

September 5, 1955

Dear Herbert Marcuse:

Now that the summer is over with its heat, flood, hurricanes and general resistance to any consistent study which necessitates "the patience, labor and suffering of the negative," I trust I will hear from you and that we finally will be able to get together. There is, however, a change. It turns out that my tour begins on the West Coast rather than the East and that I will not reach New York till the middle of November. I hope I will hear from you long before then. (I leave Detroit September 12th)

Dr. Robert Cohen, who tried to get me a publisher for a "package" of Marx's Early Essays and untranslated chapter from first version of Capital, as well as Lenin's Philosophic Notebooks, writes that the project has fallen through: the Early Essays are being brought out in England and the American publisher did not feel the Philosophic Notebooks would have a paying audience. I would hate to think that when I get my book done there will still be no English translation of Lenin's Notebooks and that I would thus be limited to quotations from original sources. That is a privilege that intellectuals can both allow themselves and can utilize, but the public that I am aiming at cannot.

Incidentally, I have not seen the new edition of your Reason and Revolution so do not know whether you had grappled with Stalinism and its violent attempts in 1943 and 1947 to break Marx from Hegel and transform the Marxian dialectic from development through contradiction to an idealistic totalitarian development of "criticism and self-criticism". That of course will be integral to my work.

If I hear that you are interested I will correspond with you from the various places of lecture-discussions on the work and tell you how in fact this movement from practice to theory that I am always harping on is actually working out on the concrete question of the book.

Yours,

*W. J. W.*

The News & Letters this issue is carrying a notice of Dissent just in order to call attention to your article in it.

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