

SPEAK YOUR PIECE

Who's Lost Bearings? Correspondent Demands

BROOKLYN, N. Y.

Editor, Daily Worker:

Since *Speak Your Piece* was inaugurated more than a year ago, I have availed myself of its invitation and privilege no more than two or three times on occasions where I was deeply moved and impelled to write.

My most recent letter (Sept. 20) called for a friendly attitude towards those who had left our ranks. I indicated that they had temporarily lost their bearings, but that if our attitude towards them remained friendly, they would in time return.

Irma Kopf (Oct. 3) now says of me "... even though you have temporarily lost your bearings," apparently because I wish to see them return. To this I must reply.

When I said that much venom had been poured upon Joe Clark, I was referring to several letters that had appeared following the statement of the Communist Party's national committee on Joe Clark's resignation (a statement which I applauded) and also to many private conversations where, in my presence, a very hostile attitude had been taken towards his public departure.

Instead of quoting Shakespeare, this time I am inclined to refer to the Constitution of the Communist Party, adopted at its 16th National Convention. Article VI, Section 12, reads:

"The Communist Party recognizes the right of any member to resign without prejudice." (My emphasis.)

I am afraid that Irma's letter is not in keeping with the spirit of this portion of the Constitution, for it breathes prejudice against these people out of every pore. Certainly her attitude will not motivate them to return. Perhaps she doesn't want them to come back: **I do!**

I used the names of Joe Clark, Joe Starobin and Howard Fast, not simply because I would very much like to have them reconsider, but because they have become symbolic of the many thousands who have recently left our ranks, and without whose return we cannot make much headway. The approach of "good riddance" is valid only for those who are not concerned with socialism or do not wish to work in its interest. This cannot be said of those who have left because they are critical of what they regard as errors hurtful to the cause of socialism.

I should like to close my letter with a quotation from Samuel T. Coleridge (of *Ancient Mariner* fame):

"If a foe have kened,
Or worse than that, an alienated friend,
A rib of rotting timber, in thy ship's stout side,
Think it a blessing, and in humble pride
With heart of steel replace it." . . .

Our 16th convention began the process of replacing the bad timber. We have as our compass the main resolution and the constitution adopted there. We

HERE'S YOUR

NOTE:

PRINT →

1. DID YOU PREVIOUSLY VOTE IN N.Y. STATE
YES NO

2. SURNAME

3. STREET ADDRESS

NO. ST.

10. HEIGHT 11. COLOR OF HAIR 12. COLOR OF EYES

16. FILL IN ONLY IF APPLICABLE
IN WHAT YEAR DID YOU LAST VOTE AT A GENERAL ELECTION IN THIS STATE? DID YOU UNDER PRESENT REGISTRATION LAWS?
YES

IF NOT, FROM WHAT ADDRESS DID YOU LAST VOTE?

NO. ST.

19. FILL IN ONLY IF APPLICABLE
ST. ADDRESS BIRTHPLACE (IF BO. IN OTHER STATE) CITY.

NAME AND ADDRESS OF EMPLOYER

20. TO BE FILLED IN WHEN REGISTERING
PAPERS OWN FATHERS MOTHERS HUSBANDS

CITY AND STATE NAME OF PERSON REGISTERING

TO THE REGISTRATION BOARD: IF A VOTER HE MUST EXECUTE AN AFFIDAVIT EXECUTED?

This is a reproduction of a form you will be asked to fill out at the time of registration. Registration continues through November 11. Voters who register will receive their ballots this November but in all cases

can keep our ship afloat and steer it safely into the port of Socialism—if we use that compass. It is also worth remembering that "the winds and waves are always on the side of the ablest navigators."

Who lost whose bearings?

JEANIE
10-3-57

Gurley Flynn Forwards \$5 to Daily Worker

NEW YORK

Editor, Daily Worker:

Here is \$50 which I received from a friend in Washington, D.C. who said I could use it as I see fit. When I receive contributions I try to divide them equally where I am given the choice. So this time it's for the Daily Worker.

Including this I have transmitted \$95 to the fund for the paper. Best regards.
ELIZABETH GURLEY FLYNN
10-3-57

No Speedup on '58s says Quinn If Takes Strike

HAMTRAMCK. — Pat Quinn, president of Dodge Local 3 declared this last week that the union "don't give a damn" what production management wants on the '58 there is not going to be speedup.

As I said before, we will fight to maintain decent standards of production—if that means picket lines and strike action, then that's what it will be" said the fiery Irishman and veteran of the 1937 sitdown strikes at Chrysler.

Quinn said that reports had been coming to the union officials that Chrysler was preparing a boost in production on the 1958 models. He reminded Chrysler that