

May 10, 1976

Dear Bill Pelz:

Finally have completed that exhausting 2-months long lecture tour, and was most sorry not to see you in Madison as I developed some very new points in evaluation of Rosa Luxemburg --and also came up with some brainstorming about you/me on my next book. Already, in that talk at Univ. of Wis. I gave credit to your talk on "The Role of Proletarian Women in the German Revolution, 1918-1919", which I said I assumed they could get copies of the study from you. Can they?

I felt your study to be both new and important. None before you have stressed that not only were Luxemburg and Zetkin not the only women revolutionaries, but have concluded, "Yet if it had not been for women like Erna Behnke, there might have been no revolution in Germany."

The weaknesses are lack of dialectics as the running red thread throughout the whole your thesis so that the women as masses in motion appear peripheral. No doubt some of it--like tables-- came out of need in academia for "facts" rather the Hegelian concept of fact "emerging out of ground." But even so the tables could have been made so subordinate to movement and Reason as to come later than they do, or as appendices, or sometime just as footnote. Nevertheless yours is serious enough a contribution to the question of women revolutionaries in an actual revolution that it gave wings to my brainstorm about the possibility of possible collaboration, or at least research work concentrating on German writings by RL unavailable in English, with me.

As of this moment I have retitled my next work from Women as Reason and Revolution (which remains title for my Appendix to our WL pamphlet now coming off the press) to Rosa Luxemburg, Today's Women Theorists, and the Women's Liberation Movement. I developed some new points in relationship to the years, 1910-1913, in RL's life which was far in advance of all others Marxists not only re breaking with Kautsky, but in the more concrete struggle against imperialism which the Russians did not have to face that early, so that even when her greatest error and greatest original contribution--Accumulation of Capital--turned out to be a deviation from Marx, it was "for" reasons quite revolutionary which could have, etc. etc. etc. if there had been serious theoretical relations between her, Lenin, and LT which should have flowed from their joint 1907 Amendment to 2nd Int. Resolution on war.

I do not know where you stand either in relationship to attending our convention Labor Day week-end, or possibility of actually becoming a Marxist-Humanist, or working out certain philosophic problems I consider indispensable to any original Marxist studies, but why not begin by telling me your attitude to my suggestion?

Ron and Terry will be in Chicago one more time before convention and I'll ask them to drop in to see you on their task in establishing a Chicago local as well as other relations with you and whoever was involved in your class on Marxism which must have been rather broad as it included also a Maoist, but perhaps there have been developments since then,

Let me hear from you. Yours,

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