

# SPEAK YOUR PIECE

**Ben Gurion  
And Israel**  
Editor, Daily Worker:

I disagree with Abner Berry on Israel. First, the Ben Gurion government is not Israel. Just like the Eisenhower government is not America. The claim that the Negro people sympathize with Israel is a half truth. I am sure that the Negro people didn't like it when the Israeli Army marched into Egypt. I wonder how can you sympathize when an army invades an Arab village and kills 57 innocent workers. I think if the Negro people would know about such a barbaric act they would condemn it.

Yes, we sympathize with Israel as a state. But we must condemn the wrong policies of its government. We also have to mention that if not for the Soviet Union there would be no state of Israel.

I wonder if the Negro people know that about a million Arabs were driven out of Israel. And up to now the Ben Gurion government refuses to take back all those refugees. We have to know that these poor people were living in Palestine for hundreds of years. Can anybody justify such injustice?

I as a Jewish Communist can only support Israel if she follows a policy of peace and progress. She must pursue an independent neutral policy. Israel is located in the Middle East. She must live in friendly relationship with all its neighbors. She must cooperate with all the oppressed peoples and not with the imperialists.

All the Middle East, African and colonial people are marching for freedom. Israel can only have a bright future if she joins in the freedom march.—SAM.

[Ed. Note: Berry did not say or imply that Ben Gurion was Israel; he criticized Ben Gurion's policies and condemned the invasion of Egypt.]

**Negro Sympathy  
For All Oppressed**

PITTSBURGH  
Editor, Daily Worker:

I just read the letter by C.B. of Los Angeles which appeared in the Daily on April 2. Being Negro myself, I can say that his estimation of the moods and attitudes of the Negro people toward Israel, now and before, is completely wrong.

Of course, the Negro people has a natural sympathy with the aspirations of all colonial peoples in Africa and Asia for their national liberation, but it also has a deep sympathy with the oppressed masses of the Jewish people, who in the last quarter of a century suffered the main brunt of Imperialism and Fascism.

I certainly did not approve when Israel used aggression

against its Egyptian brothers. But by the same token I resent and am very much opposed to the attacks by commando raids against peaceful Israeli farmers and the boycott used by Arab nations against Israel. Let us just not overlook that arrogant feudal lords are doing the dirty work for the imperialist oppressors and want to see that there should always be friction among the Arab nations on one hand, and between Israeli and the Arabs on the other hand.

In his reply to C.B. as well as in his able column of Feb. 26 in the D.W., Abner Berry indicated correctly the attitude of Negro masses toward Israeli. To prove his correct estimate. I know of a dozen Negro Churches in only one section where I reside, East Liberty, who have adopted resolutions and sent them to the UN against using sanctions against Israel. Many prayers have been held in my church, as in others, for peace in the Middle East and against the oppressive measures taken by the Nasser government against the Jewish people who for centuries resided in Egypt.

Brother C.B. loves to dig deep and prove that Jews in America are doing nothing but wrong and oppressive things against the Negro people. Well, brother, you sure like to be a negative all the way through. Which is more like some of the racists are trying to do to my people in the South and the North. You do this under the cover of "Marxism". But it is a dirty lie to speak that way about a people who more than any other section of the American people, that I know of, from more than 45 years of practical experience right here in the Pittsburgh area,—have given heroic assistance to the Negro people in the struggle against political and economic oppression.

I could write a book about the heroic Jewish workers in our city who have been in many a battle with us for the past 45 years, my knowledge. Some of them have sat in the dungeon of Blawnox for two year terms because they defended the Negro's rights to swim in city pools.

For every unscrupulous Jewish landlord (by the way, are all landlords in L.A. Jewish, Brother "C.B.") there were a dozen Jewish workers in the forefront of the struggles for Negro rights from way back in the 20's and 30's up to this very day.

I could tell you a few things about unscrupulous Negro landlords. Do they represent the great aspirations of the Negro people? Is this the way you Marxists in L.A. pave the road for solidarity between the oppressed minorities?

As for speaking for the Negro people, I sincerely advise you, C.B., as well as all other Negro and white comrades, to stop it.

I, too, was once inflicted with this disease.

You just visit Pittsburgh and I'll show you some of the foremost leaders of the Negro community who work closely with the outstanding Jewish leaders of the community. That's how and why the Negro community made more progress in all struggles against segregation and won many battles, in the last 15 years, than in the last 45 years.

Throughout the history of all people, we considered the Jewish workers and their leaders as our national allies. Brother C.B. better brush up on your history as well as to the situation at the present time. All I can say is that your line, "C.B." is sure wrong and shameful.

—L.G.

**The Case of  
Gus Hall**

Editor, Daily Worker

No member of the Communist Party could fail to join in the Daily's greeting to Gus Hall, who was released March 30 from Leavenworth prison. Nor could Hall's unwarranted conviction under the infamous Smith Act, followed with an additional three years for "contempt" of court, fail to receive the condemnation of thinking Americans.

