# Governor Walter A. Huxman, correspondence files, box 4

**Section 28, Pages 811 - 819**

These folders contain correspondence with Governor Huxman and are subdivided into state agency files, folders 1 - 6, and subject files, folders 7 - 27. The state agency files contain routine correspondence to and from nearly all of the bureaus of the state government.

Creator: Kansas. Governor (1937-1939 : Huxman)

Date: 1937-1939

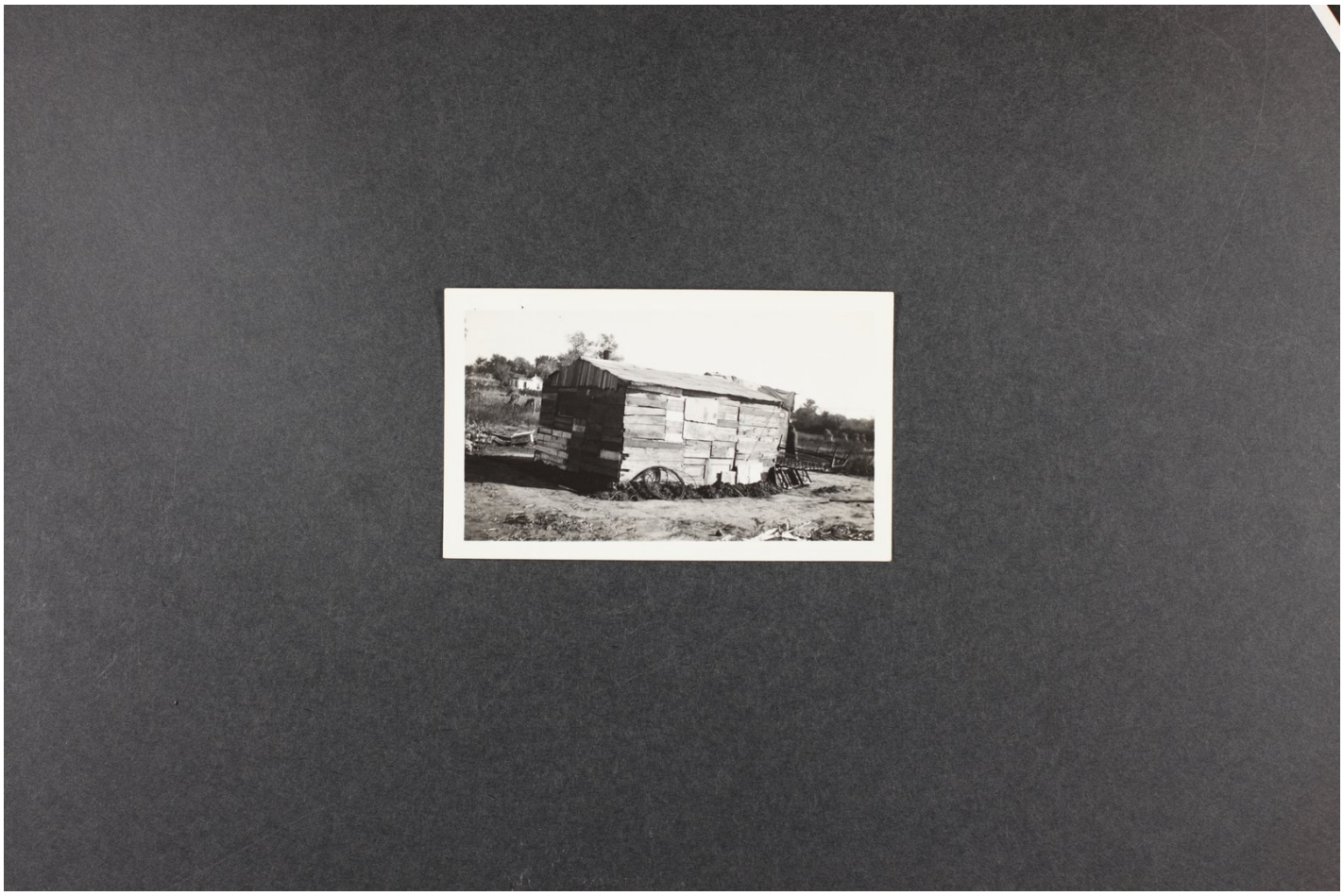
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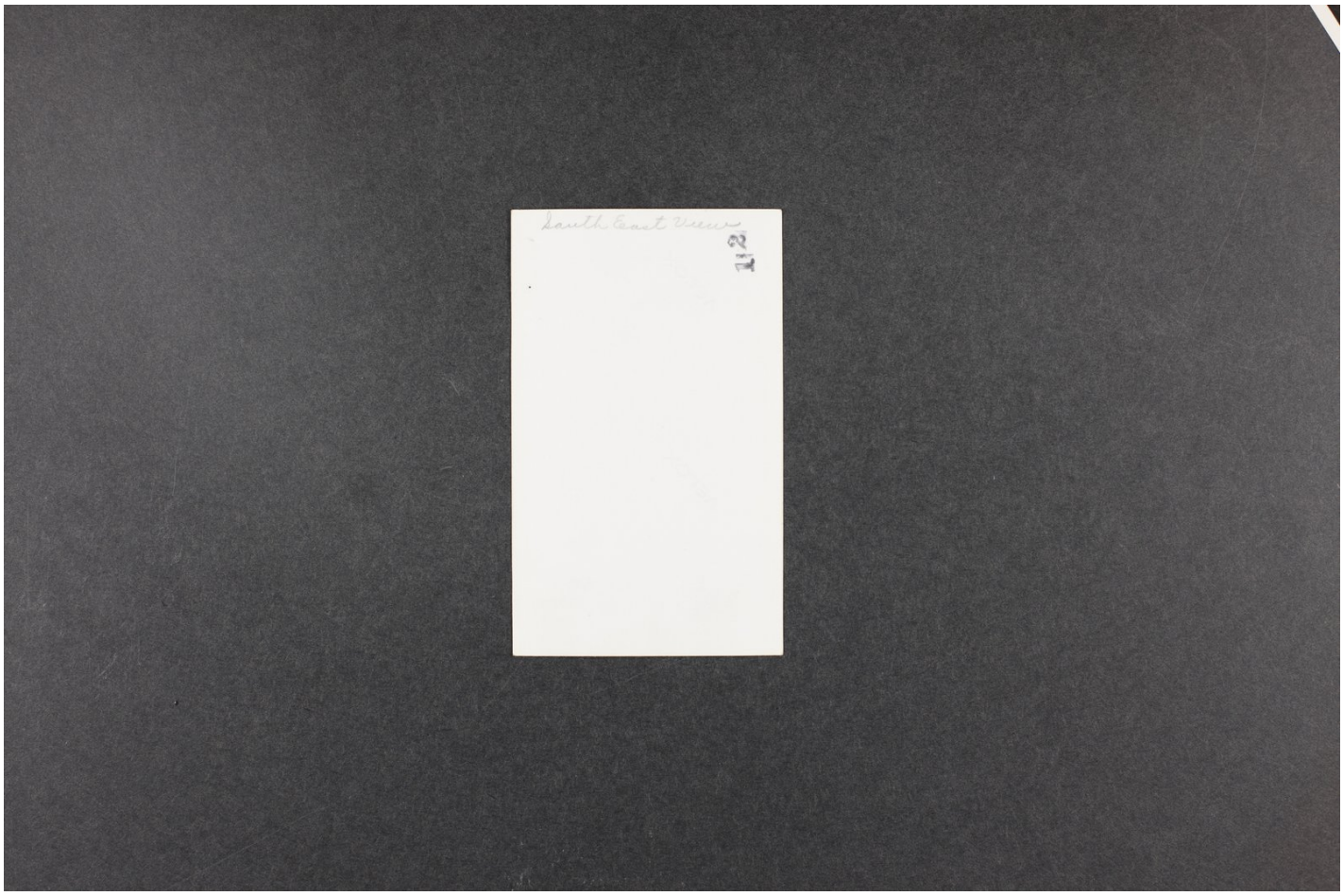
