

SPEAK YOUR PIECE

American and British Labor

Editor, Daily Worker

The question of international working class solidarity was the subject of wide discussion at the recent National Convention of the Communist Party. The subject was raised quite appropriately in a Daily Worker editorial, 'Aid British Labor,' on March 22, which stated that "gigantic strike struggles" are being waged by British workers and which also indicated that these strikes are a test of the spirit of international solidarity on the part of American workers.

Traditions of working class internationalism, of support in cases of mutual interests, are well known in relations between the workers of America and the workers of Britain. Nearly a hundred years ago, during the American Civil War, when there was danger of British and French intervention on the side of the slaving-owning South, the British workers came out in support of President Lincoln. Their vigorous action, as is well known, prevented intervention.

And apropos of the Civil War, Marx also wrote that workers in the white skin cannot emancipate themselves as long as workers in the black skin are enslaved. This dictum of Marx revitalized by American Communists and, as a consequence, the American trade union movement (AFL-CIO) is immeasurably strengthened by the addition of two million Negro workers. This triumph of the principles of Marxism places the American trade union movement in a glorious position to repay its debt to the British working class. What is the nature of this debt?

Britain is smarting under the insistence of U.S. monopolies, and not without success, that British economy be crippled by the maintenance of armament burdens—nuclear and launching bases for guided-missiles on British territory. As a consequence of British adventures in Egypt, U.S. monopolies are further strangling British economy by their domination of oil supplies to Britain. Moreover, U.S. imperialism is demanding that Britain abandon any notion of East-West trade, particularly with China.

From all this flows the catastrophic state of British economy and is, among other things, one of the main causes of the plight of British labor. The Eisenhower-Macmillan Conference at Bermuda succeeded in further leading Britain down the road to economic and cold war disaster as the Tory Prime Minister, hat in hand, capitulated to American imperialism. It is therefore, fitting and proper that American labor, in the spirit of working class solidarity,

come to the support of British labor.

But what kind of aid does the Daily Worker propose? In its editorial 'Aid British Labor,' the DW tells American labor to cable British trade unions assuring "all the aid, moral and financial, needed to carry through their gigantic strike struggle to victory." That is like an American banker expressing concern over the plight of poor British workers. It is treating the symptom instead of the disease. The disease is American imperialism and U.S. monopolies. It is a reformist-opportunist policy.

The key question is replacement of the cold war by peaceful co-existence, renunciation of aggression, banning of nuclear tests and the abandonment of NATO and the use of Britain as a base of U.S. guided-missiles.

—JAMES W. FORD

(Ed. Note—The above letter apparently relates to the Daily Worker editorial of March 22, titled "Aid British Labor!" and a column by George Morris on March 25 on the same subject.)

Get on with The Real Work

Editor, Daily Worker:

I thought the Convention came out with a workable compromise, on which people with various points of view could agree and start working on a minimum program. It's the nature of a compromise that it doesn't completely satisfy anybody. Why do people compromise then? To be able to get ahead with the work they have to do.

I am really frightened by the evident fact that there are some people within the Party who seem determined to wreck the compromise instead of carry it out. Many people I know have gotten so emotionally carried away by factionalism that they have forgotten the main purpose of the party. To them it seems the most important thing is to get rid of this or that leader "who is throwing out Marxism." In my opinion none of our present leaders want to do that, but some of our leaders do seem to have completely lost their perspective.

There's more ways of "liquidating the Party" than by holding a meeting and voting "now it's liquidated." Another way of liquidating the Party would be to make it an organization no one wants to belong to.

And what sort of organization do Marxists want to belong to? An organization that's doing something; isn't that why we all joined in the first place? And what's the situation at the present time? If you want to fight capitalism, join your trade union; it's fighting capitalism (though some are not fighting it hard enough); the N. A. A. C. P. is fighting the Dixiecrats

and winning victories; there are several good civil liberties organizations fighting the McCarthyites. And who are the Communists fighting? Other Communists.

To our leaders: please, stop your bickering and get behind the Convention program.

Find out what you do believe in common, and start working on that. Let the differences rest for a while, until there is no more danger of the C.P.U.S.A. flying into pieces. Then bring them up in a rational way, each proposal accompanied with arguments why it's good, what it will accomplish.

Show how scientific, how statesmanlike you can be in this Party crisis. Disappoint the Hearst press and the McCarthyites who are following your disagreements with unholy rapture. Direct the energies of your followers along constructive lines, never mind trying to solve every theoretical problem at this moment. When we all get busy accomplishing the immediate task, you will see that the differences between you and other leader were not so big after all.

—PAULA

Investigate The Lobbies

Editor, Daily Worker:

Now that the hearings of the Teamsters Union racketeer Beck are through, it would be healthy for this country to start a thorough investigation of the many lobbies (Oil, Franco, Trujillo, Perez Jimenez, Somoza) that infest Congress. Some of the staunch accusers of Beck would be found to have dead cats in their backyards.

And to that honorable red-man-eater FBI Hoover, who is capable of discovering a red plot in Rudolph the Red-nose deer, where are the assassins of professor Jesus de Galindez and American pilot Murphy?

—RED PEPPER

Robert Nathan New Chairman of ADA

WASHINGTON, April 1.—Robert R. Nathan, a Washington economist who served with the wartime War Production Board and the Commerce Department, has been elected national chairman of Americans for Democratic Action.

Nathan, who has been chairman of ADA's executive committee since 1952, succeeds Joseph L. Rauh, Jr., an attorney who has served two terms as national chairman.

ADA, concluding its 10th annual convention yesterday, elected Marvin Rosenberg of Bronxville, N. Y., chairman of the board of Cameo Curtains, Inc., to succeed Nathan as executive committee chairman.