

July 14, 1970

Vancouver

Dear Leg;

I'm sorry to have been so long in taking up your letter. I've gone of them has been like nettles---so calm so patient---but what a prick of my conscience. ~~But~~ I have been working over the past couple of months just as hard as ever---no doubt even harder---the trouble is I have only been able to respond to crises---matter of immediate and pressing concern

We finally moved in here end of May first of June. A big job right at the time of the mobilization. Labor power is very tight unless you are prepared to rupture other work and at that time we were pushing with all our might everyone into the mobilization. Our labor team wasn't able to finish the job before we moved and at anyrate funds ran out and they had to take on another job out at Kingston. We do not have many comrades with technical know how and so I took over the construction job. Well last week we finally finished the hell ~~in~~ the kitchen except for the floor. We haven't yet got into the file room---educational room upstairs. A tremendous job made worse because over the last year or so because of our old cramped space Dick ~~gave up~~ gave up on the files---but the material kept coming in, piling up. And of course we want to become better equipped than ever in this respect.

Yesterday we finally ~~gave up~~ took time out to really do the floor---beautiful. We expect in the next day or so ~~to~~ the place will now ~~pass~~ pass with approval of the eyes of the liquor control board---so we will be able to get banquet permits. The place has passed the board of health and the building inspector

As you have no doubt noticed I have been busy travelling around. Montreal is making big demands on us. Opening forums in St Catharines, in Orillia and in Sudbury and things will be moving for us shortly in London. So the movement is branching out in the key lower Ontario area as it is into Winnipeg and of course we have been moving out more into the international ~~arena~~ arena. Several weeks ago in close consultation with the American comrades we decided that we would withdraw John and Sheila when they came over for the convention. Barry Sheppard and Caroline are coming out and probably won't be replaced until the fall. The heat is on for me to go over and stay a couple of months during the transition. ---actually to stay there for some period but we are all unanimous that we cannot afford this and at most only for the transition sometime between our convention and Christmas.

And all this is taking place within the developing heat of preparing for our convention. We are now typing up the US contribution on Women's Liberation and a special contribution from Sheila...along with the Declaration of a ten day by Michel Hill. The next document will be the Quebec one. It looks like I will have to be going down to Montreal. Dick has already gone down to work with Art on it for the second time and Art wants me to come down at the end of the week.

Oh I didn't tell you that Jack Barnes phoned me today to ask if I would take one of the three big ~~parliament~~ meetings they are holding during their Berlin educational project---they want me to speak on the BR. I should go but I think we will try to arrange some other comrade---several of whom can do the

-s I say I have been only able to respond to crises--matters of immediate and pressing concern, but all the above of course makes one aspect of my correspondence or the correspondence that I should be carrying with you of increasing concern. Money Money. But I haven't been able to pull together your various letters. So pressed to keep the headquarters operating--moving, the Labor Challenge. I haven't even got a place for myself to work. The place we are allocating to me upstairs with the editorial offices is one great big jam of unsorted materials. So I have been working out of boxes--very portable. And been using the big hall as I am tonight prior to the branch meeting as the central office. Not very efficient...but no alternative for a while.

We are having a few problems. Phil has not proven able to get a job. And it has had a demoralizing effect on him. It seems that he became so demoralized that he ceased to have even the perspective of going out looking for one. He started talking about pulling out and going back to Vancouver. His role in the branch as such has been excellent. He has been making a really valuable educational contribution. We have had several talks. He gave me the impression that in part he wanted reassurance about his position in the cadre of the movement. I am not sure as to the origin of these doubts. However I assured him that the whole movement, its top ~~personnel~~ personnel, its finances have been geared to get us over the hump in Quebec which we ~~consider~~ consider the key area of our activity--and that it so happened that we all considered that he had the exact qualities that we felt were necessary to implement there for the next period. I talked about him coming into the center here in Toronto after a period perhaps working full time on the paper--feeling that possibly going on staff, which we hope to be able to work out in Montreal in the near future, was a big issue for him. I am not sure, but at the time I thought that we had worked out matters to his satisfaction. There has been a little relapse again and I was thinking of taking a drastic tack in so far as personnel was concerned, then he was reported to be in the thick of things again. Art told me this as he asked me to come down later this week while he and Dick are both trying to tie up the Quebec document. He thinks it would be worthwhile to talk to Phil-- but if he doesn't get a job shortly we will have to take some action.

