The doctor belongs to the ship?

Miss FORBES. Yes.

The CHAIRMAN. And he wants his diagnosis or his statement or report issued to be final?

Miss FORBES. Yes; the way it is on the other side.

The CHAIRMAN. Did you hear of the case a little while ago at Ellis Island where these American doctors did not like the looks of a man's skin?

Miss FORBES. The leprosy case, you mean?

The CHAIRMAN. Yes; the leprosy case.

Miss FORBES. Yes.

Now, briefly, anything that I would have to say would be, if possible, to have more definite jurisdiction of the minor officials.

Mr. SIEGEL. You mean more supervision?

Miss FORBES. Yes.

The CHAIRMAN. Have you been at Ellis Island on any day when a couple of ships unload 1,600 or 2,000 non-English speaking people at the island?

Miss FORBES. No. But, of course, I know that your voice gets higher when you try to get a person to understand.

Mr. SIEGEL. Have you been at Ellis Island when a ship arrived from the Mediterranean with all non-English speaking people?

Miss FORBES. No, sir.

Mr. SIEGEL. You have not seen that situation?

Miss FORBES. No, sir.

Mr. SIEGEL. You have not seen a shipload arrive with people from Russia, with people entirely foreign to our customs, not only in dress and speech, but ways of living?

Miss FORBES. No.

Mr. SIEGEL. You can not imagine how hard it would be to handle them at all until you see that.

Miss FORBES. But, as the paper which I represent suggested editorially a little while ago, does everybody have to come to Ellis Island? Is that the only place available in the world?

Mr. SIEGEL. No; we have got a station down here at Charleston, S. C., with no ships going there.

The CHAIRMAN. They are using it for an over-all factory, and the over-all factory has gone broke.

Miss FORBES. I quite agree in the fact that underpaid officials are very much overworked; but does that explain the whole system?

The CHAIRMAN. Well, now, we will assume that your Irish girl friends, after they got sifted down a little, learned that the Government had begun to get busy on telegrams to find their relatives. Would you favor the holding of those girls temporarily in custody for a long enough period to find the relatives—in St. Louis, Mo., for instance?

Miss FORBES. Oh, undoubtedly.

The CHAIRMAN. You would not care whether it was two weeks or not?

Miss FORBES. I would, if it were humanly possible, have a system so that they would know whether that relative was going to be there when they got there.

The CHAIRMAN. Of course, that is all undertaken, as far as the Government can do so; but you understand that when people are temporarily detained, the Government sifts that down, and the Government goes to considerable effort and expense pursuing these relatives. In many cases the Government telegraphs here, there, and everywhere, and each one who is detained down there for any period of time just adds to the congestion at Ellis Island?

Miss FORBES. Yes, sir; I understand that.

The CHAIRMAN. And adds to the distress of the people who are detained, and who can not understand why they are being detained.

Miss FORBES. If they could get out they could find their relatives, or if they could find some friend they might get in touch with their relatives.

Mr. SIEGEL. A striking example of that was a case we had the other day. There is an Elizabethport, N. Y., and an Elizabethport, N. J. The telegraph boy sent the telegram to Elizabethport, N. Y., instead of Elizabethport, N. J. The family was held up nearly a week. There are a lot of those incidents resulting without any fault on the part of the people. Personally, I feel that the remedy at the island is a change in the physical construction of the place, and increased pay for proper and efficient employees of the Government; and I might go one step farther, and say that we might in the course of time get some arrangement with the steamship companies to carry United States inspectors on board, including women matrons.

The CHAIRMAN. You were not in the detention room?

Miss FORBES. My articles were not concerned with that at all. There were not any sensational exposés of Ellis Island, because I did not pretend to analyze it. My charges are against the way the immigrants are conducted, from two points, which you say is not true; that they were not protected enough.

The CHAIRMAN. Oh, no. We have stood for heavier medical examinations.

Miss FORBES. I would think that.

The CHAIRMAN. We know that you can not inspect medically at the rate of one every half minute.

Miss FORBES. That was my first contention. Second, as to the examinations, they were carried on in a way that even a man would think was unnecessary and indecent by unnecessarily vulgar people.

Mr. SIEGEL. All that you have told us you could probably find in speeches delivered by the chairman of this committee and most all the rest of us who have been on this committee, urging certain changes.

The CHAIRMAN. I would like to ask this question: Are you being called upon to deliver lectures and statements of your experiences?

Miss FORBES. Three or four. A lot of women's clubs in Chicago, starting with the Chicago Women's Club legislative committee, asked me if I would speak before them, preparatory to their understanding the situation and telegraphing to Mr. Siegel, whose name was first connected with this, to find out a little more about it. The women's clubs whose committees have come here to sit around as visitors, who have reported rather glowing accounts. I have made a statement before some of those clubs, not for propaganda in any sort of a way.

As a matter of fact, I can not afford to jeopardize my job, because I am only a very minor employee, by going out and speaking, except in cases of personal friends. With the Chicago Women's Club I did, because it is a factor.

The CHAIRMAN. Did you speak in St. Louis?

