
Letter to Ludwig Katterfeld in Moscow from Jay Lovestone in New York, March 21, 1922.

A document in the Comintern Archive, f. 515, op. 1, d. 93, ll. 27.

March 21st, 1922.

Dear Friend,

What on earth or in h--- is the matter with you? Since the middle of January we have been sending every piece of printed, written, and even unwritten matter of our corporation [CPA]. You are falling behind. We have not been hearing from you with the regularity of former times. Buck up.

Of course you know of the decision of our Board of Directors [CEC] in reference to yourself. You must hurry back for the picnic [2nd Convention of the CPA, held at Bridgman, MI in Aug. 1922]. We need you and need you very badly in a hurry.†

From our bi-weeklies [reports] and minutes [of the CEC] you will get the latest dope. Here are our some specials.

1. Our friend Carter [Louis Fraina] has not been heard from. Nor has he turned over one cent to us despite your instructions. This only adds to the dreadful financial conditions we are in. Recommend you order the Argentine firm [Communist Party of Argentina] to order him out or to come across and carry out your orders.‡

2. The Lettish Bureau that was formerly in

the Partnership [Latvian Federation of the CPA, the most hard-line supporters of the Central Caucasus faction] is in possession of \$1100 it collected for their friends in Latvia. It is reported from very good sources that this money has not been sent to its proper destination but is being used to break up our firm. Please act on this and let us know by wire.§

3. Those who have deserted our firm are now waging a strong campaign of disruption on every front. They are demanding representation of the Board of B. [Friends of Soviet Russia] on the threat of spreading misinformation which will give away our best workers and break up the whole relief show.

4. In reference to bringing over Gn. Dbs. [Eugene V. Debs]! We have learned from very good sources that he is sorry at the mess he is in regarding the political alignments and his attitude toward the Main Office [Comintern]. He regrets the errors he has made. It appears, however, that he will not make a change [of] front just now. His trip is a matter of speculation at this moment.Δ

Last but not least, we are doing the best we can for yours [family] and Braun's [Max Bedacht's family] but we would like to do very much more

†- Handwritten marginal note by Katterfeld: "Am on the way. J.C. [John Carr = Ludwig Katterfeld]"

‡- Handwritten note by Katterfeld: "Official letter should go from the Secretariat [of ECCI] to the Argentine Party, telling them that Fraina had instructions to turn all his funds over to CP of America and liquidate his office. The Argentine Party should be told to see to it that he does this."

§- Handwritten marginal note by Katterfeld: "This will be settled O.K. J.C."

Δ- Handwritten marginal note by Katterfeld: "I shall see Debs myself. J.C."

and there is room for improvement. So--- we are counting on you to help us help them. Rush help and rush it at once. You can't be too soon.

Yours for results,

L.C. Wheat [Jay Lovestone].

Edited with footnotes by Tim Davenport.

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