

SPEAK YOUR PIECE

Civil Liberties Under Socialism

Editor, Daily Worker:

Where does civil liberties fit into the socialist picture? Historically, I believe, it came on the scene as a weapon of the bourgeoisie against the nobility, and then, after the nobility was subdued, was continued by the various divergent strata of the bourgeoisie as a weapon in their fight against each other for the lion's share of the loot. When the trade union came upon the scene they had to fight like hell against the bourgeoisie for just a tiny bit of civil liberties to legalize their existence.

Where does the worker stand with regard to civil liberties? He can't eat it and it won't shelter his family. But with certain civil liberties as a weapon he can more effectively fight against his bosses for a larger share of the goods the worker alone produces. If he succeeds in throwing his bosses off his back and so is able to keep ALL he produces, wouldn't he be foolish to allow his former bosses' weapons to enable them to climb on his back again?

It's as simple as this.

W. C.

Finds Wisdom In G.B.S.

Editor, Daily Worker:

I have just run across an interesting autobiographical note from George Bernard Shaw's writings. He says that he "made up my mind early in life never to let myself be persuaded that I am enjoying myself gloriously when I am, as a matter of fact, being bored and pestered and plundered and worried and tired."

A good idea, isn't it? He decided "early in life" to think for himself. Let's all do the same. If we do I'm sure our collective decisions will meet with greater approval from the American people.

S. B.

Learned From Northern Neighbor

Editor, Daily Worker:

I have noticed a lot of discussion in the Worker lately about inner-party democracy, whether bureaucracy is an inherent fault of socialism, etc. It happens that I spent several years in Canada as a member of the Labor-Progressive Party. It is worth noting that this party conducts its work on a very high level of party democracy.

The LPP leaders are all friendly, warm and modest people and they are close to their membership. Tim Buck never misses a chance to find out some item of news, or get the opinion of a rank and file or a sympathetic worker. Fund and circulation drives for the paper, the Canadian Tribune, are often begun by a criticism session in which anyone may express his or her opinion of the style, format and matter of the paper; and the criticisms are forwarded to the editors, who take them into consideration and make use of them when possible.

Any LPP member who has a complaint about the functioning of any party body, takes it up in his local club executive. That body passes it to the next higher and so on until it reaches the

responsible parties, who never fail to act on it. There is the utmost democracy in all conventions. Everyone says what he thinks, and all participate in constructive spirit. I did not see any factionalism in the Canadian party while I was there, though they have been troubled with it in the past.

I liked Lester Rodney's recent article on Canada. All his facts check with my experience and what he said was very well put. We should study Canada more and have more ties with the Canadian Marxists.

TRAMLER.

About Ordinary Everyday Courage

Editor, Daily Worker:

I want to speak about the question of signing names and ordinary, every-day courage. Alan Max and some writers for this page have covered one side of the question but I believe there is another that is as yet untouched here.

Progressive leaders in this country with few exceptions, have borne the brunt of McCarthyite persecution and continued to carry on for our whole country's welfare with none but tactical retreat. Now, it happens, the more people, both individually as well as collectively that oppose McCarthyism and all of its evidence, the more difficult it is to persecute those who do. And the business of continuing to show fear, not signing your name to petitions and elsewhere when you want to, and failing to do the things which take ordinary, day-to-day courage, are the red meat on which McCarthyism still manages to subsist.

It would be foolhardy to endanger a livelihood or a career where danger actually exists. And, of course, this is always a matter for individual decision. No one can have courage for anyone but himself. But it seems to me that some who are overly careful act out of remnants of fear of a dying McCarthyism and where no actual danger but only a far-fetched possibility of loss of job might exist. McCarthyites won't act unless there are headlines in it for them and there are not many headlines in small fry like us.

This has turned out to be a long letter but perhaps if you find it pertinent and not too wordy and repetitious you can print the whole thing as partial answer to the writer who complained that only long letters contributed by leaders were printed. Otherwise use as much as your judgment calls for.

SAUL GROSS.

Revolution The Unfinished

Editor, Daily Worker:

In January, 1787, in an historic Address to the People of the United States, Dr. Benjamin Rush of Philadelphia declared that the American Revolution of 1776 remained unfinished.

His exact words follow:

"There is nothing more common than to confound the terms of the American Revolution with those of the late American war. The American war is over; but this is far from being the case with the American Revolution. On the contrary, nothing but the first act of the great drama is closed."

The unfinished business of the American Revolution was further taken up by the adoption of the Constitution, again by the ratification of The Bill of Rights, and in 1800, as Jefferson noted, a new, a second, peaceful revolution—the overthrow of the Alien and Sedition Acts and the restoration of power in the hands of the people—took place.

Eighty years after Dr. Rush's Address, with the close of the Civil War, another act in great drama of the American Revolution came to an end. With the Mexican War demonstrating that the U. S. was under the rule of a government waging aggressive war, Thoreau reminded the American people of the unfinished business of the American Revolution. Today, in the struggle against segregation and the brazen threat of the Bourbon segregationists to overthrow the Constitution and the Supreme Court's desegregation decision, we are again reminded that the American Revolution has in this, and other respects, never been completed.—J. S.

DISCUSSION ARTICLES ASKED FOR PARTY VOICE

The N.Y. State Committee of the Communist Party issued an appeal yesterday for discussion articles in Party Voice from its membership "appraising our policies and projecting policies for adoption."

"Party Voice will appear regularly as a discussion bulletin for such articles," the statement said. "The discussion is a continuation of the self-critical appraisal begun by the Draft Resolution published in 1952, the Draft Program of 1954 and the articles around these and the questions posed by Eugene Dennis in the Worker of April 8.

"All fields of work, such as electoral, trade union policy, estimate of war and fascism, the Negro question, organization and methods of work, etc., were reviewed at an

enlarged meeting of the National Committee. The report by Eugene Dennis, soon to be published, opened a self-critical examination of the past decade.

"Undoubtedly, the 20th Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, has stimulated the process of the examination of Communist policies all over the world.

"Space limitations require a limit of 750 words on articles. Occasionally, articles of greater length may be published but the editors will exercise their discretion only under special circumstances.

"Deadline for the first issue is May 13. Articles may be mailed directly to Party Voice, 101 West 16 Street, or sent through your County or club organization."