1911 Oct 3 Frank Bohn to TD TLS 2pp InTI, Debs Coll.

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CHICAGO,

Oct. 3, 1911,

BOHN

CHARLES H. KERR & COMPANY,

PUBLISHERS : CO-OPERATIVE

118 WEST KINZIE STREET

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FRANK

Mr. Theodore Debs,

Terre Haute, Ind.

Dear Comrade Debs:

Haywood has just gone through here on his way east. His opinion combined with that of many others which we have lately taken leads me to reopen the matter of the National Secretaryship with you. Every one of our persussion with whom one talks agrees with us that next year is to be the crucial year in the history of the Party. The reports for September show that we now have one hundred thousand members. On May 1st we are likely to have 150,000. Three-fourths of this material will be green and untried. Everything will depend upon the character the campaign. A revolutionary majority on the N. E. C. with you as National Secretary could profoundly effect the education work of the campaign in many ways. These I need not describe to you. Even a revolutionary minority with you as National Secretary could prevent yellow methods, and probably do the work which most needs doing at this time.

We are not underestimating the importance of your present work, but could you not keep in touch with it from Chluago, having the assistance of a capable and trusted office man at Terre Haute?

One of our veteran comrades who tends to be a little bit excited over the present situation said to me a few days ago that "We must demand that Comrade Theodore Debs in the present crisis forget everything else and serve in the movement". I replied that you would probably not wait until your comrades used force, that when you reflected more upon the situation and realized the urgency you would undoubtedly be as ready to serve as we are to

The main features, to mer mind, are simply these. Comrade Work is a thoroughly honest wan, an excellent fellow

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and he will do his duty as he sees it, but he lacks revolutionary knowledge and has not the force of character to succeed in so trying a position as the campaign will place him in. Furthermore, the present majority of the N. E. C. if re-elected will find it easy to make use of him for any purposes they may have in mind.

YOU ARE THE ONLY COMRADE IN THE COUNTRY THE CAN DEFEAT COMRADE WORK FOR THE POSITION. EVERYBODY WHO MEN-TIONS THE MATTER IS AGREED ON THIS POINT.

These opinions are those of all who are connected here with the Review and as I suggested above they are widely prevalent in the Party.

With best wishes, I remain,

Yours in the Cause,

Frank Bohn