

December 4, 1975  
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Germany  
Dear Hans;

Of course I have been intending to write you for some while. Marilyn gave me your address a while back. And here I am with one of my plans frustrated and with a little time--so to the typewriter.

I don't see Marilyn very often and missed her at the tendency meeting last night. I gather she was tired out after the NDP women's weekend conference which Bob and Lynda D say was a colossal ~~and~~ tiring event. And I do not see Regula very often, other than the branch meetings and she missed the tendency meeting because I managed to learn that Jim did not have her new phone number--oh well. Regula was a delegate to the OFL convention and I gather managed to play a good role. From the press you would think that the Trotskyists were a real operation--in fact the G and M balance sheet talked of the impact of the dissident lefts. The Star's balance sheet commenced with a whole section on Hugh and his presentation and defence of his local's motion to urge unions with international affiliation to demand that their leadership withdraw from the wage freeze govt boards as they affect Cdn workers wages---and to emulate the Cdn union leadership that has no truck or trade with such bodies and has condemned them in principle. Terry Meagher took him on with the argument how can we demand that the US union brass and US unions keep out of our affairs we we try to interfere in their affairs. The resolution had you might say a reverse Canadian trade union autonomy line.

and what do M and R tell you these days. It seems obvious to me that the situation within the movement is even one of a more rapid deterioration. Of course I see it on the top--as Regula ~~used~~ to see it also. Right now the bureau is coming to the pc meetings with a series of position papers. Art gave a critique of the draft resolution that the German outfit submitted for the WC. The critique is factional in the worst meaning of the word--blind and irrational. Of itself it would suggest that they are not interested in convincing anyone but are heading for split--but this is our bureau's contribution and not the LT factions so I do not know ~~from~~ this critique tries to carry the line that Germain is moving to support popular fronts which they see arising everywhere with the detente and the reproachment of the SP-CP's. As you probably know they characterize the French support of the Union of the Left as support of PF and the allende government as PF. I have submitted a short statement dissociating myself from this critique. Of course this involves the LT faction--I find it difficult to believe that they are moving this way on their own. They have a special statement on popular fronts for our own convention and last meeting saw them submit a statement on Waffle. I was not there and haven't seen it but even GA I hear quest oned its use--however I gather John is anxious to know my reaction. My impression is that we are still trying to make the NDP our point of differentiation from Waffle. Not stay in and fight this time but from a point of view of orientation now that the Sask Waffle has set off on an independent course and Ontario is having a big discussion in a conference this weekend. There is nothing in this for us it seems to me--we should be discussing the problems of building a revolutionary organization--world outlook, Stalinism, social democracy, the state. It is hard to believe that any new formation that came out of the Waffle would be able to take a sectarian position on the NDP. even though it first has to define itself in relation to it. ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ We are trying to make out that Sask is

going electoralist but their Newxt Year Country editorial reads; "The electoral tactic, if its limitations are kept clearly in mind, can be a useful way of drawing together the diverse energies of socialists around the province. It can provide the organization and programmatic basis for the extra-parliamentary activity which must be the lifeblood of any serious socialist movement." Abbie, John Glenn and several other comrades will be attending the Waffle Oct conference this weekend where the problem of launching an independent operation will be discussed, moving towards revolution but not actually settled. Glenn is a delegate from Bradford Waffle. He went around to a membership meeting of about 12 and they asked him to be a delegate--NDP membership no problem. John G phoned Gary to ask about some preliminary meeting to discuss our line but Gary told him they had not worked out anything--very difficult in the face of our line on Canadian nationalism

The energy crisis ~~has~~ and the role of the US owned oil corporation in Canada and the obvious need to nationalize them has brought Waffle, Gerrardian nationalism and the NDP to the fore again. It has given the NDP brass the type of election issue it has been looking for ~~and~~ the Tories have lined up with the oil monopolists and Trudeau in order not to be brought down has made sweeping concessions to the NDP. No doubt you will be reading over there the wisecrack Trudeau made when the oil moguls started to whine and the press snapped at him--one reporter told him that he had gone beyond in concessions what the NDP even asked for--he said "we have gone beyond the communist manifesto." He hasn't naturally gone very far but he had to block the Arts Tory SC decision to blackmail the East with a two price system which ~~would~~ would hit all oil burners including Eastern industry's and of course to respond to the powerful national sentiment that the US oil bosses have roused. I hear LC's latest are tickle which had to respond has been attacked by Deiner of Montreal for capitulating to reactionary bourgeois nationalist sentiments.

We are almost finished our document on the leadership dropping our NDP orientation. I found your EK contribution useful. We have the young Riddell reply to Germain which adds substantially to the LC record. They defend our orientation from Germain's attack by presenting it as some common ordinary everyday problem of faction work and not at all with a non-split perspective....that is by actually dropping it. It is not clear as to how they are going to try to handle this at the plenum. And for that matter it is not clear how they are going to handle our women's work which got into difficulty with the Morgenthau campaign. After having decided that abortion wasn't the central issue--we made the switch but couldn't bring the comrades in CWC along with us very easily finally having to instruct them to dump their classes and take away the staff person and put her into the Morgenthau office. Had to also shamefacedly admit that our attempt to limit the slogans to drop the charges and exclude repeal the law was assinine as everyone, yes everyone pulled them together to overcome our dichotomy.

A lot of concern in the tendency as to where we are going. But it seems to me that there is no crisis demanding the answer. The world congress will be taking place in mid-Jan. according to Peter H who dropped in for old lang sagne the RWG is going to be given sympathizing status.

Is that acceptable to the LSA operators. Hard to see it. Something is going to be given the RWG and whatever it is is going to further wish the LSA operation towards sectarianism--that is even if it doesn't lead to split and they decide they have to live with it. After the WC we will have the need to assess the situation as that may well bring considerable changes.

The other night in a Darrell F--Terry B debate on the Mandel political resolution (yes Mandel has two supporters Terry B and Barry G) Darrell let fall that the Germain leaders have had a fall-out with Mandel. Are you in touch at all.

Looking forward to spending a little time with you from your busy social whirl when you come over for Christmas

all the best

Ross D