

SPEAK YOUR PIECE

Truth Will Prevail

Editor, Daily Worker:

Bravo to Joe Clark on Czechoslovakia. I am indeed indebted to him for clarifying the Slansky trial in Czechoslovakia, the country of my birth and the country of which I am so proud as of the country of my adoption, the U.S.A.

Clark's article removed the pressure from my heart where it has been since the execution of the Czech-Jewish Communists.

I want to say a few words about the letter of Manny M. uncritically defending the position of the present Czech party leaders. I am very glad that the pages of the DW are open to criticism and opinions of the readers and I will defend with all my strength that it should stay that way for years to come. Joe Clark exercises this liberty to speak up, and he was not giving a "tirade" but making a factual analysis.

Concerning Clark's being ignorant when he was in the Soviet Union there were reporters from every corner of the globe who knew just what Clark did and reported the same way. He was no exception and he reported what he personally knew and saw.

Further, Manny M. says that the Czechoslovak Communists know what they are doing because they were steered in struggle. Yes, but so was Slansky and the others who were executed. I knew the name of Slansky back in my student days when he was a rebel against capitalism and Zionism.

Before I close this letter, I want to say that for a long time from sources in Czechoslovakia I knew that anti-Semitism existed in the ranks of the Czechoslovak C.P. I want to say right here that it was painful and took a lot of patience waiting for the day when "Truth will prevail."

-C. H.

Too Critical on Soviet Leaders

DES MOINES, Iowa
Editor, Daily Worker:

It seems to me that the left-wing press has been too critical of Soviet leaders in recent weeks in view of the fact that they were so uncritical in the past. We were not informed about Stalin's misdeeds while he lived, and perhaps American Communist leaders were not aware of them either. But wouldn't it have been better not to adulate Stalin so much during his lifetime and thus make it necessary to condemn him after death?

The fact that some left-wing leaders here so abject in their admissions of guilt only serves to confuse and disillusion some well-meaning people. So I say the less said about past errors the better. It only gives the reactionaries ammunition with which to fight progress by preventing the unity of liberal forces.—MISS M. R.

What Really Forced The Suez "Retreat"?

CLEVELAND.

Dear Editor:

It is the opinion of the undersigned that it is not good socialism, or sound Marxism, to say as does The Worker in the Aug. 19 issue that "World opinion forced the British Suez retreat." That is an "idealistic" interpretation, as it does not indicate the material reasons for the retreat. That reason is the fact that the balance of world power has changed and switched from the West to the East. Egypt has the backing of the Arab bloc of 19 nations plus China, Russia and their "satellites," a totality not to be enraged by an attack on Egypt. The risk would be too great.

The First World War produced the Bolshevik Revolution. The Second the Chinese, and another war would destroy all that is left of capitalism. It is not ideas in the abstract that are a material force, but material force can put potency into ideas. Were power still in the hands of the West, Egypt already would have been attacked. Equality of power is the best peace force in the world. The world needs to be disarmed. Then all questions may be settled "idealistically" instead of by "physical force." That ultimate accomplishment is the socialist goal.

J. M.

Keep Up the Fight To Ban the A-Bomb

Editor, Daily Worker:

I am writing to Speak Your Piece so that I can feel I'm part of a team that is fighting for peace and an end to the cold war. I am also sending you \$20 to keep the paper going. I wish I could send more. But keep up the fight to ban the A and H bombs.

DEPRESSED WORKER.

Praise for Ben Levine

Editor, Daily Worker:

To honor our prized and gentle scholar, Ben Levine, who with this \$10 contribution, shall represent the rest of our valued Daily Worker staff. —J. E.

On Nationalizing American Economy

Editor, Daily Worker:

Obviously William Mandel is handicapped for reasons of limitation of space, as are all writers to Speak Your Piece column of the Daily Worker. I wish he could have been able to elaborate more fully his ideas (Daily Worker, August 21).

Mandel is an able student of the social and technical sciences. But it seems to me incredible that he could say, nationalize the property of 200 to 300 corporations and just like that American "economy has been socialized." I'm sure his thoughts are better than this.

We all know that American industry has been ready technically for a long time for socialization. But there is a long gap between the cup and the lips. Several Labor Governments in England have nationalized some of Britain's major industries. But does socialism exist in England? Some social thinkers have suggested that Government ownership and operation of the Postal System in this country is a step to socialism.

