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Hall Green,
B'ham 28.
2. 11. 63.

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17/11/63

Dear Ken,

At last I can confirm, with regret, that I shall be unable to come down to hand on next week-end. Technically the circumstances are beyond my control - I have, after some three years trying, changed my job & entered the "respectable" profession of teaching. As you may know, the first year is a probationary period & one of the conditions on which I got this job, was, that should the Head of Dept or Principal, feel that my running week-end courses would be of value to me, I would be prepared to go, I agreed to this (having not been to Teachers Training College etc) & the first one is for this coming week-end. I have tried to give this one a miss but it is felt that it is one I should benefit greatly from, & the pressure on me has been considerable, apart from which I feel I ought to get some background in any case.

Having cleared that bit of news, how does the SWF stand in relationship to teachers etc. My own feeling is that however reactionary & conservative many teachers may be, they are still workers, & that despite the fact that to a greater or lesser degree they are working for the State, they are still members of the "Ruled" masses as opposed to the "Ruling" minority. I am retaining full membership of D.A. & A until the end of the year & then I shall pay my retainer to

D.A.T.A. just to keep in touch, & join the A.T.C.I.
as a full member.

I wrote to Peter Neville but heard nothing,
but have been contacted by the B'ham University
Anarchist Group who tell me that Peter has
been invited to speak, along with other interested
persons, at their next meeting. This again, I am
unable to attend, since it is on the night of
one of my evening sessions. This next 12 months
looks like seeing me relegated to non-active
support of most things.

Regarding the Agenda for next week-end, I
can find nothing to complain about in the London
Group revised draft of Aims & Principles, I hope
this particular item doesn't get the Conference
bogged down by sterile, pseudo-intellectual
discussion on technicalities. I would also give my
support to Point 5B.

Point 6 has my fullest support with the
proviso that we do not blind ourselves to
the fact that the ultimate pattern of Syndicalism
may well be very different from that originally
visualised during the early stages of growth &
that non-Syndicalist adherents to Anarchist
philosophy can offer much in the way of non-
aligned criticism.

Point 7 cannot fail to get 100% support, in
principle, but obviously the whole question
hinges on finance & available time.

Point 8c is to my mind dangerous, while accepting the intent, the implications could well be used as a powerful weapon either for or against us, depending upon who is using it. Point 8a appears to me to be a red herring or at best a technicality. If a T.V. is jammed to cover an industry complete, involving all white collar & all manual workers, & if each branch is factory based then the comments of D.E. Rude are not really necessary, unless the conference has time to spare for debating a discussion of such points because nothing else is left on the agenda.

Re the ~~conference~~ sorry, Congress in Paris, while I would have been most interested to hear other views & take part in the general discussions on the points at issue, I'm afraid my personal knowledge on them is so limited that I am unable to comment from just reading the agenda. I have no doubt that sensible & realistic decisions will be arrived at.

Finally I am enclosing a cheque £2, to cover my membership, any outstanding debts (The Bomb etc) & the balance - if any - for use as you see fit. As I don't know whether the SWF has it's own banking A/C. (Capitalist Influence?). I am making same payable to Bill Christopher.

Best wishes to yourself & all comrades.

Fraternally

Len Cross