

REB Meeting May 3, 1976

Present: All, including sitters-in Tommie and Terry, and Mary by special invitation
Agenda: I East Coast Report and Next Book-to-be; II Mary, Office and Deadlines;
III Next two issues of N&L; IV Old and New Business; V- Good and Welfare

I- Raya said that, although Kevin was actually making the full report of the East Coast tour and she would not report on the trip in general, she wanted to take up several aspects that will not even happen until the next part of the tour, the trip to Wisconsin this week where she is to speak on Rosa Luxemburg, and what she had decided that is so totally new she, herself, has not worked out all that it means. The new decision is that the title of the new book she has projected will not be "Women as Reason and Force" or "Women as Thinkers and Revolutionaries", but Rosa Luxemburg, Today's Women Theorists, and the Women's Liberation Movement. In New York, she had combined Rosa Luxemburg and Sojourner Truth, for the first time as theoreticians, because we must confront what is theory. Rosa Luxemburg has a lot to her credit on theory and Sojourner Truth has nothing, yet neither one has ^{been} truly understood anywhere. Raya has disagreed with Luxemburg's theories, and pointed out that they were not rooted in philosophy, but she is a serious theoretician and it is fantastic to see someone like Howard of Teios present her as a "tactician" and pay no attention whatsoever to her theoretical work. What Raya intends to project in Wisconsin will be very different from what she has developed on Luxemburg up to now. The question is, when you disagree so much with her main ideas, how do you present her great contributions to today's revolutionaries? Raya has always pointed to Sojourner Truth as Reason, but that is not the same as presenting her as a theoretician. This is what we must grapple with. We are not sending in the Appendix for the new WL pamphlet until the return from Wisconsin, because we have to wait to see what will develop there that we would wish to include immediately in some form in that Appendix.

The fact is that the lectures on WL given in this tour were on a much higher level than previous lectures, even the six UCAE talks. Whether it was Chicago or San Francisco or New York, what was new was that both philosophy and Women's Studies were combined. In Washington, D.C. it was the actual combination of those two departments that sponsored the lecture, but it appeared in different ways everywhere. It is important that so many of the important women's journals, some of them hostile to us before now to such an extent they wouldn't even sell us an ad in their magazines, all sent someone to be present at one or another of the lectures -- Quest, Majority Report, Off Our Backs. Moreover what they wanted to know was what the "dialectics of liberation" means.

Mary has already begun full-time -- she will work 2 days for RD, and three days in the office, and one of those days in the office must be to work as a coordinator for our national WL committees, developing not only the correspondence with the outside, but between our committees. Letters cannot be treated as "personal". And the inside correspondence is as important as the outside. It is especially important that with this special issue announcing the new pamphlet, through when we have the pamphlet in our hands in a few weeks, to the convention itself, we all have the widest possible experiences with it, so the discussion at the convention will come out of that ground and be the basis for whatever activity we set ourselves for next year.

The best meeting in N.Y. was the one at Queens. Pete did a magnificent job, there were 100 present and a good discussion. The "worst" was the meeting on Portugal, in the sense that the date and the place were wrong and our people did not play it up. We had a chance to analyze it all later and it was clear that the lack of "politicalization" was what was involved. The discussion at that meeting was very good. And it was in N.Y. that Raya had the chance to present some ideas on the Absolute Idea to the NEB, which she had not had the opportunity to do in California. That will become part of the Discussion Bulletin. The discussion we

15013

have proposed among our Black Marxist-Humanists in all four major locals has also already begun. It began with John A's column in the last issue, and Tyron has now sent a letter on Fanon, and Ray in N.Y. has one coming in this week. These too will no doubt be included directly in the Discussion Bulletin. (Raya also described Kevin's study group briefly, and the importance that Haiti seems to have recently which reflects something happening on the objective scene.)

Finally, the deadlines for everything, which underline the importance of having Mary working full-time with us in the office and for Raya, were given:

- Monday, May 10 -- Discussion Bulletin mimeoed and mailed out
- Thursday, May 13 -- Appendix to WL pamphlet ready for printer
- Monday, May 24 -- Double Political-Philosophic Letter ready to mimeo and mail out
- Tuesday, June 1 -- Raya returns to Detroit; Convention Call is mailed out.