

# Letters from Readers

## About a Motion Made by the C. P.

Editor, The Worker:

The December issue of "Party Affairs" carries the discussion of the national committee of the Communist Party on the drafting of a party program.

In the discussion divergent views were expressed on the approach to the program. These divergencies were resolved by the adoption of a motion which carried by almost unanimous vote, only a few comrades abstaining.

Unfortunately, through an oversight, the motion was not printed in "Party Affairs."

Would you please reprint the text of the motion so as to make clear to your many interested readers that the National Committee concluded the discussion by a definite motion on the approach to a party program:

"The National Committee is critical of the delay in submission of the party program, a task mandated by the 16th national convention, for completion within one year. Whatever reasons for the political hesitation in advancing the work on a new party program, the national committee insists upon a (qualitative change in the tempo of work in the program. It instructs the national administrative committee to submit a detailed set of working papers to the national committee by its next meeting. It further declares that the work on the new program can only go forward in an ideological atmosphere in which all theoretical propositions are subject to free and comradely discussion, in the light of the conditions of struggle of the American working class and its allies."

Comradely yours,

SID STEIN

★

## Aptheker Disagrees With Gordon Piece

Dear Editor:

I write to state my disagreement with certain of the propositions contained in Max Gordon's article on socialism and capitalism, published in *The Worker*, December 15, 1957.

Max Gordon writes that the real rulers of the USSR consist of members of the Communist Party, and that the existence and relationship of that Party to the State are not indicated in the Constitution of the Soviet Union. This is, I think, wrong on both counts. The Soviet Union, a Socialist country, is a state whose rule is that of a dictatorship of the proletariat (in alliance with the peasantry); it is not a state whose dictatorship is that of a Party. It is a State wherein the content has not always fulfilled the form; wherein exceedingly serious aberrations appeared. But this was discrepancy and not degeneration. The USSR remains a state of workers and peasants and in this its democratic reality is greater than that of any bourgeois state, including the most democratic.

Further, the position of the Communist Party is stated in the Constitution of the USSR. This appears in Article 126 which, among other things, says: "... the most active and politically-conscious citizens in the ranks of the working class, working intelligentsia voluntarily unite in the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, which is the vanguard of the working people in their struggle to build communist society and is the leading core of all organizations of the working people, both public and state." Furthermore, in Chapter XI of the Constitution, dealing with The Electoral System, under Article 141, where the mode of nominating candi-

(Continued on Page 4)

## READERS' COLUMN

(Continued from Page 7)

dates for the various Soviets is established, one of the organizations mentioned as participating in this right, along with others, is the Communist Party.

There were several other observations that I would like to make, as a result of Max Gordon's comments, but the limitations of a letter preclude this. I would, however, like to add this point. There is a Constitution which makes no mention of political parties, despite the fact that within the life of the country political parties wield great influence. I have in mind the Constitution of the United States. Here political parties do not appear at all, and the fact is that the actual organization of political parties in our country came a generation after its founding. This has in the past and does today raise very serious problems in terms of the effectiveness with which the will and the choice of the voters—even within the confines of a capitalist society—may be registered. But, then, this is another question.

Very truly yours,  
HERBERT APTHEKER

### Here Are the Real Anti-Semites

CLEVELAND

Editor, The Worker:

A well-known novelist, in his letter to Boris Polevoi, asserted that the foreign policy of the Soviet Union, is anti-Semitic. The contrary is true. The foreign policy of the U. S., not of the Soviet Union, is anti-Semitic.

"Of the 9,600,000 Jews who lived in the parts of Europe under Nazi domination, it is conservatively estimated that 5,700,000 have disappeared, most of them deliberately put to death by the Nazi conspirators," charged the indictment in the Nuremberg War Crimes trial. The road to the gas chambers of Auschwitz and Treblinka ran through Versailles and Munich. The Dawes Plan pumped millions in American and British funds to the German capitalists as a transfusion for the German counter-revolution, said counter-revolution being crowned by that horror of horrors, Hitler's Jewish policy. Under the law of aiders and abettors, the so-called western democracies share in the guilt of these monstrous crimes.

