

Dec.5, 1983

Dear B

I assume that you have, under separate cover received my DF letter I just sent to office for mimeography (with the PPT on Grenada). You not doubt noted that it is different from any other such letter sent out not only every week but even the one that precedes an Expanded REB, but I doubt you realize how intimately that is related personally. I wish therefore to start with the conclusion, which, though that is a rather upside down way of starting, is, because of its concreteness, must directly in reference here. It is to invite you to that expanded REB, Jan.1, 1984.

Now for the story from the beginning. Though the question of yourself and your column, On the Line, is not directly related to the proposed move of the center to Chicago next year, it is most directly related to what faces us in relationship to CD's death and the lost of the WORKERS JOURNAL column for we have no person who, in his person, combines Worker and Black Dimension. What we will work out as, without question, the principle of Marxist-Humanism, be it in relationship to N&L or theory, neither of which has ever been separated by as, from the other/I do not yet know. What I did first, in order not to have to depend on 1st negation only, is delay any action on that fundamental question before the new Year. It was easy to do it, as a temporary measure, since CD himself, (who has been very, very ill for a whole year and quite ill for two years) by asking that Isaac as worker and Lou as Black dimension alternate it as guest columnists and by the last year completing so-to-speak the In Memoriam issue by quoting directly where Part II of IH started and why.

I then began thinking that because Isaac is no longer in ~~ap~~ production, and you don't get the same experience as ~~xxx~~ retiree we would really be not quite "On the Line" as we have always prided ourselves being. That preoccupation has been my ~~xxxx~~ for longer than you may imagine, that is to say, at least since I asked you to please work out an essay, be it on Latin America in general or as an extension of the ON the Line column. There were times when I wished I could merge you and Isaac into one person; fantastic as that may sound, philosophically-politically it is that kind of rootedness in labor and youth/that is needed. Well, we are not maker of miracles, and it surely cannot be worked out by cold print, and I would want both you and Isaac present here and discuss it with REB and see what dialectically results. There are many ideas around since, with CD still present, we had often broached such questions hypothetically.

I'd suggest also that you discuss this letter with Johnny especially, since he was both youth and proletarian editor of youth page of N&L at its beginning, and he, too, will come here Jan.1; I assume it means the day before & the day after, but it is up to you.

Let me hear from you.

Yours,



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