

Rosa FA, catella 3, 78

20 Staverton Road
London N W 2
22 July 1973

Dear RKes,

First let me thank you for your hospitality. Second for the cheque from Old Westbury for our expenses, which arrived a few days ago.

We ~~were~~ here are settling back to work, Rosa in Italy, I in London. The National Conference has just taken place, and it was not all we expected. I think the impression that many women in the North America said they felt is being felt here too. After having explored the female experience, it seems as though it is impossible to go any deeper unless you then are working within a perspective, but a perspective that must have arisen precisely from that first exploration.

In my absence the Power of Women Collective was formed which takes wages for housework as its perspective, as that point of view ~~xxxxxx~~ through which to make a pattern of the female experience in the home and in the whole of society. There is a lot of work ahead of us to make the new exploration on the new basis. The whole question of sexuality now as an integral part of capitalist work acquires another significance. The surface has been more than scratched by this movement, but it is as though one ~~xxxx~~ area of exploration seems unconnected with another; a mass of unrelated phenomena. It is not that we add them up, though we do. It is that one and one do not make two in human activity, they make five.

I'm sending you some of the material we put out for the conference and hope you will find it interesting.

Someone told me that you (and perhaps other women) found that when Rosa and I were there we spent our time attacking other women (or some such thing). What a shame that we were unable to make ourselves clear and therefore left room for that kind of misunderstanding. It is true that we believe (and I think we are not singular in this) that the "sisterhood" which many women have talked about was in practice accepting the terms of the most conservative women. I understand that Betty Friedan is starting a bank, that is, she and other women will be accumulating capital for the exploitation of workers, women and men. Some women don't want to attack this because Betty Friedan is a sister. With sisters like that, who needs brothers. Some of the women in Detroit are now fighting the proposal to have a credit union. They are asking: doesn't a credit union mean that you only give credit to women whom you know can pay back? Is this what the women's movement was formed to do? Is this not like Nixon's Black capitalism transferred to the women's movement?

It is perhaps because of ~~xxxx~~ the emphasis on this, and on women who, espousing to be Marxist, have attacked women's role in the class struggle, that we gave that impression. If so, you have my apologies. We are working hard to establish feminism but a feminism for us can only exist if there is a clear line drawn between women of different classes. If working women, and first among those the housewife, are benefitted, all women are. But if career women, women who are part of the State structure, women who are "capital endowed with a consciousness and a will" are benefitted, the rest of us are not only not benefitted; we may well be in a worse position than before. It is not an easy concept to make clear to people who, unlike you, are probably unfamiliar with it, and secondly, we had too little time to develop it properly (and as you remember, were not aware that there was going to be so little

time). But I do hope you will try to convey this to women who might have got another impression of our views. Do let me know if there is something that I am overlooking, and what your view is.

It was a ~~wonderful~~ wonderful three months - it was almost three months for me. I learnt a tremendous amount not only about the women's movement ~~sk~~ but about the whole of American society and the struggle against it. It was a shock to come back to Europe where, despite a lot of words like "class" and "struggle", the political level is so much lower. But it gives you a lot of ~~confidence~~ confidence too: if it's like that in the States now (and in Canada too), then we too will catch up to where you are. Yes, much of the movement in the States has become part of the State apparatus, but I don't know how we work out what our movement should be except by going through all the blind alleys first. I like the line ~~xxx~~ from Marx's letter to Bracke introducing Critique of the Gotha Programme: "Every step of real movement is more important than a dozen programmes." And there has been and continues to be "real movement". The people whom that movement ~~xxx~~ is creating are brand new and exhilarating. They know the two "laws" of the struggle. First that you'll get your ass kicked in and second that you'll win.

women

Regards to the ~~women~~ women in Old Westbury and at the press.

Power to the sisters and therefore to the class.