

# SPEAK YOUR PIECE

## Hails the Improved Daily

Editor, Daily Worker:

Whatever the conclusions of history about Khrushchev's report to the 20th Congress I cannot help but observe that this drastic surgery has effected a cure for which it probably was never intended. The Daily Worker has suddenly become a very superior newspaper. Its writers emerge as good journalists capable of handling the English language without leaning on the exasperating crutches of left-wing clichés. The snarl and the bombast is gone and the discussions are something to be proud of, very proud. One can offer the DW to anyone now as not only material which ought to be read but which is also well written.

I think this problem of good writing is not an insignificant detail in the development of a socialist movement. Writing next to speech is the essential method enabling people to communicate with each other and clichés mean thoughtlessness, bombast means arrogance, these with careless grammar adding up to a cynical attitude repellant to people who might be curious enough about socialism to become socialist themselves some day.

The only bad writing I noticed in the DW this week was "The Open Letter to CP Members" the usual windy, generalizing, mixed-metaphor stuff which makes us a laughing stock to serious people.

The windy grandiloquence of C.P. writing is not caused only by lack of technical know-how with words. Elizabeth Gurley Flynn and Steve Nelson know how to feel people reading what they have to say. The staff of the Daily Worker hasn't changed but the attitude of the writers has changed. Every DW writer lately has become a sincere observer. He is expressing himself with respect for me and for every man and woman reading the paper. Whether we agree or not with the opinions of DW staff-writers we can feel the earnest respect with which they address us.

And so to end this letter I'm sending 50 bucks enclosed to the DW fund drive.

Tell Max Gordon I disagreed with every word he said in his platform of apologetics, but it was stimulating disagreement and my son who agreed with Max called me some very harsh names. I still disagree with Max and love him for his good writing. The DW has become wonderful; it's going to grow so big it will be looking for more staff. When a job's open I want to apply. Also after February the Speak Your Piece page must be continued. It's wonderful to have one paper in the country which gives a whole page to letters from readers. I intend to "speak my piece" a few more times on that page. I may disagree fiercely with some of your editorials but I hope I'll never shudder again at the way they are written. The Daily Worker has become an experience to read. It gives me courage to feel how it is going to grow.

AN OLD TIMER

PS: There's one awful word you're still using, that jaw-breaker, democratization. Oh, change it if it takes a short sentence or two.

## Islamic Culture

Editor, Daily Worker:

If TSF, in his answer to Ed Strong, had asked Strong what he meant by the terms "Islamic civilization" and "Islamic culture," or had gone to such an extreme as looking it up in a book (perish the thought), that might have been the proper way to argue. But no. TSF must de-

nounce Strong as mistaken, and through this arrogance, only displays his own ignorance.

Islamic culture and civilization are familiar terms in any history of world culture.

They refer to the great feudal empire built up after the rise of Mohammed, covering North Africa, and what is now the Middle East, including Babylon and Persia and Spain. At its height, in the 10th, 11th and 12th centuries, Islamic civilization was one of the foremost centers of science, art and philosophy in the world. It preserved and carried on the great classical Greek achievements in science and philosophy, and made historic contributions to astronomy, medicine, mathematics, and other fields of learning. This was the period known as the "Dark Ages" in Europe.

In fact, Islamic culture had a profoundly fruitful effect in ending the "Dark Ages" and contributed much that was essential to the great revival of art and learning in the European Renaissance. Unlike what was going on in Europe, Islamic culture was distinguished, in many places and periods, by its tolerance. It is as correct to use the term "Islamic culture" as it is to use the term "Renaissance."

Notable is the prominent role played in Islamic culture by Jews, of whom the list is too long to present here, but at least the most famous name can be mentioned, Moses Maimonides, born in 1135.

Abram Leon Sacher, in his "History of the Jews," writes, "The few centuries of Jewish life in Moslem Spain are among the happiest and most fruitful in all Jewish history." The European Crusades against Islam also inspired fierce and brutal waves of anti-Semitism in Europe. It is worth knowing something of Islamic civilization, for even within the limitations of feudal society, it shows how many different peoples, including those now described as "backward" or "barbarian," helped build a culture which imperialists now arrogantly refer to as "Western," or "White man's."

