



THE
NEW REPUBLIC

1220 19th St. NW
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25 May

Dear David,

There is much that I like in the piece -- it is evocative & its judgements are interesting -- but I'm afraid it's really much too "inside" for my readers as it stands now. Farfl, vil nor....too much too fast, & too cute. I propose that you have another look & revise with the following in mind:

1) We must begin with a calm, expository, perfectly clear page or two about what Lithuanian Jewish culture is (or was), a brief account of its history, & then of its differences to, say, Galicia (tread lightly there; your editor is a loyal son of Brogobycz and Stryj!). Otherwise the reader will simply be lost. This introduction must be completely accessible.

2) Forget the Parts I, II, and III structure. It's too mechanical, too book-reviewy. Arrange the piece according to themes instead.

3) Tell us more about certain themes. Why did she have this view of Poland? Is it justified? -- Was she right about the inevitable death of Yidishism in Poland? How big a movement was it? What do you think its prospects were? -- Etc. More meat.

4) I simply cannot accept Lucy's absolution of American policy during the war. In fact, I rejected a long essay she wrote on that subject. Surely you do not agree that the US did enough. I insist on a more textured, critical discussion of this theme.

5) Your objection to Lucy's factuality catches the spirit of the woman exactly. (You should have heard her at Marie Syrkin's memorial service. Her personal recollections could have been a necrology in PAAJR.) This stuff is good, but might be more pointed.

6) Oh yes, you must tell us about YIVO --



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what it was, & is -- who Weinreich was -- how he differed from Kalmanovich, etc. Also, the opposition between Grade & Sutzkever must be fleshed out, if it is to say anything to our readers.

In short, I see a terrific article here; but it must go slower, give more information, explain as well as evoke, have a more critical (I don't mean negative) spirit. Will you put it through the typewriter one more time?

Call to discuss, if you'd like. I hope these comments make sense. And I hope all's well.

Best --

Leon.