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May 14, 1949

Dear Ruth:

I hope you have forgiven my walking off with your manuscript on Woman and Socialism. It was, first, absolutely impossible for me to find time for it in NY; it was, secondly, or rather I was, 2ndly, too impressed with the work you did to give just a superficial judgment. Not that the present view is a studied one, but I hope it will be of some help in your search for greater cohesion.

The thing the manuscript lacks most is cohesion; you have the ideas, and in some cases even the data and conclusions, yet a reader would get the impression that you did not know where you were going. The beginning, for example, gives the wrong impression that psychoanalysis is primary, where all the rest of the manuscript shows instead that the role in production is and that psychoanalysis only corroborates and extends, it is absolutely true, what already was evident from Marxist analysis, etc. etc. Therefore what you need to do is to give form to your content which in case has as logical and dialectical development as the content itself.

Marx is a pretty substantial, and I like to follow his form of beginning with phenomenon (Commodities in the case of capital, divorce rate, juvenile delinquency, neuroticism in your case) and from there lead to essence (Mode of production and role of production in both cases) and the end ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ returns to the beginning, only the phenomena have now been enriched by the essence and hence the conclusions are not mere appearance but law of motion, etc. Thus, don't you think it would be better if you began with

"The steadily increasing divorce rate, the appearance,instability of family life in the US" (your yellow page ~~Hand~~, to p.2) The include some transitional statement that this is not a new phenomenon but the aggravation of an old one that began with the industrial revolution, (par.2 p.1,yellow)....disintegration of family life."

At this stage jump to page 7 "Karl Marx indicated the source and solution....(p.8)divorce statistics are a symptom" and add there the other symptoms: juvenile delinquency, neuroticisms. At this point you might include your very first sentence on psychoanalysis. But isn't it necessary to modify the second sentence for psychoanalysis can only come into its own when a new social order grasps the primary cause, capitalism, etc. But this ~~can be~~ modified without bringing in our program a-z, but merely to make psychoanalysis a handmaiden, etc. You can do that best yourself.

I would then have three subdivisions, and bring all the material into proper order instead of mixing up what belongs (1) to divorce factor beginning with Civil War, (2)juvenile delinquency, (3)neuroticism. Morality and material instinct I would leave for last when I once again returned to the underlying economic conditions, thus

The final section would begin with "Central to the question of the disintegration of family life is the status of women in modern society," (p.10)

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Some expansion is needed, even if it is only one paragraph, of the Women's Movement (p.11) at least to include (1) that it arose in 1848 when Marx was penning Communist Manifesto in Europe and here Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Lucretia Mott and Susan B. Anthony were squarely allying their movement with that of Abolitionism (2) that it was international in the sense that they went to England and ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ spread the ideas, and (3) The Negro played a crucial role-- Frederick Douglass being way above the other abolitionists in that as he was on the question of union, and Sojourner Truth and Harriet Tubman going on speaking tours etc. (I am sure the Encyclopaedia of Social Sciences probably includes the major points, and you must get that little pamphlet from the ~~xxxx~~ labor Department on the centenary of the Woman's movement which will give you extracts from the speech of Sojourner Truth; get also the little book on her the Stalinists put out a read last chapter)

You can then continue with the "woman question remains to be solved", etc. However, it seems wrong to us to put two of the aspects on the solution of this problem, the economic, and moral, as if they were on the same primary level. That can easily be avoided by merely not saying two aspects, but "The primary aspect is of course economic, etc." And then instead of a "secondly", (p.11b) put "Moreover or besides, or something of the sort and continue."

Conclude with the maternal instinct (Incidentally, aren't you wrong, or at least don't you have it loosely phrased when on p.15 you state "The mothers were the original... through the evolution of the maternal instinct"; I had thought Engels, ~~xxxx~~ basing himself on Morgan, shows property relation to be the bond of family, which does not invalidate maternal instinct, but should definitely make us insert a sharp different between "bond of human society" in the sense of maternal instinct and that in the sense of family institution.) but not only in a negative way of "become a force for the creation of a new society", but historically, has been a force and will become a greater one ~~xxxx~~ with the true development of individual in socialist society where, when time will not be occupied with wage or kitchen slavery, etc. we will for the first time end pre-history of humanity and begin the society where the full development of the "free individuality of the labourer himself" will be the active force of society.

Now that means further work for you naturally. But I am sure you will see that thereby you will make a genuine contribution to the question which will have its historic importance and therefore you must find the time for it.

Best of luck. I will drop Fria a note and ask her to send you that little pamphlet on the woman's movement.

Best to Bobbie and a kiss for Naomi.