



AUSABLE FORKS  
NEW YORK

Dear Friend:

For the past eight years I have been associated with and held office as President of the International Workers Order, Inc., a fraternal benefit society chartered by the State of New York. It has been a labor of love, and the job has been active but unpaid.

I have believed for a long time that man lives not by art alone; and because this organization, in a practical way, provided a cooperative, non-profit approach to insurance protection for working people, and sought to advance the security, well-being, and culture of the American people, I have been proud to be a member and officer.

Recently, the Insurance Commissioner of New York State brought an action before the N.Y. Supreme Court in which he asked for an order to liquidate and dissolve this great organization.

Such an action, in which a state official attempts to destroy a 20-year-old, perfectly solvent, legitimate insurance organization on political grounds, is entirely unprecedented in the history of this state and nation. If successful, it would directly cause suffering and hardship among large numbers of men, women and children whose security is intimately bound up with their insurance protection in the I.W.O.

I feel very strongly that the issues and implications of this case affect not only the Order and its 160,000 policyholders, but go far deeper to endanger the civil rights and liberties of all Americans.

For that reason I have taken the liberty of writing to you, as a person whose devotion to the preservation of our traditional and cherished liberties is well known to me, and beg of you to do any or all of three things:

1. Please read the enclosed statement; if it meets with your approval, sign the enclosed post-card and mail for use by the committee.
2. Write or wire Governor Thomas E. Dewey, at Albany, N. Y. urging that the action against the Order be withdrawn.
3. Write me your comments, or request further information.

Let me urge that you make your voice heard for the broad principles of free speech, the right of association, and equal justice under law, which are deeply involved in this case.

With kindest regards,

*Rockwell Kent*

February 5, 1951

Governor Thomas E. Dewey  
Albany, New York

Honorable Sir:

I am deeply shocked at this action that the great State of New York is taking with regard to the I.W.O., namely: asking for an order of liquidation and dissolution of this organization. I do not understand on what grounds the State issues this order, since the New York Insurance Department has found the I.W.O. to be sound in all respects as required by law.

I plead with you to have this order withdrawn.

Respectfully yours,

Alfonso Iannelli

February 6, 1951

Mr. Rockwell Kent  
23 W. 26th Street  
New York 10, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Kent:

I have your letter which describes the action that the New York State has brought into Court in order to liquidate the I.W.O. organization.

I am shocked at this news. I do not see what right the State has to interfere with the legitimate insurance organization of I.W.O. if it has been run legally proper - and I join with you in protesting this action.

I have sent the letter to Governor Dewey asking him to withdraw this action.

I have admired the excellent work that you have been doing with the I.W.O. - and you are an object lesson for some of us artists to attempt to do more to make our voices heard in the political and economic aspects.

My greetings to you.

Sincerely,

Alfonso Iannelli

AI:rj



AUSABLE FORKS  
NEW YORK

February 23, 1951

Mr. Alfonso Iannelli  
257 Northwest Highway  
Park Ridge, Illinois

Dear Mr. Iannelli:

Thank you very much for your response to my letter concerning the attempt of the New York Insurance Superintendent to liquidate and dissolve the International Workers Order.

Also thank you very much for your kind permission to use your name as a signer of the statement to Governor Thomas E. Dewey on the matter of the New York Insurance Department versus the International Workers Order.

Under separate cover I am sending you the additional information you request. I know it may prove laborious reading, but the matter is so important that I urge you to acquaint yourself with it, and when you have done so, to bring your influence to bear by letter or wire to Governor Dewey or in any other way, to the end that this violation of democratic rights may be prevented.

Sincerely yours,

Rockwell Kent

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dpowa