

Bruxelles
March 11, 1978

Toronto

Dear John; *pk*

wayne R

It was good to get your letter the other day dated March 3 and arriving just after I had sent another letter off noting that I had received no correspondence other than a letter from Jacquie and a batch of the PC-NC material--on March 8

Received the Militant and Intercontinental on Monday and was suprised that none of my material made it--at least the first major article on the British union struggles. Probably they will have to rewrite that with the later one if they are going to use this material. I would suppose we would telescope them----rewrite them. I have a book review of interest that I have only to drastically condense and type up and this weekend I would think I should another article on Britain--big things there. Of course my articles are written you might say outside of the stream. There is no labor press coming through because of the postal strike(over this Monday) The comrades brought over the Mole but it is out of it. So I am dependant on The Guardian and The Times. I have just searched through a shelf of material to see if I can find a copy of an IMG leaflet--cant find it but suprised to find some other material that I ~~did~~ was not shown--but I see it is too weighty to mail you.

Perhaps it is just as well that I am dependant on this type of material--there is merit in ICP articles coming from someone here when we have people there, being a bit detached from the struggle --but who knows who they will be taking on.

As you know the mail strike has held up everything from Britain--including the material I sent long ago which I need to start writing with. I hope that this stuff will be in towards the end of next week so that Connie and Al can bring it over when they come here. Of course I do have some materials. I am now half way through Radical Politics and Canadian Labour, by Robin *matthews?*

Now I see why Wayne was so contemptuous of this book. I am now getting into sections where the author is showing his bias. Sad but he is nothing but a parliamentary social democrat--and imagine not only does he not understand the importance of the revolutionary socialist currents ~~which~~ which cause him among other things to telescope the unification of revolutionists in Canada and the founding of the CP into a couple of paragraphs--but even worse he had compounded confusion on confusion by depending on RCMP files as his source. Hence Wayne's tendency to dismiss this book. He is wrong though. The book is a store house of facts--a tremendous amount of research on a whole period that is key and has never been written up before. A really valuable book despite its grave weaknesses. You might tell Wayne and Jeff since he is pushing the book in the store of my now more valid opinion.

I am sending back to you in this letter 1--the material on my income tax. I have no material here to work with on this. Coral has everything but Joan has to be brought into this picture too because of a previous confusion with the department. I hope that Joan and Coral can work this all out and file everything on my behalf. 2- the other card on my hospital insurance should be put away in a file of things that I should pick up on my return. I have kept one card for identification. I assume that Coral has sent the necessary funds

so that this hospital insurance is completely valid. I think that it is important that I should have such coverage when I am over here--and it is important that it be completely valid for if I do have a claim I am already violating the contract by not having some kind of special permit covering me outside the country. But if everything else was ok I dont see what they could do about this. Would you check this payment out as I filed everything as they instructed with no payment of anykind while I was there.

Good to hear that Sheila and Kevin are off--particularly in that Sheila herself thinks that it is a big step forward for her recovery. We have a good operation in Saskatoon and she can move in there at any pace suitable to her. I am wondering if you should not send a note out to Kathy filing her in--she is the organizer. Sheila doesnot particularly reveal any trouble and it is possible that with her arrival and her abilities in Women's Lib particularly--and they have big challenges there---she might be swept in and over her head. Sheila will probably respond just as she did with the bookstore challenge--but you were here to take her out--I dont know who would out there unless it was her monther.

There are a couple of matters that I should put down right now before I forget.

1--When I was in Montreal last I met a very new recruit of ours who can be very valuable. Possibly since you were at the YS-LJS convention you will remember him--a tall blond haired blond berded fellow. He is an American draft evader. He is on campus. I think at Sir George but I am not sure. The point is that he is a big wheel in the anti-pollution movement. He has some official capacity ~~xxxx~~ in an outfit that has dough and has possibilities of doing things. I was not aware of this until it was rather late in my stay so I did not have a real opportunity to talk with him --had a bit of discussion more along the line of giving him a feeling that we considered this a most important area for political work. I gather he has had the feeling that it may not be too important--probably more though that he and we have not worked out how to use it. We have seriously neglected this area. Pollution probe has or did have groups in all the high schools in Toronto. Last summer they had a project for highschoolers up at Algonquin Park and at the last moment when I had heard of it I convinced one of our youth to go up. But he was an older youth and my impression did not know how to move in and around. We have contented ourselves with one or two articles in the paper. Even on this level we can do better--and I am sure he has all kinds of material that would be useful for both our Canadian and US press. But we should go much farther than this. We should think in terms of useful actions that we could initiate, participate in that would put us into contact with many who are beginning to radicalize on this matter. Why don't we move immediately to do something with this comrade. Perhaps a good way would be to invite him down to speak at a forum. He is a bit of a somebody ~~xxx~~ officer of somekind in this movement and I am sure he could give a worthwhile forum. We need an opportunity to talk with him in some detail. He would probably jump at the chance to come down to Toronto just for a talk. We should of course think this whole matter over. But we should move---I think that it is a real issue amongst the youth

