

# SPEAK YOUR PIECE

## Another Comment On C.B.'s Letter

LOS ANGELES

Editor, Daily Worker:

In a reply, April 10, to C. B. on the Israeli-Egypt situation, L. G. asks, "Is this the way you Marxists in Los Angeles pave the road for solidarity between the oppressed minorities?"

As a Negro Marxist, I wish to reply with an unequivocal and resounding NO, L. G., and to congratulate you on your letter and state that C. B. does not speak for the majority of Negroes on this question in or out of the Left Wing Movement in Los Angeles.

Serious weaknesses of C. B.'s piece are: its oversimplification of the Middle-East crisis; conclusions of increased Negro-Jewish tensions stemming from that crisis; and references to the Los Angeles Herald-Dispatch as "the most militant and progressive local Negro newspaper" in support of his contentions.

Although C. B. correctly places odium on the Ben Gurion government for armed aggression against Egypt, he fails to even mention Imperialist Britain and France let alone differentiate between them and Israel. As Abner Berry pointed out, C. B. would have us think that Israel is the main danger to Middle East freedom.

The realities of political life are such today that Israel couldn't be the main danger—even if the Ben Gurion government wished it — in the present context of world power relations. At the same time, a balanced estimate of the situation there must face up to provocations on both sides, masterminded mainly from the West.

On the increased tensions between Negroes and Jews that C. B. refers to, nowhere have

they exhibited themselves out here, outside the editorial pages of the Herald-Dispatch.

On the contrary, the present fight for a State FEP law is led by a coalition of Negro, Jewish, Mexican and Labor organizations reflecting the highest measure of unity.

Jewish labor leaders, professionals and organizations continue to be among the staunchest supporters of the NAACP, the fight-back campaigns in the South and the battlers for civil rights legislation generally.

On this question, the Herald-Dispatch has been guilty, in my opinion, of reflecting its anti-Jewish prejudices—arising out of an earlier controversy over merchants not advertising in its columns—into the Middle-East situation. It has been shrill, anti-Semitic, grossly inaccurate and downright insulting.

As L. G. poses the question, this is NOT the way for Marxists to pave the road for solidarity between oppressed minorities, be they Jew, Negro, Egyptian or Israeli.

The biggest victory Wall Street imperialism could hope to win from the Middle East crisis would be to smash the kind of unity reflected in our statewide FEP campaign or the joint efforts of the NAACP and American Jewish Congress to expose bigotry, racism and hate-mongering throughout the land.

Yes, I agree with Berry that Negroes want to see BOTH the Egyptian and Israeli peoples win out in the present Middle East conflict. And this position is no "straddle" of the issue as remarked by Ben Davis earlier. Here at home Marxism will seek to encourage and strengthen the growing alliance of Negro and Jewish organizations.

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