279 West 4th Street
NY 14, May 13,1956

Dear Rae,

I read your chapter the day it arrived and jotted down some
comments to send you. But I have gotten lost in work these last weeks,
works which took me out of town several times and left me little chance
for other things. I'm sorry that my silence has caused you any incon-
venience.

I do not know the new people at the Oxford Press personally,
as I knew Vaudrin there some years ago. I doubt that my word would have
any weight with them. My own present publisher will touch only books
on art; he's a specialist pure and simple.

Here are the notes I jotted down :

p.1- is the man on the street less in an ivory tower today than the philo-
sopher ? does he understand better what is actually developing ?
p.8a- Is not Kant a "classical" German philosopher ? and does he not pre-
ceded the French Revolution ?
p.14- would not a worker in a socialist society work more hours than it
takes to produce his means of subsistence ?
p.21- how can you attribute the non-publication of Lenin's Notebooks in
English to Russian totalitarians ? after all, they did publish them
in Russian and French (twice).
p.24- it isn't clear what the alternative to the law of value would be
in a socialist society; I should like to see this discussed..
p.26- it isn't clear to me why the large rural population indicates an
army of unemployed; since constant capital is increasing, the rural
population, by your argument, should increase too; but the fact is
that it's decreasing in both USSR and USA...... Is the profit rate
in USSR declining ?

I hope your publisher, who is lingering over the dotted
line, will soon put his name there.

Lillian sends her best regards along with mine to you
and John,

Yours,

PS Will you deal in your exposition of Marx's economic theory with his
critics ? I would like very much to see a careful examination of them
serious criticisms..
Your outline is very attractive, but I think it would have a stronger
effect, asks if an attempt to deal with the critics of Marxian economics,
dialectics and political theory/ were indicated.

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