

SPEAK YOUR PIECE

"Criticism" Of Leaders

NEW YORK.

Editor, Daily Worker:

I have been disturbed for many years about the way our Party handles criticism of leaders.

When a leader is proven wrong either in theory or in practical work he "gets kicked upstairs" as it were. I will give just two examples:

A section organizer was proven wrong. Instead of sending him to school and/or putting him back in a club, the region gave him a responsibility on the regional committee.

Or—When a full-time regional organizer was proven wrong, the county gave him a responsible job on the county committee, saying only that "he really makes good reports."

I think this comrade should have been put in a shop to learn from the workers.

I know that I am not alone in this 'beef'; several comrades have left the Party for this reason. Let's change this bureaucratic way of handling honest mistakes.

One other thing I'd like to say. There is quite a lot of discussion these days about our Party becoming more democratic.

I would like to agree with those who want the National Convention to be represented directly by the rank and file.

I would like to see at least one comrade from each section at the convention.—Hank.

For More Open Talk On Negro Question

Editor, Daily Worker:

In the past few weeks of wonderful discussions I have been waiting for a bit of discussion on the Negro question as it is shaping up in our upper circles. We know that discussions are going on; what they are all about, it is hard to say.

We have been relying on the "grapevines" for our information. I think that if our position on the Negro question is being changed or if there are differences, these discussions or differences should not be limited to leadership. It's too much of an important question to be gotten through the "grapevines."

The people in shops who have to handle certain questions, the people in the neighborhoods who have a wealth of experience particularly those living in Negro communities should be aware of the position being dis-

cussed and given a chance to add their opinions.

Some feel that the Negro people are not a nation in the United States, others feel that the Negro people are not ready to accept anything but complete integration—those are their demands and we should be guided by those demands. And then again the feeling that the National question was handled incorrectly.

What is meant by the National question being handled incorrectly? Do the Negro people in America possess the characteristics of a nation, or don't they? We in the rank and file should be given a chance to discuss the pro and cons of this question and not wait until convention rolls around, be given the Party position and told this is it. In spite of all the democracy we are supposed to have in the future, I don't as yet see it coming to life.—R.U.

Time for Broad Socialist Periodical

PHILADELPHIA.

Editor, Daily Worker:

The Cominform Bulletin, *For a Lasting Peace, for a People's Democracy*, served a good purpose in its time by making available the views of outstanding Marxist leaders. Since the publication of the Bulletin came to an end, material previously available has become practically inaccessible.

Today, however, the need for full knowledge of theoretical and practical developments among the adherents of socialism is no less great than before. I believe that the time is ripe to consider the publication of periodicals of the following type, which would in fact go far beyond the purposes of the Cominform Bulletin:

1. A periodical containing the major statements of both Communist and Socialist representatives throughout the world, to be circulated internationally and translated into all necessary languages.

2. A journal, containing articles especially written for it, by leading Communists and Socialists, to be a vehicle for the exchange of views on all questions of mutual interest.

These organs could be published by a committee of representatives of communism and socialism from various nations.

Undoubtedly such publications, going far beyond the scope and intent of previous ones, would do much to facili-

tate the development of international working class unity, by providing a systematic means for friendly interchange and mutual examination of views.

Permit me to suggest for the consideration of socialists and communists of the United States that we could make a splendid contribution to the cause of peace and socialism by proposing to the representatives of the international working class movement the establishment of the stated periodicals.—D.R.

Stalin "Needed" Psycho-Therapy

SAN FRANCISCO

Editor, Daily Worker:

Some recent statements and questions about Stalin made by certain Communist leaders show a lack of psychological understanding and a religious attitude to Stalin.

Not being able to answer their own questions, they recently asked the leaders of the Soviet Party to explain why they did not take action against Stalin during his lifetime.

These critics would have been on stronger ground had they asked why the Central Committee chose Stalin as general secretary in spite of Lenin's warning.

It is true that even at that time Stalin's achievements had produced a dangerous degree of hero worship of Stalin; but the prestige of Lenin was greater. So the leaders could safely have carried out his advice to choose someone else.

A more basic reason in my opinion, for their failure to act on Lenin's advice was their ignorance of psychology, in contrast to Lenin's relative expertness. This expertness was shown by his warnings about Trotsky's morbid will to power. It appears also in Lenin's unpublished note, outlining the duties of the Control Commission, recently made public.

Lenin recommended "a deep, individualized relationship with, and sometimes even a type of therapy for . . . those who have experienced a psychological crisis." Lenin advised that "such people should be patiently educated without the application of extreme methods."

It is not surprising that Lenin's note was suppressed in Stalin's life time. Stalin's mental sickness would probably prevent him from using psychological self-control and certainly put the whole science of psychology in the doghouse. A professor of psychology complained in a So-

HOTEL UNION PAPER TALKS OF 'CULT OF PERSONALITY'

Unionists of America should be warned against the "deadening" influence of the "cult of the personality," says an editorial in the current issue of *Catering Industry Employee*, official organ of the Hotel and Restaurant Employees International Union.

The editorial, titled "The Cult of Personality" follows:

"The history-making downgrading of the late Joseph Stalin now going on in the USSR, with its denunciation of the 'cult of the personality' may have an unintended side effect: the strengthening of the institutions of democracy in those parts of the world lying beyond the Soviet orbit.

"It is doubtful whether any nation's internal political affairs ever had anything like the world-wide press coverage being given Soviet efforts to restore 'collective leadership' at all levels of society, with its hand-maiden of figuring things out for yourself. The world is being given a liberal education in what happens when you let Big Brother do your thinking.

"Kind of pulls you up short and brings you to ask: How far have we permitted this 'cult of personality' to penetrate our own society? Are we inclined to

abdicate our duty to figure things out for ourselves, and to fight for our right to help make the collective decisions so necessary for freedom?"

"When you think of it a whole host of lesser Big Brothers are at work among us. Sometimes it's a preacher, sometime a politician. Sometimes it's a corporation tycoon, sometimes an union official. Sometimes it's a columnist or maybe a commentator.

"Union, churches, companies, communities, schools and colleges—society itself—all need independent thinking by plain people. And all need the channels through which ideas from plain people can flow to the top of the democratic pyramid.

"This is why secretary-treasurer Jack Weinberger's piece this month (page 25) is an important one to read. 'Convention,' he says 'are for members.' Like union meetings they are a place where the creative independent thinking of plain union members can be helpful in fertilizing the good earth of our labor movement.

"Let the day never come when it can be said that 'the cult of the personality' has laid its deadening hand on free trade unions"

The "Dogma" Label

BRONX, N. Y.

Editor, Daily Worker:

No sooner are we rid of one set of clichés than others crop up; such as the latest, "dogmatism" and "dogmatism."

Everybody uses them as a convenient stick to beat his opponent. I think, therefore, they could stand re-definition.

Dogma is a set of principles that one acquires in connection with a belief. In the case of a left Marxist it means belief in the class struggle, belief that a socialist society is superior to a capitalist one and belief in the role of the working class in the establishment of Socialism.

These are basic and must be adhered to, if one has the right to call himself a Socialist, and are not to be cast overboard at any pretext.

Just because weeds have sprung out on the garden of Socialism that does not mean we quit gardening, but rather like a true social scientist we probe our soil, apply better fertilizer and get a better crop.

This little piece is directed at the Max Weiss school who developed a new definition—"a dogmatist is anyone who disagrees with Max Weiss."

MANNY G.