Miss FORBES. No, sir. Oh, no; I never left Chicago. It has been more diverting than informational, I think. It has been propaganda, and my paper does not know anything about it, because I did not want them to think that I had lost my head wanting to go around being a publicity seeker.

The CHAIRMAN. The Chicago Tribune, editorially for a considerable period past, has favored the restriction of immigration, hasn't it?

Miss FORBES. Exactly.

The CHAIRMAN. Well, I do not know of anything more, Miss Forbes.

Mr. SIEGEL. I have read your articles very carefully and I agree with you; you have not attempted in any of them to give us any facts regarding the island which are not accurate or correct.

Miss FORBES. I do not want to be a sob sister.

Mr. SIEGEL. You have not done that. Of course, you did not stay at Ellis Island overnight?

Miss FORBES. No, sir; because even if I had been there—there were a thousand there when I got there. Our ship sailed back again Friday and I think all of us were cleared up then except two or three who were sent back.

Mr. SIEGEL. I was on the island myself that week.

The CHAIRMAN. Why don't you get the Tribune to send you back there for Christmas?

Miss FORBES. From your remarks, I am going to wire them to-night and see if they will.

The CHAIRMAN. As near as I can make out, we think there will be a thousand or more excess quota held there pending departing ships, and we have the customary number detained for temporary reasons, but I think to-day we have, roughly, about 2,000 new immigrants, and other ships in the harbor, according to the New York papers. There is bound to be tremendous congestion and much stress there during Christmas. The public ought to know about these things. I should think the Tribune would be glad to send you over there. I am sure that Mr. Todd, Mr. Uhl, Mr. Baker, and Mr. Landis, and all the rest of them will be only too glad to give you every facility for seeing everything.

Mr. SIEGEL. In addition to that you will see the new \$15,000 organ which Mr. Todd has presented to the island in memory of his uncle.

The CHAIRMAN. Now, unless the committee has any more questions to ask, I will express the appreciation of the committee to Miss Forbes for coming here and talking to us.

Mr. CABLE. I was wondering if she would make a short, concise, statement of the recommendations, just in one sentence.

Miss FORBES. I think there were four or five points in that last résumé.

Miss FORBES. May I just say just once more that I am not grossly exaggerating these wild stories and rumors of Ellis Island treatment, neglect, and immorality, inspection of women by men, and women sent back if they would not subject themselves to things which they should not do. I found nothing of that sort at all on the boat, and I found nothing of that on the island. I wonder that you did not find it on the boat. Of course, the captain is culpable there. The girls, wherever there were any indiscretions, were more to blame than the men.

The CHAIRMAN. As a matter of fact, you can readily understand that we can not help the rumors and statements that are made in other countries about Ellis Island, and I can see in a minute how persons have been returned for reasons which they did not suspect, or their neighbors did not suspect, and when they returned to their homes they were obliged to put up some sort of a story, and that spreads all over. Stories of hardship in the steerage have raged ever since there has been a steerage.

Miss FORBES. It is much better since the open steerage.

The CHAIRMAN. Now, coming to the other questions, I would hate to start hi now to travel in Russia. I would be filled with apprehension if I did start. In fact, I now go into Chicago with some little apprehension as to how I am going to get around.

Miss FORBES. But my point is that because the thing is right now difficult to administer it does not particularly make the immigrant, and should not force the immigrant to say, "Well, we have to expect it, because the people are not

paid anything, and therefore they can insult us." I do not think that is an adequate explanation. It is not enough to me to say that these men can inspect me any way they want, or make any indecent remarks to me that they want, simply because they are paid a small salary.

Mr. SIEGEL. For instance, to-day word came to the effect that I was on the island last Friday. I was down here attending a hearing. I do not know how the report got out, but when I go back to New York, as I intend to, I am going to try to find out about it. All we can do is to legislate. We can not adulterate. That is not our task.

Miss FORBES. I noticed that since I got back. Various lawyers, who perhaps are trying to advance wrong things, maids of friends of mine, are coming with all sorts of wild tales. You have to be very careful and discriminating in the stories that you believe, because it is something that can be greatly exaggerated and enlarged and lied about.

Mr. SIEGEL. Of course, you know that since you have been there we have put off one-third the force, and we have other people there. Mr. Landis has arrived on the scene and helped to take charge of it. There have been a lot of changes, and I do not think you will recognize part of the island when you go back. Commissioner Todd is a very well-to-do man and is bringing to bear some very hard work, which he has done in everyday life. Besides that, he did not seek the position.

Mr. WHITE. I would like to express the hope that the man in civilian clothes who was guilty of such coarse indecency in his language and his treatment of immigrants has lost his job. I hope so.

Mr. SIEGEL. I do not think he is a Government official.

Mr. CABLE. Who would he represent, then?

Mr. SIEGEL. He might be a representative of the steamship lines, for all we know. Wasn't he on the barge?

Miss FORBES. He was on either the *Addie* or the *General Putnam*.

Mr. SIEGEL. Didn't he seem to go back and forth for people, bringing the people over from the ship?

Miss FORBES. Yes; on the barge; but if he had been on the steamship I would have seen him on the way over.

