

# Speak Your Piece

## Contradictory Views

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Editor, Daily Worker:

Alex Bittelman, in his concluding article, "Toward a Leading Party of Socialism," states, "One of the most important tasks of the Communist Party, in the fulfillment of its vanguard role in this period, is to accelerate this historical process (movement of American labor movement toward Socialism.) This task has two aspects. One is to support, as the most advanced and resolute section of the working class, the progress of the trade union movement toward major economic, political and social changes. This is fundamental. This is the way not only to be an effective defense against the economic and political powers of the monopolies. It is the way to the Welfare State and from there to the next and higher historic stage—the socialist transformation of American society."

Foster, in his article, "People's

Capitalism—and Djilas," states:

"But the Party's voice went practically unheard until the great economic crisis of 1929 knocked to smithereens the whole New Capitalism house of cards. The 'New Capitalism' turned out to be very much the old capitalism. At present we have a fresh edition of the New Capitalism of long ago, this time more demagogically named 'People's Capitalism,' or the 'Welfare State.'

"The danger in the Welfare State and People's Capitalism demagogy is that it weakens the fighting spirit of the workers by sowing illusions that the main enemy, monopoly capitalism, is already defeated. The Welfare State is conceived as a sort of revolutionary, intermediate stage between monopoly capitalism and Socialism."

Here we have two American Marxists with contradictory views on a crucial problem for the American left. I hope we have more discussion before we form a Trade Union line.—BILL.