

SPEAK YOUR PIECE

Criticizes Skill In Public Relations

MINOT, N. D.

Editor, Daily Worker:

It looks as if you are still holding on to the coat-tails of the Democratic Party; that you are still pretty much of a mere follower of Potofsky, Reuther, Stevenson, Kefauver, et al.

It seems that the American left is not too eager to go with you in your complicated political maneuverings (e.g. Weiss). You think one thing and the left another on the question. Still, political dickerings are not excluded altogether, of course.

One of our chief jobs today is to take an independent position vis-a-vis the capitalist parties, to be diligent, ardent and fervent in our search for socialist allies and to help clear the way as soon as possible for the building of a mass party of socialism (American model) in the U.S.A.

It is my opinion you are not very skilled in public relations, don't understand how to win friends and influence people in your chosen milieu because you are too much enamored of your own particular practices, ideas and theories, which are by no means always right.

What a strange thing it is to say that socialism is not now an issue in our country, and that the American people are not yet ready for socialism, when the fact is that 900,000,000 people of the earth's inhabitants are today traveling on the road to socialism and freedom! Why persist in putting the question in this way or form, thereby sowing confusion and discouragement within the American left?

Abner W. Berry has written voluminously and eloquently in the Daily and Sunday Worker on the housing question in New York City. He has stated in his column that he is for taking our own American road to socialism. Very good. But did he in his long articles on the housing question give the Negro people and poor whites any hint at all how the housing problem could, or might be improved under socialism? The answer is no.

The ambivalent Berry failed to take advantage of the oppor-

tunity he had to interest the people in socialism. The same criticism can be leveled against some of our other special writers. ALFRED KNUITSON

On Cutting Of Letters

Editor, Daily Worker:

The letters on the subject of cutting letters are interesting, and of no little importance.

With the space limits of the Daily some cutting is inevitable. So when to cut, when to print one letter in full as representative of several, or when a letter is more important than some other planned feature is something for which the editors become responsible.

One thing would seem essential. Use some of the space saved to note when a cut has been made or one letter published as representative of several.

My own experience may prove instructive. I very early sent a lengthy letter questioning the Article on civil liberties by Max Weiss and some points made by Alan Max. The first two thirds was cut, without notice. None of the main burden of the letter was printed. This falsified my letter.

Two weeks or so later, one point dealt with was made by James Allen. Three key points of my letter have not been made to this day. Yet Max Weiss was given as much space for a new article by way of rebuttal as he had in the first place. He belittled the understanding of his critics. I do not consider this a right way to debate important questions.

I do consider that leaders should have more space so that everyone can properly judge their work. Yet of equal importance, when serious criticism is offered, full presentation must be made and not just excerpts which distort the criticism and spare the leader from dealing seriously with objections made.

N.W. Reader.

Why Rush to Help Our Enemies?

Editor, Daily Worker:

Students in a certain class in the Jefferson School were shock-

ed out of their senses, listening to an instructor, proclaiming in a sort of breast-beating method, that our past activities were one grand error.

We seem to have developed guilt consciences that we were wrong about the U. S. economy, wrong about the danger of war and fascism. As a result, several questions pop up in my mind:

1. Why was the Korean war launched?

2. Was there, or was there not, a danger of a third world war during the conflict in Korea?

3. Did it help the economy in the USA?

If we have made mistakes on the above, it is certainly no compliment to our leadership, for their failures in correctly analyzing the existing conditions during so many years.

Despite our admiration for our leaders, their personal courage and as serious Marxists, it is impossible for many of us to believe that we have had no leadership.

I doubt if we have made, during these critical times so necessary, a serious study of the positive and negative aspects of our work in the past.

Only after such a study should be boldly admit the reasons for our errors and our endeavor to correct them.

At present, let us not be so hasty in assisting our enemies, to better flaunt in our faces our shortcomings and inadequacies, imagined or real.

The enemies of the people have done very well for themselves in the past and will continue, regardless of our efforts to bend too far backwards.

DRESSMAKER.

Asks Guidance

MIAMI.

Editor, Daily Worker:

I believe that there are thousands of our readers—and non-readers—who would like to know more about what progressive people should do in the coming elections. Who shall we support and vote for? The Communist Party is not on the ballot. Hope you will give brief explanation.

-J. L.