

# SPEAK YOUR PIECE

## CP Club Welcomes Dennis' Letter

Editor, Daily Worker:

After a full discussion on Hungary at our CP club meeting, we decided that the letter by Eugene Dennis as printed in the "Speak Your Piece" column on Nov. 12 fully expressed our feelings and judgment.

We wish to thank Dennis for his views on this question.

Communist Party Club  
West Side, New York

## The Search for New Paths to Socialism

Editor, Daily Worker:

I have been following your editorials, Speak Your Piece, PV, PA, and the new pamphlets carefully. I have been hoping along with everyone else that we could find a way to rebuild our Party to play a leading role in the continuing struggle to make our United States truly a land of "liberty and justice for all."

At this time I am convinced that our goals of liberty, justice, peace, equality, economic security—in other words, democratic socialism, are valid and true; that we must face facts as they are, even at the cost of discarding much wishful thinking, and ask: can the CPUSA play a constructive role in reaching these goals?

I find both the Draft Resolution and Foster's article in PA most unrealistic. They are based on the assumption that the Party still holds the respect and influence of the '30s; they are written at such length and in such language that only the most devoted have bothered to read them through.

On top of that we have to consider the events in Hungary. It is very sad that past mistakes have exacted such a heavy toll. But if we really believe that people have the right to shape their own destiny, that truth will triumph in a free marketplace of ideas, and if we really have faith in the right and ability of the working class to lead the way to socialism, we cannot condone the actions of Kadar and the Soviet Union in trying to suppress the uprising of the Hungarian people. We should have enough faith in the Hungarian workers, (who are still out in a general strike), not to believe that after 10 years of socialism, whatever mistakes have been made, they would allow imperialist agents to reimpose a fascist government.

We have understood that innocent blood is inevitably spilt in a revolution (1789 in France, 1917 in Russia); if excesses have occurred in Hungary recently, it is not consistent to tag them, however tragic, as fascist counter-revolution.

Most of us in the CPUSA have up till last spring felt very smug and happy that we knew where we were going and how to get there. Now we are afraid to make a qualitative change because we frankly don't know all the answers. But honesty must command our attention. Do the American people trust our Party? Can we blame them? With the best intentions and the most far reaching reforms, can the Party itself (not just individual members) break out of isolation and make alliances with other forward looking organizations?

Couldn't we learn more from others and therefore contribute more to the common struggle were we frankly to admit that though the Party has made many wonderful contributions in the past, that in spite of all the heart and mind and energy we have spent these years of the cold war, the Party has now outlived its usefulness?

Let us take our goals, that part of the theory of Scientific Socialism which is valid in present day America, our concern, love, and trust in the people,

our willingness to work in a disciplined way, our knowledge of the importance of working as a collective—and go out into the world. With the many other Americans who believe in democracy and in socialism, let us form new organizations; and like the American pioneers, our forefathers, who crossed oceans, wilderness, and prairies in search of a dream, let us look for and find the so far uncharted way to a truly democratic and socialist United States.—B

## James Allen's Article Discussed

NEWARK, N. J.

Editor, Daily Worker:

Recent reports in your paper, the New York Times and elsewhere reveal deep discontent among Communists, especially in the "West," with respect to the events in Hungary. Scores of Communists in northern Italy have been reported dissatisfied to the point of defection. In England, leading trade unionists have left the party. Sartre and other French intellectuals have disassociated themselves from the French CP over this issue.

One primary reason for this rift is the apparent inability of the Communist parties in these countries to chart a "national" course, rather than taking positions which are difficult for the mass of people to understand, much less accept.

It is no wonder that Soviet intervention in Hungary has shaken Western Communists more than those in most Asian and African countries. We in the U.S. and other capitalist democracies have always told our people that socialism in our country must be fashioned along American lines. We have raised the slogan of peaceful, parliamentary transition as a method, rather than using the Russian, Chinese or any other model. We have consistently fought against the foreign "agent" slander, contending that our party is rooted in the American grain, and respecting our democratic traditions and way of life. At the same time we have pointed out how the ruling class foisted force and violence both on labor and the Negro people abroad, especially in South America.

James Allen in his Nov. 15 article neglects some of these principles guiding our party. He attempts to justify the Soviet moves in Hungary on the basis of Soviet self-interest rather than from the viewpoint of American Communist policy. Allen therefore fails to admit the possibility that what may be valid for them may not be for us. He speaks about intervention being necessary to "safeguard socialism." How?

