

*Desire
appointment of
Perkins as Secy of
Labor.*

February 6, 1933

Hon. Franklin D. Roosevelt
President-elect,
United States of America
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Roosevelt:

I am addressing you personally as well as in behalf of a large group of women in Wyoming relative to the appointment of Miss Frances Perkins as a member of your Cabinet and as the Secretary of Labor. We who are in sociological work have followed the successful career of Miss Perkins and her sympathetic understanding of the laborer and labor problems and we believe she would be very representative in the field of labor if she were chosen by you to represent that department in your Cabinet.

It is to be remembered that the women in Wyoming were the first ones in the world to be universally franchised when Wyoming was a Territory on December 10, 1869.

Very respectfully yours,

Grace Raymond Hebard
Head of the Department of
Sociology,
University of Wyoming

April 22, 1933

Honorable Frances Perkins
United States Secretary of Labor
Washington D. C.

Dear Miss Perkins:

I am sending my congratulations to you and to the Department of Labor and to the laborers of the United States upon your appointment by President Roosevelt to the important position in the cabinet and that in the Department of Labor. Your long experience in working sociology, a department in which I have spent twenty-five or thirty years in this University, particularly qualifies you for the perplexing problems which you as Madam Secretary will have to solve.

I offer no apology in sending you this letter. You remember that Wyoming was the first commonwealth to grant to its women the unlimited use of suffrage and this when Wyoming was a territory on December 10, 1869. Wyoming on this basis of universal suffrage in the next year of 1870 had the first woman justice of the peace in the world and later on in that year there was a jury for a criminal case in Laramie, where I live, consisting of six men and six women, and the defendant was convicted of second degree murder. It is interesting to note that the feeling was that women would not convict a tall, handsome Swede with blue eyes and curly hair. But the jury did. I should not forget that Wyoming had the first opportunity and grasp it by electing Mrs. Nellie Tayloe Ross the first woman governor to be elected by the people of the commonwealth. It is true that women have ruled large countries like Victoria and Catherine but they were born to the position and not elected.

Wishing you abundant success, I am

Cordially yours,

Grace Raymond Hebard

GRH:MM