

NEBRASKANS FOR NORMAN THOMAS 1439 "S" Street, Lincoln 8, Nebraska

August 13, 1948

Dear Friend:

This is a plea requesting -- no, begging -- your support.

At 4:00 p.m. on August 22nd, Norman Thomas will speak in the 4-H building at the State Fair Grounds in Lincoln (17th & Holdrege).

Mr. Thomas is giving this time from a very crowded schedule at the request of the Nebraskans for Norman Thomas who have been organized for the purpose of getting Mr. Thomas and Prof. Tucker P. Smith on the ballot in this state. Aside from the fact that we have a great deal of admiration for Norman Thomas, we are concerned that we have no other real alternative to the candidates of the two major parties, neither of which have kept faith with the public in the last four years, ignoring their 1944 campaign promises to engage in one of the most shocking displays of political quibbling in the history of our nation.

We are also concerned with the fact that in all of the recent hullabaloo about civil rights, there has been a complete absence of consideration for the civil rights of minor parties.

Because of the records of the Democratic Administration and the Republican Congress, we feel quite sure that all but those who vote a straight party ticket will give careful consideration to Norman Thomas and Tucker Smith IF their names are on the ballot.

In order to get them on the ballot, it is required by state law that a new party be formed by securing the signatures and addresses of 750 eligible voters at a convention.

This will be no easy task, and it is for this reason that we are asking your support. You can help, not only by your presence at the convention, but also by enlisting the aid of any of your friends who may be interested in civil rights of minor parties. We are also in dire need of funds, but we would consider your presence at the convention far more valuable than any contribution you might make if it is a choice of the one or the other.

Because it is your right to know who the organizers of this movement are, I am taking the liberty of using this letter to introduce a few. There are others, but because of lack of time to secure permission to use their names, I do not feel free to do so;

DAVID FLEMING, born in Omaha, but now living in Lincoln, is a young man who does a great deal with no heroics. For instance, while some others of us have talked a good deal about the social contributions we hoped to make, Dave, saying nothing, played nursemaid to a shipload of horses sent to Poland by the United Brethren and followed that up by going to China with the tractor project. He is now working at a School

Supplies Co. and helping his mother and brothers in their nursery.

SAM LERNER is a long time resident of Omaha where he has been established in an independent business for several years. He is also secretary for the Midwest Region of the Workmen's Circle.

WAYNE WHEELER, born and raised in Crete, Nebraska, recently received his M. A. from the University of Nebraska. Last year he taught sociology at Eastern New Mexico College where his wife LOLA WHEELER, formerly of Sidney, Nebraska, will teach art this fall. Both are retaining voting residence in Nebraska in order to vote for Thomas and Smith.

JOHN O'HARE is a student at the University of Nebraska where he is active in inter-racial activities. A former resident of North Bend, he is now living at Huskerville with his wife and child.

I, JOSEPH ISHIKAWA, am the only bum in the outfit. Although born and raised in Los Angeles, California, I have called Lincoln "home" for the past six years. At present I am curator of the art galleries at the University of Nebraska using my vacation to work on this project. Incidentally, Mr. Lerner and I are the only ones of this group who are active Socialists.

Now that you have met us, I hope that you will give us the opportunity of meeting you at the convention, 4:00 p.m., Sunday, August 22nd at the State Fair Grounds.

Sincerely,

Joe Ishikawa
Joseph Ishikawa

P. S. If you can attend an informal dinner at 7:30 following the convention, please indicate on the slip at the bottom of the page. Details cannot be worked out until we know approximately how many to expect, but the cost will be held at a minimum.

Joseph Ishikawa
1439 "S" Street, Lincoln 8, Nebr.

Please reserve _____ places for the dinner honoring Norman Thomas.

Enclosed is \$_____ for the campaign fund. It is my understanding that if there is a surplus after local expenses are taken care of, the balance will go toward the national campaign.

Name _____ Address _____

Please send notice of the convention to (USE back if necessary) _____