S. FINKELSTEIN

## Feels DW Did Not Study Situation

GARY, Ind.  
Editor, Daily Worker:

This letter is mainly meant to accompany the enclosed \$10, and there will be more to follow. However, while writing, we want to express our disagreement with your position on the situation in Hungary. It is our feeling that there was much too quick a reaction, too rapid a judging of the issues, even before it was clear what was really happening.

This is not to say that the events in Hungary do not point to serious shortcomings on the part of the Hungarian Communists, and of the Soviet Communists in relation to them. Nor is it to say that many of the demands of the Hungarian workers were not legitimate. But to jump so precipitously to the conclusions to which you came, and which were so roundly concurred in by some of your columnists shows the same lack of careful analysis, of willingness to accept things at face value, of lack of deep probing into situations which led to your (and our) completely uncritical attitude toward the Soviet Union.

Moreover, it is quite possible that the primary, though not recognized, motive for the quick condemnation of the Soviets is a desire to "get in step with the rest," to achieve respectability among Americans of other persuasions or those who are socialist oriented, but anti-Soviet.

Increasingly the evidence is pouring in that all was not as simple as it seemed in Hungary, and that, while there were no

doubt serious blunders and perhaps worse on the part of the Soviet Union, the hands of the U. S., West Germany, Britain, etc. were deeply dipped into this pot of trouble. You might have done better had you called on the Soviet CP for an explanation of its actions, and then evaluated that alongside of what we know of the events.

2 LAKE COUNTY, (Ind.)  
STEELWORKERS

## Soviet Union Still A Beacon Light

Editor, Daily Worker:

Enclosed is \$10. Without the Daily Worker, is like being without a right arm.

The propaganda against the Soviet Union from all sides is horrifying. If The Worker did not exist to explain the truth to those who want to know the truth about the Hungarian situation and give us that warmth and comfort in our hearts against this steel barrier of lies which is surrounding us, the mind would become warped from being fed-up with such falsehoods.

Some of my close friends and myself still and always will always feel that the Soviet Union is a beacon light for the working people of the world. We must not lose this insight, and if sometimes a little unhappy occurrences happen, which always get clarified in the end, we should keep our heads clear. It never failed yet, when the press smears too much, it means that something they undertook did not come out too successful, and the great Soviet Union is a bone in their throats.

Please keep up your good work, and most of all UNITY.

-A Reader.

## Liquidation Opposed

Editor, Daily Worker:

We affirm that the C.P. should not be liquidated. There is a need for a Marxist-Leninist party in the struggle to achieve socialism.

We feel that the draft resolution omits the responsibility of the Communist Party to educate the U.S. working class on the role of U.S. imperialism. This omission is a weakening of Marxism-Leninism principles. We are not going to grow by watering down principles.

West Side Manhattan Club  
Communist Party

## Furriers Back Dennis Statement

Editor, Daily Worker:

A group of the section committee of the fur industry unanimously voted to endorse the statement of Eugene Dennis in reference to the statement of the National Committee of the C.P., U.S.A. on Uoland and Hungary.

-B. C.

## Editorializing In a Headline

Editor, Daily Worker:

Headline on page of the Daily Worker for Tuesday, Nov. 20, is poor journalism and, therefore, poor politics. It reads:

Hungary, USSR in UN

Blast Deportation Lie

Wouldn't it be sufficient to report the statements of Shepilov and Horvath without implicitly saying that their statements are fact and the charges are not. In your editorial column, of course, you can call the charges anything you like. But not over a news story. Of course, if you have some special information which definitely proves that the charges are false (aside from the denials issued by the Soviet and Hungarian delegates), then we should hear about it.

-WRITER

## NATO Held the Primary Cause

CHICAGO

Editor, Daily Worker:

Due to unfortunate circumstances I have seen only one copy of the DW and SW during the last two weeks. That was the Nov. 5 issue.

I am shocked that the National committee of the C. P. could have issued such a statement as was printed in that issue. The main blame for what happened in Hungary is placed on the Soviet Union with a slap on the wrist to the USA for interfering in Hungarian internal affairs through Project X as (merely) "aggravating the situation." What is this? Is the N. C. of the CPUSA to become a voice in the U. S. State Department?

Then the leading editorial in the same paper, "A Summit Meeting Now," while correctly calling for settlement of world problems through negotiations takes the incorrect position of the N. C. statement and magnifies it.

