

REB MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 10, 1984

Present: All; Jane as sitter-in

Agenda: I. How do the Universals of philosophy relate to organization when the question is as immediately concrete as :
1) the first Open House in Chicago; 2) the new Latin American addition to the book-to-be; and 3) a prolegomenon view of N&L, i.e. an overall view; II. Next issue of N&L -- Lead, Editorial, OLAT, Black World, plus letter to PTC;
III. Report of Ongoing Activities; IV. G&W

I. Raya said that she was beginning her report with what seems abstract, but is, in fact, the most concrete way once we learn that it is high time we begin practicing philosophy and, in doing so, hold tightly to Marx's definition of philosophy, "the practice of which is itself theoretical, i.e. measures all that is critically." In a word, to critique all that is is to demand the uprooting of the old, the creation of the new, for which a revolution-in-permanence is required. Here we see no division between the philosophy of revolution and revolution itself, and that means that there is absolutely nothing concrete that isn't subject to such a dialectical method. Take so concrete a question, which is what we are all thinking about today, as yesterday's first Open House in Chicago, which was so successful both in having 12 non-members with us, who participated in the discussion that was set on a very high level by the two reporters on the Perspectives -- Olga and Mike, and which showed such seriousness that all stayed long after the formal discussion and even the dinner itself. How does that relate to the Universal when the Universal also encompasses the new addition on Latin America to the book-to-be? That is exactly what is great about Absolute Method -- that it shows the interconnections, and in this specific case the inter-connection involves the process of writing. It meant that the "Latin American Unfinished Revolutions" are really carried over from the 1960s correspondence with Frondizi, the 1978 lecture tour, and the recent correspondence with ALIMUPER. All of which meant that, instead of letting ourselves be stopped by the fact that, on the surface, we were not talking about Women's Liberation in that PPL, the talk on the Universal of Marx's Humanism couldn't possibly be separated from women's liberation. Finally, and above all, the relationship of how to follow through with the magnificent audience we had for our Open House meant the discussion of the next issue of N&L that will have as a single unit all these problems and will relate the people we are visiting in a way they can see an identity. (Raya presented a very brief overview of how the questions of anti-war and anti-Reaganism, of Black Chicago and Black South Africa, and of the review of the recent book on aboriginal women could be taken up in the lead, editorial and columns of N&L, but asked the REB to save discussion on that for the next point, and concentrate here on the Open House and its follow through.)

II. Raya suggested that the new issue of N&L could have as it Lead an attack on the Reagan drive to war everywhere including outer space which Olga would be asked to write; as the Editorial a discussion of the state of the Black dimension, both in South Africa and here, which we can no longer say is "South USA" since North in many ways is even worse, and Chicago an example of apartheidism right at home; Lou's Black World column, which originally had been going to tie the review of the new book We Are Bosses Ourselves to concrete discussion of South Africa, would then be more strictly just a review; and OLAT could take up what points Lou could not include in the short space of his Editorial, on South Africa. Raya reported also that she had sent a letter to the PTC after the first issue from Chicago had come off the press, because she felt that the ads were not adequate, especially ads about our sub-drive, the first we have ever undertaken in this way. In fact, she had asked that, as a minimum, for the next three months, subs be a central ad feature in three different places: p. 1, RVs, and the last page.

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September 11, 1984

Dear Friends:

The magnificent first Open House at our new home, where 12 non-members were not only present but participated on so high a level, over so many hours -- from 3PM to well after 8 PM -- discloses that we have a great deal more to do than just shout about the facts, that is to say, about the inter-weavings -- white, Black, Middle-Eastern, worker, student, all young. The "great deal more" I'm referring to is, as you will see from the REB minutes, the fact that the REB now holds that it's high time to practice philosophy. That is to say, to consider no event as mere fact, but as an event that is subject to the Absolute Method flowing out of the indispensable philosophy.

Thus, the very way we will continue our relationship with these new friends was illuminated by the other new phenomenon -- the addition to the new book-to-be of the PPL on "The Unfinished Latin American Revolutions" that was related at one and the same time to the 1960s and the 1980s. The fact that we could have worried about having something specifically on WL for the Latina dimension, as if Marx's Humanist philosophy of revolution could possibly not include Women's Liberation, proves that once you consider philosophy as something separate instead of integral to revolution-in-permanence, you have not really practiced Absolute Method. What, therefore, our discussion showed was the truth that whether we were discussing only the question of a concrete Sunday meeting, or the new addition to the book-to-be, or the next issue of N&L, it was the unity of the Universal and Individual that determined our next activities.

Please read the discussion on the next issue of N&L and this time consider what each of you, as a local, will do in your contributions not only to further expand the main topics of the Lead on anti-war, the Editorial on Black Chicago/Black South Africa, and all other topics, but also to think of them as integral to practicing philosophy.

Please also note in the REB minutes on Mike's report what new doors were opened that we were not directly responsible for. I refer to the way the WBAI interview has been picked up for Denver. In a word, the very item that always annoys us -- the long period between when I give a talk and when it is finally heard on radio -- is the very thing that will help us in the mini-tours next year.

Finally, the greatest news right now -- financially! -- comes from the Bay Area, where they seem to create miracles at flea markets. This time they made \$475 after they had already made \$250 in the summer.

Do not forget the deadline: September 20. It must be obeyed rigorously this issue.

Yours,
Raya

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