The contributions of Gus Hall to his country's defense go infinitely further than his participation in World War II. In the days of the Hoover depression he was already a front ranks fighter for government relief. He played a conspicuous part in and helped to initiate the battles for social security.

His desire to enlarge upon these gains and to bring other democratic features into American life, and has fearless espousal of peace, marked him as an early victim of the witch hunt.

The attempt now to punish him as a member of the Communist Party should be regarded as part of the desperate efforts of the hanger-on-to-McCarthyism to revive the bestial terrors of that period. However, it is now almost universally condemned by thinking labor leaders, far-sighted church men and many Negro spokesmen.

Supporters of the Constitution must mount the kind of campaign that will sweep out the remnants of McCarthyist legal terror.

At the 44th Annual Assembly of the Southern California Council of Churches this year, 18 Protestant denominations and 10 Councils of Churches held: "Freedom of thought and communication is essential for responsible Christian citizenship. No democratic social system can long survive where these freedoms are seriously curtailed. Such freedom must be absolute

# AUTO CONVENTION NOTES

By WILLIAM ALLAN

ATLANTIC CITY. — A high point of the UAW convention here will be Marian Anderson's appearance her Wednesday. Miss Anderson will do some selections from her concert repertoire and speak briefly. This is the first time the noted singer ever appeared before a labor convention.

There are 1,247 active UAW local unions and they are entitled to approximately 3,215 convention delegates. Voting strength of these local unions totals about 13,500 votes. There are approximately 2,500 guests here. Each delegate can carry no more than eight votes.

April 5 marked the third anniversary of the beginning of the heroic struggle of the Kohler strikers. The 50-voice strikers' choir is here to sing for the delegates.

Walter Reuther never spoke truer words than when he said here an arbitrator with the wisdom of a thousand Solomons could never establish a sound basis for determining how hard a worker should do his job in an auto plant. But so far it has not been said here that the union should have a voice in the setting of standards of production.

Dues payments from December, 1954, to December, 1956, showed a decline of 60,000. But the actual dues paying membership in February, 1957, comes to approximately 1,500,000.

A raise of \$4,000 a year from \$18,000 to \$22,000 is proposed for UAW president Reuther. Staff members (International reps) are also being proposed for a raise, but the Constitution Committee is not letting out how much until it gets to the floor. With big layoffs this proposal is going to have rough passage. Plenty of axes are being sharpened along the boardwalk on this.

Not before 1960 is there any hope for Farm-Equipment industry to see a pickup, according to reports of delegates here. Some 35,000 to 40,000 unemployed with more to come. Yet the union here has no resolutions for opening trade with the Socialist nations, particularly People's China, which wants to buy thousands of tractors and millions of dollars worth of replacement parts.

More than 175,000 women are

when it invokes the rights of sovereign voters to have free access to all information and the clash of differing opinions necessary for him to make up his mind on public issues

"Loyalty oaths, legislative investigations not strictly limited to collecting information necessary for legislation . . . are totalitarian techniques destructive of democracy . . . Such measures should be eliminated from our statutes."

Let us say to friends and

members of the 1½ million member UAW. But women delegates here report discrimination at the hiring gate is the knottiest problem the newly set up UAW Women's Department faces.

The women members of the Union and wives of auto workers showed what they could do in the last election when the highest participation in PAC work was recorded. No mention is made in the reports here of the special discrimination against Negro women at the factory gates.

No mention of a Farm-Labor Party in either of the two Reuther reports to the convention, Walter or Roy Reuther, the PAC director. Ford Local No. 600 has a resolution coming up on this.

Nothing is said in the convention reports so far about incorporating in the 1958 contract demands, the UAW Model FEPC clause.

All General Motors had to pay out in SUB payments in the last six months of 1956 was \$1½ million. There's going to have to be a awful big raise in SUB to make the membership think they really got something with SUB. Nobody talks about it here, they want the old fashioned demands, wage boosts, cut speedup, higher pensions, shorter work-week, more vacation pay.

Some 1,500 plants in America are using atomic materials, which means that many thousands of workers are already exposed to the hazards of atomic radiation. The convention here will go into proposing a tight safety program. At present there are not trained plant personnel for dealing with this new health and safety hazard. Some new concepts of Workmen's Compensation are in order on this.

A total of 77,000 UAW members have retired under the UAW program by January, 1957. Not talked about in top brass reports here, but a hot issue with the retirees is for them to get escalator raises in their pensions as HCL goes up. They average \$60 a month from employers, plus what they may get from Uncle Sam.

There is now one white collar worker for every three industrial workers. Unionization of white collar workers in plants where the auto workers are is considered a must by convention delegates.

neighbors: Talk this resolution of the Southern California Council of Churches over with your pastor and any minister whom you know. Talk it over with trade union leaders. The implementation of such a resolution has power to fundamentally change the application and enjoyment of American democratic principles.

With warmest greetings to Gus Hall.

WILLIAM L. PATTERSON