

SPEAK YOUR PIECE

A Nazi And a Hero

Editor, Daily Worker:

Enclosed find a copy of a letter to the New York Times which that newspaper has just informed me, they did not have the space to print. Readers of the Daily Worker may find it of interest.

To the Editor of the New York Times:

Former Justice William Clark in your issue of Dec. 29, expresses deep indignation at the release by the Allied Parole Commission of Col. Johann Pieper, Nazi commander responsible for the cold-blooded murder of 142 unarmed American GIs at Malmedy.

Sen. Estes Kefauver and J. Adlington Wagner, past commander of the American Legion, have also voiced their protest at Pieper's release.

Perhaps because of lack of public knowledge there has been little protest at the continued imprisonment of an American war hero, Robert Thompson, now serving a combined seven-year sentence under the Smith Act and contempt of court. Thompson won the Distinguished Service Cross for "extraordinary heroism" at Buna, New Guinea, in World War II. Recommended for a battlefield commission, he could not accept the proffered captaincy because of pulmonary tuberculosis. He was discharged in 1943 as a 100 percent disability.

While in prison in 1953 Thompson was a victim of an unprovoked iron-pipe slugging after which his life was saved only by emergency brain surgery. He must wear a metal plate in his skull all his remaining years as a result. On Oct. 12 he again underwent painful cranial surgery and is soon to go under the knife again.

A plea for executive commutation was submitted to the President by Thompson's wife on Oct. 12. Thus far that appeal, as far as is known, rests on some bureaucrat's desk in the Department of Justice.

One hesitates to draw sweeping conclusions from single facts. But there is, on the one hand, the release of Pieper, a convicted Nazi murderer of American GIs. There is, on the other, the continued imprisonment of Bob Thompson, an American war hero whose chief "crime" was that he agreed to teach and advocate Communist views. Can it

be that these two facts reflect a considered Administration policy?

Sincerely,
SIMON W. GERSON

Dignity of Old Age

Editor, Daily Worker:

I have been impressed, in Russian films seen over the last 20 years, by the dignity accorded old age in them.

In our liberal and left-wing press we ought to give more coverage in pictures and articles to outstanding examples in our own country—like Anna Louise Strong and W. E. B. DuBois—of fine, active, leaders in the world of thought and letters who are also "senior citizens." While predominantly of the "life of the mind," they are also well-balanced in having intense "right" emotional makeups, a courage and forthrightness that makes some of us younger people look like bloodless turnips.

I wonder if our modern American society, with its pressure to conformity and its pacifying mass media and schools geared to adjustment, will turn out any such red-blooded men and women capable of giving leadership far into their eighties and nineties?

Sincerely,
ADAM.

Hurrah for Jesus Colon

Editor, Daily Worker:

Hurrah for Jesus Colon's liberation of the topic of bathtub readers from the drippy confines of the lavatory. As for doubting our existence, WELL! Any one who has such doubts is obviously both single and lonely. Where else can a mother go, without having to pay admission, to cool off, calm down and otherwise relax and get away from her little darlings? Naptime almost every day finds me in the bathtub, sans bubbles, with of all things the Daily Worker. Or, if by some miracle I was able to finish that at breakfast, the local papers, the latest novel or, come February, one of my college texts. If it weren't for these afternoon naps I'd have time for neither reading nor baths.

That grating, Mr. Colon, is a drainoff in case the tub gets too full and here's how you can make the best of it. Leave the hot water on slow while you're in the tub, the excess will drain

off without you having to remove the plug and the water will stay warm. This will leave you more time for reading, unless you have a small capacity water heater, in which case the water will soon run cold, but that's life.

I've always been doubtful of people who say they have no time to read; what they usually mean is that they don't consider reading important enough to make time for. I read in bathtubs, buses, trains, while waiting for anyone anywhere and, here's the coup de grace, while walking home on dark nights, by means of a pocket flashlight. Where's a will, there's a way!

Yours for bigger and better bathtubs
R. G. ASCHER

Macmillan And Suez

Editor, Daily Worker:

Harold Macmillan just appointed Prime Minister is a stout defender of British imperialist interests as demonstrated

by his backing of Eden's Suez adventure. Despite that he takes Eden's place because the ultra-right Conservatives have unbounded confidence that he can save them further losses through his influential friends in the U. S. among whom are President Eisenhower and Secretary Dulles. This means that when he comes to Washington very soon more millions of dollars will be made available to him.

