

SPEAK YOUR PIECE

Anti-Semitism In "Spy" Trials

Editor, Daily Worker:

Is there anti-Semitism behind J. Edgar Hoover's latest "sp." arrests? It seems to me his purpose, starting with the Rosenbergs, and continuing with the latest arrests, is to make it appear that Jews are an enemy of the country. That's a familiar tune. Hitler played it and millions of Jews and Christians paid the piper with their lives. Is Hoover playing the same tune?

J. S.

Democratic Centralism

Editor, Daily Worker:

I see that the Chicago convention of the Communist Party insisted that the term democratic centralism "is a scientific one which cannot be voted out of

existence." Unfortunately, the Daily Worker dispatch of Feb. 4 which reported this did not tell us what precise meaning this scientific term has or where this meaning was scientifically established.

As far as I know, it was established for the world Communist movement by the Communist International, which defined it as follows in Number 13 of the 21 articles of affiliation to the C.I., adopted in 1920:

"The parties affiliated to the Communist International must be built on the principle of democratic centralism. In the present epoch of acute civil war the Communist Party will be able to perform its duty only if it is organized in the most centralized manner, only if iron discipline bordering on military discipline prevails in it, and if its party center is a powerful organ of authority, enjoying wide powers

and the general confidence of the members of the party."

Scientifically defined, then, democratic centralism is a form of organization in which there is iron discipline, bordering on military discipline, in which the leading bodies are powerful organs of authority "enjoying wide powers."

In the light of this definition, it is ironic to hear people proclaim that there was no relation between the rigid, bureaucratic control hitherto exercised by top committees of the Communist Party and the concept of democratic centralism.

It may be claimed that this is not what Communists mean by democratic centralism today. If so, what is this "scientific" definition, and why use a term which has been defined so authoritatively along lines Communists maintain they no longer accept?

M.