

October 14, 1969.

Dear Eugene, Mike, and Will (copies to RED-NEO):

I don't know whether the youth or the locals have already started the classes in Marxism and Freedom that the Plenum had recommended, but the one aspect that I want to take up has not been discussed -- and, indeed, is new not only to you, but to myself -- and that is the relationship of the Archives to the completed theory and to life. I began to think about this question because I was not fully satisfied with the appreciation for our Archives as a continuing, living experience. In the process, however, it became something that was not a question only of ourselves and our past, but of that relationship of Archives to completed theory and life which has characterized the Marxist ~~the~~ movement from its very beginning.

I- Take the relationship of Marx's Grundrisse, both to Capital and to Automation and China, the two most critical points of today.

II- Or consider Lenin's Philosophic Notebooks and their relationship; or more precisely, lack of relationship, to Trotskyism, to Stalinism, and presently to Maoism, especially its French Althusserian variation.

III- And now consider Marxist Humanism as it first arose in the form of state-capitalist theory in 1941; and then as fully Marxist-Humanism in both the 1958 and 1964 editions of Marxism and Freedom; and, finally, the process of development in Philosophy and Revolution right now.

It is these three historic and philosophic developments that I consider the necessary foundation for a really new and continuing class in Marxism and Freedom. I therefore would like to make the following suggestions:

(1) As of somewhere in mid-November, before I disappear to concentrate completely on the book, I deliver a special speech in Detroit which will be taped for both L.A. and N.Y.

(2) New York and L.A. will play their tape as soon as it received -- because this is important for the entire class as a totality, and has no special relationship to any individual section being studied.

(3) Under no circumstances whatever is any local permitted to summarize what the tape is about. New York has suffered plenty from confusing someone's interpretation for what it is ~~what~~ I said -- and what I say is altogether too important for Philosophy and Revolution to be allowed to get bogged down over the quality of the tape or whether or not the "outside" would look down upon listening to a tape. In this case, we are interested only in those who are interested in grappling with serious philosophic problems and in none others.

Yours,

RAYA

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