

SPEAK YOUR PIECE

An Alternate Policy in Hungary

Editor, Daily Worker:

In the discussion of Hungarian events, one is impressed by the note prevailing that the Soviet Union was impelled to take "regrettable" steps which have resulted in "unfortunate" developments.

Both the supporters and detractors of the Soviet's armed intervention have presented the Soviet Union as a victim of circumstances, as though no alternative policy was possible once the Hungarian revolt, which had been seething since 1953, broke into the open.

The Daily Worker regards the military intervention as "unfortunate" and "regrettable" and does not condone it.

Dennis justifies it, though considering it "unfortunate" and "regrettable." The National Committee manages to ride two horses, each going in the opposite direction. But all subscribe to fatalism—that there was no alternative action—since none has been suggested.

But there was a way out, consistent with Socialist international solidarity. In all modesty I suggest it herewith.

On Oct. 23, on the day of the insurrection the Hungarian Party should have proclaimed its solidarity with the cause which inspired the Hungarian masses and placed itself at the disposal of the movement, formulating the demands of the masses, inspiring them to take matters into their own hands.

It should have called for the organization of Revolutionary Workers Councils in the army, the factory, the shop, and for the formation of Peasant Revolutionary Committees.

The political police should have been disarmed and a Workers militia constituted to safeguard the Socialist foundation of Hungary, while elections in the factory, field, and army were conducted for an all-Hungary Congress of Soviets to form a new government reflecting the will of the people.

At the same moment, the Soviet High Command (Army) should have stated its sympathy with the movement and declared that its forces would be deployed in such a fashion as to protect the Socialist aspirations of the masses against any attempts to restore the old Horthy regime.

Soviet troops would have been dispatched to the Auhro-Hungarian border under the Warsaw Pact to prevent any counter-revolutionary intervention.

A forthright policy such as this would have resulted in a political revolution which would not have represented a threat to the social foundation of socialism.

The way is still open. Tomorrow, let the Hungarian Party supported by the Soviet Union give the initiative to the general strikers, peasants, workers, and students—call on them to come to Budapest by rail, horse or on foot, mount a new Revolutionary Government and the damaged foundations can be repaired.

—L. DEATY

An Appeal By Art Shields

Editor, Daily Worker:

I am appealing to my personal friends to help save the Daily and The Worker in the present financial crisis. I have very personal reasons for doing this. I love my work. I enjoy talking with Westinghouse pickets at Lester, Pa., and digging up the facts about the imperialists at Suez and elsewhere. But I can't do these things on other papers. For the millionaires and billionnaires control the American press.

This does not mean that I always agree with everything in our paper. I emphatically disagree with the DW's editorial line on Hungary, for instance. I

also think the DW has given too little attention to the struggle against the anti-labor monopolies in recent months. But I have good reason to believe that the emphasis is about to shift back to "The Enemy Forgotten" again. And I am glad to say that I have always been given the fullest freedom in combatting that enemy in the pages of The Worker myself.

At present I am preparing several articles against American imperialist control in Latin America and against American imperialist penetration in Hungary and other European lands. But I can't publish them unless our paper survives.

And I'm confident it WILL SURVIVE. A friend stopped me yesterday. "Here's \$10 for the paper," he said. "I'll have more next week. Just hit the enemy harder."

"We will," I replied. And I'll be knocking at his door next week.

ART SHIELDS

A Chance for a Better Paper

Editor, Daily Worker:

Enclosed is \$75 from a Dress section, Manhattan. Despite our disagreement with your policy regarding foreign and domestic situation, we want the Daily Worker and Sunday Worker to live.

Several weeks ago, I turned in a personal statement with \$60: "As we need our hands, so we need the Daily Worker in our work for peace, security, and socialism."

Then came sharp changes, the pages of our paper carried articles, editorials, etc., distressingly disagreeable in my opinion, contrary to Marxist-Leninist teachings, contrary to the interests of the American workers and people. Yet I carried out my daily and weekly deliveries of the paper. There were some who said to me, what for?

Well, reading yesterday's Nov. 12 issue, my healthy attitude was confirmed, for where else and how would I have been able to read the opinions of Dennis and Aptheker, etc.

