

SPEAK YOUR PIECE

Careless Quotation

SAN FRANCISCO

Editor, Daily Worker:

I have read with interest your pro and con reviews of Herschel D. Meyer's book "The Khrushchov Report and the Crisis on the American Left." Your readers may be interested to know that Mr. Meyer quoted me rather carelessly in his book, in trying to back up his conclusion that the Communist Party leadership is revising Marxism.

He quoted an article of mine as follows: "The fact is that American production has not yet outstripped its market. We have explained the economic measures which made this possible as temporary props which could not last. But these measures are increasingly being adopted for prolonged periods. They may become more or less permanent features by which American monopoly capital seeks to maintain itself at home."

This quotation is used out of context to draw the conclusion that I believe that capitalism has found some "permanent props" to bolster itself and avoid crises. Mr. Meyer has conveniently left out the two sentences which immediately followed the above: "The contradictions of capitalist society remain, and even multiply. But we must examine in what way these new factors act on the operation of economic laws."

It might have also more accurately reflected what I meant by this, as well as what I did

not mean, if Mr. Meyer had not left out the sentence immediately preceding the part he quoted, which read as follows: "We have made no real analysis of what new factors, both within the American economy and its relations with the rest of the world, have delayed the anticipated post-war crisis of overproduction."

There were other inaccuracies in quoting me, such as using only parts of sentences, and leaving out the rest.

Mr. Meyer is, of course, entitled to argue his viewpoint, but he should not seek to bolster it by taking other people's opinions out of context.

William Schneiderman

The Battle for Negro Rights

The battle for Negro rights is the front line of struggle for American democracy. The battle for American democracy is decisive in the struggle for world peace. There is not a single segment of that struggle for American democracy on which the fight for Negro rights does not impinge. Millions must make this fight their major responsibility.

The cynical failure of Government to come to the defense of the lives and property of the Negro people has lessened the early effects of the wild anti-Communist hysteria. This passivity of Government is not nor has it ever been a negative factor.

What a lesson this has been

for all honest people. Vice-President Richard N. Nixon's contemptuous reaction after he returned from surveying the Hungarian scene to the plea that he come South to view terror in the United States; the failure of President Eisenhower to seek the impeachment of Senate leaders whose racism provokes ever greater mob terror and violates the Senate oath of office or to speak out in Georgia or Washington against racism; the President's abject failure to vigorously spell out and request of Congress the enactment of civil rights legislation; the failure of the Attorney-General to mobilize his office and the FBI for the enforcement of the new constitutional interpretation of the Supreme Court, these things are such material evidence of governmental indifference to the fate of colored citizens as to defy satisfactory explanation.

The arena of struggle is open to all who can formulate an effective campaign of action. There are no vested interests in the battle for human rights.

It is time to deepen our thinking, to affect a reorientation, to fully and completely fix the responsibility for this demoralizing, dehumanizing attack upon a peaceful people in the governmental sphere where they most clearly recognize and appreciate the foe. This is not to deny the economic roots. For more than 80 years the three so-called equal branches of government have played the meanest of politics with the rights of black men.

This the Negro people see. They do not see the economic forces behind the government's maneuvering and machinations. They do not see the super-profits flowing into the banks and monopolies.

Our starting point has to be within the vision of the people who are the victims—the great mass of white as well as black Americans. This is the nature of one of the fundamental changes we must make. Is it more necessary to "explain the mistakes" of European Communist Parties than to expose the national and international consequences of this government's racism to the people? Our first orientation must be upon the United States and the Western Hemisphere if we are serious in our expressed desire to win the people of this country.

This is the moment when the relation of the Bill of Rights to the Charter of the UN and of the UN and the UN's magnificent Universal Declaration of Human Rights can easily be made clear. The UN has become the hope of untold millions.

Our Government has gone far in flouting both national and international obligations. Think of it. Here at home murderous racists walk the streets and the trial of 11 citizens of Puerto Rico under the Smith Act of the U.S.A. is scheduled "in order to protect American democracy." How democratically this government prepares to try a Spanish-speaking people in English, in a

language foreign to all of the defendants—and totally unknown to some. The prosecutors are being sent from Washington, D.C. The defendants had demanded national independence, which is declared "a clear and present danger" to the U.S.A. A new brand of colonialism lives in the Western Hemisphere under the protection of the Monroe Doctrine and fed by the myths of white supremacy and national chauvinism.

In respect to the development of this fierce battle for Negro rights no other political party is confronted with greater responsibilities than our own. It is on this front that there arises some of the most basic of our international workingclass solidarity obligations. It is here that our vanguard role has loomed so brilliantly in the past and can illuminate future courses of struggle.

It is with this sweep of vision that we must now re-examine the struggle for what so casually is called Negro Rights. This struggle has been elevated to a profound and fundamental conflict for the Rights of Man. This struggle has been merged with the struggle against colonial exploitation and for international acceptance of the rights of national sovereignty. It has become a spearhead of the world fight of decent mankind against the myths of white supremacy, the awful cult of racism and the evils of national chauvinism, all of them breeders of war.

WILLIAM L. PATTERSON.