

Oct. 24, 1954

Dear Tom:

That absolute contradiction that I've been talking about in his first paragraph on the Absolute Idea is nowhere more total than in science, whether it was thought to be the answer to utopianism in the early 19th century, or the fullness of the "real" science-- the philosophy-- the frustration it has created in all fields since the industrial revolution started,

and its "progressive" nature, "provable", has never stopped, and it has never stopped precisely because of the absoluteness of the contradiction. So that what turns out to be "provable" is its one-sidedness. If this sounds abstract and abstract, what is causing this to be written is not. It is very concrete. So concrete as to be organizational. Here is what I mean:

Last week, Mike, who is always deep into Archives, found what I thought was certainly lost long, long ago. As I kept talking about the period of 1950-53, when I became so thrilled with the fact that the NY Times had featured on the front page Einstein's first projection of his unified field theory, though there couldn't have been more than a dozen people who understood what it was all about. I had been deeply involved in two very opposite areas of activities: on the one hand, the magnificent miners' general strike, but at the same time had to fight Tom Hall, a member who was a cybernetics follower, and who wanted all our activity to be around cybernetics-- especially Norbert Weiner's Human Use of Human Beings. On the other hand, I was trying very hard to get an appointment with Einstein himself through his associate, ~~Paul~~ Kaufmann, who was in Hashomer Hatzair, and sympathetic to us. I remember getting very mad at Tom, just before he left us, when I shouted, "Oh, for heaven's sake, Tom, leave the earth and fly!"

This whole episode is being re-told, because what do you suppose Mike found last week? A manuscript by me dated Sept. 1953, on the unified field theory. I haven't yet had time to work it out in full. (My shorthand isn't all that good by these days.) Whether it is notes of ~~mine~~ giving us a lecture on unified field theory, whether it is me trying to summarize what I heard, or whether it is a discussion by the group because what I was so concerned with was to make ~~me~~ recognize people like Effie and Denby, and to listen to their questions, at the same time they saw ~~that~~ my insistence that the unified field theory had a relation to world revolution, a new paper we were trying to start-- a workers' paper, and God knows what else I was developing at the time after I had broken through on the Absolute Idea. For example, I had to carry around with me Bukharin's speech at that 1931 London conference on Plan and mathematics. And I was definitely working out Marx's humanism, rather than just continuing on state-capitalism.

Do you see what I'm driving at by "absolute contradiction" in science as in everything, and it is only the dialectic method that can grapple with it?

Yours, RD

*Denby*

*Denby*

*Denby*

11207