

Living Epitaph

Mario Savio

In 1964

Said that "the machine"
By which he meant
The capitalist system,

Made him so sick at heart
That he could not take part
In its operation.

I agree though
I never liked the speech much.

But now
Looking back at a half century

I realize that those were words to live by.
For the machine has gotten more and more odious
And we are all so sick at heart

Although we did not often
Throw ourselves on the gears and the levers,

We did
as much as we could.
to opt out.

And led lives which
For better or for worse

Kept us from feeding the machine.

We even managed
On a few occasions
To throw some sand in its gears.

At this point in our lives
If we are to be judged
by our mark on the world.

Truth be told,
it hasn't been much.

But that's the bed we've made
And lying in it

Feels OK right now.