

November 20, 1956

Hello:

The book is finished! It has grown to 365 pages plus another 95 pages of appendices of the unpublished writings of Marx and Lenin, and there is a brief introduction. It was impossible to make copies for the friends, but I am enclosing a detailed page of contents, and trust that each one will be able to study it before a brief educational on it, which I assume any NEB member can easily lead off.

It is too bad that not all friends were here this week for there is nothing quite like the actual work on it to make it seem alive. Without the Detroit local it would have been impossible to carry off such an enormous job. Barbara and Morgan worked for two weeks straight with Saul and me, and by the weekend there was a full mobilization. While Johny and Inez took over makeup, proof-reading and editing of paper, and Si and John helping write last minute material--the friends must again work up backlog, lots of it; it was fantastic that just this week we had insufficient material--and helping in all the million things from collating to binding of book--and all the rest of us working, I was enabled to bring it up to date by including the Hungarian Revolution.

You may recall that in 1953 when we said that the East German Revolt was the beginning of the end of totalitarianism, many, including so-called Marxists, considered that wishful thinking. I was even criticized for including that as "theory" in the book. But here while we were going along with the last few pages of the work--the very name of the Hungarian revolutionaries, "Freedom Fighters", is a proof--if proof were necessary--of how close to life our theory is.

One other thing I wish to say of the size of the book. Si asked me as he looked at the near-complete mass of material, How did it get this big? It wasn't that when I read it. No, but there was a convention, there were letters in between, there were many, many conversations throughout the country--and that precisely distinguishes from all others--that every word said, especially by the workers in our organization and those outside we meet--becomes the beginning of yet another idea and extension of Marxism or humanism.

The difficulty will be in convincing the publisher for the size is not size but content and now that he will see it in its developed working-class spirit, will he hold out. We will see very shortly as I leave now East. Meanwhile our friends are responding very well--although I have not heard from all yet. The best news was from Otie and Johnie who ordered 4 copies for if a steel worker and his wife are sure they want 4 copies the rest is assured. Andy and Olga have asked permission for turning over a whole \$175, since they have been encouraged by Otie and Johnie and those friends on the outside that they will get help in repaying that loan, and they feel they wish to express their concern for the book as an integral part of the total philosophy we stand for in that type of tangible manner.

Rae

*Best, I hope you will give the educational on this
Love - Tired, over - Rae
but happy*

12147

*Jim Best from
around the clock
writes - love all that
has been done - we've
chance a blow to bourgeois
world
out
finger
and
write
well
Newman
for - J.R.*