

June 26, 1978

To: Olga, Mike, Eugene
Dear Colleagues:

Now that we four are on the same wave length re both the RL book and what it requires in reorganization of Center, especially Mike becoming Acting National Organizer for 3 months (which is the very, very merest beginnings), and that we have also established that we 4 will meet before, not after plenum preceding convention, it is clear that, as a cadre, I expect you three to be primary in projecting Perspectives, not just "in general", as usual, but in Particular. That is to say, share responsibility with me, and not let any Report go "unsupplemented."

Take, for example, the one that will be newest this year because it combines N&L and IH. If the combination works to the detriment of either half, then the talk from the floor must "bend the stick" the other way, not by direct criticism so it starts criticism as the "universal", but by supplement that, since IH which is so crucial, naturally took up so much of the time, then that which flows from it, N&L, & how to take down stories and yet not make only worker the totality, but let the worker see our theoretic contribution so that the unity of th.&pr. are the totality and his/her self-development.

To grasp how this "flows from" in every report and development of Perspectives as well as book, we need to delve more deeply into Executive Sessions which haven't gone quite where philosophically and historically they were meant to go. Which is why I start this year with that to REB. First, therefore, reread what I did at REB by tracing through their self-development from start which marked our very distinctive characteristic in the Exec.Session. I'm sure the one we are facing cannot possibly be as total a collapse as was the last. And no doubt you 3 were the best there, but I don't know when I refused to have mine stencilled, shortened or lengthened form, I did have your 3 contributions stencilled, but in any case, especially Olga, I wish her to rework for this session because she, not just "best" of all, but made a genuine historic contribution. (She may introduce by saying that the whole concept "1, not 2", has assumed so much more concrete form with the RL book that she wishes to restate (Incidentally, the whole "recollection" bit in Hegel should mostly be translated as "inwardizing" as Er-innerung means both 2 the hyphen, to stress when it means inwardizing was correctly made a category all by itself by Lukace) in the context of today.

Now, let us see what "inwardizing" when one does not yet know the whole RL book, once it became also, Marx's Theory of Revolution, spells out as a sort of "discipline" for you as the cadre at the concrete convention we are facing. First, let me repeat the quotation from PHEN. p.808, in the new translation which I did not have at hand in REB, & which in the Miller translation is p.493:

"The goal, Absolute Knowing, or Spirit that knows itself as Spirit, has for its path of recollection the Spirits as they are in themselves & as they accomplish the ORGANIZATION of their realm. Their preservation, regarded from the side of their free existence appearing in the form of contingency, is HISTORY; but regarded from the side of their (philosophically) comprehended ORGANIZATION, it is the SCIENCE of knowing in the sphere of appearance (i.e. PHEN.,rd); the two together, comprehended History, from alike the INWARDIZING and the Calvary of absolute Spirit....." (my emphasis is in caps,rd)

Yes, it is philosophy, not philosopher. BUT if VIL had not been there, IT would have lost the revolution and if KM had not been there, we might not have had any new continent of thought, no matter how much he contributed that Engels did project correctly; once the totality as new beginning isn't there, the totality might as well be a string of separate "greats" leading nowhere. The reason we need not be afraid about "1, not 2" is both MASSSES IN MOTION, and the type of collectivity that makes it possible for the 1 to be the one AND REMAIN FOR HISTORY TO RECAPTURE THE LINK.

Therefore, go back also to the personal note I sent Olga about the errors of collapsing mediation into immediacy which is every bit as fatal as jumping to the Absolute like a shot out of a pistol. It is MEDIATION, MANY mediations, which is missing in our organization which is why this year's tour was least understood by the "most advanced" as organization, ending in wishing to collapse it into immediacy. Re locals I may say that it is important to get both Chi. & W. Coast, esp. West Coast see themselves as sub-mid-center that is to say, Olga should go to Chi. & present Perspectives, & the locals as locals should hear a report by Eugene, rather than just Eugene going up there & giving each separate. If ever two locals didn't feel "together", those don't, and it must stop now that FF pamphlet is key to organizational growth. (Incidentally, I did not understand the dating of the 4 listed discussions in LA. How can they be concrete if (1) PERSPECTIVES are nowhere listed;

(2) whereas the local can have a discussion on Perspectives as presented at NEB & can be presented there by worker, once Perspectives are fully printed in paper, it should be joint with SF and each, thus, will present on same level to "outside"; and (3) no names listed is depersonalization;

none may have my name to bring in & CAP. classes lost thereby, but local names are important as showing "personality" to "outside". Moreover, it gives us a chance to list each not only as author, or editor, or organizer, or whatever, but CORRESPONDENT FOR NAL. EACH IS. (By the way Eugene, your educational on W. Coast whatever the hell that conf. was called, should not have begun with philosophy, but reversed the order and begun with a few facts of what happened there. (Those 4 we are not just for writing leads; it is the essence of "flows from" and philosophy is difficult enough to grasp without making the audience wait for what did it "flow from")

All in all, the significance of both the change in Center, the assumption of Acting Nat. Organizer by Mike and therefore also knowing RV editorship, and our meeting ahead of plenum (Fri. a.m.) means practicing leadership, not only as leadership re ranks which you always do, but as leaders in leadership.

Yours.

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