

Speak Your Piece

Disagrees With Gates, Hits Dogmatists, Sends \$10

QUEENS, N. Y.

Editor, Daily Worker:

I have been reading some of the correspondence in the Daily Worker, with particular reference to the "controversy" arising out of John Gates' speech in Boston.

Let me say at the outset that I do not agree with the Gates formulation and it might have been better if he had not made the reference to the Soviet Union that he did, but Gates made the speech and I didn't. And he was invited to Boston and I wasn't, nor was Will Weinstone—and most important of all there seems to be agreement that the overall effect of the speech was positive.

So—I read the Weinstone polemic against Gates and to me it's for the birds.

It would seem to me that the most important job for the CP-USA is getting to be to hit Gates on the head. Query—Are we now striving with might and main to drive him out of the party?

Are we returning to the rule of the bureaucrats and the dogmatists whose main concern is to see that each T is crossed and each I is dotted?

Are we setting up again a series of little tin gods who sit around in meetings and waste time in fruitless arguments about formulations instead of worrying

about program and action with some relation to the realities of life?

It's time we woke up. I would applaud Gates because he spoke to a group of Americans who are not Communists, even though I might have said some things differently—but how many of us are speaking to groups of people these days?

If we are going to break out of the isolation we are engulfed in because of our sectarianism it is most necessary that we cut out this type of polmeizing and that we begin to talk to the American people in languages that they understand.

Finally let's stop driving people away from us by insisting on "purism." Don't we remember the days when at meeting after meeting the line was laid down by the comrade who summed up—and woe to him who had the temerity to express an independent or original point of view?

The problem today is not to stifle independence or originality of thought or expression but to encourage it.

The dogmatists had better learn quickly. For as small as we are today we can get much smaller.

AN OLD MEMBER

Dec. 31, 1957

PS. Enclosed is a contribution of \$10 for the Daily. I hope it continues.