

COLLECTIVE LEADERSHIP

AT FIRST the big business press tried to prove that Khrushchev was establishing himself as a "dictator" in the Soviet Communist Party.

Now that speaker after speaker at the 20th Congress, not least of them Khrushchev himself, has emphasized collective leadership, the capitalist press is not so sure anymore. As a matter of fact these big business papers cannot conceal their amazement at the ability of a party to operate as a collective body not by decision of a party boss or by the bribes of oil and gas companies.

Ever since the death of Stalin there has been a good deal of reevaluation within the Soviet Communist Party. Certain practices, such as the glorification of individual leaders, were criticized and discarded. And once more Marxists are demonstrating that scientific socialism has no dogmas.

But in an editorial yesterday the New York Post sheds some unnecessary tears over the alleged plight "for the world's Communists." For Communists, the Post says, the old dogma is discarded and "a new dogma must have its day."

If the Post was candid it could have shown that American Communists took a stand on matters such as peaceful transition to socialism and a parliamentary path to socialism long before Khrushchev chose to discuss this in his report. As a matter of fact, many of the ideas developed by Khrushchev are based on views which were expressed a long time ago by Marxists in various countries.

Obviously the capitalist press is able to shed little light and would rather conceal the significance of the creative kind of Marxist thought being expressed at the 20th Congress. But for Marxists everywhere this is another indication that a scientific view of society and history demands constant reevaluation, constant study, constant development, and criticism and self-criticism. This paper will have much more to say about the 20th Congress as the texts and materials discussed become available.