Aside from our expansion of forums across Ontario now the Toronto forum has picked up considerably with ~~the~~ new headquarters. I intend to put out a letter shortly on our experience with charging admission. Since ~~maximized membership~~ the Toronto branch moved into its portion of the new headquarters and carried forward with its forums it has been charging admission---\$1 for employed and 50 <sup>or 75</sup> cents I think for unemployed. It does not appear to have affected forum attendance at all---I think we are now averaging about 60 persons per forum--with income up about three times. Furthermore the charge has eliminated the dilettantes who used to come to the forum with their peculiar positions often having no bearing on the specified topic. All in all a very good change.

The international discussion is opening up with a roar. At the Brussels meeting Jan returned in a document on Latin America which makes a balance sheet of the guerrilla strategy including the Bolivian comrades' experience. It has been agreed to circulate the IMF congress documents which will be good all around for the movement. ~~The~~ The minority contribution, particularly Connie's is first rate and the total minority contribution expresses the ultra leftist position of the majority...which has become clearer publicly with

the recent election. I suppose you read Pat Jordan's murky disassoc-  
iation from Robin Blackburn's sectarian position on the Red Hble  
reproduced in ICP. Well I have seen their special election issue  
and unfortunately it carries a clear and unmistakable abstention-  
ist line. Healy and ~~company~~ company have been really working them  
over from a completely correct position. It's good that all the  
documents will be published. The British minority position is so  
completely clear and correct--one doesn't have to be a specialist  
on the British question or any other question to get the message.  
The international majority leadership is unfortunately continuing  
to cover up for the majority--but Al gave an excellent report.

The best scene in the international aside from the US and the  
anti-war university experience is France. The movement there is  
making all kinds of connections. For instance we have acutally  
recruited Maspero. He is the owner of the most important broad  
left publishing operation in France. ~~thru~~ He puts out much of  
the material that Monthly Review puts out here and has been publishing  
a whole series of Cahiers Rouge pamphlets for us--we give him the  
copy he gives so many copies payment and sells the rest of the  
run. Well he has joined us. The comrades are having running disc-  
ussions with Roger Gauraudy, recently expelled leading theoretician  
of the French CP. He is telling us all kinds of things--about the  
million of dollars yearly subsidy that the Chinese gave the French  
French CP for years, how the Soviet representatives by a nod of the  
head told the leadership of the French CP who was to be their leader-  
ship. An aged but famous partisan leader, the partisan leader,  
I forget his name, is working with us

The NZ comrades are doing well. I suppose Keith sent you copies  
of their expanded paper. With the collapse of the Australian tour  
when Mandel was banned the New Zealand comrades took over and we  
are informed that they have been successful in getting bookings  
that mean that the NZ operation is self financing. Alas the leadership  
does not appear to be too interested in NZ even though the ticket  
can take them through Calcutta, Ceylon.....;

And even the Philippines where John ~~Sahn~~ Glenn is succeeding  
in pulling something together that looks very promising. Amusingly  
Mandel wanted me to carry this contact work on. Of course I am writing  
John and sending him material but this type of thing is a matter for  
the international. Alas the international has some very formal  
attitudes. For some reason tho we have only one person there the  
leadership thinks Austria more important than NZ which abuts Australia.

I got your recent cheque with the convention assesment. Hope  
in the next week to pull your letters together and answer any out-  
standing matters. I assume everything was ok with Sheila's income  
tax as I sent off everything you sent me along with the forms etc

comradely

Ross