

*ment insurance in New York? This would bring you lots of money.*

*9. Your eyes must be getting tired – put on fakir spectacles and relax.*

*Regardful regards*

*George*

*P.S. You did not give me opera for one-eyed poet and millionaire! Incidentally we print your box, Robert's, and French Fluxus at Higgins' shop – he with Tomas will do a much better job than those Germans here. They are butchers, not printers – terrible.*



*IV. 12 I tried your advice, but it did not work. I went to sleep, but next day found to my great surprise that the Air Force has not forgotten me or my sickness. Besides, their investigators dug up something against me apparently, since they don't give me permission to go on TDY trips plus other restrictions, so I think they are getting rid of me for those "other" reasons. My days are numbered to June 14th.*



*IV. 13 Finally I made it to New York & 2nd day got promptly sick with pleuritis or something. Now everything is OK & we are very actively preparing for Fluxus New York ...*

*We divided up all responsibilities ourselves so that things will get done, so Al Hansen takes charge of all outdoor events, demonstrations etc., Alison of all outdoor propaganda – printing stencils on sidewalks etc., etc., Dick of "logistics" & technical manager of the printing operation, Brecht & Watts editing new Fluxus monthly newspaper. Bob Morris – exhibits & environments, Mekas – films, La Monte – getting instrumentalists, & myself in charge of theater programming & being "secretary." This arrangement does not overload anyone & is more collective which I like.*



*IV. 14 I frankly can't understand what you mean when you say you can be more useful to Fluxus by not working. Useful by doing what? What were you doing the past week? Fluxus should become a way of life not a profession.*

*You should go to university and study mathematics, . That would be much more useful to Fluxus than your turning into a beatnik – that's useless to Fluxus ... There is not a single Fluxus man in N.Y. who is not working. Even Al Hansen and Jackson Mac Low are working. Since Fluxus tends towards substitution of art with non-art, there would be no need for artists & the artists therefore should find another profession to earn a living, otherwise they become the same kind of parasites as the very artists against which Fluxus is set. Do you understand the whole position?*

*Now let me get into the "ideological" field. I will first explain in very brief & clear terms (a) Fluxus objectives then (b) answer questions you brought up. Then you will be able to make up your mind whether you wish to be associated with Fluxus. If you decide to dissociate yourself, we shall relinquish our copyrights (on your work) to you, return your works and formally expel you from the Fluxus movement. OK? The decision is yours, not ours.*

*(a) Fluxus objectives are social (not aesthetic). They are connected to the LEF group of 1929 in the Soviet Union (ideologically) and concerned with: gradual elimination of the fine arts (music, theater, poetry, fiction, painting, sculpture etc. etc.). This is motivated by desire to stop the waste of material and human resources (like yourself) and divert it to socially constructive ends. Such as applied arts: industrial design, journalism, architecture, engineering, graphic-typographic arts, printing etc. They are all most closely related fields to fine arts and offer the best alternative profession to fine artists. All clear till now?*

*Thus Fluxus is definitely against art object as non-functional commodity – to be sold and to make livelihood for an artist. It could temporarily have the pedagogical function of teaching people the needlessness of art, including the eventual needlessness of Fluxus itself. It should not be therefore permanent. (Incidentally one good way of teaching is by satirizing art and satirizing avant-garde art! or yourself!) You will notice this in the first V TRE newspaper I am mailing as printed matter to you. Fluxus therefore is ANTI-PROFESSIONAL (against professional art or artists making a livelihood from art, or artists spending their full time, their life, on art).*

*Secondly, Fluxus is against art as medium or vehicle promoting artist's ego, since applied art should express the*

objective problem to be solved, not artist's personality or his ego. Fluxus therefore should tend towards collective spirit, anonymity and ANTI-INDIVIDUALISM – also ANTI-EUROPEANISM (Europe being the place supporting most strongly – and even originating the idea of – professional artist, art-for-art ideology, expression of artist's ego through art etc. etc.)

These Fluxus concerts, publications etc. are at best transitional (a few years) & temporary until such time when fine art can be totally eliminated (or at least its institutional forms) and artists find other employment. It is very important therefore that you find a profession from which you could make a living. This is as brief as I can write it.

(b) *Answers to your ideological questions*

1. *There is no such thing as amateur or professional revolutionary. Revolution is for participation of all, not only ones who are "professional" revolutionary. One basic requirement: a revolutionary should not practice something he is trying to overthrow (or even worse, make a living from it). Therefore Fluxus people should not make a living from their Fluxus activities but find a profession (like applied arts) by which he would do best Fluxus activity. Fluxus is not an abstraction to do in leisure hours. It is the very non-fine-art you do (or eventually do). The best Fluxus "composition" is a most nonpersonal, "ready-made" one like Brecht's Exit – and it does not require any of us to perform it since it happens daily without any "special" performance of it. Thus our festivals will eliminate themselves (and our need to participate) when they become total readymades ... Same applies to publications and other transitional activities. What would you do in such an eventuality? You can't live off your mother forever (!)*
2. *In answer to your question – Fluxus way of life is 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. doing socially constructive and useful work – earning your own living, 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. spending time on propagandizing your way of life among other idle artists & art collectors and fighting them, 12 p.m. to to 8 a.m. sleeping (8 hours is enough).*

*You can't very well propagandize the social aspect of Fluxus by being socially parasitic! It is a contradiction.*

*The first question people ask is: well, if you are against art as socially useless – and a parasitic activity – what are you doing earning your living? You can't answer "living off my mother!" It's an absurd answer (because you are being just as parasitic as an artist living off the society without contributing anything constructive). You will notice the best revolutionaries are all actually working, practicing what they preach and propagandize. Thus Castro runs a government besides making speeches (propaganda). Can you imagine him only making speeches and letting some one else run the government? All LEF revolutionaries of 1929 were working as journalists or applied artists. All Fluxus people (with exception of Paik & yourself) are working in some fields – applied arts or unrelated field.*

*Therefore we come to a decision to advise you to choose a field – applied arts or unrelated field – training yourself for it, and then working in it. This will be your Fluxus activity – working at socially useful work & enjoying it without needing to do art on spare "after work" hours. You then also have a choice of dissociating yourself from Fluxus and becoming a social parasite and beatnik.*

*Give this careful thought and let me know by next mail.*



- IV. 15 *If you are really short of \$ I could send you some (after my next pay, since I have spent my present pay 99%). Wait another 5 days, I will send some – don't starve meanwhile. Eat grass mixed with chopped leather belt and boiled old shoes – it's vitamin and protein rich. – That's what the Russian guerillas used to eat.*



- IV. 16 *At this time we have sold in N.Y. 4 Brecht Water Yams, 996 still on our hands, or \$600 loss, so there is a limit to my expenditures, especially when there is no workable distribution of these works. Newspaper is costing me \$120 each month without one single sale. I must be out of my mind to flush my money down the drain this way, especially not succeeding even in holding Fluxus people together. Everyone has the mistaken idea that Fluxus is Maciunas, the way Dé-coll/age = Vostell, instead of Fluxus = collective.*