
Letter to C.E. Ruthenberg in Chicago from Rose Pastor Stokes in New York, Nov. 22, 1924

Handwritten document in the Rose Pastor Stokes papers, Yale University, microfilm reel 3.

Dear Comrade Ruthenberg:

I have your note enclosing a copy of Jeannette D. Pearl's charges against me for "publicly declaring" that she "is a spy," and thank you for asking a statement from me before bringing the matter to the attention of the CEC.

I have little to state. As you know, certain circumstances have fired in me the profound suspicion that Comrade Pearl is not square with the party. In a few instances I have voiced this suspicion to a trusted comrade.

There is not a member of the CEC, I venture, who, in similar situations, has not done and would not do again the same thing. Not one of them has the right, I feel, to be "first to throw a stone" at me on this account.

Since the time I spoke with you about my lack of confidence in Comrade Pearl nothing has happened to weaken or uproot that suspicion.

I don't know why Comrade Pearl added the third and fourth paragraphs of her statement. She knows (what I cannot be expected to make clear to every comrade in the party) that I live *at* my home, but not *with* Mr. Stokes, nor have been for many years. Mr. Stokes' principles and mine, as well as our conduct in the class struggle, are diametrically opposed, as the world knows. I am responsible to the party and to the working class only for my own, and not for his, conduct.

I shall await further instructions in connection with Comrade Pearl's charges. I'll appear before a committee if ordered, of course.

Fraternally yours,

Rose Pastor Stokes.

88 Grove Street,
New York City,
Nov. 22, 1924.

Edited by Tim Davenport.

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