
Letter to Leonid Belsky in Chicago from C.E. Ruthenberg in New York, May 3, 1920 — afternoon.

A document in the Hoover Institution Archives, Jay Lovestone Papers, box 195, folder 11.

New York, May 3, 1920.

Dear Fisher [Belsky]:—

In regard to this issue of the paper [*The Communist*], you will send the same quantity to the places to which the last issue was sent, sending 500 to Philadelphia direct this time. The small packages which you mailed to me here and to Michels [=??] have not arrived. This is dangerous because these are the addresses at which we live. Please don't do it again.

Yes, we expect you to furnish Detroit with the Debs leaflet. If you cannot print sufficient for Cleveland, notify [DO "James Wood"] and tell him to write to the Pittsburgh organizer and have him arrange for printing in Pittsburgh. We have a printer there who will do the work. One thing that should be impressed upon the printers is that they must be careful in their paper purchases. It is easy to trace a job through the purchase of paper.

Unless I hear from your committee in disagreement I will make tentative arrangements with the CLP for a unity conference, which means that their delegates will come to our convention and before the two groups are united we will discuss Manifesto, Program, and Constitution and each side would work out these documents in advance, so that there will be no great delay at the convention. It seems to me that once we

got both groups together in the convention there would not be much danger of splitting apart again, and this plan seems the only possible way of bringing about unity between our group and the CLP. Of course they will have to accept our Manifesto and Program as the basis even for such a unity conference.

Let me have your opinion of this as early as possible as I want to leave the city by the end of the week. I will go from here to Cleveland and then come on to Chicago at least a week before the convention. If you go to Detroit you might stop in Cleveland on the way to Pittsburgh and if I am there we can talk matters over.

Please make up for me a copy of the list of loans made to the Chicago Defense Committee, which I sent you and also of the loans on the Lapka bond. Make a carbon copy while you are about it and give one copy to Ferguson. I need this to complete my records and Bunte [Dirba] has all this information and I have not. Also make me a copy of the list of literature loans which you once made up if you still have this.

I am planning a series of 10 brief leaflets and stickers, to be given out during 10 successive weeks, which will give the membership something to do.

Fraternally yours,

[C.E. Ruthenberg].

Edited by Tim Davenport.

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