
Letter to Rose Ruthenberg in Cleveland from C.E. Ruthenberg in The Tombs Detention Center, New York City, October 30, 1920

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

The Tombs,
New York, Oct. 30 / 1920.

Dear Rose:—

The telegram announcing the result of the trial no doubt reached you last night.¹ While for a time other people encouraged me to believe there might be another result, particularly in my case, I never really had any hope. With the judge [Bartow S. Weeks] and jury we had there could only be one outcome.

While the sentence could have been put off for a couple of days, we asked to have it done immediately so that we would not have to remain here for so long. I was asked first whether I had anything to say and made a speech defying the judge and jury and telling them they were part of the capitalist system of coercion and that I had not expected anything else from them. All the NY papers had the story. F[erguson] followed with a speech of the same character. The judge said he expected it from me but was surprised at F[erguson]. He didn't like me because I had treated him with contempt throughout the trial.

We are being well taken care of here through J[acob] H[artmann]. I have arranged to have what clothes and other things I don't need sent to you.

¹ On October 29, 1920 C.E. Ruthenberg and I.E. Ferguson were found guilty of having violated the "Criminal Anarchism" Law of New York for the part they played in publication of the Left Wing Manifesto in *The Revolutionary Age*. Both were sentenced to a five year term of imprisonment.

The sentence is 5 to 10 years, which means actually about 3-1/2 years. While that is a long time, my dear, don't be discouraged, something will happen which will change the situation long before I serve that sentence.

I understand at Sing Sing we will be able to buy some food. I have about \$60.00 and the Defense Committee will likely keep us supplied.

Do not hesitate to use the money you have for your needs and those of Dandy [son Daniel]. If you get short, we can cash in the insurance policies. I know from the past that you will get along and I hope you will not find it difficult.

We will probably leave here Monday or Wednesday and if you write before you hear from me of my address you may address your letter: State Prison, Ossining, NY.

With love and "hello" to "Dandy" [son Daniel],

C.E.

Edited with a footnote by Tim Davenport

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