

Following are more letters in the current discussion of American Marxists and the Soviet Union. Letters over 300 words cannot be printed in full.

## Clear Facts Are Needed

Editor, Daily Worker:

Thanks for your invitation to comment. If we are being jolted, fine. We need a lot of jolting.

First. We need full and correct reports of the current ideological and political discussions in the USSR. Too many of them come only through the garbled versions of the capitalist press. For example: The N. Y. Times on March 12, reported a statement signed by "1905" veterans appearing in Pravda, included as signer one Teodorovich, who, says the Times, was denounced as a Trotskyite in the Short Course History of the CPSU. Teodorovich was blasted enough in the Short Course as a "coward" and "deserter" in November, 1917, but not as a Trotskyite. Now above all we need clarity.

Second. Let us admit honestly that we are ignorant on most matters of Soviet affairs, internal affairs, that is. On the international front there can be no question that the policies of Khrushchev and Bulganin have been as brilliant as they have been bold in regard to Yugoslavia, India, Geneva, the letters to Eisenhower. Let it be said that their denunciation of the cult of individuality shows them as ideologically as fearless as their trips abroad have shown them physically fearless.

But as to the realities of life on the Soviet scene, we know little. We haven't the slightest idea of what a party meeting of a factory club is like in the

# Letters from Readers

USSR. We have very little notion of the standard of living, of the day-to-day world of the worker or the collective farmer.

If there are some among us who as press correspondents or otherwise have spent time in the Soviet Union, they have in the main not shared their knowledge frankly and realistically.

Some five or six years ago one of our finest trade union women leaders headed a labor delegation to Moscow and came back with the report: "Beginning this year bread will be distributed free, as another step into Communism." What a mockery that sounds like now after the public criticism of the agricultural situation.

Whatever illusions we may have had, some things are not illusions. Capitalist exploitation, national oppression, segregation, imperialist war, these are not illusions. The class struggle is no illusion. And the bitter hatred of the exploiters and the oppressors for the Soviet Union, that is no illusion. Let us have the full truth about the USSR. We will risk it. We still want socialism, and it looks that we have even more to learn than we thought from the first country where it has been tried.—A. J.

## 'Scientific Approach'

Editor, Daily Worker:

Even had you not asked for opinions of your readers in Alan Max's article of March 13 en-

titled: "U. S. Marxists and Soviet Self-Criticism," I should have been moved to write my first letter to the Daily after some 20 years of loyal support.

Your attitude is an example of scientific and convincing self-criticism that is worthy of true Marxism. It is analytical (explaining how the errors of American Marxists occurred) and thorough-going (it minced no words nor hid behind generalizations that ignore the past).

I deeply feel that you openly raised questions that have troubled the thinking (and lowered the morale) of too many sincere progressives of all political outlooks.

It is to be hoped that in the immediate future this scientific approach to the events around us becomes more than just your "own first reactions." If this approach became the guiding policy of the Daily Worker, it would rapidly raise the paper from the "house organ" status that it has, in effect, to the more influential one of a respected journal of Marxists opinion. As such, it would begin to serve its proper function of stimulation and leadership in American life, particularly in the organized movements of workers, farmers, the Negro people, youth, women and the intellectuals.

—RESUSCITATED.

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