

"LEFT"

12/1

THE OPEN FORUM FOR SOCIALIST DISCUSSION

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6, Wicklemarsh Road,
Blackheath,
London, S.E.3.
3 June, 1950.

Dear Comrade Parmelee:

Please accept my very sincere apology for not answering your letters at once. As it happened, I was passing through a spell of personal trouble - quite unconnected with the Socialist Movement - and the worry of it caused me to neglect anything that did not have to be dealt with at the moment. That is the explanation on its personal side, and I am happy to say that ^{things} ~~it~~ now have considerably improved. Please forgive my negligence under stress.

So far as your article on "People's Democracy" is concerned,

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concerned, it has been set up by the printers for publishing in the forthcoming issue of Left. This will probably be the last issue, but there are some formalities to be observed before the last word is said. I can tell you personally that the majority of the shares will vote to close the paper down, unless by any chance they should get an offer to buy it and use it for quite a different purpose than the one in view when I took over the editorship with some faint hope that "Left" could be saved.

As soon as I read your article I knew that I would use it in the next issue of Left, and therefore I did not at once reply to you. I did not then expect that the next issue would have to be delayed so long. Subject to some reservations about some details of phrasing, I myself accept a very
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similar position to the one you take up.

I am glad also to have been able to get in
your remark on Wilfred Wigham's article on Equality.
As soon as I receive the issue I will see that copies are
sent on to you, as you requested. You will note that
I have taken the liberty of altering very slightly your
translation of Engels. ~~[unwisely]~~ ~~Your phrasing in English~~
~~contradicts a convention]~~ You will appreciate the reasons
for these minor changes if I mention that the only
way in which an Englishman would normally
use the words "the privates" would be to describe
rank

"rank-and-file" soldiers, and even so he would be acutely
conscious that in ribald slang "the privates" is often
used to signify the testicles. I thought your comment
a valuable one, and was extremely glad that it reached
me in time to include it before "Left" in its present
form and for its present purpose, ceased to be.

With renewed apologies, and
as one who has in the past had much pleasure and
profit from other publications bearing your name,

Fraternally yours,

Tom Colby