

Milly Rucker in on the permanent end of the business if possible.

But when it came to money, I told him that you had said you would try and make collections in America for us, and that I would lay the budget before you and we would hear soon. Then we would try something here in Germany for a time. But I wonder, Margaret, if this small sum of money could not be arranged. Now that I have these connections, I am going to work with Dr. Schmenke and through Dr. Wolf and try and have him induce the Municipality of Neukölln appropriate money for the Clinic. But in all official things, that takes weeks and months of time. Then I'm going to see that the thing gets before the Communist Party officially, and before the Communist women's branch in particular, and see if we cannot get a money appropriation from them. But that also would be weeks later. I myself told him that they must do it, for not only does my health prohibit me from doing anything substantial except attending an occasional meeting, but I also have to work hard to make a living. But while Jo Bennett is here, she has time, and I think she will take this up and give all the time she has to it. She was very much interested.

As soon as I hear from you, Jo or I are to telephone Dr. Schmenke, and he is to call a group of women physicians, and decide what to do. In the meantime he will put the plan before them and see what they can do. He will build the group.

Now--there we are. Further we did not go. I do wish I had had these connections when you were here.

Then I talked with Dr. Schmenke on the principles involved. He said he was a Marxist and as such knows that birth control cannot really change conditions; that only a new social order can do that. But that, on the other hand, women have the right to use their bodies as they will. He said he thought all women ought to have a chance to have children if they could and if they wished; he thought all ought to have three.

Then I became a very orthodox Marxist right on the spot. I told him that I also was a Marxist, that he was repeating fallacies. That the goal of Marxism is the right of women to control their own bodies, to have children when they wish it only; that birth control does not mean no children; it means that we decide when and where and how we shall have children; that most normal women wish children, but that that is no problem today; today the problem is quite to the contrary--women having abortions every month, babies dying like flies; that he was wrong about all women having three children; that is a personal question for the woman herself to decide. There are women who will want more; and there are women who should have none, for if they have unwanted children the children suffer, and it is better that they were never born. Furthermore, I told him, as a Marxist, that he ought to at least look to Russia and see what a Marxist State has done the minute it came to power. Then I told him he was not speaking as a Marxist, but as a man only. He said he was of my viewpoint, absolutely, and he thought the viewpoint ought to be put forward more.

I told Jo later that Dr. Schmenke is an official of the city, but as an organized Communist he has to take his orders from the Communist Party. That he is for birth control, but that if he ever wavers, we will work through the Communist women and the Party and put him to flight. For he has to obey orders. That is a part of the Communist Party discipline. But I do not think he will ever waver. For he tried to put forward a birth control Clinic in Saxony some five years ago, where he was an official. He, for instance, knows all about you and your work. We told him at length about your Clinic in New York, and he read your article which

we had with us. He reads English. He said it would be best to copy your Clinic in New York, to use the methods you use there, because it seems ridiculous to disregard or ignore your experience there. He said we must have full reports of your methods and experience.

Luft

So may I also request you to at once have the Clinic to send us some of those reports of Dr. Stone, together with blank record sheets, etc., etc., and anything else that will be of value in founding a Clinic.

I am not going to approach the Assn. of Women Physicians yet. I doubt if we ever get a Clinic through them. Or, at least, I shall wait for word from you before I do anything along this line.

May I ask you also if you do not think it best to use your article on B. C. now with me in the monthly magazine of the Socialist Physicians Assn? Or do you not think it good to make propaganda in the former body? Or perhaps you could let me use the present article in the Socialist monthly and later you could write a propaganda article for the Assn. of German Women Physicians. But the article is so good that it seems a shame not to use it right now to forward the idea of the Clinic.

I'll see Dr. Wolf again within a few days and see what can be done about a General Meeting of the Socialist Physicians, ~~she~~ to put forward the idea of the Clinic--to support it. She may think it best not, but then we can see. If I ever have time also I would see Dr.

Edenhuizen and see ~~xxxx~~ what position she is willing to take about the Clinic. But really, Margaret, I am beastly loaded with work. And I see that if I start anything here, these people are going to expect me to do it all. And I simply can't afford it in time or health. They must carry the burden themselves, for after all it is for Germans themselves. Nor do I want them to get the idea that there is unlimited sums of money going about.

Let me hear from you, Margaret, soon.

Jo Bennet may do a lot in this line, but I hesitate to urge her forward, for even today I saw that the men present turned more and more to her than to me. I feared that was because she is pronouncedly American, and she dresses very well; she looks prosperous. And I feared they would expect too much in money. Otherwise, she would be vitally interested. Anyway, she will attend all the meetings of the founding of the B. C. Group. But you know what people think about American wealth. The way she wears her clothes, even when they are very simple, is so damned chic, you know, that it gives the idea of prosperity. And if she comes before a group of German women, they may (or they may not) expect too much. Anyway, she will have to do it, and she will be here for a number of months more.

I had Jo go over your article and correct the English. It is the end of my University courses and I am correcting essays by the hour. Then I have reports and certificates to fill out and God knows what. Then I have to work for the Indian press, give private lessons, translate to make money, and try to find time to lie down. So I called in Jo to help me out and she was delighted. I hope you do not mind this.

I have talked with Kaethe Kollwitz by telephone. Am to see

her next week. In the meantime I sent her your manuscript, and also told her that I must see her about payment for the drawings. I shall settle that when I see her. She had no time this week.

If you have an extra copy of the Birth Control Review this month, with my article in it, please send me one. I have one but need another.

I have been told by a number of women that women who are sterilized become fat, and they look like female eunuchs. So I have decided against sterilization.

It is sickening that I did not have my present connections when you xxx were here.

About Russia: I have to see the head of the Russian Health Department sometime. Have been waiting to get a few things off my hands. I shall talk with him about an invitation for you. You are right--you must be invited and given the rights accorded to public workers. But that has time and I shall take it up later.

I attended the Congress of Proletarian Women (Red Front' they are called) for three solid days. It was marvellous--women from the most difficult industries of the country. Revolutionary housewives also. I heard the treatment of economic and other subjects that would put any American college graduate to shame for his ignorance. They took Birth Control and abortion for granted. The programme was already arranged in advance, with resolutions, etc., and material to each. I have connections with them now and shall see more of them through the coming months. And I shall see that B. C. comes on the official programme next year, and that in the meantime the issue is put before the organization, through their press. To do it this time was impossible because one has to prepare a speech, with proposals, etc. I could not. If such a subject is not well prepared, it may be shelved and with difficulty taken up again. Perhaps not because the women were women who know life only too well. But it should be prepared carefully. The organization has 30,000 women members--factory women and revol. housewives who are in the class struggle. I spoke spontaneously, at their request, on the labour movement in India. In German. Such things lie at my finger-tips. When I finished, I turned to sit down, but before I had even had time to turn around, I heard a whish; turning, I saw all the hall had instinctively and spontaneously arisen, as quick as light, and were standing and singing "The International". This spirit of solidarity touched me very deeply. When in Frankfurt I shall get in touch with the local groups there. I shall try to get such women to take up the question of birth control of their own accord.

This volume is enough. I have so much to do these days.

Love always,

A. B. C. Clinic here is only
a question of organization
and finances. Nothin'
else, I see.

Yours

Article