

SOURCE 7

Part of a letter written in 1907 by Nettie Adler, a leading figure in the Committee on Wage Earning children

(PRO ref: HO 45/10502/122671/f.53)

HOW TO USE THIS SOURCE TO HELP YOU ANSWER THE BIG QUESTION :

You need to study the source carefully before you decide whether it supports or contradicts any of the reasons in the Big Question.

ASK YOURSELF:

- What is Nettie Adler's view on the actions of local authorities?
- Why do you think the Committee is worried about girls trading?
- Does this source suggest that employers cannot be trusted to look after the child?
- What is wrong with theatres?
- Do you regard this as a particularly useful piece of evidence?

SOURCE 7

My Committee base their appeal for the amendment of the Employment of Children Act on the following grounds:

- (a) That very few local authorities have made regulations dealing both with street trading and other occupations.
- (b) That the moral dangers involved in all forms of street trading by girls are such, that it is an occupation which should be totally prohibited.
- (c) That unless a licence limiting definitely the number of hours of employment is issued to each child worker, no adequate safeguard against over pressure and evasion is provided.
- (d) That employment in theatres and music halls frequently interferes with the education of a child and that therefore such licences should only be granted by the Education authority after due enquiry.