Allen correctly points to the real danger of a counter-revolutionary government taking power in Hungary. These facts nobody will deny. Nevertheless Allen concludes that the DW was one-sided because it placed the emphasis on the "violations of socialist principles introduced by the Soviets and the Rakosi group" as being primarily responsible for the turn of events, rather than foreign provocations. Allen's emphasis, on the other hands leads him to justification of the overall Soviet policy with respect to the Hungarian uprising, even though he makes some reservations.

In my opinion it is Allen's inability to recognize that what may be a justifiable approach for the Chinese or Russians on a given event may not conform to best American Communist policy. In 1947 the C. P. of Hungary got 18 percent of the vote. The Smallholders got 57 percent. Yet shortly thereafter the coalition government was abandoned. I think this was a violation of the principle that the DW upholds. Without a popular base the re-

actionaries are given a way in. And in our country we can't win influence for socialism if we advocate ideas running counter to popular majority rule.

Newark Trade Unionist

## Weinstone's Views On Hungary Events

NOV. 13

Editor, Daily Worker:

I think the statement of the National Committee of the Communist Party did not accord with the situation in Hungary and in my opinion was unworthy of a Communist Party. When fascism was advancing and seizing power, it became the duty of the Soviet Union on the basis of the Warsaw Pact, the Potsdam Agreement, etc., to respond to the appeal of the government for aid. This was essential for the defense of peace and socialism.

The statement of the new Premier Janos Kadar published in the DW Nov. 12 makes clearer the role of his predecessor Nagy. Kadar stated that Nagy's mistakes consisted in "not informing the people and in swimming with the chauvinist stream and calling for resistance against the Soviets." From this it appears that the counter-revolutionaries and fascists were utilizing the people's discontent due to grave weaknesses and mistakes to turn the movement for democratic national development of socialism into a reactionary national movement aimed at the restoration of capitalism and fascism.

Now a progressive democratic national movement is one thing and a reactionary national movement is another. Marxism has always distinguished between the two, supporting the former and opposing the latter. Marxism never supported self-determination as a dogma.

Lenin tells us in his discussion of self-determination that Marx and Engels in their day favored Polish independence from Czarism because it was in the interests of European democracy while they opposed the national movements of the Czechs and South Slavs in 1848 and 1849, considering them at that time Czarist outposts in Europe. From this Lenin drew the conclusion that a "democratic demand must not be considered in isolation but on a European—today we would say on a world scale".

He adds the following significant point "the various demands of democracy including self-determination, are not absolute, but a small part of the general democratic (now: general socialist) world movement. Possibly, in individual cases, the part may contradict the whole; if so it must be rejected. He gives this example "It is possible that the republican movement in one country may be merely an instrument of the clerical or financial-monarchical intrigues of other countries; if so we must not support this particular concrete movement". (Collected works Vol. XIX pages 287-288; all emphasis Lenin's).

If we substitute nationalist for republican movement this example, in my opinion, in the essentials of the matter is applicable to the Hungarian developments in the second stage of the movement there when reaction and fascism were getting the upper hand. There can be no doubt that Hungary under fascist or ultra-reactionary domination would become an "outpost" of American imperialism whereas continuing under socialist rule it will be a fully independent and sovereign state.

Joe Clark in his column of Nov. 7 assures us that there was no cause to fear the establishment of a fascist state because of the climate following World War

II. He cited the course of events in Germany, Japan and Finland. The examples in my opinion do not fit the situation. Germany, Japan and Finland were countries in which fascism were overthrown giving way to bourgeois democratic states, in the case of the first two, of a reactionary character due to the influence and pressure of American imperialism.

In Hungary, however, we are dealing with a socialist country whose overthrow could only give way to fascism or a like regime. That is what happened in 1919 when the Bela Kun socialist government was overthrown with the help of Roumanian troops. Why can't history repeat itself? The news reports and photographs of barbaric terror, lynchings and book burning, published in the capitalist press are ample evidence that that was happening.

—William Weinstone

## What Will We Do About High Rent?

Daily Worker:

The overwhelming defeat of Proposition 2 calling for a bond issue to finance middle-income housing, is a storm warning to tenants throughout the State. The defeat of remaining rent controls—menaces tenants throughout the State.

