

November 13, 1972

Richard Huett, Editor-in-Chief  
Laural Editions - Delta Books  
New York, N.Y. 10017

Dear Richard:

Because I have total confidence in you and knew that you did not mean your suggestion for cutting out a whole chapter of Philosophy and Revolution as an edict, I will detail the reason for my non-concurrence. It has nothing to do with how "painful" I would find the "surgery" suggested. If "careful consideration" had changed my view of the work as a totality, I would have been willing to give myself "A" for effort, and bow to your suggestion.

But the truth is that leaving the chapter on Sartre out of the book would make a shambles of the dialectic unity of Philosophy and Revolution as well as of the concept of Trotsky-Mao-Sartre as the "Alternatives" to the continuity-discontinuity of the continent of thought or methodology created by Hegel-Marx. So mechanist had existing Marxism become in the period after Marx's death that it took nothing short of a world war as well as the collapse of the International before Lenin recognized that integrity. Yet it isn't merely the fact that my work is so constituted that each sphere contains one non-Marxist, but that the elimination of the chapter on Sartre would cause a gaping hole that would undermine the movement to the "Now" of the "Why Hegel? Why Now?" as Part I reaches Part III, and the totally "new passions and new forces."

Though secondarily, one other reason for my non-concurrence has to be taken into consideration. An earlier version of the Sartre chapter had been submitted to philosophers and historians of the caliber of Marcuse and White, and delivered in lecture form to hundreds of young leftists who felt its relevance to the problems of the day. Marcuse thought so highly of it that he advised me to try to publish it as a separate chapter. Which is why I submitted it to you several years back for possible inclusion in George Novack's Existentialism Versus Marxism. Whether or not you yourself accepted Novack's refusal to do so -- that my views and Marcuse's were similar, and he was including Marcuse -- you would in any case not have interfered with an author's final say about his own work. But not only were my views and Marcuse's not similar, but Marcuse's critique was of necessity limited to Being and Nothingness which had then just been published, whereas mine concentrated on Sartre's methodology after Sartre "fused" Existentialism with Marxism. In any case, the attraction that my chapter held for both scholars and ~~Novack~~ was that it was high time to end the philosophic vulgarisms that pass for Marxist analyses of Sartre's Critique de la Raison dialectique.

No, Richard, I cannot consent to the cutting out of the chapter on Sartre. I am willing, however, to agree to leaving out the Appendix, though the section of Marx's Grundrisse that I translated is not, with the sole exception of five pages, the sections published either by Cohen or Maclean.

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Letter to Richard Mutt, page 2

These 40 pages, plus O'Neill's Preface of 16 pages which we had previously concurred not to use, should help some in trying to keep the price below the \$3.95 for paperback and \$10 plus for hardcover. But of course I know nothing at all about that aspect and I would not presume to tell you anything about it.

One thing, however, that I do know is that the specific new readership that my name will bring to both editions could not be deterred by the slightly higher price. Short as they are on money, the price would not be decisive. For example, I know that the pre-orders that News & Letters had submitted to Dell were not on the basis of the numbers that they expect to sell. Long before the 60 days they have set themselves to sell the 1000 paperbacks and 300 hardcover editions, they expect to obtain a new order.

Please forgive the delay in returning the recent pages based on your last commentary on Parts II and III. Now that I have returned from the Hegel Society of America conference in Notre Dame, Indiana, and before I need to leave to present a paper to the Telos conference in St. Louis, Mo. on Nov. 20, you will get it.

Yours,

RD/os

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