

SPEAK YOUR PIECE

Browder's Ideology

Editor, Daily Worker:

Like my colleague, Bob Friedman, who gave his personal reactions to Earl Browder's appearance on Mike Wallace's Night Beat TV program, in yesterday's "Speak Your Piece" I too had mixed emotions and thoughts. Browder was highly effective in presenting the major contributions the Communists made to American democracy in the thirties and forties. On balance his total performance was positive. And he proved that the Communist Party was wrong in assuming when it expelled him that he would inevitably go the way of Budenz and Chambers. As one who in an article in the New Masses characterized him as an "agent of imperialism," I shared in this blind refusal to differentiate among those who differ with us.

At the same time Browder also proved that the core of the criticism the Party made when it broke with his ideas in 1945 was correct. He proved his abandonment of Marxism is a fixed feature of his thinking. Browder remains faithful to Browderism.

This was most significantly expressed in Browder's reply to Wallace's question about the kind of leaders our country needs. Browder said that three men possessed elements of that kind of leadership: Eisenhower, Chester Bowles and Norman Thomas.

Here is the 1957 version of the old Browderite concept of a united front of the workers and "enlightened capitalists"—that is, the dominant big business interests—destined to lead America and the world to peace and prosperity.

For Browder evidently a Rev. Martin Luther King, a Roy Wilkins and the great Negro people's movements that they lead are of no consequence. Nor does the labor movement possess any capacity for leadership in the Browderite scheme of things—just as it didn't in the earlier version of his theories.

What should the attitude of Communists toward Earl Browder be? In my opinion it should be in general no different from the attitude toward other non-Communist socialists. This means both friendliness and criticism, a readiness to discuss problems of mutual interest and to seek agreement and cooperative action on specific issues as well as a refusal to blur differences.

It seems to me no useful purpose is served to imply, as I think Friedman does, that Browder ought to be in the Communist Party today. Regardless of whether Browder's expulsion in 1946 was justified—let's not forget that he was engaging in factional activity and not merely expressing dissenting ideas—Browder himself was more realistic than Friedman when he made it clear the other night that he no longer considers himself a Communist.

Friedman writes that he "cannot conceive of a united movement for socialism in this country—one broad enough to include the many diverse strands of socialist thinking now extant which would not include Earl Browder as I would suppose it could include me."

If by "united movement for socialism" Friedman means a united front of several organizations (including the Communists) that stand for socialism, I agree. If he refers to a single united socialist organization more inclusive than the present Communist Party, then I cannot conceive of such an organization as being anything but Marxist and not an ideological goulash.

—A. B. MAGIL

Cable to Mao Suggested

Editor, Daily Worker:

The new party leadership has a fine opportunity to demonstrate its initiative and independent thinking, and to fulfill its responsibility to the American people. This opportunity results from Dulles' ineptitude with reference to the Americans imprisoned in China.

His latest stand justifies America's refusal to permit American newsmen to visit China on the grounds that China has offered to free the imprisoned Americans if such newsmen's visits are permitted, and that this constitutes blackmail—to which we must not submit! Dulles' position has been widely ridiculed in the press.

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America's Communist leadership might send a cable to Mao, requesting his help in obtaining the release of these Americans. This comes under the spirit of friendly co-operation which China recommended. Communist China should not make Americans suffer because of futile, stupid bureaucracy on the part of our State Dept. By positive action, China proves its maturity, while exposing the infantilism of the Dulles' position, compelling a change.

Such cable, under present circumstances, would probably receive decent press coverage, with the resultant increase in prestige. The reply which it would request from Mao is a just one, and there ought to be no hesitation in putting China to the test. What do you think?

—A.K.

On Charges of Revisionism

Editor, Daily Worker:

This is not an attempt to evaluate the recently held convention of the American C.P. The proceedings of that convention are not available as yet. So far we have only reports published in the D.W. and on the basis of these can only get an immediate reaction.

