

Letters from Readers On Stalin Revaluation

The following are some of the letters which we have received from our readers concerning the revaluation of Stalin. We will print others each week. Readers are invited to send in their letters. Try to keep them brief (preferably not more than 200 words), so there will be more space for the other fellow.—THE EDITORS.

The Duty To Raise Questions

New York.

Dear Editor:

I was glad to read Alan Max's article in the Daily Worker (March 13) also Ring Lardner Jr.'s letter in The Worker (March 18). This is the beginning of the kind of discussion Communist and Progressives need.

I, also, cannot agree with James Allen that "I have no sense of embarrassment." I think every Communist has the DUTY to question why and how this cult of the individual was allowed to arise and continue by the leaders of the Soviet Union who now denounce this.

The crux of the matter is that our policy made it "unnecessarily more difficult to win the ear of our fellow Americans" as Max puts it. In this connection I would like to ask why Joe Clark, who gives us a sober and sensible estimate of the recent Congress in The Worker (March 18) never wrote of any of these serious short-comings during or after his long stay in Moscow as your correspondent.

In the past any attempt by a Communist to suggest that a realistic attitude toward short-comings in the Soviet Union was essential in reaching and convincing people, was regarded as a betrayal of socialism.

The way for us, American Communists to advance our own "inner democracy" is to make sure that from this point on, it is not regarded as heresy for any one to expound an idea different from that of the leadership or critical of any aspect of life in the socialist sector of the world.

Socialism has proved itself to the whole world; it is not

necessary to gild the lily.

—T. M.

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Search For Own Mistakes

La Porte, Ind.

Dear Editor:

Congratulations to Ring Lardner, Jr., for opening up criticism to which none should be excepted. Particular attention needs pointing to the issue of bureaucracy, as sharply cited by Foster.

In this digging, let's search for the reasons growth has been so limited out of New York. Is it partly because professional and middle-class background people, however well-trained and well-intentioned, assume political leadership where working class leadership material abounds but is kept from developing? How else explain how one working-class leader in the Midwest is driven from the labor movement, to cite but one of many examples?

Changes are taking place with world-shaking results. Our future never looked brighter. Let's measure up to it with really honest criticism and self-criticism.

A HOOSIER WORKER.

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Says Stalin Was Justified

Dear Sir:

The critics of Stalin are ungrateful sons of a great father. Let any one of them boast he could have done better. Twisted minds unconscious of historical realities, unable to see greatness in all its manifestations can stoop to criticism.

But the masses of the USSR are enlightened and the reaction will be overwhelming. A self-proclaimed collective lead-

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ership that begins with an unwarranted gang-up against the greatest leader the world has ever seen, give one pause. The greatness of Stalin is unshakable because it has its foundation in historical events of great magnitude. This unexpected bureaucratic upheaval is the justification of the iron revolutionary discipline of Stalin. Judging from what is happening today, Stalin was justified in mistrusting his co-workers; he went on alone in the great work and this adds to his greatness. The new leaders have forgotten that they are operating from the great power built by Stalin. Where would they be without this power?

—A. F.

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U. S. Socialism Our First Concern

New York.

Sir:

Ring Lardner's letter, and Joseph Clark's estimate on the Soviet Party Congress, combine to suggest that the achievement of socialism in America is of first concern to—and primarily the responsibility of—Americans. There need be no embarrassment for having accepted Soviet Union policies in any phase of its history and under whatever leadership, with uncritical fervor; because the over-shadowing fact is that it endured and became great, against terrible opposition, in an astonishingly short time. This uncritical acceptance of Soviet Union policies by progressive peoples throughout the world was a positive and important factor in its growth. If this is no longer necessary nor desirable, it is also apparent that the Soviet people themselves are doing a pretty good job of self-criticism.

To become engrossed now with critical analysis of past Soviet Communist errors would be academic and fruitless. If we want socialism in our own country we must work for it, in our own way. The American Marxist should look homeward, take on the full responsibility of finding the American way to socialism, and not hesitate to abandon dogmatic methods or inapplicable historical parallels.

J. T. W.