
Letter to Jack Carney in Duluth, MN from John Reed in New York City, October 5, 1918

Handwritten document, digital image in Tim Davenport Collection.

NY, Oct. [5].

Dear Jack Carney:—

Thanks for your many compliments.

I am writing this in court, where we sit waiting for the jury to come in with a verdict.¹

My guess is guilty. But we are all happy.

Max [Eastman] made a wonderful revolutionary speech to the jury. Nothing like it [ever] heard in a court. It will stick — don't fear.²

He's just simply still [in] the half-political stage.

Hastily,

Reed.

Edited with footnotes by Tim Davenport

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¹ This note was scrawled in pencil during the “Second *Masses* Trial” at which editor Max Eastman, Jack Reed, and five others were charged with violation of the Espionage Act of 1917, alleged to have obstructed recruitment and enlistment in the military through their published work. The jury was unable to agree on a verdict, voting 8-4 in favor of acquittal, and charges were dismissed.

² Eastman's speech, delivered to the jury on Friday, Oct. 4, 1918, was reprinted later in 1918 by the Liberator Publishing Co. as a pamphlet entitled *Max Eastman's Address to the Jury in the Second Masses Trial: In Defense of the Socialist Position and the Right of Free Speech*.