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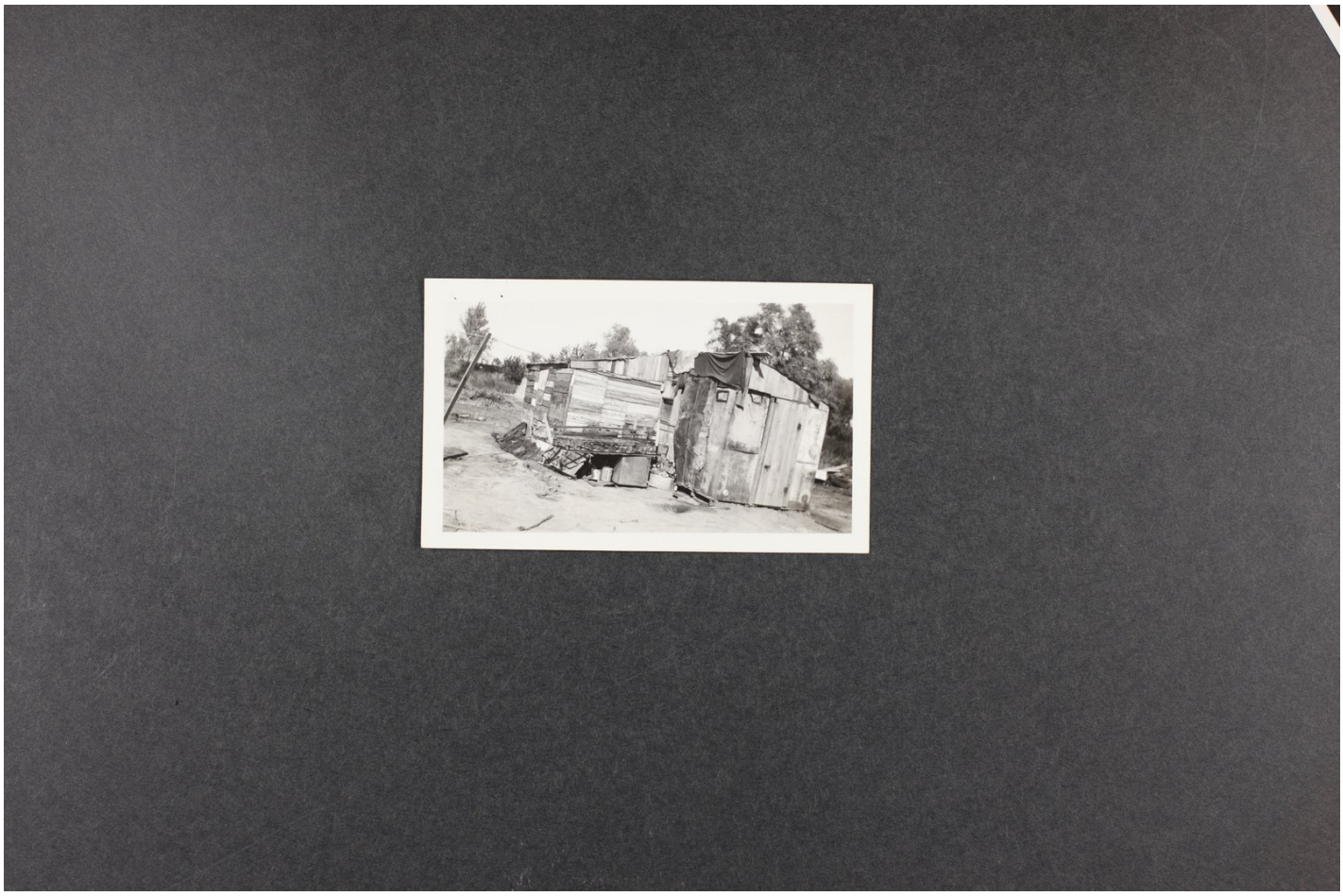
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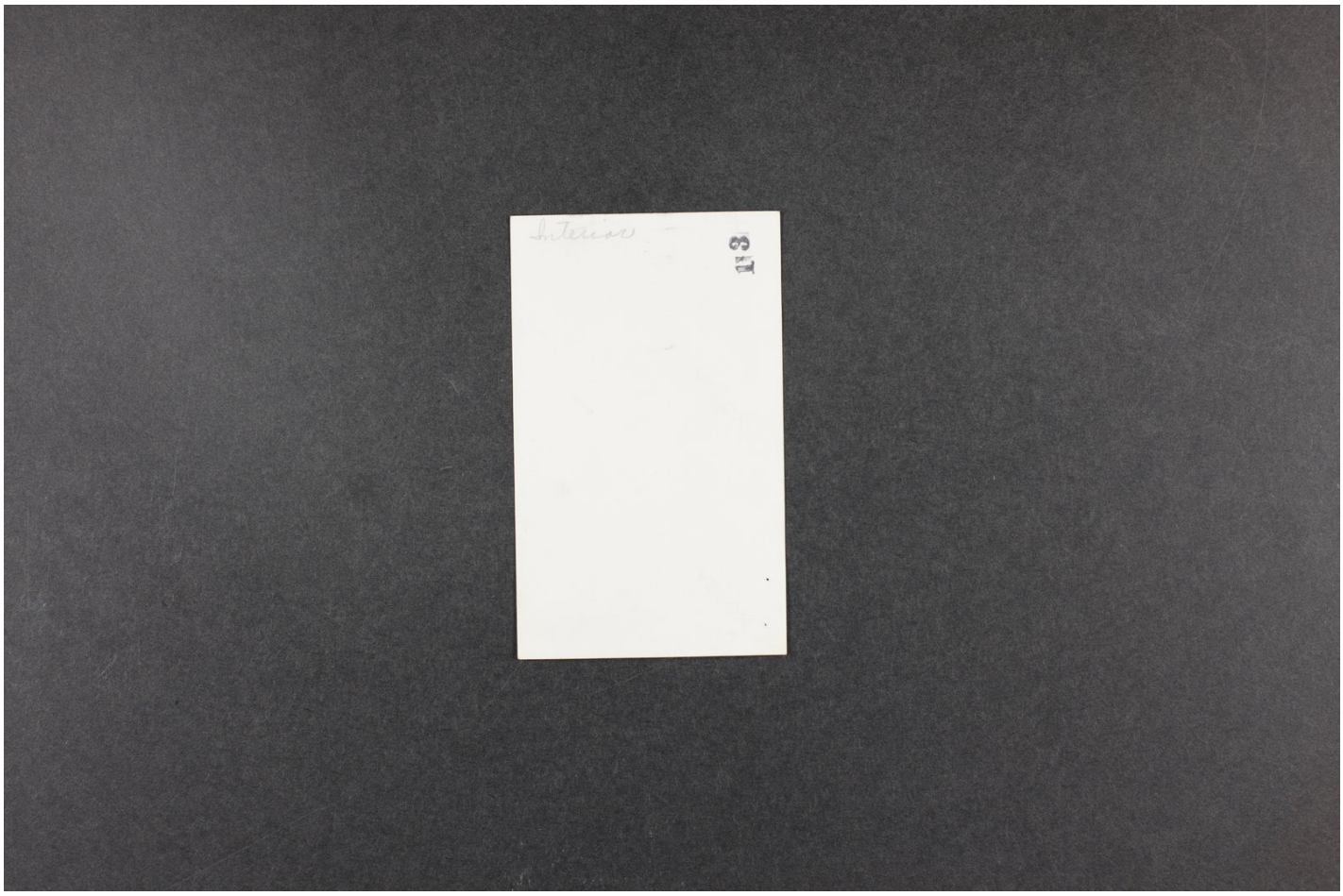
