

SPEAK YOUR PIECE

What Would Washington Say?

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind.

Editor Daily Worker:

The leaders of the western world speak with deep feeling of the Golden Rule but they leave it to the other fellow to put it into practice. For instance, President Eisenhower and his Secretary of State favor letting the United Nations determine who shall control the Suez Canal but it's a safe bet they wouldn't let the United Nations show such authority over the Panama Canal.

Those two great leaders also side with the British in their conquest of the Isle of Cyprus. It is well nigh of universal approval that the majority should rule. Four-fifths of the inhabitants of Cyprus are Greeks and they want union with Greece.

George Washington would turn over in his grave if he knew that his descendants were striving to promote British imperialism. Let us hope that whatever happens, justice will prevail.

G. M.

Wants No Return To Status Quo

PITTSBURGH.

I wish to join and give my wholehearted support to all those who have in their recent articles and letters to the "Daily" and "Worker" argued for profound changes, organizational and tactical, in the C.P.U.S.A.

If as a result of the world-shaking revelations of the enormous mistakes and horrible violations against socialism by the C.P.S.U. at the 20th Congress and the six months of discussion about our own serious sectarian errors we will return to the status quo, then we are doomed and we shall have learned nothing.

No sane person will of course refute the assertions by William Z. Foster that the pressure of McCarthyism brought a decline in membership. It is also true that the material conditions and a long period of employment have helped to keep workers away from socialist ideas.

But no intelligent Marxist who knows the history of Marxism-Leninism and the history of the socialist and labor movement in the United States would give that as the sole reason for the only party of scientific so-

cialism being so horribly isolated from the great masses of the working class. Those of us who have been in the C.P. for several decades and who have a good memory will never forget that in certain periods when the party pursued a correct line and really faced the American scene and served the genuine interests of the American people, its working class and the Negro people, we were right in the main stream with millions and our party was large in numbers and had a high quality of membership.

It is enough to recall the period following the 7th World Congress in 1935. As in many European countries we enjoyed the biggest anti-fascist unity of labor and the middle classes. In every large industrial center in the country we joined hands with thousands of Americans of all shades of opinion in a crusade against all forms of Nazi, Mussolini- and domestic fascism.

But then came the Soviet-German pact in 1939, and all the historic achievements of the 7th World Congress in our country as well as in all other countries have gone to the winds. Was it in the interest of our people to have broken up this tremendous anti-fascist unity which we achieved by sweat and blood? Did that pact change the character of the Hitler-Mussolini Axis? Did the danger against the Soviet Union and the entire world which came principally from the camp of the fascist barbarians diminish by concluding that infamous pact? Yet, so strong were the Stalin cult chains upon our national leadership that they too have proclaimed the cancerous slogan, "a plaque on both" and thereby pronounced the quick death to all the achievements of the 7th World Congress which we accomplished in this country.

How many thousands of good, honest Americans left the ranks of the C.P. at that time, not to speak of the havoc brought to the broad anti-fascist unity?

I selected that example because I consider that mistake to be the biggest crime committed and a flagrant example of following the notorious Stalin cult, lock, stock and barrel.

There are numerous other examples of that kind of blind tailing of the C.P.S.U. by our party.

Was that following scientific Marxism-Leninism? No, rather it was the cancer of a rotten dogma which was many, many times condemned by Marx, Engels and Lenin.

Marxism-Leninism was never meant to be a frozen dogma but always was and always will be a guide to action according to the particular situations in every particular country. That is how we should proceed to build a new American Marxist C.P.

-Y. F.

Believes Soviet Standards Higher

Editor, Daily Worker:

In commenting upon a reader's objection to your handling of the news of the new minimum wage law in the Soviet Union, you cite data gathered in the period of 1950 to 1953 to prove the relative low standard of living of Soviet workers. Isn't this a bit unfair to say the least? Haven't things changed since then? If you are not able to record this change, you might as well leave the job to the New York Times.

Then too, there are other ways of measuring the standard of living besides that of counting the number of TV sets, bath tubs, telephones, used cars and bottles of coco cola a worker can buy with his wages. That other measure is the equality of the commodities the worker is able to buy and of the social services he receives.

