

February 7, 1983

Dear Coleman Chauncey:

Your letters have brought some new ideas into News & Letters, and therefore both Denby and I look forward to seeing you here sometime in Spring. Although I will be on my lecture tour for much of that time, Charles Denby and the rest of the staff will be happy to meet you and I know you will enjoy seeing all the activities at the office. Being so well read a person as you are, you will certainly appreciate the fact that, insofar as I am concerned, it is ideas that matter and not my personal biography. Indeed, I have turned over all my documents to the Wayne State University Archives library so that everyone can follow the real history of Marxist-Humanism's development in the U.S. through those documents. They have been put on microfilm and anyone can order them from WSU. They have been entitled by that library as: "The Raya Dunayevskaya Collection: Marxist-Humanism in the U.S., from 1941 to Today."

It is not surprising that you have never heard of me because with Stalinism on one side, and capitalism on the other (especially their intellectual ideologues), the transforming of someone into an "unperson" has become an "art" to keep the Other America from knowing its Marxist roots.

Yes, of course, you can still get all three books for \$25. In fact, if you do order them, I will also include American Civilization on Trial, Black Masses as Vanguard, because it is that pamphlet alone that gives the true history which isn't taught in schools. In this letter I am including one of the lectures on Marx's debt to Hegel that was very popular during the 1960s, especially because it was given at Berkeley when I was working on our pamphlet, The Free Speech Movement and the Negro Revolution.

Thank you for all the complimentary things; no, I'm not as old as Trotsky whose Secretary I was while he was in exile in Mexico, but I'm not very young, either. The point is that I had never seen a Negro before I came to this country as a child and I was immediately attracted to the Black dimension who seemed to be the only ones who took me seriously instead of thinking I was telling talk tales when I spoke about the revolution in Russia. I was permitted to be a member of the Negro Labor Congress (you listed it wrongly as the National Negro Congress) because that was the period when the labor movement in this country was so backward as not to permit any unskilled workers, and we were out to break down the AFL's racism even if it meant we had to organize Negro unions. The word "labor" was the way some whites were permitted to be members; indeed at the beginning, it looked as if I was the token.

Looking forward to meeting you in Spring.

Yours,

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Dear Ms. DUNAYEVSKAYA:

Congratulations on being such an outstanding historian, intellectual, journalist and authoress.

I became a subscriber of News and Letters last November after reading Mr. CHARLES DENBY'S book, Indignant Heart. He impressed me as being a very honest, intelligent, loving and courageous person. Parts of my letter to him appear in the December (1982) edition of your wonderful newspaper on page 8; I'm described as "Black scholar".

As a young Black college graduate and a self-taught scholar of Black History, I now do much research on (socialism) because I strongly believe that it is the only real solution for the economical, social and political problems of our nation. Unlike capitalism, socialism believes in letting the masses (own) and operate our industries, institutions and government. Socialism encourages us to value human life above profits (money) and be our brother's keeper. People are freer to live humane and be their real selves. Thus, exploitation, selfishness, greediness, racism, corruption, immorality and organized crime are far less condoned under socialism than capitalism.

Just as I enjoy reading about my most blessed Black ancestors (DOUGLASS, TUBMAN, NAT'L TURNER, TRUTH, etc.), I enjoy reading

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about EUGENE DEBS, Mother MARY JONES, "Big" BILL HAYWOOD, KATE RICHARD O'HARE, EMMA GOLDMAN, NORMAN THOMAS, ELIZABETH GURLEY FLYNN, J. D. CANNON, ELLA REEVE BLOOR, Rev. JOHN WAYNE HOLMES, CHARLES EDWARD RUSSELL, ROSE PASTOR STOKES, WILLIAM L. FOSTER, DOROTHY DAY, MERIDEI LeSUEUR, MAX EASTMAN, CRYSTAL EASTMAN and other great leaders of socialism in the United States.

However, I never heard of you, my dear, until dear Mr. DENBY answered my letter to him with your assistance on some of the historical questions. You answered my questions on whether Blacks aided the most Honorable LEON TROTSKY, when on "trial in Mexico, very beautifully." Thank you, my dear.

As with the above great socialist leaders, I am also very interested in your life's story (biography), books and political opinions. Could you send or sell me some literature containing your background and career, please? I'd be most grateful.

I understand that you were Mr. TROTSKY's "secretary". This I find hard to believe as he was so much older than you, my dear! He was born in 1879. Please explain. (You look much too young and attractive to have been active in such a prominent role over forty years ago).

Dear Mr. DENBY assures me, in his return letter, that you knew an outstanding "Black leader" of the I. W. W. movement. Could the gentleman have been the Honorable BEN FLETCHER or HUBERT HARRISON?

To continue, why were you "expelled" from the Communist Party, my dear? And how could you have been accepted as a member of

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the National Negro ^{League} Congress when you are not Black (African)?

Thus, was the above party an interracial one like the NAACP?

In addition to Professor DORSEY and Dr. RALPH J. BUNCHE, can you recall any other prominent Blacks who helped organize meetings in defense of Mr. TROTSKY or attended the historic "trial" in Mexico in 1937?

The Communist Party has a horrible habit of unjustly expelling many of her dedicated members while unjustly denouncing various socialists. In addition to yourself and dear Mr. TROTSKY, the C.P. even treated dear EMMA GOLDMAN rudely for not agreeing to their terms.

Have you seen EDWARD G. ROBINSON'S autobiography All My Yesterdays? In his excellent book, he mentions how he took his family to visit Mr. TROTSKY in Mexico. I really love dear Mr. ROBINSON. He was truly a man of great intelligence, education, courage and love. Our government treated him very unjustly by having him appear before the House Committee on Un-American Activities! There never was an American citizen more dedicated or loving than Mr. ROBINSON.

Lastly may I still purchase your three largest books at the discount price of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00)?

Again, please write your autobiography in the near future.

I sincerely hope to meet you when I visit dear Mr. DENBY this

spring. You are a wonderful blessing to "all" humanity.

Thank you very much for your time and may God forever bless you.

With dearest love and respect,

COLEMAN J. CHAUNCEY

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