
Letter to Alfred Wagenknecht in New York from Walter F. Bronstrup in Cleveland, February 9, 1920.

A handwritten document in the DoJ/BoI Investigative Files, NARA M-1085, reel 940, doc. 939.

A. Wagenknecht,
New York, NY

Dear Comrade:

The branch was out to your farm yesterday, that is, Tom, Mrs. & Thurber Lewis, Anna Morgan, and myself and found the whole family in good health and looking fine. Hortense [Wagenknecht] had a big pork roast for us and it looked as if though we would have to call an ambulance to move some of us away from the table. Everything there that you would certainly have liked, pork, sweet and mashed potatoes, green peas, nut bread, homemade white bread, cake, milk, coffee, and to top it off a nice big chunk of lemon pie. Some feed.

The road out to the farm is not as good as the feed was but we managed it all right. Talk about street car tracks, they have nothing on the ruts that are in State Road. They are only about 4 inches deep and snow piled up on either side about 3 feet high. I would not travel that trip every day for 3 feeds like that for I had to run on low out and in and my left leg felt like it was about to drop off on account of holding that clutch in.

That is all about yesterday and now for party.

Local Cleveland is dead, just like all other locals that I hear about and am unable to get any activity. If I call a meeting only a few show up and all they want to know is how are things going in the National Office, when is that unity going to arrive, why do we not receive the *CLP News*, and a lot of questions that I nor

2-9-20 anyone else here can answer. Then I have been informed that the unity conference is going on in secret and that we can not have publicity until something is agreed upon between our com. and that bunch that betrayed us and told us to crawl on our bellies to them. Personally I do not feel that silence is a good policy in dealing with this bunch, who will only double-cross you the first chance they get. The policy that should be followed now, that is if you do not want to kill yourself and the organization, is one of publicity; that is, play in the open with your membership, the time has passed when any committee no matter who they are can deliver or swing the whole organization. I do not doubt that you will insist upon the fundamentals but if this is given space in our publications it will drive that bunch either in or out and as far as I am concerned I prefer to have it out.

A plant can not thrive and grow upon the want of food, neither can an organization grow that is starving for information.

Sit down and think this over and see if this is not the best tactic. I may be wrong, but I can't see it and if I did not care for you or the organization I would say go to it and to the limit but the time is coming when we will need you more than now so whatever you do, do not put yourself in a position which means party death.

Your Comrade,

Walter F. Bronstrup
1244 Walnut Ave.
Cleveland, O.

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