

SPEAK YOUR PIECE

Renew Study And Work

Editor, Daily Worker:

We, in the U. S., are now carrying on a criticism of everything in the Communist Party in such a destructive way, that we threaten to criticize ourselves out of existence. This is evidenced by talk outside the Party of forming a new socialist movement which would exclude the necessity of a Communist Party, as well as talk by members of dissolution of the Party as it now stands.

How do we right the direction?

Let us not forget that the main point of the 20th Congress was the recognition of the problem of the cult of the individual. Those who say that the cult of the individual is synonymous with hero worship do not understand the full meaning of the term. Is not the evil of bureaucracy in our Party a closer meaning to that of the cult of the individual? Certainly, it can be said that bureaucracy and the cult of the individual go hand-in-hand. The panic following the issuance of the text of the Khrushchev report is one evidence of the seriousness of the cult of the individual in our own Party—the inability to have confidence in a collective leadership.

Perhaps the most important thing we can do to right our direction is to renew our drive for theoretical understanding. In many years now, study has been minimized, few have been the Marxist study groups. It is within the history of the working class that we will find the answers to our problems. We must gain a better theoretical Marxist understanding so as to interpret that history, and so gain our answers.

The cult of the individual develops in proportion to the lack of correct practice of criticism and self-criticism. During the period of "heightened security," along with the development of the cult of the individual in our country, there has developed a concomitant reduction in Party discipline. Some members, rather than criticize or differ with existing policies — fail to attend meetings. Due to lack of communication between leadership and membership, there results a breakdown in the exchange of criticism. Therefore, policies are formulated without the benefit of full inter-party discussion. This is the crux of bureaucracy and the cult of the individual.

We are now entering a very important election period in our country. In the world around us,

anti-imperialist and national liberation movements, as well as movements for peace, are growing. We must find our direction WITHIN the movements of the people and by a renewed study and application of Marxist science.

—TWO CHICAGOANS

Fluoridation Held No Answer

Editor, Daily Worker:

There are a billion cavities today among Americans—most of them unnecessary. So says the World Telegram last month. I agree. But fluoridation of our water supply is not the answer, in my opinion.

Harry Raymond, in a Daily Worker news article quoted many authorities who favor it. But there are many who oppose it. In February, 1955, the Medical Board in Sweden issued the decision . . . "prohibiting any and all water fluoridation in Sweden at this time." Commissioner Arthur Ford of the N.Y.C. Dept. of Water Supply, Gas and Electricity said "there was no reason in the world why the entire population should be compelled to risk lifelong exposure to the toxic action of the fluoride . . ." New York Times 4-1-56.

"Fluorine tends to accumulate in the bones, leading to hypercalcification and brittleness. Ligaments and tendons also become calcified. Serious symptoms may ensue such as loss of mobility of joints, easy fracture, and pressure on the spinal cord." Jonathan Forman, M. D. in "The Land" Spring 1953.

What then is the answer? Here's what Dr. Geo. A. Swendiman, D.D.S., Grand Forks, North Dakota, past president of the American Dental Association has to say, "The root of our trouble is refined foods. That's the culprit. And it points to the answer. Fact on the American diet as issued by the Bureau of Home Economics, U. S. Department of Agriculture show that the average person eats too little calcium, phosphorous and the fat-soluble vitamin which activates the utilization of the teeth-building materials.

Added to this is the fact that extensive laboratory determinations have shown that most people cannot absorb more than half of the calcium and phosphorous eaten. Body metabolism if working improperly will also rob the teeth and bones of their strength.

Big business in control of our nation's food supply for the past hundred years has seen fit for

reasons of greater profits to rob our food of their natural vitamins and minerals. For example, butter ships best when hard and this quality can largely be controlled by the fodder given to cattle. So cattle are prevented from eating green, growing crops which produce high vitamin butter that is too soft to ship. Bread gives a bigger loaf if the wheat germ and outer husk, source of the vitamins and minerals is first removed.

No, not fluoridation but better nutrition is the answer. Read Dr. Weston Price's Book "Nutrition and Physical Degeneration" where he describes his visits to primitive peoples around the world, who do not live on our "civilized diet" and who have teeth free from cavities and who raise children that do not have to breathe through their mouths because of poor nostril formation, and whose teeth are not crowded and overlapping. The World Telegram, 7-23-56, says "Modern Diet Bane to Eskimos."

Let our attention be turned rather to the overworked soil of America robbed of its strength by greedy practices, incapable of producing vitamin and mineral rich foods. Look into the food factories where minerals are taken out and chemical preservatives and hundreds of chemical additives put in. Investigate the profits of the chemical companies who would turn fluoridation into a billion dollar racket. Stay the hand of the candy and soda pop companies who are feeding de-vitalized foods to our children.

