

SPEAK YOUR PIECE

Says Defeat Is No Inspiration

CHICAGO, ILL.

Editor, Daily Worker:

The editors of the D.W. seem determined to sell the old theory that Lenin inveighed against, that disasters are a good thing. "It Is Defeat Which Educates," they head a letter from "Broad-minded" (12-11-56), who quotes the words from Emerson, who for all that he was an inspiring spirit was addicted to intolerably one-sided epigrams. There was no call to make a heading of such a statement, virtually sloganizing it.

Let's try to get it straight, Defeats don't educate a bit; they only offer opportunities for education. The same is true for victories. So let's stop putting premiums on defeats and practically tempting people to seek some more defeats. Some education the German people got out of their defeat in the early '30's, at the hands of the German Steel Trust and its Frankenstein Hitler.

W. R.

Criticizes Khrushchev's New Year's Toast

TOLEDO, OHIO

Editor, Daily Worker:

When I read Khrushchev's New Year toast I thought I was walking in my sleep. Then I quickly got a hold of myself and recalled the horrible impression I derived from his speech at the 20th Congress in which he ripped Stalin apart for his horrible crimes against socialism and humanity.

At that time I looked everywhere in that speech for some self-criticism, both of himself and of the other leaders, who after all worked with Stalin and surely helped carry out the full program of the "cult of the individual." But no such self-criticism came forth.

Since the 20th Congress the Soviet C. P. leaders not only made no self-criticism but strongly rejected any and all comradesly and fraternal criticism from Communists abroad.

And then, ten months since the Khrushchev speech that shook us all, Khrushchev tells us that "Stalin made mistakes but we should share responsibility for these mistakes because we were connected with him."

The tragedy, to my way of thinking, and it is shared by other Communists here, is that since the 20th Congress Khrushchev and the other leaders have departed very little from the infamous and discredited program of the cult of the individual and now at last Khrushchev said a

mouthful when he said that they are proud of the Stalin heritage.

As an American worker of Polish parenthood I rejoice that the Communist Party of Poland under the heroic leadership of the genuine Marxist-Leninist Wladyslaw Gomulka has shaken off the dirt and the blood of the Stalin cult.

I have not lost faith in the Soviet people who are, in spite of the Stalin heritage, proceeding to build socialism and peace. I am, as I always was, for international solidarity of all working people everywhere and of course with our brothers and sisters in the Soviet Union and other socialist countries.

But I hope and pray that this new (is it new?) emergence of Stalinism, as it was so proudly demonstrated by Khrushchev on New Year's Day, and applauded by the rest of the leaders, will keep its hands off socialist Poland. The people of Poland had enough of Stalinist influence. It's about time they could build and enjoy a classless society on the principles of Marxism-Leninism and of the October revolution.

P. Z.

Reader Finds Things "A Bit Odd"

Editor, Daily Worker:

These are a few of the things I find a bit odd these days:

1. That having worshiped Stalin as a demigod, and become disenchanted, we now swallow everything and more that Khrushchev said about Stalin.

2. That for some, the great obstacle to socialism tends to be the past and present Communist Party, rather than monopoly capitalism.

3. That sharp polemic, sharp characterization and sharp reproof are no longer considered democratic, nor fair, nor couth, nor calculated to endear us at once to the American public; in short that they are signs of the die-hard, senile left that should know better in this post-20th Congress era of peaceful coexistence.

4. That to strike out on the American path to socialism we must have a line on Hungary, Israel and Tito that is instantly acceptable to the American public—shades of Korea, Finland, Spain and the Nazi-Soviet pact.

5. That having once accepted Tito as a hidden "fascist," we now boost him as a leader of the multipathed highway to socialism.

6. That the special, democratic traditions of our country, unlike Czarist Russia's, are considered to be based on the most peaceful kind of progress—such

as the peaceful Revolutionary War that won our independence, the peaceful Civil War that abolished human slavery, the peaceful Mexican and Spanish-American wars that expanded our territories, the peaceful interventions that secured to us the raw materials of the Latin-American continent; the peaceful eight-hour day movement, and the peaceful strikes and sit-downs that established industrial unionism.

7. That from a system of yesing a line and an action handed down from above, a new party system is under consideration that would substitute the assured right of each and every individual to perpetual and friendly disagreement.

