

THE LOS ANGELES WAGES FOR HOUSEWORK COMMITTEE
P.O. BOX 26325
LOS ANGELES, CA 90026

10-13-76

Love FC, Catella 2, 18

Dear Mariarosa,

A few weeks ago Beth Ingber was contacted by an American woman named Margaret Wilson who had recently returned from Padova, where she had been living for the last two years. During that time, Margaret had spent nine months working with Franca and Marina at the Health Center. Margaret returned to California to finish college, and expressed an interest in working with Wages for Housework here.

Some of the members of the Los Angeles WFH Committee talked to Margaret one evening at Beth's home. We understood that Franca and Marina had been expelled from the Triveneto Committee, which indicated to us that there are substantial political differences between Wages for Housework and the group with which Margaret was involved. However, Margaret seemed unable to articulate those differences. She said the differences were "organizational" but was unable to clarify that further or to explain the political basis for the "organizational" differences. We could only infer from what Margaret said that Franca and Marina rejected WFH's concept of leadership (Margaret said she understood that only three people in the entire network were allowed to speak for WFH: you, Selma and Silvia!)

Margaret expressed great enthusiasm for Wages for Housework and did not seem to perceive any inconsistency in the fact that she had worked with the Health Center in Padova and was now considering working with WFH in Los Angeles.

She readily admitted that she did not understand the differences which had led to the split in Padova between Triveneto and the Health Center. From the conversation we gathered that the split had arisen because of a document which the Health Center women had prepared, one line of which was criticized by Triveneto as "not Marxist." The split took place before Margaret actually began working with the Health Center, and we could not find out from her the exact circumstances surrounding the preparation of the document which had led to the expulsion of Franca and Marina from the Triveneto Committee.

Because we are not familiar with the situation in Italy, we could use any help you can give us in trying to decide how to proceed in relation to Margaret. Do you know anything about her personally that might be helpful to us in deciding whether or not we can work with her? If we were able to establish the political differences between WFH and the Health Center, and she understood them and rejected the politics of the latter, do you know of any reason why it might still be a mistake to work with her? WOULD OUR WORKING WITH HER UNDERMINE OR BE POTENTIALLY DAMAGING TO THE WORK OF THE TRIVENETO COMMITTEE? Can you give us any information which would enable us to understand the political basis for the split? Margaret said that Franca and Marina were preparing a document on the political basis of the split--please send it to us if you have a copy and think it would be useful.

We'd appreciate hearing from you as soon as possible, as we expect that Margaret will be in touch with us again as soon as she gets settled here.

Love & Power
SUSAN ANDRES
for the Los Angeles WFH Committee

P.S. Are you receiving our newsletter? Can you use more copies? We would appreciate an article from Padova for our January issue.

Al Com. Los Angeles

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Dear women,

it is very difficult, almost impossible for me to write about the question of Marina and Franca in a letter in English. I will try to fix just some points:

There has not been any "split" with these women and so it is completely irrelevant whatever document from there about the "political reasons of the split". It has been an "expulsion from the committee" the only one we ever made because these women were moving in an irresponsible way dictated ~~from~~ from their interest to ~~acquire~~ acquire a bourgeois ~~power~~ power against the movement. They made ~~an~~ something very grave - and the question of that document about Health is just a part - but it cannot be treated by letter. I think you can also ask directly Silvia about how was the situation.

Conclusion: all the points about the fact that only 3 persons were allowed to speak is evidently crazy. Many great differences with the Triveneto and the Center cannot appear or be understood from for example their leaflets because they are just repeating - often in a bad way - what we write and say. But they are acting without any serious political effort. In some occasions we do some actions, for example a demonstration - with all the groups of the city and so we sign also some leaflet together. But that does not mean that we do not keep very separated our organisation from them.

About Margareth we think she has to choose either to work with us - that is with the Internationale network connected with us or with them. That means also that she will have to renounce to transmit to them informations, documents, contacts since we have built with great effort some rules about that on an interational level not to be damaged. I think also that she will



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be embarrassed for a period to have to decide this way. The best way to solve the question is seem to us that I° ~~xxxx~~^{you} will have to be very clear about the choice that she has to make - 2° shek will have to be gradually involved in the work to permit to you to have a certain "control" of her acting (it is not beatiffull to say but I do not have others words) and to permit to her to understand seriously the kind of work the all of us we are doing and that is not the case to damage it for keeping wrongs contacts.

Love and Power Mariarosa *MR*

P.S. We wrote yesterday about your newsletter and our journal. For your nesletter you can take whatever you want from our journal, summarizing news or reporting articles. About whatever materials that we publish we send regularly to Silvia and Judy and Selma the corrections of the things pranted if there is some need. So, to be more sure, when you have chosen the pieces ask Silvia By telephone if there is any correction to make. Or ask ~~xxxx~~ Silvia, because she needs ^u qingly Italian what to choose.