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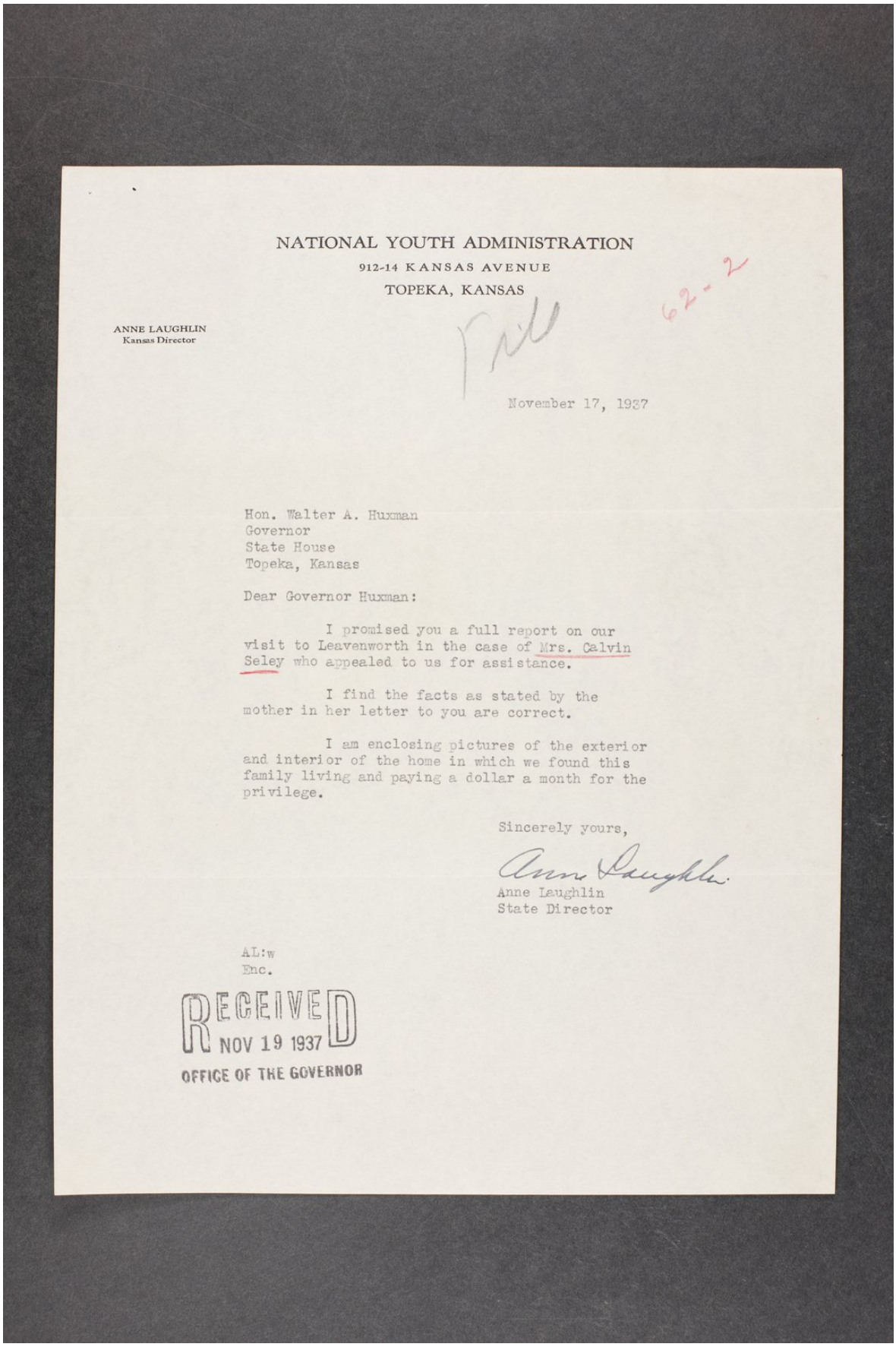
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NATIONAL YOUTH ADMINISTRATION
912-14 KANSAS AVENUE
TOPEKA, KANSAS

