Letter to John Reed and Ben Gitlow in New York from Alfred Wagenknecht in Cleveland, circa mid-September 1919.

A document in the DoJ/BoI Investigative Files, NARA M-1085, reel 940, case 202600-1775, doc. 881.

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Communist Labor Party
3207 Clark Ave.
Cleveland, O.

Reed & Gitlow,
New York.

Comrades:—

Now then listen — I can't go to jail just yet. Have too much work on hand. Besides, it's no use risking the *Ohio Socialist,* that is, its mailing privileges, for the sake of discouraging a few enlistments in the army to go to Siberia.

Let it all be as it may — it will please you to learn that the Communists are AFRAID to publish their platform and program. Ruthenberg said to me the other day that they would probably have to circulate it SECRETLY.† In view of this, don't call me an angle-worm — backboneless.

Note all you say about VOICE OF LABOR.

Will communicate your letter to the Executive Committee.

Keep at it in New York. Can not yet tell how much of Cleveland we will get. Of course, we cannot hope to get the language branches, and Cleveland is 2/3 language branches; but the English branches are ours, so it seems.

List of delegates will go forward in the next mail. Sent [Edward] Lindgren a list and told him to give you use of it.

Have three printers busy turning out supplies and shall get on as fast as possible. BUT REMEMBER, please, I am working on a shoe string. Shall, at that, keep things hot. Reports from other parts of the country are good.

Yours in Comradeship,

[Alfred Wagenknecht],
Executive Secretary.

†- The program of the CPA was published in the first issue of their official organ, *The Communist,* dated Sept. 27, 1919. It was also included in their "Pamphlet No. 1" produced later that month, published under the title *Manifesto and Program. Constitution. Report to the Communist International.* (Chicago: Communist Party of America, n.d. [1919]).