Judged by the standard of quality, I honestly feel that our standard of living is away below the Soviet standard in many respects. Dyson Carter, the Canadian scientist points out for instance, that the average Soviet worker eats as well as the average Canadian and that the stuff that passes as bread here is not permitted to go into the ovens there. As for the medical and dental care the Soviet worker gets as a part of his wages, I do not believe it can be equalled by that which the American worker buys. (The low paid worker in this country scarcely gets any.)

When we compare our standards of education and culture with the standards of the S. U., we are literally not "in the running." If I am correctly informed, the superiority of Soviet educational and cultural standards is manifested in the mental and physical training in the pub-

lic schools and institutions of higher learning, in the radio and theatrical productions and in the reading material made available to the public. In considering the problem of the standard of living, we certainly can not present a true picture without including all these factors.

-JOHN W. MARSHALL.

[Ed. Note: We have reported the changes since 1953; they include decreases of some prices;

increases in others. Most beneficial have been increases of wages and pensions for the lowest income groups. Some workers in America are worse off than Soviet workers in goods and services. But measuring living standards by quantity and quality of available goods and services, material living standards for the average Soviet worker are lower than those for the average American worker.]

POZNAN

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mitted to stealing guns and being involved in an attack on the Security headquarters because he had been told "that the security men were shooting people."

Josef Pocztony, aged 18, admitted he had been involved in an armed attack on the security headquarters carried out from the attic of a house opposite.

In the first court the indictment against the three, read out by the judge, outlined the way in which the security officer had been slowly beaten and kicked to death.

Pursued by a large crowd, he had run from street to street. He had taken refuge on a tramcar and had been pulled off half undressed. Then he ran to the railway station, still pursued and tried to get into a carriage.

There some of his pursuers caught him again. They threw him on a spiked iron fence, dragged him across the railway lines from one platform to another, and as he lay covered in blood, tormented and kicked him.

Four times an ambulance arrived to take him to hospital, but the men would not allow the doctors to take him. When finally he was got to hospital he died from loss of blood.

The prosecutor's case is that Josef Foltynowicz was a ringleader of the crowd and actively participated in beating and kicking the security officer. And Zurek and Sroka also took active part.

One by one the accused stood up in court and gave their own accounts, during which the judge, prosecutor and defense counsel put questions to them.

Each of the defendants in turn to interrogate were in part false. They pleaded that they had been afraid of not saying what the interrogator wanted them to.

Zurek said he had been beaten up when he was first arrested, but not afterwards. The other two said

they had not been beaten or tortured at all, but had been subjected to veiled threats. Foltynowicz said he had seen another prisoner who had been beaten up.

All of the statements and answers to questions were full of contradictions and confusion.

Zurek gave evidence that was extremely incriminating in respect of the other two. He testified that Foltynowicz had helped pull the security man off the tram and helped throw him on the iron fence and jumped on the man's chest and had dragged him across the railway line and had generally played a leading role in the affair.

Sroka, Zurek said, pretended to be a doctor and had examined the injured man and dropped a lighted cigarette into his open mouth.

When the trial opened the presiding judge began putting questions designed to find out what kind of men the accused are—their work and their previous convictions.

Sroka, it emerged, has no trade, left his job on a State farm after getting beaten up over an affair with a girl, and stole a watch when only 12.

Zurek was sacked from the big Zispo works because he kept coming late and was lazy. Once he tried to push a militiaman off a train when it was in motion, after being caught without a ticket.

Phils To Look For Latin American Stars

PHILADELPHIA, Oct. 1.—General manager Roy Hamey of the Phillies said today the club will go "south of the border" in an effort to recruit top baseball talent.

Hamey said he has assigned former major league pitcher Lloyd Brown to conduct tryout schools in Mexico, Puerto Rico and Cuba. The program will start immediately, Hamey said.

Brown, now 50 and a resident of Miami, Fla., speaks Spanish fluently and has many baseball contacts in the Latin-American countries.