2--I hope we are managing to keep in touch with Orillia. We have some valuable comrades up there but unfortunately ~~it~~ would be all too easy to lose them. I managed to establish a bit of a working relationship with the,

Pat Schulz

It sort of boiled down to me when Pat S could work it and then Richmond Hill strated to develop in a bigger way on its own. I had hoped to get up to every other meeting of theirs if at all possible. We have to line up educationals for them-- help them give them and give them ourselves. It is not at all excluded that one of the youth leaders could play an important role in this. They should be servicing Orillia--they have some first rate contact and in fact the daughter of the comrades there I think is very good. Hope you can move in here if you are not already doing so.

And what about Ottawa. We have a terrible tendency of letting things drift. Sometimes this works out very well--things work themselves out. But I am afraid that our problem is of a different type up there. I have spoken to other comrades about this. It should come up on the PC and there should be no need for me to go into the matter in this letter.

A little item for good public relations. By the way--did Brian get the transfer to Edmonton. Very important that we keep in touch with Bill on his trade union work. I do not know whether he gets Intercontinental Press but even if he did he might not have noticed that there is an article from a Japanese comrade which deals almost entirely with the post office union situation in Tokyo. Bill will find it quite interesting--and in fact it might be worthwhile his using a bit of it in his union paper. Now that I think of it I should have sent you stuff on the British postal workers strike specifically for him. Unfortunately I only came in here at the tail end of things--cant supply him with much on the whole earlier stage of the struggle. ...only the settlement which of course was a very bad one. As a matter of fact it could all blow up again. If it does I will make a point of sending you some special

material for him. The article was in March 8 issue of Intercontinental.

I am glad that you thought to send the letter from John Glenn over here. Is that all he sent. I suppose you noticed that it had no date place of origin etc on it. It came just in time and as it so happened affirmed all my arguments with Ernest as to how we should operate here. When I arrived he almost immediately thrust into my hand a big folder of material that had arrived from that fellow Eddie that John G wrote his letter with. I must immediately go through this and write up an article for ICP. I protested ~~and~~ that this was a big responsibility that we should assume here (the material was an assortment of three daily papers covering a recent student struggle --business publications, some Maoist papers --and nothing at all from our own comrades as to their opinion of any of this. I procrastinated--told him that I am sure that the ICP has connections with the Philippine movement there, that there are papers there put out by various currents whose line we can evaluate and ICP if it is not already doing this should do this on its own. I wrote Joe. Ernest continues to pressure. Finally I got down to look through the material and so I told him that there was no article that a serious international leadership would write up from this pile other than to perhaps present a few of the apparent facts from the bourgeois press. And I did not see why we even had to do this--that it really didn't matter if we covered it this way or not..that we can't be what we are not. Rather we should use the occasion to write the comrades and encourage them to write up something and in this way start the process of hammering out a beginnings of a program for the Philippines. No sooner had I said all this than John's letter comes in completely affirming the correctness of my opinion. It is obvious from that letter that it would be wrong for us to comment on the recent events there as they were the basis for the split in the group that we were working in.

--4444

I haven't written the type of letter that I wanted to in the first place which should encourage the comrades to start writing their opinions on the spot and lay the basis for a regular analysis of developments there in the form of articles that we could study and advise them on--leading to the publication of a paper in the long run. I am looking forward to showing this to Ernest at tomorrow's bureau meeting.

But you won't forget to alert Joan, John, Joe--the staff comrades about the coming arrival of this fellow Ramirez from the Philippines. Of course he is not one of us but it would be worthwhile to put ourselves out a bit and to try to give him an essential feeling of the theory of the permanent revolution, the role of the native bourgeois in such countries as the Philippines ~~and~~ the bankruptcy of any concept of bourgeois (native) progressivism and the immediacy of the socialist revolution.

tour

Yes, the Chartrand can be the biggest thing we have ever carried off. Should really do a great deal for the Quebecois cause and be very helpful for an ever increasing integration of our Quebec forces in the independentist circles. I hope we are really thinking big in Toronto. I have been waiting for us to move into Massey Hall. This should do it.

