SPEAK YOUR PIECE

Roses for Jesus Colon

NEW YORK

Editor, Daily Worker:

Whoever left the roses on Comrade Colon's desk, had a good idea, and I will add a verbal rose of my own. As a columnist he has visibly developed, from one column to the next, until now his work stirs me as nothing has since Heywood Broun. He tells stories (the Hiawatha one and the one about the rat) with great artistic simplicity, the climax coming all the more stunningly at the end. His little space in the paper breathes out a special warmth, an undying love for and understanding of all working people. He makes it easier to understand those gay, proud, Spanish speaking people who are in our city now in such numbers.

But I am not addressing this letter specifically to him, for who among you guys and gals of the Worker is **not** doing a heroic job these days? Ten years ago I was among your bitterest critics. In the meantime you have changed the paper and made it a dynamic force in the left wing.

You let in the light of humor, and raised the curtain on personalities, so that it now sounds like a paper written by human beings for other human beings. Considering the difficulties, you do an amazing job of going after news. You have been in the forefront of the battle for making the party line flexible, adaptable to new conditions and events.

You never write about your personal difficulties though they must be many. I am not personally acquainted with any of the Worker staff but I can imagine the many hours of overtime that must be necessary to straighten out unforeseen problems and get the workers' paper out on time. And then you have to sit down to your desk and read letters from people saying they are cancelling their subscription because they don't agree with this or that position you have taken! Who could do such a thing? It could only be someone with a peanut brain and a heart that has never understood what it is like to belong to a progressive movement.

Let the subscribers to bourgeois publications cancel their subscriptions if they will. They reason, correctly, "I am angry, so I will punish the editor where he he will feel it—in the pocketbook." But we progressives punish only ourselves when we withdraw from our paper.

Max Gordon is right. Let's take some of this energy now being spent on deciding what the Soviet Union ought to do in Hungary, and put it to deciding what we can do in the U. S. A. Fighting the Hungarians battles (or vice versa) can divide us, but cannot have much influence on the events in East Europe. Above all, let's keep our heads clear and our hands on thep low.

And, oh yes—here's $5 which I made recently doing some unexpected overtime.

—PAULA

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Suggestions for A Better Paper

SYRACUSE, N. Y.

Editor, Daily Worker:

The Daily Worker is by far the best paper published in this country, but I would like to give a few ideas on how it could be improved. The main job of a newspaper such as ours should be to give us news that is not found in the big business press, and to give us careful analysis of all important events. The Daily should serve us as a guide to tactics in our efforts to influence these events and it should keep readers raise their theoretical understanding.

The news content of an average issue is not adequate. I realize that the present discussion takes a lot of space and the staff is beset by many difficulties, especially financial.

The news column "In Shop and Union" has helped to improve the quantity and scope of labor news. What I would like to see, besides the big items, is some reporting of what goes in lower levels of the unions. If a serious effort were made to develop a chain of amateur reporters among our readers we could have a lot of stories of this type. I would also like to see more the kind of stories Virginia Gardner has been doing lately, interviewing ordinary people on important news events.

A major defect of our press, and this is of many years standing, is the severe neglect of Marxist theory. What I mean is the lack of articles explaining in simple terms various fundamental theoretical and philosophical questions. We should have more articles on what socialism could mean for America. Somebody from the Jefferson School could be encouraged to write a popular column on basic theoretical issues, in simple, nontechnical language.

One more feature I would like to see is more on health, although there have been quite a few in recent issues.

Last, and most important, my contribution ($30) is enclosed.

EDDIE.

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Statement from Erie County

BUFFALO, N.Y.

Editor, Daily Worker:

A section committee of the Erie County Communist Party joins with millions of Americans and particularly Polish - Americans in rejoicing at the recent course of events taken by the Polish people and their government.

The issue in Poland is not capitalism versus socialism but rather that of maintaining and strengthening a socialist organization of society. The Polish people believe that this can be accomplished by developing their own independent path to socialism which includes greater democracy than heretofore known in the various socialist countries.

