

## THE ELEANOR AND ANNA ROOSEVELT PROGRAM

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Description: In this segment, ER interviews Lillian Crum, the President of the American Association of University Women.

Participants: ER, Lillian Crum

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(0:04)

[ER:] Thank you Anna. Today, we have with us the president of the New York City branch of the American Association of University Women, Mrs. Harry Crum. I'm sure, Mrs. Crum, that you can tell us much that is interesting about the association. Won't you introduce it to our listeners, although most of us have heard of it, perhaps not all of us understand the work it does?

[Lillian Crum:] I'm very happy Mrs. Roosevelt to tell you something about the American Association of University Women which was founded in 1882 to give college women an opportunity to make use of their training for practical use in education and other civic duties in their communities.

[ER:] What are the qualifications for membership in the American Association of University Women?

[Lillian Crum:] Well, to become a member of our association, one must hold a degree from one of the qualified colleges or universities as set up by our national association. (1:07)

[ER:] Well [coughs] don't you ever make exceptions?

[Lillian Crum:] Well, once in a great while we make exceptions and we do have an [ER coughs] associate membership for a very special few people who decided to stop going to college at the end of two years, but they really must have had two years of college training.

[ER:] What do you do about um people who've been given all kinds of degrees?

[Lillian Crum:] Oh well of course we're very proud of our people who own honorary degrees from the various colleges.

[ER:] Thank you, that makes me feel much better. [ER and Lillian Crum laugh] Since you have such a large membership with so many members of widely different backgrounds, do you find they all work together with an understanding of each other's problems?

[Lillian Crum:] Well we don't always find that we have such a great understanding, but for the most part we really do work together very well. In the city branch of the AAUW we have members from every state in the union and from a great many foreign countries and from several different races. (2:19)

[ER:] Well that's very interesting. I wish you could teach everybody else to work in the same way. I know that your organization has always had an interest in international relations. What practical things are you doing now to further better international understanding?

[Lillian Crum:] Well, perhaps our fellowship program is the most practical thing that we are doing at the moment, although we have always carried on a program of international study in all of our branches. We

are now raising money to bring over fifty or sixty young women from the devastated countries to study for a year in our country, hoping that they will take back our American way of life to their own countries.

[ER:] Is it just possible that they might bring us some contributions?

[Lillian Crum:] Yes, we find that their contributions are most valuable and interesting to us.

[ER:] That is very um satisfactory I think. And I wonder if you'd like to turn the tables on me now and ask me a question? (3:34)

[Lillian Crum:] Yes there is one question that's very much on my mind at the moment and on the minds of several of our members, and that is: how are we going to best help reestablish the foreign federations that were put out of existence when Mussolini and Hitler came to power in those countries?

[ER:] Well um I don't know the best way to do it, but I judge--uh you know there have been different groups of German women for instance traveling through this-our country lately. And um I would feel that um possibly we might uh just find out from them what they needed to reestablish organizations that would be helpful to them. We have to realize that their conditions at present are very different. I know for instance that one of the great troubles in Germany today is that a woman doctor gets no real practical training because they lack laboratories and all the things that are possible um to really um give a doctor practical experience. Now, uh there must be many things that in reestablishing organizations um would be needed. Um money, perhaps, is not the only thing, perhaps just the sense that foreign-- that women in other countries were ready to help and to make context to provide um books and um uh the things they might ask for if they needed them, um would be a practical way to help them to begin again and have a sense of fellowship with uh women on the university level in other countries.

Now, I want to thank you for being our guest today, Mrs. Crum, and for representing the American Association of University Women, and the time is up, so back to my daughter, Anna, in Hollywood.

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