June 18, 1985

Dear Bessie:

I want to speak to you about a very serious question on Finances, as it affects the whole organization, as it affects the staff, and as it affects your relations and the relations of others who support the organization in more than just the open pledges. One of the reasons for this letter is that we always have a preliminary report at the REB, which this year will be given on Monday, July 29. This means that John must have all the facts at least a week before that meeting.

It isn't that there is anything new about the fact that everything has jumped sky-high since we have moved to Chicago, and since,(whether or not some may recognize that the five we have are the minimum needed to function) the present staff is absolutely the minimum so far as the REB is concerned. That is what leadership is elected for -- to make such decisions. That is why a group, no matter how small, -- and believe me, the SWP was small and poor when Hitler came to power -- decided to issue the Militant three times a week and charge only a single penny for it. And I could sell 1000 copies, on a single corner, in a single evening, because Trotsky predicted that Austria would be next.

Did I ever tell you the funny story of something that happened to me during the Depression? I came home from work -- for Cannon, where I was supposed to be paid $8 a week but had not been paid for five weeks, had to borrow from my boyfriend, Max, enough to make dinner -- to find that my room had been gone over with a fine tooth comb, especially my books. In front of the books there was pinned a note addressed to "Comrade resident". The note specified that he was an IWWer who had come to rob me, that we saw the books and couldn't do it, so he had left but he would return at six and expected to have dinner waiting. Well, it saved my books, but I sure didn't like sharing the little I had for dinner. But I'm sure you know we all lived that same way. How many times have I had to live at your expense!

Yours,

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