Further, as accessories after the fact, by obstructing the appropriate punishment of all but a handful of the Nazi butchers, the complicity of the capitalist governments is compounded. In his book "Gestapo" Edward Crankshaw mentions a Doctor Kremer, who conducted "selections" at the Auschwitz gas chambers. "It is of interest to note," writes Crankshaw, "that Professor Dr. Kremer of the University of Westphalia was sentenced to death by a Polish court in Cracow and was duly executed. It is not certain that this would have happened had he been tried farther West." The record shows that in areas liberated by Soviet forces, the mass murderers were punished properly, as witness the SS Generals in Riga, tried in the morning and hanged in the afternoon. In the West, with a few exceptions, most of the big Nazi killers are free by now. This is consistent with Eisenhower's expressed intention of letting bygones be bygones and Churchill's order to stack Nazi arms to be reused for anti-Soviet war.

The whole German policy of the State Department is anti-Semitic, as is the policy toward Israel. What could be more anti-Semitic than the way imperialism mocks the hopes and aspirations of the Jews in Israel by using their national homeland as a cat's paw in the sinister game of undermining colonial liberation and threatening the socialist sphere?

The lack of emphasis on this aspect of the Jewish question is disturbing. So is the absence of any

## Will Pucknik Fly

(Continued from Page 5)

progress step by step from one discovery to another.

To Gilzin—and to you if you accept his picture of science as continuing, developing force—the "flight" of the first satellite began long before Oct. 4, 1957 (on paper and in theory, of course, but in a very valid sense) and that, in this sense, such more ambitious craft are already "flying" at this moment.

Gilzin avoids controversial or potentially invidious matters: he does not look over his shoulder at America and say (as I would, in his place, be tempted to say): "Excuse my dust—my cosmic dust!" But passages in his book prompt me to ask:

HOW MANY of America's leaders have even a germ of this scientific spirit (as distinct from scientific knowledge) which is so prevalent among the Soviet people at all levels? Did any of these leaders really believe in their hearts (before Oct. 4) that a man-made but motorless body could fly for months around the world at unheard-of speeds in obedience to some laws or other that could be set down only in crazy mathematical hieroglyphics? In this matter of scientific spirit, how would these pundit fare in a quiz contest against a team of intelligent teen-agers, American, British or Russian?

Not having the high-octane scientific spirit of Gilzin (who is just as interested in what will happen ten decades hence as ten days hence) I scanned his book for something that could be tipped as the immediate successor to the Sputniks. My choice is a project which—borrowing some of Gilzin's calm assurance and the puckishness of Shakespeare's Puck—I hereby name Pucknik.

★

IT IS a round-the-world flight that combines some of the features of the Sputniks' orbital flight with those of winged, powered and manned flight. Puck said "I'll put a girdle about the world in forty minutes," but Pucknik has to conform to certain laws that Puck ignored and this 1958 world-girdling takes a few hours.

A super-jet (perhaps rocket-boosted) takes off at the well-known Point A and in a few minutes, during which it consumes all its fuel, it reaches a height of about 180 miles and a speed of about 8,500 mph. The rest is plain sailing—or sail-planning?—except that Pucknik every thousand miles or so skims downwards into the denser atmosphere and rebounds like a flat stone skimming across a pond.

This game of global ducks-and-drakes serves a double purpose: the denser air supplies the necessary wing-lift and the equally necessary braking, so that Pucknik glides down at normal landing speed at the same well-known Point A. "Neatest trick of the week"—or perhaps next week.

Travel to Distant Worlds has been excellently translated by Pauline Rose, and on the few occasions when the author feels compelled to shoot off into the cryptosphere of hyperbolic velocities and sidereal perturbations we are left gasping for only a moment before he returns to the rescue with some

material on anti-Semitism in the U.S. Admittedly, Soviet replies to inquiries about Jewish developments in the USSR are not as frank as they ought to be. Working-class internationalism is a two-way street that places certain obligations on the Soviet Union as well as on socialists in other countries. However progressive Americans ought to recognize the tremendous contribution to Jewish freedom and survival made by Soviet socialism. They ought to direct their main fire against American domestic anti-Semitism, a rotten fiber woven all through our social fabric. They ought also oppose the anti-Semitic foreign policy of the State Department, especially the policy of German renazification.

—M. E. T.