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# Letter to Rose Ruthenberg in Cleveland from C.E. Ruthenberg in New York City, April 12, 1920

Typewritten document in C.E. Ruthenberg Papers, Ohio Historical Society,  
microfilm edition reel 1.

New York, April 12, 1920.

Dear Rose:—

I received your note this morning. I wrote Friday [April 9, 1920], but I suppose you did not receive my letter until today.

I wrote to your friend Lynn last week. I addressed the letter Carrabella. Was that right?

I went to the opera with our friend “H” Saturday night — *The Barber of Seville* was given. It was enjoyable but I was not greatly impressed. Spent yesterday in Yonkers. We had a two hour automobile trip along the Hudson to look at Sing Sing Prison. It doesn't look as nice as the Canton place [Ohio state penitentiary].<sup>1</sup> I'd much rather go for a walk to “Rocky” [River] with you than on any auto trip agoing. Things may shape themselves so this week so that I can get out. Do you think I can find a job?<sup>2</sup>

Although I cannot say definitely what will happen and that the conditions will be such that I will quit, the feeling is grow-

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<sup>1</sup> Facing imprisonment in New York's Sing Sing prison for violation of New York state's “Criminal Anarchism” law, Ruthenberg was clearly pondering life behind bars. Ruthenberg's trial began early in October 1920 and he was convicted and sentenced to 5 years in prison on October 29.

<sup>2</sup> The monthly meeting of the Central Executive Committee of the Communist Party of America beginning on Thursday, April 15, 1920 led to a split of the organization, with C.E. Ruthenberg and a handful of his co-thinkers bolting the organization at the session held the evening of Sunday, April 18.

ing on me. Even though you may sometimes think so, I don't care much about living here in this way. There isn't much interest in it, and I do miss you and "Dandy" [son Daniel]. Financially, we are running behind every month. If everything had gone smoothly in the party and there was the compensation of doing something worthwhile, I would not have thought of doing anything but sticking, because of the trial, but if things are going to go smash, as seems very likely, I don't care to have anything more to do with the organization work, because there will be nothing but personal squabbles for months to come.

Will let you know what happens as soon as the meeting is over.

With love and "hello" to "Dandy,"

*C.E.*

*Edited with footnotes by Tim Davenport*

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