

July 7, 1988

Dear Ed,

At the conclusion of your thoughtful letter of July 5, you speculate that I may have "reached the conclusion that academia is more likely to jump on the bandwagon rather than lead us to the promised land." Please know that all my experience indicates that is the way it is. Evidence I have from colleagues who have picked up the Marxist line is that they have done so because they think it is the wave of the future, not necessarily because they think it is valid. Last May, at the annual conference of the Western Social Science Association in Denver, I unexpectedly found myself listening to a panel made up 100% of Marxists--I think I went because of its interesting title, "What Is Left of the Left?" They were complaining, among other things, about the fact that numbers of people go through Marxist motions because of their impression that this may help them get things published! Thus, the real Marxists find themselves ensnared with pseudo-Marxists who get involved in the movement because that is where they conceive their personal advantages to lie.

In the unlikely event that the Georgist "movement" would ever make public headway, I suspect it will also become popular with academia. Thus, I fear that several of our associates who have hoped to make initial headway on campuses have got things backwards. If I am right, they should make their advances in the world of popular politics, and their acceptance by the academy will follow--that is, if by that time it matters.

Yours sincerely,



Jim Busey