62-2

ANNE LAUGHLIN
Kansas Director

November 17, 1937

Hon. Walter A. Huxman
Governor
State House
Topeka, Kansas

Dear Governor Huxman:

I promised you a full report on our visit to Leavenworth in the case of Mrs. Calvin Seley who appealed to us for assistance.

I find the facts as stated by the mother in her letter to you are correct.

I am enclosing pictures of the exterior and interior of the home in which we found this family living and paying a dollar a month for the privilege.

Sincerely yours,

Anne Laughlin

Anne Laughlin
State Director

AL:w
Enc.

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**Governor Walter A. Huxman, correspondence files, box 4**

REPORT ON LEAVENWORTH
CASE

The following report is made relative to a situation investigated by Anne Laughlin, State Youth Director and Mr. T. A. Beatty, in Leavenworth, Kansas.

A letter had been written by Mrs. Calvin Seley, 16th & Cheyenne Street, Leavenworth, to Governor Huxman about the plight of their family and the necessity of using all of the son's NYA money as the sole family support.

In Leavenworth, the county welfare director, Mr. John H. Harris, was contacted and asked what arrangements were being made in that county relative to the amount of NYA workers' checks that was charged against family budgets in Leavenworth County. Mr. Harris said that he remembered some talk or a bulletin explaining approximately $7.00 of each NYA worker's check as a fair amount to be charged against the family budget. He said, however, that this was not adhered to in this county and that there was no maximum amount considered, and in many cases the entire NYA check was considered as applicable to the family budget. Mr. Harris admitted that this completely defeated the purpose of the National Youth Administration; yet, it was being done and apparently would continue to be done.

Miss Laughlin and Mr. Beatty finally were able to locate the hovel in which Mr. and Mrs. Seley and their 23-year-old son were existing. This shack is about 12' x 15', consisting of one room which has been built of scraps of sheet metal and pieces of old cardboard and scrap lumber. The hand of Mr. Seley was bandaged and he told us that he had been in the county hospital for over two months with bloodpoisoning and it would be impossible for him to work with a shovel. Mrs. Seley claims to be subject to Brights' Disease and cannot stand long. However, she felt that she could work in a sewing room if she could get an assignment. When asked how they lived, Mrs. Seley said that she went to St. Mary's Academy some five miles away an got what food she could from the Sisters. The boy had formerly been in the CCC camp for twenty-one months and during this time, she said, they fared quite well from the check that came to the family. He tried to get back in CCC but was refused because he would reach his twenty-fourth birthday during this year. Now his work on NYA gives him $11.76 a month and since he has had his NYA assignment, all other aid from Leavenworth County has been stopped and the three members are attempting to exist on this $11.76.

The shack housed an old bed without any bed covering of any kind, and a make-shift cot. They had an old cook stove and a small kitchen table. This was the extent of the furniture and it was raining very hard at the time of our visit so that they were moving a hand basin around attempting to keep the bed from getting soaked where the make-shift room leaked. There was, however, a sign of cleanliness and neatness that one would not expect to find in this environment, which might indicate that the family was not as shiftless as might be expected. According to the mother, the boy stopped school in the fifth grade and was really mentally unable to go that far, since he has never learned to read, but was merely pushed on to the fifth grade because he was too

large to be in a lower grade. It was very evident that the boy was mentally unable to ever do more than crude hand work. Mrs. Seley stated the boy had had Infantile Paralysis in infancy. They said they were going to have to try to continue to exist there during the winter, although they had no idea where they could possibly get fuel to keep warm. They paid $1.00 a month for rent on the shack and lot, leaving $10.76 for the entire support of the family.

After leaving this shack, which is located in the shadow of the Federal penitentiary, we contacted Dr. McKee, the county health officer, who had formerly treated Mr. Seley. He reported that the last time he examined Mr. Seley, which was two weeks ago, Mr. Seley was not able to work. He also reported that Mr. Seley had been in the county hospital for two months during his illness - a stubborn patient. However, he would not commit himself as to the shiftlessness of the man.

The money paid to the boy for his NYA work was in no way benefiting him, and the purpose of the NYA employment program in this case is defeated.

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