

SPEAK YOUR PIECE

Suggests Articles From Non-Communist Left

QUEENS VILLAGE.

Editor, Daily Worker:

I would like to see more controversial articles such as those by Joe Clark. It seems to me that, lately, there has been a tendency by the staff of our paper to shy away from discussing questions such as the Jewish question in the Soviet Union, differences between the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia, Poland and Hungary. These questions have been raised by articles and interviews in an impersonal way, but how about the views of the staff of our paper?

I hope that they don't feel that, as a result of the National Convention of the Communist Party, they must side-step or smooth over ideological differences. The main task of our paper is to unify and give direction to all the forces which it influences in the daily struggles of the people for peace, progress and civil rights and help in the building of an anti-monopoly coalition as the path for achieving socialism in our country.

However, if we are to be an effective organization on the American scene, we must air our differences and resolve them on the basis of discussion. In addition, our paper speaks to the parties of other countries and the frank expression of the view of American Communists may help them in the solution of their own problems and correction of their own errors. This is, in my opinion, the best expression of proletarian internationalism.

If our paper is to build up the kind of circulation which will keep it alive, in addition to continuing to give leadership on the day to day issues which affect the American people, it has to present and discuss controversial questions of all kinds, especially those that especially affect the left. On this point, since our perspective is to work for the eventual achievement of a mass party of socialism, how about having articles contributed by the non-Communist left published in our paper? I mean articles which may sharply disagree with some of our views.

Let's make our paper a discussion forum for the left. In addition to helping the circulation, this would be one of the practical methods of working for the unity in action of the left.

HARRY.

Academic Freedom

Editor, Daily Worker:

In planning a program for exercising freedom of speech and of discussion in the traditional American way, the students at Queens College, by inviting you

to be one of their speaking guests, gave a heartening demonstration of firm belief in freedom which to be creative must be wide open to hear and to argue different opinions on any given subject that is vital to a healthy growth of intellectual and civic integrity and responsibility on the part of every member of a civilized society.

A diametrically opposite kind of demonstration was that of Provost Thomas V. Garvey and two days later of the heads of five city colleges forbidding you to address the students. A dishonorable decree this not only to the students involved but to the entire nation.

Thomas Jefferson wrote in 1789: "There are rights which it is useless to surrender to the government, and which governments have yet always been found to invade. These are the rights of thinking, and publishing our thoughts by speaking or writing; the right of free commerce; the right of personal freedom."

It seems that the college authorities in question would not subscribe to such ideas and that they would rather abolish or restrict academic freedom than permit students to be the judge of what speakers like yourself openly, freely may say to them in a formal address.

Obviously there is a pattern of active repression of the freedoms the Constitution and the Bill of Rights guarantee to all American citizens. The pattern is in the shape of the Red Menace. Those who preach this peril are afraid of a set of ideas—just as were those who tried to wipe out the early Christians, the Wildenses, the Lollards, the Anabaptists, Roman Catholics, Mormons, Abolitionists.

We are told that the "heresy" of discussing controversial issues has spread to the schools, and that the Communists are to blame. Many school systems are being stampeded into suppressive action; school boards and college officials are banning lecturers, books, magazines, and are revising teachers' training courses.

Students like those at Queens College are fighting to preserve and extend democracy in every part of the country.

EMERSONIAN.

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