

Mike
February 25, 1980

Dear Dave:

Please answer at once the favor I will ask of you (and send to my home, not to the office which delays it) regarding the contents of Vol. ~~5~~ ^V of RL's Collected Works. (I enclose Peter's letter to me on that; please return that to me.)

The reason for the needed speed is that I'm preparing Chapter 2 for printing in the next issue of N&L; ~~WHICH~~ my deadline is right now. I want to mention your pamphlet as if it is already published. Here is the way footnote 2 (which appears on my page 1) reads: "This 1906 pamphlet, Massenstreik, Parteil und Gewerkschaften is included in Gesammelte Wrke, Vol. 2 (Berlin: Dietz Verlag, 1972, 1974), pp. 91-170. The pamphlet was first translated into English by Patrick Lavin (Detroit: Marxist Educational Society, 1925). For those passages which were quoted by Rosa Luxemburg in her 1910 article, "Theory and Practice," I have used the translation of David Wolff.

Now this may appear like a simple footnote. It isn't. The shocker has just become clear to me this very minute. That is to say, whenever I mention Collected Works I had taken for granted that those were available to Nettie. I couldn't ever figure out why, in his very elaborate bibliography, pp. 863-917, he puts Gesammelte Wrke way at the end, since one of the references that I made in this very footnote I just quoted to you listed Vol. 2 as the one that includes the Mass Strike pamphlet, whereas he listed Vol. IV. I went to recheck his references. And it was only then that I found out that the GW he quotes were only intended to be that by Zetkin and Warsky and whereas they gave out a list of 9 volumes they were going to publish, only three -- III, IV and VI -- were published. In a word, the poor man had started his bibliography so "peculiarly" with Letters, published and unpublished; then with Speeches; then Articles; and only at the very end "Books" when they weren't anything but pamphlets -- because, believe it or not, outside of Accumulation of Capital (AND THAT ONLY IN GERMAN), there were no books published, and this was as late as 1965! (No wonder when I wrote my critique of Acc. of Capital in the early 1940s I did it from the Russian!) In a word, even if I seem to be repeating myself ad nauseam, the damn Stalinists didn't start publishing until after Nettie's biography appeared in 1966 and created such a stir as well as the fact that the 1968 near-revolutions had occurred, that in 1972 we first got the Collected Works. And are they really Collected?

Here is where you come in. I want the Contents page of ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ Vol. 5 of GW. Peter, who had done the contents of all 4 volumes, you will see from the enclosed note, didn't bother with Vol. 5 since obviously it contained what I already had, Acc. of Capital, etc. -- and in fact I also have what he wasn't sure of, and that is RL's review of Vol. 2 & 3 of Capital which she had written for Mehring's biography of Marx; and of course we also have RL's letters to Jogiches. What I must have is the Title of each book or pamphlet or article in that Vol. 5 and then the page numbers where it appears.

I swear I can't get over it. To think that RL's works, which Lenin asked be published at once, and at once meant the very day she was murdered, were never published in full and at best were published only when a polemic arose, which in Stalin's day meant all the time, and even before then meant only Acc. of Capital, because the German Communist Party, i.e. Luxemburgists had come to the Congress with

instructions from her, before she died, that the 3rd International should not yet be formed.

Yours,

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