

# SPEAK YOUR PIECE

## Howard Fast Answers Rumors

Editor, Daily Worker:

A recent letter to the Worker has pricked my annoyance to a point where I feel it must be answered. It is high time that we had done with this nonsense that the Daily Worker has refused to print my thoughts, that I have been muzzled, stifled, etc. It is precisely because this sort of slander of the left is so rampant that it must be stamped on, and hard.

In all the many years of intermittent writing for the Daily Worker, I have never been censored, I wrote as I pleased, often enough to the paper's embarrassment, but always as I pleased. I have written this way as long as I have been writing—and at any time during the past decade, I would have been happy to write for a variety of publications.

But only the Daily Worker has opened its pages to me always and without question, and only the Worker has been willing to print what I write. My column in the paper was not undertaken as a member of the staff, but as a contribution that might find interested readers. My original intention was to write it for only a few months and to comment for the most part on things literary and theatrical. I had told the editor in advance that I would have to lay it aside and return to a book I was working on.

But the advent of the 20th Congress in the Soviet Union and the resulting worldwide discussion tempted me to continue long past the agreed-upon limit. I stopped writing at a point where I felt the need to pause and think things through was of greater import. At that point, I felt that for me to continue to write, and at the same time evade the doubts, uncertainties and profound questions pressing upon me would be, in my case, impossible. I felt that there would be no great value in a

glib and surface commentary on issues that were apart from any own dilemma—at least not until that dilemma was totally resolved.

In other words, I stopped the column. The editors urged me to continue. They stated that they would print what I wrote, no matter what my position was, and they have continued to do so.

Let me state then, whatsoever the condition elsewhere, that in this paper I have found a condition of integrity, journalistic honor, and courage all too rare these days. Even this letter was not requested, but I would find it a poor thing indeed not to clear up these stupid rumors and not to give full credit to the bravest and most independent group of newspapermen I have ever known.

HOWARD FAST

## Broader Policy Urged for Paper

STOUGHTON, MASS.  
Editor, Daily Worker:

I have sent my contribution as of now (I expect to keep on as I get money) through the New England Committee, but enclosed is \$20 from a friend of the paper in Pennsylvania.

What is most on my mind about the paper is this:

The Daily is the bread of life to me. The Worker I could get along without (having the Daily) though I would miss some fine articles, what worries me is that the paper cannot have the mass appeal to industrial workers and farm workers (which I believe it must acquire or die) as long as it continues to be a house organ of the Communist Party—and especially while the latter is in a period of reorganization which may take some time.

I know it says it is not official, or a house organ, and its ownership is independent. In action, however, it belies those words, giving space to discussion of where the CP stands and what it should do. An outsider could

only conclude either that all its readers are Communists and therefore deeply interested in those questions, or that its editorial policy disregards those who are not. Surely this cannot be true if the paper wants to expand its circulation so as to stay alive! Or is it another instance of the bad habit of talking to ourselves, among ourselves, and expecting the average worker to be interested in what interests us?

Another worry I have along the same line: The paper is geared to New York, the most un-typical city in the USA. Having lived in NYC, I do not mind knowing all I can about what goes on there—in politics or in cultural events in which I can never participate. But I cannot get readers in New England for a paper so New York in its orientation. I believe a paper from Chicago, for instance, could be more national in outlook. The National Guardian escapes the New York provincialism better, I think, though I cannot say why.

These criticisms do not diminish my love for the paper, nor belief that the discussions which have gone on since June are salutary and necessary. I only hope the paper does not kill itself in performing a service which official publicity sources in the Communist Party should perform. I hope it somehow manages to get close enough to the people in the shops and on the farms to know what they are thinking and wanting, and what they are ready to back up with votes and deeds.

I do not mean that intellectuals should be disregarded, either, but their greatest need is to learn to think like common folks and with them. Only so can intellectuals give their best contribution which is invaluable. Our paper should help these groups, so divided in our society, to get together, by speaking the language great masses of people can understand.—B. R.

## Circulation Emphasized.

TAMPA, Fla.

Editor, Daily Worker:

In response to your full appeal for dollars and sense:

Expanded and increased circulation of the Worker and the Daily Worker MUST be included in a FINAL solution.

Don't, at this stage, print what we are bound to see in most any other paper (except for special reasons or to emphasize a special slant). We can't afford that, because:

It's better that the Daily Worker help move many workers ONE STEP FORWARD than separate a few from the many, and go broke doing so.

It is going to take a lot of suggestions to get the few "most important" ones, in so far as getting the paper out of debt and into second gear. Don't give up (staff or readers), please!

Sincerely,

S. R.

PS: I ask of the National Committee of the CP: How can one get the new Draft Resolution to read in time to study, write comments and receive printed rebuttals? Please answer.

[Ed. Note: The Draft resolution has been published as a pamphlet by New Century Publishers, 832 Broadway, N. Y.]

## Wants More Stress On Socialist America

NEW YORK

Editor, Daily Worker:

To build and finance the Daily Worker, I believe a special corps of Daily Worker builders should be formed. It has been my experience that party members are so loaded with assignments that they have little time for the Daily. Therefore, I think it would be a good idea to form groups that concentrate on build-

ing and financing our paper and that should be their sole task.

As to our propagandizing for a Socialist America, we have always someone saying, "This is not the time for Socialist agitation." When will it be "the time?"

I think our movement has lost a great deal in our neglect to agitate for a Socialist America. During the depression years, we carried through tremendous amounts of work but failed to hammer on the Socialist American theme. We were a gigantic relief organization but that's about all. Now we are paying for that mistake.

Also in our program we should put more emphasis on shop committees in a Socialist America. I believe shop committees should exercise more authority than they do in the Soviet Union as regards not only shop conditions and wages, but also should have the big say in government policy making through direct representation from the shop. Then you have really a Workers Government.—E. T.

## Ingenious Ways To Help Worker

CLEVELAND

Editor, Daily Worker:

After reading the letter, "Ways to help Daily Worker" in the Oct. 8 issue I'd like to give you some of my experiences in raising money for the DW.

Last year, as an electrician, I collected scrap wire, fixtures, etc. and then another electrician joined with me and then a plumber, and all the scrap we collected netted at least \$150.

This year a relative gave me a lot of hand-me-down clothes in good condition. I put it up for sale to friends at bargain prices and results so far are \$45 for the DW. One of my aunts, in her 90's, gave me a gold-trimmed set of dishes, and that is just about sold; money for the DW.

—J. K.