

January 25, 1961

To the NEB:  
Dear Friends:

Today marks the completion of my summation of Hegel's Science of Logic. It isn't something that you can get in one reading, or even in re-reading in any single month. It has to become your constant companion as you find your own rythm in the movement of Hegel's Logic. But the beginning can be gotten from a first reading. It helps lay a foundation for grappling with not merely the philosophy needed, but for the actual reality of the day.

A couple of weeks ago you got a summation of the Phenomenology. These two works -- Phenomenology of Mind and the Science of Logic - are the greatest of Hegel's monumental works. The encyclopedia which summarized these two and added a Philosophy of Nature as well, is good and in many respects easier to grapple with, but it cannot be a substitute for the whole before it became systematized.

Just as it would have been impossible for me to write this summation if I hadn't had Eleanor's help in taking dictation directly to the typewriter, it will be impossible for you to study it if only one copy is available to a locality. Therefore, I am asking Barbara to please make a set of six from her copy, and she can take my word for it that she will forget her exhaustion because of the spiritual awakening.

At this stage in the lectures, I do not know how much of all this will be used in the actual book. Two things will help clarify this question: (1) I will call a special meeting of the REB and have a discussion with them on all the letters that I have sent around on Philosophy since September. This will be done Saturday, February 4th. I will send this tape to the L.A. NEB and ask them to tape their discussion for me. (2) I am going to Massachusetts where I will have a discussion with Marcuse that will be of utmost importance for the book, precisely because he does not have our view, but is the most profound academician who considers themselves a Marxist writing on Hegel. And then I will have a series of discussions with Barbara and Morgan, who will, so to speak, stand for this generation's intellectuals who have come to Marxist-Humanist, but think Hegel on the abstruse side. Also, I hope that L.A. will get me a lecture by April and will give me an opportunity to discuss these philosophic questions, not only with our own friends, but with some Africans.

All this, plus the full series of classes are the preliminary steps to getting down to the actual writing of the book, sometime in May (beginning in May).

I was very elated five minutes ago when I finished the summation and thought I would write you from Cloud Nine, but instead I am suddenly so tired that all I can do is this note!

Yours,

RAE

12334