It is important to bear just a few statistics in mind. According to the "Report on Rent Control for 1955," issued by the State of New York Temporary State Housing Rent Commission:

"Production Workers earned an average of \$78.00 per week in 1955," but "Most Post-War

Apartments Rent for Ninety Dollars and up."

"New York State—Apartments Renting at \$90.00 or more—69.6 percent.

Apartments Renting at less than \$90.00—30.4 percent.

"New York City—Apartments Renting at \$90.00 or more—77.4 percent.

Apartments Renting at less than \$90.00—22.6 percent.

"Average Rents in the rest of the country have increased Twice as Much as in New York City. These increases range for the period 1940-1955 from 25.4 percent to 85.5 percent in Chicago."

Thus, New York City has had the lowest increase, unquestionably due to some measure of rent control. It should also be borne in mind that—according to the same report (cited above)—"Residential Construction has slipped since the 1950 Peak," a significant factor in increased rentals.

Should the existing rent control law be ended it requires no imagination whatever to know what will happen in New York State: it will soon take its place among those sections of the country "where average rents . . . have increased twice as much as in New York City," at least, perhaps even more.

The situation requires immediate preparation on the part of social, religious, community organizations, etc., for a vigorous campaign even before the State Legislature convenes, to maintain present rent control and to prevent any watering-down of the Rent Control Law.

Dr. Helen Harris, Chairman,  
BRONX COUNCIL OF  
RENTS & HOUSING

## Autotown Alley

A UAW Negro leader commenting on the International UAW meeting on Hungary said "I never saw them call a city-wide meeting of officers to protest the British murdering African people or on Cyprus or Algiers, or about what happened in the South, and they sure did not favor shop meetings on the bus boycott."

IT'S now been discovered that taxpayers in Detroit pay more than \$225 a year in taxes, higher than Chicago, Los Angeles or Philadelphia. Now a new raise looms in 1957 which may make Detroit the highest in the nation, possibly.

"SOAPY" Williams after Jan. 1 has the juicy patronage plum of appointing 20 new judges to replace 20 GOP judges who are retiring. Some Negro and labor judges ought to be among these appointments.

LABOR IN Chicago, New York starting to build union cooperative housing. Wonder when the AFL-CIO here will do that?

NEGRO radio station opened in Inkster, WCHB. You can get it in between WJLB and WJBK. It's assigned frequency is 1440 kilocycles.

AN EX-SHERIFF of Lapeer, Clark Gregory, who evicted Paul and Chris Ziegenhardt and a widow, Mrs. Elizabeth Stevens, farmers, in the famous Fort Ziegenhardt case, may be the new U. S. Marshal here, if U. S. Senator Potter has his way. He also

arrested a Hungarian diplomat and held him for 24 hours some years ago, claiming the man was "drunk." He got nationwide publicity. Nothing much was said by the same press when Mrs. Elizabeth Stevens died some time after the eviction.

ONE DAY after the election, President Eisenhower's U. S. Children's Bureau announced that it will establish a committee to study the dangers of radiation that come to children as a result of atomic tests. Catch them doing it before the elections.

A FEW rich families—such as the Rockefellers (\$100,500) Pews (\$58,000), Melons (\$99,150) and Vanderbilts (\$43,800) more than matched all of the money contributed by the 16 million members of organized labor in the recent elections.

A FEPC job conference will be held Dec. 15, Saturday, at 10 a.m., at Northwestern High School. Topics, careers in industry, retail, commerce, skilled trades. Run by the State FEPC Commission. Anyone can go.

MICHIGAN now has nine Negro state legislators, and one Negro State Senator, most of any place in the nation. The time is coming for a Negro on the state GOP and Dem ticket—especially can't be diverted in 1958, when Hart doesn't run for Lieut. Gov., in order to run for Governor. That would be a great "first," a Negro for Lieut. Gov. in Michigan.

## UAW Seeks Jobs for Mounting Unemployed — GM Won't Help

DETROIT.—The UAW is seeking from Ford and General Motors, preferential hiring of workers laid off in shops where no chance exists of them getting their jobs back.

Chrysler Local No. 7, a case in point is faced with over 6,000 workers not getting back to work on the 1957 model and latest reports are that this is practically

certain. Chrysler Automotive Body Local 212 knows now that 6,000 workers on their rolls will not go back to work and the union is advising them to look for work elsewhere.

Along with this is the 7,000 laid off late last summer at Packard when the plants were taken over in merger moves.