

# SPEAK YOUR PIECE

## Arab-Israel Question

Editor, Daily Worker:

I was interested in the letter of "A Reader" in the "Speak Your Piece" of July 9.

The writer takes to task a critic of events in the Near-East, noting (with surprise!) a favorable attitude to the Arab-bloc nations, and a corresponding "commitment" on the part of Israel to the "imperialist policies of the West." Having "long ago" become in "favor of Communist ideas," our writer does "not see how it is possible to feel sympathetic" to the semi-feudal Arab regimes, without conceding that they are anti-colonialist. For a Marxist, therefore, he feels that support should be given to Israel, where, "whatever wealth exists is used for the benefit of the whole community" and to the Jews, who "as a people, have contributed more to higher ideals than any other group."

How can Marxists forget that from the very beginning of scientific socialism, a sharp distinction was drawn between the interests and ideology of the workers and those of the bourgeoisie within each colonial, oppressed or small nation.

While the pashas and effendis of the Arab world still torture, imprison and shoot-down their workers and peasants and intellectuals who demand liberation from the burdens of imperialist exploitation, they have been unable to rule in the old way of subservience to the imperialists, and increasingly in one Arab country after another, have been forced to move towards resistance to imperialism, if only to preserve their own rule. Where the people's forces have become stronger, the process has required them to make real concessions for the welfare of the masses, such as in Egypt, or to outwardly at least, repudiate an adherence to the Western imperialist bloc, such as recently in Jordan.

The strike-struggles of the Arab oil workers in Saudi Arabia, while brutally crushed time and time again, have had the effect of driving its rulers into a policy of alliance with the Arab bloc, while still deriving their main sustenance from the exploitation of the oil workers by the Wall Street outfit of the Arabian-American Oil Co.

The Arab feudal lords play their tune of "destroy Israel," and buy the guns and tanks from Dulles to keep their own workers down, and they know that the U. S. State Department will meanwhile respect their "right" to discriminate against Jews in the U. S. and to spread anti-Semitic propaganda even in this country, as long as the oil super-profits keep flowing to Wall Street.

In the meantime, our policy-makers refuse arms to Israel for defense, assured that the tie to American imperialism will prevent Ben Gurion from biasing his policy on an alliance with the progressive forces in the Arab world, and with the growing anti-imperialist and peace forces of Geneva, Bandung, etc.

As Marxists, our job in this country is to patiently explain to the Zionist and non-Zionist workers, intellectuals and middle-class Jews in the U.S., that it is our own capitalists who constitute the greatest danger to the Jewish state. Without their strangle-hold on Israel's economy, the progressive (and growing) forces within Israel could follow a path of "neutrality" and thereby obtain the strength and prestige of a Big Four settlement and negotiation with her Arab neighbors, and a reaching out to the progressive forces in the Near-East, who now conceive Israel as a potential imperialist instrument against the gains they have made.

But above all, we must convince and mobilize the American

people, Jew and non-Jew, for a policy by our State Department for Big 4 negotiations and settlement in the Near-East, and for an end of a policy of pandering to oil profits, and end of arms shipments to all countries, and an end of complacent acceptance of Arab anti-Semitism, whether in passports to American citizens, or by propaganda agents in the U. S.

-A JEWISH WORKER

## Urges Straight Reporting

CHICAGO.

Editor, Daily Worker:

Walter Reuther may have ulterior motives in his request that a delegation of Polish-American UAW members be allowed to visit Poland. But it was in bad taste for the Daily Worker to editorialize Reuther's motives in a news story with quote marks around such words as "probe" and "investigate."

There must be more straight reporting of news whether we like the policies or proposals made by others or not. If, in the context of a news story there are other facts which can be added to the story to show up the real intent of proposals they could be included to balance the picture.

If the Daily Worker wants to take issue with Reuther for his proposals they should not hesitate to do so editorially. But in this case, I think the paper could perform a constructive service if it supported Reuther's proposal and dealt frankly with what might have been his motives.

Even if a biased group of UAW members were sent to Poland (and that need not be) the invitation itself could help to prove the Polish government's contention that it has nothing to hide with respect to the recent developments in Poznan.