I'll just say one word about Mandel's judgement on the Negro question, and that is about his suggestion of "our wonderful and unique tradition of the melting-pot" as a solution to this strangely unsolved question. Millions of foreign-born workers and people can tell us very much about the American "melting-pot." And is Mandel aware of the fact that unless a concession had not been made to the Southern land-owners in 1789 to count a Negro as three fifths of a citizen in apportioning representatives in Congress, the Constitution would not have been adopted. And since that time (one and three-quarters of a century), by law and unwritten law Negroes have been kept in a status of half citizens and worse. How about this "wonderful melting-pot?"

JAMES W. FORD

Truth Is the Best Weapon

Editor, Daily Worker:

It is necessary to remember that the advocacy of communism here in the US is based not on the desire to undermine and weaken the American structure or to assist and strengthen a foreign country, but upon the

firm belief in Marxism, that the welfare of the people of America depends upon a Communist society here. And this cannot be brought about by sowing discord and antagonism and irritation seemingly deliberately. Patient education is slow, to be sure, but don't we believe in democracy?

The greatest weapon of the CP is truth, truth, truth, the truth of Marxism and the truth of life. Why not make the fullest possible use of the strongest weapon. Let truth and honesty be the guide; as long as it is desired to stay on the right path.

The CPUS has been wrong too often for an organization that has such great truths to lead it. Try making use of the greatness that is yours instead of the smallness, the blindness, the expedient.

To say that objective factors were mainly responsible for the decline of the CPUS is undoubtedly true, but it is only under conditions of stress that real weaknesses reveal themselves. The tree whose insides have rotted usually does not come down until a storm sends it crashing.

-J. B. S.

The "Tipoff" On Russia?

Editor, Daily Worker:

Here is the true tip-off of actual conditions in Russia. The world's champion discus thrower must steal a few cheap hats because the Soviet market offers so little. Shame!!!

STANLEY STONE

(Ed. We refer Mr. Stone to our editorial, Page 5).

Lenin and the 1922 Resolution

NEW YORK

Editor, Daily Worker:

In today's DW Joseph Clark says that Lenin "excoriated the Communist International in 1922 for having adopted procedures which he said were suited for Russia but not for the rest of the world."

Clark evidently has reference to a portion of a speech by Lenin, the text of which can be found on pages 332-3 of Selected Works, Vol. X.

Clark has added his name to a growing list of writers who, in my opinion, have seized upon these remarks of Lenin in order to make a certain point (that the Russian party model is unsuitable for other lands) and in so doing have completely distorted Lenin's intent.

I maintain that a reading of the complete text reveals that Lenin was, as he says, in agreement with "every one of its 50 or more points." What Lenin objected to was this "excellent" resolution, as he called it, would not be understood by foreigners because it was set forth in terms of Russian experience and because it was too long and wordy. He thus agreed with the CI resolution on organizational structure. He states not that he was afraid that foreigners must follow the "model" there set forth but that they wouldn't—because they would not be able to understand the resolution. This is quite different from what Clark suggests.—ARTHUR.

Errors Laid to Stalin's Writings

Editor, Daily Worker:

As the discussion continues, I've been coming to some conclusions, which I'd like to share with your readers. These conclusions are:

1—That the Communist Party played an heroic and essentially positive part in the life of our country in the past 10 years, despite its very serious leftist errors, which has helped reaction to bring us to our present state of isolation.

2—That the harsh, one-sided,

negative criticism of some of the published discussion can act to demobilize and demoralize the Communist Party membership; and can, in effect, despite the good intentions of these critics, help liquidationist tendencies within the party. It seems to me that it is possible to correct our mistakes, in the light of the fresh Marxist ideas now developing, without destroying the confidence, pride and devotion of our membership in their party. In this connection, the lack of participation and free interchange of ideas and differences by our national leadership can only be harmful.

3—That the development of Marxist-Leninist theory of Stalin was the prime factor in these errors and many others throughout the history of our Party and helped strengthen all sectarian tendencies. There have evidently been tendencies to sanctify and worship the written word of creative Marxists throughout the history of Marxism; and by not understanding their method thereby creating dogma. Stalin gave the greatest expression to this tendency, and as the ideological leader of the world Communist movement acted to fasten dogma and doctrine onto Communists everywhere.

