
Letter to Rose Ruthenberg in Cleveland from C.E. Ruthenberg in New York City, April 19, 1920

Typewritten document in C.E. Ruthenberg Papers, Ohio Historical Society,
microfilm edition reel 1.

New York, April 19, 1920.

Dear Rose:—

I am enclosing checks amounting to \$869.75, which please deposit in our account. You can have the “Browning” checks endorsed by someone else.¹The “Browning” MO [money orders] have endorsed on the back to me and then sign my name on the front where it says “received payment.”

I drew two checks on the account there, one for \$100 payable to Irving D. Klein and one for \$55.24 payable to Charles Recht. Please enter these on your stubs and deduct from the balance.

Sorry I was unable to write for so long a time, my dear, but it has been a constant struggle here for more than a week. I hope not hearing did not cause you worry.

Things have gone from bad to worse. There is now a division in the party with myself and five Federations and four District Organizers on one side and the majority of the CEC on the other. I have left the committee and my assistant [Charles Dirba] is their acting Secretary. I will tell you all about it next Saturday [May 1, 1920], when I expect to be in the city [Cleveland]. Will stay until Monday.

I am sick and tired of the whole business and only wish I could drop out without leaving people who are depending on me in the lurch. However, the opportunity will come in about four weeks now

¹ According to a circular letter dated March 25, 1920, dues payments collected by District Organizers of the Communist Party of America were to be transmitted to the center in the form of checks payable to “James T. Browning.” (Jay Lovestone Papers, Hoover Institution, Box 195, Folder 9). Thus, Ruthenberg was transferring current CPA dues collections to his wife for banking.

and then I will be through. I would like nothing better than to come home right away and let them squabble as long as they want, but I have the party money and I have certain responsibility, and I could not quit at this moment without shirking that responsibility. I will not continue longer than the time I have mentioned above, no matter what happens.²

Comrade [Isaac] Ferguson tells me that the CLP trial in C[hicago] will not be started until the middle of May and that means that our case will not come up until Fall. I will therefore have the summer for myself.³

I will come there from Detroit and will probably get in by noon Saturday.

Say "hello" to son. Love to you.

C.E.

Edited with footnotes by Tim Davenport

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² From May 26 to 31, 1920 a convention was held at a small resort camp an hour or two outside of Chicago in the Southwestern Michigan community of Bridgman, at which was formed a new underground organization called the United Communist Party. C.E. Ruthenberg was elected as editor of the party' official organ, to be called *The Communist*.

³ The trial of C.E. Ruthenberg and I.E. Ferguson for alleged violation of the New York "Criminal Anarchism" law commenced October 6, 1920.