

BIG SPLASH IN THE TRIBUNE

A COPYRIGHTED dispatch from London was splashed over the front page of the Herald Tribune yesterday under what was meant to be a sensational headline: "Deported Red Revealed as Moscow-U. S. 'Contact'."

According to the story, John Williamson, deported member of the National Committee of the American Communist Party and a regular contributor to the Daily Worker from London, sends "directives" originating in Moscow. According to the Herald Tribune, these "directives" consist of "orders" to clamp down on the views expressed by the Daily Worker.

Just because a story is "copyrighted," it doesn't mean that the facts in it are true. The actual facts, Herald Tribune readers would be interested in knowing, are these:

Everybody everywhere is expressing opinions on the discussion now going on in the various Communist Parties of the world including the American Communist Party. Williamson is participating in the discussion, as he has every right to do. If he writes from London that is due only to a disgraceful deportation (backed by the Tribune). There is nothing secret about Williamson's view—in fact his views which the Herald Tribune interprets actually appear in a Communist Party discussion bulletin now on the press.

If those are "directives" that the Daily Worker has been getting (and this we emphatically deny) then the Herald Tribune missed the real story. Not only has the Daily Worker not followed directives or orders from abroad or anywhere else, but its views have been and continue to be quite different from those expressed by Williamson. So what? Contrary to the Tribune, we believe in free speech.

As far as the Daily Worker is concerned, nobody anywhere gives us orders. We believe that the policy and practices of the paper over the past many months make that amply clear. That many readers disagree with us on one or many points is no secret—"Speak Your Piece" on the opposite page is evidence of that. So if anyone abroad disagrees with us, that is not surprising either.

We certainly have not hesitated to give our critical views of what Communists abroad are doing, although we do not attempt to impose these views. In return we welcome criticism from Communists and non-Communists here or abroad, but we exercise our independent judgment.

As for the Communist Party, we are quite sure that that organization likewise welcomes the broadest discussion, from whatever source, on the questions it is now debating. But the final decisions will be its own and will be reached at its convention next February.

So, to the editors of the Herald Tribune we say: come on fellows, give your readers a break by giving them the real truth for a change.