4—That we now have the first historic opportunity, as a result of the exposure of Stalin's blunders, to completely rid ourselves of dogmatism and sectarianism and become the base of that broad Marxist movement now being projected.

5—That our party has already taken the path of correcting its mistakes, overhauling its theory and practice and broadening its horizons—an irreversible process—which will inevitably enable it to play an historic role in the future.

HARRY QUEENS

The Auto Union's Proposal to Poland

Editor, Daily Worker:

The following article appeared in the August issue of the United Automobile Worker.

"Poland's Communist-run, state-controlled unions have ignored a UAW request that Polish-speaking American trade unionists be allowed to visit Poznan, Poland, for a first-hand investigation of the June 28 'bread-and-freedom' uprising by Polish workers in that city.

"Although the request was made nearly two months ago, no reply has been received as yet.

"The request, made by UAW president Walter P. Reuther, asked for an opportunity for American workers to check the wages and working conditions of Polish working men and women. The UAW even offered to pay all expenses involved."

I believe we have here an important issue which concerns all Communists. Ever since the formation of the C.P.U.S.A., we have favored exchange of workers' delegations between our country and the lands of Socialism.

Now the huge and mighty United Automobile Workers Union wants to send such a delegation. It is true the request is limited to Poznan and the wording may be considered insulting.

But what fool will allow initial limitations and wording to block the exchange of working-class delegations between capitalist and socialist countries; especially when it is a matter of breaking the ice with a huge, influential U. S. union?

The Worker of course has no control over the Marxist press in Poland, nor has the C.P.U.S.A. control over the decisions of the Polish trade unions and government. But we do have a great obligation to the American working-class to state our views on such an important matter,

on which we have written many times in the past. We also have an obligation to friendly criticism of the institutions in a working-class controlled land which do not even deign to answer such a request from a great U. S. union.

As the situation now stands, I suggest that we commend the U.A.W. for its interest in the workers of Poznan; but suggest that such a delegation would more profitably visit not only Poznan but also other Polish industrial cities so as to get a fuller view of the life, hopes and problems of our Polish workers across the seas.

We should also send a communication to the Marxist press and Communist Party of Poland urging them to use their influence to get acceptance of the request for the sake of international workingclass brotherhood and the interests of peace.

Some might answer my arguments by saying the motivation of the U.A.W. is simply to stir up trouble around Poznan, to meddle in Polish affairs and not in any sense for brotherhood or peace.

This may well be true; but to leave it there is to play the fool and abandon leadership.

The Poznan grievances are real and well-known; fully admitted by the Polish government. That government has promised to correct its errors. What then is there to hide from an American auto workers' delegation? Wouldn't the remedial measures, on the contrary, produce a positive reaction on American workers' as such a delegation would have to at least partially report?

The American delegation may well have something of value concerning militant trade-unionism to teach their Polish brothers. And the Polish workers may well teach a lot to their American visitors about a working-class state.

The way to co-existence, especially among trade unions, has proved to be rocky and difficult. Let us then not be stumped by a UAW request that doesn't meet all our specifications.

-A Michigander.

Credit Due to Barry Gray

Editor, Daily Worker:

On Wednesday, Aug. 8, Barry Gray interviewed David Livingston, president of Local 65. The interview lasting an hour, gave a picture of an active, democratic union, such as I believe Local 65 to be. The problems covered the elections, the Suez Canal, and trade union activity. Listeners on the air heard about the welfare plans, the store which sells hundreds of items at reduced rates, the meetings of this union, which meetings are attended not by 20 percent or 30 percent of the members, but by 70 percent to 80 percent. Mr. Livingston was most careful to state that when he speaks for the union, his views represent the majority views of his union.

This was an excellent discussion. Two or three nights later, Mr. Gray interviewed an Egyptian and an Englishman, both representing the Public Information services of their countries on the Suez Canal. If any other radio station has presented these speakers, I am not aware of it.

Gray has also had Autherine Lucy and Thurgood Marshall, plus an almost endless list of other personalities whose views are on the side of the New Deal, and with whom liberal progressive people ought to have much in common.

We may disagree with many of his views, and we know him to be no friend of the Left, but we ought to listen to him and give him credit for carrying the ball on many important issues.

-E. R.