

SPEAK YOUR PIECE

UE, IAM and Labor Unity

ORANGE, N. J.

Editor, Daily Worker:

I was greatly disturbed by the failure of labor columnist, George Morris, to take a position on the UE District 3 people going into the I. A. of M. The only comment Mr. Morris made was that the paper presumed the people in Districts 3 and 4 of UE were doing what they thought was best to protect their conditions.

1. It seems to me that Mr. Morris rode the fence on several key points involved in reuniting the industrial workers in this industry. This is the only point at issue since the industrial workers have never been united with the craft workers in this industry. The article makes no mention of the fact that a titanic struggle is taking place in the American labor movement between craft and industrial unionism.

2. The labor columnist failed to take a stand on the District 3 leaders taking Negro workers and women workers into a craft union which has no program and no representation in any official capacity of either Negroes or women.

3. Mr. Morris failed to explain or comment on how he thought attempting to take the chain workers into the IAM, which has no chain contracts or machinery for chain workers in the monopolies, could advance labor unity.

For the life of me, since Mr. Morris has elected to enter public debate on the issues involved, I cannot understand his unwillingness to comment on what is quite obviously important democratic questions.

As a Negro worker, and as a long time active in fair practices work, I do not believe that there are any known reasons to justify the actions of the leaders of District 3. They know, and I am sure you know, that there is not a single Negro worker on the staff of the IAM, or a single woman worker; nor do they have any program for Negroes and women workers. It simply doesn't make sense. That such steps were taken without getting any commitments on these democratic questions at a time when, particularly, the fight of the Negro people is at its height, is unbelievable.

The impression must necessarily go abroad that a section of the left progressive leaders, in the name of labor unity, is willing to take a walk on Negroes, women and the chain workers. It might be of interest to your

readers to know that if the district by district business could be justified (and I do not think it could) then the leaders of District 3 had an opportunity to go into an industrial union, the IUE, on pretty much the same concessions made to District 4. I am sure your readers, and Mr. Morris, will want to know that the Negro workers, the women, the chain workers do not believe that giving up their democratic gains represents advancing the course of democratic labor unity.

As a reminder, when the AFL-CIO merger took place, numerous concessions were made because the Negro workers, with certain white support, waged a vigorous fight for such concessions. I believe that true labor unity, worthy of the name, fight for such concessions. I believe that true labor unity, worthy of the name, must include Negroes, women and other minorities, with full rights. It seems evident to me that the democratic question loses whenever fragmentation takes place.

I share Mr. Morris' hope that the industrial workers will succeed in uniting themselves in the electrical industry and that bureaucratic craft unionism will not crush out those gains made in this industry in the past 20 years mainly through the UE.

ERNEST THOMPSON

Importance of Small Farmers

MILWAUKEE

Editor, Daily Worker:

For a goodly time we have read and said that the unity of labor, the Negro people and the small farmers is essential to the achievement of (1) immediate bettered conditions the American people, and (2) eventually socialism. This we have accepted, in the abstract, as fact.

Our reason for writing now is not that we have begun to doubt the factuality of this, but because we realize that it must no longer be allowed to remain in the abstract; and in order to take it out of that realm, it is necessary for us—Communists and non-Communists alike—to have as thorough an understanding as possible of each of these groups—Labor, the Negro people, and the small farmers—their lives, their problems, and how they are inter-related.

Now we feel that our paper has done a splendid job, especially considering the adverse conditions under which it operates, in its reportorial coverage and commentary on events concerning Labor and the Negro

people; from them, the small farmers are probably able to gain a fairly good understanding of these groups. This is not the case, however, regarding coverage concerning the small farmers.

For ourselves, we know very little concerning the status of the small farmers, and we are sure we're not unique in this. We are not doing it here, but will, if you desire, give you a very lengthy list of some of the questions which puzzles us. Further, we feel that there has been a great negligence in this matter as far as our paper is concerned. The coverage on anything concerning small farmers is, for the most part, generally in the nature of "straight" reporting—very little different from what we read in the commercial press and giving us no more knowledge of the situation than they do. Very little, if any, space is devoted to this by the regular columnists.

We feel present circumstances make a change in this situation compulsory if we are to achieve the most important parts of our Party's program.

