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Zitiervorschlag:

Peter Fox André an Karl Marx in London. London, Montag, 25. November 1867. In: Marx-Engels-Gesamtausgabe digital. Briefe. Hg. von der Internationalen Marx-Engels-Stiftung. Berlin-Brandenburgische Akademie der Wissenschaften, Berlin. URL <https://megadigital.bbaw.de/briefe/detail.xql?id=M0000442>

Peter Fox André an Karl Marx in London. London, Montag, 25. November 1867

Berlin-Brandenburgische Akademie der Wissenschaften (BBAW) Marx-Engels-Gesamtausgabe

Handschrift: Handschrift: RGASPI f. 1 op. 1 d. 4378

Handschriftenbeschreibung:

Der Brief besteht aus einem Bogen im Format 180 × 227 mm und einem angeklebten Blatt im Format 180 × 113,5 mm sowie einem einzelnen Blatt in demselben Format (insgesamt acht Seiten) mittelstarkem, weißem Papier. Fox André hat sechs Seiten vollständig beschrieben, die Rückseiten der Blätter sind leer. Schreibmaterial: schwarze Tinte.

Fox André paginierte das einzelne Blatt als fünfte Seite. Nach dem „W.“ in der Adresse steht ein „?“ von unbekannter Hand.

Archivsignatur des Moskauer Marx-Engels-Instituts (IME): „RJ 228< a-e >“ und bzw. „Rj 566“.

Von Engels' Hand: auf der vierten Seite oben links mit Tinte der Vermerk: „Internat.“

Absender: Peter Fox André

Schreibort: London

Schreibdatum: 1867-11-25

Empfänger: Karl Marx

Empfangsort: London

Schlagworte: Internationale Arbeiter-Assoziation (IAA, A.I.T., I.W.M.A.), Parlamentsangelegenheiten in London

| 27 Rathbone Place,
W.
25/11

Dear D^r Marx.

The habitual deafness of a Chairman is one of my complaints. An unscrupulous speaker relies upon such deafness and perhaps regards it & the indifference of the Council as signs of sympathy.

The task of taking my own part is always irksome to me. I prefer taking somebody else's | part.

If I find no one ready to take mine, I naturally get tired of the association & find I can spend my evenings more pleasantly & profitably in my study or in more friendly Society.

That brings me to the point you take:

“It was not the duty of any individual member to put himself in the place of the Chairman.”

It is the right & the duty of any individual member when he hears un Parliamentary & abusive language suffered | to go forth unchecked by the Chairman to rise & call the Chairman's attention to it & invite him to interfere.

In the British House of Commons it is much more often one of the attacked member's friends who rises than the attacked member himself.

E.G.^a when last Session Colonel North^b called M^r Maguire^c, "a Fenian", it was one of Maguire's friends who rose & demanded that the imputation be retracted & retracted it was.

| When the question of whether Carter^d had paid his subscription was needlessly & as I thought deliberately raised to give him offence, I acted on the principle above laid down & recommended. Finding that the Chairman took no steps to stop an angry & personal altercation, I rose & asked the Chairman (Jung^{fe}) to stop it. But he refused. I then opposed his nomination, a fortnight afterwards. Thus no doubt, my endeavours to keep the Chairmen to their duties helped to expose me to insult. Another good reason for quitting the Company!

| At any rate, I called the Chairman's attention to the matter by resigning.

If the words altered, as you say, "falsified the meaning", let the statement be so made where they were uttered—in open Council & not in close Committee. An assurance contained in a private letter is no satisfaction.

Since I wrote last,^h circumstances have released me from my pledge to Carterⁱ but I think it would be only a gracious act on the part of the Council to assure him that they do not doubt his word or question his honour |5| and therefore ask him to reconsider his determination.

If he refused so to do, I should consider his conduct mulish & quarrelsome.

Yours obliged,
Peter Fox.

P. S. I make no pretensions either by birth, education or wealth to the title of "Esq"^r. It is a piece of English social tomfoolery as applied to people like me that I dislike & it wants reforming. I shall be contented with no appendage or the simpler & more democratic: "M^r."

Erläuterungen

- a) exempli gratia – zum Beispiel.
- b) North (-)
- c) Maguire, Thomas (etwa 1836-)
- d) Carter, James
- e) Hermann Jung^g.
- f) Jung, Hermann (1830-1901)
- g) Jung, Hermann (1830-1901)
- h) P. Fox André an Marx, 23.11.1867.
- i) Carter, James

Kritischer Apparat