

MARGOLIS AND McTERNAN  
LAWYERS

112 WEST NINTH STREET  
LOS ANGELES, 15, CALIFORNIA

VANDIKE 7153

BEN MARGOLIS  
JOHN T. McTERNAN  
JOHN W. PORTER  
ROBERT D. KATZ  
WILLIAM B. MURRISH

November 27, 1950

Mrs. Cleo Trumbo  
Box 132  
Frazier Park, California


Dear Cleo:

Enclosed herewith is a copy of Dalton's letter.  
I am also enclosing a copy of a letter which I  
sent to Dalton which will give you some details  
of our present plans.

I hope that you are thoroughly recovered and that  
we may have some good news for you soon.

Best regards.

Sincerely yours,



Ben Margolis

BM:lm  
Enclosures

From Dalton Trumbo

November 13, 1950

7551

To Mr. Ben Margolis

112 West Ninth St.  
Los Angeles 15, Calif.

Dear Ben: As perhaps you know by now, we received parole rejections today dated, interestingly, November 8th. It is my feeling (quite aside from the obvious factors that went into the decision) that a different attitude toward the parole board in appealing for reconsideration, is now in order. I believe the approach to the board from the eastern end has been formal, legalistic, and perhaps a little timid. I feel that we in jail must take a more active part in directing activities for our release. Therefore -- and knowing full well the burden it imposes upon you -- I would like some specific comments on the following:

- (1) Should we, at once, write the parole board formally opening up our cases for reconsideration?
- (2) Regardless of the above, I strongly feel that we should at once get a group of very distinguished citizens together. Such men as Mann, Shapley, Pauling, Einstein, Robert Hutchins, Arthur Miller, Budd Shulberg, John Hersey, Bennett Cerf, Robert Morse Lovett -- such men -- twenty if possible -- only six if no more can be had -- but all top names, with ruthless priming of second-raters -- a purely prestige list.
- (3) That for this group we should employ a special counsel to represent them -- of the calibre of Chaffee or Durr or Claud Pepper.
- (4) That this group, through its separate attorney as above stated, should appeal to the parole board to reconsider its rejection of our parole, on the following grounds:

A--And Most Important: That the board in rejecting all of our paroles has set up the principle of No Parole for Political Prisoners, which is a perversion of the very principle of parole. Under this, the following subheads.

1. Consider other cases involving motion pictures, from Joe Schenck on income tax, to some 15 or 20 gangsters, extortionists and panders convicted in the Brown-Bioff case (Pearson listed them all in the past 60 days) -- every one of whom received parole.
2. Congressional cases (felonies) of May and Thomas, both granted parole after reconsideration.
3. Reactionaries: Joe Kamp, et al.; convicted of contempt and given the lightest possible penalties.

That the attorney for the group represent them before the board in presenting the petition. That work be done immediately to getting it started. That Herbert take charge for the West Coast, and Hannah for the East Coast. That the thing be done before Christmas, as early in December as possible. That the petition for rehearing be prepared in collaboration with the attorney representing the group: hence that the attorney and the petition be firmly set before any member of the petitioning group is approached for his signature: That signers be of quality rather than quantity, rigidly so. That the above take absolute precedence over, but does not preclude, other activity.

Forgive the incoherence -- or any inadvertent and unintentional rudeness -- in this letter. It is written in haste and affection. Please let us hear from you. Regards --

Dalton Trumbo No. 7551