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NEW YORK COLLEGE TEACHERS UNION
Local 537, American Federation of Teachers
104 Fifth Avenue, New York

Mr J R Dunlap
45 Sieman Place
NYC

June 10, 1941.

Dear Member:

The members of Local 537 have really been marvellous in their willingness to contribute to the various funds which were established to carry on numerous defense campaigns during the school year just closing.

We dislike terribly writing to those of you on the honor-roll of paid up members for an advance on next year's dues. However, this appeal to you to pay the Local your next year's dues in advance has become absolutely imperative.

If we are to remain in good standing in the AFT, we must pay our per capita through June. We've spent a great deal on the referendum. You have helped. You'll agree that it would be tragic to lose our fight to remain in the Federation because of our failure to pay the per capita to the National office. We must pay our rent throughout the summer months. Even more important, Miss Schusterman's salary must be paid regularly.

We'd be everlastingly grateful if you could see your way clear to sending us now your dues for 1941-42 - \$9-

Very sincerely

R. K. Spear

Robert K. Spear, President

ms-üopwa #16.

P. S. Word just received indicates that we have lost the referendum by 55% to 45%. As you have undoubtedly perceived, this was essentially a fight against the three Eastern Locals conducted by the Chicago machine assisted by Cleveland, Chattanooga and Atlanta. Eliminate the votes of these four reactionary centers and also of Locals 5, 192 and 537 and the vote was about 52½% to 47½% - not a bad showing for us considering the following:

- 1) the Council did not include in the balloting 44 locals;
- 2) the Council had control of the mailing list of 30,000 members and used it - the National Committee to Save the AFT had only a mailing list of 1500 outside the three locals concerned;
- 3) the Council controlled the national magazine, "The American Teacher" and used it for its own purposes;
- 4) the Council spent scads of AFT money to conduct the fight against us.

We made a grand showing in places where we were able to reach the membership, and we will have increased support from delegates to the National Convention in Detroit when they hear our side.

OUR FIGHT TO REMAIN IN THE AFT GOES ON!