

# SPEAK YOUR PIECE

## Workers Seek Answer to Problems

RICHLAND, N. Y.

Editor, Daily Worker:

If you show the workers how they can better themselves NOW, it should appeal to them. The price of bread in a chain store has remained steady for several years. Recently in a few days it was raised twice.

It has been customary for the price of kerosene to drop a little in the summer, this year it didn't but was raised in the fall. Who ordered these rises?

It is my belief that it was done because big business had the power to do so. The sullen refusal by Congress to do anything to help the worker or the farmer goes with the persecution by the forces of law and injustice of those who are trying to get them to do anything to help get more money to pay these steadily rising prices.

Walter Reuther says the workers are in a political prison but doesn't show any way out. If you can show some practical plan that can operate at once that will remedy or ameliorate these things it seem to me that you ought to get a lot of people interested.

P. H.

## On Improving The Daily Worker

Editor, Daily Worker:

In recent weeks, "Speak Your Piece" has carried a few letters with conflicting views concerning the kind of paper the DW should be. I would like to comment on one concept, fairly widespread among our readers.

This holds that the DW cannot compete with other papers in news coverage, and in any event should not try. It should strive, rather, to be not a newspaper but a journal of comment. It should carry political articles and editorials almost exclusively. And these should be devoted, in the main, to the theoretical problems of the Marxist movement, nationally and internationally.

It is quite true that New York's City's commercial press is probably the most developed in the world from the viewpoint of news coverage, useful and entertaining features, shopping information in the form of ads, etc. It has at its disposal the highly-developed Associated Press—with its farflung world network of reporters, its coverage of city news, its picture services—as well as the United Press, which the DW receives and which is far more limited. It has reportorial staffs many times greater than ours, rewrite men, far greater access to news sources, later deadlines, etc.

And yet I believe the viewpoint which would destroy the character of the DW as a newspaper, and turn it into a journal

of comment, is wrong. I believe it has to remain a newspaper, but the manner with which it treats the news, and the concept of news, must undergo a change. Let me develop this.

It would be wrong, in my view, for the DW to center its attention on the ideological problems and differences in the Marxist movement. This would heighten the sectarian character of the paper, and undermine it as a force for overcoming the sectarian character of the movement. It would tend to accentuate, also, the factors that divide the movement, rather than those which unite it.

The paper's main function, as I see it, is to serve as crusader, organizer, agitator for an action program on the fundamental problems facing our nation, our workingclass today; to assist the Left in swinging back into joint motion with the workers, Negro people, farmers, liberal and civic groups engaged in fighting for peace, democracy, and progress in our land.

This requires it concern itself with day-to-day developments. But it needs to do so not simply through bland, surface reportage—rewrites from UP and other sources—but through reportage which goes beneath the surface, which analyzes, explains, interprets events, which gives necessary background. This, incidentally, has today become the method of reportage of the top-notch journalists of the commercial press, from their viewpoint of course.

Of course, not every story has to be treated in the rounded fashion suggested. It is neither possible nor necessary. Maybe 3, 4 or 5 such rounded news stories, which help to illumine the program around which the paper crusades, need appear daily. In addition, columns and articles which the paper does carry on its editorial pages should in the main deal with theoretical and ideological problems concerning the entire working class, not simply the Marxist movement.

Other daily news, not covered in rounded stories by staff writers, should, I believe appear in capsule form as briefs. Experience has shown me it is not true that all DW readers read other papers as well. In any case, current news should appear in the paper, if in boiled-down form.

Does this mean no discussion on differences and developments within the world and U. S. Marxist movements? No, it does not. Such discussion should appear in columns, articles, "Speak Your Piece" letters, as well as in news stories. But I believe this should be a secondary feature.

One other basic problem remains; that of discussion on socialism in terms which will help develop the movement for it in our own country. We have

not learned how to conduct this, and it remains a critical failing. Yet the paper's distinctive feature must be that it is a paper of socialism. We need to learn to develop our propaganda for socialism in the light of current and historic experience of the working class of our land. As yet, we've found it easier said than done.

I would urge, in conclusion, that all readers give further thought to the character of our paper, and present their ideas on what it should be and how it can be improved.

Max Gordon

## Urges Campaign On Arts Bill

Editor, Daily Worker:

The other day some friends from the cultural field came up to visit me. They were very much discouraged about the inactivity in their field. We discussed the possible issues around which activities can be developed. It occurred to me that the government aid thru the passage of the Fine Arts Bill would be a good and broad issue around which work can be developed. Dave Platt and Ben Levine from time to time mentioned this bill but I see no evidence of a real campaign. How great the needs of the cultural workers in this country are, are dramatized on television in the recent interview by Mike Wallace of Morton Gould. The many contributions that we made in the past were in helping to stimulate movements just around such issues. I think we can do the same now. There are many organizations in the field and with a little prodding, I think they can be influenced to start moving. As an inactive observer at the present time because of my illness, all I can do is think about problems and make suggestions. I hope you will not consider it out of turn.

Rose Wortis

## Strike Spreads At Gary Plant Of U.S. Steel

GARY, Ind., March 18—The "unauthorized" strike at the giant Gary works of U. S. Steel continued here today and spread to idle 4,000 workers. The walkout began last week, when 1,800 struck over the new split shifts the company introduced.

So far the workers have not heeded the appeals of International representatives of the United Steelworkers of America to return to work. The international union is planning a new appeal.

Two open hearth furnaces have already been shut down by the management. If the strike continues, more of the 20,00 employed at the plant would be idled.