

Dear Editor

Letters from Readers

Breast Beating Won't Win Workers

BROOKLYN, N.Y.

Dear Editor,

The continuing discussion consisting of breast beating and berating does not help achieve socialism one bit. It was necessary to examine and proclaim errors, but there is nothing constructive about continuously lambasting



the Soviet Union and each other. This constant self beratement is not going to convince either the anti-Sovieteers or our own workingclass.

It could be much better if progressives minded their own business of bettering conditions in America. Get into the raging struggle for Negro equality, combat the rising cost of living, strengthen the trade union movement, vocalize the need for world disarmament, spread the demand for amnesty for political prisoners, engage in the many struggles that face the American people, strengthen the progressive movements.

We are not isolationists, but we are neglecting our own backyard.—Louis Dinnerstein.

Neutral Police Force Proposal for Hungary

CLEVELAND.

Dear Editor,

I and many other rank and file progressives in Cleveland are profoundly disturbed by the recent events in Hungary and the dogmatic reaction of many leading progressives in this area. We feel that the spark of truth is being kept alive particularly in the columns and editorials in the Daily Worker. We hope that you will continue to fight for a genuine scientific Socialist point of view. One that is a truly independent American Socialist point of view, free of Soviet cultism and Stalinist dogma. In other words, analyzing all the facts and not juggling a few chosen ones as we have done in the past.

I and many others have been disturbed particularly by Eugene Dennis' recent statements. First his negative vote on the Hungarian situation which point by point in his explanation was directed at white-washing the Soviet Union. Also in his letter, he, not Joe Clark, reached a "new low" (his words), when he so crudely twisted Joe Clark's references to West Germany and Japan in his column.

After discussing the situation with other progressives who are of a mind that Russian troops should withdraw forthwith from Hungary, I have proposed what they agreed is a more constructive proposal.

I would read as roughly this: Whereas the Soviet Union violated the principle of self determination of nations and created a situation fraught with danger to world peace and the peaceful transition to socialism of all nations.

Whereas a Soviet withdrawal at this point would lead to anarchy and the danger of fascist elements taking advantage of the tragic situation growing out of the betrayal of the Hungarian Communist Party and unprinci-

pled initial intervention of the Soviet Union,

That a neutral military force be sent to Hungary, composed of six nations; two independent Socialist nations (Poland and Yugoslavia), two European non-socialist neutral nations (Finland and Austria) and two Asian neutrals (India and Burma).

And that the Russians withdraw from Hungary as this police force moves in. And this neutral police force supervise free elections with all anti-fascist parties (socialist and non-socialist) participating.

Sincerely yours,
Cleveland shop worker.

Error Corrected

Dear Editor:

In the Nov. 18 Worker on page 14: "Fistula is a chronic recurrent abscess."

A fistula is not an abscess! It may lead to an abscess, but it is not an abscess! How can you allow such ignoramuses to write in your paper?

—A Comrade Doctor

Suggests Scrutiny Of USSR Socialism

NEW YORK.

Dear Editor,

In the last issue of the CP Discussion Bulletin James Jackson berates those who "assert" that socialism does not exist in the USSR. Apparently he believes that after all that has happened, the mere assertion that it does is adequate. I do not think so.

I think that describing the USSR as socialist places an enormous obligation (one might say burden) on us and we ought to be pretty sure of our ground.

It seems clear that the people of the USSR do not have much control over their own destiny—politically, economically, militarily. The foreign policy of the USSR while anti-imperialist (i.e. Western imperialism) may not be socialist.

The basic question is one of ownership and control. Granted,



for discussion's sake, that the workers own industries, etc., is ownership without effective control meaningful?

Perhaps a study of the situation would cause us to properly describe the USSR as a "socialist-economy" country and not simply and unqualifiedly as "socialist." Or perhaps a study might reveal that the USSR while not capitalist, is not at all socialist and is a unique, unanticipated historical form.

In any event I think this question is of paramount importance and should get some study; not merely assertions one way or the other.

Sincerely,
—A Friend.

Value of Worker Higher Than Ever

Dear Editor,

I was asked recently "Is it any use to support The Worker?" My answer was "Yes! Decidedly, yes!"

I know The Worker. I have read The Worker constantly for the past 23 years. Part of that time it was the only daily paper in our home, and even to have

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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the Worker meant to cut down on already inadequate food.

In the beginning (1933) the Worker was rather blatant, rather sectarian; but it suited the temper of the times and was effective. Some years later, when Earl Browder took over editorship The Worker reached its lowest point in value. It excluded the word socialism from its pages and almost excluded the idea of the class struggle.

But today I think The Worker is near the point of highest value in all its history, despite very low circulation. Its style popular—shorter sentences, fewer big and uncommon words. The letters and articles of discussion have been most stimulating—and a very great service at this time.

Take the last weekend Worker, for good content; "Jack London, revolutionist"; "Joe Hill, martyr poet"; "Anna Louise

course, that will raise more money. But money is not the main thing.

Just as strikes are won by people pitted against money, so labor can only gain its rightful political place by combining its human forces, which will prove more powerful than all the billions of the four families.

Strong"; "Parents and Adolescents," and such fine columnists as George Morris, Joseph North and Abner Berry. Even Joseph Clark does a good job in this issue — which is a welcome change for the better.

The weakest point, I think, is the editorials. Some are good, some are not so good. And a few are terrible. The worst in many months was the recent one on the USSR and Hungary in the Nov. 5 issue. How could John Gates write, or approve, such a thing?

In the November 'Political Affairs' he says a number of good and true things (as well as some conclusions not based on facts or balanced judgment). There he praises to the skies the excellent and timely book of Gil Green, "The Enemy Forgotten." But in The Worker editorial he attacks not the enemy forgotten (monopoly capitalism) but the first and

leading land of socialism. He does this not on a factual basis — he evidently does not have the facts. He puts down a guess, or a hunch, or a personal prejudice as though it were the solid objective truth.

The same lack of objectivity (to put it very mildly) showed up in the National Committee statement on the Hungarian situation.

No, this is not the "millenium," not Utopia. The 'enemy forgotten' is not leaving in peace our friends abroad, nor us here at home. In spite of the considerably relaxed international tension, good people are being harassed by Wall Street's government. And not because of the word Communist. If they were called the Utopian Association for Progressive Social Action, it would be the same thing if they did something really effective for a better or more democratic America.

As a small example of what goes on: I have been followed by the special government corporation agents known as the FBI and forced out of three good jobs in the past three months. This, even though I am not active in the movement to any considerable extent at the present time and am up in years. But from savings, here's \$10.

More power to The Worker!

-J.H.

