

Ben J. Salmon
Secretary Denver Branch
The People's Council of America for Democracy and Peace
Denver, Colo.

Denver, Colo. Oct. 29, 1917.

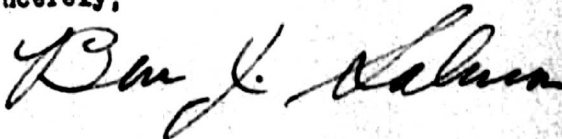
Dear Friend:

This letter will be short; sweet or sour according to how the enclosed circular impresses you.

We want to cob-web the nation with these circulars. Five dollars will bring 600 copies to your address express prepaid. Will you kindly persuade a few friends to flick you a simoleon, send me an order for \$5.00 worth? The object: flood congress with a demand that wealth be taxed to pay for the war, and that the United States strive for an early peace.

I hope you will not think me too optimistic when I tell you that three days after to-morrow I will receive your reply. Many thanks.

Sincerely,



Address envelope:
Ben J. Salmon,
222 Guardian Trust Building,
Denver, Colo.

KILLING THE WRONG MEN

By **BEN J. SALMON**

Secretary Denver Branch The People's Council of America for
Democracy and Peace

If, believing you were repelling entrance of a burglar into your home, you shot and killed your brother, think of the horror that would grip your soul when the grim fact became known!

Impossible to kill the Kaiser and his generals—we kill the wrong men whom he forces to guard him. Four million already slaughtered; he will feed the cannon millions more. Eventually the Kaiser's life will be in jeopardy; he will hoist the white flag, later sit at a banquet table after signing the document binding his subjects to pay a crushing war debt, then drink to the health of his erstwhile diplomatic foes, walk away carefree, burdenless, wealthy. Likewise the presidents and kings.

THOSE WHO SUFFER MOST

In all nations women and children are the innocent victims. Easy for a man to die in battle, large percentage of soldiers experience no death agony; an instantaneous flash hurls them into eternity. Crushing burdens and poignant grief bequeathed to mothers, widows and orphans, happiness snatched by the sequence of war profits, their hearts torn asunder, mutely suffering indescribable tortures. Truly an ostrich-like manner of protecting women and children.

Newspaper misrepresentation causes people to misunderstand the motives actuating, and the aims of The People's Council. This circular explains our position.

That Americans are against war was unmistakably evidenced when they re-elected President Wilson "because he kept us out of war." We are sacrificing American lives to settle an European family quarrel. Why not make those cousins and aunts patch up their own squabbles? Of course this would be less profitable for American financiers. Were we to demand that our representatives adjust differences by negotiation—which is the ultimate of all wars—or to themselves engage in physical combat while we do the watchful waiting, international problems would be solved amicably.

PRO-HUMANITY

We are not pro-German, nor, like the newspapers, pro-English. We are pro-humanity. Regardless of nationality, we regard all men as our brothers. God is "our Father who art in heaven."

President Wilson, addressing the New York Press Club, voiced our sentiments when he said:

"I have not read history without observing that the greatest forces in the world and the only permanent forces are the moral forces. We have the evidence of a very competent witness, namely, the first Napoleon, who said that as he looked back in the last days of his life upon so much as he knew of human history, he had to record the judgment that force had never accomplished anything that was permanent."

We believe that love is more potent than armies, charity more efficacious than military strategy.

We are striving for *REAL* Democracy—not the kind that stultifies its name.

We detest Kaiserism so vehemently that we will exert ourselves strenuously to resist its establishment in America. The system of which the Kaiser is a personification is taking root in the United States; it must be repressed. Americanism has become a myth, while the most glaring anomalies are substituted for the standards purchased with the blood of our forefathers.

OURS IS THE LAND OF TYRANNY AND INJUSTICE

America is the land of pauperism. Destitution reigns supreme. To first correct the evils at home, thus setting Germany an example, is a surer way to "make the world safe for Democracy" than by entering our neighbor's domicile demanding he adopt rules that we ruthlessly disregard in our own household. Forcing Democracy on Germany while we stifle it at home! Ridiculous.

While President Wilson was leading the line of conscripted poor men's lives down Pennsylvania Avenue, the Senate was voting 4 to 1 against the conscription of rich men's dollars. Democracy?

Under the guise of expediency we are denied the constitutional right of peaceful assemblage; our meetings have been dispersed, meeting halls closed against us, our newspapers suppressed. Hence the necessity of distributing this circular.

WHO BENEFITS?

The war profits of the big trusts last year amounted to \$4,000,000,000. The average mind cannot comprehend the enormity of these figures. It is a notorious fact that a fusion of English and American financial interests precipitated our entrance into the conflict. How many American newspapers are free from British dominancy?

WHY NOT TAX THE RICH?

Senate reports state that the first year's cost of the war will total \$18,000,000,000. In addition to this the landlords of the United States charge us \$6,000,000,000 annually for permission to live on God's earth. Tax this one item of extortion 100% as a war necessity, just as we tax a poor man's life 100%, and wires will be pulled so sternly that official Washington will declare peace peremptorily. If the "interests" find it cheaper not to have war, it will cease. The poor man gives his life; the rich man reaps a harvest. War profit is the basis of all wars. Remove the cause—the effect will vanish.

WILL YOU ACT?

The People's Council urges an immediate, general and democratic peace to be secured through negotiation in harmony with the principles outlined by the President of the United States and by New Russia, and accepted substantially by the Democratic forces of France, England, Italy, Germany, Austria and other countries, namely:

- (a) No forcible annexation of territory.
- (b) No punitive indemnities.
- (c) Free development of all nationalities.

We urge international organization for the maintenance of world peace. We demand repeal of the draft laws. We demand conscription

of every dollar of surplus wealth to pay current war expenses and all war debts.

We pledge ourselves to continue working for the safeguarding of labor standards, and to preserve and extend democracy and liberty within the United States.

ELIGIBLES

The People's Council wants only men and women of the type of George Washington, Abraham Lincoln and William Penn to join its ranks. We are striving to help the government—not hinder it. The government is the whole people. Politicians are merely representatives—at the present time misrepresentatives.

WILL YOU HELP?

First, write a postal to your Congressman urging that excess profits of all businesses be taxed 100% to finance the war and to liquidate all war indebtedness when hostilities cease; also urge that the United States strive in every possible manner to establish peace throughout the world.

Secondly, send one dime to Ben J. Salmon, 222 Guardian Trust Building, Denver, Colorado; he will mail you a supply of this circular for free distribution among your friends. The 10c will pay postage, printing, etc. Somebody else paid to get this circular into your hands. Reciprocate by helping us reach others. "Do your bit." If you prefer not to order these circulars for yourself, order for a friend.

We urge you—act quickly!!! A crisis is upon us. Your efforts and our efforts will accomplish the desired results.

Since its inception a few months ago, The People's Council of America has enrolled over two million members. Help us to exert an influence by distributing some of these circulars, thus circumventing the war-profiters' attempts to crush us. They have succeeded in preventing our meetings, but they cannot stop our work if you will procure some of these documents and pass them among friends.

For any additional information write to the National Headquarters of The People's Council, 2 West 13th Street, New York City, or to Ben J. Salmon, Secretary of the Denver Branch, Denver, Colo.