—MANNY JOSEPHS

Rereads Browder

QUEENS

Editor, Daily Worker:

I have just secured—with much difficulty—and read Browder's "Victory—and After," written in 1942 and "Teheran," written in 1944. After the accusations of betrayal, class collaboration, and other invectives generally heard, these works are a shocking revelation. They raise serious questions as to the depth of thinking and the objective analysis devoted to Browder's theories before repudiating him so completely. . . .

Browder advocated peaceful coexistence with the Soviet Union, policies that ultimately could create conditions for peaceful transition. In "Victory — and After" he envisioned the emergence of "at least one more Socialist Republic" (and we now have China!), that "others may adopt some new intermediate type of social and economic organization which is not social-

ism nor the capitalism hitherto known" (the Peoples' Democracies!); he envisioned that wars were not inevitable; he warned that after the war "all the divisive tendencies within the United Nations will reassert themselves with new rigor."

If Browder was "guilty" of anything, these works would indicate a "guilt" the American Communist Party is in dire need of: the capacity for profound, original thinking, not hide-bound by dogma, able to be flexible, to conform to the living realities of history, as Marxism-Leninism intended, to the ever-changing developments of history and progress. It is the failure of the Communist Party since his ouster to employ such an approach which has contributed to the present crisis in the Communist Party—and crisis it is!

I do not feel Browder is the focal point of our crisis today. But I do deeply question the ability of leaders on any level to give the kind of leadership needed today when they are incapable of properly estimating the radical historical changes that have occurred since Marx and Lenin evolved their theories and recognizing that some of these theories must be advanced to meet this advanced era. And I question as well their attempts to attack and discredit others such as Browder who seek to advance the theories.

I would go further and ask why the leaders of the Communist Party cannot extend their hands to this man who did think profoundly, as a Marxist, regardless of errors (and have we made fewer these past 10 years?), who was one of the very few creative Marxist thinkers of our times, whose policies, those of which were correct, resulted in the largest Communist Party in the United States in its history with the broadest mass following, and who has never betrayed his deep principles despite the dreadful persecution not only by the ruling class, but to its shame, by the Communist Party as well? I repeat, there is dire need today for leadership and thinking that is not bound by a dogmatic approach.—S. G.

Slanders by Barry Gray

Editor, Daily Worker:

I was shocked to read the defense by E. R. of Barry Gray. On Saturday last, Sept. 1st, I chanced to hear his report on the Tennessee rioting. He went out of his way to smear the Jefferson School by circulating a myth that John Kasper the racist had at-

tended classes there. He also attacked Soviet policies with regard to Suez and consistently finds excuses to lambast the S.U. and Communists wherever they live.

The program with David Livingston which I also heard took occasion to smash out against "Communists in trade unions." Even the Thurgood Marshall program which E. R. seems so thoroughly convinced was a good one, had several digs at the progressive attitudes toward Negroes and their problems. I remember Gray asking point blank whether Negroes could be Communists, and he elicited a negative answer from Marshall and from Miss Lucy.

What listeners hear are the effusions of an opportunist, an arch-foe of progressivism and one wearing the mask of a liberal but one day attacking Kefauver and the next day accepting him; one day attacking Stevenson for his A-bomb ban statement and the next day announcing a love affair between him and Stevenson. Even the Suez program was an anti-Soviet one, with Gray directing the questions in that area.

If he is carrying the ball on important issues we must remember that Tex and Jinx do the same and so does Bill Leonard. The latter two at least have Rockwell Kent on their programs—Gray never has. Gray keeps hammering away at the Left as though we were lice and poison to be wiped off the face of the earth. Let's listen to him—as we listen to the words of a poisoner in our midst, but letting the people know the truth.

PAUL HERMAN

Barry Gray's Program

Editor, Daily Worker:

As a relatively new reader, I was somewhat shocked to read "E. R.'s" evaluation of Barry Gray. Here is a man who still advocates that no one should take the Fifth Amendment when asked a political question; who consistently hits out at all things Left and engages in the vilest kind of a red-baiting riff-raff heard on the air.

That he's to the left of Fulton Lewis, Jr., doesn't qualify him a "must" listening program as "E. R." advocated. I think that Bill Leonard on CBS does a far better job reflecting social issues than does Mr. Gray who does most of the talking and does not give his qualified guests an opportunity to do so. Even Tex and Jinx offer a better balanced program.

JOSEPH COAGMAN