As American Communists we believe this to be a correct course of action. In fact our own party is presently engaged in the most searching reevaluation of our past policies. Our aim is to establish that kind of organization which with other socialist-minded groups will be able to win the American people to the ideas of democratic socialism.

—A Section Committee of the Erie County Communist Party.

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Referendum Proposed

NEWARK, N.J.

Editor, Daily Worker:

While I personally think that the National Resident Board and the editors of the Daily Worker should be removed for the statement on Hungary and the editorial of Monday, Nov. 5—not only for printing an anti-Soviet statement, but also for changing the line of the Party without discussion or authority by the membership—I make the following proposals in the spirit of "preconvention discussion" and in line with some of the proposals for democratization which appear in the draft resolution:

1—The statement of the majority of the Resident Board be submitted to the membership in the form of a referendum. Nothing in our present constitution opposes such an idea, and the draft resolution suggests it as a method.

2—In the interests of presenting all prevalent points of view, that either Alan Max or Joe Clark be replaced by someone who will begin immediately to present news articles as well as interpretative articles giving voice to what I would call the Marxist-Leninist position held by the Party's membership.

I look forward to reading this letter in the Daily without editing.—**L.G.**

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Neither Adulation Nor Hasty Censure

BRONX

Editor, Daily Worker:

Not so long ago we had a slogan, "What's good for the Soviet Union is good enough for the American Communists." The Stalin revelations shocked most of us, so now the pendulum has swung the other way. . . . So that, now, some of us are saying, "If it's good enough for the Soviet Union, it must be bad for the C.P.U.S.A."

Such I find to be the attitude of Sid Resnick, writing to Speak Your Piece Nov. 21. His stand toward the tragic Hungarian events is based upon the assumption that because the Soviet Union intervened it must be automatically wrong. On the contrary, if the Soviet Union has failed to intervene to prevent the resurgence of fascism and the danger of a new world war, it would have been derelict in its duty as a nation of Socialism and would have merited the condemnation of genuine Socialists everywhere. The Soviets are not in Hungary to impose Socialism, but to serve the imperfect Socialism that existed there and thus thwart the well-laid plans of those who would overthrow established Socialism or budding socialism in other lands.

I agree with Sid Resnick that the Soviet Union is not immune to criticism on other counts. All of us are honor-bound to question very sharply its position on the Jewish question, on its relations with the People's Democracies, etc. But in the Hungarian events, the Russian leaders have acted in the best tradition of defenders of the best interests of the working class.

Blind adulation was wrong! By the same token, anti-Sovietism by itself may well lead to anti-Socialism. It is not a panacea nor remedy for a break with isolation. The various groups of Trotskyites, et al, who have made this their policy still continue to meet in a telephone booth.

I think we need a new slogan toward the Soviet Union: "Neither foolish adulation nor hasty censure," "Praise when merited, criticism when deserved."—M. G.

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Know-Nothing Attitude

Editor, Daily Worker:

For years we've talked about the know-nothing wings of the two major parties. Now it looks like we're developing a know nothing wing in the Communist Party. Its line is very simple. "We **don't know** all the facts about Hungary (Poland, Tito, East Germany, Poznan, etc.), but the Soviet Union must have a good reason for doing whatever it's doing."

Frankly, I won't buy it. I don't think a majority of the Communist Party will either, and I fervently hope that the national convention will prove that.

The current enemy seems to be the Daily Worker's editors, particularly for their editorial stand on the Hungarian situation. I think the Worker's editorial position is fundamentally sound, even though I would have expressed it somewhat differently.

I don't want any part of a movement which is going to condone the actions of the Soviet troops against the Hungarian population. Sure, I know. We all agree that both the Russians and the Hungarians made many mistakes and that this present situation is just an outgrowth of past errors.

But I didn't commit those errors and I am not going to take responsibility for them by justifying the Soviet use of troops in Budapest. Perhaps for the Soviet Union it is a matter of political security at this point. But the original error was made jointly in the Kremlin and the CP of Hungary and they can justify Soviet troops if they want to. We have no business playing at that game.

Am I anti - Soviet? I don't think so. I just don't believe that I'm as naive as I once was about the Soviet Union and the countries of Eastern Europe. But I'm not going to let a label bother me.

