

TELEPHONE LUXEMBURG 2-5000

HOTEL  
**Woodstock**

127 WEST 43<sup>RD</sup> STREET  
NEW YORK 18, N.Y.

CABLE ADDRESS "VALIQUETTE" NEW YORK

Friday —  
Sept 10

Dear Harry:

Just a note to say that I spent several hours last evening with Jane Estes. As I expected, I found that the series of episodes leading to her dismissal were in themselves trivial — and they all seemed to me to be comparable to other incidents described by a number of other people. They all, taken as an accumulation of episodes and attitudes, indicate to me a very serious situation — The trivial character of them all

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Should not mislead us into thinking that they can be regarded casually. Where people are unhappy and unfairly treated, nothing which causes these results can be considered trivial.

I have advised Jane not to discuss these things, and for the present not to go up to the school, as she had planned, to get some things from her trunks. She will ask Nell to send what she needs. I have also told her she could refer anyone to me, if in the future she finds opposition to her applying for some opening in workers' education. I told her we would regard our talk as between ourselves.

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It seems to me she has shown integrity, courage and a desire to help the school in whatever she has done - she may not have always used the best judgment, in talking so much about it, while she was still employed there, but this was natural, as she was so puzzled, in trying to find a solution. I see no reason why eventually she can't find some place in workers' education and contribute a lot to it. I've said all this to her.

Done on a bus, which accounts for this jerky scrawl. I'll be

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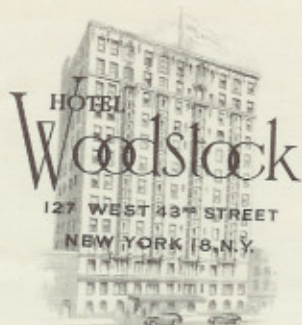
Back in Wash. tonight.

I've seen John Connors,  
Fanny Rogin, Jim Hill,  
Charlie Cogan, Grace Quinby,  
Jim Healy, John Smith and  
a number of other faculty, &  
Board members. Only, with  
John, I did not discuss the  
administration, thinking it  
would be little use and  
only make it difficult for  
him. He was helpful on the  
general problems of the school.

Our immediate action is:

- 1) Try to clear up the present, and impending, deficit, by special appeals in several cities
- 2) Gather more facts & impressions before the Board meeting
- 3) Propose to the Bd a conference of Educ. Directors of Unions in Oct, letting

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next steps depend on what they say —

Certainly a thorough analysis of school policies & program is needed, and either reorganization or closing down, if we can't finance it.

Only — no one I've talked with thinks the school should be closed! So what?

Anyway, thanks for your good help. Harry, in this tangled situation. As I see it, the less talk about it the better till something is decided — yours —  
Jane

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