

# SPEAK YOUR PIECE

## Prosperity Held Phony

PHILADELPHIA  
Editor, Daily Worker:

As the pendulum swings from one side to the other, so our thinking is swayed by our leadership. A couple of years ago we were thinking in terms of a depression. However, that did not happen, instead we have a phony prosperity.

It is here that I disagree with the theoretical approach of some of our CP leaders. Since we were wrong about the depression, then we must have prosperity. Is that a fact? This I think is a mechanical approach.

I happen to disagree with William Foster's article on why our Party has lost so many members. Foster cites two main reasons:

1. Government attacks
2. Economic prosperity of the workers.

As to the first argument I happen to know that we lost approximately 1,000 members here before the cold was really going (between 1945-1947). We lost hundreds of Negro members in that period. As to the cold war period, I agree with Foster. The cold war was turned into a hot war against our membership. Workers were thrown out of industry, blacklisted, etc., under those attacks, a section of our membership was chopped off.

I claim we have a phony prosperity. While the workers are getting more money, their wages have not kept up with the high cost of living. The fact that two or more people have to work to provide the groceries, pay rent, pay off the mortgage is an indication that the workers real wages have not increased. But the main argument is the conditions the workers have to work under.

Nowhere in the world are workers subjected to the terrible speedup as in our good old USA. I worked with a little Scotsman who came to this country recently. He lost 20 pounds in two months working alongside of me.

Workers in the building trades have to put out so much every day, otherwise you don't come back to work the next day. A team of two painters have to paint approximately 35 ceilings a day. Two plasterers have to coat out an entire 6-room house including hall, closets, cellarway and garage. Electricians have to put out so many outlets. Same conditions prevail among carpenters, plumbers, etc. Each year the speedup gets worse. At the end of a day the worker is wrung dry. He can hardly walk to a bus or street car, young and old are complaining. Similar conditions prevail in the industrial plants in the Delaware valley.

Speaking of automation, the new U. S. steel plant in Morrisville (as an example) has built a tremendous power plant, which should employ about 300 workers. There are only 15 trained college boys who read charts and press buttons. If a certain machine breaks down, it stops operation immediately and an alarm is sounded to a maintenance crew who service the entire steel plant, who fix it in a jiffy. More than 96 percent of the workers are eliminated there.

In the building trades there is a large group of workers who are unacceptable to the bosses, ages from 50 to 65. Too old to stop in the threadmill. A gap of 15 years to wait for old age benefits. If you read the trade union journals in their memoriam columns you'll find that a good percentage never reach 65.

As a youth I entered industry 33 years ago. I find that there is less steady work today than ever (excluding the last depression). It wasn't many years ago that a contractor would take a job at cost during winter months to keep his crew going during the slack season. Now a con-

tractor can hire 20 men in the morning, finish the job and lay off the men the same day. Only a small percentage of workers have steady jobs.

It is no wonder that the worker today is plagued with nervousness, physical breakdowns, and have the highest percentage of insanity in the world.

Although workers have gadgets television sets, cars, maybe own a house, so what? The majority are in bock over their necks I say that the workers have a phony prosperity and they know it. There is a dent that presses into the groin of the worker.

In the words of Potofsky, when the Republicans were speaking of prosperity: "Prosperity for whom?"

Incidentally, I am in total disagreement with those who advocate liquidating the Party. This is an extreme form of mechanical approach. You don't tear the old home down until you build a new one. If there is a new mass party that will strive for Socialism, it must be geared to the main base, the working class.

-R. F.

## Wants Less 'Sniping'

Editor, Daily Worker:

Your foreign editor seems to be enjoying more sniping at our friends than exposing the misdeeds of our enemies. Moreover, he is so busy with this particular job that he neglects his main task of informing the readers of the Daily Worker about events abroad, including Latin America. This type of sniping has become almost a fetish with Joe Clark.

A case in point is his Sept. 12 column, entitled: Democracy Advances In Poland." He is telling the readers that the press of the people's democracies, such as Poland, Hungary, Romania, Czechoslovakia, etc., has been imitating Pravda even as to make up.

Anyone familiar with the European press—bourgeois or labor—knows that the make-up is different from ours. Editorials will be found on the front page left hand, as Clark said. But that has been the case not only with Pravda but with all the papers of the countries of the people's democracies before the people rid themselves of the feudal and capitalist rulers. And incidentally, it is true even today in the capitalist countries of Europe. As a matter of fact, some of the English newspapers carry ads on page one.—H. F.

## Workers Journalism Classes Proposed

NEWARK, N. J.

Editor, Daily Worker:

It is gratifying to see so many readers of the Daily Worker and Worker able to express themselves and their thoughts in writing. If I may make a guess it is probably due in no small part to the role of the DW and Worker.

The paper has after many years imbued many of its readers with an understanding of events, problems etc., which makes it possible for steady readers of the paper to think more clearly and simply on events, national and international, which at times are of a complicated nature.

I write the above as a lead up to the following suggestion. The many readers who write nowadays for the paper are no doubt more than readers. They may be considered very dear friends of the paper. Why doesn't the editorial staff offer to organize and lead and teach groups of DW letter writers in the art of working-class journalism.

Why not call upon the letter writers to join together in small groups and call upon a member of the editorial staff to come down and give a six to ten-week course on journalism, using such sessions, first to advance further

the abilities of all present to write more and write better, second to organize such correspondents groups as builders and promoters of the paper for which they write.

A BUDDING WRITER, B. J.

## No Easy Way to End Isolation

SCHENECTADY, N. Y.  
Editor, Daily Worker:

Over the past few months there seems to be a subtle underground in the articles for discussion to dissolve the Party. These articles, written mainly by leadership, while disclaiming this dissolution, present all arguments for dissolution.

