

October 16, 1957

Dear Friends:

The final proofs of the book in page form and Index have just been sent in. It is hoped that all, except cover, will be read and off the press by end of month; there will be some delay in binding but we hope to get at least some copies without cover so that each local has a couple of copies. The publisher is most considerate here.

The today-ness of Marxism has always been the main theme of the book and I felt therefore that, just as I could not let go the galley proofs without including footnotes on Mao Tse-Tung and Djilas, so I must somehow get Little Rock and sputnik into the page proofs, although, as author's alterations, these would cost a few extra dollars. Here, then, is ~~the~~ the final paragraph of the book.

"The modern intellectuals will lose their sense of guilt and bondage when they will react to 'the compulsion of thought to proceed to these concrete truths'--the actions of the Negro school children in Little Rock, Arkansas, to break down segregation, the wildcats in Detroit for a different kind of labor than that of Automation, the struggles for freedom the world over. The alignment precisely with such struggles in the days of the Abolitionists and of Marx is what gave those intellectuals that extra dimension which enabled them to become part of a new society. It will do so again today when the intellectual accepts the challenge of the times, and then the ideal and the real are seen to be not far apart. The worker is right when he demands that work be 'completely different, and not separated from life itself,' and that 'thinking and doing be united.' Once the theoretician has caught this, just this, impulse from the worker, his work does not end. It first then begins. A new unity of theory and practice can evolve only when the movement from theory to practice meets the movement from practice to theory. The totality of the world crisis has a new form--fear at the 'beep-beep' from the new man-made moon. The American rush 'to catch up' with the Russian sputnik is not in the interest of 'pure science' but of total war. Launching satellites into outer space cannot solve the problems of this earth. The challenge of our times is not to machines, but to men. Inter-continental missiles can destroy mankind; they cannot solve its human relations. The creation of a new society remains the human endeavor. The totality of the crisis demands, and will create, a total solution. It can be nothing short of a New Humanism."

The jacket of the cover is being done in Detroit rather than NY on the suggestion of the publisher. This has given us a chance to introduce some changes in it, that is to say, to expand the American heritage by one paragraph, and in the biographical note, to include the method of the work and the fact that I consider the American workers and student youth the true co-authors of the book. We will get a few extra copies of this jacket cover and send some to each local. We're off in the field of competition of ideas and there is no doubt at all that while the attacks by Communists and labor bureaucracy will increase, the polarizing force for worker and intellectual alike will have been established.

Rae

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