

December 22, 1972

Dear Peter,

Your letter of December 14 was a great big surprise, not because of its content, but just I hear so seldom from you and I had not even got your congratulatory note and here I get a seven page quite comprehensive critique of *Why Hegel? Why Now?* You're right, there's no point to answering briefly when the whole 350 pages of *Philosophy and Revolution* on which I labored nearly a whole decade is the answer and that is not yet off the press. I wish I had received it sometime before in the years I had been asking for it. In any case I thank you very much, and I'm especially appreciative of the fact that you give me permission to make the critique public. I don't know exactly when but I will someday, probably nearer to the publication of P&R which is supposed to be October, 1973, but they're doing a lot of playing around also with the date of spring, 1974. Since the contract mentions both dates I don't know whether I'll succeed in making them forget the second one.

Did I tell you it's simultaneously to be in hardcover (Delacorte) and paperback (Delta)?

Finally, there is one thing I must take exception to at once rather than wait for a different timing, and that is your "accusation" that dealing with Hegel is an evasion, a movement from practice. You know almost as well as I that if anything has characterized my life it is practice and not theory into which literally I was forced because none from Trotsky down was paying any attention to reality either the objective state capitalism or the subjective new forms of revolt. When you add to that that in the United States I alone have taken at least two years to do nothing but help in the self-development of a proletariat, Black, to take over the prerogatives of intellectuals--editing a paper--and the whole paper (N&L) being overwhelmingly for the voices from below, not to mention my own activities in every field from anti-war to farm workers strikes, it is really peculiar to see that all this info had not stopped you from making your theoretical point that "Hegel now" is an evasion.

*Yours  
E. S.*

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