

April 3, 1955

Dear Herbert Marcuse:

I'm a bit late with sending the Two Worlds which tried to catch the impulse on automation and the automation articles themselves. But when I returned to Detroit I found that the owner of the paper is trying to take advantage of his ownership to exclude most of the worker writers and intellectual features which have lent the distinctive features to Correspondence. No doubt we will come out again, even if it takes some time to regroup, but you can imagine my mind had wandered from the book on Marxism after putting out what might be the last issue of the paper (Vol. II, No. 7). That's another story.

Meanwhile here are the articles I promised. I didn't do very well, but that in any case is what I mean by impulse that is new and that I wish to surround myself with in writing any work on Marxism. The twin poles to me of any fundamental work there must have, automation at one end, and the absolute idea or freedom at the other end. I'm very anxious to hear your reaction to those two letters where I first posed the question of the absolute idea in terms of a movement from practice to theory as well as from theory to practice.

I would also like to hear from you what in general you thought of prospects of publishing a work on Marx in the historical setting in which I placed the one chapter I left with you on the second edition of Capital and the Paris Commune.

It was indeed a pleasure to have finally met you and I'm only sorry that it was so brief that we barely got to know each other and I could not meet your friend. But I feel sure that now that we have met it will not be the last time.

I told the editor (John Zupan who is with me in this break or evident break with Correspondence and also Charles Denby the author of Workers Journal that always appears on the front page as well as two women production workers) about meeting you and the fact that you might wish to come here when your school semester was over and they all felt they would like that very much, so the invitation to you stands.

Do let me hear from you.

Yours, as ever,

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