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Dear Lou:

Your exciting and exhausting trip South that you reported on last Wed. made me feel very dissatisfied with the fact that the REB hadn't discussed (no time) the abbreviated report you gave us. At the REB I generally spend time on the question of the form for presentation, but at the local I think only of the outside or sheer projection, in popular form. Now I hear that you have actually written up the trip in Alabama and I feel that since Mississippi will first follow next issue, perhaps it would help if I made some suggestions on form for that column to follow.

The material you brought back is so rich and so massive that there is a danger that the facts will overwhelm the direction that you would want to transmit for the readers as a vantage point as well as a methodology for viewing current events no matter where or when. For example, if instead of mentioning every place from the Univ. of Mississippi and its Richard Wright conference to the question of meeting someone who knew of "Womanpower Unlimited", you would instead say at once: Though every place I visited, from... to..., has been a revelation both in relationship to the reality of the South instead of what we are fed about it in the daily press, as well as a flash of light as to the human factor and its ever-developing creativity, I will never the less limit myself to just a few of the highlights.

Somewhere after you have told some of the individual places, you would then plunge into an example of creativity, like the self-organization of the catfish workers, a plant that has 1,600 workers, mostly Black women, actually asking the union to represent them, and this at a time when the established unions are all losing membership, and yet in the same paragraph of high praise you would explain that you in turn have brought them a copy of NGL which showed them that that very union, the UFCW, was the union involved in all the actions, North as well as South of meatpacking workers, and their stories from Minnesota, Iowa, Chicago, you would achieve with the unity of movement from practice and revolutionary journalism.

You could end with something like: Just as in Alabama the most striking conversations come, of all things, when one turns to Marx during the early part of the Civil War, when the North seemed to be losing-- that one single Negro regiment would turn the tide, so in Mississippi the expression of the Black women in both union organization and its relation to civil rights and voting rights, and to the present in looking for totally new human relations is the correct conclusion.

Yours,

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