

SPEAK YOUR PIECE

Diehards and Anti-Semites

DETROIT, Jan. 29.

Editor, Daily Worker:

In the Jan. 27 issue of the Worker in Joe Clark's piece "Poland Advances Along Democratic Road to Socialism," I would like to take issue with a paragraph there.

The paragraph says: "An ugly aspect of the opposition from the outright reactionaries as well as from the diehards in the United Workers Party was that both made use of anti-Semitism against the Gomulka leadership. This included an effort to prevent the election of a politbureau member Roman Zambrowski, a Jew. He was returned to the Sejm (parliament) along with other members of the politbureau despite the racist smears used against him."

Clark then goes blithely on his way to the end of the piece, but never provides a single fact, quote, or example of what he had just said.

What was his source? Who were the people in the United Workers Party, the diehards who made use of the poison of anti-Semitism?—WILLIAM ALLAN

[Note by Joe Clark: The diehards within the United Workers Party who used anti-Semitism were the so-called Natolin group, now called the "Conservatives" by the present party leadership. They were defeated in October when Gomulka was elected first secretary of the Party. Zenon Nowak, a leader of the Natolin group, was on the Politbureau and at a central committee meeting urged the "regulation" of Jews in various posts. Nowak was repudiated in the October elections for top party leadership.

J. B. Salsberg, a leader of the Canadian Labor Progressive Party wrote in the January National Affairs Monthly:

"Comrades, recently returned from Poland, have confirmed the following facts: First, that comrade Khrushchev on his arrival in Warsaw while the Polish Central Committee was meeting said that he would never allow Poland to fall into the hands of

the 'imperialists and Zionists.' Surely this is the language of interference. In addition it has an anti-Jewish bias, otherwise why add the word 'Zionist' to the word 'imperialists?'"

That the Natolin diehards used anti-Semitism, when they were in leadership, is indicated by Dr. David Sfar, secretary of the Jewish Social-Cultural Society in Poland, in a speech reprinted by the Jan. 10 Canadian progressive Jewish weekly, 'Voceenblatt.' Dr. Sfar said that before the 8th plenum which elected the Gomulka leadership, "anti-Semitism stemmed from certain attitudes at the top. . ."

That the Natolin diehards continued this anti-Semitism after they were defeated for top leadership is documented by the Polish youth weekly, Pro Prostu, in its first January issue, as follows:

"There can be no doubt as to whose interests are served . . . by the unleashing of anti-Semitism as a political argument. The conservative forces use it as a smoke screen in order to prevent the people from correctly recognizing where the front line of this struggle lies. . ."

"The thesis about the collective responsibility of Jews obscured the other, correct thesis about individual responsibility of people for their actions. The thesis about the collective responsibility of Jews allows petty dictators and local tyrants of 'Aryan' origin to shed their guilt and give them absolution. . ."

Open reactionaries as well as the Natolin diehards have been the sources of Polish anti-Semitism. The resolution adopted by the 8th plenum of the Polish United Workers Party resolutely condemned, the nationalist and anti-Semitic attitudes both outside and inside the party. That fight, by the Gomulka leadership continued after the plenum and won an outstanding victory in the elections.]

Reporting The Steel Union

BALTIMORE, Jan. 31.

Editor, Daily Worker:

The coming United Steelwork-

er's National Election has been receiving more than its share of attention in the daily newspapers. The reason for this unusual publicity, we believe, is twofold.

First, the daily press hopes the "revolt" will split and thereby weaken the Steelworker's Union, and seeks to help by more than usual publicity. Second, the issues (the dues raise and salary increase) is one of the trade union weaknesses which enemies of labor use in their efforts to break unions or dissuade workers from joining. This is how we read the non-socialist press stories about the Steel "revolt."

Now how shall we read the Daily Worker and Worker reports? Here, also, we find an unusual number of articles on the subject. This is as it should be, because this paper should try to make itself a voice of advanced workers and the steelworkers are a strongly organized group of basic workers, alert and militant, one million strong and aware of their strength. Steelworkers who have access to the Daily Worker should get from it a more useful, a more informative, a clearer picture of the election situation than they can find in other papers. Unfortunately, we don't find it there.

The articles seem slanted in favor of MacDonald's opposition on the grounds that it helps union democracy to have opposition.

We need more than this! We will pose a few questions to help clarify our thinking on this subject.

1) The MacDonald administration has many weaknesses but also many good points from a progressive point of view. Can we support a group of unknowns who may have many more weaknesses and fewer good points, merely to oppose MacDonald bureaucracy?

2) Will Rarick be less bureaucratic?

3) What program has the opposition advanced and what is the labor records of its leaders?

4) The closest the Daily

Worker came to giving us some insight into the campaign was when it noted that the opposition vice-president withdrew because the opposition leader, Rarick, wanted a "soft union." What did he mean? How can you quote that without explaining? If this means what we think, then should they not be opposed by every progressive and militant rank and file steelworker?—STEELWORKER.

Lesson For Teachers

Jan. 31.

Editor, Daily Worker:

I see where two more college teachers have followed Charles van Doren on TV quiz shows. This may not save the quiz shows, which have been losing popularity lately but it sure may help some teachers make an extra dollar.

Isn't it a sad commentary that a teacher like Mr. van Doren can only make \$80 a week teaching our country's youth, but can make over a hundred thousand dollars in a few minutes answering trivial questions for the greater glory and profit of Geritol?—HENRY NOUGAT.

Different Reactions

DENVER

Editor, Daily Worker:

In understanding my people's struggle you are confronted with the obstacles of many reactions that the kind of life that was forced on them created. The Negro doesn't think his white colleague fully understands his problem. Of course this creates a reaction. I take an example of a Negro and white walking down the street together, entering any public establishment.

Whether we like it or not, we have two naturally different reactions. If received with seemingly the same cordiality they will react differently. The white person takes this cordiality for granted. He has never been refused service. The Negro's reaction is a surprise or he reacts to the time he wasn't served, or recalls that some Negro some place still doesn't have the op-

portunity, or maybe he is climbing a notch higher socially. The reaction is different regardless of how the Negro tried to conceal it or act casual.

The natural envelopment of Negro life creates psychological facts indelibly stamped in every fabric of his body and mind, even his subconscious mind, whether we like this or not. It is a fact that he expects obstacles in his path of achievement. Marx's theory was drawn from life—we better take a new look.

Don't confuse this reaction with an inferiority complex. Any Negro with any kind of advanced thinking of human dignity doesn't feel inferior. He thinks his oppressors are inferior.

In all honesty I think the white person is going to have to learn why his Negro companion reacts differently. Not with patronism, sympathy or kindness, but with the attitude: my friend and I have a different struggle. I have to become educated to the facts of life that include his.

Stop trying to pull the Negro left, trying to get him to struggle the way the white cadre understand this. Where the clash starts and upsets unity, the condition calls for understanding instead of fighting.

And last but not least: I certainly idolize the bus struggle. It shows big social conscience and solidarity—the kind that existed in 1832 when my people of various circumstances spoke in unity and said "We are brothers through suffering."

A Negro Woman Friend

As the Twig Is Beat

Editor, Daily Worker:

I think your editorial on Vickie Wellman and her medal hit the nail on the head. Maybe Vickie will grow up to share her parents' views. Maybe not. Each generation fights the world's battles as it finds it and on its own terms. But, "as the twig is bent. . . ." It's inconceivable that Vickie Wellman could grow up the decent human being she's becoming without a large-size assist from her parents.—L. T.