

## A devil will I do!

Dear Peter,

what think you are in moment the greatest problem here in Germany? That millions of people no job have? Here the rich Wessies and there poor Eassies? That the rents and pensions not safe are? I say you cliff and clear: All wrong! We know to time no bigger theme than the sonamed right-write-reform. Good, what we Germans so write, cries withunder to heaven: „blau“, but „rauh“; „Auto fahren“, but „radfahren“; „Papplakat“, but „Schiffahrt“. There finds no pig through. And you as outlander, who German learns, must the hat high go. Without the Duden under the arm come you practish not more out. But we have yes sixteen culture-ministers, who day and night besorrowed are, that it us good goes and that the life not too hard ist. What shall wie in future little write, what great? What must we together-write, what outanother? Must there a comma before „and“ stand or not? How shall wie a word part, when the line to end ist? You see, questions over questions. After a yearslong hickhack and many crazy discussion before and behind the stage have now the culture-ministers in their unendly goodness befound: Newerthings shall we „Zu-cker“ write, but not „Mu-tter“, „Meis-ter“ ist now correct and also „Isos-tasie“. This understand, who will.

„The reformers have still more crazy things in petto: „ext-ra“, but „Ex-trakt“. „Fotografie“ shall o. k. be, but not „Filosofie“. The „Rharbarber“ must the „h“ behold, but not the „Delphin“, the „Thunfisch“ oder the „Känguruh“. Out „Stengel“ ist now „Stängel“, but out „setzen“ not „sätzen“. But all our books must for this snick-snack new printed be. What a yearhundred-work be should, is complete into the trousers gone. No wonder, that on ground of such a little-caro nonsense a proteststorm over the land sqept. Put poets and thinkers gave out deepest heart to protest: No, not with us! They have also our Federal President on their side, who mostest the nail on the head hits. And the culture-ministers? They will absolute not from their high horse down-come. They say simple: Ätsch (speak: age), it is not too late! The poets – please nice - could write, how they linke. Overhead is the reform only for schools und public offices thought. Only für schools and offices? I think, I hear not right! What can the poor children therefore, that the culture-ministers nothing better’s infalls? And what shall out all the others become, all the Otto Normal Consumers? Who thinks, that I the reform blindlings befollow will, was himself orderly in the finger cut. A devil will I do!

Your true Gisela

Bayerisch-englischer Filserbrief, Süddeutsche Zeitung, 1997