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PORTLAND, OREGON

March 26 1942

Mr Jerrold Owen, Coordinator
Oregon Defense Council
Executives Offices
Salem, Oregon

Dear Mr Owen

Just as something to keep in the back of your head, I give you the following paragraph out of current information in my possession:

> "The May Act was passed by Congress and signed by the President on July 11 1941. This Act gives the Secretaries of War and the Navy power to create zones about Army or Navy establishments within which zones the practice of prostitution or aiding or abetting such practice becomes a federal offense and therefore, in addition to the activities of the department of Justice authorizes and directs the Secretaries of War and Navy and the Federal Security Administration to take such steps as they deem necessary."

I merely call this to your attention because, from time to time through the Federal Security Agency, we are being called upon to keep our efforts in line with the purpose behind the May Act.

There is nothing to be done about it at this time but I thought you might like this reference to the Federal Security Agency's tie-in to the enforcement of that Act, and the Recreation Committee as I look at it is concerned to the extent to try and set up Recreation programs that will keep bad areas from developing.

You probably know that the following cities, many of which were known to have had flagrant prostitution conditions have instituted a policy of law-enforcement and the closing of the red light districts, through the salutary influence of the uninvoked power behind the May Act:

San Diego	Odgen
San Francisco	San Antonio
Portland, Ore	El Pasco
Tacoma	Galveston
Seattle	Shreveport
Denver	Pensacola
Salt Lake City	Jacksonville
	Indianapolis

The significant power under the May Act is that the owners of property used for

prostitution and vice purposes are as susceptible to prosecution as the principals in the traffic.

Since this was my field of operation somewhat in the last world war under the Surgeon General, I am interested and I know something of what was accomplished by a good program. I feel it is an aspect of the Civilian Defense situation that is very important. I have in hand this morning a confidential report of the commercialized prostitution conditions at Pendleton, and since it is confidential I will not quote from it except the following innocuous paragraph:

> "Apparently all roads lead to Pendleton for those seeking recreation. Soldiers claim that the community lacks facilities which would counter the efforts of the prostitution underworld."

This is not a matter that requires any action on your part at this time but I think you should know that I feel the Recreation Committee should face a certain amount of its responsibility in that direction. With this in mind, I am wondering if there are any funds by which those who would have to come a long distance might be reimbursed the actual traveling expenses so that we could call together the Recreation Committee at Salem, have them addressed by the Governor, hear a brief address from representatives from the office of Civilian Defense and the Federal Security Agency, and whoever else you would think proper to speak, including yourself.

As it now stands, I am doing the bulk of the work of the whole committee and I feel we should have them together to make them feel their responsibility and acquaint them with the machinery that is now set up so they could be useful in their several communities.

With good wishes,

Sincerely yours,

Walter W R May

Walter W R May, Chairman
Recreation Committee
Oregon State Defense Council

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