

D. W. Keefe

July 17, 1972

Dear John:

I'm afraid I have bad news for you at the very moment when I have good news for Philosophy and Revolution. Dell gave me a contract for my work for winter 1973 but refused categorically to oblige himself in any way about printing or not printing your Preface. It seems when they are that big a paperback publisher they either use "names" or none but their type of blurbs. I had no such problem when I had asked Marcuse to introduce my M&R--in fact, they just took my word for it, and gave me the contract which included the Preface without having seen it. Of course, Bookman's was small compared to Dell's; but in Italy they just threw out Marcuse's Preface (for which they no doubt were very sorry after Marcuse became so commercially advantageous, but at the time they insisted he means nothing in Italy and thus La Nuova Italia burdened my book with some stupid Social Democratic....) Since I could not let 10 years of work go I did sign the contract and all he promised was that he would read your Preface. (He had evidently not even done that; though it was part of the work I submitted, they just skipped it)

what Dell seemed interested was to get "names" to write/letters that they could use in advance announcements of the work. I had received another significant letter from Hayden White who, this time on the chapter on Marx, had written that he had found it "really breathtaking, not only for its scope, but in the dynamism of its several transitions. I think that you are right..both and original in the way in which you set Marx's experience of praxis in the center of his 'materialization; of the dialectic, against the reductionists who simply see him as 'inverting' Hegel or in eliminating the dialectic altogether. The identification of the subject of the dialectic as the proletariat is convincing to me. I learned much from this chapter, and I hope to see it in print soon."

Back to you--where will you be in August? I still hope, though now that is faint, that I can convince Dell to use the Preface. Or would you wish to use it as separate essay? In any case, since summer is so bad a time for any publishing activity and I do not know when he intends to let me know what his final decision is since the work will not be finished till (insofar as their part is concerned) ~~will~~ winter, 1973, I would wish to know how to contact you after you leave Switzerland.

You have no idea how hard it is for me to write this note. Lordy, I was so anxious for the Preface, and to think that for some reason, they're willing to take a chance on my "names" or at least on the content of P&R but not on academia--I don't know what to make of it, and must depend on your understanding.

Yours,

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