

SPEAK YOUR PIECE

Prize Contests Suggested

Editor, Daily Worker:

In the interest of increased circulation and expanded relationship and interest, please consider prize contests.

A prize contest provides:

Competition that may enjoy (don't say "socialist" competition).

Mental challenge (my partner does cross-word puzzles daily).

Recognition for a good or best entry (a description where name must be omitted).

Something tangible to "shoot at" (prizes for helping progressive movement).

Ideas not otherwise obtainable (overcomes inertia of contributing no ideas).

Means for entrant to ask non-readers to help prepare entry (they see paper).

Probably more return than cost, financially (what contest doesn't?)

The contests (there should be several):

Need not attempt expensive awards.

But awards should be such that even mildly progressive folk would be interested.

Alternatives could accomplish this for example—

A winner might choose between, say \$35 worth of "standard brand" listed items, or \$25 cash, or \$40 worth of publications from Worker's Bookshop, etc. and sent to one or many addresses as winner might specify.

Should be so "pitched" as to be of interest to the "old faithful" as well as newer readers or non-readers.

Here we might automatically vary prizes, for example—

One who sent in a NEW DW SUB and the money might get a double award if winner, or at least a free sub extra; a NEW READER or non-reader might, when a winner, get an extra or increased prize; and an old-timer reader might be expected to understandingly be satisfied with a lesser award (which might keep the contest from seeming partial).

Contests are not an "unknown tongue" to America's masses, now are they?—S. R.

Communist Party Held Basis for Growth

Editor, Daily Worker:

As a consistent reader of our paper, and reading the splendid letters of its readers I would like to express my opinion of some of the points that were discussed both pro and con. If I remember correctly one of our friends called for a new party of social-

ism to replace the present one.

My answer to this is that in order to strengthen the Left it is necessary to retain the militant spirit of the past and rid ourselves of the sectarianism which is left over. Only on this basis will we go forward to a stronger party and give the American people a better understanding of building socialism out of the decadent capitalist system.

I can answer our friend that the Communist Party is here to stay and grow. These Communists are part and parcel of the American people and will learn from their errors. The discussions may be necessary but then again there is practical work to do.

Enclosed is a small contribution from a worker who just returned to work.

ROBERT JAMES

Artists Praise Platt's Article on Van Gogh

Editor, Daily Worker:

This is a belated letter of thanks for Dave Platt's piece on Van Gogh. We were delighted to find Art discussed in simple language and human terms, which spoke to the heart.

It is interesting to see that Van Gogh was concerned with the solidarity of artists—we are sure that in this day he would

be working with us for a government arts program.

Yours for more art coverage.

SOME N. Y. ARTISTS

PS. Enclosed is \$30 for the drive.

Draft Resolution Held Too Long

Editor, Daily Worker:

Eugene Denins' letter tells us that the Draft Resolution "represents the collective thinking of the National Committee." How sad! There is not an ounce of creativeness in it, in vivid contrast to the many letters and articles from lesser leaders and the membership published in the Daily Worker, Worker, Party Voice and Political Affairs.

We are told that the National Committee is aware that the resolution has weaknesses and is overlong. Why wasn't it shortened in view of the fact that it is primarily a document for the membership and not for inner-Party cadre who have the time, concentration and political experience not to get lost and wearied before they arrive (somewhere on Page 5) at a most baffling description of the Party's past weaknesses and the grudgingly offered few paragraphs (at the end of Page 7 and on Page 8) on future organization and policy?—M. G.

Ford '600' Wants On Runaway, Auto

DEARBORN.—Ford Local No. 600 is asking the International UAW officers for a pre-convention meeting to tackle the issue of large scale job runaway and layoffs resulting from automation. The UAW convention will be held in April, 1957 at Atlantic City. Delegates will be elected in the months of February-March, 1957. The convention will have this high on the agenda and will undoubtedly propose a shorter work week with no paycuts for the 1958 contract negotiations when the present three-year contracts expire.

The recent National Ford-UAW conference in Detroit went on record for a shorter work week with no reduction in wages. But Ford Local No. 600's problem is that automation and runaway by Ford is fast eating into Rouge employment. Two years from now the present 43,000 employes at Ford Rouge may be cut down drastically. In 1946 there were 70,000 working at Rouge, now its 43,000.

Whether hardhit plants like Ford Rouge can wait till '58 is what's worrying the leaders of Local No. 600. With their demand for a pre-convention confab, it's obvious they don't think they can wait till '58.

The great anxiety of Ford Local No. 600 leaders stems from knowledge that Ford is constructing 60 new plants in other areas which will take away more jobs and raises the grim prospect that the world's largest auto plant, Ford Rouge, may become nothing but a shell, used for storage.

Meanwhile Ford Local No. 600 has mapped out an extensive campaign of its own to save the jobs of thousands of its members. A number of actions are under way or being prepared.

- Carl Stellato, president of Local No. 600 has asked former FBI chief in Detroit, John S. Bugas, now company vice president for a meeting to see what can be done.

- The Local's Executive Board