To help assure an objective accounting of conditions in Poland and the developments leading up to the Poznan riots, delegations from other unions, mass organizations, liberal and progressive groups should be encouraged to request invitations to visit that country. And the Daily Worker could demand that the State Department issue a passport for a correspondent from the paper to go along.

Bill Sennett.

(Editor's Note: - This letter was written before the publication of George Morris' column on Reuther's proposal.)

## Work, Not Tears Held Needed

CLEVELAND.

Editor, Daily Worker:

"Have you no tears?" asks Alex Leslie in a letter to the DW in which he throws his lot in with the moralizers and breast-beaters. The question is addressed in those who try to take a more sober, rational view.

Yes, Leslie, we have shed many a tear—who could read the Report without it? Certainly no supporter of socialism.

In the first place, not everyone makes a public spectacle of his emotions. In the second place, and this seems to be the affliction of many writing in the DW, we shouldn't be blinded by tears so that we cannot see the central fact—the continued existence of the Soviet Union.

Finally, to measure a political situation we need a political yardstick, not a moral one. There is no moral crisis, except perhaps among middle class intellectuals divorced from the mainstream of life.

How do workers feel about the questions agitating our movement? What is the level of consciousness of the average industrial worker? On the score of union consciousness, many large locals have trouble securing the presence of a quorum to hold regular membership meetings. Two percent of the mem-

bership is an average turnout, ranging up to 5 percent, except in strike situations or contract ratifications. Baseball, horseshoeing and sex, listed alphabetically, are way ahead of unionism in the consciousness of the average worker. About socialist consciousness, the less said the better.

Obviously the debate about Stalin hasn't hindered our relationship with, or created a crisis among, the main body of the rank and file. As for Communist workers, here and abroad, anybody who comes face to face with capitalism daily at the point of production will continue to fight for socialism as a solution to his daily problems. They will not quit because socialism was imperfect under Stalin.

Claude Lightfoot stated aptly that this whole discussion will prove sterile unless we move out more among masses of people. So let's throw away the crying towel and get to work. Only by our work can we keep faith with those who perished under the hand of Stalin's mad despotism. Tears may drown the wind but they don't wash away the world's most powerful capitalist class.

-READER.

## "Prep Schools" In Soviet Union

Editor, Daily Worker:

What is wrong with the Soviet Union? No sooner do they eliminate one undemocratic institution than the Soviet leaders think up a new one.

Now it is "prep schools." The best teachers, the best sites, the best equipment must be set aside to educate a Soviet elite.

Some woody pseudo-Marxist analysis might convince us that somehow it is right, but our common sense and conscience would have to be over-ruled in the process. It will be a miracle if the upper strata of Soviet society do not use their influence to get their children in these schools. And after the deflation of the Stalin myth who can still believe in miracles?

PRO-DEMOCRACY.

## Daily Worker

Published daily except Saturday and Sunday by the Publishers New Press, Inc., 25 E. 12th St., New York 3, N. Y. Telephone ALgonquin 4-7914.

Registered as second class matter Oct. 22, 1940 at the post office at New York, N. Y., under the Act of March 3, 1879.

3 mos. \$6.00, 1 year \$12.00

Daily Worker only \$4.00 \$7.00 \$12.00

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

(Except Foreign)

Daily Worker & Worker 4.75 9.00 13.00

The Worker 2.00 3.00 4.00

## CONSTRUCTION WIN FIRST PE

PITTSBURGH. - A new five year contract between the AFL Laborers District Council of western Pennsylvania and the Master Builders Association of that area establishes the first pension plan in the U. S. for laborers in the construction industry.

The association, which represents between 500 and 700 firms and handles about 90 percent of the dollar volume of commercial building construction, will pay 5 cents per man-hour worked into a special pension fund jointly administered by the two sides.

The package agreement, effective last June 27, provides an overall wage hike of 15 cents hourly this year with a further 7½-cent raise next June 1.

Between 8,000 and 10,000 skilled and semi-skilled laborers embraced in 10 locals will benefit. Twelve counties are covered: Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Butler, Clarion, Fayette, Greene, Indiana, Jefferson and Washington.

The laborers also have a separate welfare program in effect since 1953 under which the employers contribute 7½ cents per