

STANFORD UNIVERSITY
STANFORD, CALIFORNIA

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

April 23, 1956

Professor Otto Kirchheimer
2801 Beechbank Road
Silver Springs, Maryland

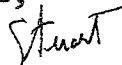
Dear Otto:

Many, many thanks for passing on to me your memorial address on Franz Neumann. Despite the fact that I felt myself to be very close to Franz, you have told me a large number of things which I had scarcely even suspected before. My admiration has only been increased by this revelation of ~~the~~^{an} area ~~by you~~ of his life to which I was a stranger.

I also profited greatly by your recent article on Germany in The New Leader.

I hope that we shall be seeing each other ~~shortly~~, before too long. Meantime, Suzanne joins me in sending warmest good wishes.

As ever,



H. Stuart Hughes

HSH/ccm
encl.

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Northman
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which... government... no...
...
October 29, 1956

This does not...
Dear Stuart:
I saw your interesting piece in the October issue of
Commentary and for whatever they are worth I feel moved to
offer some comments on it:

If I understand your piece right, it essentially rests on a clearcut differentiation between the mental technician and the intellectual. But this differentiation seems rather fictitious to me. Admittedly, some of your technicians have a special kind of knowledge and training and they have no choice but to apply their knowledge according to the recognized rules of the trade. Even though, from the smallest country doctor to the atomic scientist their's remains an essentially moral choice. They may choose not to apply their knowledge.

In a great number of cases, as you concede yourself, the question pertains not to the special insight or knowledge an individual possesses but whether it is employed by a free agent or by a government servant. But a government servant is not necessarily a pure technician. The man who compiles lists of uranium stocks may be a technician, the man who is commissioned to bring together a picture of social and political forces operative in Czechoslovak society should not proceed differently whether he is paid from government funds or whether he is writing a PhD thesis in one of our educational institutions. Under both conditions the methods he uses, the particular problems which he stresses and the modulations of his final results can scarcely be disentangled from his own premises and views of the world in which we are living. For the same reason your attempt at narrowing down the group of intellectuals by method of rigorous delimitation of the trade seems equally problematic. The copy writer and commentator is neither entirely defined by the satisfaction of his boss or his customer, but by his approximation to intellectual truth; in whatever watered down and often unrecognizable fashion, he still participates in the intellectual community of our age. If it were different with what yardstick would you measure his work except purely aesthetic and commercial categories.

Moreover, the social system of our educational institutions militate against the strict separation between the free intellectual and the government clerk. Given the unrealistic salary scale of these institutions their teachers rely to an increasing

October 29, 1958

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H. STUART HUGHES
1015 LEMON STREET
MENLO PARK, CALIFORNIA

November 3, 1956

Dear Otto:

I was delighted to receive your perceptive and discriminating comments on my COMMENTARY article. They have helped me a great deal in clarifying my thought.

As you surmised, I have been heavily influenced by Max Weber's position. But where I made a mistake, I think, was to ~~try~~ to make concrete -- partly with the somewhat miscellaneous audience of COMMENTARY in mind -- what should have been left on the level of ideal abstraction. You have hit on the central fault of the article: it seems to make a distinction among individuals taking all their functions as a unit; what I meant to do was to differentiate among functions (i.e., somewhat fictional descriptions) which might very well be combined in the same individual.

Of the people with whom I am acquainted, very few function as pure ~~intellectuals~~ "mental technicians" or as pure "intellectuals". Nearly all -- whether in or out of universities -- function as both. The decisive points I wished to make are two: first, that in an era like the present it is important ^{so} far as possible to try to keep the two functions "ideally" separate (since we run the grave risk that the first function will swallow up the second); second, that the image an individual possesses of the importance of these two functions in his life is more important~~er~~ than the actual percentage of his time that he allots to each (thus a man who earned his living as a "mental technician" might find the most significant part of his life the few leisure hours that he was able to devote to disinterested "intellectual" pursuits)....

Again my thanks for your comments. They are particularly appropriate coming from someone whom I have always regarded as a model of a dedicated intellectual struggling to maintain the values of the purely intellectual approach in a situation in which the opposite values were necessarily in the ascendant.

I hope that we shall be able to see more of each other when I move back East next September.

With warmest regards -
yours, as ever,
Stuart.

November 26, 1961.

Dear Stuart:

Thanks a lot for the reprint. Will you be free for lunch on Thursday December 7? I shall be around at Cambridge since I shall be talking at the Center of International Affairs on Friday.

Perhaps you drop me a line at home (address below) or else give me a ring at my daughters place in Cambridge on Wednesday night. The number is University 4-5097.

Best regards

Mc

January 14, 1962.

Professor Stuart Hughes
Harvard University
Cambridge, Mass.

Dear Stuart:

May I take the liberty to bring to your attention Michael Winston, a Graduate of Howard University, who is applying for admission to your department. He is one of Harold Lewis's prize students whom I found both intelligent and quite knowledgeable and on whom Harold spent quite some time and energy (3 years) to prepare him for graduate school.

He is especially interested in intellectual history. I would appreciate whatever help you can give him to facilitate his progress.

It was good to have seen you. I hope you were not too bored with my presentation of a worn out issue. Thanks for your Russian travel piece which was both illuminating and courageous.

With best regards,

Yours,