Mr. SIEGEL. And you did not see him?

Miss FORBES. No, sir.

Mr. SIEGEL. Didn't you see him on the day that the ship came up from quarantine and reached the dock? Didn't he come on board then?

Miss FORBES. I did not see him.

Mr. SIEGEL. When was the first time you saw him?

Miss FORBES. I did not see him until we got on the barge.

Mr. SIEGEL. You are going down to New York?

Miss FORBES. I am going to try to.

Mr. SIEGEL. Would it not be a good idea for you just to watch the arrival of those barges to see whether or not you can identify him?

Miss FORBES. Yes, sir; I know I could.

Mr. WHITE. Did you make any effort to identify him?

Miss FORBES. No; because I was part of a system that was being hurried on then, and I could not ask. I could identify him positively if I saw him.

Mr. SIEGEL. Why not try that?

Miss FORBES. I shall be happy to do so.

Mr. SIEGEL. If you get any information, send it on to Mr. Johnson or myself, and we will do whatever we can about the matter.

The CHAIRMAN. Now, then, this series of hearings will be suspended until the call of the chairman.

To the committee I appointed, with Mr. Cable as chairman, to study Australian and Canadian immigration laws, let me say I will see them about that to-morrow.

(Whereupon, at 4.25 o'clock p. m. the hearing was adjourned subject to the call of the chairman.)

COMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Thursday, January 12, 1922.

The committee met at 10.30 a. m. Hon. Albert Johnson, chairman, presiding. The CHAIRMAN. I want to place a few matters before the members of the committee so that the information will be in the record: First, I want to call atten-

tion to a letter, dated January 10, 1922, by Thomas J. Stead, for the Cunard Steamship Co. (Ltd.), explaining the situation in connection with statements made by the Department of Labor concerning the exhaustion of the Hungarian quota. The letter reads as follows:

THE CUNARD STEAMSHIP CO. (LTD.),
Washington, D. C., January 10, 1922.

Hon. ALBERT JOHNSON,

Chairman of the House Immigration Committee, Washington, D. C.

MY DEAR SIR: You will recall that there appeared in the papers throughout the country on December 19 last communications addressed by Secretary of Labor Davis to the Secretary of State and the Attorney General, severely criticising the steamship lines in general and the Cunard Line in particular. To quote from his letter to the Attorney General:

"Several days ago a Cunard Line steamer brought more than 300 Hungarians in one load, in the face of the fact that on December 1 the Hungarian quota was quite exhausted. They also knew that other ships were bringing Hungarians, they having sailed some time prior to the ship of the Cunard Line."

And also from the one to the Secretary of State:

"The chief offender in this instance is the Cunard Steamship Line, which arrived at New York on or about December 10 with somewhat more than 300 of this nationality on board. This vessel is said to have sailed from Southampton on or about December 3 and from Cherbourg on or about December 4, it being understood that the Hungarians were embarked at the latter port. Some of these aliens were admissible under exemptions found in the law, but at last account 204 of them had been found to be actually in excess of the yearly quota and, therefore, mandatorily excluded from admission."

You will note that Secretary Davis bases his accusations against the Cunard Line because of an alleged excess carrying of Hungarians on the *Aquitania*, which sailed from Cherbourg December 3, 1921. The figures issued by the bureau show that 300 Hungarians were still admissible on December 5, 250 on December 21, and 78 on December 31, in spite of the fact that a blanket order was issued admitting excess quota cases December 24.

From the above figures only one conclusion can be drawn, and that is that every Hungarian who arrived on the *Aquitania* and was denied admission as being in excess of quota was eligible for admission at the time of the arrival of this steamer.

As a matter of fact, there has been so much confusion caused abroad by the issuance by the Department of Immigration of two sets of figures, i. e., the so-called quota figures and the figures of actual admissions, that on December 21 Secretary Dume, of the Liverpool Steamship Conference, called, in part, as follows:

"Regarding Hungary, no information received from New York that November quota had been filled, but on December 6 Government advised yearly quota exhausted December 5. On December 7 Government advised that previous information was wrong, and balance admissible on December 1 was 496, with 106 allotted to December 5, leaving balance of 390. Lines submit that with such inaccurate and conflicting information impossible for them gauge position correctly and most unjustly lay blame on steamship lines for any overcarrying, which would not have occurred had reliable information been available in time to check departures. Lines contend as apparently so difficult for Government officials in Washington give exact information at any time lines on this side can hardly be expected to judge correctly what will be position of quotas one to three weeks in advance, as is necessary here."

I have submitted this statement to Mr. Husband, Commissioner General of Immigration, and on the ground of the weekly reports he admits that the above is substantially correct. I feel that a gross injustice has been done the Cunard Line by the publication of the letters of the Secretary of Labor, and that the accusations therein were absolutely unjustified.

I will greatly appreciate if you will inform your colleagues on the House Immigration Committee of the above facts.

Truly, yours,

THOS. J. STEAD,
For the Cunard Steamship Co. (Ltd.).

In that connection, following the hearings, the Congressional Information Bureau, because of the fact that we discussed the matter with one of the wit-