

# SPEAK YOUR PIECE

## "Open Wide the Door . . ."

PHILADELPHIA.

Editor, Daily Worker:

A discussion has now been going on for some time about the past and the future of the Communist Party. Some writers see nothing but gloom and disaster ahead. I cannot share this opinion.

As I see it, the policy of the party in the post-war years has been basically correct. Thanks largely to the efforts of the socialist countries and the Communist parties in the capitalist countries the world has been spared the holocaust of atomic war, and the onslaught of the fascist forces in the U.S.A. were at least partially checked.

The key to the future lies not in condemning the leadership of the party or tearing it asunder. The very viciousness with which capitalism has attacked the party proves beyond a doubt that the capitalists recognize the party as the main stumbling block to their drive towards war and fascism.

There is one thing that must be done, however, and that is to rid the party of all remnants of opportunism and bureaucracy. Discipline in the Communist Party cannot be based on fear of authority. The party can only be and must be a party of volunteers.

The strength of the party lies in the motivation of its members. It must be an organization where the individual can find expression for the motives that made him join the party in the first place. We must find in the Communist Party an organization without racial bias, without the economic and social snobbery rampant in capitalist society.

What an individual gives to the Communist Party he gives willingly, not through compulsion. The Communist Party

must be the voice of life and hope for the millions. We must learn to speak the language of the masses, not through a dogmatic language, dry as sawdust.

Let us stop talking about subjective and objective conditions and speak to the masses in a voice vibrant with life and hope. Instill in their minds and hearts the conviction and confidence that they have the power to prevent another world war, that they have the power to build a world without war and without poverty, where every man and woman will be engaged in socially useful work and receive in return the best organized society can provide.

The Communist Party must open wide the door to the rank and file of both organized and unorganized workers. We have heard the expression: "Quality before quantity"—but the fact remains that there can be no quality without quantity. Without quantity we haven't got the power. There are no secrets within the Communist Party. We want the whole world to know what we stand for. So open wide the door! Enclosed \$10 for emergency committee.

—N.C.C.

## Enjoyed Every Issue

Emmett, Ida.

Editor, Daily Worker:

Yes, indeed, I have enjoyed every issue I've had of the Daily Worker, but I'm afraid I'm going to have to wait about one week to subscribe. I'd love to right now, but—I wish to subscribe for one year and I just started working in a fruit packing house, and at the same time when I subscribe for a year I also want to send in \$10 to help keep our wonderful paper going.

I just finished reading in the Aug. 21 "Speak Your Piece," "Who Is a Socialist?" I share this man's views to the letter. Indeed, I must be a true Socialist—note where Mr. Stinson says

"every true Socialist believes that he who makes a profit out of the labor of others is a thief." Well, we have lots of thieves, haven't we?

Here's one thing I've been wanting to say for a long time, regarding the re-evaluation of Stalin. I can say this much for all those Socialist countries—they do admit their past mistakes. They all do—but what about America? Do any of our leaders, or any of our courts, admit their mistakes? No—no—you bet they don't. I believe one can trust one as long as one admits one's mistakes, but I don't trust anybody who doesn't admit his or her mistakes. One's actions speak louder than words.

Here's another thing I wish to say: I heard both the Democratic and Republican conventions. The latter one sounded too "cut and dried," as the expression goes. Why have any convention when it's that "cut and dried"? Looks like mockery to me.

Of course, I'm neither a Democrat nor a Republican. I do think we need a Socialist party, though. I believe these two parties are afraid to let the Socialist have an equal chance. I've been for years accepting the lesser of the two evils—but I'm not, any more. I'll tell them so.

Well, in about one week or thereabouts, I'll renew my subs, and also send that other money.

—Reader.

## What's Behind Parties' Stand on Peace?

CHICAGO.

Dear Editor:

A cold sober examination of the real situation and the left's short and long run ability to influence it is necessary.

First, since both parties are run and paid for by capitalists, would it not seem logical to see which capitalists pay for and therefore exert great influence in each, and whether one group

might be more inclined to a war policy than the other? The support of Truman by Consolidated-Vultee's Johnson in '48, his immediate appointment as Secretary of Defense and the \$600 million order for that company's obsolete bombers which followed are the sort of thing I mean.

The Boeing and other big war-plane people are certainly not disinterested spectators in the war-whooping antics of Senators Symington, Jackson, etc., the two named coming from states where warplanes are big business. Perhaps this example is not typical, but at least let's have the study, because whatever promises are wrung from either party by popular pressure for peace, will stand much less chance of being met if made by representatives of those segments of capital which can profit ONLY from war economy.

Second, on the ability of the Democrats to deliver a peace policy even if they want to, there are some serious questions. I listened to hours of the testimony before their platform committee preceding the convention on the day it considered foreign policy.

When a representative of a peace-oriented organization suggested that rather than attack Eisenhower for Geneva, they would have to come up with a better peace program than the Republicans if they wanted to return to office, you could see that a sore spot had been hit. A California Congressman (name escapes me) who was playing a leading role in the committee's work, proceeded to put his foot between his dentures. He asked the witness if the world after four years of the Eisenhower administration was as stable as it had been in 1952. Of course there was some shooting going on in Korea, he nervously added, but aside from that weren't things more stable in 1952?

Still not satisfied that what he had said was helpful to his party's cause this Congressman

put his other foot in his mouth by uttering something we should all ponder carefully. He said that the Eisenhower administration had ended the Korean War by signing a "tenuous truce" which, had the previous Democratic administration (Truman) signed it, would have been met with the united wrath of the Republicans and the almost unanimous public opinion organs of the nation. What he was admitting was that the Democrats were tactically incapable of getting out of the Korean War, something that I felt was the case at the time. Has their self-confidence against the redbaiting and other smears improved since then? I haven't noticed it.

Similarly, on the issue of civil rights, if I vote for or solicit votes for the Democratic House and Senate candidates in Illinois, I help put Eastland and others akin in control of Congress. What Republicans could be worse?

The above and other questions must be answered in order to formulate a scientific approach to the elections. Automatically supporting the Democrats and then trying to get concessions may not be the best way to join the masses and begin to lead them. At least it has not been proven that it is the best way.

L. W.

## Quotations For Labor Day

Editor, Daily Worker:

The two following quotations are, we think, appropriate to your Labor Day edition:

If anything is sacred, the human body is sacred—Walt Whitman, I Sing the Body Electric, . . . children dying of pellagra must die because a profit cannot be taken from an orange. And coroners must fill in certificates—died of malnutrition—because the food must rot, must be forced to rot—John Steinbeck, The Grapes of Wrath.

MR. and MRS. CARL JEFFERSON