

SPEAK YOUR PIECE

Protection in China And in America

PROVIDENCE, R. I.
Editor, Daily Worker:

Everyone is reading as of late of Pres. Eisenhower's threat to impose government controls if inflation should get out of hand. He goes on to say that failure to "discipline ourselves" would force the government to "redress the failure" and "by that process freedom will step by step disappear."

Now I have but to turn a page of my paper to see one of those freedoms of which he speaks, in the act of disappearing — the freedom of the press.

On Feb. 6, 1957, the American Newspaper Publishers Association made a formal protest to the President and to Congress concerning the State Department's policy on newspapermen visiting Red China. Is it true that the government is so concerned with the safety of a handful of people eager to bring the news of the world to the American people.

If so, why isn't some of this concern shown toward the American Negro people who in one section of our country risk their safety simply by riding in a public conveyance.

Or is it that the government feels that news of the wonderful advances made, under socialism in China by this long oppressed country would be detrimental to the future of capitalism.

A. G. F.

Feb. 6

Writes About "National Communism"

Editor, Daily Worker:

Is it really true as Joe Clark says that he doesn't know what's meant by 'national communism' which "Sovietskaya Rossiya" accuses him of advocating? Recent polemics have made it quite clear that many Communists, in allegedly correcting our previous neglect of study on American conditions and history, have so far gone overboard that the international and universal characteristic of imperialism have been forgotten, if they had ever

been understood at all. Also forgotten is the international nature of the communist movement and the fact that what is common to all socialist revolutions far outweighs the national differences, in regard to strategy and tactics. National differences and tactics are specific applications of that is primarily an international task. If imperialism is truly an international phenomenon, and its class basis essentially identical the world over, then the task of defeating it is also international in scope, and attention to national conditions and customs and histories is one of the tools to do this work.

Clark quotes Lenin copiously to prove that Lenin also advocated attention to national conditions. But to judge from all recent articles by Clark and others, one would think that Lenin said very little else, hardly enough to justify his being recognized as the chief developer of Marxism in the area of imperialism. Lenin was a prolific thinker and writer on a multitude of subjects, but most of our theorists today have come to certain conclusions and then choose just those quotes from Lenin which support those conclusions. But in that case, what is there to learn from Lenin at all? He might just as well not have written his books and pamphlets, if they are to be used only to support preconceived theories. Quotes from just anybody would do for that purpose.

Presumably his name is used because it has earned respect on other grounds as well. Let us know those grounds. Lenin's much-approved advocacy of studying concrete conditions is contained not only in direct quotations on the subject. It is evidenced in his practical work. But I've seen no attempt to study that work, in the pages of the Daily Worker. Lenin's "method" which has been called the "heart" of Leninism, is praised in words in many articles and speeches. Why have we not seen articles and speeches studying that method and learning from it?

BROOKLYN SUBSCRIBER

Feb. 7,

Disagrees With Soviet Paper's Attack

Editor, Daily Worker:

On the eve of the Communist Party convention the Soviet press and some leaders of the CPSU found it necessary to attack some of the most tested leaders of the Soviet Union and their press would do a great service to themselves and to the international working class movement if they first attended to some matters in their own home.

The same people, who a year ago at the 20th congress pictured Stalin as the biggest mass murderer and violator of human concepts are now telling us to follow his example as a "fighter" for the principles of Leninism. And what happened to the promises made at the 20th congress to restore democracy in the party and to liquidate all distortions of the Leninist principles of the National question as well as in all other fields?

A few days ago I read in "Jewish Life" a report by one of four delegates of the Canadian party who met both with Khrushchev and other members of the Central Committee of the CPSU, in which they also discussed the Jewish question. The arguments used by the first secretary of the CPSU are anti-Semitic. (Read Feb. issue of "Jewish Life.")

If the Soviet Communists are satisfied with Khrushchev's presentation, that is their business, but they will not get American Marxists to go back to the Stalinist cult of the individual, or to the racism which is described by a leader of the Canadian party.

As for Joe Clark — I take my hat off for him and for the entire "Daily" staff. Never since its inception did the "Daily" serve its readers in the true spirit of Marxism-Leninism and of open self-criticism as it has been doing for the last 12 months. When that spirit is taken away from Clark and his colleagues, you will again have a victrola but not a Marxist paper.

Wm. K.

Feb. 6, 1957