
**Open Letter
to William C. Endicott, Jr.
in Washington, DC
from Eugene V. Debs
at Woodstock, Illinois,
July 27, 1895**

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Woodstock, Ill., July 27, 1895.

Hon. William C. Endicott, Jr.,
Attorney in Charge of Pardons,
Department of Justice,
Washington, DC.

Dear Sir:—

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your notice in the matter of the "application for pardon of Eugene V. Debs, *et al*" and to say that I was not aware that such an application had ever been made. Neither I nor my colleagues ever signed or authorized such an application or had any knowledge whatsoever upon that subject. Will you kindly oblige me by sending me the application or a copy thereof and letting me know by whom the same was filed? It is an utter surprise to us for we never desired nor contemplated asking for a pardon. The Department of Justice, so-called, refused us justice and we scorn its mercy. I speak for all my colleagues as well as myself when I say we would all rather rot in jail than enjoy our freedom by the clemency of those who sentenced us.

Thanking you for your kindness and hoping to hear from you soon, I am,

Very truly yours,

Eugene V. Debs.

Edited by Tim Davenport

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