Mike Russo, in his article has finally brought this call out into the open, on the basis that we have outlived our usefulness and must merge with other groups.

While I disagree with his proposition, let's examine certain assumptions he and others have made.

First, what other Socialist groups? The splinter groups, such as the Socialist Workers Party, Socialist Labor Party, etc., who have no base in or a perspective toward the working class? Or the Socialist Party, whose ideology is toward reformed capitalism?

Secondly, suppose we agree and decide this is what we are going to do. What makes us think these organizations are going to say "Welcome," or "The doors are wide open" because we no longer use the name Communist? Will they still not fear our militancy and influence among the working class, the Negro people, the liberals, and the progressive minded people? Yes, we still have influence on these people, make no mistake about that!

No, I cannot believe there is any easy way for us to break out of the isolation forced upon us by a strong imperialist government determined to crush our Party and helped by our youthful mistakes.

I believe it is going to be a long, hard pull, to prove our devotion to the best interests of the working class, the Negro people, the farmers, etc. We must again earn our leadership among them. I feel that this can best be done by a Communist Party strong in Socialist ideology, thinking independently, honestly concerned with democratic principles in and out of the Party, with courage enough to listen to the people and to rid itself of bureaucracy.

This bureaucracy has misinterpreted the concepts of our Party's constitution and democratic centralism. Is there anything more democratic than the idea that the membership control the policies or that once having decided these policies by a majority vote of the entire membership that these policies be carried out while at the same time the minority disagreeing has the right and duty to fight for their ideas until all ideas are clarified, considered and either accepted or rejected by the majority of the membership again. This has not been the practice up to this point.

Do we grow our neighbors' garden when we have not learned to plant and weed our own? Do we burn our house just because the roof has a leak or one of the rooms was not built correctly, even though the foundation is solid?

The road to Socialism is not an easy one and has many detours, there are no short cuts and we must find the best way for us to reach our destination, Socialism.

I feel this can only be done with a strong, courageous and democratic Communist Party, holding the flashlight of Socialist science to light the road.

PARTY MEMBER

## Gil Reaches Fifty

# The Gil Green Family Marks a 50th Birthday



Gil Green rejoins his family briefly in Foley Square before his imprisonment. Left to right: Josie, Danny, Lil, Gil, Ralphie..

By CARL HIRSCH

CHICAGO

Gil Green must be home before we can say that the cold war has been really extinguished and the McCarthyite wave has been stemmed.

That is the reminder tied on the finger of democratic America, a reminder made urgent as the Illinois Communist leader spends his 50th birthday on Sept. 24 in the Leavenworth penitentiary.

In the Green family home, on Chicago's Northwest Side, the remoteness of the miles and the years can hardly separate Gil from his loved ones. For Mrs. Lil Green, the coming birthday is an occasion for drawing the family circle even more closely around "the favorite man" of this household.

The birthday is meaningful for the towering 19-year-old Danny Green, who has been the man of the house over these years. The beauteous and blossoming young lady, 15-year-old Josie, pauses from the teen-age social whirl to talk about the birthday of her dad.

AND then there is 11-year-old Ralphie, plodding through a grammar lesson with the patient help of his mother. Even from this young fellow, you get the sense of burning pride and rich affection which this family feels for Gil.

"This birthday is of course a special date for us," says Lil Green, "but we share it gladly with the thousands of Gil's friends and co-workers."

September 24 is actually a significant date for many other Americans to whom Gil's imprisonment symbolizes the unfinished business of American democracy.

"In the name of humanity and simple justice, what has our country come to if political opinions are still used to keep a man like Gil Green locked in Leavenworth penitentiary for the best years of his life?" That was the way Mrs. Green posed the question in a letter which she sent out recently with copies of Gil Green's powerful book, "The Enemy Forgotten."

MANY of Gil's friends will want to send him a birthday greeting, addressed PMB 73335 at Leavenworth, Kansas.

But an even more meaningful observance of this birthday is for friends to pass on to others one or more copies of the book which is Gil Green's great contribution to an understanding of our times. In "The Enemy Forgotten," Gil Green discloses the true foe of America's democratic majority.

And the book does something more. It tears the shroud of fog from a question which has been troubling many Americans—Is there really some conspiracy, some fifth-column threat to American security from the Communists?

The book also reveals the Communist, the flesh-and-blood Communist whom Gil Green has symbolized from his groping years in Chicago's schools, through his brilliant career as a youth leader and finally as a mature and capable party leader.

IF THE BOOK tells that personal story, it is told once again in the sheaf of treasured letters which his family now keeps so carefully, letters that mark off the days of a cruel eight-year prison sentence like calendar leaves.

They are letters alive with Gil's rich vitality, his humor, his probing intelligence, his tender humanism. There are the warm-hearted birthday letters as each member of the family reaches another milestone.

The letters picture Gil pondering America's problems as he carries out his dull routine of dispensing prison garb, studying Spanish, learning and then setting aside chess-playing because even in prison "there is not enough time" for him to spend it on the royal game.

PERIODICALLY, when there is money enough, the family makes the long trip to visit with their beloved Gil. But even those moments, so brief, are priceless for Lil Green and for the children.

Ralphie was a first-grader when his father was compelled to become a political refugee from the McCarthy terror. And unless the McCarthyite vengeance against Gil Green can be ended, Ralphie may be a high school graduate before his father is home.

All across America, a renewed cry must be raised now for the freeing of the Smith Act victims. And the plea for amnesty becomes a thousand times more compelling a political task when you see its meaning in the home of the Green family.

"They are such wonderful children," says the courageous Lil Green, "and they need their father."

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