

SPEAK YOUR PIECE

A Typo And Comment

Editor, Daily Worker:

A linotype error in my letter which appeared in Friday's DW distorted what I thought was a crucial point. The garbled passage should have read, "One can have diversity of views and still have effective unity of action. On the other hand, it is possible to insist on monolithic views, and still have plenty of members sitting around and doing nothing."

The fear of factions, I believe, stems from the organizational methods introduced into the Communist movement by Stalin. Where there are several points of view, it is axiomatic that factions must arise. The alternative is that these differences are subordinated to the majority. Keep quiet, and you can differ! What is this but the imposition of monolithic unity?

Now factions can be of two types. Either they will be open and acknowledged, in which case the free flow of discussion can only be beneficial to the movement as a whole, or they will be clandestine, in which case there is a jockeying for position that masks behind a pretended unity, but ends in the type of procedures typified by the Rajk trial.

After reading the DW report on the NC meeting, can anyone deny that the CP is now divided into factions? Yet so fearful are we of breaking with the old Stalinist views on factions that we refuse to acknowledge it. The result is a lack of honesty with ourselves, leading to breaches of discipline, and the

failure to inform the membership of the true nature of the differences dividing our leaders.

Let's cut out the sham! Lenin was never afraid to indulge in open factional struggle. Factions existed in the Bolshevik Party quite openly—even after the Revolution. It was only at the tenth Congress of the CPSU in 1921 that the decision was taken to forbid the formation of organized groups within the Party. It may well have been this decision which led to the "excesses" exposed by Khrushchev.

The comrade who leaked the story of the NAC meeting to the Post was guilty of serious misconduct. But whoever he is, morally he is not worse than those responsible for the D.W. story, which calls the Post account false, but fails to tell the readers the details of what actually took place. Such infractions of Party rules would not take place if the leaders had the courage to voice their real views in a principled manner.

HANK

March 22, 1957

About Academic Freedom

Editor, Daily Worker:

I read last week in the newspaper about your being banned to speak in the five boroughs. I thought that was 100 percent wrong because I think if we are to know about Communism we must hear from a Communist. I have heard many times the disadvantages of Communism and now I would like to know about the advantages of it.

E. O'M.

March 21, 1957