In a letter published on Feb. 26 in the Daily, L.S. castigates Will Weinstein for his alleged failure to stand up against those "who have introduced the stain of revisionism into the theories of Marxism." Once again, we have labels but not arguments. L.S. should have obliged us by detailing these "stains of revisionism." Exactly where are they?

Would L.S. regard the developments towards socialism in China and East European countries as based on revisionism. Perhaps, he would consider some of the propositions advanced at the XX Congress of C.P.S.U. as revisionist, — namely, the idea, that war is no longer inevitable under imperialism, the possibility of peaceful transition to socialism, various paths to socialism in different countries.

Neither Marx nor Lenin left us blueprints to be used in all times, in all places and under all conditions. Quite the contrary. Both Marx and Lenin pointed out that their writings should not be treated as holy scriptures.

Marxists never tire in pointing out that what is important in Marxist teachings is the method and that Marxism has to be creatively applied. Marx stated that ideas become a force only when the masses get hold of them. In the past our party made important contributions in the struggle for the organization of the unorganized, for the rights of the Negro People, in the fight for peace.

However, in the last decade, because of economic and political terror directed against the Party, and mistakes committed by us, we suffered serious setbacks. What did the pre-Convention discussion and Party convention attempt to do? To

face up to reality, to probe deeply into our problems, to search out those practices and policies that in the past impeded our progress and, if necessary, to change them or do away with them.

Many problems still remain unresolved. The Post-Convention discussion must continue. Some of the convention's decisions that stand out in my opinion are:—The building of anti-monopoly coalition, the interpretation of Marxism by American Communists, the right to dissent, the freest discussion we have ever had and the democratization of the Party. If this is revisionism, make the most of it.

Union Dues Held Too High

Editor, Daily Worker:

I am a union printer, a member of Local 23, N.Y. Job Press Assistants Union. I am 58-years-old and a family man. I work very hard but my wages are only about \$66 per week.

I don't have to tell you that this sum is not enough to live on with a family, with the high cost of living, rents, carfare, clothing, union dues, etc. We deprive ourselves of many things in life. . . We live very poor. . .

I am getting sick and tired—my health is breaking down. Besides the cost of living my union raised union dues from \$7.50 a month to \$8 per month! This is outrageous! We got a raise of \$2.50 so the union takes 50 cents more on dues; taxes are up another 50 cents and from the big raise of \$2.50, I am left with \$1.50.

No union in New York takes \$8 per month dues from its membership while the wages are so low as 66 dollars per week. Take Local 65 and the store workers union, they only pay dues of about \$3 or \$3.50 per month and they get better wages and conditions. And there are many other unions where the dues are lower than mine and the wages are higher.

So this is my question to you, dear Editor: Why are my union dues so high? The union has an international office with a president, a printers' home in Tennessee and it costs us plenty of money. Also the New York office costs money. Of course they don't live on \$66 per week as I do.

Therefore I am for a government investigation to determine my union's conduct of business, expenses, income and why the union dues are so high. It's about time something should be done.

And another thing, even unemployed members must pay the \$8 per month dues. I myself often an unemployed and have to pay the \$8.

My union doesn't give a damn about me; they are not progressives like the Big Six and there is no progressive movement in my union. The membership is elderly and they don't say a word or are afraid to say anything. Only through a government investigation will we wake up the job press assistants union to a better living.

—Bill of Long Island.

[Ed. Note: We invite comment from other union members.]

Georgia Shows Real Aim of Smith Act

Editor, Daily Worker:

The Georgia legislature has called for the impeachment of six Justices of the Supreme Court; namely, Chief Justice Earl Warren, Felix Frankfurter, Hugo L. Black, William O. Douglas, Stanley F. Reed and Tom Clark. The charges are that they rendered decisions friendly to Communists, made

dissenting opinions defending the constitutional rights of Communists, received awards from "Communist front" organizations like the Sidney Hillman Foundation, and, in the case of Justice Frankfurter, was a member of the legal Committee of the NAACP and helped that organization carry out "its objectives as a Communist front organization."

