

SPEAK YOUR PIECE

A Cause for Discontent

Editor, Daily Worker:

Some people have been blaming the crisis in Left-wing circles today on the sharpness of criticism of past error appearing in the D.W.'s "Speak Your Piece" columns as well as in such documents as the draft resolution of the Communist Party, the report of Eugene Dennis to the April conference of the Communist Party, etc.

Such a view of the crisis is an insult to the intelligence and integrity of the people who make up the Left. Can anyone seriously contend that we were not deeply shaken by the revelations concerning the tyranny of the Stalin regime?

Can anyone seriously contend that those of us who have looked to the C.P. for leadership were not shaken by the revelation that we had slavishly served as apologists for this regime?

I resent any such contention as casting reflection on my moral sense, and as suggesting that I have sacrificed all ability to think for myself.

The fact is that the Khrushchev revelations have likewise revealed that we of the Left in America have been living a lie as regards the Soviet Union. I say this even though I maintain that the people of the USSR, under socialism and, yes, even under Stalin, have made monumental progress materially, and have given massive support to the world struggle for peace and for colonial independence.

The Stalin revelations, by compelling us in America to review our own position, have also helped us to realize that our method has been doctrinaire and hence false. This, too, is true though the C.P. has made important contributions to the life of the nation.

It was perhaps inevitable that our doctrinaire and rigid outlook and the false apologetics for the USSR, should have led to bureaucracy and suppression of democracy within the movement. Once the doors were opened for questioning and challenge, it was inevitable and healthy for the discontent with the bureaucratic system of leadership to burst with explosive force.

It is this bitterness that constitutes perhaps the greatest element of the crisis. And no single act has caused it to flare more than the recent silence of the national leaders of the CP. It is

not enough to say that the draft resolution of the CP would initiate the discussion. How is the rank-and-file to know now how the various leaders reacted? How can they base democratic judgments regarding leaders who are equipped to function under new conditions and those who are not?

The rank-and-file saw in the stubborn silence of the leaders, even in the face of persistent and pressing demands for their views, an incapacity of the leadership to adjust to the needs for democratization, for transforming the C.P. into a thoroughly independent U. S. party of socialism which did not take its lead from abroad and which dropped its rigid, doctrinaire positions of

the past.

The crisis within our movement was thus caused not by the criticisms of past errors but by those who resisted this criticism, who refused to listen to the rank-and-file and bow to its demand for change.—L. M.

As Necessary As Our Hands

Editor, Daily Worker:

As we cherish our hands physically in order to live, so we cherish the Daily Worker and Sunday Worker in its existence. Enclosed is \$60.

For a stronger and better Daily Worker and Sunday Worker—we pledge much more to come to our behalf.

Group of Garment Workers

FRENCH CP ADDRESSES UNITY PLEA TO SOCIALISTS

PARIS.—The French Communist Party has appealed to the Socialist Party for a united Communist-Socialist political front. The appeal was made in a resolution voted at the end of the Party's Central Committee meeting in Paris.

The resolution criticized the Socialist-led French government for its Suez policy, which the Party said "has led to the threat of a new adventure and the isolation of our country," and for its handling of the Algeria problem, which had

aggravated the difficulties in the North African territory.

The resolution urged joint action by Socialist and Communist trade unions over wages.

It said signs favorable to a rally of democratic forces could be seen in similar efforts of all the world's Communist and Socialist parties—except the French Socialists—toward a peaceful Suez settlement, and in the "evolution to the Left" of the middle classes in town and country reflected in the recent split in the French Radical Party.

C. P. HEADS

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Williamson nor any other person, here or abroad, can give the Communist Party 'directives'—and, we are sure, Williamson would be the first to agree to that.

"The Communist Party is an independent American workingclass party making its own decisions. The 'directives' for the Communist Party will be laid down by its highest body, the delegates at the coming 16th national convention, after a full and free discussion.

"The current reappraisal of policies and program has been under way since 1952. As far back as Jan. 20, 1956, at a huge Carnegie Hall rally, general secretary Eugene Dennis pointed out that the Communists of the United States were re-evaluating all their policies.

"In this great debate many persons will participate. Williamson's pre-convention discussion article is considered by us as part of that general discussion and in no other light.

"We are confident that thoughtful Americans, and particularly the many workers who have followed sympathetically developments in the Communist Party, will recognize the new stunt as simply another attempt to split the ranks of American Communists now engaged in a sober re-examination of their policies. They will reject the effort to substitute police tales about 'Moscow directives' for honest discussion of the issues before the American people.

"We expect to be judged by one standard and one alone—how our policies contribute to the welfare of our people and our nation and the creation of a world of peace and plenty."