

April 1, 1971

Toronto

Dear Jacque

I got your bundle of joy the other day--yesterday.

But it was much bigger than that--a sort of birth --of a movement.

I was wondering when we would start to move--and this looks like this is it. Today Ruth and Lois' bundle of Toronto papers arrived and there -Metro News Toronto Stra March 27-stand Ken and Terry--taking on the York president

And the Czech action---just what we needed. A couple of days ago I wrote John R my comments on the latest issue of LC. And among the various criticisms I noted that the report on the Czech protests was good---BUT WHERE WAS THE LSA/LSO? When I read that LC without anything on us I sort of gave up hope--was wondering many things--do the comrades think my proposal ultra-left, a 'venturistic? Are we being overwhelmed instead of rising to the new possibilities? Are there others problems beside the one posed in Montreal that are disorienting us?? What? But now I see everything is A OK

It is good that you sent everything direct at once to Rouge. All the European papers of the movement take the r lead from it. So much so that I sent the photos and story you sent me on to RED MOLE. It will be interesting to see what they do. I do not know whether the press there has reported on the imprisonment of Vaclav Prchlik, for three years. He was a former general and political commissar for the armed forces during the Dubcek period. He criticized the Warsaw Pact's Soviet dominated command structure at a press interview July 5, 1968. Was that at the actual time of the invasion by Soviet troops. A while back I suggested that we should approach all the CP leaders who had opposed the Cdn CP's endorsement of the invasion and ask them to make a public statement. Now it seems more possible than ever to hope that they would have the guts to respond.

I hope we give it good play in the next issues. The link in to the Quebec repression is very good. In the press release I think it would be well to not ~~use~~ express the idea that we are shocked by the actions of the Czech officials--we should express indignation and that we are not going to be intimidated etc. So likewise in the statement--I doubt that the Czech people are shocked or horrified by this criminal act of repression----they are not to be intimidated. They know those bastards well. And again at the bottom I dont think we can say that people around the world are demanding etc etc. But these are distinctly small matters. The action is just what we needed--for our own movement--for Canadian politics-- and of course for the world movement. Our action is parallel to the romanticized and vastly idealized Ligue Communiste--and that is good for the international and the discussion that we are in

Equally good news is the YS/LJS recruiter. We have only a couple of months before the schools die on us

so time is of the essence. We should be able to lay the groundwork for a whole summer of activity--largely of course educational--assimilation and projection for the next fall.

There is a very urgent matter that should be handled right away. All the youth locals should encourage as many comrades as possible to pick up the Canadian government on its offer for summer jobs in Europe. I see in the paper that this project has been on for sometime but not too many students have grabbed it and they have extended the deadline until April ~~19th~~. Just enough time to really move in on it. This can be a big experience for our comrades and for the world movement. The paper reports that there are still openings in France, Belgium and Germany. These are just the countries ~~yes~~ along with England we want to go to. I would imagine they give you order of choice--it should be England, France, Belgium then Germany. We shouldn't bother about the Scandinavian countries certainly other than Sweden. I think that this is very important for us. It would be good if there was a real flood on comrades coming over. Those who get ~~xxxx~~ accepted we could hold an indoctrination (orientation) class for before they leave. John Steele could do this very well.

With the leadership here identifying with the Cordoba Argentine terrorists and the move towards easing off on police state regulations by the government with promises of some forms of parliamentary democracy--the whole line of the leadership here may blow up in their faces very quickly. There are now 45 in jail with 8 of the top committee and history tells us that once off in this tangent it is very difficult to reverse field--we may have the fruits very shortly.

The nicest, the ~~xxxx~~ most pleasant thing that has happened to me since I have been here was receiving the poster We are the People ~~xxxx~~ our parents warned us about. With all the comrades who are jammed into it. .. Sylvia, you Dave etc etc. Is that Jim Cook there on the left? What the hell is he doing in Toronto. I don't recognize the comrade right back of him, nor the comrade below Dave. Our apartment is very bare at 225. A couple of weeks ago I went out and bought some secondhand magazines that had some reproductions in them and have made a bit of a gallery. I have never gone for putting up posters in my room-- posters of necessity lack subtlety--besides I figure I don't need to be hopped up all the time. But I have put that poster along with the one of our U of T comrades coming down the stairs at Hart House right in front of me when I wake up. And when you see that Dale Ritch fellow give him shit on my behalf. I saw him in the hall before I left. I felt I knew him but I did not recognize him. He always wore his hair short didn't he. He looks totally different. In fact I was looking forward to seeing him and talking to him about his experience in LA--and there he was--we hardly noted. He probably was waiting for me to make the moves of real recognition so make it a point of giving him shit for me. Vic Hugh who knows him well thinks he's a really talented guy. Why don't we give him some extra pushes, responsibilities. As you know this is a problem in the youth. New comrades tend to be overwaded--particularly the best and we have a hard time to get to know them--which we must make a particular effort to do to see really who is who. I was myself pushed and shoved by others--you have no idea how modest I was. And you have a bit of an idea how many of the pushy types turn out to be duds.

