

# Speak Your Piece

## \$10 for a Valiant, Little Paper

Editor, Daily Worker:

ENDICOTT, N. Y.

Enclosed is a \$10 contribution for a valiant little paper that must survive somehow. Wish it were possible to compile all Alan Max's columns within one volume. They are priceless.

H. S.  
12-26-57.

### Paper Must Continue

LOS ANGELES.

Editor, Daily Worker:

Enclosed is \$10. Rest assured that my wife and I will do everything in our power to see that our precious paper continues its publication. We need the Daily now more than ever. Sorry this is all we can do at present.

A. C.  
12-30-57.

### Political Scene Would Be Poorer

Editor, Daily Worker:

Although I generally disagree with your editorial policy, I feel that the political scene would be poorer without your paper. I can only send you one dollar now, but will send more when I can. (Sorry for the lack of signature—I like my "secret" clearance, and want to keep it.)

### New Year's Gift From Dolsen

PHILADELPHIA.

Editor, Daily Worker:

Here's \$5 for our press as a New Year's gift.

JAMES DOESEN.  
12-26-57.

### Keep Light Burning

TRIMBLE, O.

Editor, Daily Worker:

Here's \$2. Don't let the light go out.

W. F.  
12-30-57.

### Two Views in the Communist Movement

Editor, Daily Worker:

The Daily Worker of Dec. 9 carries a letter from "A Bostonian" which, I believe, is worth thinking about. It says:

"Gates . . . took a position of critical support for the Soviet Union and other socialist countries. In this way he brought to about a thousand non-Communist Bostonians the decision of the last national convention of our party, and the audience listened and was moved. If Gates had been blindly defensive about the Soviet Union and exclusively self-congratulatory about our own party in the old dogmatic way, I doubt he would have caught the ears of the audience at all. As a Communist, I found the speech and its reception particularly invigorating after so many years of isolation and rebuff."

It appears to me that here, in embryo, is contained the essential difference between the two sharply divergent views in the

U. S. Communist movement today.

One view tries to build a bridge to the American people, or, to change the metaphor, "not to fence themselves off . . . by childish 'Left-wing' slogans" (Lenin's Left-wing Communism).

The other more concerned with alleged "purity" of doctrine, views as "opportunism" and "revisionism" any tactical consideration of effectiveness among the people.

The point underscored by "Bostonian" is that Communists who honestly face up to the USSR's shortcomings are infinitely more effective in winning a hearing for its vast achievements than those who claim to be its staunch champions but convince nobody except themselves.

William Z. Foster suggests this when he writes in an article in the December Political Affairs:

"One of the serious negative effects was due to our Party's failure to conduct a comradely criticism of the weaknesses of that country (the Soviet Union). This 'everything-is-all-right' policy antagonized many workers, who rightly believed that criticism was in order."

The question goes beyond our attitude toward the USSR. It places before us at this late date the profound questions raised by Lenin in his Left-wing Communism. For instance, in a critique of Gates' speech, Harry Mann writes in the D.W. of Nov. 28:

"It is my opinion that an editor of the Daily Worker has a patriotic duty to expose the fact that it is our own ruling class that is fully responsible for the continuation of bomb tests in BOTH the U. S. A. and the Soviet Union."

I do not for a moment dispute the fact, anymore than Lenin disputed the facts behind Communist anti-parliamentary attitudes in Europe in 1919. But Lenin added:

"But would it be not only unreasonable but actually criminal to yield to this mood when deciding the question of HOW to fight against this generally recognized evil."

Whether the issue is imperialism, international workingclass solidarity, peace, or almost any other, the tendency of the "Left," in Communist ranks today is to yield to its mood and consider it has done its job when it issues militant slogans, when it "exposes," without regard to ability to win any significant support for its position.

Lenin wrote further on this line:

"Science demands the calculation of ALL the forces, groups, parties, classes and masses operating in the given country, and does not demand that policy be determined by mere desire and views, degree of class consciousness and readiness for battle of only one group or party."

This need to be concerned with the position of all forces, and not solely with their own desires and views, is what certain "infantile Lefts" in the U. S. Communist movement refuse to recognize.

MAX GORDON.

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