

January 27, 1926.

Under this Bill, two hundred women have been paid \$50.00 per annum or \$12.50 each quarter.

Mrs. Randolph informs me that there are a number on the waiting list who can only receive help as others die and that there are many more who would apply if there was the slightest chance of their receiving help.

Nearly all of these women are destitute and helpless and are existing in the most abject poverty. That many of them have been able to even exist is solely because of the charity of neighbors who, even themselves, are but little able to help them.

That the State of Virginia has not provided for more of these women and the payment of a larger annual sum to them, is an act of inhumanity and neglect that cannot be explained unless the previous Legislatures have not been aware of this condition. Surely, no member of this Legislature will refuse to increase the aid to these women if these facts are placed before them.

I therefore urge, on behalf of Mrs. Randolph and those who are working with her in this worthy cause, that your Committee increase the annual appropriation to \$20,000. and the payment to each person of \$72.00 instead of \$50.00 as at present, or at the rate of \$18.00 quarterly. For those who are on the present payroll of the State, this will consume \$14,400. and leave \$5,600., which will enable payments to be made to 77 additional women. It is probable that this number cannot be qualified and in that case the funds will remain in the Treasury, but I beg you not to leave them in want and distress in case they are worthy.

As those who qualify under this act are rapidly dying, it is probable that within ten years there will not be a single one left on the payroll and probably not half the present number within five or six years. The condition of these women should appeal to you from every standpoint of humanity and charity, as well as the duty of the State.

Although Mrs. Randolph has worn herself out in the cause of these women and is in extremely poor health and largely confined to her room, if there is any uncertainty about the attitude of your Committee regarding this help, she begs that you permit her to come before your Committee on behalf of these women.

Yours very truly,

(Signed) W. J. PAYNE