

# SPEAK YOUR PIECE

## A Time for Solidarity

BUFFALO, N. Y.

Editor, Daily Worker:

May I take the opportunity through the Speak Your Piece column to write an open letter to those many sincere and devoted comrades who have left our party in the recent period? Dear Comrades:

I've no profound answers to all the problems that face us, but I want to urge you to reconsider again and again your decision to leave us. If you are working in an organized shop would you ever consider not participating in the union, not doing the best you can, no matter how you differed with some of the policies or some of the problems that you faced in making the union a better union. Why then have you decided to leave the organized socialist movement? I assume you haven't left the C.P. because you feel that the other socialist parties are more suitable to you. All of us have drawn the conclusion that in order to influence the labor movement we must be a part of the mainstream of the labor movement. Doesn't the same hold true for the socialist movement? Can we influence the fight for socialism in America better from the outside of the organized movement?

You know as well as I that building the trade union movement was a long tedious struggle to overcome many problems and difficulties. And still the unions have a long way to go. Surely you must feel that building the socialist movement will not be less difficult.

Perhaps you feel that a new socialist party is needed and that you have left the party to help build a new and better party. But what guarantee is there that the new party won't run into some of the same problems that we have — bureaucracy, differences over policies, making serious errors, developing a correct relationship with the international socialist movement? The dual-unionism policies didn't work out well for the trade union movement, why should a similar policy work out well for the socialist movement?

If you feel you could do more for the American people as an individual not tied at this time to our party, as Howard Fast feels, consider for a moment, isn't that a departure from working class undertaking and experience? Can't we fight the boss better by sticking together? How far could we get in a shop

to improve our conditions by individual effort alone?

Like Howard Fast, perhaps you feel your leaving is a protest against conditions either in the party or in the Soviet Union. But ask your comrades, if you are right in your judgments why not fight to win the majority of the party to your opinions? Wouldn't that be a better protest?

In any event Comrade, isn't it true that capitalism also came to many countries in many ways and forms? Would it have helped American democracy if Jefferson would have stopped organizing and building a movement against the Federalists as a protest against the form in which bourgeois democracy came to France? Should we stop fighting for socialism in America because of some of the bad forms that developed under Soviet Socialism?

I can't help feeling what a crime it would be for you and I who love our country and want to make it better, who may even live in the same community or work in the same shop, what a crime it would be if we should stop getting together to exchange our experiences and improve one another's understanding in order to help one another make a better contribution to our community, our shop, our country, and our families.

Especially now when we are at the beginning of a new road ahead are we all needed.

CEMENT WORKER

April 1

## Engels on Agamemnon

Editor, Daily Worker:

I'd like to register a faint squawk about Ben Levine's write-up of a recent performance of Aeschylus' play, "Agamemnon." I feel aggrieved because I think that everything the Daily Worker prints should have a Marxist slant—even a review of a play!

For example, I think that if Mr. Levine had included a small part of Frederick Engels' analysis of the background of "Agamemnon" and referred his readers to Engels' "Origin of the family," for the rest of it, he'd have added Marxist lustre to his piece, deepened the reader's understanding of history and perhaps stimulated the sale of Engels' book.

I'd like to suggest that every subject written about in the DW mention the Marxist principle that undelies it, and the relevant Marxist books be mentioned as

a guide to further study.

This would make the DW a daily teacher of scientific socialism and of how it is applied.

I'd also like to suggest that the DW tell the history of American labor, in comic strip form.

BROOKLYN HOUSEWIFE

## Ben Levine's The Best

COMPTON, CALIF.

Dear Ben Levine,

For some time both my husband and I have considered your column the best written in the Daily Worker. So we were disturbed to see some one warn you, "You're writing for workers, remember."

This seemed to say, not only that you should have a "special style for workers" (as you say), but that it should be in some ways, an inferior style.

That a rich, clear style, full of original thinking, and with a real feeling for our American culture, is only for the middle classes.

I want to repudiate this latter thought completely. In my experience, which has been with both workers and middle class, it is the workers who have the real feeling for sincere culture. It's the middle classes which have been selling us down the river (the cultural river).

So, please, don't let any one intimidate you. The workers want the best, deserve the best. And they can understand and make use of the best.

Your column has been so free of both middle class trash and the horrible words of our stereotype days that they have been a joy to read.

Please continue with your true respect for the workers, as has been shown in your column

HOUSEWIFE

## Anti-Monopoly Coalition!

Editor, Daily Worker:

The latest strategy and slogan of the Communist Party that is supposed to solve most of its problems and capture allies and the masses is that of "anti-monopoly coalition." This phrase has very little meaning for me and I'm sure none for most other people. I'm sure it won't capture the imagination of the masses.

This is a good example of "phrase-mongering." Just what does this phrase mean in concrete terms?—A. B.

April 8.