I see you are tending to think in the same conservative way that I reacted with regards to Vern. I think that we should encourage Vern to do it now. We need him now. ~~What a big deal~~ How important is this pension problem. Five years is a long time in this period of our movement. How is your pension and Dicks and Johns and Jacques. Vern wants to do it and he is absolutely right in this. I reacted badly when he first posed it to me--it caught me off guard. But now that you take time to think about it. Here is a comrade who can now come into the operation full time--and we need him now--right now in the worst way. Of course we would lose his pledge, important--but Vern working full time is worth a lot more than his pledge. I would think that we would very quickly tie down several more contacts who would more than make up his pledge. Vern has that right to work for the movement. He is a hell of a lot closer than any of you to his government pension. Hundreds of thousands of workers are living on this---I suppose ~~some~~ one of us could manage to make a go on it. I am all for us taking him aside and telling him that we want him to make the move now. I say take him aside because there is the viewpoint of Anne who I think takes our conservative viewpoint and he should settle this out--take a stab at it first---then of course we should come in right behind him in front of Anne--bring out her best points too. I think what we must do is very clear---and if for some reason you do not agree I would like you to write me to this effect--for I will write Vern personally.

Glad also to get Dora's material. In my opinion we should have published the Tabata appeal right away and not waited for the ICP to act. But I think I must have already given you this opinion--I seem to recall writing about getting hold of some photos of Tabata that I thought we had around. I do not understand why Joyce should suggest we not publish. Of course we were questioning just whether anything was left of this movement. However perhaps history has solved this matter. At the meeting that I attended in London Tabata was stumped to say what the movement was doing now. Well now we have some martyrs---real living victims of the SA regime. Who is actually doing anything in SA. At any rate that is what other operations have--martyrs and so we have too. We must give a big play to this development in my opinion

it is ~~only that I don't suggest that a Regal should do this~~ ~~with the Women's Libe~~
 ation

I think that I also said something about how we should handle the Bengal appeal in a pervious letter. ~~It~~I suggested that we hold forums in several places on the Indian elections and make a collection appeal ~~through~~ through a short supplementary speech on our work in Bengal. That may we'll raise about \$60 which would be very good. In general I think that is how we should meet these types of appeal. We can get money for them that normally we cannot get anyway. In some cases we might consider even aporoaching special people who we are trying to get into the giving habit ~~fer~~to us directly who might be interested in a special project. I think that this Begal appeal is the beginning of a central view of international funds --it together with our decision to go to duss.

Very anxious to hear what we did about the Prague trial. Everyday now the Guardian and the Monde carry something on it. In fact a recent item mentions that the authorities are disturbed by protests that have been carried on in various parts of the world. The past and next week are somewhat key from the point of view of impact. The improsened hear about these actions you can be sure. I hope you considered the Ottawa suggestion or perhaps some thing even more dramatic. It is possible that it is getting tought to get near a Czech Embassy. But it is difficult for them to stop a lighting action.

Incidently if you decided to say start sending over \$25 to the international it would be good if you sent it to Giseal wight away so that she had it for her financial report at the coming U.S. meeting.---right away would make it.

Good to hear that money came in from Brandon. I cant recall what the airfare to Winnipeg --Brandon--and back was. How much did they send as honorarium? Is \$200 what we expected--seems a little small. They were going to cover airfare, honorarium which was going to be larger because I not only spoke but appeared on a panel. And if I am not mistaken Penny agreed to send her honorarium to the center. The main thing is --did she get here. You might write her

Will take up the question of delegates to the WC later. I wasn't here when this was all discussed --Joe was--and he will probably be here next week.

Pat J and company are really moving in on the tendency--on the women's liberati ion area. Laying the law down--would seem obvious to me trying to provoke some more incidents--possibly a split or rupture in the monirty itself. Nottingham came out with an issue SW--and suddenly London comes out with one same name etc . Nottingham ordered to dump theres and do many other outrageous things. And to make thinbs a little more difficult the IMG conference has been postponed again--until June.

Now going into 6 pages--too much . Will write later

comradely Ross

There is always a danger that comrades who have been in the movement for some period, particularly in a period of profound pacifity of the class, will come to think that they are the only revolutionists, real revolutionists. *but strange to say there are an increasing number prepared to make the decisions about their lives that the old timers did & we should encourage them by more than our previous example.*