

May 2, 1984

Dear Mary:

Your "Marxism and Feminism: A Working Relationship" is excellent, both in the way it treats women and literature and the philosophy of women's liberation. In fact, I was thinking that you might expand it and try to have it published in a feminist press. I don't know what your obligation to the university is; I should think they would be glad for you to get published, perhaps even help you. The simplicity of your style, though the content and breadth of readings is not simple, should be attractive to the feminist press. I felt, for example, that the last paragraph on page 4, on Doris Lessing's Martha Quest, was one of the places ~~where~~ we could further develop, and when that is connected with Nadine Gordimer's Burger's Daughter, the very idea of South African literature from a Marxist-Humanist point of view has value for us as well as for the outside. *

I meant to develop this letter further -- but have too many deadlines right now. Perhaps later I will have a chance to say more to you about it.

Yours,

But, of course, it must include a Black woman -- and the specific book I recommend is An African Tragedy: The Black Woman Under Apartheid by Phyllis Ntantala. We have a copy in the office, I'm sure.

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5/19/84

--y Mary's notes for editing Marxism & Feminism: A working relationship. Keeping in mind that it's for academia, and therefore must have something on it that not only is political and life characters as well as objectivity, something like this: The subject of this paper is

two-fold not only as it entitles announces--Marx and feminism-- but also as character in life as well as lit.

2ndly, this would show some changes in text that would go along with this direction. For ex., p.1, final par., after, 4th line from b., liberation of human being was no small part centered....Marx's time not alone re class relationships, tho that was pivotal to Marx. The point was that previously all phil. was based on the Idea as if ideas & not human beings think... (M, what I underline was not for underlining but simply to call attention to the fact that additions begin.)

3rdly there are a few other what may seem like either minor or self-understood, but in fact thru the thick skulls of academia who are so prejudged, nothing can be taught to be self-understood. Thus, p., last par., once you recognize she is trying to say you take a thing as "given" whereas she is independent & searches, blah, blah, insert the opposite, like in 2nd sentence from end after 40 yrs. of writing, add, "not only as given but as a problematic to be resolved." Or p.3, 1st par., where you talk of differences bet post-Marx & Marx, she wants you to include dear old Althusser as an "original". I would therefore have protected myself to begin with, as I did when I spoke of non-Marxist scholars, with something like this: Nor is it question of all post-Marx Marxists, whether it be as far afield as the structuralist original Althusser, or non-Marxist. The real point of divide is that none saw Woman as Reason, not even when women were the ones who actually initiated a revolution, as the Russian women in February, 1917, did, not even a one, IT included who did devote a whole ch. in his History failed to swipe at them that they "didn't really know what they had done."

I have a few more scribbles, but you can make them out. What I would like is a new Part, so that up to p.4, penultimate part. you name Part I something like a sociological view, Part II, beginning with last par. p.4 you call: Characters in Literature. There what is of the essence is that you bring in the fact that no matter how great, sensitive different from each other, they miss out entire on Black Dimension and of necessity raise very, very different questions, At this point bring in Phyllis Ntantala and mention some American Black writers. I would also cut a par. like p.8 about "lobbying" it is too political and unnecessary. Instead I would cut off on p.9 directly after mentioning "rev. in permanence." 1st I would there make sure to cut all Kantian "oughts", "must", orders. and instead shift off totally to today, something like this: I'm not throwing in a shocking slogan as any sort of must or even will. What I mean to say is if we are to meet challenges of today --and we have certainly chalked up many

...in the long experience of years since Marx's day--
 it is necessary to look at the NEW REALITY.
 ...is not only an idea whose time has come but a
 ...So what is needed not to play down this new
 ...I consider a revolutionary force, but to probe it for
 ...reason and see whether we could work out a philosophy
 ...and that holds both for literature and life.
 ...two-fold not only as it entitles
 ...Marx and feminism
 ...but also as character in literature
 ...well as literature.

Hope this helps.

Yours,

...the text that would go alone
 ...centered on the idea as
 ...the fact that

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 ...I would also add a part
 ...and mention some American Black writers. I would also add a part
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 ...and instead shift off totally to today, something
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 ...What I mean to say is if we are to meet
 ...we have certainly checked in many