

October 3, 1947

Dear Rae:

I know you must have wondered why you haven't heard from J or me for so long. The only reason is pressure of work. There was so much of it that my new typewriter broke down under it and has had to go to be repaired. But mechanical difficulties are nothing. The fact is that J has already left and in the few days before he left was really tired and worn-out. You know him. An article like the last masterpiece introducing the reprints, he can work on night after night for two weeks (we actually worked on it until 4, 5, 6 A.M. every night for a week), but for a letter or for a short article in the paper, it takes him two days rest and the feeling that he has a whole day before him to get down to it. For the next weeks until you return, I shall take over the correspondence with you. I assume there won't be too much of it since you will be enroute most of the time.

I might as well start with the Invading Socialist Society pamphlet and the questions you raised. Just what has been written to you on this score I don't know because I don't have the copies of the letters. First, with regard to Haston. Our general concensus was that it is precisely under such circumstances that it is necessary to drive our point home. Particularly if we have been useful in forcing the IS to concentrate on the strategic perspective, we should sharpen our criticism ~~that~~ much more. And particularly if Haston writes the kind of resolution that he does (which is as much like MS's as anything I could imagine) must we distinguish ourselves. You will note the last section in the Abstract and the Universal in Practical Politics deals with this business of ever sharpening struggles.

On the Thomas article, I don't know how you got the idea that we were attacking him. We barely read the article, certainly paid no attention to it. The pamphlet says distinctly that "An editorial in the QI" says such and such. That is what we were aiming our fire at.

Finally, on the Palestine business, we were not taking an attitude toward the Jewish question, but rather to the conflagration which is brewing there and which expresses itself now in the violence of the Jews. None of us has an attitude toward the Jewish question, at least not officially, and there is no need for us to be forced into one. Whatever the subjective motivations of any of the participants there or their organizational affiliations, the violence there is not something which can be regarded as activities of provocateurs. Perhaps a better example could ~~have~~ have been chosen. At any rate, it's too late now. I ~~sure~~ would find any attempt by workers statists etc. to discuss that as a complete evasion of the attack which we have made against Germain's position. No doubt you have found it the same. I mention the matter only because it has been raised so often.

The news you send about Chaulieu was wonderful. I hadn't realized that you read the bulletins before you sent them. How you got the time is a puzzle to me. The fact is that J handed them over to me just a few weeks ago to read, and when I settled down to it, I was so struck by his method that I couldn't refrain from writing to you about it immediately. I was translating it anyway in rough form for J to save him time and so I sent on a copy to you. Nothing lost, I hope. I don't find anything in your conception of him which is contradictory to what I speculated about as a possibility as soon as I read him.

We liquidated on Monday night and last night the comrades all attended branch meetings. I will describe them to you another time. We were all anxious to get down to work in a party and had a tremendous sense of satisfaction and accomplishment from what we had done during the interim period. Carl and Dave at the last moment decided not to ~~sign~~ sign the letter of application and resigned from the caucus. Tobin and Ray in Cleveland came along. The letter of application will appear in this week's Militant - 86 signatures including about 9 recruits during the interim period.

On the NC question. JPC asked us to make a proposition after he had made one of one NC member and one alternate. We said that we had wanted our

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two leading people to be regulars. The resident SC ~~finally~~ unanimously proposed that we recommend J and you, with John Z. as alternate. This achieves many things. First, it is in line with our political conceptions with regard to worker elements. Second, it means that everything isn't stacked up in N.Y.; and Third, it means that the third person really could contribute something new that the others could not. We made the proposal yesterday (JPC wasn't there and it was made to him in a letter but to Warde in person), and they will poll their NC.

On City Committee, they suggested 2 regulars and 1 alternate. The SC recommended Marty and I for regulars, Ike for alternate. The membership elected these the other night. The only other nominees were made by Ruth and Leah, who nominated Tom and Ruth.

and

I chatted with Warde ~~and~~ Wright today. I don't know whether J told you anything about a collegium which was suggested by JPC, which would gather material on exports, imports, boom etc. for the American Revolution. That will get into stride in time. Today we were just chatting. Wright had a great deal to say about Russian philosophers, Hegel, etc. At one point he started lecturing me about the party and the mass, then about the Young Marx etc. He strikes me as an entirely different type from JPC and Warde, and even from Clarke.

Among the other things discussed by the SC in its last meeting was your return trip abroad. It requested that you not make definitive arrangements with people about <sup>your</sup> returning in view of other ideas which it has on the subject. Nothing definitive would be decided on this score, of course, until you return, but we wanted you to bear it in mind.

On stocks of literature. You were probably told that we had a liquidator for our finances and stocks - Ed who will work with Freddie on it. The proposition made by JPC was that they list our stuff. The liquidators are proposing a plan whereby we hand over stocks ~~xxxxx~~ on a sales percentage basis for about 6 months in order to help us liquidate some of our obligations. Definitive arrangements have not been completed, but everything seems to be going well.

J may have reported this to you already. John had told us about the disparaging remarks made by Frank in the presence of other comrades regarding J etc. We decided that at the first opportunity J would bring the matter up, telling JPC quietly that this did not seem to him the best way for leaders to behave with regard to one another right after an entry. He explained that for himself it did not matter, but if this sort of thing went on, the rank and file comrades would begin to get hot in disputes etc. JPC said that he would take it up in the FC. It was all very quiet but very firm.

At the same meeting with them, J told them that he had to go away for some weeks, that you would be back soon (in some weeks) but that he had to get away. They accepted the necessity in genuine good-will.

I think that about exhausts the news for now. There will probably not be many more letters to you, although I hope there will be many from.

We are all looking forward to your return.

As ever,  
G-