

EDITORIAL OFFICE:
BOX 1269N, G.P.O.,
HOBART. TEL. 8-2662

QUADRANT

P.O. BOX C 344
CLARENCE STREET
SYDNEY, N.S.W. 2000

BUSINESS OFFICE:
BOX 4714, G.P.O.,
SYDNEY. TEL. 27-7134

10/9/70

Dear Mr Lake

Translations only very rarely, usually
with some ancillary reason. I've kept the
ballade for publication (sometimes our next few issues)
- ~~it~~^{it} is successful, though the satiric edge is a
bit coarse, I think.

I've never consciously refused a
poem because I disagree personally with
what it says. I wouldn't bet that
it couldn't happen in extreme cases (a hymn
in praise of ~~Mao~~ Soviet prisons, or of Soviet actions in
Prague, or the extermination of Jews?). But
how many political poems are any good
anyway - it is a hard genre - & of these how
many are pro-totalitarian or ^{pro-}inhumanity?

As regards your antis: they
aren't all mine, but they don't put

you outside Quadrant's pale. (I add my own comment as follows. —

anti-war: clearly a ^{morally} defensible position nowadays though I still think it unrealistic & not morally required.

anti-censorship: I find it impossible to discover a clear consistent theoretical & practical line, to envy those who can. My position is that if a majority sentiment in the country still wants some restrictions they are entitled to have them, though with respect for the serious intellectual interests of minorities. But this is not a clear position.

anti-capitalist: this wd be easy if socialism etc. were not demonstrably worse in experience.

anti-communist = anti-totalitarian

anti-pollution: Yes emphatically, even though the issue will be used as a mask for other purposes by some forces. (But this is by the way.)

Yours sincerely
James McAnis