And how are all our personnel changes working out. An excellent little item about Carole. I see Joe was down in the Maritimes. I gather that Ellie is not too much of an impediment--and that he is bouncing. And Kate

how is she making out with this big influx of very young comrades. What is this I hear about Liz moving into Women's Lib and not ?? I can never remember her name for some reason--the girl going with Harry. Since you were all so full of praise of her it worries me a bit. Harry sooner or later undoes all that he does. Of course Liz is a very capable comrades--but she strikes me as lacking in flexibility, not so bad of course when we have lots of flexible comrades working with her. Has she got her teaching certificate. I understand that sometimes you can get this with one year and while I am all for comrades cutting out and into the movement it is to be considered.

I hope that the comrades are thinking about our summer work. We need something big bold and dramatic--like Oberlin, like the SWP convention. A really big bold educational action. ~~Education~~ We need to make the main decision now so our papers start playing it up, getting it known so people can take it into account for their summer plans.

It has to be a big educational experience. So we not only assimilate the hundreds who we will be recruiting in the next two or three months but so we round out the face we are now shaping--action--with ideas. You recall when we were talking about a theoretical journal one of the ideas is that now our movement had to establish itself as the Marxist movement. We can feature me just back from Europe--we should invite George Novack possibly--or a leading woman educationalist such as Evelyn. This has to be planned now.

Where should it be. I don't think it can be held at the camp as I doubt that we could cope with it. You have to have real kitchen equipment, cooks much more space, facilities as it will be big. My impression is that you have to hold it in say Peterboro---a campus which is right in a summer resort area--not too far from Toronto. Can't be held in BC now that the movement's real base is shifting dramatically to the Prairies and the East. These moves also have to be made at once. The more I think about Peterboro the better I like it. It must be a beautiful campus and probably it is available on a contract basis.

Incidentally here is a situation where a comrade like Ellie can make a contribution. Although I see nothing by her in the paper.

Yes, this issue of YS is excellent. Strikes me as the best yet. The front page cartoon is excellent. Looks like we have a real find here if it is the same people who did the last. Look after them--we need them badly. Makes a qualitatively better appearance. The color is superb. Why don't we give recognition on edit page

The whole paper is very good. Some warnings very good. I see it was a fine ~~move~~ move despite all Kitchener doubts about letting go in Guelph...things are really moving there. Those two pages give a real feel of a movement--Orillia, Winnipeg and Newmarket, despite its touches of moralism

Colleen's article is excellent--trouble is it didn't get the right play--with that single line graphic--but the article is really good. George outdid himself in Vietnam. The student round-up with the splendid showings is really impressive.

We now have to learn how to use those offices. You know we really have shown much skill or insight so far--Brandon is a notable situation--where we control the paper and as you know were able to re-orient that seminar. We have to really thrash this matter out...maybe even hold a conference of our elected people the very next holiday weekend in say some mid-way point like Winnipeg. We have to learn how to use those posts with skill so we get all that is possible

without their becoming a one shot affair. We will have to be real politicians--

-----

with and

This can be a big experience for the student movement--having some officers who are leaders but who know how to go forward ~~with~~ developing a democratically operated--soviet--like--student movement. We have never had this opportunity before. We have a big challenge to make this not a fluke but part of a rising and developing process of student-faculty control of the universities. It needs our fullest attention. What authority, what facilities are available to a present and a ombudswoman and the Champlain sweep..can they take anyone on staff--say of the student paper. ~~is~~ A leader comrades to really move in behind these specific opportunities...we can make these comrades cross-Canada student leaders--or let them be broken.

A few incidentals re the paper---Ian has to find some way of tie-ing in page 2. There are many ways--~~many~~ but as it is now it is a shapeless mess---and the edit is very good. -so with the Trudeau cartoon, Why is Vancouver in the address column not listed at Granville --hope it is some distinctly temporary problem--look like hell. I see Fleming didn't know about Britain in Vietnam---see a book review that I sent in which he shared as Viet man would have seen. Layout could have been better pages 6 --7 as you probably know as well as I. Joe's letter to Trudeau should have been given far more prominence. Ian's article is really good although I don't get the line-"Nationalization is too expensive they (the present rulers) say..." How come we had no one from PEI at the Atlantic conference--you know there were a year or so ago some excellent actions and people at I campuses--Gus T met them several years ago

But there is one thing missing in the YS---CONTROVERSY---the most stimulating educational method. In the last issue you had an excellent letter that should have been taken up this issue---and it is still not too late. I mentioned it to you in my previous note. And you had the other item by Larue Lange which I think also should have been answered. We should answer Cheri although it is not as interesting and as important as the other two. I think you should still consider answering those in the previous issue--you can synthesize the issue

Look through the issue and you will see that while it is educational it is not formally so. There is no specific educational article which one comes away from feeling that Ah now I know

affectionately

Ross

The demos on Vietnam are going to be the biggest ever. Therefore both our papers have to do a real job on this question. I assume that we are moving in in all kinds of ways to help this biggest ever process. But what are we to leave these young people with. Some big project like our summer action. But something really substantial on Vietnam and imperialism and capitalism. ~~is~~ And we have to hit Trudeau. I see that ~~the~~ the chief of the Nuremberg Trials has written a most important book on war guilt. Trudeau only supplied the wagons. This has to be really worked out on all levels of our press. And we really have to sell.