

Letter from the Chairman of the Prairie County Defense Committee to Mr. Chas D. Greenfield, March 30, 1918

*Terry, Montana
March 30-1918*

Mr Chas D. Greenfield, Secy.
State Defense Committee
Helena Montana

Dear Sir:—

The town of Terry has an ordinance whereby it is necessary for any public speaker to obtain a permit before he can make any public speech in the limits of this town.

Last Saturday A.J. McGlynn, a non-partisan organizer appeared to speak before the farmers, upon presenting him with the necessary paper to sign, he only did so after striking out the part wherein in referred to the following (that he will say nothing that would create community strife or class hatred) he refused to agree to do this, as a result the Town Council declined to permit him to speak.

This party is again returning to speak on April third at a school house about six miles

south of Terry. A great many of the citizens feel that a man who would not sign such an agreement should not be permitted to speak anywhere, as a member of the County Defense Committee I have been requested to take this matter up with the State Committee for their action and decision, it is claimed that such talks as are being made by these organizers have a tendency to cause a community to be divided and that a considerable harm is being done at a time when the whole people should stand as united. I am inclosing a photograph of the statment he signed and the portion he struck out, should you consider this a matter worthy of your attention, please advise me at once that we may have your answer before the date above mentioned.

*Yours Very Truly
Chairman County Defense Com*

Source: *Montana Council of Defense Records, 1916–1921. Record Series 19* [box 2 folder 22]. Montana Historical Society Research Center. Archives.