

Speak Your Piece

Feels Term 'Apostates' Wrong To Use

BROOKLYN

Editor, Daily Worker:

The idea of a Victory Conference—to celebrate the return of the Daily Worker to eight pages—is a fine one. I'm glad to see that one of the Brooklyn Communist organizations suggested it. (D.W. Nov. 5).

Their good letter was marred, however, by the phrase about bringing back "the honest core in the army of apostates from Socialism."

Scientific socialists do not use quasi-religious phrases like "apostates." The phrase, apart from its clerical overtones, is politically incorrect.

The thousands of good and honest workers who have left the movement in the past few years are not turning their backs on socialism. We would be vain indeed if we believed that we were the only true believers in socialism and all others infidels and apostates."

Such an attitude is fatal if one is serious about winning back the tens of thousands who believe in socialism but have temporarily lost confidence in the Communist Party. We've got to assume that they're just as honest about socialism as we are. That's how we'll win them back.

Thank heaven, the Daily Worker—four pages or eight—takes a rational attitude toward these people. More power to you! Back to 8 pages!

BROOKLYNITE

Nov. 5 1957

"United And Ready"

Editor, Speak Your Piece:

The discussion on how to treat those who have left progressive activity, has aroused some deep thinking on the part of many.

The largest majority of the American working class, who, I believe, would embrace Socialism and its advantages almost overnight, have silently acceded to the belief that Socialism is a far-away prospect. It seems to me this is the result of two main pressure: (1) The slick job which capitalist propaganda has done in making Socialism virtually "undiscussable" among the general public, except in

terms of its so-called "evils," (2) The fact that American economic life makes it possible, now and then, to ease the very heaviest burdens of working-class existence from off the backs of a section of the American working class, usually the most thoughtful section of it.

This situation has resulted in two opposing, counter pressures which, I believe, are the main causes of the present division in the Communist Party and the progressive movement generally.

Of those who have come into the Party as a result of long time trade union or people's organization activities and who still bear the overwhelming brunt of a bare working class existence and of what active class-consciousness means in this country today, there is a very large percentage whose thinking concerning Marxism and its aims, is mainly in the most fundamental terms. This is not to say they are not interested profoundly, in every question which affects the Communist Party and American working class life. But tactical questions, to them, are usually a lesser issue. Such people, because of their profound Party and class loyalty, often tend to think quickly in terms of betrayal and reneging, when they hear of someone leaving the Party or the progressive movement.

On the other hand, those who have come into the Party and the progressive movement as a result of a great deal of thought and intellectual discipline tend to think of party activity mainly in terms of tactical discipline and of keeping close contact with the American people, not yet ready to accept all our views, and especially with those who are already on the left in politics.

The whipping up and back between economic crisis and military adventuring by capitalist forces, the tremendous events in the South, the successes of peace pressures and of scientific freedom, all presage great events very soon, in which the marshalling of all our forces will be of the greatest importance.

Let us be united, thoughtful and ready.

SAUL GROSS

Lenin on America, Topic of Study

"Was Lenin right about America, too?" will be the topic for the opening session of a new class on