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# Letter to Alfred Wagenknecht in Brooklyn, NY from Bishop Willam Montgomery Brown in Galion, OH — Feb. 4, 1920.

DoJ/FBI Investigative Files, NARA M-1085, reel 940, doc. 595.

February 4, 1920.

Mr. Alfred Wagenknecht  
c/o Mr. John W. Kellie  
949 Willoughby Ave.  
Brooklyn, NY

My dear Comrade:

Mrs. Brown and I desire to withdraw our membership from the Communist Labor Party of the United States, and we hereby do so.

This action is not due to a lack of interest in Marxian socialism, for when we die it shall be found written on our hearts and in our wills, but to the fact that we are old and feeble and that the feebleness of Mrs. Brown is increased by the fear of my imprisonment.

We have organized and legally incorporated an educational company through which we shall do what we can within the laws of our country and state to promote a knowledge of Marxism. If it is found that we may safely continue our contributions to the work of the socialist parties we shall indeed be glad.

As secretary and treasurer of this company, I am herewith venturing to hand you on behalf of Mrs. Brown and myself the usual monthly check, but with the distinct understanding that you will use the money for the promotion of a knowledge of Marxian socialism only, in some way which comes within the boundary of the law and does not pass beyond it. If the Communist Labor Party knows of no such way, please return the check.

With every good wish for the party until we may safely enter it again, we are,

Very cordially yours,

William M. Brown.

P.S. Comrade Marguerite Prevey has seen a list of the Chicago indictments. She and Comrade Baker are in it but not you. The Wagenknecht who appears is August, not Alfred. I congratulate you and the movement. —W.M.B.

*Edited by Tim Davenport.*

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