

Personal and
Confidential

65 Beaver St
Waltham, Mass.
April 29, 1941

Dear Hal:

It's odd insomnia should set you thinking of me. I know not whether to be flattered or alarmed. Fittingly enough, however, I have thought often of you, and blush that I never set intention to the deed of writing you — particularly when you were being framed. I take it for granted you knew whose side I was on. However, I detect, or think I detect, something between the lines of your last which indicates you have reason to believe I have deserted the cause of the dispossessed. If I am correct in that assumption I should be very interested to know how you came by such a suggestion.

I suppose it is true, though, that the world moves at such a terrific pace these days that one who doesn't change his opinions is apt to be left behind. However, I still stand approximately where I stood two years ago — I am for labor, and a labor party; I like Russia, regardless of what Vincent Sheean, et al, say about it; I believe in keeping America out of war and in making democracy mean something at home; I hate Fascists, and I have an almost equally intense aversion to those 100% Party-liners who apparently believe that no one is a sincere friend of humanity unless he leaves his wife, neglects his children, resigns his job and devotes 25 hours per day to making himself such a public nuisance that he will be of use to no one, and have about as much influence as a tumblebug.

For the past eight months I have been living the life of Reilly as a Nieman Fellow at Harvard; but the pipe dream ends next month, and I must go to work again.

As for Nazis in Cleveland — I suggest you find if ~~Simplex~~ Simplex Piston Co. of Cleveland has received any defense contracts. Its president, Pean Solenberger, is a pro-

Nazi, pro-Silver Shirt, and reputed leader of a fascist party in Cleveland, though I could never prove it. When Duke Carl, head of the German Red Cross, visited Cleveland, Solenberger was a guest at the consulate's luncheon. That guest list, by the way, would give you a good index of the Nazis in Cleveland. A frequent dinner guest of Solenberger's was our old friend Eliot Hess, safety director and chief "anti-sabotage" agent. You cannot use me as authority for any of the foregoing — but you have my assurance it is straight stuff.

The La Follette reports will show, I think, that the only outsider ever to attend a meeting of the board of directors of Associated Industries was Kenneth Scott. You will find him listed as guest in one of the supplemental exhibits. Scott, a professor at Western Reserve University is a notorious Fascist, and was the guiding genius behind Silver Shirt Susan Sterling's Association of Leagues which I exposed in 1937.

Hoping some of this may give you ideas for development, and with best wishes for your success I am

Yours,

Bill

P.S. I also weigh 325.

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