

Dear Editor

Letters from Readers

Right Intentions But Wrong Deeds

SAN FRANCISCO.

Dear Editor:

The latest reports from Hungary compel me to ask some questions.

Is the government which the Hungarian rebels are fighting the representative of the majority of the people?

If it had this democratic support, how could the army have failed to crush the rebellion?

Why had it to ask for Soviet armed help?

Did not the Soviet leaders know that their forces were fighting to crush the 16-day general strike, not just a minority of rebels?

Their action suggests that the new regime was undemocratically imposed by Stalin. If this is so, the Soviet leaders are acting as if they are determined to carry on his bad work.

This would explain more clearly why Bulganin and Khrushchev could not take a decisive stand



against Stalin at the time of his election as general secretary of the party.

If they are fighting a majority of the Hungarian people, they probably mean well, not knowing what they are doing. This would be what Engels called a "false consciousness." At the very moment when they may have been doing enormous harm to the progressive cause in all the world they doubtless thought they were doing it a necessary service.

C. M.

Farmer-Labor Vote Scores Big Gains

BUTTE, Montana

Dear Editor:

The farmer-labor coalition in Montana scored substantial gains in the November elections. The lone, remaining Republican Congressman, Orvin Fjare, was defeated in a close race by LeRoy Anderson. Anderson was backed by the labor unions and the Montana Farmers Union. The Democrats gained control of both houses of the state legislature for the first time since 1938, and most of the elected Democrats were supported by the farm-labor coalition.

The Democrats now have a 59 to 35 majority in the House and a 31 to 25 edge in the Senate. Of the 59 House Democrats, approximately 20 are Farmers' Union members and leaders in their home counties.

The Committee On Political Education of the recently united Montana AFL-CIO carried on a far more active political action campaign than its predecessors had done in recent years. The independent Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers Union was likewise active. Eisenhower's majority was reduced by 12,000 votes in comparison to 1952.

The only setbacks for the liberal coalition, was the defeat of Arnold Olsen for Governor and Mary Condon for Superintendent of Public Instruction. These two candidates were outspoken against Montana legislation that gave a big windfall to the oil companies in the leasing of state-owned land. As attorney general Olsen had also fought vigorously

against a number of rate increases granted to utility companies. The oil, utility and other big corporations in Montana concentrated a campaign of lies and slander against Olsen and Condon and were able to defeat them.—J.H.

Soviet Action in Hungary Justified

CLEVELAND

Dear Editor:

As a worker who did not have very much chance to get a technical education I have avoided doing political writing because of the supposition that those who were better equipped technically could do a better job of formulating thesis or polemics. But I was wrong and from now on I will put my thinking on paper no matter how difficult or painful it is for me from a technical point of view.

Using the Hungarian situation and the statement of some of our leaders, the National Committee and the Daily Worker, I can now understand what Comrade Khrushchev meant when he stated that some Comrades were getting lost in the open field.

We must constantly remember that the Hungarian Horthy Government was a fascist Government — supported by clerical fascism; was an ally of Hitler Germany imperialism, and the Hungarian armies along with Hitler's armies attacked the Soviet Union and the Hungarian people did not rebel against it, or did not protest against it either. We should also remember that some of those Hungarian fascists who are in America brag about the fact that when the Horthy fascist organizations were being liquidated they advised them to go into the Hungarian Communist Party and some of them got up as high as the top leadership.

We must also remember that Project X and the Voice of America were organized for the purpose of counter-revolution, and to establish jumping-off bases for attack and war on the Soviet Union; and American imperialism has made agents out of those tens of thousands of Horthy fascists who had gotten out of the country; made thousands of them paid agents along with thousands of others in Austria as an organized force waiting for a chance to cross the border, which they did, between fifty and one hundred thousand of them.

We must remember that because war is not inevitable, that does not make it impossible, and if the people of the world let their guards down—then war could come, and it can still be an imperialist war against Socialism even though it cannot be successful.

It was a very unrevolutionary spectacle to read statements by our party leaders calling for support for the Nagy Government at the time when Nagy was taking clerical fascists into the government, calling upon the Hungarian Army and the Hungarian people to attack the Red Army; calling upon Western imperialism to help them to attack them more effectively at a time when Mindszenty was demanding that the Government form a Christian Democratic Party and make contact with the West and Horthy fascist bands were murdering Communists, Jews, and other families.

It is true that because of the Stalinist mistakes the Hungarian workers had justified grievances, and they were not corrected speedily enough, but the Hungarian workers nor anyone else can be excused for joining in counter-revolutionary action with fascist elements against their own Socialist Government and with imperialist elements against their own Government and the

A Visit to People,

By SADIE V. AMTER

MY TWO MONTHS

pressions of the city, the people see the hills on which the city part of Yugoslavia, jutting into the sea, and the splendor of the Adriatic Sea at eventide. As the sun appears to sink into the water and the sky, south, north and west is ablaze with orange, purple, sienna, rose and green all reflected in sea and clouds.

We spent many hours at the waters edge, entranced by the sea and vast panorama spread out before us. We saw the coming and going of large and small steamers that dock and take off from this seaport and we watched the fishermen gliding in their brightly colored row-boats under the low bridge from the canal that runs through a wide city street.

They bent their heads as they rowed under the low architectural bridge separating the canal from the sea. The gaily colored row-boats crowded together at all angles in the canal on a sunny day is a delightful sight. Broad city pavements flank the canal.

