

AUG - 1 1975

710 S. Westlake Ave.
Los Angeles, Calif. 90057

July 29, 1975

Dour Jenness
SWP N.O.
14 Charles Lane
New York, N.Y. 10014

Dear Doug,

Just recieved the letter signed by you about compiling information on other groups considering themselves socialist.

I ~~Al~~ have a small question, or suggestion, dealing with the style, rather than the content of this letter. I ~~Al~~ happened to notice this particularly because I've come across it several times in letters that I would have like to have quoted for my book, but which I decided to leave out because of the use of a certain phraseologyx which is subject to misinterperetation ~~outside of our party.~~ outside of our party.

In your letter you ~~say~~ use the term "opponent organizations that consider themselves socialist." Then in listing what you mean, you include not only groups like the CP, DOC, RU, etc., but also "nationalist groups that consider themselves socialist and feminist or gay groups that consider themselves socialist."

For one thing, it is not necessarily true that all such groups would be "opponents." And if they found us using that terminology to refer to them, it wouldn't help relations any.

Personally, I question the validity of such a term even to refer to rival radical parties or groups that are obviously hostile to the SWP in general. Under certain specific situations and conditions when we are combating a tendency to softness toward some group or groups which are ~~is~~ opposed to what we are doing, and clarity on that particular point is needed, such phraseology can be useful. But it seems to have become a habit to use the term "opponent" at all times and in general when referring to any group outside of the SWP or the YSA. This is not particularly useful and can be counterproductive. At the very least it has the disadvantage of requiring ~~xxx~~ different terminology when we are speaking among ourselves, ~~and~~ than when we are speaking publicly, which in general is so et ing to be avoided if possible.

In this particular letter, for example, when what is involved is not polemical material, but a simple request for statistics, wouldn't it have been ~~xxxxxx~~ better to simply say "other organizations that consider themselves socialist." or "rival", or "competing."

Comradely,


Fred Walstead