8. That to remedy past arrogance our present modesty forbids a vanguard role.—M.K.

Has Doubts On Present C.P.

Editor, Daily Worker:

I have my doubts regarding the present status of the Communist Party and the Daily Worker, although of the inevitable outcome no one in his or her right mind can deny that socialism will triumph. For the workingclass will always be with us, furthermore everyone has to or must work.

Your campaign for funds to sustain the "Daily Worker" has my whole-hearted best wishes, though not my financial support at present. I believe that after the Communist Party convention and adoption of a correct national and international American Marxist policy, the necessary contributions will improve noticeably.

It appears to me that there are too many "boys" trying to do a man's job. Such confusion and contradictions. One of the most important problems facing the delegates at this coming CP convention will be "Titoism" and whether or not it's premature.

Regarding the Soviet Union's national and international policy. Some years ago while riding the subway and holding on to a strap I happened to glance up and notice an educational ad, among the business ads, entitled "Facts to Know." It stated that since the beginning of time, some 30 to 40 billions of men lost their lives in Wars. Just wonder those facts and think that if all the above were allowed to live out their normal span of life how many more Marxes, Engels, Lenins, and Einsteins, etc. this world would have had. In closing I wish to state that I am for

the Soviet Union and Socialism all the way.—J.A.W.

On "Slander" And Criticism

Editor, Daily Worker:

James Ford's remarks about the Lester Rodney articles were characterized by Harry Raymond as "slanderous." Ford quite properly holds the DAILY WORKER editors responsible for what appears in the paper, and no one has any business accepting his remarks as a PERSONAL criticism of the members of the DW editorial board. I am at a complete loss to understand this phobia of "name calling" and "vituperation." Criticism is the order of the day. Criticize the past—be as strong as you like. Criticize the present—if it's strong it's "uncomradely polemics." What is this?

Ford made a POLITICAL criticism, and we should be calling for elucidation and rebuttal instead of for apologies.—T.F.

Only One Of the Ways

NEWARK, N. J.

Editor, Daily Worker:

In the present clouds of confusion which beset the "left" world, we have the sinister black clouds of "peaceful transition" making their appearances. It is sinister because it has been the basic sole guide to the tactics and diplomacy of world social democracy. It is the philosophy of the inevitability of gradualness; the philosophy of parliamentarianism, evolutionary changes, etc.

Lenin in his essay on "Tactics and Diplomacy" points out that the working class may use such methods as will protect and advance its cause. In other words, he says, in effect that the proletarians should use the wisest and most intelligent means that the particular situation requires. Certainly, "peaceful transition" can be one of those means. But to utilize such a way only is to straight-jacket and ham string the class struggle in most cases. C.S.

Autotown Alley

DETROIT.

THE Wall Street Journal reports that at the end of December, there were unsold new 1957 cars in the dealers' hands, 550,000. The stockpile rose 300,000 in December and November. This was faster than the pileup in the same two months in 1955. Also you should note that they have been producing cars in lesser amounts. Already GM has cut back 20,000 a month for December, January, of Buicks, Olds, Pontiacs.

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EVEN if all predictions about a "big year in auto" did come true, remember that automation is slicing workers off jobs every day and speeding up those jobs that remain, while the companies profits get higher.

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THE people with low seniority are the ones who will take the beating on jobs on the 1957 model. Watch the end of January for displacing auto workers and layoffs.

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THE Michigan Unemployment Security Commission predicts, 10 to 15 thousand school youth will be in the job market at the end of January in Michigan. Also 10 to 15 thousand new jobless go on unemployment compensation after recent holidays not school youth. Estimate of jobless in Michigan by then—150,000.

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GEORGE MORELLI, UAW regional director on Detroit's East Side looks so far to be the first target of the caucus movement. His opponent will be C. Pat Quinn of Dodge Local 3.

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SOME 40,000 auto workers lost their jobs completely in 1956 because of the plants they worked in closing down, running away to cheap labor areas, or the jobs being farmed out. The list gets longer, Hudson, Packard, Murray Body, Federal, Mogul, Bohn, Federal Truck.

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THE "Voice of 212," UAW newspaper has a moot question in its last issue, "Is it time to build a labor party now?" Lots of people after what happened to Rule 22, might ask themselves the same question. "212" is Emil Mazey's home local.