

September 16, 1986

Dear Friends:

... Raya concluded by returning to the point of collectivity as the whole organization becomes central to the book-to-be on Dialectics of Organization and Philosophy: The "Party" and Forms of Organization Born Out of Spontaneity. Outside of the fact that the book will probably take two years to complete, not the two months the Convention voted for Raya to be free of all other work to begin the actual writing, a Marxist-Humanist book is never just an individual's responsibility. The whole organization, as well as non-members -- miners and students, especially -- were involved in the first work, Marxism and Freedom. It was precisely because that is what CLRJ opposed that he began to hatch the conspiracies against what was to become Marxist-Humanism when, at the outbreak of the Miners' General Strike, the "organization" was still Johnson-Forest. Let me put it even more sharply as what objectively-subjectively was happening that year, and how different were the thoughts and activities of Johnson and Forest. On the one hand, there was the strike in which Forest was active; on the other hand, there was the study of the Hegelian dialectic which showed that CLRJ was departing both from Lenin's Philosophic Notebooks, and even more decisively from "small mass partyism" -- CLRJ's phrase in trying to get rid of the more revolutionary interpretation of Hegel's Absolute Negativity as the expression of "the revolution in permanence."

I have gone into that departure from the report of the REB meeting last night because that past's immediate relationship to the book-to-be and how the organization as a whole is part of the collectivity of working out The Dialectics of Organization and Philosophy.

It is by no accident that this convention voted, at one and the same time, for the book-to-be and the Perspectives that center around the issuing of a bi-weekly. This question is not to be "taken for granted" while other kinds of activities are "accidentally" moved up front and divert from how much time is needed to act, to think, to produce, the bi-weekly and the book.

Yours,

Raya

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