

Speak Your Piece

Correction

A letter in "Speak Your Piece" yesterday entitled "Disagree with Statement on Gates" was partly garbled through a mechanical error. Here is the corrected latter part of the letter, which was signed by Abner W. Berry, Jesus Colon, Max Gordon, Ben Levine, Alan Max, David Platt and Lester Rodney.

Whether Gates' comment could have been improved upon or even whether he should have commented at all, is certainly open to discussion. But the Administrative Committee's characterization of his comment as "a violation of the most elementary organizational principles common to all working-class organizations," in our opinion is groundless, uncalled for, and too reminiscent of previous harmful practices which the Communist movement has criticized itself for and which it is trying to shed.

We urge an end to the practice which delays publication of important discussions and decisions. Secrecy is not only wrong—in these days of bugging, stool-pigeonry and loose discussion, secrecy is impossible and only results in left-wingers getting their information on major developments in the Communist Party from the commercial press.

Moreover, in criticizing Gates, the Administrative Committee seems to forget that he is not only a member of the committee but also editor of the Daily Worker. It is absurd to expect him to remain silent to a query about the fate of the paper which he edits.

We would urge the Administrative Committee to take a sec-

ond look at its statement and give serious consideration to the above points.

Urges Self-Criticism By 'Fellow Old-Timers'

NEW YORK.

Editor, Daily Worker:

In the Dec. 24 Daily Worker, William Weinstone declares it is the duty of an American Communist facing an American audience to point out truths, "to lay the weight of criticism where it belongs."

In 1946 William Weinstone published a book of 112 pages, issued by New Century, called "The Case of David Dubinsky." This book very definitely pointed out a lot of truths and definitely laid "the weight of criticism where it belongs."

The only trouble was that the garment workers rejected this approach by the Communists and the line followed by that book proved to be an unmitigated disaster for the Left in the ILGWU.

Weinstone may have a democratic right to needle John Gates, but even more, Weinstone has a moral duty as a party member to examine why his past policies were wrong and failed to win the masses before he comes forward once again with the same dogmatism and sectarianism.

Just as I have not given up hope that the American worker will find their way to socialism, I have not given up hope that some of my fellow old-timers will find their way to self-criticism. I confess I do expect the first to happen sooner.

—R. BAXTER.

P.S. Enclose is \$5 to keep the Daily going.