
**Letter to
Eugene V. Debs in Terre Haute, IN,
from Ludwig Lore in New York City,
March 5, 1919**

Copy in Eugene V. Debs Papers, Terre Haute, microfilm reel 3, frames 0714B-0715A.
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New York, March 5, 1919.

Mr. Eugene V. Debs, Terre Haute, Ind.

My dear Comrade Debs:

It is rather late for your co-editor to come to you now with plans for the next issue that is to appear at the end of March.¹ But since we are agreed that you must be bothered as little as possible and since our general policy has been determined by the contents of your first two volumes, it seems hardly necessary to trouble you with incidentals and details.

But can we count on you for an article on some American topic for this number? I suggest an American subject, because I sometimes fear that *The Class Struggle* is rather in danger of treating too exclusively with the revolutions of Russia and Germany, without sufficient application to conditions at home.

Your first article met with such wholehearted appreciation everywhere that we have decided, at the suggestion of a number of comrades, to print a first edition of 200,000 copies of it in leaflet form.²

¹ The next issue of *The Class Struggle* did not appear until May 1919, by which time Debs was embroiled with legal problems and unable to contribute. The magazine's last issue appeared in Nov. 1919 as the theoretical journal of the Communist Labor Party, an organization which was forced underground shortly thereafter.

² Eugene V. Debs, "The Day of the People," *The Class Struggle*, vol. 3, no. 1 (Feb. 1919), pp. 1-4. There is no evidence that this leaflet was ever produced.

There is one other matter that I should like to discuss with you. You know, of course, that “Left Wing” organizations are springing up everywhere in the Party. Although I am in full agreement, as you know, with the fundamental principles that prompt these organizations, I personally feel that at this time they constitute a grave danger, not only to the Party, but to the very cause for which they are being created. So far as I have been able to discover, the membership of our Party is radically inclined and will support a revolutionary position. But the propagation by organizations such as these within the Party must inevitably, I feel, bring about a split in the movement. A split that will, moreover, not strengthen, but weaken revolutionary socialism in America by driving the rank and file into the arms of right wing leaders as a protest against the methods of the more radical minority.

Our co-editor, Louis C. Fraina, has become one of the leading spirits of the new movement. The Socialist Publication Society will hold a meeting in a few days to decide its position and to determine whether *The Class Struggle* shall take a definite editorial stand on the question.³ A brief statement of your attitude would, I am sure, be more than welcome.

Hoping you well, I remain with cordial and fraternal greetings to Comrade Theodore Debs, to Mrs. Debs, and to yourself,

your devoted and admiring comrade,

Ludwig Lore.

Edited with footnotes by Tim Davenport

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³ The Socialist Publication Society was the legal entity behind publication of *The Class Struggle*. The next issue of the publication reprinted the Left Wing Manifesto and Program in full and included a lengthy editorial signed by Fraina stating the Left Wing’s case and urging readers to “turn to the ‘left!’”