

Salute to the Daily Worker

Gurley Flynn Says: Build Worker

By ELIZABETH G. FLYNN

IT IS with a heavy heart and feelings of profound regret which I know are shared by all of my co-workers in the National Committee and the national leadership of the Communist Party that I address these words of warmest greeting and deep appreciation to our Daily Worker, which suspends today. We come not to mourn, however, but to praise the valiant efforts of this heroic working class paper of socialism, during over three decades of struggle, and to pledge our faith that this suspension will be of short duration and of a temporary character.

It is fitting on this occasion that we honor in a very special tribute those loyal, self-sacrificing courageous editors and staff members who have carried on under tremendous difficulties and whose support and cooperation does not end today. Their devotion has carried us through this difficult period of liquidating the Daily and preserving The Worker. They have been worthy heirs to the fighting traditions of their predecessors, Bob Minor and Louis Engdahl, once editors of this paper; Alfred Wagenknecht, who was its business manager, and Mother Bloor, who hitchhiked the breadth of this country to get subs.

Likewise we pay a very special tribute to the friends and readers of this paper, especially the members of our party, who, over the many years, carried the paper to picket lines, unemploy-

ed demonstrations, homes of miners and steel workers and who gave without stint to their last dollar to save the paper on innumerable occasions. We share their sense of loss today.

I wish I had the space to relate what this paper has meant to all of us, not only in the long ago past in the historic struggles to free Tom Mooney, save Sacco and Vanzetti, defend the Scottsboro boys and Angelo Herndon in the struggle against fascism, and to build the CIO. But more recently what a tower of strength was this paper in exposing McCarthyism, in the defense of Communists all over the country in Smith Act cases; in fighting the McCarran Act, in defending the rights of the foreign born, in the efforts to secure amnesty for Winston, Green and Potash.

Let us not minimize the many important struggles won on all these fronts nor fail to give due credit to our paper for its signal contributions. Last Friday the biggest news in the papers was victory against the McCarran Act, which sends the whole seven-year-old case back to the Subversive Activities Control Board.

Victory against the Smith Act was scored in Puerto Rico, where the case against all Communist leaders was dismissed.

Without large advertisements, sustained only by the dollars of workers, this paper has performed valiantly on a hundred fronts in defense of democratic rights, of the rights of labor, of the Ne-

gro people, against the cold war, for peace and co-existence with the socialist countries. Personally I deeply appreciated the fine support of the Daily Worker in my recent campaign on New York's East Side.

Our difficulties are exceptional, as we all know. Plagued by red-baiting harassment of readers, advertisers and dealers, the ever mounting cost of production has become insurmountable. There is no alternative at this moment to this tragic decision to suspend. Other labor papers have been confronted with similar difficulties in cost and were compelled to retrench, such as Labor's Daily.

Our brother paper on the Pacific Coast, the People's World, has ceased to be a daily and become a weekly, as we are now compelled to do. What is important for us to realize is that we make these imperative retrenchments to save The Worker, as our friends and comrades did on the West Coast with their paper.

ON MY RECENT TRIP through Ohio, Michigan and Illinois, I found that many of our readers viewed the suspension as a temporary setback that is inevitable but can be offset by transforming the Worker into a fighting paper with a greatly increased circulation. There is a fine foundation for this in the two special editions now published for Michigan and Illinois, with the excellent coverage of unions and shop news, the local struggles for adequate housing,

the end of segregation, etc. By the united effort of all of us who remain dedicated to this purpose, Party and non-Party friends alike—we will succeed.

The possibilities for resumption of the Daily Worker depend now upon the unfailing constructive efforts we all put into the Worker. We cannot allow deflections from our ranks to demoralize or demobilize us. Let us be done with post-mortems. Editors, staff, correspondents, subscribers, readers, financial supporters, let us close our ranks as a team. In spite of deserters and calamity howlers, if we give them no heed, it can be done. Let us turn our faces outward and deal with the problems that beset the people.

Unemployment grows. Automation increases. The dread of war, the hope for peace, the desire to outlaw the deadly bombs, are in the minds of people everywhere. Negro citizens in the South face violence as they fight disenfranchisement and to win their full rights as Americans. Reactionaries in Congress are set

to defeat just Supreme Court decisions. A new form of vicious anti-labor attack, to replace the Smith Act, is evident in the Cleveland Taft-Hartley Conspiracy case. The fight for democratic rights and economic security continues.

Today, as never before, there is great interest among American workers in socialism, especially since Sputnik rose to the heavens. What would Socialism mean in America? What would it do for us. There is so much to report, to discuss, to bring to the people in 1958. Our paper can be in the forefront as an agitator, an educator, an organizer. I feel the greatest confidence in our ability to do this. With mutual respect and comradeship, staunch cooperation and willing, unfailing support by all, it can be done. Let us approach the future, for our paper and in our Party, with hope and determination to build the Worker today as a rebirth of the Daily Worker tomorrow. To the D.W. we say, Hail! but not Farewell!

CATHOLIC WORKER ASSAILS ROCKEFELLER ARMS REPORT

The Catholic Worker, in an editorial in the current issue, castigates the Rockefeller Report that seeks additional billions for missile warfare as "an insult to all freedom loving people, let alone to Christians." The editorial is signed by Ammon Hennacy.

Entitled "Caesar Speaks," the editorial, in the January Catholic Worker, declared, "To oppose all out war and limited war by a frenzied increase in deadly weapons is

suicide incorporated."

"We have already lost the race to get there fustest with the mostest," said the Catholic Worker in part. "We defer any talks on disarmament until we have achieved supremacy. What did we do when we had this supremacy but arrogantly denounce Red China and continue our support of the dictator Chiang? The logic of capitalism demands that we support all of our investments, and in this respect the Rockefeller Report is logical."