

August 10, 1957

Dear JB:

Upon my return to Detroit, I found waiting for me Marcuse's Preface (enclosed herewith for you). He magnanimously states that if I do not like it, I should feel free to discard it. Naturally I will do nothing of the sort; in fact I have just forwarded it to the publisher exactly as he had written it. The proposal to discard must come from his self-consciousness that he is expounding his viewpoint more than mine, but it would be a pretty empty type of democracy I believed in if that stopped me. Disagreement of views has never worried me; monolithism has.

Naturally I am sorry to see that he disagrees with my analysis of those tremendous convulsions in East Europe, climaxed by the Hungarian Freedom Fighters, as the beginning of the end of totalitarianism. He has always called me a "romantic" also because of my profound optimism in the American workers as the true inheritors of Marxism and Hegelianism. When I end my work with "Toward A New Unity of Theory and Practice in the Abolitionist and Marxist Tradition", I am not spouting empty rhetoric but true belief of a Marxist Humanist. And, despite his disagreement on post-Marxism, he insists he agrees essentially with my analysis of Marx's works, that I have gone beyond the interpretation of anything done previously, including the intellectually alive 1920s, and that I use "the full arsenal of Marxism" for the post-Marxist developments, so why complain? On the contrary, I believe that not only his encouragement these past 2 years that I must be free to develop all my ideas fully, but his present association with me to the extent of giving his name and ideas in disagreement, cannot but help create around the book that stir of ideas and polemic which will awaken us from the stupor much more than the contribution of Djilas (Did Praeger have that in his pocket when he finally refused me?).

I cannot hope to compete with the free publicity LIFE, BUSINESS WEEK and the whole of the capitalist press will give Djilas's attack. But with the help of Marcuse and you I can at least hope not to be shelved altogether in the attempt to be heard. I assume I will soon hear from you on the financial request and then we'll go to town. Now I must again settle down to work; the proofs will be here in a day or two and it is not the easiest 400 pages to proofread. O, incidentally, the LA trip was very successful--with 75 advance orders of the book in my pocket.

Yours,

Rayor

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