

# HOWARD FAST

WE WERE sorry to read in the New York Times that the outstanding novelist and former columnist for this paper, Howard Fast, feels he can no longer work or write in the Communist movement.

We are firmly convinced that Fast is mistaken, just as we have felt that Joseph Starobin and John Steuben, who publicly took somewhat similar positions, were mistaken. If ever there was a time when people could present and fight for their point of view within the Communist movement, this is it.

We also regret that Fast, like Starobin and Steuben, went to another publication to present his views on the party, rather than taking advantage of the free discussion prevailing in the columns of the Daily Worker. The attitude of the New York Times towards socialism hardly needs describing here.

Fast says that he is "neither anti-Soviet nor anti-Communist" and we have no doubt that he and others who have taken similar steps will continue on the side of progress and socialism. We disagree with anyone who may be inclined to look upon them as "enemies" of socialism, as was often done in the past. This does not lessen our strong disagreement with the step they have taken.