

# SPEAK YOUR PIECE

## Program for New Political Party

OMAHA, Nebraska.

Editor, Daily Worker:

With two-thirds or more of the peoples of the world, including some of our own Western allies, striving to solve their economic problems by socialist production, and with our own boom and bust economy coming to the end of the boom cycle, it seems to me that the situation is ripe for a unified socialist movement here in America.

This could be achieved by uniting individual members and former members of socialist, communist, left wing, liberal, labor and farm groups in a new political party in which each member would have a voice and a vote. It should be a mass party, not a leadership party.

Its organizers should be able to unite on a minimum program to include such items as:

1. Conquest of political power by democratic means at the local, state and national level.

2. Nationalization of basic industries as a basis for economic planning.

3. Correct and friendly relations with the socialist, communist, and neutral nations.

4. Outlawing of atomic weapons and adherence to the principles of the United Nations Charter.

Let us fashion a banner under which all Americans can march forward into the future.

—PAUL BURKE.

## Open Polemics Held On Order of the Day

Editor, Daily Worker:

The emergence of socialism as a world system, together with the exposure of the cult of the individual, highlighted by the Khrushchev report, challenges old concepts and poses new problems for our party.

The attack upon the cult of the individual has set in motion intensive debate over the mechanical transference, instead of creative application, of Marxist-Leninist concepts to the American scene. Strangely, the rank and file seized and still retains the initiative in this debate. Polemics from the leadership are rather conspicuously absent.

All great Marxist thinkers polemicized in order to guide and lead the masses. Marx's "Value, Price and Profit," Engel's "Feuerbach," and Lenin's

"What is to Be Done" are examples. These writings were in the form of debate. The debate was addressed to the workers. It educated and strengthened the workers; developed strong ties between the leadership and the rank and file, and helped build the Socialist movement.

Both Marx and Lenin polemicized despite severe repression.

This method was abandoned by our party leaders. Debate was never public, always private. Theoretical differences were never aired: Only conclusions were dished out. These were followed by multiple directions for disciplined cadre. All this was done in the name of "monolithic unity." For the rank and file, in effect, the rule was "theirs not to reason why; theirs to do and die."

This pernicious method isolated the leaders from the membership. It made it impossible to distinguish able leaders from incompetent ones. It fostered bureaucracy, paternalism and dogmatism.

In the face of the present party crisis it certainly is folly to continue in the old way. The National Committee cannot spoon-feed the membership any longer with pre-digested "draft resolutions."

Where are the answers to the

questions everyone is asking?

Was our Party just a carbon copy of the Soviet party?

What becomes of the Dictatorship of the Proletariat, and the Vanguard Role of the Party?

Do we need a new Marxist party, or is our party able to adapt to the new situation?

Can socialism come to the United States without the Communist Party?

How does peaceful co-existence affect the general crisis of capitalism, and economic crises in the United States?

Polemics in the great tradition of real Marxist leadership is on the order of the day.—M. B.

## The Bolivian Exchange Rate

Under the heading "Hunger Rallies in Boliva Met by 'State of Siege'", you publish a report from Boliva and some facts on said country.

One of these refers to inflation, indicating 3,000 bolivianos to the dollar as the unofficial rate of exchange. This rate of exchange was in effect some two years ago; at present it is about 12 thousand bolivianos (Bs. 12,000) to the dollar.

Before the M.N.R. coup in April, 1952, the unofficial rate was 190 bolivianos to the dollar.

—JOHN PARKE.

## H-BOMB

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tion of hydrogen bomb tests could lead to nuclear war or "universal death." Even short of war, he said, the poisonous threat from the fall-out following test explosions threaten to cripple future generations.

"We can all agree," he declared, "that nuclear warfare might well lead to universal death. Suddenly for some, more slowly and perhaps even generations later, but none the less surely, for others.

"The present weapons-testing programs present a double threat: first, the threat of genetic damage from fall-out and from radioactive vapor, and second, the threat that continued testing may progress to actual warfare.

"Many people accept the weapons-testing program on the basis that it overbalances the potential harm by strengthening our military positions and thus helping to insure peace. In assessing the potential harm, however, statements are always qualified by a phrase such as "if the testing of weapons continues at the present rate . . ." This qualification is usually obso-

lete by the time the statement is printed.

"This was the case even for the National Academy of Science report [a report on radiation made several months ago].

"It is a mistake to think that we can set our own pace of nuclear weapons testing. There is a snowballing effect of any such program. Our tests cause other nations to increase their pace, which in turn increases ours. It becomes a self-accelerating system—a chain reaction of a chain reaction, so to speak. Only the international control of weapons testing can stop such acceleration."

Dr. Ralph Lapp, atomic physicist, wrote in the October issue of the Bulletin of Atomic Scientists that "fragments of bomb debris from the Pacific tests are now turning up in the bones of people all over the world." He added that the world is 40 times nearer deadly atmospheric poisoning than the Atomic Energy Commission admitted in a recent report to congress.

Dr. Lapp was referring to the effects of H-bomb fallout on bone