How crazy can you get? Six out of nine members of the Supreme Court are now branded "Communists"!

How did that happen? The Chicago Sun Times sheds a little light on the subject when it says: "Although the court's antisegregation rulings were not cited by the resolution, the movement obviously was a retaliatory one by the Deep South Legislators."

In fact the resolution does charge the Justices that they "usurped powers reserved to the states and expressly declined by Congress and committed high crimes and misdemeanors."

In other words, they opposed states' rights to segregate and proclaimed federal law for desegregating—and this is their high crime!

We Communists have always said that this kind of thing was also our "high crime" and not the flimsy pretext under which we were sent to jail under the Smith Act for allegedly "teaching and advocating overthrow of the government."

Now comes the Georgia State legislature and confirms our case. The real issue WAS, desegregation, and our staunch struggle on this and similar issues in the people's cause. For when that very Supreme Court, which upheld our convictions, itself DARED to uphold desegregation of schools, six of its venerable members, including the same Tom Clark who was our first prosecutor, are branded subversive and threatened with impeachment!

And, judging by the intemperate language of the Georgia

legislature, if somebody doesn't stop them, somewhere along the line they will indict the good Justices themselves under the Smith Act.

—EMANUEL BLUM

Feb. 25, 1957

Unity Based On Honesty

Editor, Daily Worker:

I want to express my complete agreement with the letter appearing in Monday's paper criticizing the foreign affairs coverage of the DW.

The DW has come a long way, as have so many of us, on the road to independence, and there is no reason to stop now. Your readers want all the news on Hungary, the Soviet Union, Poland, etc., no matter how derogatory it might be. If there is to be unity among liberals, and progressives, it will have to be built around the truth.

I understand your hesitancy, because of the violent opposition of some; but these, as was well demonstrated at the convention, are in the minority, and the overwhelming majority, many of whom have left and many of whom continue to leave the CP, want complete and truthful coverage and a firm editorial position. To build our party, we must have an editorial policy to stand on, and that policy must begin with Hungary and the allegations of anti-Semitism on the part of Khrushchev.

The CP is not going anywhere but downhill, despite its strides recently, because it has yet to take a stand on some of the most crucial issues of our time. If you want militant and not a demoralized membership, moral positions must be taken.

Socialism, and freedom, and social justice, and democracy are all the crux of our beliefs. They are, it can be said, highly saleable items. There is much to be done, and only a unified party can do it. A unity, that is, based on integrity and honesty, and not cowardice.

—A Reader

R.I. CONGRESSMEN MEET ON RISING UNEMPLOYMENT

PROVIDENCE, R. I., Feb. 27—Rhode Island's Congressional delegation held a special emergency meeting to consider some relief measures as the state's unemployment, already 9 percent of the total labor force, continued to mount.

The meeting, held in Washington on the initiative of Rep. Fogarty that included also officials of the Commerce, Labor and Defense department, heard that in some areas of the state as much as 20 percent of the labor force was jobless.

Mill closing and short weeks and especially heavy in Woonsocket, Burillville, Smithfield and Gloucester, the meeting was told. Rhode Island's unemployment, largely in textile industries, compares with the 4 percent national average.

As the conference was taking place, John A. Wilson, president of 95-year old Wanskuck & Co., operating three worsted mills with 1,300 workers, announced the company plans to liquidate within about three months unless something new turns up.

Wilson said it will take about three months to complete current orders.

The state's congressmen discussed of federal aid in the form of some orders, "business opportunities" exhibit and planning for the use of technical assistance and kills. But there was nothing that looked very hopeful to the thou-

WASHINGTON, Feb. 27—Sen. Richard Neuberger (D-Ore) said on the Senate floor this week that unemployment in his state, believed to be relatively the highest in the country, has reached 11 percent of Oregon's manpower; mainly in lumber and wood-working.

Meyner to Run Again

TRENTON, N. J., Feb. 28.—Democratic Gov. Robert B. Meyner announced today he would seek a second term.



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