—Ex- Know-Nothing.

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Virginian Answers Lester Rodney

ROANOKE, Va.

Editor, Daily Worker:

Lester Rodney's "glorious counter-revolution" in Hungary (he calls it revolution!) is bragged about in all the reactionary press and to a certain extent in The Worker.

Rodney defends Peter Fryer of the London Daily Worker for opposing that paper's position in not printing a Horthy fascist interpretation of what occurred in Hungary. Did Fryer ever get as excited in fighting his "own" imperialists when they raped Kenya and Egypt?

Rodney also defends French writer Jean Paul Sartre's Attack on the Soviet Union and his quitting the French Party.

Did Sartre ever get as upset over the slaying of tens of thousands of Arabs by his "own" imperialists?

Contrary to what Rodney says, I have not once read anything in the Worker that would sneer at morality, humanism, etc. However, letter writers have indicated that they would not participate in the "humanism" of fascism, of an Eastland, McCarthy and their ilk. Rodney knows that is true, so why does he twist the facts?

The "cult of the individual" is a vestige of capitalism and it dies hard as a lot of other hangovers from capitalism. Reports from the Soviet Union indicates sweeping changes taking place which will go a long way towards establishing a full socialist democracy.

For the Soviet Union to permit once again a fascist dictatorship to exist at its borders would be a crime not only against itself but against all humanity.

Let us not forget that fascism means war—we do not want it again.—**Southern Worker.**

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Moved by Plea Of Art Shields

Editor, Daily Worker:

Enclosed is $20.

This is in appreciation of Art Shields timely remarks in the Daily Worker of Nov. 19. Up to this time. I've refrained from making any contribution from a feeling of disgust with the Daily Worker's "bleeding heart" policy towards our "enemy forgotten."

I would suggest to Howard Fast and the others to read a little book by the name of "Peekskill USA" to have a good look at the fighters for Democracy in this and other lands. I'm tickled to have a sampling of them as my neighbors at Camp Kilmer.

—From Middlesex County, New Jersey.

Protest from Lower East Side

Editor, Daily Worker:

The Lower East Side Section staff would like to voice its strong protest and indignation at the Daily Worker editorial of Monday, Nov. 5, on the action of Soviet troops in Hungary.

At a time when bloody fascist terror was raging in Hungary, when pogroms and mass murders of Jews, Communists and working-class leaders was taking place, when the Nagy government had completely capitulated to the reactionary elements, as evidenced by their withdrawal from the Warsaw Pact and their appeal to the Untied Nations for help, the actions of the Soviet Union in answering the appeal of the Hungarian Revolutionary government was a major contribution to the cause of world peace and socailism.

We consider the editorial in the Daily Worker, equating socialist troops with imperialist troops and calling for the withdrawal of the Soviet troops, as the kind of editorial that has absolutely no place in a Communist newspaper.

We would also like to congratulate Comrade Foster for his NO vote on the National Committee statement, and express our appreciation to Comrades Dennis, Davis and Jackson for their abstention and/or qualifications on the National Committee statement, which suffered from the same very serious errors that the Daily Worker did. (We would have preferred a clear NO vote from Comrades Dennis, Davis and Jackson).

We call upon the National Committee, State - Committee and Daily Worker to return to a Marxist working-class position, regarding socialist countries, proletarian internationalism and the struggle for peace.—E.

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Allen's Article Endorsed

Editor, Daily Worker:

I heartily endorse James Allen's article in today's D.W. I hope the editors and the readers of the Daily will take time to read all of the article and ponder Allen's careful analysis of the events in Hungary. Alongside of Allen's statement I would place this from an editorial in the People's Daily, China's Communist Party organ:

"We hold that actions taken by the Soviet Union in Hungary are entirely just. . . . It is not difficult for any coolheaded person with political understanding to see that if Hungary had not requested the assistance of Soviet troops and if they had not assisted, Hungary would have become a fascist hell, an imperialist outpost for overthrowing other East European peoples democracies and for engineering a new world war."

Surely the editors of the Daily Worker must find themselves among "coolheaded persons with political understanding."

—A. A. HELLER.

Daily Worker

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