

**DOCUMENT #4:**  
**Exchange of Letters on Child Labor**

PEERLESS TUBE COMPANY  
Plain and decorated Collapsible Tubes  
Bloomfield, New Jersey

October 7, 1931

Consumers' League of New Jersey  
56 New Street  
Newark, NJ

Attention of Katherine G.T. Wiley

My dear Mrs. Wiley:

The information which I expected to get over the summer on the question of protection of minors in dangerous occupation has already been compiled in the Industrial Bulletin of the New Jersey Department of Labor in the issue of September 1930, volume 4, No. 9. I have had during the summer the New Jersey Manufacturers' Association and the North Jersey Employees' Association working on data and recently have been advised that the necessity for duplicated effort was done away with by the completing of this report of the Department of Labor and the insurance statistics from all sources did show the same results practically as in the department of Labor report.

I would suggest that prior to the next conference which we have for the drafting of this bill that each member of the committee be furnished a copy of the Department of Labor report as of September 1930 for my analysis of it would indicate that there is a sufficient number of fatal or non-fatal accidents in the group which you are specializing on to warrant any additional bills being placed before the legislature. The accidents to minors by industry groups which starts on page 55 show too small a number to warrant additional legislation. For example, under "Metal Goods" all cases amounted to fourteen involving compensation and there were no fatal injuries and permanent partial disability amounted to six, one of which was for cutlery and hand tools, a field which you agreed was not necessary to touch and there were four permanent partial cases under "sheet metal products" from 16 to 17 years of age. There were 138 cases with no fatalities and of these 47 were classed as permanent partial and the rest were of a temporary nature. Sheet metal products contribute to a total of 80 cases in this age group, but against this I might point out that retail stores showed 77 cases while construction work showed 56 cases and agricultural and clerical showed a total of 32 fatalities in the group from 14 to 18 occurred in agricultural work, concrete construction and non-classified work. From 14 to 15 occurred in laundries, retail stores (2) and one not otherwise classified. This would simply indicate to me and in this respect I am authorized to speak for the New Jersey Manufacturers' Association, that there is no necessity for putting in such a bill to

clutter up the already heavily legislative statute books. However, I should be pleased to engage in further conference with the committee on this subject, but cannot see the necessity for such a bill.

Statistically the Department of Labor September 1930 brochure should be used by the committee as a suitable standard for comparison as mentioned and as labor has declined since that date and the evidence submitted is on peak production schedules exceptionally suited to our conference needs.

Awaiting your further pleasure, I am

Very truly yours,  
PEERLESS TUBE COMPANY

Frederic Remington  
President

October 8, 1931

Mr. Frederick Remington  
40 Locust Ave.  
Bloomfield, NJ

My dear Mr. Remington:

It is a great surprise to find that in your opinion all the data necessary to decide whether or not a bill should be passed protecting sixteen and seventeen years old minors from dangerous occupations is contained in the September 1930 issue of the monthly Bulletin of the New Jersey State Department of Labor.

The Consumers' League agrees with you. You are the only one in the Conference group who did not know that the bill introduced in the last Legislature and all Conference discussion was based on that report. The Consumers' League had the figures from the State Department of Labor many months in advance of their publication. They were then correlated for us by the Children's Bureau of the United States Department of Labor. As they appear uncorrelated in the Bulletin, they are difficult to analyze.

It is of course entirely a matter of opinion whether or not 940 injured minors 16 and 17 years of age, 224 with permanent injuries are a matter of public concern. The Employers in whose serve they were injured, you tell me, regard the numbers too few to warrant legislation. The Consumers' League representing the public disagrees. We feel that 224 permanently injured young people each year (previous figures from the Department of Labor show approximately the same yearly number) make over a period of time an army of handicapped persons whose future ability to earn a living wage warrants serious consideration and legal protection. We know that progressive employers realize that this protection makes for efficiency and economy and removes from society a sore spot which if permitted is one of the causes of industrial disorder.

The bill prohibits those occupations which the Department of Labor regards as the most dangerous. These are the occupations which the figures in the Bulletin recommended by you for study show to be those injuring large numbers of minors permanently.

Sincerely,

Executive secretary