

SPEAK YOUR PIECE

Would Re-evaluate Expulsions

Editor, Daily Worker:

The re-evaluations of the Stalin Cult, errors of American Communists, and the articles of Max Weiss, are of momentous importance to the progressive movement. As a Communist, this open discussion as carried on in the press and meetings constitute an inner democracy such as I cannot ever remember.

I would like to see it carried further in action. In the past years, there have been many people who dropped out of the C. P. because they did not agree on certain issues nor did top or local leadership give them satisfactory answers. These people are not anti-party and basically believe in C. P. aims. They still consider themselves Communists, even though they are not in the Party.

There are also people who have been "dropped for the good of the Party". Here again, there is no basic disagreement with aims and goals, but failure to have been convinced on the correctness of policy on particular issues which resulted in confusion, therefore they were asked to resign or merely dropped.

Of course, not all the cases were as simple and uncomplicated as this, however, I would suggest there be a re-examination of all cases possible, yes, even some of the expulsions. Where it can be shown that there is no enmity or hostility to the basic principles of Marxism-Leninism members who have been dropped should be reinstated, and every effort made to convince those who left voluntarily to rejoin.

F. O.

'Permanent' Peace Week

Editor, Daily Worker:

Editorials are appearing currently on what Cincinnati has proclaimed as "Permanent Peace Week." Periodically the American people are asked to pray for peace, and from the President down they have followed this advice in churches and synagogues.

Is it out of order to ask just how we intend to pray for peace at this most crucial time of our national and world history? Are we in a position to ask for lasting peace while as a nation we persist in testing and stockpiling increasingly destructive weapons, while we force our young men into military service

through the draft, while we exclude people of another color from our churches, businesses, our homes and our hearts?

Are we in a position to ask for this peace before we as a nation have asked forgiveness for the mass destruction of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and the injuries inflicted on Japanese fishermen by our bomb testing and other innumerable hostile and destructive acts, including our past and present indifference to racial segregation?

Before we ask for peace, let us stop and think whether we are willing to pay the price for peace, namely forgive our enemies, feed them and love them to the extent that we refuse to kill them. Should we not consider that unless we obey these specific commands, we ourselves are with our selfishness, greed and fears blocking the way to peace? — A reader.

The Right Of Dissent

Editor, Daily Worker:

Max Weiss' article, "Communists and Civil Liberties," that appeared on April 5 has left me wondering. Weiss asserts, and no one can disagree, that the path to socialism that the American people choose will have its own characteristics. Because the U.S. has a tradition of bourgeois democracy and foreign aggression will not constitute a threat, when socialism is established in our country, it will be possible to permit enemies of socialism to enjoy the same rights as its friends, including the right to form a political party for the restoration of capitalism.

Is Weiss not disturbed by the fact that a return to capitalism would mean the renewed oppression of the proletariat, poor farmers, Negro people? If we can go from capitalism to socialism through elections, what is there to prevent a movement in the opposite direction?

Even if a pro-capitalist party under socialism should not win a total victory, why should we permit it to impede progress toward communism? Whose side are we on, that of the masses or a handful of reactionaries?

Had the facts concerning the excesses under the Soviet dictatorship of the proletariat not been revealed, I doubt that Weiss' article would have been written. But merely because a proletarian dictatorship was administered with mistakes in the USSR, there is no reason for us to abandon the entire form,

as Weiss suggests we do. A proletarian dictatorship grants democracy, including the right of dissent, to all people except those who would reverse the progress of mankind. As for Dulles and Eastland, they'll just have to rough it. —L.D.

Reader Takes Issue With Alan Max

Editor, Daily Worker:

On the Rajk editorial I agree with you and Steve Nelson, not with James Allen. I received a large contribution for the Emergency Committee from a sympathized after she read your editorial, "Grievous Deeds," which I had brought to her to read.

Now, I would like to take issue with Alan Max's article "Resuming After an Interruption." In one of its paragraphs he falls back gladly into the old time trap of unrealism and sectarianism. He says: "Self-correction as now practiced in the socialist countries is unfortunately unknown in our own."

Well, if this is true, what about the Supreme Court's desegregation Decision, Nelson case decision and the decision of the fifth amendment in the Slochower case? Aren't these tremendous facts of self-correction without anybody beating his breast and saying we were criminals in the past?

