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Letter and Broadcast Transcript
National Child Labor Committee
April 25, 1935

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To Good Friends of the Child Labor Amendment:

I enclose a copy of a broadcast given by Lowell Thomas on March 27, over the N.B.C. — W.J.Z. Network. It is disgraceful that such statements as he made about the Child Labor Amendment should come from a supposedly impartial broadcaster of news with his reputation.

Won't you write promptly to the Sun Oil Company, Care of the National Broadcasting Company, New York City, and have as many of your friends and acquaintances as possible do so, vigorously protesting these statements?

Sincerely yours,

Courtney Dinwiddie
General Secretary

Excerpt from Lowell Thomas' Broadcast

March 27, 1935 NBC-WJZ Network

Good evening, everybody. It's tough sledding for the Child Labor Amendment to Uncle Sam's Constitution. Considering what you hear people saying about it, you would think it would fly through like "the man on the Flying Trapeze," but up to now only 24 states have ratified it and on the other hand eleven have turned thumbs down on it. Connecticut is the latest state in the "no" column. People are pointing out that it is ore than curious that sovereign states which once upon a time ratified prohibition without a murmur are gagging and strangling over this effort to keep small boys and girls out of the mills and mines. Of course, it is plain that what the opponents of this Child Labor Amendment don't like is that it stretches the long arm of Uncle Sam into the home, to tell parents what they may do with their children. Nobody would care to admit he is in favor of youngsters doing their eight or ten hour shifts in factories, but, if the Child Labor Law was made as sweeping as the Prohibition Law, it would mean that you couldn't even employ little Nellie from next door to come in and wash the dishes for fifty cents or come around afternoons and mind the baby while Mother plays bridge. Also you couldn't help 14 year-old Joe from across the way work his way through high school by giving him a job tending furnace and mowing the lawn. That seems to be why no fewer than eleven states have gone against this amendment. It needs only two more to defeat it hopelessly.