Macmillan told the House of Commons on April 17, 1956 about his policy for "accumulation of savings." Promptly it was being called the "Macmillan credit squeeze" by many Britons. The policy began worsening the economic conditions of the country before the Suez fiasco aggravated it. Deliberately the policy was chosen for providing surplus exportable funds obtained through intensification of labor's productivity. In debate in Commons, July 3, on the economic policies of the government Macmillan proposed reduced output of auto cars to shift the re-

sources to other industries. Next day the Daily Herald commented: "The major cause of the inflation—which, however, it seems, does not keep the smug Macmillan awake nights—is the arms burden, our military commitments, conscription, Cyprus and the whole monstrous distortion they impose on our economy."

His record as Chancellor of the Exchequer plainly indicates that in his new post offers no prospect for the betterment of the workers economic situation. Greater degrees of austerity are in store for them. One cannot but keenly deplore that the very men who should be leading the British workers to the only possible way out of the frightful situation into which their Big Money Lords keep them, are using their influence to hold them where they are. It seems as if the British working class movement had rotted as the decay of the British capitalist class continues to grow.

OBSERVER

The Puerto Rican Smith Act Trial

By WILLIAM L. PATTERSON

THE STAGE has been set for another Smith Act trial. The promoter's aim is, however, now more far-reaching. Those who, in an atmosphere of artificially inspired anti-Communist hysteria fantastic lies and spy stories beyond compare, successfully engineered the Foley Square, Pittsburgh, St. Louis and other Smith Act trials upon American soil have enlarged their horizon.

The play upon the American stage was designed to destroy the Communist Party of the U. S., weaken the defense of constitutional liberties, civil rights and human dignity, so gravely jeopardized by Taft-Hartley, the poison of racism, the new terror campaign of the white supremacists and the Walter-McCarran law and to sharpen anti-Semitism. The promoters were then strengthening their hold upon the hub of world reaction, preparing for war or any other eventuality through which they might aim a destructive blow at the growing unity of peace loving peoples and those seeking to attain national independence.

The trial opening Feb. 11, of 11 Puerto Rican victims under the U. S. Smith Act, contains added evils. It represents an attempt at strengthening empire outposts. It is designed to reim-

pose, the billionaire-led "Power Elite" who control our affairs, have never let their Senate ratify the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. But for those who have hopes that the UN will eventually be a world wide family of nations it has tremendous significance.

If that trial scheduled for Feb. 11 takes place in San Juan, Puerto Rico, it will be in violation of the Bogota Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man, adopted by the Organization of American States. True, that document was formulated and ratified only when our moral status reached its lowest level in the Americas to the South. Its ratification represented political expediency, not respect for the inalienable rights of man. Proof of that fact lies in the treatment by the imperialists of America of their "own" nationals, the Negro people. But it must be used to strengthen national independence.

If the trial of those men and women takes place as scheduled then the national standing of our country will diminish further in value in those halls where men of honor seek the creation of a family of nations. "Our" prestige there now is little stronger than American loans. And what is more, it will indicate to millions

Hemisphere. Who does not recall the inspired Haitian Revolution, those in Mexico and the devision of Colombia as our rulers seized Panama? But these misdeeds are not a manifestation of American morality. They are the essence of the ruthlessness of American monopoly. Morally, this clique is bankrupt.

It is time to make the distinction between the people and American monopoly plain for all to see. It has been hidden too long by the abstract term American—what American!

WE WHO RESPECT international working class solidarity must look at Puerto Rico and our grave responsibilities in this fight. We who speak in terms of a vanguard role must study the possibilities presented by a Smith Act trial in Puerto Rico. The American people should be aroused to the enormous danger confronting all America in this vicious act of intervention. It will establish a terrifying precedent. Having denied freedom of speech and the press at home, our rulers now attempt to do this abroad. This free speech fight is ours.

There are few people who want that trial. It is anathema on that beautiful island and its language and legal contradic-