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# Letter to C.E. Ruthenberg in New York from I.E. Ferguson in Chicago, March 31, 1920.

A document in the Hoover Institution Archives, Jay Lovestone Papers, box 195, folder 9.

March 31st, 1920.

Dear C.E.:—

It is likely too late for me to reach you by mail before you leave for Chicago, so I will not attempt in this letter to express my own sentiment about the rebellion which seems to be brewing in the party. I am glad there is rebellion against the CEC, that goes without saying; but I have yet no fixed opinion about how it should proceed, and I will hold any opinion open until I have discussed the situation with you. One thing I hope, that if there is something in the nature of a complete repudiation of the CEC that you will not stand as the defender of the Hourwichites. That would be a calamity to the party. If a break must come — and I am not at all sure it is inevitable — I certainly hope you will not raise the loyalty banner in behalf of those who have engendered the revolt.

Personally I have no zest for further personal controversies, and I will have no active part one way or the other, except in an advisory way. I have helped draw up a tentative document which is a call for a conference, somewhat paralleling the Left Wing Conference, but the plan itself was fully formulated before I arrived here. In fact the plan was definite to reorganize without any recognition of the existence of a national organization. I have not committed myself in helping to draw this document since it was absolutely conditions upon no action until after you were consulted.

But my name will be out of this, not matter what develops. I am sure that if this District Committee does go ahead after meeting with you to call a conference, this conference to call a convention, etc., that I will not do the least thing to support the CEC. I will stand aside and stick to my work of legal defense.

My primary object in writing this letter is to say that I do not think there should be another extravagant fee in the [Harry] Winitsky case. I can write the appeal brief along with the [Walter] Gabriel brief, and this will be the best not only financially but from the party standpoint. Of course someone else will have to get the certificate of reasonable doubt and take care of the bail, if allowed. But beyond this no fees are justified, and for this work no large fee such as Gitlow paid Whitman is warranted.

In the Gary case a new trial has been allowed, so this is in good shape. Of course I will do everything to help in the new trial.

I meet with the District Defense Committee Thursday night, after which I can submit regular accounting for the District defense funds, since I will probably act as secretary for the District, as well as Treasurer for the national fund.

Will expect to hear from you immediately upon arrival, and to have you with us as much as your work here allows.

Heartily yours,

Y.F. [Isaac Ferguson]

*Edited by Tim Davenport.*

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