

# SPEAK YOUR PIECE

## Washington and The Communists

Editor, Daily Worker:

The DW of Sept. 13, 1948 printed a letter from the Rev. Elliot White. You may, perhaps, find it appropriate for inclusion the words he quoted. His letter in full follows:

As a convincing commentary on the current accusation that leaders of the Communist Party have been and are conspiring to overthrow the Government of the United States, the following questions propounded by an American, whose sincerity and right to speak are not generally disputed, seem relevant to the present national situation, in pointing to the real instigators of such overthrow:

"The enemy declare that we shall be our own conquerors. Cannot our common country, America, possess enough virtue to dissappoint them? Is the paltry consideration of a little pelf to individuals to be placed in competition with the essential rights and liberties of the present generation, and of millions yet unborn?"

"Shall a few designing men, for their own aggrandizement, and to gratify their own avarice, overset the goodly fabric we have been rearing at the expense of so much time, blood and treasure? Shall we at last become the victims of our own lust of gain? Forbid it, Heaven!"

These inquiries were made by George Washington, in 1779.

Up to now the Government carries relentless accusations and persecutions of the Communist Party and many of its members. The avarice and lust of gain of few designing powerful men in reaching out for material conquests and domination abroad put in jeopardy the essential rights and liberties and economic well-being of all citizens through the repressive laws and enormous expenditure for military purposes.—Reader.

## Where Will Money Come From?

Editor, Daily Worker:

Your editorial Feb. 15, Phony "Anti-Inflation" deservedly criticized the government for its announcement that it was to delay construction of 97 building projects, mostly post offices, at a cost of some \$700 million giving as reason that the expenditure might have inflationary effects. . . . Yet on the same day another report said the White House had under active consideration an atomic shelter program that could cost \$20 billion

to \$40 billion. The two reports indicate that something absurd-like goes on in government thinking.

The contemplation of the latter mentioned program would seem to be based on the very doubtful assumption that the United States can survive an all-out atomic war. Would it not be much sounder to spend, instead, a fraction of the sums mentioned in preparing and carrying out a detailed and all-inclusive plan for total enforceable disarmament? For even the lower figure mentioned a foreign-aid program could be organized that would go far toward building sound economies in undeveloped nations. And what a change for the better in the present dangerous international atmosphere such a program without costly military conditions attached, could bring about in a short time?—J.T.S.

Feb. 16, 1957.

## Says Fast Hasn't Left

Editor, Daily Worker:

Two recent letters to the Daily Worker (Feb. 11 and 15) bid a sad farewell to Howard Fast. While these letters are an improvement on past reactions from the Communist Party to ideological differences, their implicit assumption that Fast has left the struggle for socialism are immodest and, to say the least, unwarranted.

It is the tragedy of our American Communist movement that Howard Fast and hundreds of others have come to the conclusion that their continued membership in the Communist Party will not advance the cause of socialism in these U. S.

Let us not be so quick to assume that Howard Fast's departure from the Communist Party marks his end as an important creative writer. It may very well be that the profound reasons Fast gives for leaving indicate a maturity which will serve to heighten his future creative work. I say this despite the fact that I believe Fast's conclusion to leave the Party mistaken.

Rather than bemoaning the "weakness" which may beset Fast and others, let us try to make of the American Communist Party the kind of organization which Howard Fast will want, some day, to rejoin. Let us create the kind of moral and intellectual atmosphere in our movement which will encourage the greatest expression of varying points of view—ideological, political and artistic.

If Howard Fast's departure from the Party will serve to

dramatize the urgent necessity of our self-correction, which has only taken its first halting steps as a result of the recent national convention, and will impel us to the drastic break with the past which is so vital, then it may well have served a useful purpose far beyond Fast's intent.—I.S.

## On Remembering Banneker

Editor, Daily Worker:

I am prompted to write these few notes by the interesting article that appeared on Friday, Feb. 16, entitled "A Negro Scientist and Thomas Jefferson."

Having lived in the Washington area nearly all my life, I was not surprised to find that Banneker is remembered in the Capitol only by a school and playground (across Georgia Ave. from the Howard University). Yet, according to Shirley Graham's fine book on his life, his memorizing (not merely keeping of complete notes) of the plans for the Capitol were responsible for the laying out of the city after L'Enfant had gone back to France, taking the plans with him!

Incidentally, Frederick Douglass' home in Southeast Washington (well worth a visit even if the tourist is pressed for time!) is poorly maintained by a private group with very little funds. This of course is typical of the studied neglect by our officials of the magnificent leaders who helped build our country, but whose skin was the wrong color.

Just Southwest of Baltimore (a very interesting trip by old U.S. 29 to Washington) is the sleepy old town of Ellicott City, named for the Ellicott family and lying on steep hills very much like those of Harper's Ferry (another neglected historic site!) I would strongly recommend Miss Graham's book to anyone who wants to know the amazingly varied contributions made by Banneker so many years ago.

Sincerely,

G.G.

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