

SPEAK YOUR PIECE

To the Editor:

My article on the Elizabeth Gurley Flynn campaign, which the Worker published Sept. 15, and which George Blake Charney so sharply criticized in the Oct. 6 issue of the Worker, needs, I think, some further explanation.

It was written at a point in the campaign when there was quite some serious doubt that the campaign would succeed. It was the almost universal opinion of those actually doing the canvassing then that the main obstacle that stood in the way of success was a subjective one. The signatures were there. What then was missing was the will and the confidence to go out and get them.

At that time, when so few signatures were coming in, none of us was in a tolerant mood toward the sideliners and scoffers. Charney claims that the article did "harm"; but I'm not sure I understand what "harm" he means. The article may not have helped the signature campaign; it certainly did not harm it: for the campaign proved to be a rousing success.

Its success cannot be overestimated, especially in light of the recent international developments. Who can doubt, for a moment, that the opportunity Elizabeth now has of bringing home to the people the overwhelming necessity to demand that our government agree to disarmament and a policy of co-existence, is a golden opportu-

ity? Who can doubt that only good can come from it?

★
BUT CHARNEY does raise another extremely important question. How is one to interpret, first of all, the huge losses in membership; and, secondly, what is one's attitude correctly to be toward these people?

The past losses are impressive, and only a fool would be blithe about them. But, I think, Lenin should not be misunderstood on this or any other question, nor should citation from his works always be made in an unfavorable context, as if his ideas had become examples in a House of Horrors. Lenin has not been too much studied, but too little!

Nevertheless, 45 percent (if that's actually true, for Sid Stein really makes an educated guess) is a critical warning, and demands that certain conclusions be soberly drawn from the fact. But wrong conclusions can also be drawn. For Marxists do not necessarily equate 51 percent—much less 45 percent—of anything with the truth. Even 10 percent can hold the truth at any particular moment, which does not mean that one glories in 10 percent.

But figures can lie. For, if one breaks them down to actual instances, and examines the concrete cases, another picture begins to emerge. I don't know them all. But let Charney or any one else tell me how one is to understand these cases?

How, to take one example, is anyone to understand the former Communist Party member, who had some influence, but who resigned with the cry that Karl Marx was anti-Semitic—and then ran off to work for a pornographic magazine?

Or what can one conclude from the ex-Hollywood writer who, after 20 years in the movement, suddenly discovers that he meant to belong in the Democratic Party all the while, and his membership in the CP was a case of mistaken identifica-

Enthusia Chicago

CHICAGO. — The city - wide conference to map plans for mobilizing the full resources of Chicago organizations to put an end to the anti-Negro attacks has been postponed for a short period. Paul Iaccino, secretary of the Cook County CIO Council, told TH

tion. And how is one to take the writer who with a choked voice declared that he found everything he needed in literature in the works of Tennessee Williams, and so—goodbye!

Or the ex-member who, having spread as much confusion and slander as possible first, then departed—pointing to the confusion and dismay he had helped create as proof of the Party's weakness and ineffectiveness, and therefore not worthy of his further membership? (True, he went into business and listened to the cash register instead.) Or the one who disappeared into the analyst's room and rose from the couch purged of the last tinge of rebellion?

And many, many others! How do these examples figure in the losses and what is to be learned from them? There are others I know who had more plausible reasons, including members from the working class. But whatever the reasons of those who left, good or bad, those people who chose to remain in the movement deserve the highest praise and, in these treacherous times, need firm support and proud leadership. They must be defended from the open and covert slander that their continued membership somehow brings them close to moral turpitude, and that those who left are somehow on loftier moral level. It must be stated openly and proudly—and Sid Stein does pay tribute to them in his report—that they are the real backbone of any future growth, and that they are the real heroes of our times, and not those—for whatever reason—who deserted.

For those who left are wrong. Every day that passes proves it more. They deserve—those who are honest—profound consideration and help from us. But they themselves should also soberly reconsider the basis of their thoughts and acts, and see, as only the blind cannot see, that the world is not going down their alley. It is going along a broad and bright highway. We are having our own problems about getting there. But we'll get there. Of that I am sure.

It will be worth much to be able to say then: I believed, I helped, I remained loyal when that loyalty was most needed.

Cordially,
PHILLIP BONOSKY.

Fannie Golos

Send off Party - Concert

Recording artist-folk singer

ELIZABETH KNIGHT

Drinks—Refreshments

Sun. Oct. 27, 2:30 P.M.

Great Northern Hotel

118 W. 57th Street
For Information call LO 5-2879

10 NEW COURSES IN MARXIST THEORY

and its application

• MONDAYS (Oct. 28, Nov. 4, 11, 18, 25, Dec. 2, 9)

6:45 P.M. New Problems in Marxist Theory—Herbert Aptheker
The South Today (4 sessions)—Abner Berry

8:30 P.M. History of the Negro in the U.S.—Herbert Aptheker

• TUESDAYS (Oct. 29, Nov. 5, 12, 19, 26, Dec. 3, 10)

6:45 P.M. U.S. Labor Movement Since 1900—Philip S. Foner

8:30 P.M. The Marxist Method—Howard Selsam

• WEDNESDAYS (Oct. 30, Nov. 6, 13, 20, 27, Dec. 4, 11)

6:45 P.M. Boom and Bust in U.S. Economy—Myer Weise

8:30 P.M. Social Philosophy of the Arts—Sidney Finkelstein

• THURSDAYS (Oct. 31, Nov. 7, 14, 21, Dec. 5, 12, 19)

6:45 P.M. The Puerto Ricans in the U.S.—Jesus Colon

Changing Systems: Human History—Henry Klein

8:30 P.M. The Science of Marxism—Harold Collins

(plus other 4- and 6-session courses to begin in November)

F E E S

\$6 for 7 sessions; \$5 for 6 sessions; \$3.50 for 4 sessions