

Nov. 2, 1956

Dear Olga:

Very hurriedly as I am literally working around the clock completing the manuscript which keeps growing and trying to meet a Nov. 15th deadline I'll have to be a miracle worker to meet.

Glad to have heard of distribution and in general to have gotten your letter and know you are in command of yourself and thereof a leader.

Of the stratification I cannot now go into so I will limit myself to just two observations 1) First the overall concept. The minute something goes wrong, even the best of revolutionaries get despondent and want to blame workers while the worst run to prove that workers as a class are not. Thus in 1914 Bukharin said not only leaders betrayed, workers are chauvinistic and that's when Lenin hit back not only with aristocracy of labor but with the fact that he was spouting "imperialist economism--imperialism had suppressed his reasoning." In America it is of course standard procedure from time immemorial to say the workers are just "people", more bourgeois in thought than the bourgeoisie, etc. etc. etc. Now this first came up in Marx's time when the trade union ran while the Communards were murdered and slandered, and Marx not only hit back with the classic of erasing their names and putting on Communards, but in his usual, thorough, profound, scientific manner, mentioning how the class as a class is not even touched by this or any other organization, how there are constantly new strata unabsorbed by organization and how these are ready to listen to International directly--I enclose this little paragraph of his and for the time being limiting myself to asking you to study in Volume of Selected Works (do you have it?) the last article on Split in Int., but mainly it is ourselves you have to study and think. 2) To look for lower and deeper layers always, but never to be inflexible--no generalizations that is that it is not the old any more but the young, the new, etc. because while it is true that everyone from the young worker, to the peasant so to speak from the South and housewife who has never been in a factory give the impulse, once it is given it gets the class as a class into it full swing. Hence Marx's statement "The proletariat is revolutionary or it is nothing"--read the chapter in the book against Lassalle. Now with that behind you and thinking of such "incidents" where the youth actually ask to be boarded and work for nothing--the "indentured servant" I would call it that shocked me so when I heard in W. Va. to show how capitalism never even does its job you'll be prepared to work theoretically and practically and I am sure we'll get there.

But the main thing I write for is money. There is no point so far as publisher is concerned to say I can give it to you on such and such a date but not now. You kill everything that way. Here is what I would like you to do at once: Write to Miss Adelaide Schulkind, League for Mutual Aid, 104 5th Avenue, New York, N.Y. Tell her you are working now & where--they never check--but that you are a newcomer to W. Va. and before you landed the job you accumulated so many debts you cannot now get out; that you are from Detroit and there knew a

12143

Mrs. Rae Adams, 4993-28th St. and when you wrote her and told of your problems, she recommended you to her and said she is sure you would help. (I'm a member so they "have" to listen to me) That you will be able to pay off the debt (Ask for \$200--that is the maximum they give & there is never any interest) at \$20 a month and can have 2 co-signers ~~XXXXXX~~ (Give Andy and either Dick or one of his sisters--again they never check but the slip has to be filled out at once) If you want to say instead you are sick or whatever you can.

Now here is why I ask you to get that much--you'll be able to give me--if the other 3 in the branch each undertake \$25 to be paid to you as payments come due on loan--\$100--the other \$100 I may want to take over in my own name to be repaid in same manner, but we'll discuss when you get it. The point is to get it now; to do it quietly and personally, not at local, not to make a big production out of it and have the money in cash so that I need not worry and worry over each cent when I have to decide on greater things.

Yours, as always;

Rae

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Negroes, of course, are included in stratification because not alone as any minority, they are of necessity of the lowest, unskilled etc layers but they're not foreign & as Americans can move the class from as a class - Will send you my old piece on Negro & Masses

Speech of Marx at the London ~~xxx~~ conf. Sept. 20, 1871 on Trade Unions
~~capitalist~~ ^{taken down} according to the protoko of Martān , printed in the material,
London conf, 1871. pp. 49059, Partizdat, 1936, Tr. from Fr)

Marx ~~spokhs, skazk~~ stated that the t.u. represent ~~the~~
an aristocratic minority. The poorly paid worker cannot belong to it; the
great mass of workers whom the eco. dev. daily drives from the country to the
city, remain outside of the t.u. for a long time, and the ~~most abazdelemnaya~~ ^{poor}
mass doesn't go into it at all. The same is true of workers, born (and raised)
in the ~~vostochny~~ ^{slum} end of London, among whom 1 out of 10 belongs to trade union.
The peasants, ~~podzemnye~~ ^{miners} workers never join these societies.

Trade unions by themselves are impotent; they remain a minority. They
have no authority over the mass of proletarians while the Int. shows a direct
influence among these people. ^{It} has no need of the org. of trade unions
for in order to ~~vychislit~~ ^{draw} workers; the Int. idea attracts them at once. The
Int. is the only society that has the full confidence of the workers.

p 187 1948

12145