
Letter to Morris Hillquit in Upstate New York from Adolph Germer in Chicago, March 22, 1919.

A document in the Morris Hillquit papers, State Historical Society of Wisconsin,
Microfilm reel 2, Document 830, Frames 0676-0677.

Morris Hillquit
The Santanoni
Saranac Lake, NY

My dear Morris:—

This morning I received your letter of the 20th inst. The matter was taken care of sometime ago. Debs was up here and he, [NEC Member Birch] Wilson, and I talked his financial situation over with him. We learned that he was in debt about \$1,400 and we agreed that while he was deprived of the opportunity of making a living by his speeches, we would pay him \$50 a week. For this he was to write articles for the press, which he has done from time to time. He wanted it clearly understood that just the moment he was able to go out again and have an income, he would repay whatever he received from this office. Of course, I realize how this may be impossible. While I have no definite information, I suspect that his health is not in very good condition.

At the last meeting of the National Executive Committee, provision was also made to take care of the Chicago victims. What we are thinking of doing is asking for a fund for defense purposes and also for the maintenance of the families of those who are in prison. That means not only those in Chicago and Debs, but all other cases involving party members. I realize that there are a number of such cases and that we cannot give a princely amount to each, but we will be able to

help out a little and relieve the distress to some degree.

I have been wanting to write you about the coming election. First of all I think it will be of interest to you to learn that your former opponent, Kate O'Hare is again a candidate. I cannot understand this for only about three weeks ago she was in the office and told me that her former acceptance was a mistake, that she did not intend to be a candidate but that the girl in her office, though a misunderstanding, filled out her blank. She agreed with me that the International Secretary should be a person who understands more than one language and who is well informed on the international movement and that you were the logical person for that place. Within two weeks after making that statement to me, she accepts the nomination. Fraina accepted the nomination for International Secretary but later on declined. However, he is a candidate for the National Executive Committee and from the information I get from Julius [Gerber], they are making a well organized campaign to capture the district. What is true of District 1 is true of every other district. The impossibilists are determined to capture the party. If they cannot do it by capturing the National Executive Committee, they intend to do it in convention. As usual, they have no sense of responsibility and are of the opinion that the all important thing is to "propagate," regardless of consequences. I will get a copy of the ballot for each district and will send it to you within the next day

or so.

So you do not expect to be out before the summer or fall. I hope your “release” will be accomplished before that, not that I want to deny you the continued rest, but we need you back in the service again. It seems that we are to repeat the conflicts with the impossibilists and anarchists. The interesting thing about their whole propaganda is that everything they publish is couched in practically the same language, showing that they have sown their seeds throughout the entire movement. We made a mistake in not taking up the battle with them six or eight months ago. Of course, most of the comrades desired to avoid any internal quibbling and let them carry on their work without interruption.

I will be glad to hear from you from time to time.

Fraternally Yours,

Adolph Germer

Edited by Tim Davenport.

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