

IRI

INTERNATIONAL RADICAL CLUB

Kansas City, Mo., Dec. 22, 1917.

Elisabeth Freeman,
269 West 12th St.,
New York City.

Dear Miss Freeman:

You have doubtless read of the conviction in the Federal Court here of nine people for conspiracy against the draft; also that an appeal would be taken. Both statements are true. All nine were found guilty on Dec. 6 after a trial lasting four days. Judge Van Valkenburg gave all but one of them the maximum penitentiary sentence of two years and also fined each of the nine \$1000. The one woman in the case, Lenora Warneson, mother of a babe of four months, he did not send to the "pen" only because "this court does not want to set the precedent of sending babies to jail." The defendants are going to appeal and have retained Redmond S. Brennan of the firm of Frank P. Walsh; he states that there is enough reversible error in the record to make the decision worth contesting. We are therefore appealing to you, as a personal friend of two of these people-- Lenora Warneson and Earl R. Browder--, to help make this Kansas City case an ultimate victory for justice and democracy.

The other seven people convicted are: Raymond I. Moore, husband of Lenora Warneson; R. W. Browder and W. E. Browder, brothers of Earl; Edw. W. Eagan; Harry I. Doile; Thos. R. Sullivan; and Elea Luboshey. All but the last two are trade unionists, the Browders and the Moores being members of the Office Workers union (S.T.B.&A., 14268-A.F. of L.), Doile of the Typographical union, and Eagan of the Iron and Tin Workers union. Eagan, Sullivan and the Browders are also members of the Socialist Party.

We understand that you are somewhat familiar the the work of these people as leaders in the local branch of the American Union Against Militarism and later in the Federation for Democratic Control, which they formed after war was declared (in the absence of a war-time program of the American Union) to help maintain civil liberties and to prevent the passage of conscription. When the latter became a fact, an injunction suit was brought against the state and city officials charged with the execution of registration. On May 31, in the midst of this case, while the attorney was filing an appeal, Moore and Sullivan were arrested in the courtroom and charged with conspiracy against the draft. The other seven were arrested the same day. On June 6, a special grand jury returned an indictment against the nine people, together with a tenth, one H. D. Kleinschmidt, who had helped raise funds to test the draft law.

The nine defendants retained J. I. Sheppard, well-known Socialist lawyer of Fort Scott, Kans., to defend them. Two days before the trial he wired his inability to be present and sought to secure the services of Brennan. The latter had ~~two~~ cases in Wichita on the date of the trial and could not accept. Finally a lawyer was secured merely to go before the court and ask for a postponement until Brennan could return. This the court flatly refused to do, and instead appointed this lawyer to defend the case. He was forced to proceed immediately without con-