How would we know that there is no reason for despair? That we are going to have a party and paper that will in the future (with less mistakes) as in the past, voice the grievances of the American workers, farmer, Negro, foreign born, etc., and take the initiative to propose organizing the American people, for better conditions, for World Peace and Socialism.

Thank you and I again pledge to have over 50 subs for 1956.

—A GARMENT WORKER

Facts About Hungary

BOSTON

Editor, Daily Worker:

The events in Hungary cannot be described as a shining achievement for the Soviet Union. On the other hand, they cannot be held up as an example of "Communist imperialism" or "red tyranny."

The facts are not all clear. They are clouded by the Soviet-hating headline writers and commentators, the snide twisters of facts, the burying or complete suppression of many of the factors and causes of the riots. Those who have lied about the Soviet Union in the past are only too eager to do it again because it will, they believe, halt the march of the people toward social change.

There is the fact that the setting up of a new state in Hungary a few years ago did not automatically eliminate the Horthyites, the fascists and the Nazis who hid themselves and waited for their chance.

There is the fact that Project

Keep 'Em Coming But Keep 'Em Short

We are flooded with letters but most of them are far too long. This prevents the next person from speaking his piece. Please try to keep letters down to 300 words and never more than 600.

X had Hungary as a concentration point and that Allan Dulles has his agents working actively there.

There is the fact that a certain well-known, powerful cleric who went to jail had been in contact with the Nazis during the war and had written anti-Semitic articles for newspapers.

Of course, there was the fact economic and political conditions in Hungary had improved but little during the past several years, thus causing unrest among the masses of the people.

We in America must have all the facts. In particular, those who believe in a socialist society must have them in order to be able to talk with some degree of intelligence about Hungary.

I enclose \$3 to help strengthen your paper that it may continue and improve its services to its readers, in getting the truth to them.—BOSTONIAN.

Sees Hitlerism Reborn in Hungary

DENVER, Colo.

Editor, Daily Worker:

Nov 1, a news film from Budapest was shown in Denver. It was not very long. But if there was any doubt who caused the destruction and vandalism the film made it clear.

There was a section of Budapest highly littered with papers and books. People waded through it. Pictures of Lenin and Stalin were thrown into the air. A large bonfire was made and everything burned. The crowds yelled and wrecked everything in sight. Slowly, from a distance, a large tank came towards the fire but did not shoot. The film ended.

It is unthinkable that socialists could have done it. I saw the spirit of Hitlerism in this crowd reborn. This film spoke clearer than any comment one could make. The idea struck me: Is this the result of ten years of socialism? It was the most discouraging spectacle any socialist could envisage.—A.S.

Asks Views of Other Leaders

Editor, Daily Worker:

While we profoundly disagree with the contents of Eugene Dennis' letter to the paper on the Hungary editorial, he at least came out and told how he stood. We are confounded by the failure of those other members of the national committee, except for John Gates, to state THEIR position. Here is a key issue, exactly the kind we would like to consider in voting for leadership at the forthcoming convention. Many of us will be unable to attend a convention, for security reasons, and will have to rely on instructed delegates. In this situation we feel ALL members of the national committee owe it to us to state their views frankly, or are we to assume that they all agree with Dennis that the Soviet move in Hungary was good for socialism? Let's hear from them!

Group of Newspaper Workers.

Protests Editorial

Editor, Daily Worker:

I want to protest and condemn the editorial that appeared in the Oct. 29th Daily on the situation in Hungary.

This editorial brings dishonor

to us. It violates the principle of international solidarity by equating the army of the Soviet Union with imperialist armies.

At a time when the building of socialism has been hindered in Hungary, and when the enemies of the people are cheering everywhere and using this to discredit the Soviet Union and socialism, how can we greet the difficulties in Hungary as a democratic victory? What kind of democracy are we hailing?

I want to appeal to every reader and supporter of the Daily Worker who has been heartsick by the negative, pessimistic line expressed in the Daily in the past period to flood the Daily with protests. To do less would make it appear that these views represent the majority of readers.

HELEN TURNER

Shocked by Editorials

Editor, Daily Worker:

I am shocked at your recent editorials. You seem to take great glee in every opportunity to attack the Soviet Union. Keep this up and you will have the dubious achievement of being the leading anti-Soviet publication in the country.

