

May 19, 1986

Dear Susan:

It's a long time since I've written you; for that matter, since I've written anyone except strictly for "general" (I don't necessarily mean Universal, and I certainly don't mean "business", but...). I'm sure that from all the years in Detroit, you've learned ~~me~~ that I often do not finish what I'm saying. My point is that this time (your May 10 letter) I can not see how anyone would talk of "technical" matters, without hyphenating that with "philosophic", and your so-called technical work on the Archives is certainly philosophic!

The philosophy, the politics, the historic scope of the Archives as you have ~~worked~~ worked with them (along with the other comrades) assures ~~me~~ the fact that history as future will be a continuation of Marx's magnificent categories of movement as history-in-the-making.

I greatly appreciate the precision with which you give ~~me~~ your account. Indeed, I thought you were right to speculate-- and made me do the same-- about the possibility of a relationship between my very first outline of what Archives was to be and the Johnsonite work, Facing Reality, with its distortions. I know it was predated by my furiousness at him trying to walk off with the creation of, and study of, the theory of state-capitalism, which began among other things with the publication of State-Capitalism and World Revolution (a re-publication in Britain), signed by people who had absolutely nothing to do with it. In fact, the new signatories, out of the clear blue, not only had nothing to do with the writing or the very concept of state-capitalism-- they were "bureaucratic-collectivists". Chalieu told me, when I was in Paris that he didn't even know his name would be appended; he certainly didn't agree with it, and I don't have to tell you what has become of Chalieu now. The 1958 Facing Reality, far from being any sort of "competition", or what they hoped would be an attack on M&F, was the proof of how far they themselves had drifted away not only from state-capitalism or revolution itself, as the book rationalizes, but from Marxism. As they rationalize Correspondence's not ~~writing~~ writing about the Hungarian Revolution, they said that after all, it was a US paper, and in the US, Emmet Till's murder was more urgent than the Hungarian Revolution. Further, the Blacks have a right to be suspicious of the refugees from the Hungarian Revolution, because they are taking their jobs.

Oh, Susie, how can you ask me to 1) use wide margins, and 2) avoid BLUE? Do you really think that I was writing for posterity? Do you know how many of my documents have been lost even to me because I was ~~so~~ so disgusted in one period from being a senior typist in the federal government, and in the Paramount-Famous-Lasky Corp. in the Fox studios, and the millions of carbons I had to make for each actor, plus cues for the other actors, that I categorically refused to make a single copy of my own research, and they flew away in the storm.... That's a long story, and I don't have time to tell it. Finally, I have ~~two~~ two things which preoccupy me while working out the Convention Call:

1) is your "whirlwind tour" of Vol. 12, and 2) is Detroit and the fact that [] will be your new organizer. She is the who has been working with Mike on the Archives from the beginning.

Yours,

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