
Letter to the CEC of the WPA from Jeannette D. Pearl in Long Island, NY Preferring Charges Against Rose Pastor Stokes, Nov. 10, 1924.

Document in the Rose Pastor Stokes papers, Yale University, microfilm reel 3.

Sea Gate, LI,
Nov. 10, 1924.

CEC of WP

Dear Comrades:

I hereby prefer charges against Rose Pastor Stokes in that she is publicly declaring that I am a spy. Such a charge against an active comrade when unrefuted by the Party has serious consequences not only to the person against whom it is aimed but also against the Party. Such a charge lends confirmation to the contention of our enemies that the WP harbors spies and that it is publicly so admitted by one of its active spokeswomen.

I demand a trial. In connection with this charge, I want you comrades to consider the source from which the charge emanates, a highly neurotic woman openly living with a notorious white guard, a member of the millionaire class, who advocates "all reds be stood up against the wall and shot." To that end he is an active Captain in the US Army and no doubt has higher offices, too. When she was indicted in Chicago, he refused to go bail for her because he had to be *true* to his class; incidentally I secured bail.

I had urged Rose to leave him on the ground that a Communist who is the Party's standard bearer has no moral right to be living with a counterrevolutionist while preaching solidarity to the workers. †This evidently came to his attention and he forbade her to associate with me, declaring that he would keep me from his home if he had to use the US soldiers to do so. I have no doubt that her charge against me is based on a subconscious desire on her part to escape the humiliation of being compelled to accept such a tyrannical ruling as to her associates.

I hope comrades you realize the seriousness of this charge and will not look upon it as "a women's quarrel." This charge unchallenged is not alone undermining my revolutionary character but it is a stigma on the Party. I am prepared to come to Chicago if necessary. I have been active in the revolutionary movement almost 20 years. For the Party to disregard such a charge and permit its continuation would be a most serious wrong to me, particularly now when I am planning a leave of absence.

Faternally,

Jeannette D. Pearl.

†- Ironically, Jean Pearl (divorced first wife of Louis Fraina) and Rose Pastor Stokes shared an apartment in New York after the later obtained her divorce from Graham Phelps Stokes in 1925. The two remained close personal friends up to Stokes' death in Germany in 1933.

Edited with a footnote by Tim Davenport.

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