

*Oliver*  
Felix.

Here are some suggestions for your first meeting in L.A.:

1) Right after telling, of course, your experience in learning how the paper is put together, comes your explanation of the word, TOTALITY. Everyone thinks he or she knows what the word means, since it means a sum-up of an event or what you have experienced. But the dialectical way we use the word totality -- as new beginning -- is very hard to grasp and even harder to practice. For example, totality in relationship to N&L refers to each single issue, and also means that you always think of totality as involving follow-up, and how to contact people who have given a story.

At the same time, totality, when you are not at the Center and do not know everything that has come into the Center, is something you have to imagine. That must begin the minute you receive the REB minutes, which show what has been assigned for Lead and for Editorial, remembering always some of the Universals we practice, such as -- if the Lead is on a national topic, the Editorial will probably be international, and vice versa. Moreover, you have to know the objective situation, not so much in general as how it reflects itself in the concrete situation on the West Coast, which may inspire you to suggest other topics to be taken up by the Center.

2) The word, CONCRETE, is again one of those words everyone thinks they know, but seldom know how to spell out, so it is not just any event that happens but how does that event, at this specific time, and in this specific place, relate to the concrete that is uppermost at the Center, and that really includes international questions as well. For example, ~~if you~~ consider <sup>that</sup> such a simple thing as someone's attendance at a rally or participation in a strike cannot just be reported as it happened, but rather as it relates to who we are and what we aim for as Marxist-Humanists.

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3) The relationship to the Center. I'm sure you now know how important it is to meet deadlines rigorously, to send in regional reports regularly. And the simple technicality of how it is typed up instead of merely being reported over the phone is of the utmost importance. It can save precious time for the Center which is very busy at all times and shouldn't have to retype material from the locals so the printer will accept it.

4) Finally, there is the immediate question of the tour, the pre-convention type of sum-up you will be given at the end of the tour, so that timing is of the essence. You are returning today, Jan. 24, ; my sum-up meeting is May 2; and that sum-up refers not only to L.A. but to the Bay Area. All this means that you have a certain way of looking at the calendar, of marking up which are your meeting days, which are the dates for outside meetings for us and who will attend those. The point is that if each event, whether a local meeting or a regional meeting or a public meeting, is thought of both as to what happened there and how it relates to my two weeks on the West Coast, it becomes the preparation not only for May 2 but the actual pre-convention discussions. At the same time, you have to view yourself as co-editor in such a way that it relates to what we were talking about last night on two fronts. One is that I mentioned topics for the Centenary issue, for May Labor issue, for June on Women's Liberation and Black dimension, holding in mind it is the date of announcement of 90 day discussion period before Convention. In a certain sense, what becomes new to you is that although you live in L.A., you have to think of yourself as if you are also at the Center.

The whole ~~XXXXXXXX~~ point of this period in relationship to a trilogy of revolution and organizational growth is to remember history, and that we are issuing a challenge to all post-Marx Marxists.