

Merchant Marine



MRS. ROBERT L. JONES, PRESIDENT  
MRS. O. W. LETSON, VICE-PRESIDENT  
MRS. O. M. WHITE, TREASURER  
MRS. MARY N. OXFORD, SECRETARY  
MRS. MAUD MUNGER, CHAPLAIN

The Merchant Marine Mothers Club

~~615 WEST 11TH STREET, PENNHOUSE~~

TULSA, OKLAHOMA  
March 28, 1945

MRS. HAZEL L. SMITH, SECRETARY  
FOR PUBLIC RELATIONS AND PUBLICITY  
PHONE 4-1155  
MRS. CLAUDIE BROWN, PARLIAMENTARIAN

Hon. George B. Schwabe  
Member House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C.

SCHWABE COLL

Dear Mr. Schwabe:

Your letter of March 15th, written to Mrs. R. L. Jones, president of the Merchant Marine Mothers Club, was read at our meeting on March 23d. I also understand several letters have been received by members of the club in which you express the same views as those contained in your letter to Mrs. Jones.

It seems to me that the provisions made for the merchant seamen in the bill H. R. 2346 are entirely fair and just and cover a minimum of reward for the service of our boys. When you stop to think that approximately 64 per cent of the men in this service are between the ages of 18 and 26 and that since April 1, 1944, almost 15,000 boys between the ages of 16 and 18 have entered this branch of service you can readily see that the post-war adjustment of these men will be a tremendous task.

What better means of readjustment can we offer these men than the assurance of educational opportunities, adequate hospitalization and disability benefits for injured seamen, death benefits for surviving dependents, and an opportunity for employment preference for those who will return to civilian status? I repeat again that I consider the bill H. R. 2346 to contain the minimum of readjustment provisions.

It is true that when merchant seamen make voyages into some of the war areas they receive a bonus for this. However, it is my understanding that the Navy men, especially in the aviation branch, are also given quite an increase in pay. In the strict comparison of salaries of the Navy men and the merchant marines the pay of men in comparable positions is practically the same. In addition, the Navy man has free postage, special furlough rates, continuation of pay when on leave, mustering out pay, government allotment added to his personal allotment for his dependents, maternity care for his wife, continuous protection from his war insurance, AND the G. I. Bill of Rights.

I am sure you will give this legislation your careful study and I sincerely hope you will use your influence in its behalf.

Very truly yours,

*Mrs. O. W. Letson*

Mrs. O. W. Letson  
4215 E. 2nd St.



Robert Kuhl at Sea  
S. S. Harry Kirby  
National Maritime Union  
Charleston S. C.

Dear Sir

I am a Merchant Seaman. We've been catching hell  
for a long time. You know our record. Yet we are one  
of the few groups of American workers who do not get  
unemployment insurance benefits.

H R 5256 will give us this right. Will you support  
it?

Please Answer.

Respectfully yours  
Robert Kuhl



Howard Bangle  
SS Harry Kerley  
National Maritime Union  
Charleston, S. C.

Dear Sir

Congress sure has a chance to show where it stands with me Merchant Seaman on a "Bill of Rights".

This "Bill of Rights" would give us many benefits we desire and justly deserve. Some of us young seamen would like a chance to finish school. Other shipmates have been injured and will need hospital care for the rest of their lives.

I would like for you to vote for a bill which would have these benefits included in it.

Respectfully yours,  
Howard Bangle