

JESUIT HOUSE OF STUDIES

3959 LOYOLA LANE
MOBILE, ALABAMA

August 22, 1963

Dear Lee:

This morning I was speaking with one of our professors who heard the talk you gave to us. He thought that you made a number of good points. One of these was your criticism of speculation in the capitalistic system. He equated stock speculation with gambling. It seems to be another form of it. Another point was your criticism of exploitation which occurs in capitalism. On both these points, speculation and exploitation, the Popes have spoken strongly against them in the past 70 years.

On the other hand, the professor to whom I am referring thought that you hadn't made sufficient application. Applying the criticism of speculation and exploitation in our country, it seems that these things are regulated. In the instances where certain individuals do overstep their bounds, it seems that such occurrences are practically inevitable in a free society. If we are going to have freedom rather than strict regimentation, then the government will naturally find it very difficult to curb all abuses. The difficulty with communism is that it suppresses freedom, as you indicated, in order to obtain efficiency.

You mentioned that there are good and bad points in each system and that possibly the best system would be a fusion of the good points of both capitalism and communism, something approaching socialism. It seems that socialism might work in a small society but again, when we apply this to our own country, it appears that we are very complex and that it would be very difficult for the government sufficiently to control such a complex society as ours along the lines of socialism. Also here again, socialism means the sacrifice of freedom in practice if it is going to work. Freedom seems to be a fundamental human value precious to every man. I think that freedom can be retained and yet we can still have a just economic, political and social system. Of course this requires that each man live up to the obligations and responsibilities of respecting the freedom of other men and exercising his own freedom in a just way. Perhaps it is more difficult to achieve a just social order by relying on individuals to show initiative and responsibility in respecting rights and living up to duties, but it seems that a society based on respect for justice and individual worth is much more lasting and solidly founded and more in accord with man's nature.

The Popes beginning with Leo XIII in 1891 and continuing up to the present day have given considerable thought and energy in trying to think through to a solution of economic and social and political abuses. You might get some ideas from the enclosed article as to how the Popes have been trying to work out the problem as well as some stimulation to your own thinking on the matter.

That's about it for now. Give my regards to Marina.

Sincerely,

Gene

COMMISSION EXHIBIT No. 2648

"TRUE COPY"

JESUIT HOUSE OF STUDIES
3959 LOYOLA LANE
MOBILE, ALABAMA

July 6, 1963

Dear Lee and Moreno:

Here at the House of Studies during the summer months we have a series of lectures on various subjects given by different persons from the neighboring areas. These subjects usually deal with art, literature, economics, religion, politics, etc. We usually have a speaker every one or two weeks on a Saturday or Sunday night. Since we are studying philosophy, most of us are interested in the various phases of Communism, as this is a very timely and practical subject.

We were hoping that you might come over to talk to us about contemporary Russia and the practice of Communism there. A number of speakers have already been contacted and have definite dates on which they will speak. The best time for us to have you speak, if you are willing, is on Saturday night, July 27. The talk usually begins at 7:00 and lasts for about an hour. Then there is a five minute intermission and the speaker returns for a question period which may last a half-hour or so. When I say that we would like to have you speak on contemporary Russia and the practice of Communism there, this is only a general idea of mine. Of course we want you to choose whatever topic you like concerning your travels in Russia and to present the talk and its material in whatever way you like. It can be as informal as you like and a narration of your own observations. In other words, don't feel that it ought to be very formal and theoretical. Also, when I say that the talks usually last for an hour, I don't mean that it has to be that long. This is rather by way of a time limit. You may use whatever notes you may wish to prepare. In short, do it the way you feel you want to do it and be assured that we want you to feel at home in talking to us.

We have about 90 men who are studying philosophy in the House. Usually about 25 or so will attend these talks. We hope that you will accept our invitation and I think you will find it a good experience, as I'm sure we will too. Most of us are about your age. I wrote my family today telling them that I planned to invite you for this occasion. They had already told me on their last visit that they hoped to invite you to come over with them when they came here sometime. I asked them if they wouldn't mind arranging to make a visit here for the same occasion so that you could come together. I told them that I would ask you to call them to make plans about this or else for them to call you. Of course we hope Moreno will come too.

You can let me know what you think about the matter and ask any further questions you may want to know about the situation. Drop me a line when you get a chance.

Sincerely,
/s/ Gene

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COMMISSION EXHIBIT No. 2648—Continued