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ALL THE HOUSES and buildings are of brick or stone; the bricks are covered with plaster. They are built to withstand the terrible winds of winter called the Bora, which are of such intensity that each year some lives are lost. They appear to originate to the north west and there is one opinion that they are due to the proximity of the Alps. I watched one such lashing wind and rain that poured down like a river from the sky. We watched through the double casement windows. The streets are quickly emptied of pedestrians.

In a couple of hours it wanes and stops. The water runs down the hills and down the streets on the hills, often to lie a foot deep at the bottom of the city, near the water front.

★

PEOPLE IN ITALY are poor compared to the standards of the American working class. Wages are low and the cost of food and amount of proteins, eggs, milk, butter, meat, fish (with the exception of the lowly sardine) are beyond the reach of the pay envelope.

In Trieste and throughout Italy horse meat is on the order of the day, and in butcher shops there is a sign "Cavallo," so the buyer will know they sell horse meat. It costs less than half the price of beef. It is not bad either; I ate it more than once on my daughter's table.

The cheapest fish and the only fish that poor workers can afford is the sardine, which after a cloudy night, the fishermen bring back in great quantities. These

country of Socialism—the Soviet Union.

The Soviet Union was justified in intervening both times in Hungary under the conditions that prevailed there. The Soviet Union cannot and would be very foolish—which they are not, if they allowed a jumping-off base to be established on their border.

—JOSEPH DOUGHER

Show Solidarity with Hungarian Workers

Dear Editor:

I am tired of walking around with a heavy heart and sleeping an uneasy sleep and beating my gums about the terrible situation in Hungary.

I want to do something about it.

I suggest that our national organization address letters to the World Federation of Trade Unions, the International Federation of Trade Unions, the national AFL-CIO, the people's (Continued on Page 11)

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organizations, socialist groups, etc.

That these letters urge the establishment of committees to raise funds for economic relief of Hungary in the form of cash, food, clothes, medical supplies.

That the funds be turned over to the Trade Union Council of Hungary for them to distribute.

That in the United States we urge all members and friends of the Communist Party, of Hungary, and of international solidarity and peace, to give a day's pay to Hungary.

That we address letters to the Communist Parties of other countries urging that they take similar steps.

That we address a special plea to the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. That this plea state the plain fact, like it or not, that the Soviet government is compromised in the minds of the Hungarian workers; that the workers of the Soviet Union can salvage the situation. That a frank and candid explanation of errors and the impasse now existing be made to the Soviet workers; that they be rallied in factory, office and farm and urged to give a day's pay in production of needed goods to Hungary; that they thus demonstrate the main concern of the Soviet Union is to give tractors not tanks, bread not bullets to the Hungarian nation. . . .

We suggest that the socialist and capitalist world engage in a vast competition as to who can give the most aid the fastest for the restoration and expansion of the Hungarian economy.

We suggest also that we tell the Hungarian workers what we have just proposed; that we state our confidence in their ability to lead the nation as witnessed in the unity and discipline of their strike; that we support their demands for better living standards, democracy and national sovereignty.

But we urge them to use their discipline and unity and capacity to lead the nation by taking up the reins of government, starting with Kadar, and going back to work now, negotiating the question of withdrawal of Soviet troops. . . .

Since the Soviet Union indicates its intervention was based on the fear of fascist elements, we say to you: Remove this fear by demonstrating your ability to lead the nation. Take hold now.

Given the kind of support to you that we have outlined, and the concession to the fears of the Soviet Union as well as millions of others, we are confident that not only your just aims, but the aims of the international working class and its allies can be achieved.

Party Vitality

Dear Editor:

The most important single development in our party during this difficult past year has been the rank-and-file members' beginning to think for themselves, to speak, write, and express criticisms and feelings of all kinds. Roughly, the correspondence column of the Daily and Sunday Worker have averaged 5 letters a day during the past 6 months—about 700 letters at least were printed, and how many more were received for which there was no room?

Undoubtedly also, hundreds of letters were written and never sent to the paper for various reasons, and many more opinions were worked out in discussions all over the country which didn't get written down.

A great ferment has been taking place among our members and our friends—much of their written expression is strong; forthright, skillful—revealing untapped resources for profound and courageous thinking, for leadership. This was particularly true of letters from industrial workers, and from towns outside of New York (for example, the steel worker's fine discussion article, "The Road to Mass Unity Is Not Easy"). This renaissance of the rank-and-file renews one's faith in human vitality and Communist indestructibility.

Let's have some proposals about how to give effective form to rank-and-file opinion before, during, and after the Convention. First, let's make a study of the published letters (calling for more and newer ones at the same time); let's get an indication of opinion thus on basic issues from members and sympathizers.

Next, how about asking each branch of the party to prepare a written statement of its views on the Draft Resolution and send this in directly to the national office; others such as young people who are close to us, former party members, people who belonged to now-defunct progressive organizations should be asked to get together in groups and do the same thing.

Let's have a pre-convention committee of national leaders read through all these reports, sift their opinions, and plan to have them expressed by rank-and-file delegates at the various conventions. We will only hold on to the Communist Party membership by giving them a real part in rebuilding their organization; we must bring new life into policy formation; and we must begin thinking creatively about new ways of insuring this mass participation after the convention. We must change our emphasis or we will not survive.

—ALICE JEROME