

Copy
714 Foster Avenue
Brooklyn, N. Y.
June 12, 1936

My dear Mrs. McCanliss:

I am very glad that you feel satisfied with the way the meeting turned out. Frankly I was somewhat disappointed with Mr. Smith. I don't think he did himself justice. I feel that a quieter, more serious, less agitational tone and manner, would have had a better effect. Mrs. Smith, I thought, was perfect and from those about me I gathered that she made a deep impression. I wonder what the reactions were among other members of the audience.

I do not know whether you feel compensated by the results for the enormous amount of time, trouble and expense you have given so generously, but I can assure you on behalf of Mrs. and Mr. Smith and myself, of our deepest gratitude and appreciation, for what you have done, for the kind solicitude of your sister and last but not least for the military precautions and watchful alertness of Douglas, without which the meeting might have been stormed by the enemy.

I am returning the material you have sent me with many thanks and at the same time I am taking the liberty of making a few comments, which I hope you will find of some interest.

There are few today, who will deny that the country is faced with the most serious and complex problems in all its history. Only the light-minded and the unthinking have a ready-made, blue-printed panacea. More than ever before, the times call for cool, straight thinking in the face of the confusion which is manifest on all sides. Loose and superficial thinking, resort to panicky catch-phrases and cure-alls, of which both radicals and conservatives are guilty, tend but to fan higher the flames of hysteria and confusion, with the inevitable result that the greatest demagogue will have his way.

It seems to me (and I agree with Mr. Levine on this) that if we would counteract the efforts of the Communists to confuse the minds of the American people, we must guard against loose statements, exaggerations and inaccuracies, which can only serve to strengthen the forces we are trying to combat. For instance there are a number of racketeers, who make it their very profitable business to found organizations and publications, for the purpose of floating the most incredible and horrendous tales about the Communists among persons in no position to check up on the facts. Such tactics are welcome grist to the Communist mill. They tend to make a laughing stock of those opposed and thus strengthen the hold of the Communists.

What is necessary in meeting this problem effectively, is a serious, factual and therefore unchallengeable approach. Mr. Levine and I have long cherished the hope that some day we might be able to launch a well-edited quarterly magazine which would give accurate, well-documented and irrefutable information about the true conditions in Russia today. Such a magazine, conducted on a voluntary basis without profit, we felt could be of inestimable service in destroying the Communist myth of a Soviet paradise, which today constitutes their chief stock in trade. The chief obstacle has been the lack of any means of financial support for such an enterprise. If you could possibly enlist the help of a few people for