It was almost the same Supreme Court that refused to review the Rosenberg case and had made many other wrong decisions. If we were to take Max's attitude we would have to give up all the activities which would be futile in a society in which self-correction is "unfortunately unknown."

—READER.

A Barbaric Practice

Editor, Daily Worker:

Congratulations for your stand against capital punishment in all countries, and congratulations to Howard Fast for his attack on capital punishment in two fine columns. I hope you continue to fight on this issue.

While we obviously need to continue this fight in our own country, should our fight stop there? I believe that the American Communist Party, along with millions of progressives and humanists, have a proud record in our fight against capital punishment that gives us the moral authority and the duty to raise this question with other communist parties in other parts of the world.

As a paper, the Worker is the

carrier of a great tradition in supporting the Communist Party in successful fights to save many Negroes from legal lynchings, and also in representing the most enlightened thinking of decent humanists everywhere, in trying to save Sacco, Vanzetti, and the Rosenbergs.

From the authority of its historic record of principled action, the Worker and the American Communist Party should demand that parties in socialist countries should lead the world in abolishing for all time this foul capitalist practice. Socialism is now too strong to require barbaric methods that originated in civil war and world war.

The abolition of capital punishment was taken for granted by Karl Marx, and it should be abolished immediately.

B. A.

Israel-Arab Conflict

Editor, Daily Worker:

I think the DW ought to re-examine its position on the Israel-Arab conflict. Egyptian troops have violated the territory of Israel. And the vast majority of Jewish people are justifiably concerned with the threat of war against Israel.

Of course the people are to a degree misled by some Zionist leaders. Israel voted against Tunisian independence in U.N. Israel doesn't give full citizenship to its Arab citizens within its borders. And by its failure to formulate its own independent foreign policy Israel makes its position in the Middle East insecure. But considering that, in spite of all its mistakes, Israel has made such progress only to find its territory endangered, it deserves support.

I would like the paper to revive a popular column like the one by Ted Tinsley.

—A Friend

Ed. Note: The Daily Worker has consistently opposed any aggression against Israel and has supported its right to get arms for defense. Our proposals on how to settle the crisis are now being realized in reality.

The Mister Mystery

GRAND RAPIDS

Editor, Daily Worker:

This time Mr. "Mr." killed me. In one quarter of a page article DW April 13 page 5—thirteen misters and one comrade. Mistery make me mad and couldn't finish the article. Every

step I made, I stepped on Mr. "Mr." face. I do not like hypocrisy. If you can't digest one word comrade you do not need to say "Mr. Mr." all the time. You can simply write Alan Max instead of Mr. Max—F. M.

[Ed. Note: Our style is the name without the Mr. But the article, already in type, was lifted from our Pennsylvania edition, which has its own style. Incidentally that's the style of most newspapers, including the London Daily Worker. But we agree with F.M. on simply a name.]

Why in a Polish Paper?

Editor, Daily Worker:

Why did the information about the Soviet Jewish writers appear in a Polish Yiddish paper? Why not in Pravda, New Times or a Soviet Jewish newspaper?

The experience of American Communists in fighting racial discrimination against Negroes, Puerto Ricans and the Jewish minority has been so effective it is shocking that a successful socialist land could suffer such a tragedy.

I agree with your editorial and with Steve Nelson that everything can not be thrown on a "Beria misled us" rationalization.

I have been a Communist for 26 years. —F. P. F.

How Could Such Crimes Happen?

W. PENN.

Editor, Daily Worker:

Your editorial "Grievous Deeds" rocked me like a ton of bricks. Recently I read in the Daily Worker a letter from a socialist that there was anti-Semitism used in Russia. I was surprised that the Daily printed that letter because I just could not believe it. But when I read about the horrible deeds in the editorial my wife and I felt terrible.

As Negro members of the movement for more than 20 years we always told our Negro and white friends with great pride how racial equality was established in the Soviet Union.

How come these things were allowed to happen in the Soviet Union? Was Stalin so powerful he could even use the ugliest instrument of capitalism, racism? Where were the other leaders? As you said in your editorial they owe the people an explanation.

Steel Worker from W. Pa.