Especially in relation to the Hungarian situation you put yourself out on an editorial limb, by taking a strong anti-Soviet position, before you knew really what was (and is) going on in a fluid situation, with strong signs of a planned putsch evident. You naively blab about "popular" movements, etc., ridiculing Soviet statements about Project X involvement.

Where do you get your information these days, besides the N.Y. Times?

That our press showed no objectivity before, was our own stupidity, not the Soviet Union's. Don't try to show off your freedom by taking your lead from the fascists and beating Harry Schwartz to the anti-Soviet punch.

CONSTANT READER

Continuity in Southern Terror

Editor, Daily Worker:

The Daily Worker of Friday, Nov. 2, begins its "An Open Conspiracy" editorial on the intensification of savage terror against Negroes in the South with the following very interesting statement: "The self-appointed defenders of the Anglo-Saxon race" hooded, robed and armed, are again challenging law and order in the Deep South's cities and towns. But is this correct? Does it help clarify the present situation in the South? I think not.

First, it tends to conceal the continuity of terror in the form of lynching and the most vicious exploitation that is inherent in a systematic retardation of the economic, political and cultural life of a people. That terror may have its high and low political levels but it has not ceased for three-fourths of a century. Second, it conceals the role of government in the terror as well as its responsibility.

Since the smashing of the magnificent Reconstruction efforts of the poor whites and newly emancipated slaves "the self-appointed defenders of the Anglo-Saxon race," hooded, robed and armed clansman or the successors of those savage terrorists, the White Citizens Councils, have been the only "law and order" that the South has known.

The titular rulers of the South, from governors and State Assemblies to city and town councils, from the Departments of Justice of states down to the sheriffs and town police, are not again

challenging law and order." They have never ceased to challenge and defy the Constitution of the United States. The Southern landlords were permitted to drown the Reconstruction movement with blood. The lynching rope a fiery faggots that consumed many of Reconstruction's black, and even some of its white leaders, and the bodies of thousands of unknown black men, women and youth were of the making of such fiends. This has been permitted by the Federal government under Republican as well as Democratic administrations.

The subversion of the Constitution in the South does not begin with the burning of crosses "before the homes of white and Negro Southerners who favor school integration." Nor in the killing of Negroes who wanted only to vote or to escape the semi-slave conditions of the plantation area. This is the end-all of that subversion which is formulated with impunity and immunity by the Eastlands and Ellenders in Congress where the call rings out for the organization of terror that is carried out with a "clear and present danger" to law and order.

No, "the self-appointed defenders of the Anglo-Saxon race, hooded, robed and armed are" not just "again challenging law and order." But their intensified reign of terror is proof that the sole danger to peace and domestic tranquility does not lie in Eastern countries. The intensified challenge to law and order in Deep South cities and towns creates a menace to free men everywhere. That is new in the South.

—WILLIAM L. PATTERSON

Conflicting World Forces

Editor, Daily Worker:

With the consolidation of the position for peace and coexistence by the Socialist World and the progressive forces in the capitalist world which reached a peak a few months ago, two opposite and sharply conflicting forces were set in motion. These were:

1. The relaxing of vigilance in Socialist lands against former (and still latently) fascist forces in the effort to extend democratic rights consistent with apparent easing of war tensions.

2. A second force arose, which had remained hidden fearing the pressure for peace of the world's peoples. This was the more open plotting and scheming of anti-socialist and pro-fascist forces, which had been finding it difficult to justify enormous expenditures for war preparations or to foment a war directly against the Socialist countries.

Certain pre-conditions were necessary to these pro-war forces and these were (a) the absorption of the Socialist world in internal problems and (b) the immobilizing of the people of the U.S. by taking advantage of three non-related situations. These were (1) the involvement of Israel as one of the aggressors; (2) the fear of American oil interests and (3) the preoccupation of the American people the elections, with the expectation that candidates would fear taking an unequivocal position.

The Daily Worker, I believe, has not been sufficiently cognizant or cautious in assaying these conflicting forces.

Because of its strength and vision, and despite weaknesses such as outlined above, the appearance every day in the heart of world capitalism of the Daily Worker is a poem singing to the future of America. Let us keep it building and growing in full chorus. Enclosed is \$10.

SAUL GROSS