
Letter to Rachele Ragozin in Brooklyn from C.E. Ruthenberg in St. Joseph, MI, August 29, 1922

Handwritten document in C.E. Ruthenberg Papers, Ohio Historical Society, reel 3.

Sheriff's Office,
St. Joseph, Mich., 8/29/22.

Dear Rachele:—

Through our attorney, David Bentall, you no doubt received my wire asking that you see my friend J.¹ and endeavor to enlist his aid in securing the \$10,000 bond on which I, together with the others, am held here.

You will remember that I had some bonds for another case. These are now in the hands of our attorney together with some additional bonds secured in Cleveland. A Chicago friend is ready to put up a thousand dollars, which brings the total to about 2/3 of the amount required. Probably some other Cleveland friends will help but we will need at least \$3,000 more. I was successful in getting together \$15,000 a couple years ago and I hope I will be able to assist again. Bonds should be sent to David Bentall, Chamber of Commerce Building, Chicago, Ill.

Through the attorney I suggested that there be a meeting of the "Council"² and that [Elmer] Allison be authorized to sign checks and that this be certified to the bank. If there is no other way of handling the matter you could draw out our balance, using one of the signed

¹ While a facile reading would indicate "Jay Lovestone," who was not arrested at Bridgman, my own belief is that the reference is to Jacob Hartmann. —T.D.

² Apparently a reference to the Labor Defense Council, a party-sponsored mass organization devoted to legal defense of the Bridgman defendants. The LDC effectively superseded the National Defense Committee, a similar group founded in June 1920 in response to the mass trial of the CLP and planned mass trial of the CPA in Chicago.

checks, and redeposit it to the credit of the WP [Workers Party] with Allison authorized to sign.

For some reason I am kept apart from the rest of our group, which gives me a great deal of time to read and think. One thing I have found in my thoughts I must tell you of. In the moments of peace and quiet, without the distractions of many duties which pull me this way and that, the reality of an ideal in my thoughts has emerged in all the softness and beauty which in the year or two made it so great a joy. My thoughts have been much concerned with that ideal. I have tried to analyze what recent months have held — unsuccessfully so far as any conclusion is concerned. One conclusion here is, however. That is that the reality of the ideal has been all that the ideal f____t.³ The failure of realization of all the high holies has obscure causes which are in me and which even I have been unable to segregate in my thoughts that I might say, “This is the reason.”

There is much more that I could tell you — philosophies about — in relation to ideals and their appeal — in spite of what marred the months gone by are months of brightness and happiness in my memory — but I hope to be able to talk with you about how moments of quiet and peace bring ideals and then reality back into the mind in all their beauty even though the doors are yawning again.

Dare I write — “a prayer”?⁴ I think that what is in my thoughts is justification for doing so.

C.E.

C.E. Ruthenberg,
c/o Sheriff's Office,
St. Joseph, Mich.

Edited with footnotes by Tim Davenport

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³ Word illegible.

⁴ Phrase used extensively in the voluminous 1920-22 prison communication between Ruthenberg and Ragozin, seemingly intimating a desire for placid togetherness between the two as a couple.