

SPEAK YOUR PIECE

Labor And Civil Rights

Editor, Daily Worker:

Two years ago, views like the ones I will express here could not have appeared in the Daily Worker. Therefore I would have kept thinking them and no one could correct them, if they need correcting. Now—regarding the State Party convention's discussion of National convention resolutions and the State's own resolutions:

1. It would seem to me that since we base our theory upon our economic way of life, since Marxists say that a man's views are conditioned by his standard of living, the No. 1 problem should be labor. But Charney in his speech states that the No. 1 problem is civil rights. And No. 2 is the "ferment in the labor movement." I think that labor, and not only when it is in ferment, but the high standard of living, organizing the unorganized, heightening labor's role in political action, should be No. 1.

In working to raise the worker's standard of living, we are concerned with the poorest—who are in some measure also the Negro workers—those families who get some \$4 a week, as Reuther says.

2. I think that civil rights receives attention out of proportion to other issues, in the Daily Worker. Analyze the front page headlines and stories of the past three months, and I think you would find this to be so, with peace and labor often on the inside pages.

It is true that there is a close connection among all these issues, yet to make a point one must be specific. Why is this?

a. Is it because we feel that the Negro people are easiest to reach and convince? Party recruiting did not prove this in the "good old days," for the Negroes recruited did not stay very long.

b. Is it because, being still in the almost unending discussion of theory, we are unable to act, and make up for it by raising issues of civil rights, about which in concrete terms of actual work we do relatively little? The NAACP and Urban League, etc., etc., need not worry. There are very, very few Communists among their actives.

c. Is it because we identify the Negro people with the lowest income level? Then let us talk of their POVERTY more, and others will understand us, and of their lack of CIVIL RIGHTS less, for here we cannot be as consistently concrete in our work as when we work in the trade union field—this despite May 17 pilgrimage.

d. Is it because the average delegate to the convention is not bothered by his weekly wage and what he will eat and how he will pay the rent—as much as he is bothered by his own curtailment of civil rights? Do we not perhaps foist upon

the American people concern No. 1 which is really our own concern No. 1?

c. Does it smack of "patronizing" "doing good" charity that we emphasize Negro problems in the convention resolutions out of proportion to other problems? (I think it does.)

Compared with the work we Communists can do in unions, on shop committees, in political action committees, in legislative committees in unions, on wages, hours, minimum wage laws, our actual involvement AS OF TODAY in the Negro liberation movement is very small.

3. In the April 3 issue of the DAILY, regarding segregation and civil rights, the statements are detailed. Regarding other problems, vague. Ben Davis discussed Guana, civil rights legislation in detail. Regarding labor, the article said, "he commented that attention be given" to problems of the standard of living. The same issue of the paper, in the article on the convention, devoted some 67 lines to civil rights and 44 lines to labor, elections, coalition all together.

Two years ago, these ideas would have been brushed aside with the stamp of disapproval, CHAUVINISM! Now—I hope these ideas can be discussed; chauvinism may be part of their origin but not entirely. If I am wrong, I hope your readers will correct me.

Cordially yours,

—Mrs. J.B.

P.S. I enclose \$2. for the D.W.

Publishers'

Answers

Editor, Daily Worker:

The N.Y. Herald-Tribune submitted a set of four questions to the editors and publishers in convention in this city. Answers from 19 of them appeared in print on April 23. On questions 1, 2, 3 the following are typical:

About the most important concern of readers and the budget controversy—"The biggest issue is survival and the second is the safety of our economy. Like people everywhere, those in our area feel the budget is too high. . .

I think the basic thing is peace. In connection with the budget there is a fractional interest. . .

The things that concern our readers are local rather than national issues. . . Practically universally, there is concern over the high expense of government in our peacetime economy.

I think the first two questions go together. The most important concern today is the possibility of the Middle Eastern situation touching off a war nobody wants. When Mr. Eisenhower was elected he talked about reducing our commitments, but now our

Joint Declaration Issued Italian Socialists, Yugosl

Following is the text of a communique signed by the Socialist Party of Italy, the Yugoslav League of Communists and the Yugoslav Socialist Alliance, following a visit of the Italian Socialists to Yugoslavia:

A delegation of the Socialist Party of Italy which was composed of comrades Tulio Vechietti, member of the Secretariat, Vittorio Foa and Dario Valori, members of the Executive Committee, visited Yugoslavia from March 24 to April 1, as guests of the Socialist Alliance of the Working People of Yugoslavia and the League of Communists of Yugoslavia.

The conversations were conducted between the delegation of the Socialist Party of Italy and the delegation of the S.A.W.P.Y. and the League of Communists of Yugoslavia headed by comrade Edvard Kardelj, Secretary General of the S.A.W.P.Y. and member of the Executive Committee of the League of Communists of Yugoslavia, and which comprised a number of the leading comrades of the S.A.W.P.Y. and the LC of Yugoslavia.

The delegation of the Socialist Party of Italy concluded talks in Belgrade with members of the Presidium of the Yugoslav Trade Unions:

After its stay in Belgrade the delegation visited Sarajevo, Zenica, Zagreb and Ljubljana. During this trip contacts were established which enabled the delegation to become more closely acquainted with the socialist building in Yugoslavia.

The delegation of the Socialist Party of Italy also conducted talks with the President of the Socialist Alliance of the Working People of Yugoslavia and Secretary General of the League of Communists of Yugoslavia, Comrade Josip Broz Tito.

A friendly atmosphere and a spirit of mutual understanding and sincerity reigned in the talks between the two delegations in all other contacts. The conversations dealt with current problems of the international workers' movement, world peace, and the questions of mutual relations.

It was noted during these conversations that identical views existed on some of the questions of essential importance to the

commitments seem actually to have expanded. He came up with the highest peacetime budget in history.

(Not one of the nineteen who replied reported favorable opinion on the size of the budget.)

About the threat of Soviet expansion—"The Soviet threat is somewhat less than it was a year ago.

I think people are less trou-



PIETRO NENNI
Italian Socialist Leader

strengthening of international security and peace, as well as to the consolidation of socialism throughout the world.

Although many elements of danger to the stability of world peace continue to exist, such as: the existence of the opposite blocs, race in armaments, the division of Germany, antagonisms in the Middle East, war in Algeria, etc., both delegations believe that following the recent crisis in international relations, positive prospects for relaxation of international tension have been reopened.

In such an international situation the struggle for peace means a struggle for overcoming the question of blocs, collective security based on universal and controlled disarmament, prohibition of tests, production, and use of atomic weapons. The struggle for peace means, at the same time, the struggle against imperialism and colonialism, for respect of the equality in the relations between states, the will of people in yearning for independence and self-government; it means support of international action for assistance to undeveloped countries and areas and the strengthening of the role of the United Nations.

Both delegations have agreed that socialist forces should make efforts to overcome the present division of Europe and to cre-

bled over the threat of Soviet expansion this year.

(Answers of 15 others were identical in tone.)

Americans have learned patience; they know the Soviet long-range policy is not likely to change, though there are some changes in its tactics.

(Only this and another answer have a trace of anti-Soviet hostility.)

—OBSERVER.
April 24