

Monday
March 8, 1971
2703 North Maryland
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Barbara -

I was happy to hear from you, and interested in your chapter, and read it through, and found myself baffled! I haven't read Hegel in years — and cannot possibly follow your arguments. I hoped, as I began reading your ms, that you would lure me into returning to Hegel, but your opening section does not move me to work with Hegel for insight into the present crisis. On the contrary, I am increasingly put off by the abstract language, and the ideas seem remote from my personal, physical situation in world history now. I realize that you are convinced that Hegel shows how concrete the abstractions are — that he shows the process of world history in my concrete condition, or that of any person. Not for me, I'm sorry to say — not now (who knows about later? I'm not ruling him out of my life forever! Nor am I putting down your work, which may well find an audience more in touch with the world crisis than I am.)

12339

So I haven't been much help. I re-read the
ms, making corrections through about
half of it — then felt so out of touch
with your thinking that I could not
continue intelligently. I might as well
be reading a treatise on Boolean
algebra as your exploration of Hegel's
"algebra" of history. I do think that
your writing — your style — is
much more direct and effective than
ever before. You have minimized
the circumlocutions + rhetoric and
present, for the most part, straight-
forward ideas. I have made a few
changes in style, but for the most
part I have ~~not~~ corrected typos —
half way through. I have to turn to
other projects now and must
return the ms to you — with

12341

apologies for not being more helpful.
I am convinced that we will
communicate once again — but
I'm not up to Hegelian logic — and
style — just now.

I'm enclosing a blurb about Barbara
& me that I'm not sure I sent you.
Still no luck finding jobs. I may
write Arthur — but I don't
want to live in L.A.; so maybe
I'll ask to do some writing from
a distance. Thanks very much for
suggesting him.

Lucy is just great! We drove to the
country yesterday, with Julia (+
Shirley) and I told lots of stories
about you — and Julie begged me
to tell her the history of Russia from
the Revolution to the present — which
I did in about half an hour! Love,
Morgan