We therefore most strongly urge that, despite the handicaps presently hampering the paper, a special column be regularly devoted to bringing information and knowledge of the farm question to the readers. Also, of course, all of our farmer comrades and friends should be urged to regularly contribute to the paper.

As a local example of the necessity for such news, we point out the fact that, because of the farm revolt, GOP congressmen may be defeated this fall in Wisconsin's 2nd, 3rd, and 10th Congressional districts, while a proper building of farmer-labor unity might even increase the number of districts where upsets may take place.

Unity of Labor, the Negro people and small farmers IS vital to us all. But how do we effectively unite with people about whom we know so little? Please help.

2nd Ward Club, Communist Party of Milwaukee

Constitutional Communists

Editor, Daily Worker:

I do not like the term Constitutional Communists, for it negates itself and becomes meaningless. The Constitution is a capitalist constitution written by and for the protection of the ruling class. If anyone thinks it can be amended to become a working class document he is reckoning without the capitalists, who would rather see the

whole country destroyed than willingly give up one iota of their possessions.

I would like to see this term discarded, for a Constitutional Communist is no Communist at all.—PETER F.

[Ed. Note: For those who are under the mistaken notion that Communist support for the constitution is a "new line" the constitution of the Communist Party unqualifiedly "defends the constitution of the United States. . ."]

Hit Statement

By Rep. Walter

NEW YORK

Editor, Daily Worker:

On May 24, 1956, I was subpoenaed before the House Un-American Activities Committee and advised to bring my passport and all other travel documents in my possession. At this hearing statements were made and carried in the press charging me with treason, and that my file was being turned over to the Justice Department for investigation.

The stories in the press were based entirely upon unsupported and slanderous statements made by Representatives Francis E. Walter and Gordon H. Scherer of the Committee.

I have been guilty of the fight for peace, the freedom of Asia and Africa and the Negro people here in the United States. I am guilty of upholding the Bill of Rights and the principles of constitutional democracy here in the United States.

These are the so-called crimes for which the Un-American Activities Committee is trying to slander and incite my prosecution. This anti-Negro and anti-colored peoples attitude is the basis for the loss of American prestige throughout the world.

I am proud of my own convictions for peace, freedom and democracy. I invoked the First and Fifth Amendments to the United States Constitution on all of the provocative questions fired at me because: 1. They are bedrock traditions to protect the American democratic process. 2. The kind of questions asked were intended for the purpose of concocting a perjury indictment against American citizens. These perjury indictments are supported only by the slanderous statements of discredited stoop pigeons.

The injustice of these witch-hunt hearings is shown by the fact that after I refused to submit to an inquisition into my political views Walter went ahead and answered questions himself in order to make headlines in the press.

I went to China to the Asian and Pacific Peace Conference in 1952 to join the worldwide fight of the peoples for peace. I exercised my right of travel and the right to express my views on the question of peace and its interest to the American people.

I am a modest, ordinary American citizen and I state, categorically, that this accusation of treason is the most despicable and diabolical distortion of the truth. I am a loyal, law-abiding citizen of the United States.

I consider this attack upon my integrity and my strong advocacy of peace and freedom of a piece with the lynch oppression of the South, with the attacks on militant Negro leaders South and North, with the continuous victimization of workers, Negro and white, by discredited McCarthyite methods.

The crux of the problem is that Washington would keep the Negro who is uncompromising in his fight for the rights of all oppressed peoples behind a wall of silence in the United States if it is thought he or she would bring attention to the position of the exploited and oppressed people of this country. In other words the need to silence the Negro so far as the other parts of the world are concerned is a necessity. If this were not true, why the ban on Paul Robeson's right to travel. And I venture to say that such a ban would be placed on Rev. Martin Luther King if it were thought he would expose the situation in the South.

This attack has resulted unjustly in the loss of my job as has happened to thousands of Negroes and workers throughout America and I am sending this letter to set the facts straight.

I urge the protest of our American citizens, who are duty-bound to uphold our democratic heritage, against the continuous brutal attacks against Negroes and whites who stand up for the right to think and for free expression.

LOUIS A. WHEATON.

More Information Needed on Primaries

QUEENS, N. Y.

Editor, Daily Worker:

Four of us got together last night and we find that three of us didn't vote in the primaries.

We didn't know there was any contest.

But last night we learned we could have made an important contribution to county leadership. We think the DW should have given more information on the primaries.—L.M., J. S.