The editorial states that the "two courses" of the trouble in Hungary are "First . . . grave distortions" by "Soviet Communist leadership" and the Rakosi group, "Second . . . reactionaries in Hungary, openly supported encouraged by Washington to overthrow socialism." Why was the order reversed? Have you forgotten that the Warsaw pact requiring the Soviet Union to come to the defense of the Hungarian people was established in response to NATO?

Another thing: You say, "We are for the withdrawal of all troops from all countries to their own borders." And you tie that to the Hungarian situation. Of course, we are for such withdrawal of troops. The peoples of all nations are for it. Above all the Soviet Union urged it and took steps in the direction above. It is precisely the imperialists of the United States, Britain and France who have point-blank refused to consider such a withdrawal. And yet you blame the Soviet Union "first" for the situation in Hungary.

In complete contrast to the editorial discussed above was the letter in the same paper by James E. Jackson, Jr., headed, "Israel Needs an Independent Egypt." This letter is clear, penetrating and true to facts. It is constructive in tone, gives the reader true perspective and suggests action for persons at all levels.

We need more of this kind of writing in the Worker and DW. I urge that Jackson be invited to contribute articles, especially in the field of foreign affairs. This is the area where we must have true perspective in our new look at America is to be without distortion.

Enclosed is \$50 for The Worker.—ELECTRICAL

## Courage Praised

Editor, Daily Worker:

The DW playing a historic role in the greatest crisis of our American socialist movement. It has been bold and courageous and stimulated much necessary debate and soul-searching. We feel it is on the right track.

American socialism must be given a fighting chance to appeal to, and win, the workers and all our countrymen to its banner. It will not get this chance if it continues to copy and defend every action of other socialist lands and movements. We will have to learn to stand on our own feet and think things out for ourselves. We will have to master the ability to criticize other socialists and still remain friendly, to disagree without attacking. They will have to develop

the same art. And will have to learn how to take it as well as and it will have to continue for many, many months—let us resolve to fight like tigers to preserve the largest, most experienced and most effective socialist movement in our country, to preserve its press, publications, institutions. Change them — yes, radically. Destroy them or allow them to collapse—absolutely no.

Enclosed is \$20 for your fund drive from two active trade unionists and some relatives. We do not know what the future holds in store for the DW—whether it can or should be a daily or a weekly, a mass paper or a house organ. But those decisions should be made by the readers and editors, not by financial compulsion.

-E. and R.

## Peter Fryer's Conclusions

Editor, Daily Worker:

Because the actual facts in Hungary are considered central by many readers in this discussion, I would like to supply some quotes I have received from a London friend reporter Peter Fryer's letter of resignation, as published in the London Daily Worker. Fryer, who was in Budapest and who quit the staff when it refused to publish his stories, says:

"I am convinced that Soviet intervention was both criminal and unnecessary. The danger of counter-revolution did exist. Austrian Communists told me that before Nov. 4 some 2,000 emigres, trained and armed by the Americans, had crossed into Western Hungary to fight and agitate. But power was in the hands of the armed people, and they were fully aware of the danger of counter-revolution and were themselves capable of smashing it.

"The great mass of the Hungarian people have no desire to return to capitalism and want to retain all the positive gains of the past 12 years. Nor did the Soviet troops which entered Budapest on Nov. 4 fight fascists; they fought workers, soldiers and students and they could find no Hungarians to fight alongside of them.

"These are the conclusions I reached after hundreds of interviews. No honest Communist can now ignore the truth about Hungary. . . . Most of the revolutionaries, Communists and non-Communists, hoped to win an independent, democratic and genuinely socialist Hungary. But their hopes were crushed by Soviet intervention."

Fryer revealed he had been offered 1,000 pounds by an American newspaper chain to write for them on Hungary as a renegade from communism. He spurned it, and remains in the Communist Party to fight "for political honesty and for real international solidarity." These, he said, "imply the courage to form independent judgments instead of caricaturing solidarity and Marxism alike by accepting without question the Soviet version of events."—C. L.

## Dressmakers Hit Editorial

Editor, Daily Worker:

A group of the Manhattan section of the dressmakers wish to express our indignation at the C.P. statement in the Daily Worker of Nov. 5 in reference to Hungary and Poland. We feel it is outrageous to attack the Soviet Union for trying to save a country from fascism.

Our National and State Committees should not be the ones to attack the Soviet Union under the circumstances.

-IDA